

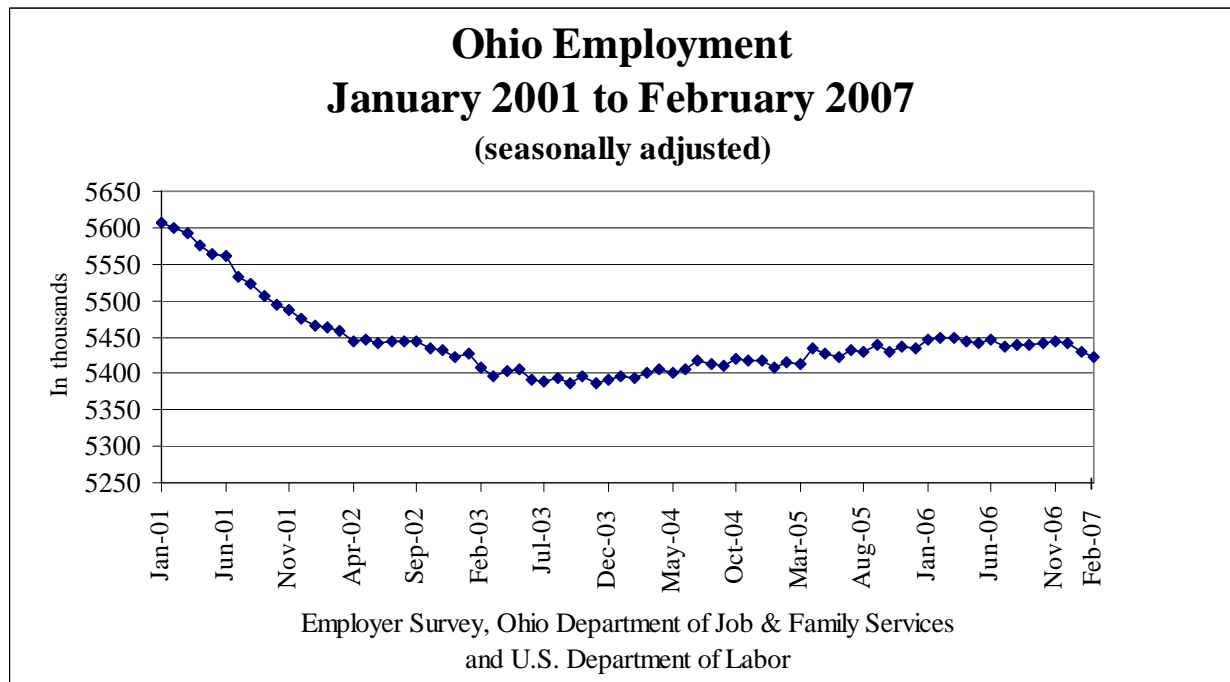
# POLICY MATTERS OHIO

## JOB WATCH

March 2007

### Ohio job market continues to struggle

Ohio's job market continues to struggle. The state lost jobs during the winter, more than offsetting the modest gains experienced during calendar 2006, according to seasonally adjusted payroll numbers for nonfarm wage and salary jobs released March 27 by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). Over the past year, the state has lost 24,000 jobs. Small increases in service jobs have been more than offset by losses in manufacturing and construction.



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
<b>Total Jobs</b>	5,423.6	5,606.1	-182.5	-3.3%	5,423.1	0.5	0.0%
<b>Manuf. Jobs</b>	781.5	998.6	-217.1	-21.7%	811.3	-29.8	-3.7%

Source: Employer Survey, Ohio Department of Job & Family Services and U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, number of jobs in thousands. BLS numbers for months prior to February 2007, which sometimes differ very slightly from ODJFS numbers, are used here and above.

Since June of 2005, when an overhaul of state taxes was signed into law with the intent of creating jobs, employment in Ohio has essentially been flat, growing by less than 1,000 jobs. During the same period, the nation added more than 3.8 million jobs, for a growth rate of 2.8 percent. U.S. manufacturing employment has fallen since June 2005 by 109,000 jobs. However, Ohio has lost close to 30,000 manufacturing jobs in the same period, more than four times the relative loss experienced by the nation as a whole.

The ODJFS reported from a separate survey of households that the Ohio unemployment rate in February fell to 5.0 percent, down from 5.3 percent rate in January. The drop came about largely because fewer Ohioans were looking for work.

*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 Sisters of Charity Foundations and to Greater Cleveland Community Shares for financial support.*