

IO Study Says More Low-Wage Jobs In Ohio, But Kasich Admin Rips Findings

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For the first time since 2007, more low-wage jobs exist in Ohio than medium or high wage ones, an Innovation Ohio study released Wednesday has found.

The [study](#), which uses U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics occupational employment data, suggests that low-wage jobs account for nearly all of the state's employment growth during the recovery.

[Gov. John Kasich's](#) office, however, questioned the claim, as well as the study's methodology.

According to the Innovation Ohio study, before the recession began, a third of Ohio jobs paid more than \$20 per hour, 39% paid between \$13.40 and \$19.99 and 28% paid less than \$13.39 per hour. At the end of 2013, low-wage positions accounted for 36% of the state's jobs, while medium paying jobs fell to 34% and high wage jobs dropped to 31%.

Keary McCarthy, president of the progressive think tank, said the report makes clear that the governor's handling of the state's economic recovery "warrants serious scrutiny."

"Not only has the recovery from the great recession been slow and inconsistent, but for the first time since 2007 low-wage jobs now comprise the highest share of the job market," he said in a release.

Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Ed FitzGerald, meanwhile, said "Ohio needs a governor who will raise the minimum wage and focus on growing the economy from the middle out, rather than Kasich's outdated, ineffective trickle-down approach."

Kasich spokesman Rob Nichols argued that the report's data is flawed and that "BLS specifically warns against using this data in the manner in which they used it."

Mr. Nichols pointed to a BLS statement on the data that says "it is less useful for comparisons of two or more points in time. Challenges in using OES data as a time series include changes in the occupational, industrial, and geographical classification systems, changes in the way data are collected, changes in the survey reference period, and changes in mean wage estimation methodology, as well as permanent features of the methodology."

"Whichever one of Innovation Ohio's secret donors paid for this pile of garbage should immediately demand their money back," he said in an email.

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http://www.gongwer-oh.com/programming/news.cfm?article_ID=831610208#sthash.XlilRAci.dpbs