

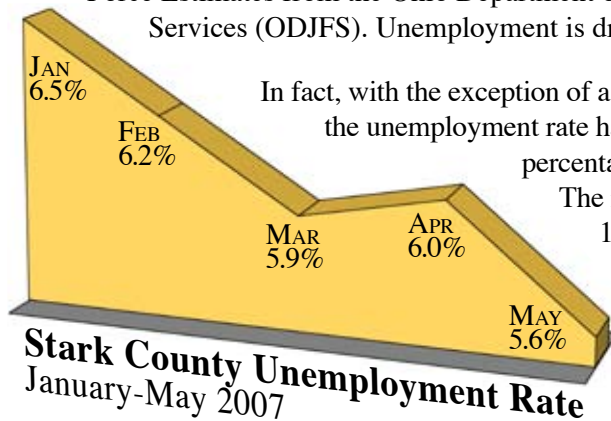
Looking At The ISSUES

Stark
Education
Partnership
inc.

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New Reports Underscore Economic Trends for Stark

There's good news for Stark County in the latest Civilian Labor Force Estimates from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). Unemployment is dropping.



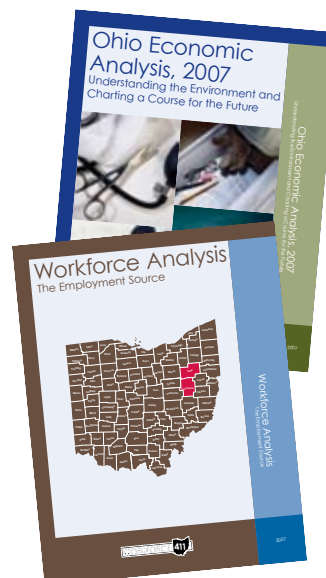
In fact, with the exception of a slight rise in April, the unemployment rate has fallen almost a full percentage point since January.

The new figure means that 180,000 people are working in Stark County today and that's with a slightly larger workforce (3,300 more) than in January.

While the region has not fully recovered from the job losses from the 2001 recession, there has still been a net employment increase of 2.2% over the last decade.

Facts like these can be found in a new document released earlier this year by ODJFS entitled *Workforce Analysis: The Employment Source*.¹ This report covers specific trends in Stark and Tuscarawas Counties, which form one of 19 Workforce Investment Areas (WIA) in the state.

Yet another document released last month, *Ohio Economic Analysis, 2007 Understanding the Environment and Charting a Course for the Future*,² should prove of value to local and state policy and decision-makers. Among other things, this report looks at trends through 2014 and occupational growth by skill levels. The future story for Ohio? **Occupational growth in all education and training categories expected to grow more than ten percent require at least some postsecondary education.**



Looking At The Week

Columbus Early College

Dr. Joe Rochford joined coaches from the KnowledgeWorks Foundation Tuesday in visiting the Columbus Afrocentric Early College School.

Uganda Visitors

Brothers Andrew P. Yiga and Pius Ochwo from the new Kisubi Bothers University in Uganda visited the Stark Education Partnership on Friday. They also toured Canton's Early College High School. The Kisubi Brothers University is partnering with Stark's Walsh University on Education Leadership programs.

¹ Available at: <http://lmi.state.oh.us/wia/workforceanalysis.htm>

² Available at: <http://lmi.state.oh.us/Index.htm>