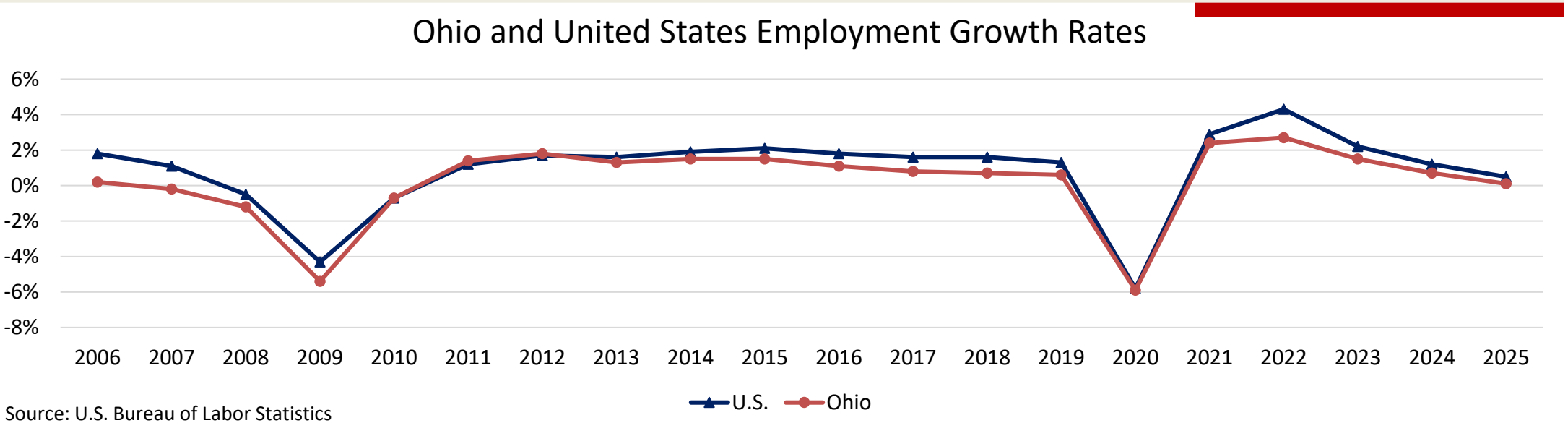
Ohio Labor Market

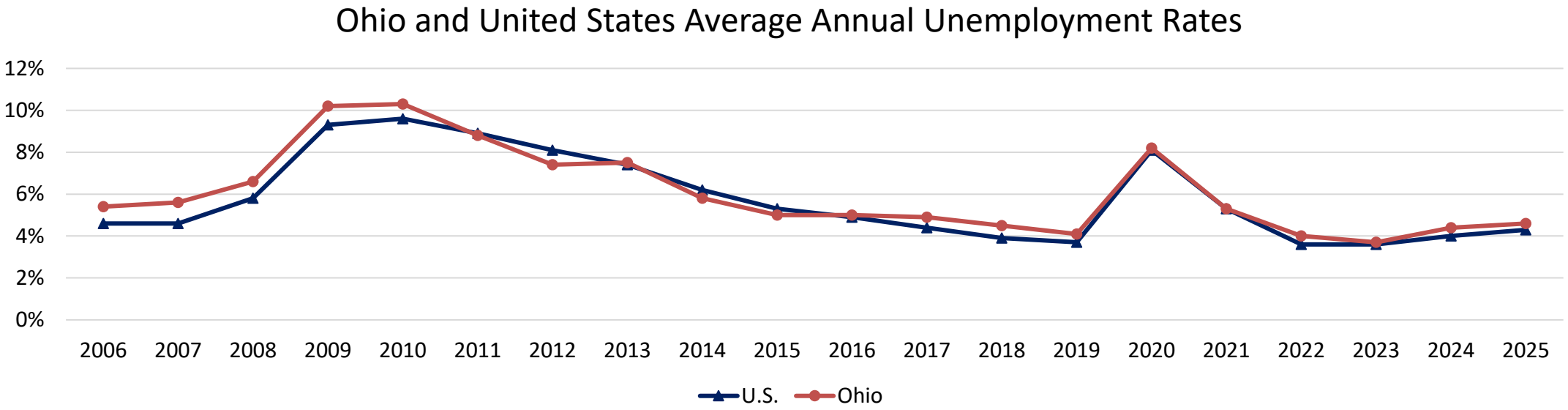
Ohio employment growth rebounds from COVID-19 pandemic, but the recent pace has slowed



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

- After the decline caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, both Ohio and the U.S. showed a recovery in employment growth rates.
- Except for 2010-2012, Ohio's employment growth has consistently trailed behind the national average, and growth has slowed in recent years.
  - Over the past three years, the average employment growth rate was 0.8% in Ohio and 1.3% in the U.S.

Ohio's unemployment rate has risen recently, largely mirroring the U.S. rate



Sources: Ohio Labor Market Information; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

- Ohio's average annual unemployment rate has risen in recent years, increasing from 3.7% in 2023 to 4.6% in 2025; corresponding U.S. figures were 3.6% and 4.3%.
- Between 2006 and 2025, the annual unemployment rate averaged 6.1% in Ohio and 5.8% in the U.S.

Ohio has both a large labor market and a higher unemployment rate than neighboring states

Comparison of 2025 Labor Market Indicators		
State	**Unemployment Rate**	**Civilian Labor Force Participants (in thousands)**
Ohio	**4.6%**	**5,950.7**
Indiana	3.7%	3,506.3
Kentucky	4.6%	2,115.6
Michigan	5.2%	5,031.2
Pennsylvania	4.3%	6,541.6
West Virginia	4.2%	781.6

- Ohio has a larger labor force than neighboring states except Pennsylvania.
- Ohio's unemployment rate in 2025 was the second highest among neighboring states, tied with Kentucky.