

POLICY MATTERS OHIO

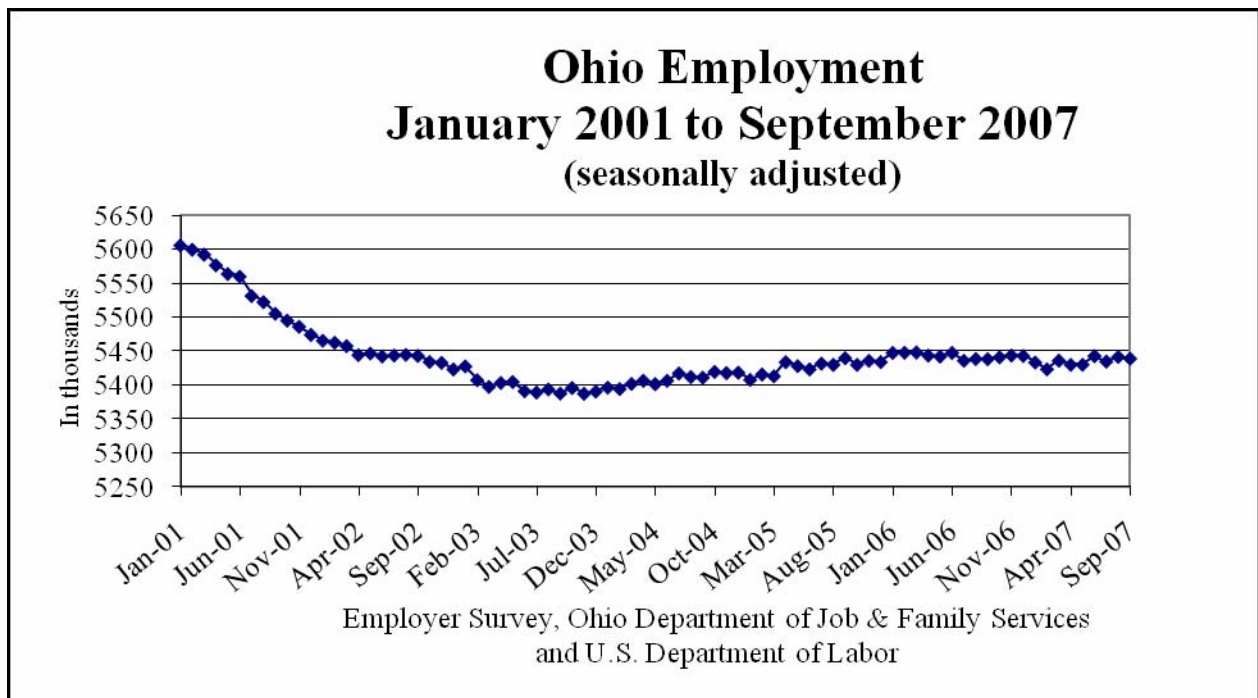
JOB WATCH

October 2007

Ohio Employment Still Below Recession Levels

More than five years after the end of the last recession, Ohio hasn't recovered the number of jobs it had when the downturn ended. There are 47,000 fewer jobs in Ohio than in November 2001. Though there have been some ups and downs in the past year, Ohio employment was just 700 higher in September than it was a year earlier, according to seasonally adjusted payroll numbers for nonfarm wage and salary jobs released Oct. 19 by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS).

All other states except Massachusetts and Michigan have added jobs since the recession ended. Since then, the United States has added more than 7.3 million jobs, or a gain of 5.6 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:

	9/2007	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	5,438.9	5,606.1	-167.2	-3.0%	5,423.1	15.8	0.3%
Manufacturing Jobs	779.3	998.6	-219.3	-22.0%	811.3	-32.0	-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.

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 15,800 jobs, or 0.3 percent. During the same period, the nation added more than 4.6 million jobs, for a growth rate of almost 3.5 percent. U.S. manufacturing employment has fallen since June 2005 by 241,000 jobs. However, Ohio has lost 32,000 manufacturing jobs in the same period, more than two 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 September rose to 5.9 percent, up from 5.7 percent in August.

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.