

Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI), October 2016

Lagging on Long-Term Unemployment; Leading with Welfare

Justin Katz, Research Director

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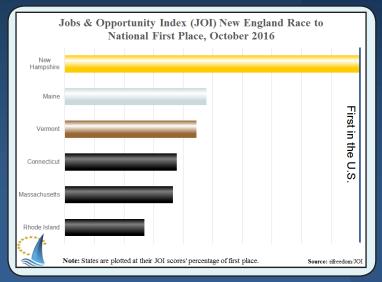
For the October Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI) report from the RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity, our methodology changed slightly. All numbers in the Prosperity Factor (income over taxes) are now annualized. The change made no ranking difference for Rhode Island, which remains 48th, but Vermont did move back into third place in the New England race.

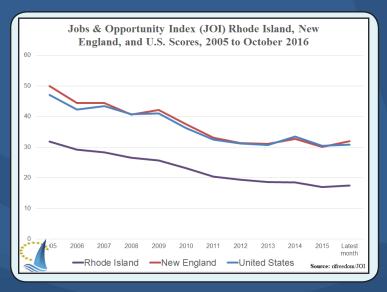
Of the 13 datapoints used for the index, nine are updated for the October report, including measures of long-term employment weakness, on which Rhode Island did poorly, compared with the rest of the country. Employment was up 292 from the previously recorded number, while labor force fell 188, and RI-based jobs increased by 2,200. (Note that these are calculated with pre-revision data for the prior month, but using our new methodology.) Medicaid enrollment increased by 3,183 and SNAP by 267, although TANF dropped by 98. Long-term unemployment was down 300 people and marginally attached workers 100, but the number of Rhode Islanders working part-time against their will remained exactly the same.

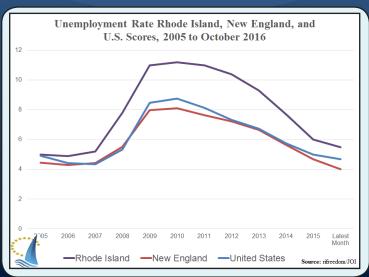
The first chart at right shows Rhode Island still hopelessly the last state in New England on JOI. New England experienced a mix of improved and declining JOI scores. New Hampshire remained 1st in the nation, and Maine held firm at 20th. Vermont moved up two slots, to 21st, on Maine's heals. Connecticut moved in the other direction, falling to 34th in the country, while Massachusetts moved up two, to 35th.

The second chart at right shows the gap between Rhode Island and New England as well as the United States, with the Ocean State gaining slightly on the U.S., but slipping against the region. However, Rhode Island's gap worsened on the unemployment rate (third chart). Results for the three underlying JOI factors were:

- **Job Outlook Factor** (measuring optimism that adequate work is available): RI fell from 36th to 39th.
- **Freedom Factor** (measuring the level of work against reliance on welfare programs): RI remained at 39th.
- **Prosperity Factor** (measuring the financial motivation of income versus taxes): RI remained at 47th by this factor.









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	pportunit.	JOI Job Outlook Factor						eedom Fact	tor	Prosperity Factor		
	Rank	Trend	Canno	-	Trend		Rank	Trend		Rank		
Mary Hammahina		1 rend	Score 65.2	Rank	1 rend	Score 5.7		1 rend	Score		Trend	Score 8.9
New Hampshire Utah	2	4N2	59.1	6 7	9	5.6	3	W.	9.3	12	60°Z	7.4
Wyoming	3	4N2	57.1	22	\? \?	4.6	2	W.	9.8	16	60°Z	7.4
South Dakota	4	8	55.0	1	603 2	10.0	8	W.	6.8	18	₩ ₂	6.9
North Dakota	5	9	53.8	2	W.	8.0	1	W.	10.0	33	₩ ₂	5.8
-	6	407 2	46.0	25	8	4.3	6	W.	7.5	15	60 2	7.2
Virginia Kansas	7	8	41.4	9	8	5.5	7	W.	7.3	25	₩ ₂	6.4
Alaska	8	9	41.4	48	9	3.4	22	9	4.5	1	60 3	10.0
Iowa	9	₩.	40.2	40	603 2	6.8	13	7	5.4	19	₩ ₂	6.8
Colorado	10	W.	39.7	10	9	5.4	15	₽	5.0	7	₩ ₂	7.7
Nebraska	11	8	39.7	3	603 A	7.6	5	603 603	8.0	44	W	5.0
Idaho	12	9	39.1	5	8	5.7	14	W.	5.4	17	₩ ₂	7.1
Montana	13	₩.	36.6	19	8	4.7	23	9	4.5	4	₩ ₂	8.0
South Carolina	14	8	34.2	36	8	4.7	31	603	4.3	3	60°Z	8.4
Wisconsin	15	9	33.8	12	- W	5.4	10	W.	5.7	31	₩ ₂	6.1
Hawaii	16	\$	32.9	21	8	4.6	27	₽	4.3	9	₩ ₂	7.5
Maryland	17		32.5	17	8	5.0	18	W.	4.9	21	60°Z	6.6
Alabama	18	8	32.3	28	- W	4.3	37	W.	4.9	5	₩ ₂	7.9
Texas	19						17	W.			60°Z	
Maine	20	₩.	31.5	15 26	9	5.1	30	W.	4.9	26 13	60°Z	6.3
Vermont	21	8	31.2 29.0	8	₽	4.3 5.5	26	₽	4.2	30	60%	7.4 6.2
Nevada		8		50	W.		29	W.	4.3	10	60°Z	
Missouri	22		28.7			3.2		W.			60°Z	7.4
Oklahoma		9	28.6	13	9	5.3	35		5.6	42	6 9	5.2 6.5
Indiana	24 25	₩	28.3	18 16	9	4.8	19	₩	4.1	22 37	60°Z	5.6
l 		40°	27.4		9	5.0		W.			60°Z	
Arizona	26 27	W.	27.3	38	9	4.0	33	₽	3.7	14 23	%	7.2 6.5
Washington		4W	27.1	30	8	4.2		W.	4.1		60°Z	
Florida	28	₽	26.8	42	8	3.7	25	603 C	4.4	24	6 9	6.5
North Carolina	29	₩.	26.1	32	8	4.2	24	₽	4.4	32	6 3	6.1
Georgia	30		26.1	43		3.7	21	₩.	4.5	27	6 9	6.2
Mississippi	31	8	26.0	44	2	3.7	47	W.	3.2	8	6 3	7.7
Oregon	32	8	24.8	31	8	4.2	42	€	3.5	20	%	6.6
Michigan	33		24.8	40	₩.	3.8	34		4.1	28	60°	6.2
Connecticut	34	8	24.6			3.5	16	4M	4.9	39		5.6
Massachusetts	35	₩.	23.8	23	8	4.4	20	W.	4.7	43	667 667	5.2
Pennsylvania	36		23.7	37		4.0	28	V G	4.3	35		5.7
New Jersey	37	₩.	23.6	35	9	4.0	12	8M	5.4	45	₩.	4.8
West Virginia	38		23.0	41	9	3.8	49	ew wy	2.7	11		7.4
Tennessee	39	603 603	21.8	27	4W	4.3	40	4W	3.7	38	400 4007	5.6
Illinois	40		21.3	45	603	3.6	32	603	4.1	40	-100 -1007	5.4
California	41	sono.	21.1	46	-Ma	3.5	44	-MA	3.4	29	.w.	6.2
New Mexico	42	**************************************	20.7	49	W 3	3.4	50	- MA	2.3	6		7.8
Minnesota	43	W 3	20.7	11	9	5.4	9	50V	6.4	49	-000 -003	3.4
Kentucky	44	9	20.6	29	9	4.3	43	60 2	3.4	36	-000 -003	5.6
Ohio	45	8	19.0	24	9	4.4	36	-0M	4.0	46	-100 -6003	4.6
New York	46	8	18.8	33	8	4.1	46	4W	3.3	41	400 4003	5.3
Louisiana	47	***************************************	18.8	34	9	4.0	48	*W	2.8	34		5.8
Rhode Island	48	*W	17.5	39	9	3.9	39	603	3.8	47	.w.	4.6
Arkansas	49	**************************************	15.9	14	8	5.3	45	-00a	3.3	48		4.0
Delaware	50	₩.	10.8	20	8	4.6	38	W.	3.9	50	₩.	2.6