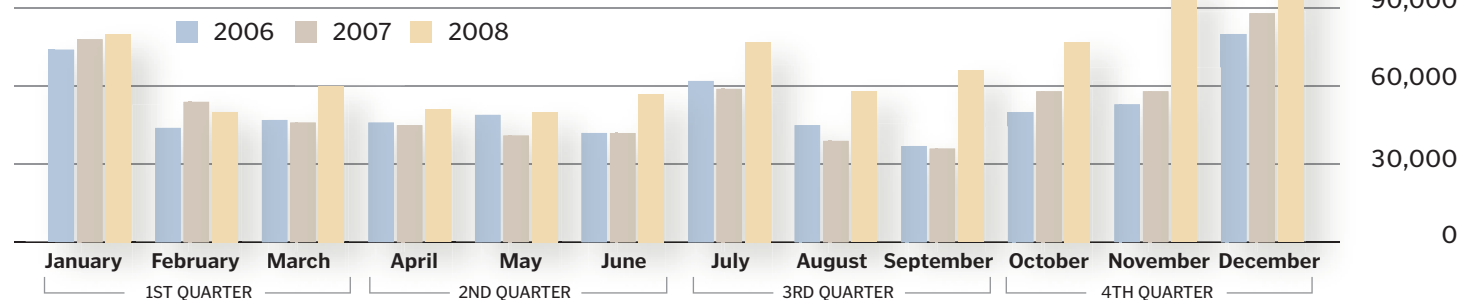


First-time jobless claims spike in fourth quarter

New claims for unemployment benefits in Ohio skyrocketed toward the end of last year, far outpacing a typical fourth quarter. And for the year, claims were up over the same period in 2007 for each month since March.

New unemployment claims in Ohio



SOURCE: Plain Dealer analysis of Ohio unemployment claims

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