

Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI), August 2017

Rhode Island Squeezes the Distance from Last Place

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With all but one of the 12 datapoints used for the RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity's Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI) updated, the Ocean State has lost its long-held grip on 48th in the country and slipped to 49th. The formula for JOI ranked Rhode Island 42nd in 2005, with a slide to 48th in 2012, where the state sat for five years.

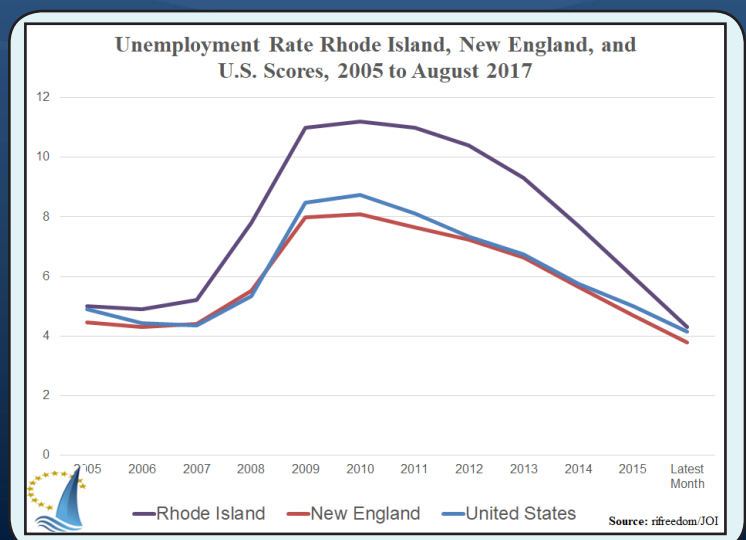
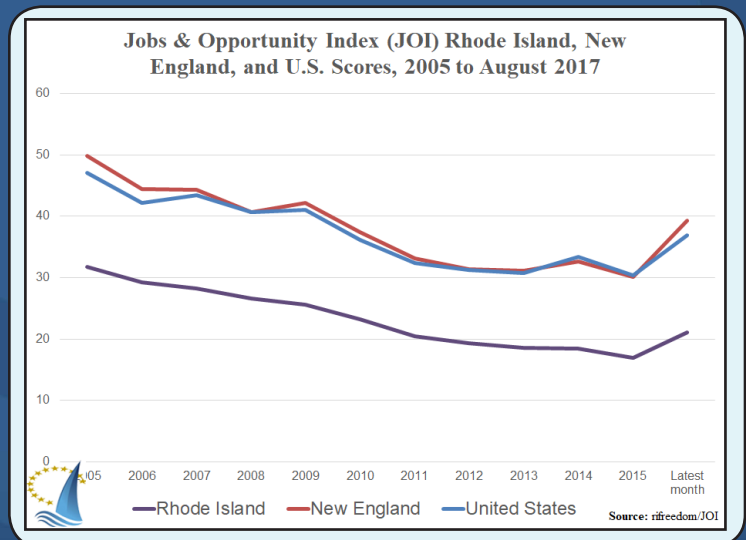
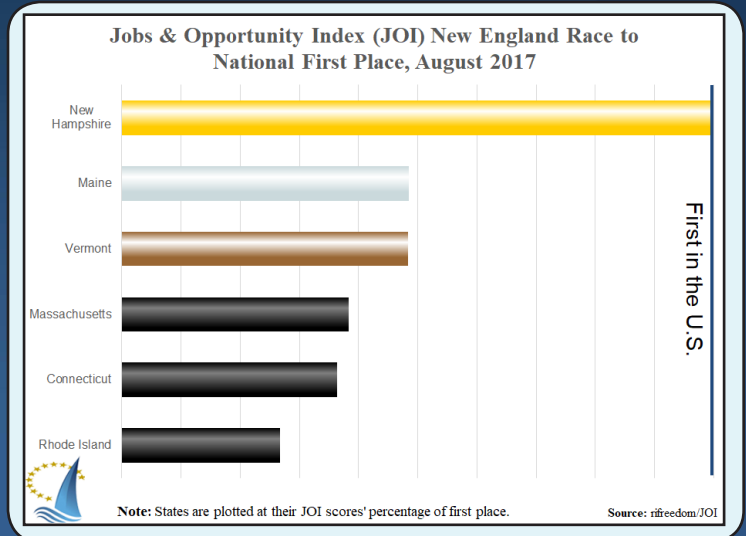
Federal taxes collected in Rhode Island were the only metric not updated since the June report. Employment was down 592 from the previously recorded number (for June), while labor force fell 123. However, RI-based jobs increased by 3,100. Medicaid added another 4,837 Rhode Islanders, although SNAP (food stamps) shed 3,826 and TANF (welfare) decreased by 1,728. Long-term unemployment and the number of marginally attached workers fell (by 600 and 100, respectively), but those working part-time because they can't find full-time work increased by 800.

Perhaps most significantly, Rhode Islanders' annualized personal income (wages and investments) fell by 1.5%, or \$679 million. At the same time, state and local taxes edged up by \$20 million. The Ocean State remained in 47th place for the income-to-taxes, which is JOI's Prosperity Factor.

The first chart at right shows Rhode Island still in the last position in New England, 49th in the country, while New Hampshire remained 1st. Maine moved ahead of Vermont, although both improved by several places, to 17th and 18th, respectively. Massachusetts and Connecticut both stayed put, at 31st and 36th.

The second chart shows the gap between RI and New England and the U.S. on JOI. In both cases, RI's gap worsened. Switching to the official unemployment rate, RI's gap slimmed slightly. Results for the three underlying JOI factors were:

- **Job Outlook Factor** (optimism that adequate work is available): RI fell seven places, to 33rd.
- **Freedom Factor** (the level of work against reliance on welfare programs): RI remained 41st.
- **Prosperity Factor** (the financial motivation of income versus taxes): RI remained 47th.



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	JOI			Job Outlook Factor			Freedom Factor			Prosperity Factor		
	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score
New Hampshire	1	👉	79.0	3	👉	9.1	4	👉	8.2	2	👉	9.3
Wyoming	2	👉	76.5	26	👉	6.0	1	👉	10.0	3	👉	8.9
Utah	3	👉	68.9	13	👎	7.6	2	👉	9.7	12	👉	7.7
North Dakota	4	👉	64.3	1	👉	10.0	3	👉	9.5	27	👎	6.7
South Dakota	5	👉	56.4	2	👎	9.5	8	👉	6.8	19	👉	7.3
Virginia	6	👉	52.6	25	👎	6.2	6	👉	7.6	18	👎	7.4
Kansas	7	👉	50.9	14	👉	7.5	7	👉	7.3	23	👎	6.9
Idaho	8	👉	47.7	11	👎	7.7	13	👉	5.4	14	👉	7.6
Iowa	9	👉	46.4	5	👉	8.6	15	👎	5.2	20	👉	7.2
Colorado	10	👉	45.9	9	👉	8.3	18	👎	4.9	16	👉	7.5
Nebraska	11	👎	44.3	4	👎	8.9	5	👉	7.9	44	👉	5.4
South Carolina	12	👉	43.7	20	👉	6.6	28	👉	4.2	4	👎	8.7
Montana	13	👎	42.2	19	👎	6.6	27	👎	4.2	6	👉	8.4
Hawaii	14	👉	41.6	15	👎	7.5	25	👉	4.2	11	👉	7.8
Wisconsin	15	👉	41.3	12	👉	7.7	10	👉	5.7	32	👎	6.4
Alaska	16	👎	39.4	50	👉	4.2	38	👎	3.8	1	👉	10.0
Maine	17	👉	38.3	21	👉	6.3	24	👉	4.3	13	👉	7.6
Vermont	18	👉	38.2	7	👎	8.4	23	👉	4.3	28	👉	6.6
Texas	19	👎	38.2	22	👎	6.3	17	👉	4.9	21	👉	7.1
Alabama	20	👎	37.8	36	👎	5.5	36	👎	4.0	7	👉	8.3
Oklahoma	21	👎	37.3	17	👉	6.8	35	👉	4.0	17	👎	7.5
Indiana	22	👉	37.3	6	👉	8.4	16	👉	4.9	35	👉	6.1
Maryland	23	👎	36.7	24	👎	6.2	19	👉	4.9	25	👎	6.8
Arizona	24	👉	34.0	41	👉	5.2	40	👉	3.7	8	👉	8.1
Georgia	25	👉	32.5	35	👉	5.6	21	👎	4.6	30	👉	6.5
Missouri	26	👎	32.4	16	👉	7.2	11	👉	5.5	45	👎	5.3
Nevada	27	👎	32.2	49	👎	4.4	29	👎	4.2	15	👉	7.6
North Carolina	28	👉	32.0	27	👉	5.9	22	👉	4.6	33	👉	6.4
Washington	29	👎	32.0	34	👎	5.6	31	👉	4.1	24	👉	6.9
Oregon	30	👉	31.6	23	👉	6.2	42	👉	3.6	22	👉	7.0
Massachusetts	31	👉	30.2	18	👉	6.7	20	👉	4.8	41	👉	5.6
Mississippi	32	👎	30.1	45	👎	5.0	46	👎	3.3	10	👉	7.8
Michigan	33	👎	30.0	30	👉	5.8	34	👎	4.0	31	👎	6.5
Florida	34	👉	29.8	44	👎	5.0	33	👎	4.0	26	👉	6.8
New Jersey	35	👎	29.0	40	👎	5.2	12	👉	5.5	43	👉	5.4
Connecticut	36	👉	28.7	46	👎	4.9	14	👉	5.4	42	👎	5.5
West Virginia	37	👉	28.3	42	👉	5.1	49	👉	2.7	9	👎	7.9
Pennsylvania	38	👉	27.6	38	👉	5.4	32	👎	4.1	34	👉	6.1
Tennessee	39	👉	27.0	28	👉	5.9	37	👉	3.9	37	👉	5.8
Minnesota	40	👉	26.4	10	👎	7.9	9	👉	6.4	49	👉	3.8
New Mexico	41	👉	26.2	48	👉	4.4	50	👉	2.3	5	👉	8.7
Illinois	42	👉	25.7	39	👉	5.2	30	👉	4.1	38	👉	5.7
California	43	👉	25.1	47	👉	4.8	45	👉	3.3	29	👉	6.6
New York	44	👉	23.5	29	👉	5.8	47	👉	3.2	40	👎	5.7
Ohio	45	👉	23.2	32	👎	5.7	26	👉	4.2	46	👉	4.9
Kentucky	46	👎	23.1	37	👎	5.4	44	👎	3.3	39	👎	5.7
Arkansas	47	👉	22.7	8	👉	8.3	43	👉	3.3	48	👉	4.5
Louisiana	48	👎	21.3	43	👎	5.1	48	👉	2.8	36	👎	5.9
Rhode Island	49	👎	21.1	33	👎	5.7	41	👉	3.7	47	👉	4.8
Delaware	50	👉	13.9	31	👎	5.8	39	👉	3.8	50	👉	3.1