



### If It Sounds Too Good to Be True, It Probably Is

In January 2011, Ohio’s private sector employed 4,292,100 Ohioans. Several months later, the Ohio General Assembly under Governor John Kasich’s direction created JobsOhio, a private economic development entity with little transparency and accountability essentially funded by liquor sales in Ohio. A decade later, Ohio’s private sector employs roughly 4,634,900 Ohioans. That means Ohio’s private sector today employs 342,800 more Ohioans than it did right before JobsOhio was created—or just 34,280 more jobs per year in a state of 11.7 million people.

As a reference point, in March 2000, Ohio’s private sector hit an all-time high when it employed 4,854,400 Ohioans, or approximately 219,500 **more** workers than it does today – twenty-one years later. Only two other states hold that pathetic distinction. Another vital point of reference is that in 2020 due to the global COVID pandemic, Ohio’s private sector **lost** 275,700 jobs.

Year	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Private Sector Jobs Added	JobsOhio Claimed Jobs Added	Percentage of Actual Jobs Added Claimed by JobsOhio
2011	93,700	82,785	88.4%
2012	73,500	75,612	102.8%
2013	82,700	88,306	106.8%
2014	87,600	73,517	83.9%
2015	58,100	23,602	40.6%
2016	38,600	20,603	53.4%
2017	37,400	139,178	372.1%
2018	26,000	27,071	104.1%
2019	28,000	22,770	81.3%
2020	-275,700	19,021	N/A
2021	100,000	31,165	31.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>349,900</b>	<b>603,630</b>	<b>172.5%</b>

Given these facts as laid out by the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), it seems utterly preposterous that [JobsOhio would claim](#) that in its decade of picking winners and losers with more than a billion dollars, it is responsible for adding 603,630 private sector jobs in Ohio – or 173% **more jobs** than Ohio actually added. Yes, we understand that JobsOhio can claim that “other” jobs were lost as it defied basic economics and national trends and as it single-handedly prevented Ohio’s private sector from **being a net jobs loser**, but it is far more likely JobsOhio’s claims, well, don’t exactly pan out. As they say, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

After all, it [gambled \\$70 million](#) on a cracker plant promising [“thousands of jobs”](#) that [isn’t getting built](#). One has to wonder how many more of those 603,630 claimed jobs never materialized. Given the hard facts above, it must be quite a few. It is time to end the bureaucrat enriching JobsOhio boondoggle before a billion more dollars gets thrown away without any objectively measurable benefit to Ohio taxpayers.