

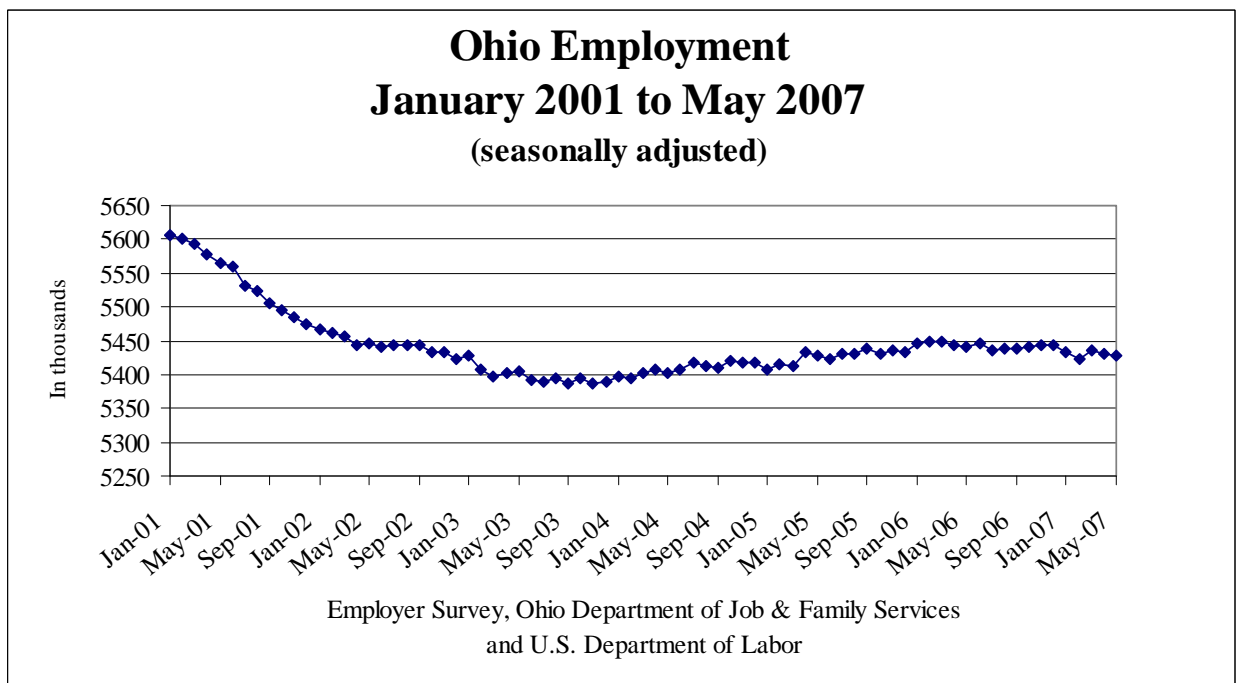
# POLICY MATTERS OHIO

## JOB WATCH

June 2007

### Ohio job market: No sign of improvement

Ohio's job market continues to bump along without signs of improvement. Job levels have moved up and down in a relatively narrow band and are now about where they were two years ago, according to seasonally adjusted payroll numbers for nonfarm wage and salary jobs released June 15 by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). Overall, the number of jobs in the state remains below where it was when the recession officially ended in November 2001. 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:

	5/2007	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
<b>Total Jobs</b>	5,429.0	5,606.1	-177.1	-3.2%	5,423.1	5.9	0.1%
<b>Manufacturing Jobs</b>	779.4	998.6	-219.2	-22.0%	811.3	-31.9	-3.9%

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 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 5,900 jobs, or 0.1 percent. During the same period, the nation added 4.2 million jobs, for a growth rate of 3.2 percent. U.S. manufacturing employment has fallen since June 2005 by 173,000 jobs. However, Ohio has lost nearly 32,000 manufacturing jobs in the same period, more than three times the relative loss experienced by the nation as a whole.

Ohio, along with Massachusetts and Michigan, are the only three states that have lost jobs since the last recession officially ended more than five years ago. Since that time, the United States has added 6.9 million jobs, or a gain of 5.3 percent.

The ODJFS reported from a separate survey of households that the Ohio unemployment rate in May remained at 5.7 percent, the same as in April.

*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.