Bureau of Labor Statistics

United States Department of Labor

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information:
(202) 691-6392
http://www.bls.gov/mls/
Media contact:
(202) 691-5902

USDL 08-1497
For release: 10:00 A.M. (EDT)
Wednesday, October 22, 2008

## MASS LAYOFFS IN SEPTEMBER 2008

In September, employers took 2,269 mass layoff actions, seasonally adjusted, as measured by new filings for unemployment insurance benefits during the month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Each action involved at least 50 persons from a single employer; the number of workers involved totaled 235,681, on a seasonally adjusted basis. The number of mass layoff events this September increased by 497 from the prior month, while the number of associated initial claims rose by 61,726. Layoff events reached their highest level since September 2001, a month that experienced substantial layoff activity due to the September 11 attacks. Mass layoff initial claims reached their highest level since September 2005, which was a month with high layoff activity due to Hurricane Katrina. The effects of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike contributed to the higher September 2008 layoff activity. In September, 603 mass layoff events were reported in the manufacturing sector, seasonally adjusted, resulting in 81,414 initial claims. Over the month, mass layoff events in manufacturing increased by 4 and initial claims increased by 9,170 . (See table 1.)


From January through September 2008, the total number of events (seasonally adjusted), at 14,811, and initial claims (seasonally adjusted), at 1,510,446, were the highest for the January-September period since 2003 and 2002, respectively.

Table A. Industries with the largest number of mass layoff initial claims in September 2008

| Industry | Initial claims | September peak |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Year | Initial claims |
| Temporary help services | 9,491 | 2001 | 12,752 |
| Professional employer organizations | 4,520 | 2008 | 4,520 |
| Aircraft manufacturing | $\left({ }^{1}\right)$ | 2008 | $\left({ }^{1}\right)$ |
| Payroll services | 3,707 | 1999 | 4,737 |
| Automobile manufacturing | 3,464 | 2004 | $\left({ }^{1}\right)$ |
| Light truck and utility vehicle manufacturing | 2,877 | 2000 | 3,688 |
| Motion picture and video production | 2,757 | 1997 | 11,176 |
| Elementary and secondary schools . | 2,259 | 2005 | 15,815 |
| Limited-service restaurants. | 2,042 | 2005 | 6,097 |
| Ship building and repairing . | 1,897 | 2005 | 8,811 |

${ }^{1}$ Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.
The national unemployment rate was 6.1 percent in September, seasonally adjusted, unchanged from the prior month and up from 4.7 percent a year earlier. In September, total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 159,000 over the month and by 519,000 from a year earlier.

## Industry Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

The number of mass layoff events in September was 1,292 on a not seasonally adjusted basis; the number of associated initial claims was 129,586. (See table 2.) Over the year, increases were recorded in both the number of layoff events (+575) and initial claims (+62,201). In 2008, three major sectors reported program highs in terms of mass layoff initial claims for the month of September-construction, professional and technical services, and finance and insurance (with data available back to 1995).

The manufacturing sector accounted for 28 percent of all mass layoff events and 36 percent of initial claims filed in September 2008; a year earlier, manufacturing made up 34 percent of events and 44 percent of initial claims. In September, the number of manufacturing claimants was greatest in transportation equipment manufacturing $(19,278)$, followed by machinery manufacturing $(4,058)$. (See table 3.) Administrative and waste services accounted for 14 percent of mass layoff events and associated initial claims during the month, primarily from temporary help services.

The six-digit NAICS industry with the largest number of initial claims was temporary help services $(9,491)$, followed by professional employer organizations $(4,520)$. Among the 10 industries with the highest levels of initial claims, 2 of the 10-professional employer organizations and aircraft manufacturing—reached program highs in 2008 for the month of September (with data available back to 1995). (See table A.)

## Geographic Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Of the 4 census regions, the West had the highest number of initial claims in September due to mass layoffs $(47,522)$, followed by the South $(43,772)$. (See table 5.) Initial claimants in mass layoffs increased over the year in all 4 regions with the South $(+27,859)$ and the West $(+21,983)$ experiencing the largest increases, followed by the Midwest $(+9,373)$ and the Northeast $(+2,986)$.

Of the 9 divisions, the Pacific had the highest number of initial claims in September due to mass layoffs (43,847), followed by the West South Central $(26,693)$. (See table 5.) Eight of the 9 divisions experienced over-the-year increases in initial claims, led by the West South Central $(+22,101)$ and the Pacific (+20,474).

California recorded the highest number of initial claims filed due to mass layoff events in September with 34,584 . The next highest states reporting mass layoff initial claims were Louisiana $(14,929)$ and Texas $(10,616)$. (See table 6.) Six states reached program highs in 2008 for the month of September-Indiana, Ohio, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Thirty-five states registered over-the-year increases in initial claims associated with mass layoffs, led by Louisiana $(+14,366)$, California $(+13,440)$, and Texas $(+8,010)$. The effects of Hurricane Gustav in Louisiana and of Hurricane Ike in Texas contributed to the higher September 2008 layoff activity in those two states.

The report on Extended Mass Layoffs in the Third Quarter 2008 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, November 13.

## Technical Note

The Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program is a federalstate program that uses a standardized automated approach to identifying, describing, and tracking the effects of major job cutbacks, using data from each state's unemployment insurance database. Each month, states report on employers which have at least 50 initial claims filed against them during a consecutive 5 week period. These employers then are contacted by the state agency to determine whether these separations lasted 31 days or longer, and, if so, other information concerning the layoff is collected. States report on layoffs lasting more than 1 month on a quarterly basis.

A given month contains an aggregation of the weekly unemployment insurance claims filings for the Sunday through Saturday weeks in that month. All weeks are included for the particular month, except if the first day of the month falls on Saturday. In this case, the week is included in the prior month's tabulations. This means that some months will contain 4 weeks and others, 5 weeks, the number of weeks in a given month may be different from year to year, and the number of weeks in a year may vary. Therefore, analysis of over-the-month and over-the-year change in not seasonally adjusted series should take this calendar effect into consideration.

The MLS program resumed operations in April 1995 after it had been terminated in November 1992 due to lack of funding. Prior to April 1995, monthly layoff statistics were not available.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1 800-877-8339.

## Definitions

Employer. Employers in the MLS program include those covered by state unemployment insurance laws. Information on employers is obtained from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, which is adminis tered by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Initial claimant. A person who files any notice of un-
unemployment to initiate a request either for a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation, or for a subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

Mass layoff event. Fifty or more initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits filed against an employer during a 5 -week period, regardless of duration.

## Seasonal adjustment

Effective with the release of data for January 2005, BLS began publishing six seasonally adjusted monthly MLS series. The six series are the numbers of mass layoff events and mass layoff initial claims for the total, private nonfarm, and manufacturing sectors.

Seasonal adjustment is the process of estimating and removing the effect on time series data of regularly recurring seasonal events such as changes in the weather, holidays, and the beginning and ending of the school year. The use of seasonal adjustment makes it easier to observe fundamental changes in time series, particularly those associated with general economic expansions and contractions.

The MLS data are seasonally adjusted using the X-12ARIMA seasonal adjustment method on a concurrent basis. Concurrent seasonal adjustment uses all available monthly estimates, including those for the current month, in developing seasonal adjustment factors. Revisions to the most recent 5 years of seasonally adjusted data will be made once a year with the issuance of December data. Before the data are seasonally adjusted, prior adjustments are made to the original data to adjust them for differences in the number of weeks used to calculate the monthly data. Because weekly unemployment insurance claims are aggregated to form monthly data, a particular month's value could be calculated with 5 weeks of data in 1 year and 4 weeks in another. The effects of these differences could seriously distort the seasonal factors if they were ignored in the seasonal adjustment process. These effects are modeled in the X-12ARIMA program and are permanently removed from the final seasonally adjusted series .

Table 1. Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, October 2004 to September 2008, seasonally adjusted

| Date | Total |  | Private nonfarm |  | Manufacturing |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Events | Initial claimants | Events | Initial claimants | Events | Initial claimants |
| 2004 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| October | 1,283 | 132,766 | 1,169 | 123,471 | 363 | 47,046 |
| November | 1,320 | 130,873 | 1,174 | 119,029 | 380 | 45,416 |
| December | 1,148 | 111,060 | 991 | 99,784 | 287 | 31,935 |
| 2005 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January . | 1,475 | 160,725 | 1,346 | 151,028 | 382 | 61,324 |
| February ............................................... | 1,146 | 121,455 | 1,020 | 110,480 | 353 | 43,568 |
| March | 1,207 | 131,271 | 1,066 | 120,945 | 372 | 53,673 |
| April ... | 1,252 | 136,752 | 1,125 | 126,550 | 401 | 60,681 |
| May | 1,248 | 136,420 | 1,104 | 123,495 | 398 | 54,999 |
| June | 1,196 | 127,084 | 1,078 | 118,012 | 368 | 58,300 |
| July . | 1,250 | 132,445 | 1,103 | 119,566 | 357 | 46,602 |
| August. | 1,144 | 125,686 | 1,000 | 113,762 | 341 | 47,598 |
| September | 2,248 | 297,544 | 2,028 | 251,185 | 417 | 55,304 |
| October | 1,101 | 110,035 | 982 | 100,934 | 321 | 43,230 |
| November | 1,176 | 114,965 | 1,042 | 103,535 | 332 | 42,071 |
| December | 1,261 | 134,461 | 1,132 | 123,418 | 360 | 46,863 |
| 2006 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 1,107 | 110,800 | 988 | 101,494 | 283 | 34,037 |
| February | 1,031 | 109,798 | 940 | 101,828 | 322 | 43,147 |
| March | 1,084 | 119,049 | 983 | 110,668 | 323 | 48,119 |
| April | 1,171 | 121,580 | 1,043 | 112,175 | 368 | 49,568 |
| May | 1,124 | 117,115 | 1,005 | 107,181 | 314 | 43,087 |
| June | 1,146 | 123,827 | 1,030 | 114,080 | 352 | 44,869 |
| July | 1,179 | 121,017 | 1,051 | 111,336 | 372 | 48,534 |
| August | 1,270 | 135,400 | 1,107 | 124,427 | 377 | 60,906 |
| September | 1,173 | 123,767 | 1,056 | 114,677 | 385 | 45,767 |
| October | 1,191 | 121,827 | 1,076 | 113,123 | 399 | 53,601 |
| November | 1,232 | 133,803 | 1,121 | 124,559 | 414 | 58,385 |
| December ........................ | 1,194 | 131,062 | 1,092 | 121,796 | 374 | 51,408 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January ....................... | 1,254 | 128,223 | 1,118 | 117,824 | 391 | 52,858 |
| February .. | 1,352 | 143,837 | 1,238 | 135,066 | 416 | 61,749 |
| March .... | 1,277 | 130,981 | 1,169 | 122,488 | 412 | 52,606 |
| April . | 1,243 | 126,977 | 1,116 | 116,926 | 382 | 43,930 |
| May | 1,199 | 120,587 | 1,096 | 113,069 | 370 | 48,910 |
| June | 1,238 | 129,858 | 1,116 | 120,165 | 351 | 40,670 |
| July . | 1,247 | 127,687 | 1,140 | 119,614 | 392 | 51,333 |
| August | 1,228 | 121,886 | 1,128 | 114,628 | 335 | 36,518 |
| September | 1,307 | 128,487 | 1,204 | 121,294 | 430 | 53,432 |
| October | 1,347 | 136,124 | 1,224 | 127,163 | 430 | 57,695 |
| November | 1,329 | 139,671 | 1,215 | 131,390 | 414 | 56,965 |
| December | 1,433 | 141,750 | 1,315 | 133,024 | 462 | 58,108 |
| 2008 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 1,438 | 144,111 | 1,317 | 134,347 | 427 | 55,488 |
| February | 1,672 | 177,374 | 1,539 | 166,782 | 529 | 66,913 |
| March | 1,571 | 157,156 | 1,460 | 147,537 | 482 | 64,088 |
| April | 1,308 | 133,914 | 1,186 | 124,053 | 483 | 60,552 |
| May . | 1,626 | 171,387 | 1,496 | 161,912 | 528 | 72,058 |
| June | 1,643 | 165,697 | 1,491 | 153,568 | 541 | 76,514 |
| July | 1,512 | 151,171 | 1,368 | 140,116 | 443 | 57,470 |
| August | 1,772 | 173,955 | 1,622 | 163,800 | 599 | 72,244 |
| September. | 2,269 | 235,681 | 2,092 | 221,538 | 603 | 81,414 |

Table 2. Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, October 2004 to September 2008, not seasonally adjusted

| Date | Total |  | Private nonfarm |  | Manufacturing |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Events | Initial claimants | Events | Initial claimants | Events | Initial claimants |
| October ....................... |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1,242 | 127,918 | 1,101 | 117,375 | 372 | 48,265 |
| November | 1,399 | 130,423 | 1,201 | 115,549 | 412 | 44,243 |
| December | 1,614 | 161,271 | 1,487 | 152,092 | 436 | 50,726 |
| January 2005 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 2,564 | 263,952 | 2,421 | 253,409 | 823 | 108,985 |
| February | 810 | 74,644 | 722 | 68,372 | 230 | 24,931 |
| March ... | 806 | 88,937 | 733 | 83,793 | 246 | 33,030 |
| April | 1,373 | 158,582 | 1,263 | 148,133 | 395 | 59,129 |
| May | 986 | 101,358 | 891 | 93,332 | 249 | 30,424 |
| June | 1,157 | 120,463 | 941 | 103,307 | 216 | 32,783 |
| July | 1,981 | 244,216 | 1,745 | 222,377 | 856 | 136,210 |
| August | 645 | 67,582 | 598 | 63,484 | 188 | 22,531 |
| September | 1,662 | 213,281 | 1,505 | 179,042 | 318 | 47,497 |
| October .... | 905 | 91,941 | 757 | 80,694 | 249 | 37,276 |
| November | 1,254 | 116,127 | 1,079 | 102,182 | 363 | 41,442 |
| December | 2,323 | 254,258 | 2,168 | 242,753 | 706 | 96,382 |
| January ........................ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1,245 | 117,946 | 1,123 | 108,701 | 331 | 35,097 |
| February | 719 | 66,555 | 658 | 62,208 | 210 | 24,892 |
| March | 921 | 111,838 | 856 | 106,177 | 285 | 44,688 |
| April | 1,140 | 121,589 | 1,038 | 112,964 | 296 | 39,538 |
| May . | 872 | 84,809 | 794 | 78,663 | 192 | 23,570 |
| June | 1,489 | 164,761 | 1,224 | 140,687 | 319 | 41,095 |
| July | 1,511 | 166,857 | 1,335 | 154,342 | 648 | 96,152 |
| August | 708 | 72,844 | 656 | 69,054 | 203 | 28,494 |
| September | 865 | 87,699 | 785 | 81,274 | 296 | 39,076 |
| October ..... | 964 | 98,804 | 820 | 88,133 | 311 | 46,737 |
| November | 1,315 | 136,186 | 1,172 | 125,009 | 455 | 58,473 |
| December ......................... | 2,249 | 254,503 | 2,126 | 244,783 | 735 | 105,462 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January ... | 1,407 | 134,984 | 1,263 | 124,475 | 456 | 53,615 |
| February . | 935 | 86,696 | 861 | 82,097 | 273 | 36,170 |
| March ...... | 1,082 | 123,974 | 1,015 | 118,431 | 367 | 49,886 |
| April | 1,219 | 127,444 | 1,115 | 118,040 | 309 | 35,229 |
| May . | 923 | 85,816 | 856 | 81,153 | 224 | 26,527 |
| June | 1,599 | 172,810 | 1,318 | 148,669 | 313 | 36,571 |
| July | 1,599 | 175,419 | 1,450 | 164,939 | 684 | 101,390 |
| August | 963 | 93,458 | 908 | 88,345 | 220 | 23,361 |
| September | 717 | 67,385 | 667 | 64,026 | 246 | 29,381 |
| October | 1,083 | 108,455 | 929 | 97,716 | 338 | 50,918 |
| November | 1,799 | 198,220 | 1,593 | 181,184 | 514 | 75,413 |
| December | 2,167 | 224,214 | 2,071 | 216,898 | 699 | 91,754 |
| 2008 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 1,647 | 154,503 | 1,520 | 144,191 | 488 | 54,418 |
| February | 1,269 | 119,508 | 1,178 | 113,587 | 361 | 42,527 |
| March ..... | 1,089 | 114,541 | 1,039 | 110,147 | 333 | 43,740 |
| April. | 1,272 | 130,810 | 1,172 | 121,625 | 394 | 48,188 |
| May | 1,552 | 159,471 | 1,438 | 150,462 | 388 | 51,698 |
| June | 1,622 | 166,742 | 1,315 | 140,916 | 309 | 42,097 |
| July . | 1,891 | 200,382 | 1,687 | 186,018 | 760 | 108,733 |
| August | 1,427 | 139,999 | 1,343 | 133,146 | 414 | 51,912 |
| September | 1,292 | 129,586 | 1,202 | 122,505 | 361 | 46,391 |

Table 3. Industry distribution: Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance

| Industry | Mass layoff events |  |  |  | Initial claimants for unemployment insurance |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | September 2007 | $\begin{gathered} \text { July } \\ 2008 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { August } \\ & 2008 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { September } \\ 2008 \end{gathered}$ | September 2007 | $\begin{gathered} \text { July } \\ 2008 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { August } \\ & 2008 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { September } \\ 2008 \end{gathered}$ |
| Seasonally adjusted |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total | 1,307 | 1,512 | 1,772 | 2,269 | 128,487 | 151,171 | 173,955 | 235,681 |
| Total, private nonfarm . | 1,204 | 1,368 | 1,622 | 2,092 | 121,294 | 140,116 | 163,800 | 221,538 |
| Manufacturing ........... | 430 | 443 | 599 | 603 | 53,432 | 57,470 | 72,244 | 81,414 |
| Not seasonally adjusted |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total ${ }^{1}$ | 717 | 1,891 | 1,427 | 1,292 | 67,385 | 200,382 | 139,999 | 129,586 |
| Total, private | 688 | 1,765 | 1,373 | 1,227 | 65,205 | 191,309 | 134,871 | 124,096 |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting ... | 21 | 78 | 30 | 25 | 1,179 | 5,291 | 1,725 | 1,591 |
| Total, private nonfarm . | 667 | 1,687 | 1,343 | 1,202 | 64,026 | 186,018 | 133,146 | 122,505 |
| Mining | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 3 | 6 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 207 | 728 |
| Utilities |  | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ |  | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ |
| Construction. | 70 | 72 | 142 | 144 | 4,283 | 4,941 | 9,717 | 10,763 |
| Manufacturing .... | 246 | 760 | 414 | 361 | 29,381 | 108,733 | 51,912 | 46,391 |
| Food.... | 31 | 49 | 40 | 33 | 2,873 | 4,844 | 3,510 | 3,068 |
| Beverage and tobacco products | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 8 | 7 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 630 | 648 |
| Textile mills | 4 | 15 | 10 | 13 | 448 | 1,286 | 1,013 | 1,422 |
| Textile product mills ${ }^{3}$ | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 410 | 560 | 487 | 347 |
| Apparel ${ }^{3}$ | 12 | 24 | 10 | 7 | 1,180 | 2,048 | 981 | 688 |
| Leather and allied products | - | 3 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | - | 184 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ |
| Wood products ... | 27 | 38 | 35 | 32 | 2,461 | 4,044 | 2,980 | 2,901 |
| Paper. | 5 | 10 | 3 | 8 | 389 | 1,239 | 516 | 603 |
| Printing and related support activities . | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 12 | 10 | 5 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 947 | 938 | 341 |
| Petroleum and coal products .............. | ( | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | - | ( | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | - |
| Chemicals.. | 3 | 13 | 5 | 8 | 186 | 999 | 268 | 527 |
| Plastics and rubber products ${ }^{3}$. | 13 | 62 | 30 | 16 | 1,066 | 6,804 | 3,625 | 1,224 |
| Nonmetallic mineral products ... | 9 | 16 | 8 | 12 | 941 | 1,412 | 1,161 | 861 |
| Primary metals .. | 15 | 41 | 19 | 13 | 1,678 | 4,606 | 1,709 | 1,582 |
| Fabricated metal products .... | 16 | 71 | 25 | 35 | 1,473 | 7,007 | 2,179 | 2,357 |
| Machinery ${ }^{3}$................. | 19 | 45 | 30 | 28 | 3,021 | 5,042 | 4,887 | 4,058 |
| Computer and electronic products | 15 | 30 | 26 | 15 | 1,381 | 2,498 | 2,446 | 1,556 |
| Electrical equipment and appliances ... | 10 | 21 | 11 | 22 | 2,881 | 3,052 | 1,485 | 3,453 |
| Transportation equipment ${ }^{3}$. | 51 | 269 | 112 | 87 | 7,759 | 57,761 | 19,787 | 19,278 |
| Furniture and related products ${ }^{3}$. | 7 | 18 | 20 | 13 | 791 | 2,397 | 2,566 | 1,153 |
| Miscellaneous manufacturing ${ }^{3}$... | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 15 | 5 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 1,751 | 520 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ |
| Wholesale trade | 17 | 22 | 27 | 20 | 1,053 | 1,926 | 1,765 | 1,642 |
| Retail trade | 67 | 116 | 142 | 112 | 5,657 | 9,450 | 12,674 | 10,345 |
| Transportation and warehousing ........ | 17 | 107 | 100 | 54 | 1,415 | 11,182 | 9,077 | 4,383 |
| Information | 32 | 42 | 48 | 45 | 5,420 | 4,069 | 6,640 | 6,021 |
| Finance and insurance ${ }^{3}$ | 40 | 55 | 45 | 38 | 2,649 | 4,256 | 3,192 | 3,104 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing ${ }^{3}$ | 3 | 11 | 13 | 7 | 285 | 792 | 742 | 396 |
| Professional and technical services ${ }^{3}$. | 23 | 40 | 45 | 35 | 2,683 | 3,147 | 4,458 | 5,623 |
| Management of companies and enterprises .. | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 4 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 313 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ |
| Administrative and waste services ${ }^{3}$. | 85 | 259 | 214 | 181 | 6,325 | 22,921 | 19,682 | 18,557 |
| Educational services | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 18 | 9 | 5 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 1,388 | 1,462 | 346 |
| Health care and social assistance ........ | 13 | 65 | 35 | 54 | 998 | 4,263 | 2,584 | 4,021 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation ............ | 11 | 27 | 18 | 30 | 716 | 2,136 | 1,320 | 2,043 |
| Accommodation and food services .............. | 37 | 78 | 74 | 99 | 2,681 | 5,803 | 6,221 | 7,552 |
| Other services, except public administration . | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 7 | 9 | 6 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 419 | 1,185 | 297 |
| Unclassified | ( | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 73 |
| Government | 29 | 126 | 54 | 65 | 2,180 | 9,073 | 5,128 | 5,490 |
| Federal. | 5 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 408 | 306 | 800 | 764 |
| State . | 7 | 26 | 13 | 12 | 777 | 2,179 | 1,464 | 922 |
| Local ... | 17 | 96 | 33 | 44 | 995 | 6,588 | 2,864 | 3,804 |

[^0]Table 4. Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, July 2006 to September 2008, not seasonally adjusted

| Date | Total mass layoffs |  | Private nonfarm |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Mass layoffs |  | Extended mass layoffs lasting more than 30 days |  | Realization rates ${ }^{1}$ |  |
|  | Events | Initial claimants | Events | Initial claimants | Events | Initial claimants | Events | Initial claimants |
| 2006 |  |  |  |  | 929 | 161,764 | 33.5 | 53.1 |
| July .... | 1,511 | 166,857 | 1,335 | 154,342 |  |  |  |  |
| August. | 708 | 72,844 | 656 | 69,054 |  |  |  |  |
| September .. | 865 | 87,699 | 785 | 81,274 |  |  |  |  |
| Third Quarter | 3,084 | 327,400 | 2,776 | 304,670 |  |  |  |  |
| October | 964 | 98,804 | 820 | 88,133 |  |  |  |  |
| November .. | 1,315 | 136,186 | 1,172 | 125,009 |  |  |  |  |
| December | 2,249 | 254,503 | 2,126 | 244,783 |  |  |  |  |
| Fourth Quarter . | 4,528 | 489,493 | 4,118 | 457,925 | 1,640 | 330,954 | 39.8 | 72.3 |
| 2007 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January ..... | 1,407 | 134,984 | 1,263 | 124,475 |  |  |  |  |
| February | 935 | 86,696 | 861 | 82,097 |  |  |  |  |
| March ...... | 1,082 | 123,974 | 1,015 | 118,431 |  |  |  |  |
| First Quarter | 3,424 | 345,654 | 3,139 | 325,003 | 1,110 | 199,250 | 35.4 | 61.3 |
| April . | 1,219 | 127,444 | 1,115 | 118,040 |  |  |  |  |
| May .. | 923 | 85,816 | 856 | 81,153 |  |  |  |  |
| June. | 1,599 | 172,810 | 1,318 | 148,669 |  |  |  |  |
| Second Quarter | 3,741 | 386,070 | 3,289 | 347,862 | 1,421 | 259,234 | 43.2 | 74.5 |
| July ... | 1,599 | 175,419 | 1,450 | 164,939 |  |  |  |  |
| August ... | 963 | 93,458 | 908 | 88,345 |  |  |  |  |
| September | 717 | 67,385 | 667 | 64,026 |  |  |  |  |
| Third Quarter | 3,279 | 336,262 | 3,025 | 317,310 | 1,018 | 173,077 | 33.7 | 54.5 |
| October . | 1,083 | 108,455 | 929 | 97,716 |  |  |  |  |
| November | 1,799 | 198,220 | 1,593 | 181,184 |  |  |  |  |
| December | 2,167 | 224,214 | 2,071 | 216,898 |  |  |  |  |
| Fourth Quarter | 5,049 | 530,889 | 4,593 | 495,798 | 1,814 | 347,146 | 39.5 | 70.0 |
| 2008 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January .. | 1,647 | 154,503 | 1,520 | 144,191 |  |  |  |  |
| February ...... | 1,269 | 119,508 | 1,178 | 113,587 |  |  |  |  |
| March . | 1,089 | 114,541 | 1,039 | 110,147 |  |  |  |  |
| First Quarter | 4,005 | 388,552 | 3,737 | 367,925 | 1,340 | 256,697 | 35.9 | 69.8 |
| April | 1,272 | 130,810 | 1,172 | 121,625 |  |  |  |  |
| May . | 1,552 | 159,471 | 1,438 | 150,462 |  |  |  |  |
| June | 1,622 | 166,742 | 1,315 | 140,916 |  |  |  |  |
| Second Quarter . | 4,446 | 457,023 | 3,925 | 413,003 | 2,p 1,534 | 2,p 215,808 | ${ }^{\text {p }} 39.1$ | ${ }^{\text {p }} 52.3$ |
| July ... | 1,891 | 200,382 | 1,687 | 186,018 |  |  |  |  |
| August.. | 1,427 | 139,999 | 1,343 | 133,146 |  |  |  |  |
| September . | 1,292 | 129,586 | 1,202 | 122,505 |  |  |  |  |
| Third Quarter | 4,610 | 469,967 | 4,232 | 441,669 |  |  |  |  |

[^1]data on these layoffs become available. Experience suggests that the number of extended mass layoff events is generally revised upwards by less than 10 percent and the number of initial claimants associated with such events increases by 25-40 percent.
${ }^{p}=$ preliminary.

Table 5. Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance by census region and division, not seasonally adjusted

| Census region and division | Mass layoff events |  |  |  | Initial claimants for unemployment insurance |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | September 2007 | $\begin{gathered} \text { July } \\ 2008 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { August } \\ 2008 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { September } \\ & 2008 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { September } \\ & 2007 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { July } \\ 2008 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { August } \\ 2008 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { September } \\ 2008 \end{gathered}$ |
| United States ${ }^{1}$ | 717 | 1,891 | 1,427 | 1,292 | 67,385 | 200,382 | 139,999 | 129,586 |
| Northeast | 96 | 281 | 226 | 142 | 8,660 | 25,506 | 22,736 | 11,646 |
| New England | 10 | 34 | 24 | 15 | 756 | 2,658 | 2,304 | 1,180 |
| Middle Atlantic | 86 | 247 | 202 | 127 | 7,904 | 22,848 | 20,432 | 10,466 |
| South | 160 | 450 | 362 | 475 | 15,913 | 48,440 | 38,188 | 43,772 |
| South Atlantic | 78 | 218 | 212 | 153 | 6,303 | 17,556 | 20,313 | 12,291 |
| East South Central | 38 | 161 | 90 | 54 | 5,018 | 21,721 | 11,179 | 4,788 |
| West South Central | 44 | 71 | 60 | 268 | 4,592 | 9,163 | 6,696 | 26,693 |
| Midwest. | 156 | 606 | 307 | 225 | 17,273 | 84,535 | 33,238 | 26,646 |
| East North Central | 119 | 528 | 254 | 189 | 13,995 | 75,373 | 26,689 | 23,087 |
| West North Central | 37 | 78 | 53 | 36 | 3,278 | 9,162 | 6,549 | 3,559 |
| West | 305 | 554 | 532 | 450 | 25,539 | 41,901 | 45,837 | 47,522 |
| Mountain | 23 | 49 | 50 | 43 | 2,166 | 4,519 | 4,688 | 3,675 |
| Pacific .... | 282 | 505 | 482 | 407 | 23,373 | 37,382 | 41,149 | 43,847 |

[^2]Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee; West South Central: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas; East North Central: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin; West North Central: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota; Mountain: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming; and Pacific: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

Table 6. State distribution: Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, not seasonally adjusted

| State | Mass layoff events |  |  |  | Initial claimants for unemployment insurance |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | September 2007 | $\begin{gathered} \text { July } \\ 2008 \end{gathered}$ | August <br> 2008 | $\begin{gathered} \text { September } \\ 2008 \end{gathered}$ | September 2007 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { July } \\ & 2008 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { August } \\ 2008 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { September } \\ 2008 \end{gathered}$ |
| Total ${ }^{1}$ | 717 | 1,891 | 1,427 | 1,292 | 67,385 | 200,382 | 139,999 | 129,586 |
| Alabama . | 18 | 67 | 24 | 12 | 1,836 | 7,072 | 3,288 | 1,090 |
| Alaska | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | - | - | 3 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | - | - | 241 |
| Arizona | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 15 | 7 | 8 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 1,422 | 488 | 586 |
| Arkansas | 6 | 13 | 8 | 3 | 565 | 1,606 | 613 | 359 |
| California | 256 | 460 | 439 | 358 | 21,144 | 33,250 | 36,120 | 34,584 |
| Colorado . | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 261 | 343 | 258 | 196 |
| Connecticut | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 6 | 4 | 6 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 579 | 368 | 402 |
| Delaware | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 3 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 694 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ |
| District of Columbia | ) | - | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | ( | - | - | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | - |
| Florida | 47 | 123 | 126 | 96 | 2,985 | 7,555 | 9,849 | 5,988 |
| Georgia . | 18 | 39 | 32 | 20 | 1,633 | 3,949 | 2,938 | 1,885 |
| Hawaii. | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 4 | 4 | 9 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 271 | 408 | 919 |
| Idaho .... | 3 | 7 | 10 | 4 | 222 | 619 | 1,120 | 324 |
| Illinois | 31 | 56 | 55 | 43 | 3,486 | 7,674 | 6,164 | 4,941 |
| Indiana | 11 | 67 | 40 | 34 | 2,826 | 8,787 | 4,359 | 4,314 |
| lowa | 8 | 16 | 18 | 10 | 840 | 2,068 | 3,727 | 1,455 |
| Kansas | 4 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 295 | 731 | 291 | 478 |
| Kentucky | 14 | 63 | 34 | 24 | 2,611 | 11,907 | 5,487 | 2,351 |
| Louisiana | 8 | 10 | 10 | 163 | 563 | 1,645 | 851 | 14,929 |
| Maine ... | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 5 | 3 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 359 | 217 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ |
| Maryland | 6 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 431 | 443 | 762 | 349 |
| Massachusetts | 3 | 16 | 6 | 4 | 196 | 1,107 | 495 | 310 |
| Michigan . | 24 | 212 | 48 | 40 | 2,844 | 27,672 | 3,669 | 4,130 |
| Minnesota | 4 | 12 | 5 | 4 | 524 | 1,452 | 334 | 430 |
| Mississippi | 4 | 13 | 15 | 6 | 471 | 1,330 | 908 | 463 |
| Missouri ........ | 16 | 39 | 21 | 16 | 1,141 | 3,763 | 1,490 | 1,196 |
| Montana | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 4 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 234 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ |
| Nebraska | 5 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 3 | - | 478 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 271 | - |
| Nevada | 7 | 15 | 23 | 18 | 529 | 1,637 | 1,912 | 1,604 |
| New Hampshire | - | 4 | 3 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | - | 426 | 170 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ |
| New Jersey . | 19 | 56 | 38 | 17 | 1,985 | 4,110 | 3,151 | 1,663 |
| New Mexico . | 3 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 5 | 4 | 644 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 728 | 440 |
| New York. | 24 | 103 | 94 | 36 | 1,914 | 10,764 | 10,760 | 2,905 |
| North Carolina | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 12 | 25 | 9 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 1,128 | 3,123 | 793 |
| North Dakota .. | - | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | - | - | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | - |
| Ohio | 29 | 117 | 62 | 32 | 2,579 | 19,402 | 7,994 | 5,912 |
| Oklahoma | 5 | 5 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 5 | 858 | 575 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 789 |
| Oregon. | 15 | 25 | 28 | 21 | 1,324 | 2,498 | 3,741 | 2,942 |
| Pennsylvania | 43 | 88 | 70 | 74 | 4,005 | 7,974 | 6,521 | 5,898 |
| Rhode Island . | - | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 5 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | - | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 390 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ |
| South Carolina | 3 | 29 | 12 | 16 | 242 | 2,958 | 2,232 | 1,793 |
| South Dakota | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tennessee | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 18 | 17 | 12 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 1,412 | 1,496 | 884 |
| Texas. | 25 | 43 | 40 | 97 | 2,606 | 5,337 | 5,124 | 10,616 |
| Utah | 3 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 3 | 220 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 243 |
| Vermont | 4 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 3 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 331 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 664 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ |
| Virginia | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 9 | 4 | 4 | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | 1,475 | 361 | 546 |
| Washington | 8 | 16 | 11 | 16 | 616 | 1,363 | 880 | 5,161 |
| West Virginia | - | - | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | - | - | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ |
| Wisconsin | 24 | 76 | 49 | 40 | 2,260 | 11,838 | 4,503 | 3,790 |
| Wyoming ............... | - | - | - | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ | - | - | - | $\left({ }^{2}\right)$ |
| Puerto Rico ... | 8 | 12 | 18 | 18 | 750 | 1,227 | 1,958 | 1,715 |

[^3]
[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Data were reported by all states and the District of Columbia.
    ${ }^{2}$ Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.
    ${ }^{3}$ Data beginning in 2008 are not strictly comparable to prior years
    due to a change in NAICS versions.
    NOTE: Dash represents zero.

[^1]:    ${ }^{1}$ The event realization rate is the percentage of all private nonfarm mass layoff events lasting more than 30 days. The initial claimant realization rate is the percentage of all private nonfarm mass layoff initial claimants associated with layoffs lasting more than 30 days.
    ${ }^{2}$ These quarterly numbers are provisional and will be revised as more

[^2]:    ${ }^{1}$ See footnote 1, table 3.
    NOTE: The States (including the District of Columbia) that comprise the census divisions are: New England: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont; Middle Atlantic: New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania; South Atlantic: Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia; East South Central: Alabama,

[^3]:    ${ }^{1}$ See footnote 1 , table 3.
    ${ }^{2}$ Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.

