

# POLICY MATTERS OHIO

## JOB WATCH

April 2005

### Four years after the recession began, Ohio is down 179,700 jobs

Four years after the recession began in March 2001, Ohio employment is down 179,700, or 3.2 percent, according to the latest seasonally adjusted payroll numbers issued April 15 by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services. At this point after the early 1990s recession started, 167,800 nonfarm wage and salary jobs had been created in Ohio, an increase of 3.4 percent.

Month-to-month data can vary and each month's statistics are later revised, so it is unwise to put too much weight in a single month's statistics. The ODJFS adjusted its February count of non-farm wage and salary employment upward by 8,400. The number of jobs in the state grew from 2003 lows to a high last summer, but then plateaued and dropped through January. With the March increase of 300 jobs, employment is above where it was a year ago but below the recent high last August.

The ODJFS also reported from a separate survey of households that the Ohio unemployment rate dropped to 6.3 percent in March, down from 6.4 percent the previous month. The number of unemployed workers in Ohio was estimated at 373,000, a decline of 6,000 from February.

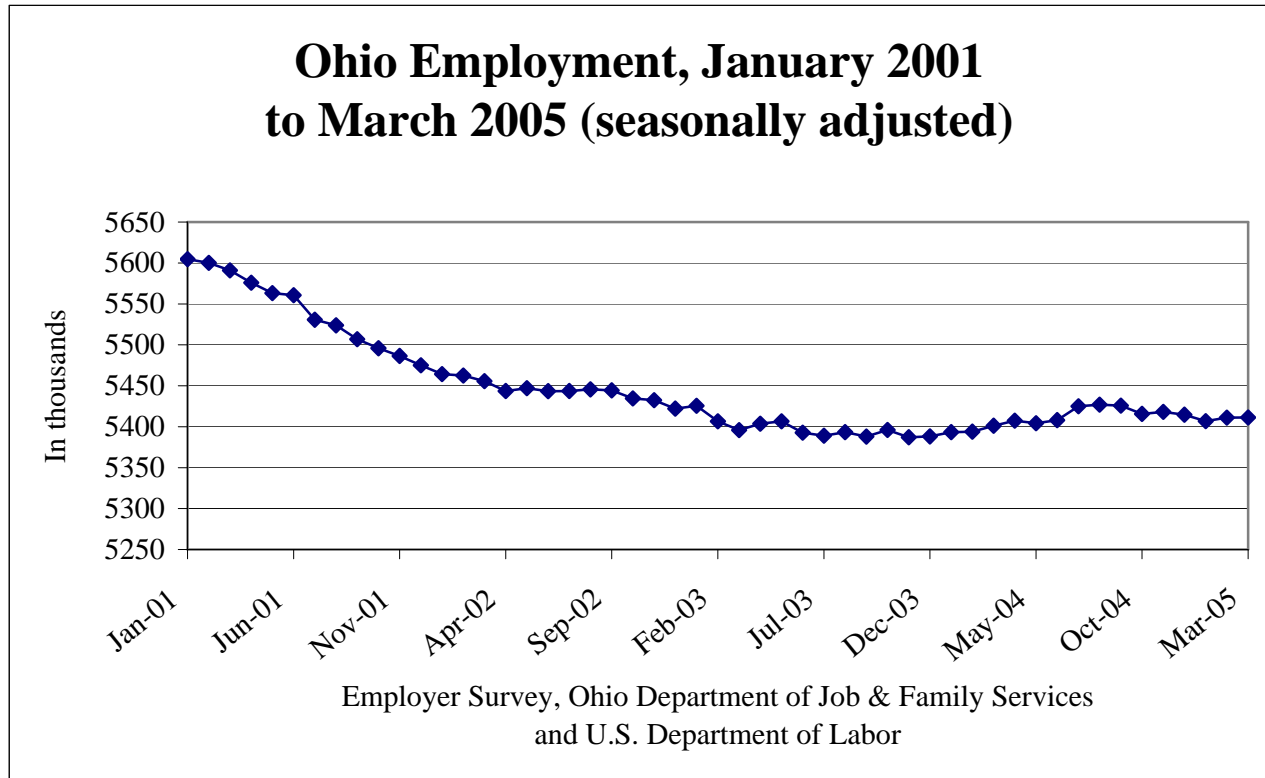
The following table by the Economic Policy Institute and Policy Matters Ohio puts the latest Ohio employment numbers in perspective:

	3/2005	1/2001	Percent Change since 1/2001	3/2001 (Start of recession)	Percent Change since 3/2001	11/2001 (End of recession)	Percent Change since 11/2001
<b>Total Jobs</b>	5,411.3	5,604.6	-3.4%	5,591	-3.2%	5,486.4	-1.5%
<b>Manuf. Jobs</b>	822.8	998.4	-17.6%	984.4	-16.4%	915.5	-10.0%

Source: Employer Survey, Ohio Department of Job & Family Services and U.S. Department of Labor, number of jobs in thousands.

The state has yet to recover all of the jobs lost since the recession officially ended in November 2001. At the comparable point after the end of the early 1990s recession, the state had gained almost 255,200 jobs, a gain of 5.3 percent, compared to the loss of 75,100 or 1.4 percent, since November 2001. The latest ODJFS employment report showed the number of manufacturing jobs remained basically flat, near the low last June.

If Ohio continues producing jobs at the rate it has over the past year, when it gained a total of 10,200, it will be more than 17 years before Ohio has as many jobs as it did when the recession began.



*JobWatch*, an ongoing project of the Economic Policy Institute ([www.epinet.org](http://www.epinet.org)), tracks current trends in the U.S. labor market and offers up-to-date readings on its status.

*Policy Matters Ohio*, a nonprofit research institute, assists in the evaluation and release of the data in Ohio. A detailed description of the JobWatch project can be found at <http://www.jobwatch.org/>.

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