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through freedom friendly policies

## When left meets right

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In Mark Twain's words: "There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics."

All sides use selective statistics when trying to make their case. This story is as old as time, and most people understand this little song and dance. So what happens when groups use the exact same data and statistics to make conclusions?

**Answer: We find an area where left meets right – job growth in Ohio.**

A new report from progressive think tank, Innovation Ohio, concludes that "Ohio job growth has stalled over the last 12 months." Their report focuses on a long term trend and sites these stats:

1. Ohio ranks 47th nationally in job growth over the last 12 months – only Wyoming, Main, and Alaska performed worse;
2. In the last year, Ohio's economy only added 16,000 new jobs – a growth rate of only 0.3 percent;
3. Over the past 12 months, Ohio added jobs at just one-seventh the rate it did the year earlier.

But before you say, oh that's just the left trying to hammer Republican John Kasich, lets look at what conservative think tank, Opportunity Ohio has said about this topic of jobs in Ohio.

For the last year, Opportunity Ohio has been consistently telling the story that Ohio's real unemployment rate is much higher than individual stats show, and have also pointed out that the trend of positive job growth coming out of the recession of 2008 and 2009 actually started under Ted Strickland and was firmly in place by 2010 before John Kasich took office.

Opportunity Ohio and one of the nation's premier free market think tanks, Mercatus Center, also agree – "This trend of widescale worker disengagement—not of labor market improvement—is driving down Ohio's unemployment rate. Ohio's unemployment rate would be 11.5 percent with a prerecession labor force participation rate."

So we have 2 major points being made by these think tanks who enter into the analysis from different philosophical perspectives:

1. The positive trend for job growth in Ohio was established in 2010, improved in 2011 and is now firmly moving the wrong direction since 2012 under John Kasich's watch.

2. Even when looking at the unemployment rate, we should consider additional numbers and long term trends like workforce participation which show Ohio is at its lowest point since 1999 with regards to the number of people actually working as a percentage of the population.

Prescriptions to solve these problems may differ for these respective think tanks, but one thing on which they both agree – Ohio's job market is not moving the right direction.

**Original Article:** <http://www.ohiorising.org/when-left-meets-right/>