

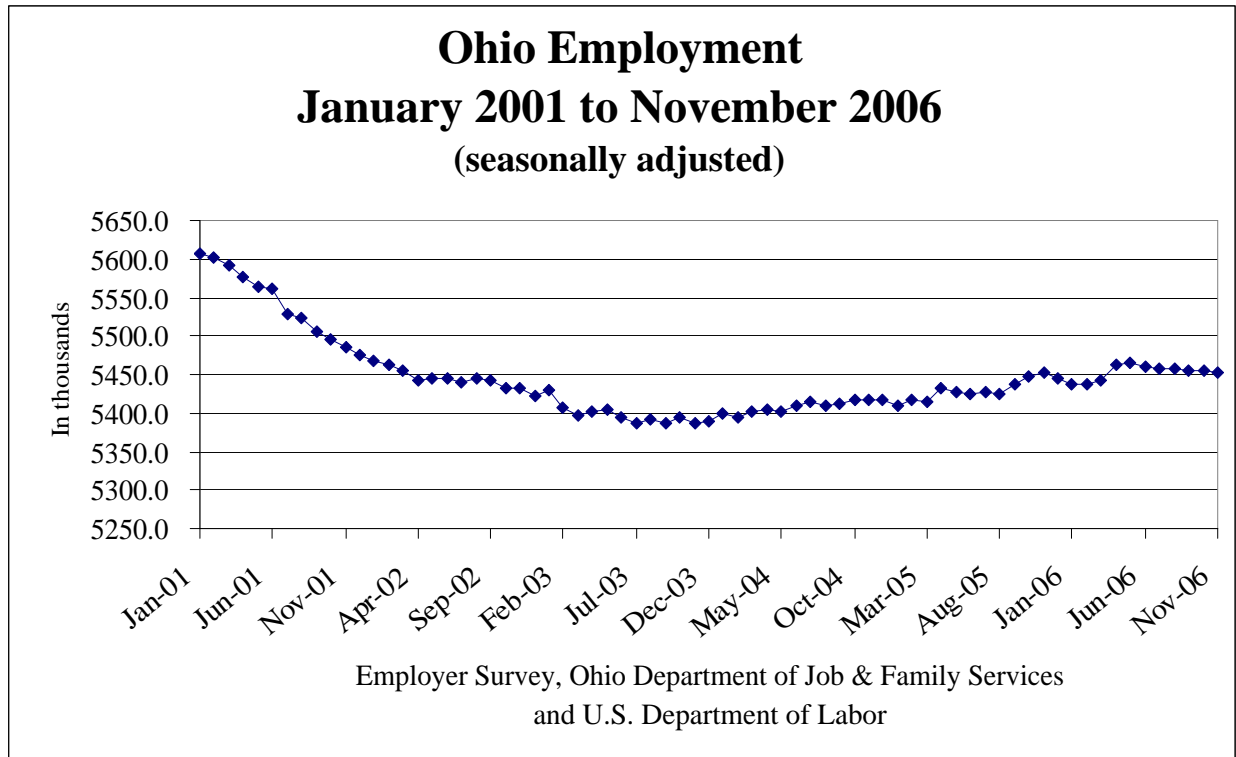
POLICY MATTERS OHIO

JOB WATCH

December 2006

**Five years after the recession,
Ohio employment is still in the doldrums**

Five years after the official end of the last recession, Ohio employment remains in the doldrums. The state is still more than 30,000 jobs short of the total it had in November 2001, at the end of the recession. Over the past year, the state has added a mere 1,200 jobs, according to seasonally adjusted payroll numbers for nonfarm wage and salary jobs released Dec. 29 by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). The number of jobs in Ohio has fallen by 12,000 since its recent peak last 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:

	11/2006	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	5,452.7	5,606.1	-153.4	-2.7%	5,425.9	26.8	0.5%
Manuf. Jobs	799.6	998.8	-199.2	-19.9%	812.3	-12.7	-1.6%

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 26,800 jobs, or a rate of 0.5 percent. During the same period, the nation added more than 2.6 million jobs, for a growth rate of nearly 2.0 percent. U.S. manufacturing employment has fallen since June 2005 by 69,000 jobs. However, Ohio has lost more than 12,000 manufacturing jobs in the same period, more than triple the relative loss experienced by the nation as a whole. While monthly numbers must be viewed with caution and are later revised, November was the first time in many decades that Ohio manufacturing jobs fell below the 800,000 level.

Ohio is one of just four states – the others are Louisiana, Massachusetts and Michigan – that have lost jobs since the recession officially ended. Five years after the end of the early 1990s recession, Ohio had gained more than 450,000 jobs, or an increase of 9.4 percent.

The ODJFS reported from a separate survey of households that the Ohio unemployment rate in November rose to 5.4 percent, up from the 5.1 percent rate in October.

*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.*