

RISE IN JUNE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ATTRIBUTED TO SEASONAL FACTORS & LOSSES IN SEVERAL EMPLOYMENT SECTORS

Ohio's rate of unemployment rose to 5.8% in June, a 0.2% increase from the previous month, it was reported Friday by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). Seasonal employment adjustments as well as job losses in a number of economic sectors produced 14,300 job losses, the agency said. The nation's June unemployment was 5.6%, unchanged from May.

Policy Matters, a Cleveland-based research group that is following Ohio's job market, said after reviewing the latest job data that "signs of traction in the job market are hard to find...."

ODJFS Director Tom Hayes said in a statement: "Ohio's unemployment rate in June largely reflects the seasonal trends expected at the beginning of the summer, when there is typically an increase in new entrants to the labor force. This seasonal activity, combined with modest job losses in both goods-producing and service-providing industries from May to June led to the slight rate increase."

From May to June, Ohio's nonfarm wage and salary employment dropped to 5,372,300 from 5,386,600. The number of jobless workers totaled 339,000 in June, up from 329,000 a month earlier. Over a 12-month period, ODJFS said the number of unemployed persons has declined by 39,000. In June 2003, the unemployment rate was 6.2%.

By sector, employment in service-producing industries was down 9,600 from May to June, while manufacturing and construction employment dropped 3,400 and 1,100, respectively, in the same period. Government employment was up by about 1,400 for the same period. Over a 12-month span, employment in goods-producing industries was down 20,300 while employment in educational and health services was up 7,100.

Among Ohio's 88 counties, the June unemployment rates ranged from a low of 3.6% in Delaware and Holmes counties to a high of 16.1% in Morgan County.

In an analysis of June employment data, [Policy Matters Ohio](#) pointed out that "if job growth in the state continues at the same rate it has since the beginning of the year, when employment began to show some signs of improvement, it would take another six years to regain the jobs lost since the recession officially began in March, 2001." According to the analysis, the state had 219,000 fewer jobs in June than when the recession began. Zach Schiller, the group's research director, said "there is no question that Ohio is trailing badly behind the country in job growth."