

# Reflecting on Ohio's Long Recovery

Ohio has 390,000 more people living here than when Ohio's private sector hit a peak in raw numbers (4,852,600) and percentage of Ohioans employed (42.7%) in the private sector back in March 2000. While it is great Ohio's private sector finally got back to the raw number of Ohioans employed after 23 years and 4 months, Ohio's private sector still needs to add 159,550 jobs to hit the 42.7% peak of Ohioans working in the private sector. So, we should celebrate, but also recognize the utter failure by Ohio's policymakers to enact the policies that would have supercharged Ohio's private sector so it didn't take over 23 years to do what nearly every state did years ago in surpassing their March 2000 peak employment records.

## Have We Recovered Yet?

After 23 years of job losses followed by sluggish growth, Ohio recently surpassed its peak number of private sector jobs from 2000. However, during that time, Ohio's population also rose by 390,000, which means that full recovery is still thousands of jobs away.

	2000 (PEAK PRIVATE SECTOR)	2010	2020	2023	FULL PRIVATE- SECTOR RECOVERY
Population	11,360,000	11,540,000	11,690,000	11,750,000	11,750,000
Private sector jobs (peak)	4,852,600	4,222,400	4,817,600	4,857,700	5,017,250
% Ohioans in private sector (peak)	42.7%	36.6%	41.2%	41.3%	42.7%

Full recovery would require at least **42.7%** of Ohioans to be in the private sector

To reach 42.7% today, Ohio would need **159,550 more jobs** than it currently has.

SOURCES: Bureau of Labor Statistics and Opportunity Ohio calculations.

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