

# POLICY MATTERS OHIO

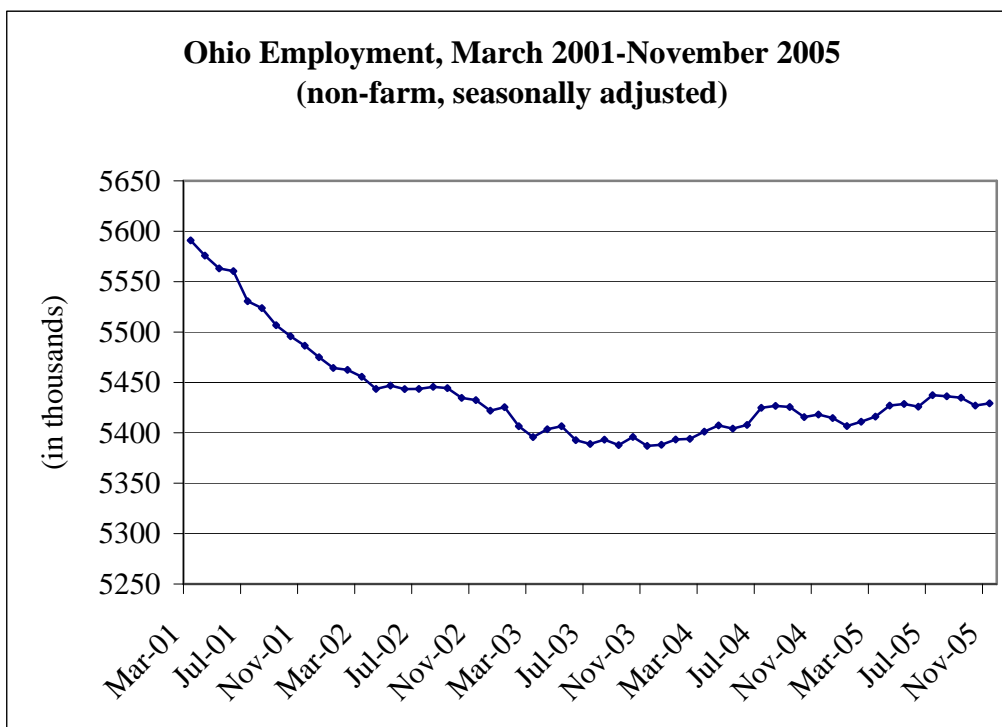
## JOB WATCH

December 2005

### Four years after recession ends, Ohio's labor market remains troubled

Four years after the recession officially ended in November 2001, Ohio employment remains 161,800 jobs or 3 percent below its pre-recession level in March 2001 and 57,200 jobs or 1 percent below the immediate post-recession employment level, according to the latest seasonally adjusted payroll numbers for non-agricultural employment issued December 16, 2005 by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS).

Month-to-month data can vary and each month's statistics are later revised. The ODJFS adjusted its October count of non-farm wage and salary employment downward by 1,400 jobs to 5,427,000. According to ODJFS, the number of jobs in the state grew by .2% (11,100 jobs) from a year ago, primarily due to gains in professional and business services. Job gains over the past summer, to 5,437,400 statewide jobs in July 2005 (a level not seen since the fall of 2002), were not sustained in recent months.



Source: Employer survey, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and U.S. Department of Labor

Since the recession started in March of 2001, 161,800 total jobs have been lost.

Ohio's manufacturing sector has been particularly hard hit, losing 161,400 jobs since the recession, 16.4 percent of all manufacturing employment. Ohio gained 400 manufacturing jobs last month, the fourth consecutive month without manufacturing job loss. However, manufacturing jobs remain lower than November of last year, lower than when the recession ended, substantially lower than when the recession started, and lower than they were at any time in the 1990s.

<b>Ohio job loss since start and end of 2001 recession (non-farm, seasonally adjusted, jobs in thousands)</b>								
<b>Jobs</b>	3/1/2001 start of recent recession	11/1/2005 (most recent)	Total job <i>loss</i> since start	Percent job <i>loss</i> since start	11/1/2001 end of recent recession	11/1/2005 four years from end	Total job <i>loss</i> since end	Percent job <i>loss</i> since end
Total	5,591.0	5,429.2	-161.8	-2.9%	5,486.4	5,429.2	-57.2	-1.0%
Manufacturing	984.4	823.0	-161.4	-16.4%	915.5	915.5	-92.5	-10.1%

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

In comparison to a year ago, Ohio has fewer jobs in the sectors of trade, transportation and utilities; information; and government, but increased numbers of jobs in finance; professional and business services; education and health; leisure and hospitality; and other services.

The weak Ohio job growth in this decade contrasts sharply with the recovery after the early 1990s recession. Four years after the 1990s recession ended, Ohio had gained 384,200 jobs, an increase of 8.0 percent, compared to the current 1.2 percent decline. In terms of national job growth since the end of a recession, this recovery has been the worst on record, and Ohio has lagged the nation. Fifty-six months after the 1990s recession started, Ohio had seen an increase of 6.1 percent of total employment, compared to the current 3.4 percent decline since the recession started

<b>Ohio job gain at same point after start and end of 1990s recession (non-farm, seasonally adjusted, jobs in thousands)</b>								
<b>Jobs</b>	7/1/1990 start of prior recession	56 months later - 3/1/1995	Total job <i>gain</i> since start	Percent job <i>gain</i> 56 mos. after start	3/1/1991 end of prior recession	3/1/1995 four years after end	Total job <i>gain</i> four years after end	Percent job <i>gain</i> four years after end
Total	4901.6	5198.4	296.8	6.1%	4814.2	5198.4	384.2	8.0%
Manufacturing	1073.4	1037.2	-36.2	-3.4%	1024.7	1037.2	12.5	1.2%

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

The ODJFS also reported from a separate survey of households that the Ohio unemployment rate fell to 5.7 percent in November, down from 5.9 percent the previous month and from 6.1 percent a year earlier. The number of unemployed workers in Ohio was estimated at 339,000, a decline of 8,000 from October and 23,000 from November 2004. Last month's unemployment rate is higher than when the national recession started (3.9 percent) or ended four years ago (5.0 percent).

**JobWatch** is an ongoing project of the Economic Policy Institute ([www.epinet.org](http://www.epinet.org)) and **Policy Matters Ohio**, ([www.policymattersohio.org](http://www.policymattersohio.org)), both nonprofit policy research institutes.

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