

News

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EXTENDED MASS LAYOFFS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2008 AND ANNUAL TOTALS FOR 2008

Employers initiated 3,140 mass layoff events in the fourth quarter of 2008 that resulted in the separation of 508,859 workers from their jobs for at least 31 days, according to preliminary figures released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Extended mass layoff events and separations reached their highest levels in program history (with data available back to 1995). The total number of layoff events in the fourth quarter 2008 was 1,326 higher than the same period a year earlier, and the number of associated separations increased by 207,267 over the year. (See table A.) The construction and manufacturing industries experienced record highs in both the number of layoff events and separations for any quarter in program history. Separations due to business demand reasons more than doubled over the year to 207,609, with those related specifically to slack work/insufficient demand more than tripling to 152,279. Forty-five percent of employers reporting an extended layoff in the fourth quarter of 2008 indicated they anticipated some recall of workers, the lowest fourth quarter proportion since 2001. Fourth quarter 2008 layoff data are preliminary and are subject to revision. (See the Technical Note.)

The national unemployment rate averaged 6.6 percent, not seasonally adjusted, in the fourth quarter of 2008, up from 4.6 percent a year earlier. Private nonfarm payroll employment, not seasonally adjusted, decreased by 2.0 percent (-2,362,000) over the year.

For all of 2008, the total number of extended mass layoff events reached a program high at 7,818, and associated worker separations were at its highest level since 2001 at 1,383,553. Four major industry sectors reported program highs in terms of events and separations in 2008—construction; finance and insurance; educational services; and accommodation and food services (with annual data available back to 1996). In 2008, eight states reached program highs in terms of numbers of separations—Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Missouri, New Jersey, and Wyoming. Additional information on the annual data is available starting on page 9 of this release.

Industry Distribution of Extended Layoffs

Manufacturing firms reported 1,103 extended mass layoff events involving 185,686 separations, the highest levels for the industry on record. Manufacturing industries were responsible for 35 percent of private nonfarm extended layoff events and 36 percent of related separations in the fourth quarter of

Table A. Selected measures of extended mass layoff activity

Period	Layoff events	Separations	Initial claimants
2004			
January-March.....	1,339	276,503	238,392
April-June.....	1,358	278,831	254,063
July-September.....	886	164,608	148,575
October-December.....	1,427	273,967	262,049
2005			
January-March.....	1,142	186,506	185,486
April-June.....	1,203	246,099	212,673
July-September.....	1,136	201,878	190,186
October-December.....	1,400	250,178	246,188
2006			
January-March.....	963	183,089	193,510
April-June.....	1,353	295,964	264,927
July-September.....	929	160,254	161,764
October-December.....	1,640	296,662	330,954
2007			
January-March.....	1,110	225,600	199,250
April-June.....	1,421	278,719	259,234
July-September.....	1,018	160,024	173,077
October-December ^r	1,814	301,592	347,151
2008			
January-March ^r	1,340	229,952	259,084
April-June ^r	1,756	354,690	339,184
July-September ^r	1,582	290,052	300,337
October-December ^p	3,140	508,859	463,715

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

2008. A year earlier, manufacturing made up 24 percent of events and 27 percent of separations. (See table 1.) The largest numbers of separations within manufacturing were associated with transportation equipment manufacturing (56,341, mostly associated with automobile manufacturing) and food manufacturing (21,863).

Construction firms recorded 843 extended mass layoff events and 100,922 separations, the highest levels for the industry on record. While most construction layoff events were due to the end of seasonal work and the completion of contracts, the number of layoff events due to slack work/insufficient demand more than doubled over the year.

Table B. Distribution of extended layoff events and separations by economic reason categories, October-December 2008^P

Category	Layoff events		Separations	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	3,140	100.0	508,859	100.0
Business demand	1,387	44.2	207,609	40.8
Organizational changes	139	4.4	26,434	5.2
Financial issues	300	9.6	65,034	12.8
Production specific	21	0.7	3,694	0.7
Disaster/safety	12	0.4	1,346	0.3
Seasonal	808	25.7	135,500	26.6
Other/miscellaneous	473	15.1	69,242	13.6

^P = preliminary.

In the fourth quarter 2008, thirteen major industry sectors reported fourth quarter program highs in terms of extended mass layoff events—construction; manufacturing; wholesale trade; retail trade; transportation and warehousing; real estate and rental and leasing; management of companies and enterprises; administrative and waste services; educational services; health care and social assistance; arts, entertainment, and recreation; accommodation and food services; and other services, except public administration.

Reasons for Extended Layoffs

Among the seven categories of economic reasons for extended mass layoffs, business demand factors (contract cancellation, contract completion, domestic competition, excess inventory, import competition, and slack work) accounted for 44 percent of the extended layoff events and 41 percent of separations during the fourth quarter of 2008. (See table B.) This compared to 34 percent of events and 28 percent of separations in the same period a year earlier. Separations related to these business demand factors more than doubled over the year from 83,996 to 207,609, with those due to slack work/insufficient demand/nonseasonal business slowdown more than tripling from 42,201 to 152,279. (See table 2.)

Job losses stemming from financial issues (bankruptcy, cost control, and financial difficulty) more than doubled from 124 events associated with 24,652 separations in the fourth quarter 2007 to 300 events and 65,034 separations in the fourth quarter 2008. These layoffs accounted for 10 percent of the events and 13 percent of separations during the fourth quarter of 2008, compared to 7 and 8 percent, respectively, a year earlier. Seasonal factors (seasonal and vacation period) resulted in 26 percent of the extended layoff events and 27 percent of the separations in October-December 2008. (See chart.)

Table C. Extended mass layoff events and separations, selected measures, fourth quarter 2008^P

Action	Layoff events	Separations
Total, private nonfarm	3,140	508,859
Total, excluding seasonal and vacation events ¹	2,332	373,359
Total events with movement of work ²	110	24,236
Movement of work actions	150	(³)
With separations reported	111	16,061
With separations unknown	39	(³)

¹ The questions on movement of work were not asked of employers when the reason for layoff was either seasonal work or vacation period.

² A layoff event can involve more than one movement of work action.

³ Data are not available.

^P = preliminary.

Movement of Work

In the fourth quarter of 2008, 110 extended mass layoffs involved the movement of work and were associated with 24,236 separated workers. (See table C.) These movements of work were to other domestic locations or to locations outside of the U.S., and they occurred either within the same company or to other companies. Movement of work layoffs accounted for 5 percent of nonseasonal layoff events in the fourth quarter of 2008. A year earlier, there were 69 layoff events and 11,302 separations associated with the movement of work. (See table 10.)

Among the 110 extended mass layoff events with reported relocation of work in the fourth quarter of 2008, 64 percent were permanent closures of worksites, which affected 16,849 workers. In comparison, 9 percent of the total extended mass layoff events reported for the quarter involved the permanent closure of worksites and affected 71,111 workers.

Of the layoffs involving the movement of work, 68 percent of the events and 61 percent of the laid-off workers were from manufacturing industries during the fourth quarter. (See table 7.) Among all private nonfarm extended layoffs, manufacturing accounted for 35 percent of the events and 36 percent of separations.

While only 4 percent of the extended mass layoff events in the total private nonfarm economy were because of organizational change, such reasons accounted for 44 percent of layoff events associated with work relocation and resulted in 8,706 separations during the fourth quarter. (See table 8.)

Table D. Movement of work actions by type of separation where the number of separations is known by employers, fourth quarter 2008^P

Activities	Actions ¹	Separations
With separations reported	111	16,061
By location		
Out-of-country relocations	33	3,775
Within company	28	3,436
Different company	5	339
Domestic relocations	78	12,286
Within company	72	6,844
Different company	6	5,442
By company		
Within company	100	10,280
Domestic	72	6,844
Out of country	28	3,436
Different company	11	5,781
Domestic	6	5,442
Out of country	5	339

¹ Only actions for which separations associated with the movement of work were reported are shown.

^P = preliminary.

Among the regions, the Midwest accounted for the largest proportion of workers affected by extended mass layoffs associated with the movement of work (59 percent), followed by the West and the South (16 percent each). (See table 9.) Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, Ohio accounted for the largest proportion of workers affected by extended mass layoffs associated with the movement of work (24 percent), followed by Illinois (14 percent) and California (9 percent).

Some extended mass layoff events involve more than one relocation of work action. For example, an extended mass layoff event at an employer may involve job loss due to movement of work to both another domestic location of the company and a location out of the country; this would be counted as two movement of work actions. The 110 extended layoff events with movement of work for the fourth quarter of 2008 involved 150 identifiable relocations of work. An identifiable relocation of work occurs when the employer provides sufficient information on the new location of work and/or the number of workers affected by the movement. Of the 150 relocations, employers were able to provide information on the specific number of separations associated with the movement of work component of the layoff in 111 actions involving 16,061 workers. (See table 10.)

Table E. Summary of employer expectations of a recall from extended layoff, fourth quarter 2007-fourth quarter 2008

Nature of the recall	Percentage of events				
	IV 2007	I 2008	II 2008	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p
Anticipate a recall	55.8	40.1	51.1	28.6	44.8
Timeframe					
Within 6 months	87.9	69.8	84.5	71.0	78.0
Within 3 months	34.2	45.4	59.1	53.8	34.1
Size					
At least half	90.5	73.2	88.3	77.0	78.9
All workers	50.5	28.5	51.7	37.6	36.2

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

Of the 111 actions where employers were able to provide more complete separations information, 90 percent of relocations occurred within the same company and 70 percent of relocations were domestic reassignments. (See table D.) Domestic relocation of work affected 12,286 workers, and out-of-country relocations were associated with 3,775 separations, 1 percent of all nonseasonal and non-vacation extended mass layoff separations. (See table 11.)

Recall Expectations

Forty-five percent of employers reporting an extended layoff in the fourth quarter of 2008 indicated they anticipated some type of recall, down from 56 percent a year earlier and the lowest fourth quarter proportion since 2001. (See table E.) Of those employers expecting to recall workers, 36 percent indicated that the offer would be extended to all displaced employees, and 79 percent of employers anticipated extending the offer to at least half of the workers. Seventy-eight percent of employers expecting to recall laid-off employees intend to do so within 6 months. Excluding layoff events due to seasonal work and vacation period in which 96 percent of the employers expected a recall, employers anticipated recalling laid-off workers in 43 percent of the events, the lowest fourth quarter proportion since 1997.

Table F. Distribution of extended layoff events by size of layoff, fourth quarter 2008^P

Size	Layoff events		Separations	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	3,140	100.0	508,859	100.0
50-99	1,447	46.1	100,859	19.8
100-149	737	23.5	86,250	16.9
150-199	320	10.2	52,983	10.4
200-299	335	10.7	77,182	15.2
300-499	184	5.9	67,198	13.2
500-999	81	2.6	54,916	10.8
1,000 or more	36	1.1	69,471	13.7

^P = preliminary.

Size of Extended Layoffs

The average size of a layoff (as measured by separations per layoff event) in the fourth quarter of 2008 was 162, compared to 166 per layoff in fourth quarter 2007. Layoff events continued to be increasingly concentrated at the lower end of the extended layoff-size spectrum, with 46 percent of events involving between 50 and 99 workers and 70 percent of events with less than 150 workers. This was the fourth consecutive fourth quarter that both of these proportions increased. Similarly, the proportion of events involving more than 500 workers, less than 4 percent, has also decreased each fourth quarter since 2004.

Layoffs involving between 50 and 99 workers accounted for 20 percent of all separations during the period, and layoffs with less than 150 separated workers accounted for 37 percent. These proportions are up from 18 and 36 percent from a year earlier, respectively, and have been increasing for the last four consecutive fourth quarters. Separations involving 500 or more workers accounted for 24 percent of all separations in the fourth quarter of 2008, up slightly from a year earlier. (See table F.)

Initial Claimant Characteristics

A total of 463,715 initial claimants for unemployment insurance were associated with extended mass layoffs in the fourth quarter of 2008. Of these claimants, 12 percent were black, 16 percent were Hispanic, 30 percent were women, 36 percent were 30 to 44 years of age, and 16 percent were 55 years of age or older. (See table 3.) Among persons in the civilian labor force for the same period, 11 percent were black, 14 percent were Hispanic, 47 percent were women, 33 percent were age 30 to 44, and 18 percent were 55 years of age or older.

Table G. Mass layoff events and separations, selected metropolitan areas

Metropolitan area	Events		Separations	
	IV 2007 ^r	IV 2008 ^p	IV 2007 ^r	IV 2008 ^p
Total, nonmetropolitan areas	225	409	41,331	62,879
Total, 369 metropolitan areas	914	1,452	136,573	217,268
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill.-Ind.-Wis.	100	114	15,687	19,894
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Mich.	45	96	9,541	14,714
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Calif.	92	112	12,518	12,438
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, Minn.-Wis.	37	59	5,874	10,676
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.Y.-N.J.-Pa.	60	39	9,673	7,306
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, Calif.	35	52	2,979	6,394
St. Louis, Mo.-Ill.	11	24	1,352	6,208
Las Vegas-Paradise, Nev.	7	37	1,817	6,205
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, Calif.	16	29	3,591	4,870
Rockford, Ill.	7	12	1,224	4,179

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: The geographic boundaries of the metropolitan areas shown in this table are defined in Office of Management and Budget Bulletin 08-01, November 20, 2007.

Geographic Distribution

Among the 4 census regions, the Midwest recorded the highest number of separations (202,392) due to extended mass layoff events in the fourth quarter of 2008, followed by the West with 164,717. Both regions recorded program highs in terms of numbers of separations in the fourth quarter. (See table 4.) Among the 9 census divisions, the highest number of separations during the fourth quarter of 2008 was in the East North Central division (156,100). The Pacific division had the next highest level of separations with 132,747. (See table 4.) Five divisions reported program highs in terms of numbers of separations in the fourth quarter—the East North Central, West North Central, East South Central, Mountain, and Pacific.

California recorded the largest number of worker separations (103,470), followed by Illinois (55,229), Michigan (38,820), and Ohio (30,295). (See table 5.) After excluding the impact of seasonal reasons, California still reported the highest number of job cuts (88,075). Seventeen states reported fourth quarter program highs in terms of numbers of separations—Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Vermont.

Table H. Selected measures of mass layoff activity, 1996-2008

Period	Layoff events	Separations	Initial claimants
1996	4,760	948,122	805,810
1997	4,671	947,843	879,831
1998	4,859	991,245	1,056,462
1999	4,556	901,451	796,917
2000	4,591	915,962	846,267
2001	7,375	1,524,832	1,457,512
2002	6,337	1,272,331	1,218,143
2003	6,181	1,216,886	1,200,811
2004	5,010	993,909	903,079
2005	4,881	884,661	834,533
2006 ^r	4,885	935,969	951,155
2007 ^r	5,363	965,935	978,712
2008 ^p	7,818	1,383,553	1,362,320

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

Forty-six percent of extended mass layoff events and 43 percent of separations (217,268) occurred in metropolitan areas in the fourth quarter of 2008, compared with 50 percent of events and 45 percent of separations (136,573) during the fourth quarter of 2007. Among the 369 metropolitan areas, Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill.-Ind.-Wis., reported the highest number of separations (19,894) in the fourth quarter of 2008. Next were Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Mich., with 14,714 separations and Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Calif., with 12,438 separations. (See table G.) Employers located in nonmetropolitan areas separated 62,879 workers in extended mass layoffs.

Review of 2008

For all of 2008, employers reported 7,818 extended mass layoff actions, affecting 1,383,553 workers. Compared to 2007, the number of events was up 46 percent (+2,455 from 5,363), and the number of separations increased by 43 percent (+417,618 from 965,935). (See table H.) The annual average national unemployment rate increased from 4.6 percent in 2007 to 5.8 percent in 2008, and private nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 0.7 percent, or 812,000.

In 2008, employers expected a recall in 42 percent of the mass layoff events, down from 50 percent of events in 2007. Eleven percent of extended events in 2008 were permanent closures, the same proportion as in 2007. Permanent closures were most numerous in the manufacturing industry, primarily in transportation equipment manufacturing, and in retail trade, primarily in general merchandise stores. When compared with 2007, events associated with permanent closures in 2008 increased 45 percent from 594 to 860, and separations increased 65 percent from 125,836 to 208,103.

Industry Distribution of Extended Layoffs

In 2008, four major industry sectors reported program highs in terms of extended mass layoff events and separations—construction; finance and insurance; educational services; and accommodation and food services. Manufacturing industries had the largest share of extended mass layoff events and separations (31 percent each). Within manufacturing, separations were most numerous in transportation equipment manufacturing (133,474, mainly in automobile manufacturing) and in food manufacturing (61,295, largely in fruit and vegetable canning). The largest over-the-year increases occurred in transportation equipment manufacturing (+73,560) and food manufacturing (+17,735). The construction sector accounted for 21 percent of all events and 14 percent of the associated separations in 2008. Separations were concentrated in specialty trade contracting (78,983) and heavy and civil engineering construction (77,609).

Reasons for Extended Layoffs

From 2007 to 2008, the number of extended mass layoff events increased in all seven categories of economic reasons for layoffs. In 2008, job losses related to business demand accounted for the largest proportion of extended mass layoff activity. Events related to business demand increased 69 percent over the year from 1,888 to 3,195 and associated separations nearly doubled from 248,056 to 476,302. In 2008, layoffs due to business demand factors occurred primarily in transportation equipment manufacturing, administrative and support services, and specialty trade contracting.

Job loss due to seasonal factors remained nearly unchanged, but the relative proportion of these layoffs dropped significantly due to higher layoff activity related to other reasons. Seasonal layoffs occurred largely among food services and drinking places; heavy and civil engineering construction; transit and ground passenger transportation; and professional and technical services.

Movement of Work

In 2008, there were 324 extended mass layoff events that involved work moving within the same company or to a different company, domestically or out of the U.S. The events involving movement of work were associated with the separation of 64,805 workers, about 6 percent of all separations resulting from nonseasonal/nonvacation extended mass layoff events. Sixty percent of events with movement of work involved the permanent closure of a worksite, affecting 42,779 workers. Manufacturing industries accounted for 66 percent of the events and 62 percent of the separations involving movement of work, mostly in transportation equipment manufacturing and in computer and electronic product manufacturing. Among the regions, the Midwest accounted for the largest proportion of laid-off workers associated with the movement of work (45 percent), followed by the South (22 percent).

As part of the 324 layoff events, 432 identifiable movement-of-work actions were taken by employers. Employers were able to provide information on specific separations associated with the movement-of-work component of the layoff in 308 actions (out of the 432), which totaled 39,218 laid-off workers. Of these movement-of-work actions for which complete information is available, 70 percent were to other locations within the U.S., and 89 percent involved moving work within the company. The separation of 11,147 workers was associated with out-of-country relocations, which accounts for 28 percent of the separations related to the movement of work and 1 percent of all separations in nonseasonal/nonvacation extended mass layoff events.

Geographic Distribution

Compared to 2007, all 4 geographic regions reported an increase in workers separated due to extended mass layoffs in 2008, with the largest increase in the Midwest (+149,800). The Midwest reported more workers affected by extended mass layoffs in 2008 (428,283) than any other region. In the Midwest, transportation equipment manufacturing and administrative and waste services had the largest number of separations. The Northeast region reported the lowest annual number of separations with 216,060.

Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, California reported the largest number of separated workers in 2008 (330,003). States with the next highest number of separations due to extended mass layoffs were Illinois (119,692), Florida (88,213), Ohio (78,852), and Michigan (72,946). California recorded the largest over-the-year increase in the number of separations (+72,697), while Virginia recorded the largest over-the-year decrease in separations (-4,569). Eight states reported program highs in terms of numbers of separations in 2008—Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Missouri, New Jersey, and Wyoming.

Among the 369 metropolitan areas, Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill.-Ind.-Wis., reported the highest number of separations, 46,455. The next highest numbers of separations were in Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Calif., with 45,904 and New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.Y.-N.J.-Pa., with 39,182. Employers located in nonmetropolitan areas separated 135,626 workers in mass layoffs during 2008, up from 106,129 in 2007.

Note

The quarterly series on extended mass layoffs cover layoffs of at least 31-days duration that involve 50 or more individuals from a single employer filing initial claims for unemployment insurance during a consecutive 5-week period. Approximately 30 days after a mass layoff is triggered, the employer is contacted for additional information. Data for the fourth quarter are preliminary and subject to revision. This release also includes revised data for previous quarters. Data are not seasonally adjusted, but survey data suggest that there is a seasonal pattern to layoffs. Thus, comparisons between consecutive quarters should not be used as an indicator of trend.

For additional information about the program, see the Technical Note.

The report on Mass Layoffs in January 2009 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 25.

Technical Note

The Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program is a federal-state program which identifies, describes, and tracks the effects of major job cutbacks, using data from each state's unemployment insurance database. Employers which have at least 50 initial claims filed against them during a consecutive 5-week period are contacted by the state agency to determine whether these separations are of at least 31 days duration, and, if so, information is obtained on the total number of persons separated and the reasons for these separations. Employers are identified according to industry classification and location, and unemployment insurance claimants are identified by such demographic factors as age, race, gender, ethnic group, and place of residence. The program yields information on an individual's entire spell of unemployment, to the point when regular unemployment insurance benefits are exhausted.

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 administered by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Extended layoff event. Fifty or more initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits from an employer during a 5-week period, with at least 50 workers separated for more than 30 days.

Initial claimant. A person who files any notice of 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.

Layoff. The separation of persons from an employer as part of a mass layoff event. (See below.) Such layoffs involve both persons subject to recall and those who are terminated by the establishment.

Mass layoff. Fifty or more initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits from an employer beginning in a given month, regardless of duration.

Worksite closure. The complete closure of either multi-unit or single-unit employers or the partial closure of a multi-unit employer where entire worksites affected by layoffs are closed or planned to be closed.

Revisions to preliminary data

The latest quarterly data in this news release are considered preliminary. After the initial publication of quarterly information, more data are collected as remaining employer interviews for the quarter are completed and additional initial claimant information associated with extended layoff events is received.

Movement of work concepts and questions

Because of the employer interview component, the BLS decided to use the MLS program as a vehicle for collecting additional information on offshoring and outsourcing

associated with job loss, by adding questions that address movement of work. The term "moving work" means that the company experiencing the layoff has reassigned work activities that were performed at a worksite by the company's employees (1) to another worksite within the company; (2) to another company under formal arrangements at the same worksite; or (3) to another company under formal arrangements at another worksite. The type of work activities subject to movement can include accounting, customer service, cleaning, warehousing, etc.

"Overseas relocation" is the movement of work from within the U.S. to locations outside of the U.S. "Overseas relocation" can occur within the same company and involve movement of work to a different location of that company outside of the U.S., or to a different company altogether.

"Domestic relocation" is the movement of work to other locations inside the U.S., either within the same company or to a different company.

"Overseas relocation" and "domestic relocation" are no longer used in the same way as they were in earlier extended mass layoff news releases. Therefore, the data presented in this news release are not comparable to those that were presented in earlier news releases.

Questions on movement of work and location are asked for all identified layoff events when the reason for separation is other than "seasonal work" or "vacation period." Seasonal and vacation layoff events were excluded because movement of work appears unlikely.

Questions on movement of work are asked after the analyst verifies that a layoff in fact occurred and lasted more than 30 days, and obtained the total number of workers separated from jobs, the date the layoff began, and the economic reason for the layoff. If the reason for layoff is other than seasonal or vacation, the employer was asked the following:

(1) "Did this layoff include your company moving work from this location(s) to a different geographic location(s) within your company?"

(2) "Did this layoff include your company moving work that was performed in-house by your employees to a different company, through contractual arrangements?"

A "yes" response to either question is followed by:

"Is the location inside or outside of the U.S.?" and "How many of the layoffs were a result of this relocation?"

Layoff actions are classified as "overseas relocation" if the employer responds "yes" to questions 1 and/or 2, and indicates that the location(s) was outside of the U.S. Domestic relocation is determined if the employer responds "yes" to questions 1 and/or 2 and indicates that the location(s) was within the U.S.

After asking the movement of work questions, the

employer interview continues and responses are obtained for questions on recall expectations and open/closed status of the worksite.

Reliability of the data

The identification of employers and layoff events in the MLS program and associated characteristics of claimants is based on administrative data on covered employers and unemployment insurance claims, and, therefore, is not subject to issues associated with sampling error. Nonsampling errors such as typographical errors may occur but are not likely to be significant. While the MLS employers and layoff events are not subject to sampling error, and all such employers are asked the interview questions, the employer responses are subject to nonsampling error. Nonsampling error can occur for many reasons, including the inability to obtain information for all respondents, inability or unwillingness of

respondents to provide correct information, and errors made in the collection or processing of the data. For the fourth quarter of 2008, outright refusal to participate in the employer interview accounted for 3.1 percent of all private nonfarm events. Although included in the total number of instances involving the movement of work, for the fourth quarter, employers in 39 relocations were unable to provide the number of separations specifically associated with the movement of work, 8 of which involved out-of-country moves.

Other information

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

Table 1. Industry distribution: Extended mass layoff events, separations, and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, private nonfarm sector, selected quarters, 2007 and 2008

Industry	Layoff events			Separations			Initial claimants for unemployment insurance		
	IV 2007 ^f	III 2008 ^f	IV 2008 ^p	IV 2007 ^f	III 2008 ^f	IV 2008 ^p	IV 2007 ^f	III 2008 ^f	IV 2008 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	1,814	1,582	3,140	301,592	290,052	508,859	347,151	300,337	463,715
Mining	27	4	36	3,584	1,014	5,108	3,494	834	4,520
Utilities	(²)	(²)	3	(²)	(²)	746	(²)	(²)	531
Construction	682	229	843	86,900	26,924	100,922	100,731	37,449	97,246
Manufacturing	442	498	1,103	80,567	95,193	185,686	117,632	104,320	199,563
Food	71	48	95	17,131	13,058	21,863	17,015	8,407	19,475
Beverage and tobacco products	(²)	5	11	(²)	684	1,196	(²)	784	1,115
Textile mills	10	7	23	1,799	1,592	4,338	4,840	2,380	5,533
Textile product mills ³	5	5	12	968	779	1,340	1,808	884	1,665
Apparel ³	10	13	(²)	1,524	1,482	(²)	1,379	1,784	(²)
Leather and allied products	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Wood products	49	38	81	6,553	6,080	9,973	7,628	6,184	11,649
Paper	6	10	26	899	3,544	3,389	1,059	2,481	3,208
Printing and related support activities	14	11	14	2,331	1,336	2,073	2,280	952	2,212
Petroleum and coal products	18	(²)	17	2,760	(²)	2,421	2,925	(²)	2,315
Chemicals	11	15	26	2,892	1,358	3,795	2,393	1,402	3,553
Plastics and rubber products ³	19	23	70	2,998	3,654	8,335	2,633	3,497	9,075
Nonmetallic mineral products	56	16	95	7,773	2,080	13,367	9,755	2,358	12,409
Primary metals	14	14	68	2,456	1,647	11,123	3,131	2,206	11,377
Fabricated metal products	21	33	109	2,774	3,967	12,375	3,317	5,021	13,595
Machinery ³	22	35	65	4,384	9,123	9,551	6,568	11,626	13,116
Computer and electronic products	12	47	58	1,857	8,286	9,656	1,738	7,061	9,046
Electrical equipment and appliances	16	16	33	3,616	3,066	5,741	8,528	2,855	6,109
Transportation equipment ³	55	124	238	12,858	27,610	56,341	35,573	37,199	65,292
Furniture and related products ³	19	24	37	2,490	4,180	4,956	3,108	5,242	5,139
Miscellaneous manufacturing ³	7	11	16	1,648	1,306	2,507	1,028	1,696	2,532
Wholesale trade	38	33	78	4,442	4,543	9,808	5,470	3,721	8,503
Retail trade	76	92	170	19,175	20,887	44,850	21,293	22,541	23,329
Transportation and warehousing	43	131	109	9,724	24,199	21,014	8,758	23,303	13,588
Information	29	54	54	5,061	10,553	6,404	7,215	10,923	5,769
Finance and insurance ³	104	104	98	18,575	19,812	16,497	19,424	20,420	14,727
Real estate and rental and leasing ³	9	11	25	1,461	1,458	2,841	1,176	1,368	2,680
Professional and technical services ³	50	50	74	9,634	8,877	9,719	9,675	9,297	8,373
Management of companies and enterprises ..	9	(²)	12	1,642	(²)	2,427	1,229	(²)	1,774
Administrative and waste services ³	136	142	280	21,629	31,757	52,484	24,906	33,205	46,322
Educational services	(²)	18	4	(²)	2,635	608	(²)	2,545	311
Health care and social assistance	22	74	34	4,697	8,360	6,160	3,476	6,597	4,451
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	50	39	58	17,859	11,161	13,551	7,226	5,121	6,506
Accommodation and food services	73	84	132	12,846	20,184	27,019	11,824	15,856	22,767
Other services, except public administration ..	14	15	26	2,220	1,980	2,942	1,949	2,084	2,682
Unclassified	3	-	1	696	-	73	514	-	73

¹ For the fourth quarter of 2008, data on layoffs were reported by employers in 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.

^f = revised.

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

Table 2. Reason for layoff: Extended mass layoff events, separations, and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, private nonfarm sector, selected quarters, 2007 and 2008

Reason for layoff	Layoff events			Separations			Initial claimants for unemployment insurance		
	IV 2007 ^r	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p	IV 2007 ^r	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p	IV 2007 ^r	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	1,814	1,582	3,140	301,592	290,052	508,859	347,151	300,337	463,715
Business demand	613	642	1,387	83,996	97,183	207,609	137,912	125,986	219,894
Contract cancellation	17	44	46	2,564	7,298	11,059	3,292	6,984	6,247
Contract completion	286	195	280	34,838	32,262	38,617	49,165	41,736	39,291
Domestic competition	(²)	(²)	5	(²)	(²)	752	(²)	(²)	735
Excess inventory/saturated market	(²)	(²)	13	(²)	(²)	3,134	(²)	(²)	2,687
Import competition	16	12	13	2,868	3,197	1,768	6,203	3,223	2,010
Slack work/insufficient demand/non-seasonal business slowdown	282	382	1,030	42,201	52,328	152,279	77,221	71,164	168,924
Organizational changes	92	122	139	22,626	33,567	26,434	20,648	29,498	20,320
Business-ownership change	24	20	29	9,673	14,033	7,939	5,695	4,849	4,105
Reorganization or restructuring of company	68	102	110	12,953	19,534	18,495	14,953	24,649	16,215
Financial issues	124	192	300	24,652	37,051	65,034	25,849	30,421	44,005
Bankruptcy	15	42	40	4,665	13,032	9,087	2,598	7,858	5,295
Cost control/cost cutting/increase profitability	42	92	156	8,254	12,179	23,227	13,322	12,764	23,222
Financial difficulty	67	58	104	11,733	11,840	32,720	9,929	9,799	15,488
Production specific	25	30	21	3,935	5,998	3,694	4,864	7,013	3,011
Automation/technological advances	(²)	4	(²)	(²)	760	(²)	(²)	822	(²)
Energy related	-	6	(²)	-	720	(²)	-	2,656	(²)
Governmental regulations/intervention	(²)	5	6	(²)	806	1,395	(²)	475	795
Labor dispute/contract negotiations/strike	10	4	4	1,457	1,880	520	2,386	1,169	478
Material or supply shortage	(²)	4	-	(²)	466	-	(²)	371	-
Model changeover	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Plant or machine repair/maintenance	8	3	4	1,360	685	671	972	433	480
Product line discontinued	(²)	(²)	3	(²)	(²)	590	(²)	(²)	623
Disaster/safety	6	32	12	778	4,988	1,346	809	4,233	1,076
Hazardous work environment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Natural disaster (not weather related)	-	(²)	-	-	(²)	-	-	(²)	-
Non-natural disaster	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)	(²)
Extreme weather-related event	6	(²)	(²)	778	(²)	(²)	809	(²)	(²)
Seasonal	752	216	808	129,784	43,920	135,500	119,288	36,532	105,091
Seasonal	747	116	803	129,368	27,566	134,237	118,724	21,395	103,926
Vacation period-school related or otherwise	5	100	5	416	16,354	1,263	564	15,137	1,165
Other/miscellaneous	202	348	473	35,821	67,345	69,242	37,781	66,654	70,318
Other	12	23	23	2,091	4,444	2,991	3,150	4,440	4,622
Data not provided: refusal	57	53	104	11,259	13,033	20,838	11,273	12,988	20,639
Data not provided: does not know	133	272	346	22,471	49,868	45,413	23,358	49,226	45,057

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

² Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

Table 3. State and selected claimant characteristics: Extended mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, private nonfarm sector, third and fourth quarters, 2008

State	Layoff events		Total initial claims		Percent of total							
	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p	Black		Hispanic origin		Women		Persons age 55 and over	
					III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	1,582	3,140	300,337	463,715	16.4	11.7	18.2	16.3	39.8	29.7	17.8	16.2
Alabama	9	16	3,044	6,134	45.9	42.9	3.4	2.4	52.9	39.2	13.9	11.7
Alaska	3	12	1,331	2,142	3.7	4.1	22.2	13.3	33.7	29.5	26.0	22.0
Arizona	9	23	1,211	2,924	6.8	5.5	27.7	38.0	45.4	27.5	14.4	12.1
Arkansas	7	18	1,352	2,184	46.8	20.6	1.8	4.1	51.8	36.5	12.9	17.9
California	466	734	78,628	88,393	10.1	6.9	33.6	41.3	38.8	34.2	15.3	14.5
Colorado	7	28	686	3,223	6.7	4.1	23.3	37.3	44.9	17.8	18.5	19.2
Connecticut	11	11	1,384	1,519	18.0	9.3	21.7	10.4	53.6	17.8	18.2	19.0
Delaware	-	6	-	768	-	13.8	-	4.2	-	13.3	-	21.5
District of Columbia	-	(²)	-	(²)	-	98.0	-	.7	-	65.1	-	11.4
Florida	127	123	26,565	19,331	15.8	14.3	28.9	27.8	41.6	34.8	18.0	16.8
Georgia	22	59	4,614	9,274	58.9	40.2	2.1	5.1	46.3	36.5	15.6	15.6
Hawaii	7	10	1,112	1,217	3.5	3.2	13.3	12.7	37.4	21.6	17.4	14.8
Idaho	14	29	2,020	5,268	.5	.3	25.8	13.6	45.4	36.1	20.0	15.1
Illinois	97	285	18,560	40,614	27.7	15.9	15.7	17.5	44.5	25.8	15.4	14.3
Indiana	57	120	15,055	23,165	9.5	7.5	4.1	4.2	33.4	27.0	14.2	14.8
Iowa	10	42	3,466	7,091	1.6	1.9	2.5	4.4	33.7	21.2	20.5	19.8
Kansas	8	25	754	2,749	13.5	8.5	4.6	3.8	44.2	30.5	19.9	14.6
Kentucky	22	42	3,079	8,729	7.0	7.2	.3	.4	17.7	18.6	15.3	13.0
Louisiana	41	20	6,085	3,191	58.4	53.3	3.0	2.0	46.6	31.3	15.0	16.3
Maine	3	3	187	544	2.1	.9	-	.2	25.1	11.8	20.9	24.1
Maryland	10	3	1,132	326	57.6	59.2	2.4	.9	58.6	35.6	16.8	26.4
Massachusetts	21	42	2,896	4,357	11.1	8.0	3.8	1.1	51.8	33.9	25.8	22.0
Michigan	41	211	7,867	43,556	9.2	16.3	5.6	5.0	36.3	27.3	15.9	15.8
Minnesota	11	120	2,128	16,079	6.7	3.6	2.1	6.9	23.0	17.6	14.6	16.0
Mississippi	14	21	1,660	3,229	72.2	47.4	1.9	3.1	36.6	43.9	14.2	14.1
Missouri	31	99	4,068	12,678	20.2	12.8	.3	.2	45.5	35.3	20.6	17.8
Montana	4	11	348	1,869	.3	.1	2.6	3.0	22.7	12.6	22.7	17.6
Nebraska	(²)	8	(²)	683	13.0	1.5	2.3	8.3	21.4	14.3	20.6	29.3
Nevada	22	46	4,979	8,964	9.8	9.2	27.5	35.5	32.1	45.7	16.9	16.7
New Hampshire	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	6.7	1.0	11.2	-	27.0	18.6	14.6	33.8
New Jersey	49	73	6,578	9,935	23.3	18.2	8.4	8.5	57.8	38.2	23.7	19.4
New Mexico	8	17	1,429	1,736	2.9	1.7	39.7	50.6	33.9	35.1	13.4	18.7
New York	118	91	22,462	14,091	18.2	9.1	17.8	9.7	54.9	34.8	27.3	19.7
North Carolina	14	27	2,895	3,426	28.3	32.3	7.2	5.5	55.4	34.2	22.9	19.7
North Dakota	(²)	10	(²)	1,024	-	1.5	-	3.3	24.3	19.3	9.0	17.2
Ohio	49	138	9,847	22,870	15.9	11.0	3.4	3.4	28.9	24.6	19.1	16.7
Oklahoma	5	21	1,179	2,972	8.6	8.1	2.7	6.3	28.2	32.3	20.0	16.9
Oregon	19	70	4,627	15,706	.8	.8	12.6	16.4	31.3	26.3	18.3	18.2
Pennsylvania	98	183	22,213	25,975	3.9	5.2	2.4	3.7	32.3	26.1	22.8	20.2
Rhode Island	(²)	6	(²)	560	6.7	1.8	24.2	21.8	52.6	20.9	25.8	23.9
South Carolina	12	21	3,659	3,816	71.6	56.9	.2	1.0	50.2	41.6	2.9	9.0
South Dakota	-	3	-	213	-	.5	-	.9	-	32.4	-	19.7
Tennessee	31	67	5,945	6,235	34.1	23.4	.1	.1	47.3	38.9	23.6	20.3
Texas	51	40	12,683	6,868	19.0	21.5	41.7	38.6	31.5	31.1	10.5	14.3
Utah	(²)	18	(²)	3,100	2.6	1.5	18.1	16.0	65.0	27.3	14.0	9.6
Vermont	(²)	7	(²)	1,058	.7	.7	.7	.3	22.8	24.1	22.8	20.4
Virginia	6	14	885	1,298	38.8	25.7	3.5	5.5	21.6	37.5	31.0	21.1
Washington	21	76	2,803	9,833	5.3	4.1	11.7	17.4	31.0	29.2	14.7	18.0
West Virginia	(²)	6	(²)	431	-	.2	-	-	59.5	13.0	13.7	11.8
Wisconsin	15	79	7,613	11,746	3.2	2.6	2.5	9.6	28.0	15.5	21.8	16.8
Wyoming	(²)	3	(²)	268	-	1.5	-	.4	17.2	32.8	10.8	34.0
Puerto Rico	12	7	2,477	694	.1	.6	98.5	97.7	58.5	45.2	8.4	14.3

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

^r = revised.

² Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.

^p = preliminary.

³ Data are not available.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

Table 4. Census region and division: Extended mass layoff events, separations, and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, private nonfarm sector, selected quarters, 2007 and 2008

Census region and division	Layoff events			Separations			Initial claimants for unemployment insurance		
	IV 2007 ^r	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p	IV 2007 ^r	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p	IV 2007 ^r	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p
United States ¹	1,814	1,582	3,140	301,592	290,052	508,859	347,151	300,337	463,715
Northeast	293	304	418	49,004	60,295	61,160	56,569	56,139	58,243
New England	55	39	71	11,348	5,043	9,932	7,697	4,886	8,242
Middle Atlantic	238	265	347	37,656	55,252	51,228	48,872	51,253	50,001
South	263	373	505	45,367	75,443	80,590	45,929	74,945	78,361
South Atlantic	153	193	260	24,190	42,491	43,217	23,862	39,918	38,819
East South Central	60	76	146	12,963	12,134	20,983	11,933	13,728	24,327
West South Central	50	104	99	8,214	20,818	16,390	10,134	21,299	15,215
Midwest	684	322	1,140	114,727	59,679	202,392	139,345	69,600	182,468
East North Central	519	259	833	88,795	50,322	156,100	113,563	58,942	141,951
West North Central	165	63	307	25,932	9,357	46,292	25,782	10,658	40,517
West	574	583	1,077	92,494	94,635	164,717	105,308	99,653	144,643
Mountain	78	67	175	16,135	11,415	31,970	12,593	11,152	27,352
Pacific	496	516	902	76,359	83,220	132,747	92,715	88,501	117,291

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

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, 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 5. State distribution: Extended mass layoff events, separations, and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, private nonfarm sector, selected quarters, 2007 and 2008

State	Layoff events			Separations			Initial claimants for unemployment insurance		
	IV 2007 ^r	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p	IV 2007 ^r	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p	IV 2007 ^r	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	1,814	1,582	3,140	301,592	290,052	508,859	347,151	300,337	463,715
Alabama	9	9	16	1,693	2,769	4,393	1,867	3,044	6,134
Alaska	8	3	12	1,916	3,460	3,329	1,373	1,331	2,142
Arizona	7	9	23	1,364	1,255	2,977	1,079	1,211	2,924
Arkansas	8	7	18	1,193	1,394	2,870	3,229	1,352	2,184
California	435	466	734	64,718	70,898	103,470	80,145	78,628	88,393
Colorado	18	7	28	3,588	1,229	5,131	2,308	686	3,223
Connecticut	8	11	11	1,624	1,724	1,746	1,237	1,384	1,519
Delaware	3	-	6	231	-	858	209	-	768
District of Columbia	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)
Florida	61	127	123	9,110	31,391	24,816	7,122	26,565	19,331
Georgia	15	22	59	2,813	3,635	8,310	6,450	4,614	9,274
Hawaii	4	7	10	563	840	1,196	495	1,112	1,217
Idaho	14	14	29	2,218	2,111	5,114	2,041	2,020	5,268
Illinois	178	97	285	30,467	19,992	55,229	27,607	18,560	40,614
Indiana	54	57	120	8,797	10,363	17,713	17,268	15,055	23,165
Iowa	27	10	42	4,559	1,220	5,452	6,287	3,466	7,091
Kansas	8	8	25	1,066	710	2,889	1,335	754	2,749
Kentucky	18	22	42	2,716	3,578	6,694	2,179	3,079	8,729
Louisiana	12	41	20	2,080	6,540	3,797	1,296	6,085	3,191
Maine	8	3	3	1,827	267	648	1,388	187	544
Maryland	25	10	3	3,122	1,238	220	3,295	1,132	326
Massachusetts	26	21	42	6,181	2,553	5,806	3,554	2,896	4,357
Michigan	95	41	211	16,434	5,852	38,820	32,450	7,867	43,556
Minnesota	75	11	120	12,047	2,219	20,893	11,285	2,128	16,079
Mississippi	5	14	21	782	2,330	3,621	747	1,660	3,229
Missouri	40	31	99	6,019	4,687	14,839	5,054	4,068	12,678
Montana	10	4	11	1,385	390	1,471	1,379	348	1,869
Nebraska	6	(²)	8	859	(²)	958	580	(²)	683
Nevada	13	22	46	2,780	4,421	7,907	3,121	4,979	8,964
New Hampshire	3	(²)	(²)	415	(²)	(²)	369	(²)	(²)
New Jersey	54	49	73	9,257	8,637	12,525	7,609	6,578	9,935
New Mexico	3	8	17	434	1,431	2,326	428	1,429	1,736
New York	106	118	91	17,570	27,855	15,458	19,864	22,462	14,091
North Carolina	6	14	27	553	1,377	3,069	1,132	2,895	3,426
North Dakota	8	(²)	10	1,166	(²)	1,024	1,166	(²)	1,024
Ohio	116	49	138	20,000	10,187	30,295	22,436	9,847	22,870
Oklahoma	(²)	5	21	(²)	2,549	3,014	(²)	1,179	2,972
Oregon	24	19	70	6,535	4,494	12,374	6,795	4,627	15,706
Pennsylvania	78	98	183	10,829	18,760	23,245	21,399	22,213	25,975
Rhode Island	6	(²)	6	779	(²)	612	726	(²)	560
South Carolina	13	12	21	2,001	3,744	3,398	1,942	3,659	3,816
South Dakota	(²)	-	3	(²)	-	237	(²)	-	213
Tennessee	28	31	67	7,772	3,457	6,275	7,140	5,945	6,235
Texas	29	51	40	4,840	10,335	6,709	5,552	12,683	6,868
Utah	11	(²)	18	2,004	(²)	3,700	2,105	(²)	3,100
Vermont	4	(²)	7	522	(²)	825	423	(²)	1,058
Virginia	21	6	14	5,251	862	1,937	2,669	885	1,298
Washington	25	21	76	2,627	3,528	12,378	3,907	2,803	9,833
West Virginia	8	(²)	6	987	(²)	460	921	(²)	431
Wisconsin	76	15	79	13,097	3,928	14,043	13,802	7,613	11,746
Wyoming	(²)	(²)	3	(²)	(²)	3,344	(²)	(²)	268
Puerto Rico	9	12	7	755	1,118	383	2,088	2,477	694

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

² Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

^r = revised.

Table 6. Information technology-producing industries: Extended mass layoff events and separations, private nonfarm sector, 2001-2008

Year	Total extended mass layoffs		Information technology-producing industries ¹							
			Computer hardware ²		Software and computer services ³		Communications equipment ⁴		Communications services ⁵	
	Layoff events	Separations	Layoff events	Separations	Layoff events	Separations	Layoff events	Separations	Layoff events	Separations
2001										
First quarter	1,546	304,171	91	20,991	32	5,558	22	4,441	13	3,317
Second quarter	1,828	430,499	161	38,986	69	9,563	36	12,109	15	3,519
Third quarter	1,629	330,391	142	24,813	45	5,724	39	8,200	21	5,350
Fourth quarter	2,372	459,771	109	17,797	50	7,667	43	10,124	38	9,889
Total	7,375	1,524,832	503	102,587	196	28,512	140	34,874	87	22,075
2002										
First quarter	1,611	299,266	84	18,574	34	3,770	32	8,192	28	4,346
Second quarter	1,624	344,606	69	11,764	39	4,326	27	4,870	34	5,643
Third quarter	1,186	255,152	76	15,017	36	4,359	34	6,529	33	5,496
Fourth quarter	1,916	373,307	74	14,298	26	5,709	19	3,645	31	7,643
Total	6,337	1,272,331	303	59,653	135	18,164	112	23,236	126	23,128
2003										
First quarter	1,502	286,947	71	11,900	27	5,097	23	4,402	26	4,513
Second quarter	1,799	368,273	54	9,221	19	2,741	21	3,098	22	4,169
Third quarter	1,190	236,333	46	6,488	24	4,189	9	1,289	8	842
Fourth quarter	1,690	325,333	25	5,080	8	1,167	9	1,619	23	5,774
Total	6,181	1,216,886	196	32,689	78	13,194	62	10,408	79	15,298
2004										
First quarter	1,339	276,503	27	3,222	13	2,786	8	894	14	2,832
Second quarter	1,358	278,831	18	2,959	15	2,775	-	-	15	3,250
Third quarter	886	164,608	13	2,288	14	1,467	4	430	11	3,792
Fourth quarter	1,427	273,967	18	3,055	10	1,547	4	563	20	3,143
Total	5,010	993,909	76	11,524	52	8,575	16	1,887	60	13,017
2005										
First quarter	1,142	186,506	13	1,526	9	2,355	4	439	12	2,400
Second quarter	1,203	246,099	20	2,973	13	1,558	4	842	7	1,331
Third quarter	1,136	201,878	23	3,307	7	1,034	(⁶)	(⁶)	3	304
Fourth quarter	1,400	250,178	19	4,122	3	720	(⁶)	(⁶)	5	845
Total	4,881	884,661	75	11,928	32	5,667	13	3,000	27	4,880
2006										
First quarter	963	183,089	12	1,159	6	744	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)
Second quarter	1,353	295,964	10	3,294	7	1,564	8	988	(⁶)	(⁶)
Third quarter	929	160,254	14	3,544	6	487	(⁶)	(⁶)	8	1,222
Fourth quarter	1,640	296,662	12	4,039	4	708	5	1,482	8	947
Total	4,885	935,969	48	12,036	23	3,503	19	3,753	23	3,406
2007										
First quarter	1,110	225,600	19	3,007	5	875	3	415	5	885
Second quarter	1,421	278,719	22	3,634	4	413	5	433	3	315
Third quarter	1,018	160,024	22	5,279	6	1,030	4	403	3	276
Fourth quarter	1,814	301,592	9	1,459	4	473	3	381	7	870
Total	5,363	965,935	72	13,379	19	2,791	15	1,632	18	2,346
2008										
First quarter ^f	1,340	229,952	19	3,040	9	987	(⁶)	(⁶)	3	329
Second quarter ^f	1,756	354,690	25	4,018	7	969	(⁶)	(⁶)	16	2,545
Third quarter ^f	1,582	290,052	37	6,774	20	3,015	6	1,331	11	1,906
Fourth quarter ^p	3,140	508,859	48	8,007	17	1,738	6	937	9	986
Total ^p	7,818	1,383,553	129	21,839	53	6,709	16	2,953	39	5,766

¹ Information technology-producing industries are defined in *Digital Economy 2003*, (U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, 2003).

In the MLS program, however, computer and software merchant wholesalers and computer and software stores are only included in the computer hardware industry.

² The industries included in this grouping, based on the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), are: semiconductor machinery manufacturing; office machinery manufacturing; electronic computer manufacturing; computer storage device manufacturing; computer terminal manufacturing; other computer peripheral equipment mfg.; electron tube manufacturing; bare printed circuit board manufacturing; semiconductors and related device mfg.; electronic capacitor manufacturing; electronic resistor manufacturing; electronic coils, transformers, and inductors; electronic connector manufacturing; printed circuit assembly manufacturing; other electronic component manufacturing; industrial process variable instruments; electricity and signal testing instruments; analytical laboratory instrument mfg.; computer and software merchant wholesalers; and computer and software stores.

³ The industries included in this grouping, based on the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), are: software publishers; internet service providers; web search portals; data processing and related services; custom computer programming

services; computer systems design services; computer facilities management services; other computer related services; office equipment rental and leasing; and computer and office machine repair.

⁴ The industries included in this grouping, based on the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), are: telephone apparatus manufacturing; audio and video equipment manufacturing; broadcast and wireless communications equip.; fiber optic cable manufacturing; software reproducing; and magnetic and optical recording media mfg.

⁵ The industries included in this grouping, based on the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), are: wired telecommunications carriers; cellular and other wireless carriers; telecommunications resellers; cable and other program distribution; satellite telecommunications; other telecommunications; and communication equipment repair.

⁶ Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.

^f = revised.

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

Table 7. Industry distribution: Extended mass layoff events and separations associated with the movement of work, selected quarters, 2007 and 2008

Industry	Layoff events			Separations		
	IV 2007	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p	IV 2007	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	69	84	110	11,302	14,938	24,236
Mining	-	-	-	-	-	-
Utilities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Construction	-	-	(²)	-	-	(²)
Manufacturing	48	56	75	7,980	10,949	14,688
Food	5	4	3	1,232	1,302	425
Beverage and tobacco products	-	-	(²)	-	-	(²)
Textile mills	(²)	3	(²)	(²)	314	(²)
Textile product mills ³	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)
Apparel ³	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)	(²)
Leather and allied products	-	(²)	-	-	(²)	-
Wood products	-	-	(²)	-	-	(²)
Paper	(²)	3	4	(²)	391	602
Printing and related support activities	3	(²)	(²)	411	(²)	(²)
Petroleum and coal products	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chemicals	(²)	(²)	4	(²)	(²)	1,125
Plastics and rubber products ³	3	3	4	382	292	555
Nonmetallic mineral products	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)
Primary metals	3	-	3	390	-	1,795
Fabricated metal products	5	(²)	5	879	(²)	665
Machinery ³	(²)	4	5	(²)	776	1,118
Computer and electronic products	3	9	9	620	1,527	1,323
Electrical equipment and appliances	6	6	7	1,360	1,278	789
Transportation equipment ³	10	13	16	1,438	3,378	3,973
Furniture and related products ³	(²)	(²)	3	(²)	(²)	456
Miscellaneous manufacturing ³	-	(²)	3	-	(²)	509
Wholesale trade	(²)	3	7	(²)	539	804
Retail trade	3	(²)	6	334	(²)	682
Transportation and warehousing	(²)	4	4	(²)	684	5,606
Information	3	4	3	252	557	581
Finance and insurance ³	5	8	6	861	938	700
Real estate and rental and leasing ³	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional and technical services ³	4	(²)	(²)	647	(²)	(²)
Management of companies and enterprises	(²)	-	-	(²)	-	-
Administrative and waste services ³	(²)	3	4	(²)	479	545
Educational services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Health care and social assistance	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)	(²)
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	-	(²)	-	-	(²)	-
Accommodation and food services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other services, except public administration	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)
Unclassified	-	-	-	-	-	-

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

² Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

^r = revised.

Table 8. Reason for layoff: Extended mass layoff events and separations associated with the movement of work, selected quarters, 2007 and 2008

Reason for layoff	Layoff events			Separations		
	IV 2007	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p	IV 2007	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	69	84	110	11,302	14,938	24,236
Business demand	(²)	(²)	33	(²)	(²)	10,710
Contract cancellation	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Contract completion	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)
Domestic competition	-	-	(²)	-	-	(²)
Excess inventory/saturated market	-	-	-	-	-	-
Import competition	7	(²)	9	1,167	(²)	1,417
Slack work/insufficient demand/non-seasonal business slowdown	7	12	20	950	3,130	4,032
Organizational changes	30	47	48	5,110	8,445	8,706
Business-ownership change	5	6	9	1,326	1,628	1,498
Reorganization or restructuring of company	25	41	39	3,784	6,817	7,208
Financial issues	21	19	25	3,600	2,669	4,038
Bankruptcy	-	-	(²)	-	-	(²)
Cost control/cost cutting/increase profitability	(²)	(²)	22	(²)	(²)	2,852
Financial difficulty	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Production specific	-	-	(²)	-	-	(²)
Automation/technological advances	-	-	-	-	-	-
Energy related	-	-	-	-	-	-
Governmental regulations/intervention	-	-	(²)	-	-	(²)
Labor dispute/contract negotiations/strike	-	-	-	-	-	-
Material or supply shortage	-	-	-	-	-	-
Model changeover	-	-	(²)	-	-	(²)
Plant or machine repair/maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Product line discontinued	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disaster/safety	-	-	(²)	-	-	(²)
Hazardous work environment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Natural disaster (not weather related)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-natural disaster	-	-	-	-	-	-
Extreme weather-related event	-	-	(²)	-	-	(²)
Other/miscellaneous	(²)	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-
Other	(²)	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-
Data not provided: refusal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Data not provided: does not know	-	-	-	-	-	-

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

² Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

Table 9. Census region and division: Extended mass layoff events and separations associated with the movement of work, selected quarters, 2007 and 2008

Census region and division	Layoff events			Separations		
	IV 2007	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p	IV 2007	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p
United States ¹	69	84	110	11,302	14,938	24,236
Northeast	11	14	14	1,726	2,306	2,106
New England	3	(²)	4	562	(²)	686
Middle Atlantic	8	(²)	10	1,164	(²)	1,420
South	16	13	22	2,105	2,238	3,848
South Atlantic	8	5	7	903	704	843
East South Central	5	4	10	512	472	1,425
West South Central	3	4	5	690	1,062	1,580
Midwest	30	42	47	5,847	8,162	14,306
East North Central	23	32	33	4,190	6,105	11,564
West North Central	7	10	14	1,657	2,057	2,742
West	12	15	27	1,624	2,232	3,976
Mountain	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Pacific	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

² Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

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, 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 10. Extended mass layoff events and separations, selected measures, selected quarters, 2007 and 2008

Action	Layoff events			Separations		
	IV 2007	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p	IV 2007	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	1,814	1,582	3,140	301,592	290,052	508,859
Total, excluding seasonal and vacation events ²	1,062	1,366	2,332	171,808	246,132	373,359
Total, movement of work ³	69	84	110	11,302	14,938	24,236
Movement of work actions	90	106	150	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)
With separations reported	66	78	111	7,152	9,631	16,061
With separations unknown	24	28	39	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

² The questions on movement of work were not asked of employers when the reason for layoff was either seasonal work or vacation period.

³ Movement of work can involve more than one action.

⁴ Data are not available.

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

Table 11. Movement of work actions by type of separation where number of separations is known by employers, selected quarters, 2007 and 2008

Activities	Actions ¹			Separations		
	IV 2007	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p	IV 2007	III 2008 ^r	IV 2008 ^p
With separations reported ²	66	78	111	7,152	9,631	16,061
By location						
Out-of-country relocations	27	19	33	2,997	2,312	3,775
Within company	26	17	28	2,910	2,135	3,436
Different company	1	2	5	87	177	339
Domestic relocations	39	59	78	4,155	7,319	12,286
Within company	38	50	72	3,975	6,522	6,844
Different company	1	9	6	180	797	5,442
Unable to assign place of relocation	–	–	–	–	–	–
By company						
Within company	64	67	100	6,885	8,657	10,280
Domestic	38	50	72	3,975	6,522	6,844
Out of country	26	17	28	2,910	2,135	3,436
Unable to assign	–	–	–	–	–	–
Different company	2	11	11	267	974	5,781
Domestic	1	9	6	180	797	5,442
Out of country	1	2	5	87	177	339
Unable to assign	–	–	–	–	–	–

¹ Only actions for which separations associated with the movement of work were reported are shown.

² See footnote 1, table 1.

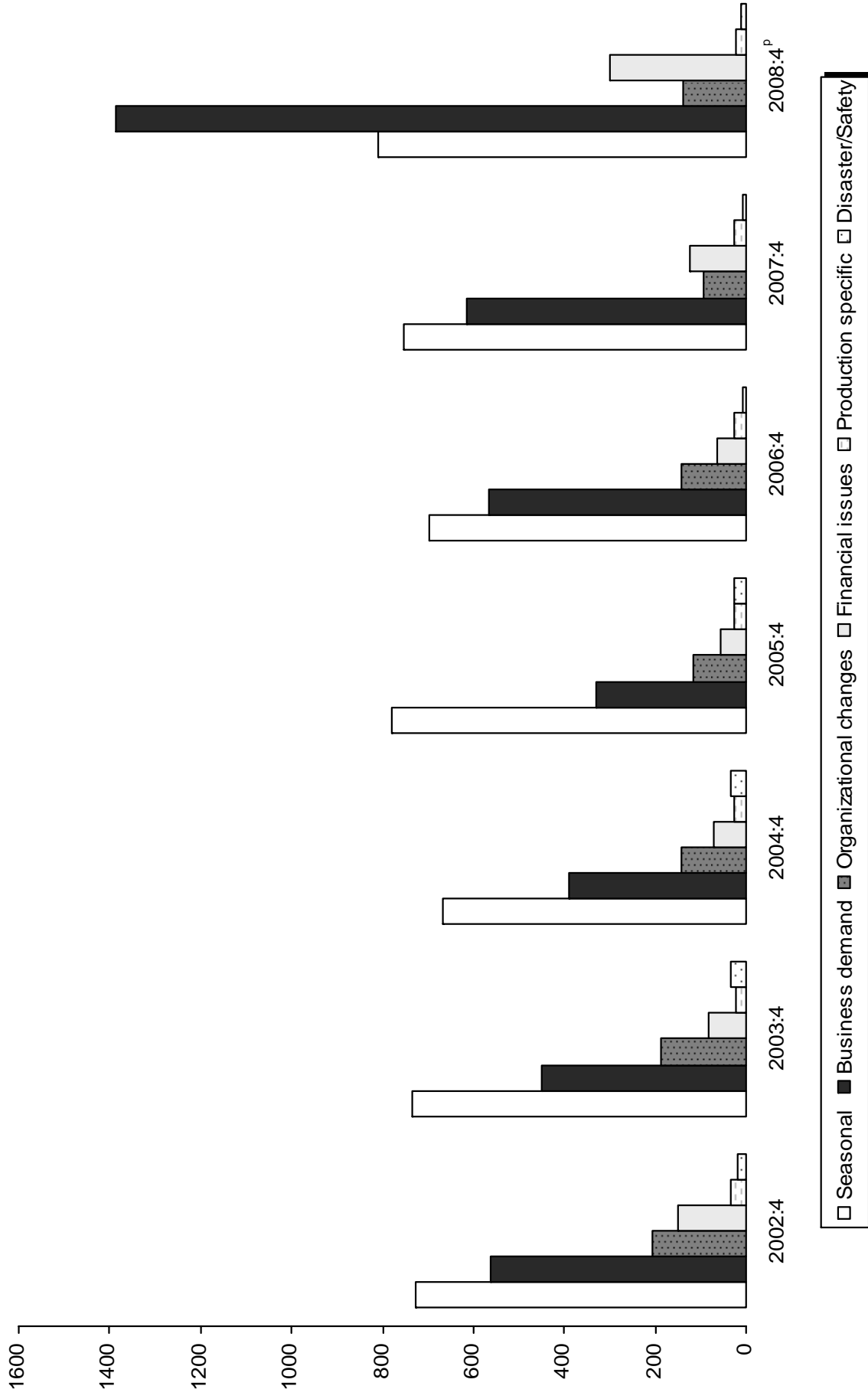
^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

Extended Mass Layoff Events by Reason Categories¹

Fourth quarters, 2002-08



¹ The chart excludes information on layoffs due to other/miscellaneous reasons.

^P = preliminary.