

POLICY MATTERS OHIO

JOB WATCH

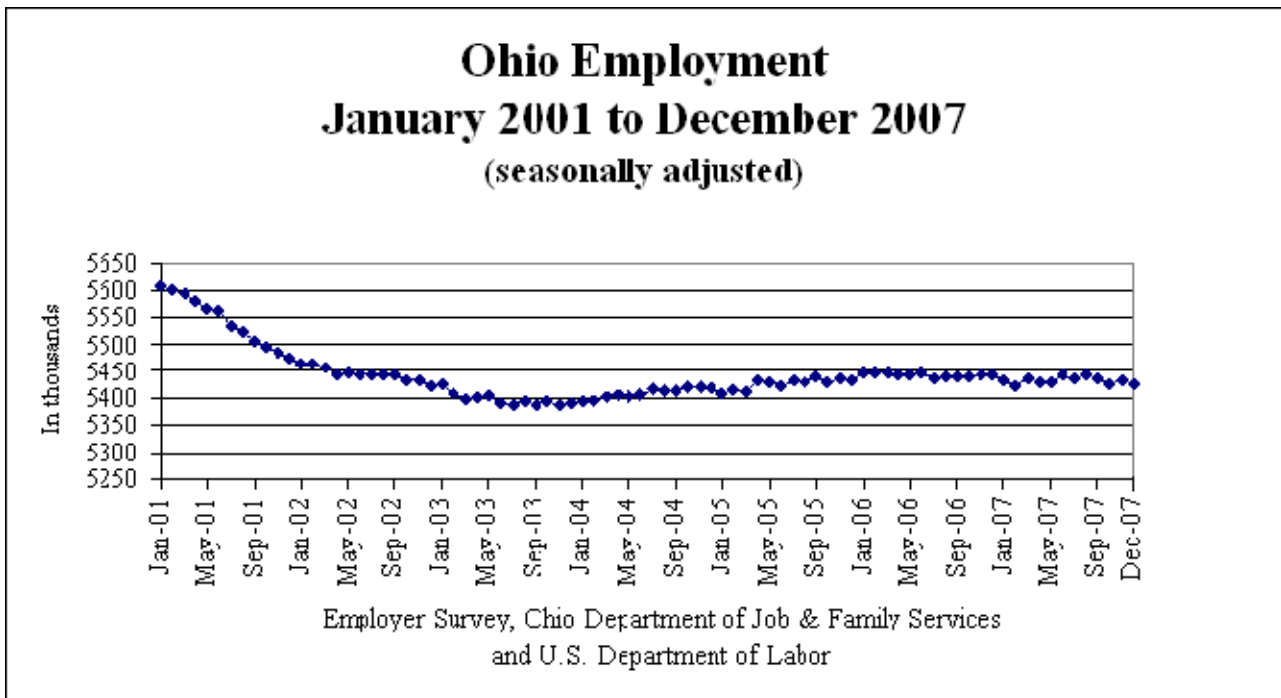
January 2008

Slack grows in Ohio's job market

Ohio's job market looked sickly as the old year ended, showing a decline of more than 15,000 jobs from a year earlier. Ohio has not added jobs since the end of the last recession, even while economists wonder whether the nation is entering another one. There are 58,000 fewer jobs in Ohio than in November 2001, according to seasonally adjusted payroll numbers for non-farm wage and salary jobs released Jan. 18 by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS).

The state also showed a further decline in manufacturing jobs during 2007.

Since November 2001, the United States has added more than 7.6 million jobs, or a gain of 5.8 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:

	12/2007	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	5,427.5	5,606.1	-178.6	-3.2%	5,423.1	4.4	0.1%
Manufacturing Jobs	774.3	998.6	-224.3	-22.5%	811.3	-37.0	-4.6%

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.

Two and a half years after an overhaul of state taxes was signed into law with the intent of creating jobs, employment in Ohio has grown by just 4,400 jobs, or 0.1 percent. During the same period, the nation added almost 4.9 million jobs, for a growth rate of 3.7 percent. U.S. manufacturing employment has fallen since June 2005 by 305,000 jobs. However, Ohio has lost 37,000 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 December climbed to 6.0 percent, up from 5.6 percent in November.

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.