

(-3,200), other services (-1,500), and financial activities (-1,100). Educational and health services added 1,200 jobs. Government advanced 600, while information was up 500. Goods-producing industries rose 700 over the month to 1,085,400. The increase was due to a gain in construction (+1,200) that was offset by small declines in natural resources and mining (-300) and manufacturing (-200).

Over the year, nonagricultural wage and salary employment declined by 66,900 jobs. Losses in the service-providing sector totaled 34,500. Trade, transportation, and utilities fell 19,500. Decreases also occurred in other services (-7,900), professional and business services (-7,700), government (-6,500), information (-3,600), and leisure and hospitality (-2,100). Increases were noted in educational and health services (+10,900) and financial activities (+1,900). Goods-producing industries fell 32,400 over the year. Manufacturing was down 33,800, while natural resources and mining slipped 500. Employment in construction was up 1,900.

State Job Losses Top 66,000 For the Year

Ohio lost 66,900 jobs during 2003, or 1.2 percent of the total in the state, according to seasonally adjusted establishment survey numbers released Friday by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services.

It was the third year in a row of job losses, and according to the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) and Policy Matters Ohio, the state's job market showed little improvement during the last month of the year. An evaluation performed by Policy Matters also found:

- At this point after the early 1990s recession ended, 68,200 new jobs had been created in Ohio, or an increase of 1.4 percent. That compares with a 2.7 percent loss in jobs since November 2001, when the last recession officially ended.
- Had Ohio generated enough jobs since the end of the recession to keep up with the growth in the working-age population, there would be about 202,100 more jobs in the state than the 5,341,500 there were in December.
- The 33,800 manufacturing jobs Ohio lost in the past year represent 3.9 percent of total manufacturing jobs.
- Ohio's 6.0 percent unemployment rate in December compares to 5.6 percent a year earlier, according to the government's survey of households released Friday.

"The job picture is not looking any brighter," said Zach Schiller, research director at Policy Matters. Earlier this week, the EPI released data showing that Ohio industries that are gaining jobs pay less than those that are losing them. Between the official end of the recession in November 2001 and two years later, industries that have gained in their share of Ohio's total average \$29,418 in annual pay per job. In industries that have lost ground as a share of the total, the average was \$41,287. The decline in manufacturing jobs has been a major factor in this shift to lower wages.

IOM Report Calls for Universal Health Coverage by 2010

Given the growing stress being placed on the nation's health care system, the exacerbated health problems, and the substantial societal costs that result from more than 43 million Americans' lacking health insurance, the president and Congress should strive to achieve universal health coverage in the United States by 2010, says a new report from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies.

The report also offered five guiding principles by which all proposals for extending coverage should be judged.

"Lack of health insurance in the United States is a critical problem that can and should be eliminated," said committee co-chair Mary Sue Coleman, president, University of Michigan. "Achieving universal coverage will require federal leadership and support, regardless of which strategy is adopted to achieve this goal."

Presenting a specific strategy or blueprint for achieving universal coverage was not within the purview of the committee, which was charged with assessing and consolidating the evidence about the nation's current ap-