

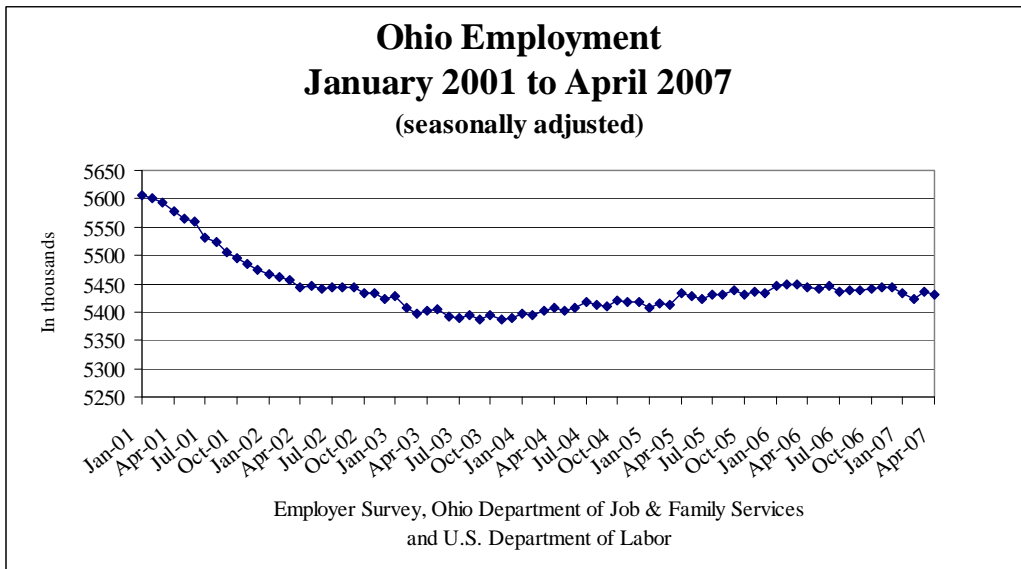
POLICY MATTERS OHIO

JOB WATCH

May 2007

Ohio job market retreats again

Ohio's job market retreated again in April, according to seasonally adjusted payroll numbers for nonfarm wage and salary jobs released May 18 by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). While still above its recent low, the number of jobs remains modestly below last year's levels and well behind those early in the decade. Month-to-month data can be volatile and are later revised, so it is unwise to put too much weight in a single month.



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

	3/2007	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	5,430.2	5,606.1	-175.9	-3.1%	5,423.1	7.1	0.1%
Manufacturing Jobs	781.5	998.6	-217.1	-21.7%	811.3	-29.8	-3.7%

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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 grown by a modest 7,100 jobs, or 0.1 percent. During the same period, the nation added more than 4 million jobs, for a growth rate of 3.0 percent. U.S. manufacturing employment has fallen since June 2005 by 148,000 jobs. However, Ohio has lost nearly 30,000 manufacturing jobs in the same period, more than three times the relative loss experienced by the nation as a whole.

Ohio is one of just four states, including Louisiana, Massachusetts and Michigan, that have lost jobs since the last recession officially ended in November 2001. Since then, the nation has added more than 6.7 million jobs.

The ODJFS reported from a separate survey of households that the Ohio unemployment rate in April rose to 5.7 percent, up from 5.2 percent rate in March. The increase came about because the number of unemployed grew while employment declined.

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.