

POLICY MATTERS OHIO

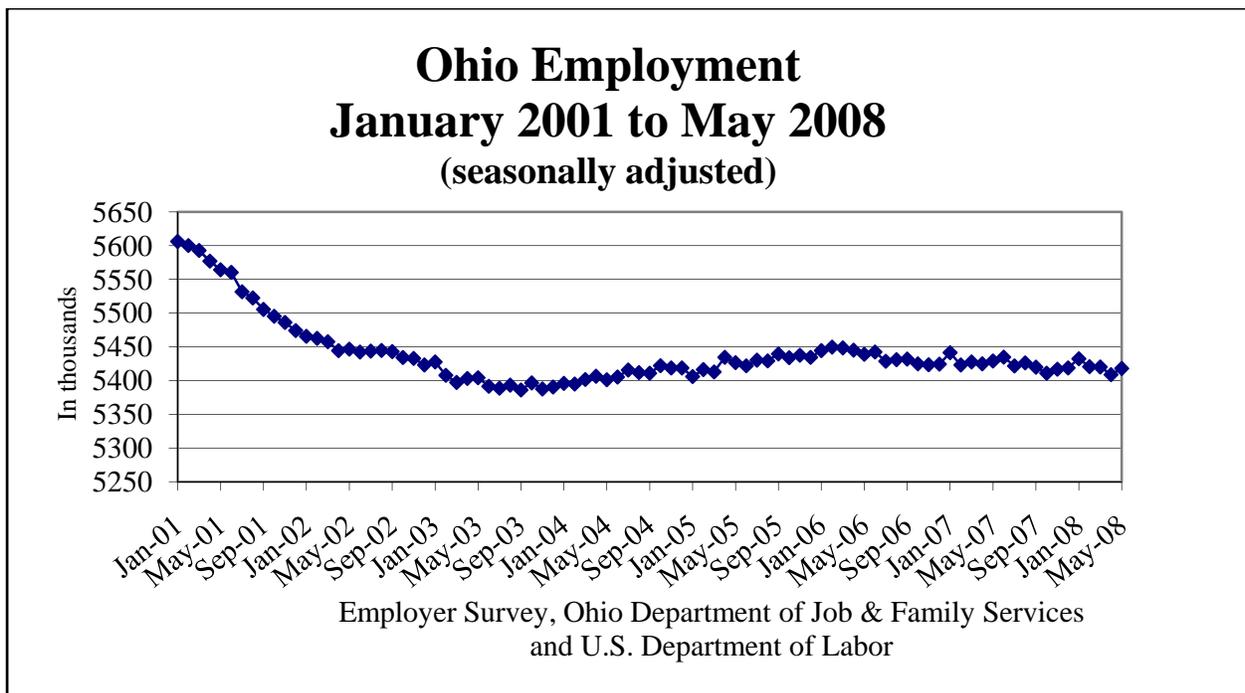
JOB WATCH

June 2008

Little long-term growth in Ohio job market

Ohio employment continues to bob up and down from month to month, while showing little growth over the long-term. Ohio and Michigan are the only two states in the country that do not have as many jobs as they did when the last recession officially ended more than six years ago. Since then, Ohio has lost 68,000 jobs, or 1.2 percent of its total. According to seasonally adjusted payroll numbers for nonfarm wage and salary jobs released June 20 by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), Ohio employment remains around the same as it was late last year.

The nation as a whole has been losing jobs over that time span. While that leaves Ohio in a somewhat positive light, other signs suggest a deterioration in the state's employment picture. These include major layoff announcements recently and increasing numbers of claims for unemployment compensation. Over the past year, Ohio has lost 11,000 jobs, according to the employer survey.



The chart above and the following statistics, based on the latest seasonally adjusted ODJFS payroll numbers, highlight recent changes in the Ohio job market. They include revisions in previous figures for 2007 and before made annually by the Bureau of Labor Statistics:

	5/2008	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	5,417.9	5,606.1	-188.2	-3.4%	5,421.8	-3.9	-0.1%
Manufacturing Jobs	760.1	998.6	-238.5	-23.9%	812.0	-51.9	-6.4%

Source: Employer Survey, Ohio Department of Job & Family Services and U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, number of jobs in thousands.

Nearly three years after an overhaul of state taxes was signed into law with the intent of creating jobs, employment in Ohio has fallen by 3,900 jobs, or 0.1 percent. During the same period, the nation added almost 4.2 million jobs, for a growth rate of 3.1 percent. U.S. manufacturing employment has fallen since June 2005 by 662,000 jobs. However, Ohio has lost 51,900 manufacturing jobs in the same period, a relative loss considerably greater than that experienced by the nation as a whole.

Unemployment has been growing in Ohio. The ODJFS reported from a separate survey of households that the Ohio unemployment rate in May rose to 6.3 percent, up from 5.6 percent in April.

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.