

POLICY MATTERS OHIO

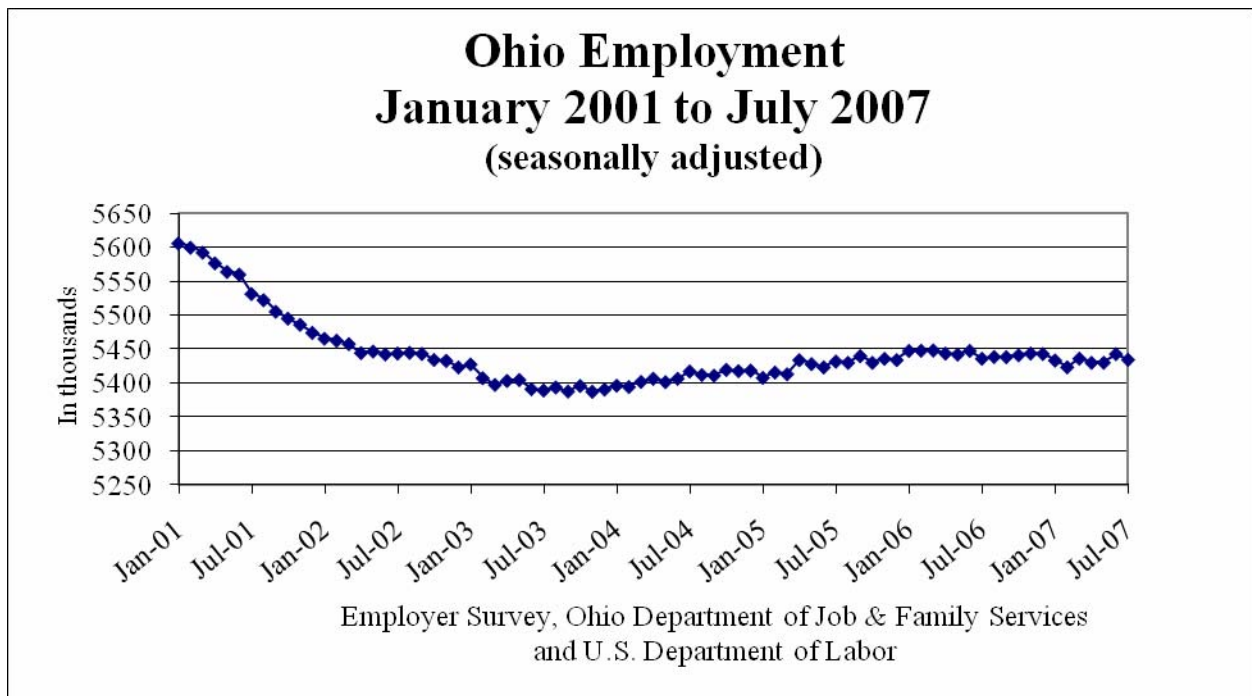
JOB WATCH

August 2007

A flat Ohio job market

Though it has seen some ups and downs from month to month, Ohio employment is nearly the same as it was six months and a year ago, according to seasonally adjusted payroll numbers for nonfarm wage and salary jobs released August 17 by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS).

Overall, the number of jobs in the state remains more than 50,000 below where it was when the recession officially ended in November 2001 when almost all other states have long since regained prior employment levels. Ohio, along with Massachusetts and Michigan, are the only three states that have lost jobs since then. In that time period, the United States has added more than 7.2 million jobs, or a gain of 5.5 percent.



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

	7/2007	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	5,434.3	5,606.1	-171.8	-3.1%	5,423.1	11.2	0.2%
Manufacturing Jobs	779.0	998.6	-219.9	-22.0%	811.3	-32.3	-4.0%

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.

More than two years after an overhaul of state taxes was signed into law with the intent of creating jobs, employment in Ohio has grown by just 11,200 jobs, or 0.2 percent. During the same period, the nation added 4.5 million jobs, for a growth rate of 3.4 percent. U.S. manufacturing employment has fallen since June 2005 by 170,000 jobs. However, Ohio has lost more than 32,000 manufacturing jobs in the same period, nearly three 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 July fell to 5.8 percent, down from 6.1 percent in June.

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.