



Contact: Hannah Halbert, 614.221.4505
policymattersohio.org/jobwatch-nov2013

Ohio job report back, but not in black

Jobs still below May peak; Unemployment tops national rate

Ohio had fewer jobs in October than in May, the peak for this year. The state has added only 2,600 jobs since the last jobs report in August, according to the latest data. After a delay caused by the federal government shutdown, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services today resumed publishing employment and household survey data.

“Unfortunately, state job growth has continued to stall during the past two months,” said Hannah Halbert, workforce researcher for Policy Matters Ohio.

The survey of employers showed that the education and health services sector, which has consistently posted gains during the recovery, had lackluster growth of 1.4 percent over the past 12 months. Meanwhile, modest private-sector job growth has been partly offset by losses in government jobs, especially at the local level. Since the end of the 2009 recession, Ohio has seen a very slow 3 percent job-growth rate. Over the last 12 months, the state grew by a dismal 0.5 percent, while the nation as a whole grew at 1.7 percent.

A separate survey of households showed that Ohio unemployment topped the national rate in September for the first time since October 2010. Ohio’s October 2013 rate of 7.5 percent is slightly higher than the nation’s rate of 7.3 percent. The number of people working or actively seeking work was smaller in October than when the recession *ended* in June 2009.

“Since 2005, Ohio has cut taxes on the promise that it would result in faster job growth,” said Halbert. “Over that time the state has actually seen jobs decline by 3 percent. We’ve doubled down on that policy this year with additional tax cuts. It’s time to chart a different course for Ohio.”

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