

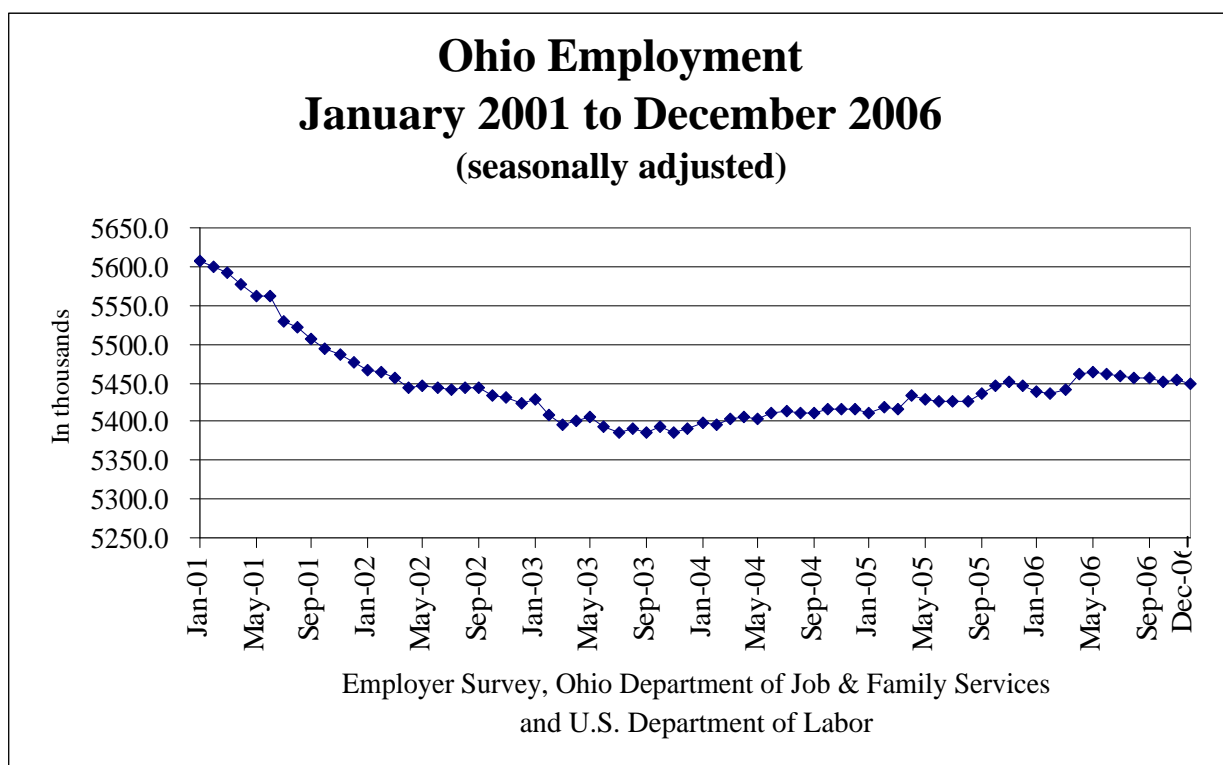
POLICY MATTERS OHIO

JOB WATCH

January 2007

Ohio job market still in low gear

Ohio's job market has shifted into low gear and stayed there since last spring, finishing 2006 with employment declines in six of the last seven months. The number of jobs in Ohio has fallen by 15,000 since its recent peak last May. Over the past year, the state has added a mere 3,700 jobs, a gain of less than one-tenth of one percent, according to seasonally adjusted payroll numbers for nonfarm wage and salary jobs released Jan. 23 by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS).



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

	12/2006	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	5,449.4	5,606.1	-156.7	-2.8%	5,425.9	23.5	0.4%
Manuf. Jobs	797.2	998.8	-201.6	-20.2%	812.3	-15.1	-1.9%

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 23,500 jobs, or a rate of 0.4 percent. During the same period, the nation added more than 2.8 million jobs, for a growth rate of 2.1 percent. U.S. manufacturing employment has fallen since June 2005 by 83,000 jobs. However, Ohio has lost more than 15,000 manufacturing jobs in the same period, more than triple the relative loss experienced by the nation as a whole.

Ohio is one of only four states – the others are Louisiana, Massachusetts and Michigan – that have lost jobs since the recession officially ended in November 2001.

The ODJFS reported from a separate survey of households that the Ohio unemployment rate in December rose to 5.6 percent, up from the 5.4 percent rate in November.

*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.*