

Ohio lags U.S. jobs growth, as it has under a half-century of governors from John Kasich to Michael DiSalle

Rich Exner, Northeast Ohio Media Group By **Rich Exner, Northeast Ohio Media Group**

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CLEVELAND, Ohio - Ohio's job growth under Gov. John Kasich trails the nation, just as it has under every other governor for at least a half-century.

The good news for Ohio since Kasich took office in January 2011 is that Ohio has picked up an estimated 244,000 jobs, federal data show. That's a gain of 4.8 percent.

Numbers Behind the News

However, the number of jobs nationally grew at a brisker pace of 6.1 percent during the same time period.

If Ohio would have been able to keep up with that national pace, it would have instead added 309,000 jobs, the Northeast Ohio Media Group found in an analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics reports.

In other words, Ohio is 65,000 jobs short of keeping up with the country as a whole in jobs growth from the beginning of Kasich's term through the most recent federal report.

The reasons for jobs gains - or losses - at each turn obviously are much more complicated than simply looking at who is in charge. And, even if it is simplified to that extent, who is more responsible for a state number - the president or the governor?

Additionally, there is the whole issue of counting part-time jobs or low-paying jobs the same as full-time and higher-paying jobs. These numbers count all jobs the same.

Ohio jobs vs. U.S.

Here are the growth or loss of jobs vs. the national trend for each four-year period since Ohio began electing governors to four-year terms.

Governor	Years	Ohio jobs	U.S. jobs
DiSalle (D)	1959-63	1.7%	6.5%
Rhodes (R)	1963-67	16.8%	16.9%
Rhodes (R)	1967-71	6.6%	8.5%
Gilligan (D)	1971-75	6.0%	9.0%
Rhodes (R)	1975-79	9.4%	15.0%
Rhodes (R)	1979-83	-9.8%	0.1%
Celeste (D)	1983-87	12.2%	13.2%
Celeste (D)	1987-91	6.7%	8.1%
Voinovich (R)	1991-95	6.6%	6.8%
Voinovich (R)	1995-99	6.2%	9.6%
Taft (R)	1999-03	-1.2%	2.2%
Taft (R)	2003-07	0.2%	5.3%
Strickland (D)	2007-11	-6.9%	-4.8%
Kasich (R)	2011-14	4.8%	6.1%

Source: Analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

Note: George Voinovich left office two weeks early to take the job of U.S. Senator.

Jobs numbers for January to January for each term were used (June 2014 for Kasich). In earlier years, when seasonally adjusted Ohio numbers were not available, unadjusted January numbers were used for both Ohio and the United States.



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