

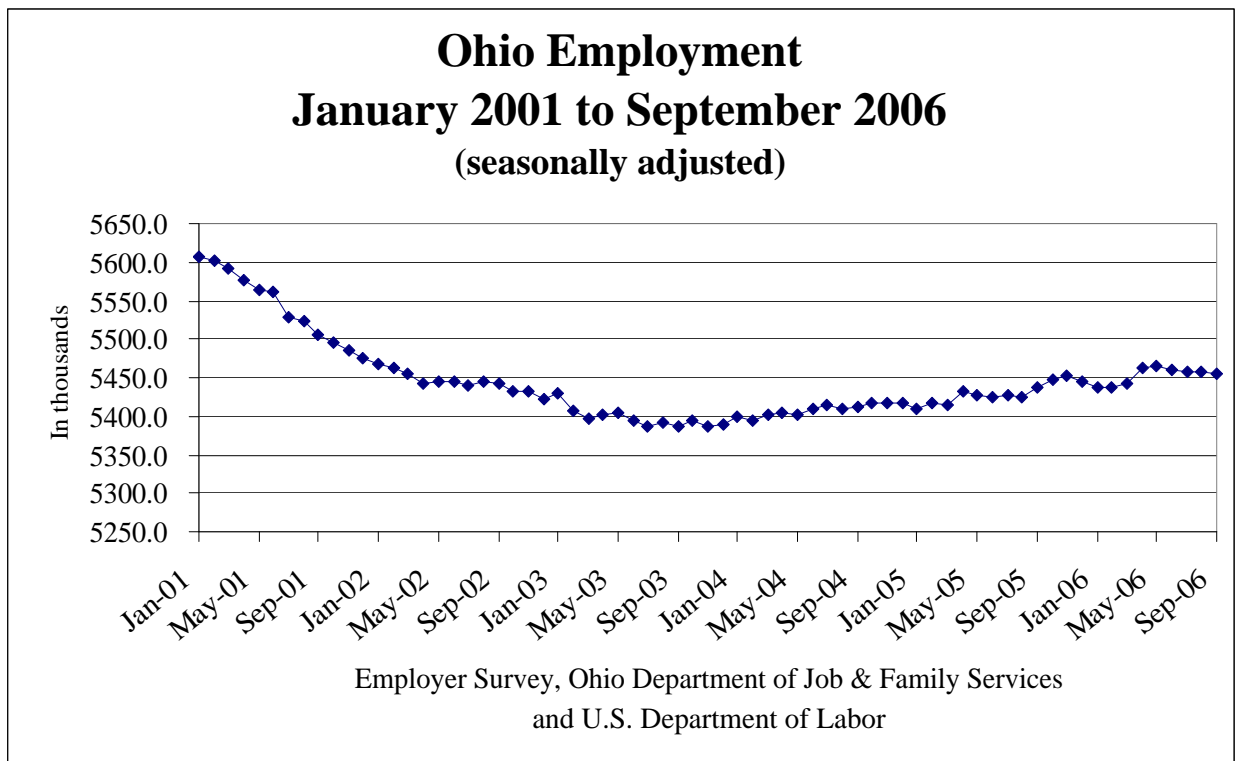
POLICY MATTERS OHIO

JOB WATCH

October 2006

Ohio Employment Continues Downward Trend

Employment in Ohio continues to trend slightly downward, according to seasonally adjusted payroll numbers for nonfarm wage and salary jobs released Oct. 24 by the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS). The number of jobs in Ohio has declined by 10,000 since its recent peak in May.



The chart above and the following statistics, based on the latest seasonally adjusted ODJFS payroll numbers, highlight recent changes in the Ohio job market:

	9/2006	1/2001	Job Change since 1/2001	Percent Change since 1/2001	6/05 (Ohio tax reform approved)	Job Change since 6/05	Percent Change since 6/05
Total Jobs	5,454.5	5,606.1	-151.6	-2.7%	5,425.9	28.6	0.5%
Manuf. Jobs	804.3	998.8	-194.5	-19.5%	812.3	-8	-1.0%

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

Since June of 2005, when an overhaul of state taxes was signed into law with the intent of creating jobs, employment in Ohio has grown by 28,600 jobs, or a rate of 0.5 percent. During the same period, the nation added 2.2 million jobs, for a growth rate of 1.7 percent. A preliminary assessment by U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics as part of its regular statistical benchmarking has found that the nation had a significantly greater number of jobs as of March 2006 than previously reported. However, final figures won't be available till January and the numbers in Ohio compared to the nation are unknown at this time.

Ohio employment remains 137,000 jobs, or 2.5 percent, below the job base of March 2001, when the last recession officially started. Ohio is one of just eight states that have lost jobs since the recession began.

The ODJFS reported from a separate survey of households that the unemployment in the state in September fell to 5.3 percent, down from the 5.7 percent rate in August.

*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. Policy Matters is grateful to the Joyce, Gund, Cleveland and St. Ann Foundations and to Greater Cleveland Community Shares for financial support.*