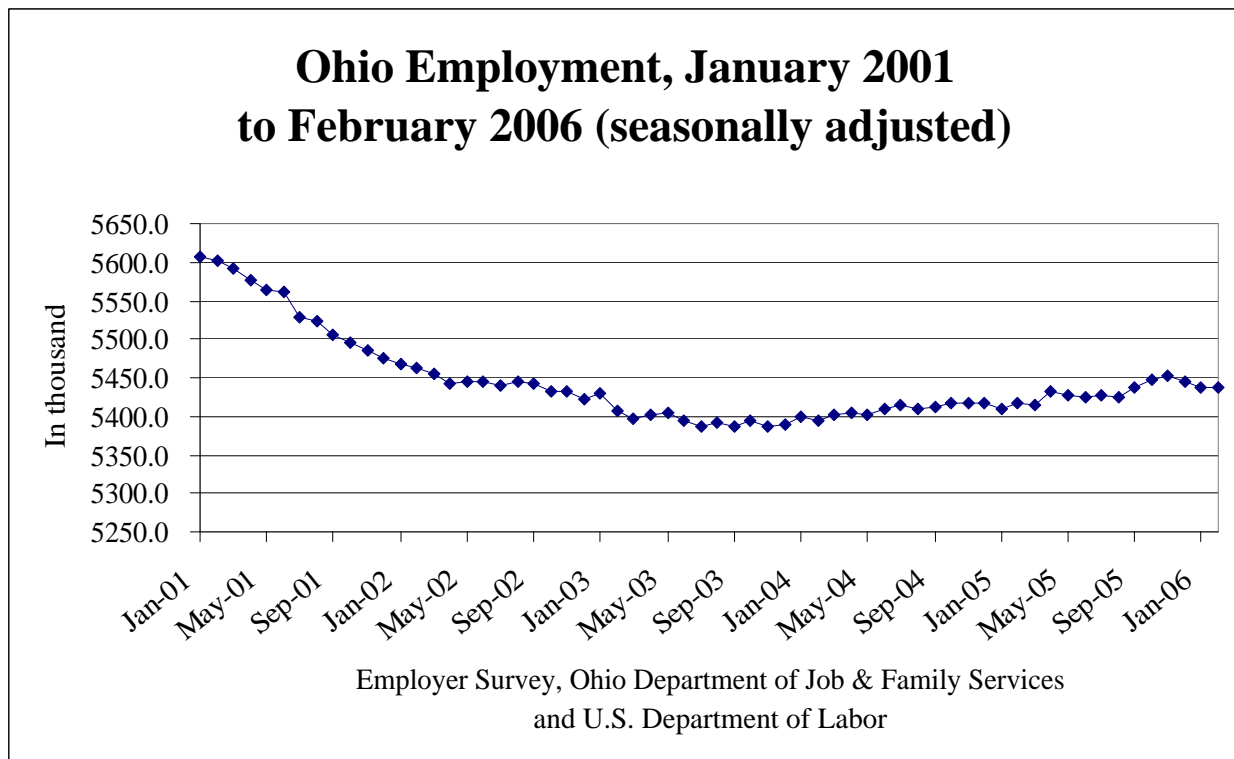


POLICY MATTERS OHIO

JOB WATCH

Late March 2006

Still no take-off in Ohio's job market



The chart above and the following statistics, based on the latest seasonally adjusted payroll numbers released March 28 by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, highlight changes in the Ohio job market since 2001:

	2/2006	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
Total Jobs	5,436.5	5,606.1	-3.0%	5,591.7	-2.8%	5,486.2	-0.9%
Manuf. Jobs	810.5	998.8	-18.9%	984.6	-17.7%	915.7	-11.5%

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

The ODJFS revised its job number for January, reducing the loss in jobs that month from what was initially reported. However, its latest figures show that a drop in employment during the last three months has erased a significant part of the growth in jobs last fall. Overall, the state has gained only 18,200 jobs in the last year. At that rate, it will be more than eight years before Ohio regains all the jobs lost during and since the 2001 recession.

The ODJFS also reported from a separate survey of households that the Ohio unemployment rate was remained at 5.3 percent in February, the same rate as in January.

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

The Joyce Foundation supports Policy Matters Ohio research on workers in Ohio. The St. Ann Foundation provides additional funding for presentations and popular education on these issues. We are also grateful to the Gund, Nord Family and Cleveland Foundations for other support.