

# POLICY MATTERS OHIO

## JOB WATCH

June 2006

### A steady-state job market in Ohio

Ohio's job market appeared to tread water last month, as a survey of employers showed May employment remained virtually the same as in April. May's steady-state employment came after an April increase that was the biggest monthly gain in years, according to seasonally adjusted payroll numbers released by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services June 20. The spring gain allowed Ohio jobs to grow faster over the past three months than the sluggish national total, according to the seasonally adjusted numbers.

However, Ohio will have to sustain gains over a longer period to make up for its previous job losses and show it is not a laggard, since short-term job numbers can be volatile. Overall, the state has gained 34,300 nonfarm wage and salary jobs in the last year. That represents a gain of 0.6 percent, less than half the increase in the nation as a whole. Ohio still has not come close to restoring the jobs it had in March 2001, at the start of the last recession. While U.S. job gains have not been robust, the nation has gained 2.6 million jobs since then, or 2.0 percent. Ohio, meanwhile, has lost 129,000, or 2.3 percent.

The ODJFS also reported from a separate survey of households that the Ohio unemployment rate fell to 5.3 percent in May from 5.5 percent in April.

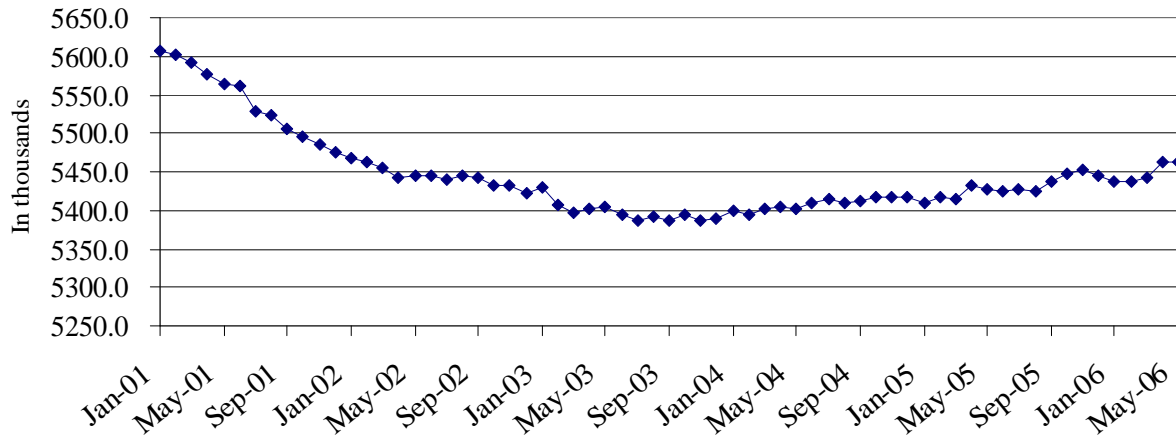
The following statistics, based on the latest seasonally adjusted ODJFS payroll numbers, highlight changes in the Ohio job market since 2001:

|                    | 5/2006  | 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 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Total Jobs</b>  | 5,462.7 | 5,606.1 | -2.6%                       | 5,591.7                     | -2.3%                       | 5,486.2                    | -0.4%                        |
| <b>Manuf. Jobs</b> | 808.2   | 998.8   | -19.1%                      | 984.6                       | -17.9%                      | 915.7                      | -11.7%                       |

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

Ohio hasn't quite managed to reverse its job losses since the recession officially ended in November 2001. According to the employer survey, Ohio is one of the just seven states that have lost jobs over the past five and a half years.

## Ohio Employment, January 2001 to May 2006 (seasonally adjusted)



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

*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.