

The RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity's Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI) reports have been noting for a while that the state's economy hasn't been living up to the hype. October didn't change that story. The Ocean State is still 47th in the country, with nine of the 12 datapoints in the index updated, and the indicators suggest Rhode Islanders are growing skeptical of improvement. (Note that Rhode Island remains the only state not updating its SNAP [food stamp] data, thanks to UHIP.)

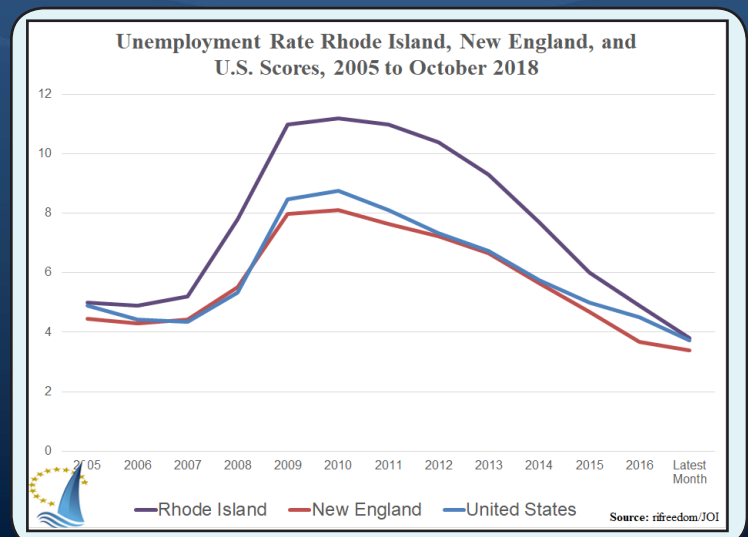
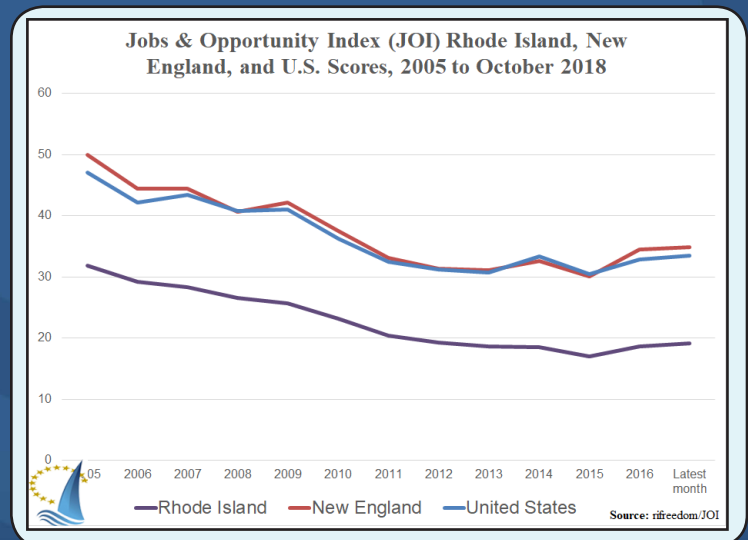
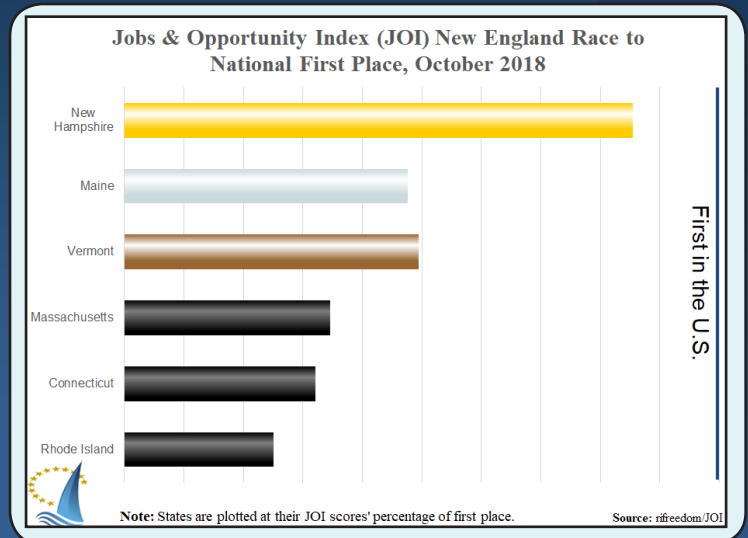
Employment was up a tiny 50 people from the first-reported number for September. Meanwhile, the labor force dropped 685, people unemployed for more than 15 weeks went up by 700, and those who are only able to find part-time work increased by 1,600. To balance that a little, the number of jobs in the state went up by 1,000, while 200 fewer Rhode Islanders said they were only marginally attached to the employment market. Of course, that may be because they completely gave up. The discouraging results for labor force and alternative employment measures were enough to cause a nine-place drop for the ocean state in the Job Outlook Factor.

At the same time, the number of Rhode Islanders relying on Medicaid went up 736 enrollees. The TANF (welfare) data was finally updated after more than a year and showed that the numbers had decreased by 920. We should emphasize, however, that this data still lags considerably, reflecting the results from June.

The first chart at right shows RI last in New England. New Hampshire leads the region, in 3rd place, nationally. Vermont held 13th place, but Maine advanced a step to 15th. Massachusetts slipped one, to 36th, while Connecticut stumbled two spots, to 40th.

The second chart shows the gap between RI and New England and the United States on JOI. The third chart shows the gaps in the official unemployment rate. Results for the three underlying JOI factors were:

- **Job Outlook Factor** (optimism that adequate work is available): RI dropped to 26th.
- **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.



Jobs > Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI) > Monthly Snapshot > October 2018 > 2

	JOI			Job Outlook Factor			Freedom Factor			Prosperity Factor		
	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score
Wyoming	1	👍	76.2	20	👍	6.0	1	👍	10.0	2	👍	8.9
Utah	2	👍	69.4	4	👍	8.2	2	👍	9.7	11	👍	7.5
New Hampshire	3	👍	65.1	10	👍	7.2	4	👍	8.0	4	👍	8.5
North Dakota	4	👍	52.5	1	👍	10.0	3	👍	8.6	33	👍	5.8
South Dakota	5	👍	48.2	5	👍	8.1	8	👍	6.6	21	👍	6.8
Virginia	6	👍	47.2	15	👍	6.4	7	👍	7.1	20	👍	6.9
Idaho	7	👎	47.0	8	👍	7.5	10	👍	5.6	13	👍	7.5
Kansas	8	👍	46.9	6	👍	7.6	6	👍	7.3	27	👍	6.3
Colorado	9	👍	40.4	11	👎	7.1	15	👍	4.8	17	👍	7.1
South Carolina	10	👍	40.2	22	👍	6.0	28	👎	4.1	3	👍	8.5
Iowa	11	👍	40.1	3	👍	8.3	17	👍	4.8	22	👍	6.6
Wisconsin	12	👍	38.5	9	👍	7.2	11	👍	5.5	26	👍	6.3
Vermont	13	👍	37.7	13	👍	6.9	24	👎	4.2	16	👍	7.3
Nebraska	14	👍	36.8	7	👍	7.6	5	👍	7.4	44	👍	5.0
Maine	15	👍	36.3	19	👍	6.1	23	👍	4.2	14	👍	7.5
Montana	16	👎	36.2	29	👎	5.5	37	👍	3.8	6	👍	8.2
Texas	17	👍	35.3	21	👍	6.0	14	👍	5.0	23	👍	6.6
Alabama	18	👍	35.0	23	👍	5.8	36	👍	3.8	8	👍	7.7
Hawaii	19	👎	34.7	14	👎	6.8	30	👎	4.0	19	👍	6.9
Alaska	20	👍	34.0	50	👍	3.5	42	👍	3.4	1	👍	10.0
Oklahoma	21	👎	33.5	27	👎	5.7	34	👎	3.9	15	👍	7.4
Indiana	22	👍	32.1	12	👎	7.0	16	👍	4.8	34	👍	5.8
North Carolina	23	👍	31.6	28	👍	5.6	18	👍	4.8	30	👍	6.2
Nevada	24	👍	31.5	43	👍	4.7	32	👍	3.9	12	👍	7.5
Mississippi	25	👍	31.4	38	👍	5.2	44	👎	3.2	7	👍	8.0
Arizona	26	👎	30.9	45	👎	4.6	38	👍	3.7	9	👍	7.7
Maryland	27	👎	30.8	39	👎	5.2	20	👍	4.5	25	👍	6.5
Oregon	28	👍	29.8	31	👎	5.5	40	👍	3.6	18	👍	7.0
Georgia	29	👍	28.7	36	👍	5.2	21	👍	4.4	31	👍	6.1
Florida	30	👍	28.6	37	👍	5.2	31	👍	4.0	24	👍	6.5
Washington	31	👍	28.2	34	👍	5.2	26	👍	4.1	29	👍	6.3
Missouri	32	👎	27.9	16	👍	6.4	12	👍	5.4	45	👍	4.9
New Jersey	33	👍	27.2	41	👍	4.9	13	👍	5.2	42	👍	5.3
Michigan	34	👍	27.2	30	👍	5.5	33	👍	3.9	32	👍	6.1
Tennessee	35	👎	26.6	17	👍	6.3	27	👍	4.1	38	👍	5.5
Massachusetts	36	👎	26.3	25	👍	5.7	19	👍	4.6	43	👍	5.3
Minnesota	37	👍	25.6	2	👍	8.8	9	👍	6.0	49	👍	3.7
New Mexico	38	👎	25.3	47	👍	4.4	50	👍	2.2	5	👍	8.4
Illinois	39	👍	24.5	35	👍	5.2	29	👍	4.0	37	👍	5.5
Connecticut	40	👎	24.4	49	👎	4.2	22	👍	4.4	36	👍	5.7
West Virginia	41	👎	24.4	48	👍	4.3	49	👍	2.6	10	👍	7.5
Pennsylvania	42	👎	24.1	42	👍	4.8	35	👍	3.9	35	👍	5.7
California	43	👍	23.4	44	👍	4.6	45	👎	3.2	28	👍	6.3
Kentucky	44	👎	22.9	18	👎	6.1	43	👍	3.3	41	👍	5.4
Ohio	45	👍	21.8	33	👎	5.4	25	👍	4.1	46	👍	4.8
New York	46	👍	20.4	40	👎	5.0	47	👍	3.1	40	👍	5.5
Rhode Island	47	👍	19.1	26	👎	5.7	41	👍	3.4	47	👍	4.6
Louisiana	48	👍	18.3	46	👎	4.6	48	👍	2.7	39	👍	5.5
Arkansas	49	👍	16.8	32	👎	5.4	46	👍	3.1	48	👍	4.3
Delaware	50	👍	14.7	24	👍	5.8	39	👍	3.6	50	👍	3.4