

# POLICY MATTERS OHIO

## JOB WATCH

September 2005

### Another lackluster month for Ohio's job market

The Ohio job market slowed again last month after employment had risen in July to its highest level since October 2002, according to the latest seasonally adjusted payroll numbers issued Sept. 16 by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services. Ohio nonfarm wage and salary employment still remains well below where it was when the recession began in March 2001, a marked contrast to the experience after the early 1990s recession.

Month-to-month data can be volatile 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 July count of nonfarm wage and salary employment upward by 3,300, nearly offsetting the August drop. Manufacturing employment, which had shown some life in July, fell again in August and is down 164,200, or 16.6 percent, since the recession began.

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, Ohio had gained 345,900 jobs, an increase of 7.2 percent, compared to the loss of 53,000, or 1 percent, since November 2001.

The ODJFS also reported from a separate survey of households that the Ohio unemployment rate rose to 5.9 percent in August, up from 5.7 percent in July. According to this survey, both the number of employed and unemployed in Ohio rose in August from the month before.

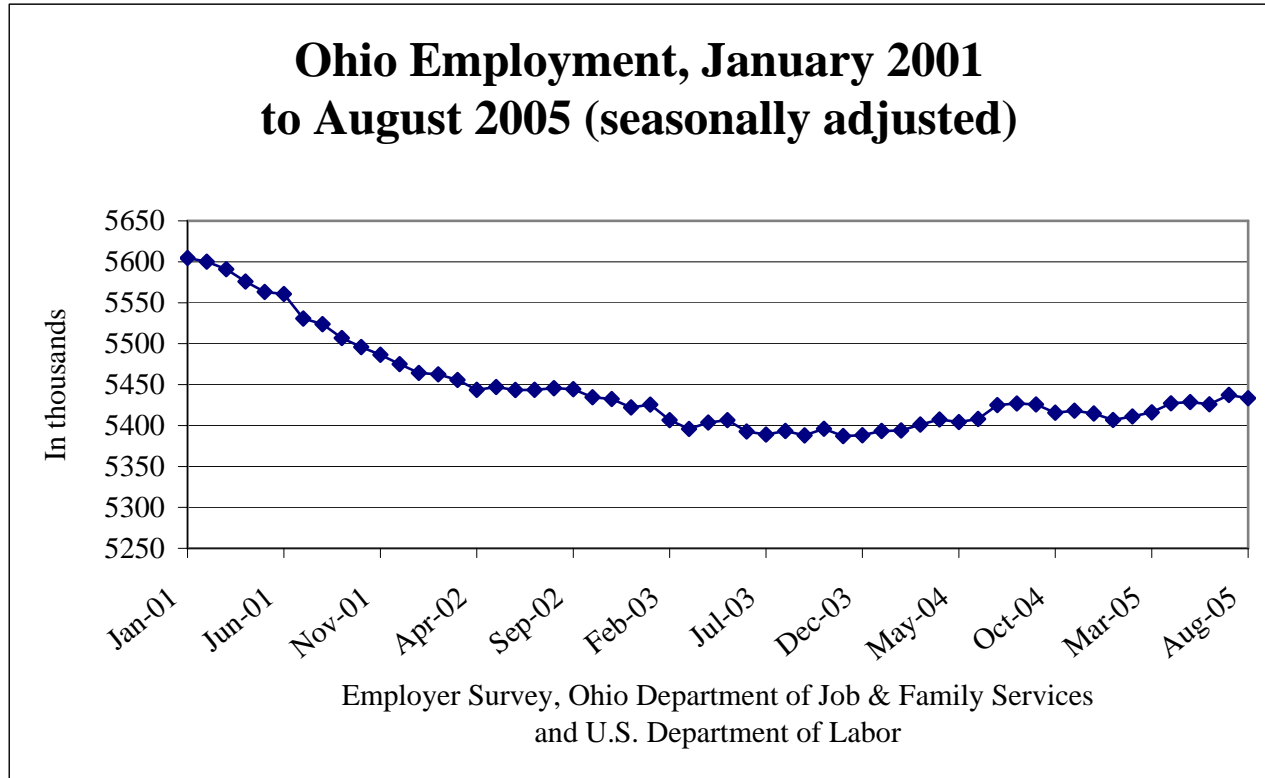
The following table by the Economic Policy Institute and Policy Matters Ohio puts the latest Ohio employment numbers in perspective:

	8/2005	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>	5,433.4	5,604.6	-3.1%	5,591	-2.8%	5,486.4	-1.0%
<b>Manuf. Jobs</b>	820.2	998.4	-17.8%	984.4	-16.6%	915.5	-10.4%

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

Job gains in Ohio since the recession began trail far behind those for the United States as a whole. Since March 2001, Ohio has lost 157,600 jobs, or 2.8 percent of its total. Ohio is one of

16 states that have had a net loss in jobs since the recession began (these figures were compiled prior to Hurricane Katrina and do not reflect job losses that have resulted from it). At this point after the early 1990s recession started, 258,500 jobs had been created in Ohio, an increase of 5.3 percent.



*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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