

# POLICY MATTERS OHIO

## JOB WATCH

August 2006

### Ohio job numbers weaken

Job growth in Ohio has disappeared in recent months. According to seasonally adjusted payroll numbers for nonfarm wage and salary jobs released by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services on Aug. 22, Ohio lost jobs over the last three months, compared to a modest gain for the country as a whole.

Ohio job gains of a promising spring were eroded by subsequent losses, particularly in manufacturing. Total Ohio manufacturing jobs in July were at the lowest point in decades, though the rate of loss over the past year was much lower than it was during the recession.

Over the past year, Ohio has gained 29,700 overall jobs, or 0.5 percent, compared to a national gain of 1.3 percent. Job growth has weakened nationally in recent months, so in part Ohio is following the U.S. trend. Ohio also has trailed the nation in job growth over the last 13 months. The state implemented tax reform last July 1 aimed at lifting Ohio's economic fortunes.

The ODJFS also reported from a separate survey of households that the Ohio unemployment rate rose to 5.8 percent in July from 5.1 percent in June. This is one percentage point higher than the national average of 4.8 percent.

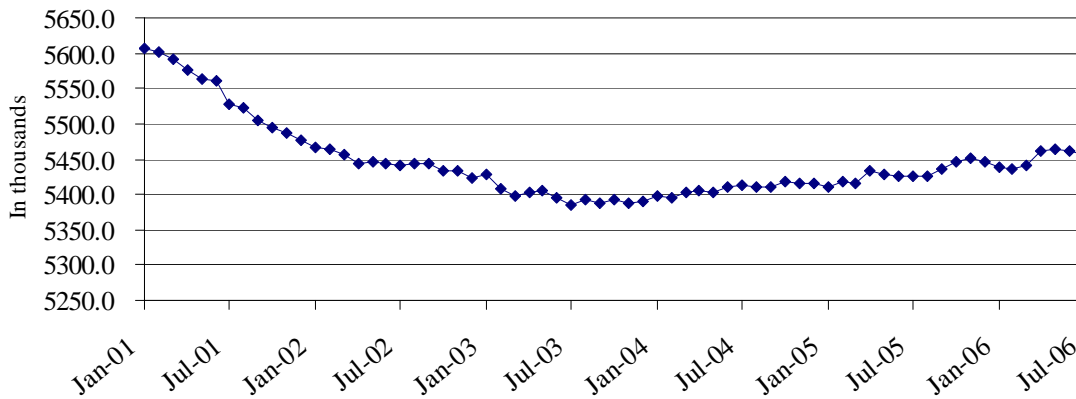
The following statistics, based on the latest seasonally adjusted ODJFS payroll numbers, highlight changes in the Ohio job market since 2001:

	7/2006	1/2001	Percent Change since 1/2001	3/2001 (Start of recession)	Percent Change since 3/2001	6/05 (Ohio tax reform approved)	Percent Change since 6/05
<b>Total Jobs</b>	5,455.9	5,606.1	-2.7%	5,591.7	-2.4%	5,425.9	0.6%
<b>Manuf. Jobs</b>	803.7	998.8	-19.5%	984.6	-18.4%	812.3	-1.1%

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

Ohio still has not reversed its job losses since the recession officially ended in November 2001, remaining 30,300 jobs (0.6 percent) below employment levels of that time. It is one of just six states, including hurricane-wracked Louisiana, that lost jobs over that time period.

## Ohio Employment, January 2001 to July 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 and Cleveland Foundations for other support.