

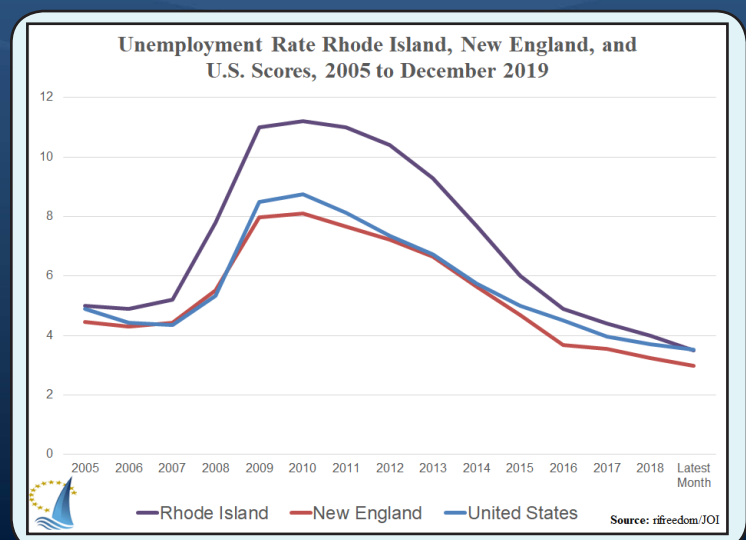
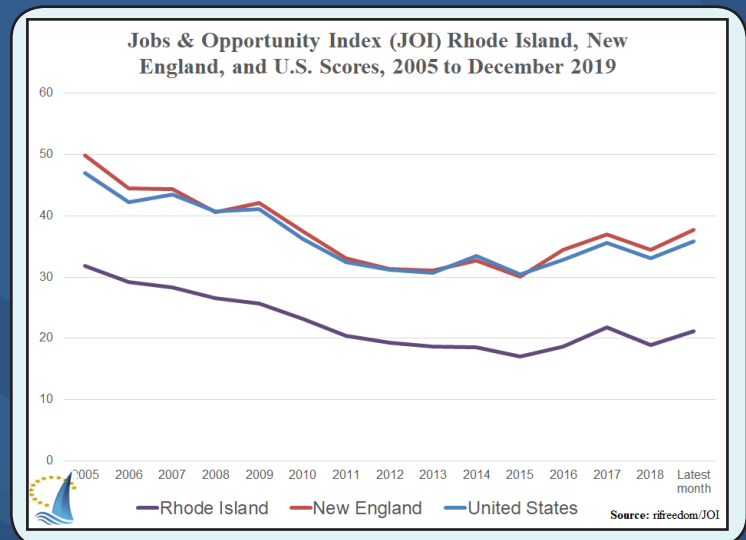
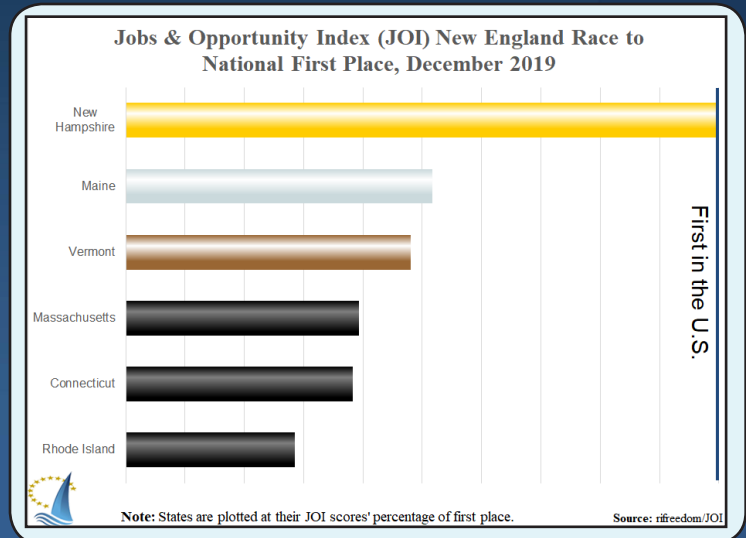
The final report for 2019 of the RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity's Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI) found Rhode Island still with its overall ranking of 47th in the country. Data for all 12 datapoints of the index except federal taxes were updated for this iteration, and the only negatives, compared with September, were a slight increase in marginally attached workers and a more-significant increase in state and local taxes.

Employment and labor force were up about 0.7% and 0.6%, respectively, since the first-reported numbers for September, and RI-based jobs increased 0.5%. With the national economy continuing to improve, Medicaid enrollment fell 3.2%, while TANF (cash welfare) rolls shrank by 24.0%. SNAP enrollment was down 0.3%. The Ocean State had 16.5% fewer residents who counted as long-term unemployed and 7.8% fewer who were working only part time because more work was not available. However, the number counting as marginally attached increased 2.1%.

When it comes to money, personal income was up a modest 0.3% on an annualized basis, which amounted to \$161 million more income. However, state and local taxation increased 1.4%, or \$50 million, resulting not only from the increased income, but also increases in taxation after recent legislative sessions.

The first chart at right shows RI remaining last in New England on JOI, at 47th. New Hampshire held the 1st spot, nationally. Maine improved its standing two spots, to 17th, while Vermont continued to slip, to 21st. Massachusetts moved up a step to 36th, and Connecticut advanced to 37th. The second chart shows the gaps between RI and New England and the United States on JOI, and 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 advanced five spots, to 27th.
- **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 > December 2019 > 2

	JOI			Job Outlook Factor			Freedom Factor			Prosperity Factor		
	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score
New Hampshire	1	👉	74.1	4	👉	8.9	4	👉	8.0	2	👉	8.9
Wyoming	2	👉	73.6	17	👎	7.3	1	👉	10.0	5	👉	8.1
Utah	3	👉	71.4	3	👉	9.3	2	👉	9.4	13	👉	7.6
South Dakota	4	👉	54.3	6	👉	8.7	7	👉	6.6	15	👉	7.4
North Dakota	5	👎	54.1	2	👎	9.9	3	👉	8.5	36	👉	6.0
Kansas	6	👎	51.4	5	👉	8.7	6	👎	7.1	23	👉	6.7
Idaho	7	👉	50.4	9	👉	8.3	10	👉	5.6	9	👉	7.7
Iowa	8	👉	46.9	1	👉	10.0	16	👉	4.6	18	👉	7.2
Virginia	9	👎	44.5	22	👎	6.7	9	👉	5.7	16	👎	7.4
Alabama	10	👉	41.5	11	👉	8.1	36	👎	3.7	7	👉	7.9
Colorado	11	👎	41.0	24	👎	6.6	15	👉	4.8	14	👉	7.5
South Carolina	12	👉	40.9	19	👉	6.8	27	👉	3.9	3	👉	8.3
Wisconsin	13	👎	40.9	10	👎	8.2	13	👎	5.1	27	👉	6.6
Nebraska	14	👎	39.4	13	👎	7.9	5	👉	7.1	45	👉	5.3
Texas	15	👉	39.0	20	👉	6.8	14	👉	5.0	22	👉	6.9
Montana	16	👉	38.4	28	👎	6.3	32	👉	3.8	4	👉	8.2
Maine	17	👉	38.3	25	👉	6.5	23	👉	4.2	11	👎	7.7
Alaska	18	👉	37.0	49	👉	5.0	46	👉	3.0	1	👉	10.0
Oklahoma	19	👉	36.9	16	👉	7.5	35	👉	3.8	17	👎	7.3
Missouri	20	👎	36.8	15	👎	7.6	11	👉	5.5	37	👉	5.9
Vermont	21	👎	35.6	12	👎	7.9	24	👎	4.1	29	👎	6.5
Indiana	22	👉	34.3	14	👉	7.8	18	👎	4.5	35	👉	6.1
North Carolina	23	👉	34.2	29	👉	6.2	17	👉	4.6	26	👉	6.6
Georgia	24	👉	34.1	23	👉	6.7	21	👎	4.3	24	👉	6.7
Maryland	25	👉	33.5	21	👉	6.8	20	👉	4.3	30	👉	6.5
Nevada	26	👉	32.9	38	👉	5.9	28	👉	3.9	19	👎	7.1
Hawaii	27	👎	32.0	33	👎	6.0	33	👉	3.8	21	👎	7.0
Arizona	28	👎	31.7	48	👎	5.0	38	👉	3.6	8	👉	7.8
Florida	29	👉	31.7	39	👎	5.8	22	👉	4.2	25	👎	6.6
Tennessee	30	👉	31.5	7	👉	8.7	30	👉	3.8	42	👉	5.7
Washington	31	👎	31.3	30	👎	6.2	26	👎	4.0	28	👎	6.5
New Jersey	32	👎	31.0	31	👎	6.2	12	👉	5.1	43	👉	5.6
Michigan	33	👉	29.4	32	👎	6.1	34	👎	3.8	32	👉	6.4
Oregon	34	👉	29.4	40	👉	5.5	40	👉	3.4	20	👎	7.1
Mississippi	35	👎	29.2	50	👎	4.4	43	👎	3.2	6	👉	8.1
Massachusetts	36	👉	29.1	18	👉	7.2	19	👉	4.4	44	👉	5.4
Connecticut	37	👉	28.4	44	👉	5.2	25	👎	4.1	33	👎	6.3
Minnesota	38	👎	27.8	8	👎	8.7	8	👉	5.9	49	👉	4.1
Pennsylvania	39	👉	26.8	42	👎	5.4	37	👎	3.7	34	👉	6.2
West Virginia	40	👉	26.4	46	👉	5.0	48	👉	2.6	10	👎	7.7
Illinois	41	👎	26.0	36	👉	5.9	31	👉	3.8	41	👉	5.7
New Mexico	42	👉	24.7	43	👉	5.4	50	👉	2.1	12	👉	7.6
California	43	👎	24.7	45	👉	5.1	44	👉	3.1	31	👎	6.5
Kentucky	44	👉	24.4	34	👉	6.0	42	👉	3.3	39	👉	5.8
Ohio	45	👎	23.6	35	👎	6.0	29	👎	3.9	46	👉	5.1
New York	46	👉	21.8	41	👎	5.4	47	👉	2.9	40	👎	5.7
Rhode Island	47	👉	21.1	27	👉	6.4	41	👉	3.3	47	👉	4.8
Louisiana	48	👉	19.7	47	👉	5.0	49	👎	2.4	38	👎	5.9
Arkansas	49	👉	19.2	26	👎	6.4	45	👎	3.1	48	👉	4.5
Delaware	50	👉	14.2	37	👎	5.9	39	👉	3.6	50	👉	3.2