



JobsOhio Needs a More Accurate Tagline October 7, 2015

After operating for five years with hundreds of millions of dollars and what was sold as the greatest formula to determine how to pick winners in the economic development sweepstakes, the results for JobsOhio are, well, just plain terrible. JobsOhio can issue annual reports touting the projects it has invested in and the **estimated** jobs retained and **to be created**, but the ultimate proof of its success is the private sector job growth in Ohio over the last five years. One would expect Ohio's private sector to get stronger as the deals cut by Governor John Kasich and JobsOhio bear fruit as the years pass.

According to the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), under Kasich and his opaque JobsOhio scheme, Ohio's private sector added jobs as follows, with the total jobs claimed by JobsOhio that were retained and going to be added:

Year	Private Sector Jobs Added	JobsOhio Jobs Retained & To Be Added	Net Private Sector Percent Change 50-State Ranking
2010	61,800	N/A	#18
2011	93,400	82,785	#17
2012	75,100	75,612	#28
2013	83,400	88,306	#28
2014	71,600	73,517	#23
2015 (Jan.-July)	9,500	TBD	#45

Keep in mind that Ohio added 61,800 private sector jobs in 2010 under Governor Ted Strickland without JobsOhio. Arguably, the job growth in 2011 occurred before JobsOhio had much alleged impact, as Kasich didn't sign the state budget until July 1, 2011. In fact, Ohio added 55,100 private sector jobs by July 31, 2011, with Ohio's private sector growing by just 38,300 jobs in the last five months of the 2011.

Because Ohio is the seventh largest state, it usually will add more jobs than smaller states. The apples-to-apples comparison is the net percentage growth. Using that metric, Kasich and JobsOhio look even worse as detailed above—a fall from #17 in 2011 to #45 in 2015. These data points raise the critical questions: if JobsOhio is working, why is Ohio falling further behind with each year JobsOhio exists? Shouldn't JobsOhio result in greater, not fewer, jobs being added? Note to JobsOhio apologists: other states face the same “DC headwinds,” so don't blame Obama.

Government bureaucrats stink at picking winners and losers. Once you strip away the fancy rhetoric and unprovable claims, JobsOhio is little more than a taxpayer-funded gambling operation that hopes its method of corporate cronyism hits the jackpot enough to hide the bad bets it makes. Ohioans would be better served if Kasich weakened the power of Big Labor, eliminated even one regulatory entity, and cut versus shifted taxes. The General Assembly should eliminate JobsOhio and get government out of the economic development lottery.

Perhaps a more accurate tagline for JobsOhio is: **It's just not working.**