

# POLICY MATTERS OHIO

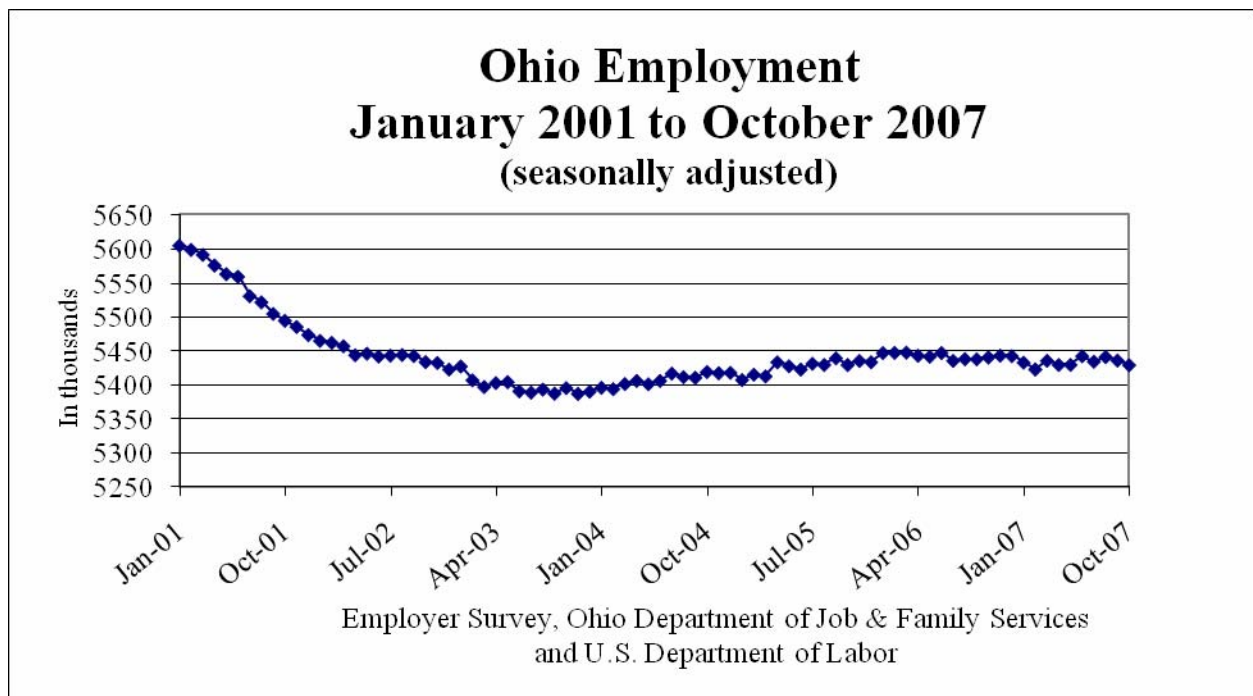
## JOB WATCH

November 2007

### Ohio Employment in a Sideways Pattern

Ohio's job market continues with at best a sideways pattern. Ohio employment in October was almost identical to what it was six months ago and more than 11,000 jobs below a year earlier, according to seasonally adjusted payroll numbers for nonfarm wage and salary jobs released Nov. 16 by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS).

Nearly six years after the end of the last recession, Ohio hasn't recovered the number of jobs it had when the downturn ended. There are 56,000 fewer jobs in Ohio than in November 2001. Since then, the United States has added more than 7.5 million jobs, or a gain of 5.7 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:

	10/2007	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>	5,429.5	5,606.1	-176.6	-3.2%	5,423.1	6.4	0.1%
<b>Manufacturing Jobs</b>	777.7	998.6	-220.9	-22.1%	811.3	-33.6	-4.1%

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 6,400 jobs, or 0.1 percent. During the same period, the nation added more than 4.8 million jobs, for a growth rate of 3.6 percent. U.S. manufacturing employment has fallen since June 2005 by 261,000 jobs. However, Ohio has lost more than 33,000 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 October remained at 5.9 percent, the same rate as in September.

*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.