

POLICY MATTERS OHIO

JOB WATCH

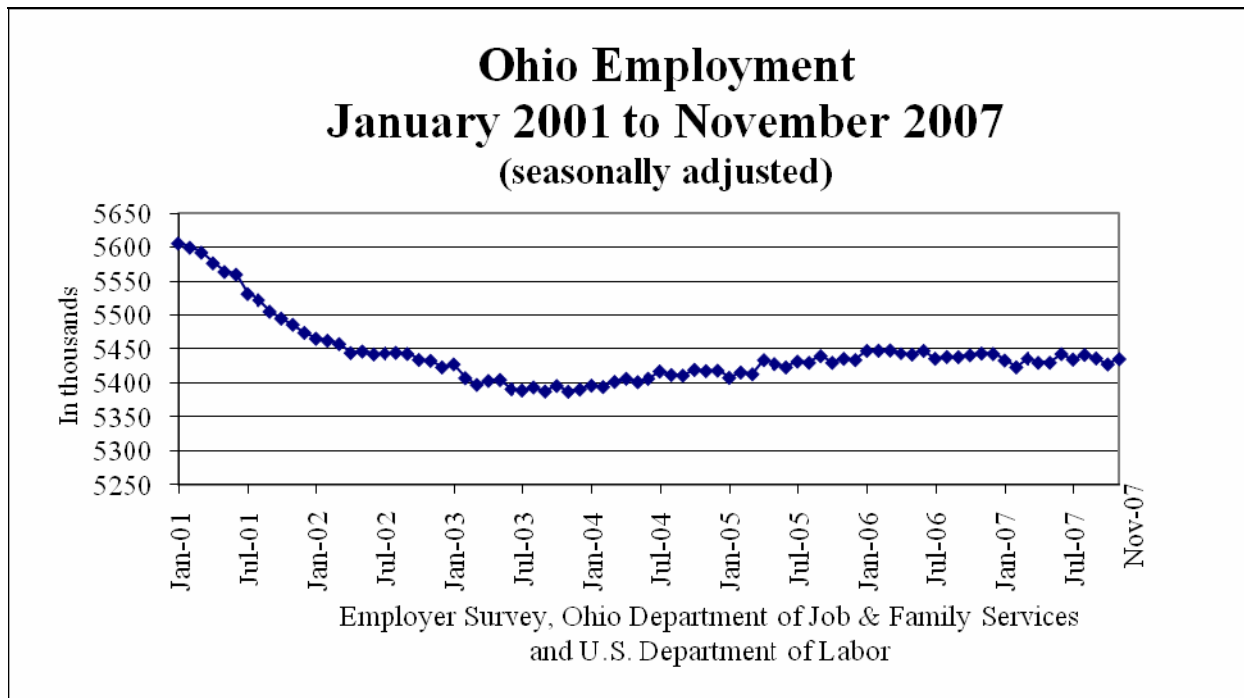
December 2007

Ohio Employment Down 50,000 since Recession

Six years after the official end of the last recession, the state hasn't recovered the number of jobs it had when the downturn ended. There are 50,000 fewer jobs in Ohio than in November 2001, according to seasonally adjusted payroll numbers for nonfarm wage and salary jobs released Dec. 21 by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS).

Ohio employment showed an uptick in November from the month before. However, month-to-month data is volatile and must be viewed with caution.

Since November 2001, the United States has added more than 7.3 million jobs, or a gain of 5.6 percent. Only three states – Massachusetts, Michigan and Ohio – have not added jobs since the end of the recession.



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

	11/2007	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	5,435.3	5,606.1	-170.8	-3.0%	5,423.1	12.2	0.2%
Manufacturing Jobs	776.7	998.6	-221.9	-22.2%	811.3	-34.6	-4.3%

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 12,200 jobs, or 0.2 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 264,000 jobs. However, Ohio has lost more than 34,000 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 November declined to 5.6 percent, down from 5.9 percent in October.

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, New World, Public Welfare and Sisters of Charity Foundations and to Greater Cleveland Community Shares for financial support.

