



Contact: Hannah Halbert, 614.221.4505  
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## Job growth resumes in July

Ohio regained some of the jobs lost in June, but growth in July was too weak to return the state to its 2013 peak. According to data from a survey of employers released today by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio is still 3,100 jobs short of the state's job peak for the year of 5,214,000, which occurred in May.

An upward revision of the preliminary numbers for June and a gain of 5,300 jobs in July raised the state's 12-month growth rate to 0.7 percent. During the same time, the number of jobs across the United States grew by 1.7 percent.

“July’s growth is a positive change, but far from where the state needs to be,” said Hannah Halbert, workforce researcher for Policy Matters Ohio. “At this point last year, Ohio’s 12-month growth rate was 1.4 percent, double what it is today.

Data from the ODJFS survey of households showed the unemployment rate holding steady at 7.2 percent, as the number of unemployed increased by 3,000 and the number employed declined by 14,000. The household and employer are separate surveys and may show conflicting results.

Based on the employer survey, the state needs to recover more than 207,000 jobs just to recapture what was lost since the 2007 recession. In the four years since the end of the recession, Ohio has only added back 167,700 jobs.

“The pace of recovery, particularly over the last year, has been far too slow,” said Halbert.

Losses in the public sector continue to drag down the recovery. The public workforce declined 1.3 percent over the last 12 months, a loss of nearly 10,000 jobs. “These jobs not only provide Ohioans with employment and a paycheck to spend in the local economy, but also represent investment in the safety and vitality of our communities,” said Halbert. “Ohio needs greater public investment to recharge job growth.”

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*Policy Matters Ohio is a nonprofit, nonpartisan state policy research institute  
with offices in Cleveland and Columbus.*