News

MASS LAYOFFS IN FEBRUARY 2009

Employers took 2,769 mass layoff actions in February that resulted in the separation of 295,477 workers, 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 mass layoff events in February increased by 542 from the prior month, while the number of associated initial claims increased by 57,575. Over the year, the number of mass layoff events increased by 1,100, and the associated initial claims increased by 112,439. In February, 1,235 mass layoff events were reported in the manufacturing sector, seasonally adjusted, resulting in 152,618 initial claims. Over the month, mass layoff events in manufacturing increased by 497, and initial claims increased by 50,041. (See table 1.) Layoff events for all industries and for the manufacturing sector rose to their highest levels on record, with data available back to 1995.

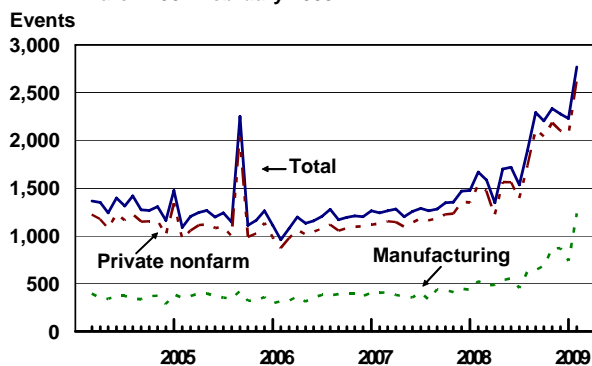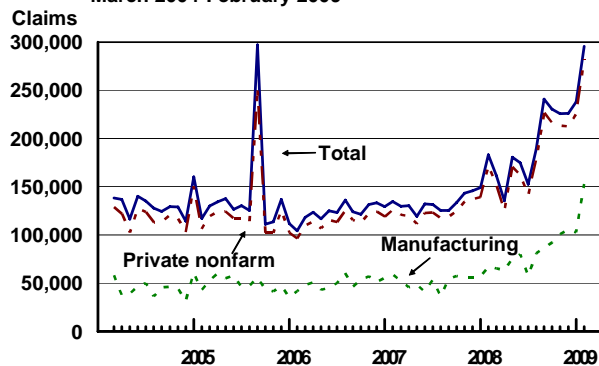Chart 1. Mass layoff events, seasonally adjusted, March 2004-February 2009

Chart 2. Mass layoff initial claims, seasonally adjusted, March 2004-February 2009

During the 15 months from December 2007 through February 2009, the total number of mass layoff events (seasonally adjusted) was 28,481, and the number of initial claims (seasonally adjusted) was 2,927,813. (December 2007 was the start of a recession as designated by the National Bureau of Economic Research.)

The national unemployment rate was 8.1 percent in February 2009, seasonally adjusted, up from 7.6 percent the prior month and from 4.8 percent a year earlier. In February, total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 651,000 over the month and by 4,168,000 from a year earlier.

Table A. Industries with the largest number of mass layoff initial claims in February 2009

Industry	Initial claims	February peak	
		Year	Initial claims
Temporary help services [1]	12,477	2001	18,893
Professional employer organizations [1]	6,452	2009	6,452
Automobile manufacturing	4,491	2001	13,977
Construction machinery manufacturing	4,063	2009	4,063
Motion picture and video production	3,263	2002	5,844
Payroll services	3,154	2000	6,590
School and employee bus transportation	2,888	2008	4,254
Department stores, except discount	2,648	2001	2,994
Food service contractors	2,580	2009	2,580
Semiconductors and related device mfg.	2,472	2009	2,472

[1] See the Technical Note for more information on these industries.

Industry Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

   The number of mass layoff events in February was 2,262 on a not seasonally adjusted basis; the number of associated initial claims was 218,438. (See table 2.) Average weekly layoff events rose from 254 in February 2008 to 566 in February 2009, and average weekly initial claimants increased from 23,902 to 54,610. (Average weekly analysis mitigates the effect of differing lengths of months. See the Technical Note.) This year, both average weekly events and initial claimants reached their highest February levels in program history; data are available back to 1996. Thirteen of the 19 major industry sectors reported program highs in terms of average weekly initial claimants for the month of February— mining; construction; manufacturing; wholesale trade; retail trade; transportation and warehousing; finance and insurance; real estate and rental and leasing; professional and technical services; management of companies and enterprises; educational services; accommodation and food services; and other services, except public administration.

   The manufacturing sector accounted for 42 percent of all mass layoff events and 47 percent of initial claims filed in February 2009; a year earlier, manufacturing made up 28 percent of events and 36 percent of initial claims. This February, the number of manufacturing claimants was greatest in transportation equipment (22,440) and machinery (14,921). (See table 3.) The administrative and waste services industry accounted for 10 percent of mass layoff events and 11 percent of associated initial claims during the month. The six-digit NAICS industry with the largest number of initial claims was temporary help services (12,477). (See table A.)

Geographic Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

   Of the 4 census regions, the West registered the highest number of initial claims in February due to mass layoffs (65,792), followed by the Midwest (64,973), the South (55,542), and the Northeast (32,131). (See table 5.) Average weekly initial claims associated with mass layoffs increased over the year in all 4 regions, with the Midwest (+11,055) and the West (+8,012) experiencing the largest increases. In 2009, the Northeast, Midwest, and South regions reported their highest February levels of average weekly initial claims in program history.

Of the 9 geographic divisions, the Pacific (54,411) had the highest number of initial claims due to mass layoffs in February, followed by the East North Central (52,690) and the Middle Atlantic (24,387). (See table 5.) All divisions experienced over-the-year increases in average weekly initial claims, led by the East North Central (+8,789) and the Pacific (+5,918). This year, 8 of the 9 divisions reached February program highs in terms of average weekly initial claims—New England, Middle Atlantic, East North Central, West North Central, South Atlantic, East South Central, West South Central, and Mountain.

California recorded the highest number of initial claims filed due to mass layoff events in February with 45,557. The states with the next highest number of mass layoff initial claims were Illinois (19,469), Pennsylvania (11,683), and Wisconsin (9,988). (See table 6.) In 2009, 30 states reached program highs in average weekly initial claims for the month of February—Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Forty-eight states and the District of Columbia registered over-the-year increases in average weekly initial claims associated with mass layoffs, led by California (+4,840), Illinois (+3,598), and Wisconsin (+1,878). Louisiana and Mississippi were the only states to experience over-the-year decreases.

Note

The monthly data series in this release cover mass layoffs of 50 or more workers beginning in a given month, regardless of the duration of the layoffs. For private nonfarm establishments, information on the length of the layoff is obtained later and issued in a quarterly release that reports on mass layoffs lasting more than 30 days (referred to as "extended mass layoffs"). The quarterly release provides more information on the industry classification and location of the establishment and on the demographics of the laid-off workers. Because monthly figures include short-term layoffs of 30 days or less, the sum of the figures for the 3 months in a quarter will be higher than the quarterly figure for mass layoffs of more than 30 days. (See table 4.) See the Technical Note for more detailed definitions.

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The report on Mass Layoffs in March 2009 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, April 23.

Technical Note

The Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program is a federal-state 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 could 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 administered by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Industry. Employers are classified according to the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). For temporary help services and for professional employer organizations industries, monthly MLS-related statistics generally reflect layoffs related to underlying client companies in other industries. An individual layoff action at a client company can be small, but when initial claimants associated with many such layoffs are assigned to a temporary help services or professional employer organizations firm, a mass layoff event may be triggered.

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.

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-12-ARIMA 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-12-ARIMA program and are permanently removed from the final seasonally adjusted series.

Table 1. Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, March 2005 to February 2009, seasonally adjusted

Date	Total		Private nonfarm		Manufacturing	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
2005						
March	1,204	129,993	1,056	119,466	368	52,667
April	1,244	134,425	1,111	123,958	396	60,052
May	1,264	137,475	1,121	124,468	397	54,998
June	1,196	126,416	1,082	117,568	367	58,003
July	1,241	130,331	1,094	117,510	354	46,056
August	1,143	125,536	1,000	113,465	342	47,255
September	2,250	296,913	2,035	252,291	420	55,974
October	1,109	111,202	991	102,111	320	43,387
November	1,162	113,502	1,027	102,058	325	41,493
December	1,263	136,751	1,135	125,700	358	46,940
2006						
January	1,112	111,601	986	102,359	293	35,390
February	960	104,045	872	96,317	317	41,810
March	1,078	118,270	976	109,842	320	48,026
April	1,198	123,674	1,062	113,849	366	50,747
May	1,132	116,808	1,013	106,743	312	42,958
June	1,156	124,955	1,044	115,491	356	45,280
July	1,204	123,172	1,077	113,324	381	50,109
August	1,278	136,289	1,117	125,064	376	60,524
September	1,167	124,083	1,054	115,451	390	46,470
October	1,195	121,439	1,081	112,777	401	53,597
November	1,209	131,459	1,096	122,136	402	57,084
December	1,201	133,311	1,100	124,019	369	51,113
2007						
January	1,261	129,190	1,116	118,890	406	55,341
February	1,240	134,524	1,130	126,105	404	58,861
March	1,261	129,480	1,151	120,923	407	52,356
April	1,281	130,263	1,145	119,683	381	45,654
May	1,200	119,259	1,097	111,585	368	48,682
June	1,256	132,078	1,138	122,726	356	41,135
July	1,288	131,556	1,182	123,322	405	53,318
August	1,262	125,334	1,162	117,557	331	36,577
September	1,279	125,527	1,183	118,917	440	54,006
October	1,346	133,514	1,224	124,666	436	57,527
November	1,352	143,419	1,233	134,445	408	56,330
December	1,469	145,916	1,354	136,914	447	56,152
2008						
January	1,476	149,068	1,350	139,076	435	56,579
February	1,669	183,038	1,532	172,013	526	67,235
March	1,585	161,497	1,471	151,550	483	65,252
April	1,344	135,352	1,215	125,074	487	63,247
May	1,701	180,558	1,563	170,538	538	75,520
June	1,717	174,748	1,561	162,071	555	79,744
July	1,535	152,499	1,390	141,239	455	57,648
August	1,887	188,951	1,735	178,479	626	80,913
September	2,290	240,721	2,114	226,492	643	86,617
October	2,204	230,330	2,042	216,095	687	92,256
November	2,333	225,639	2,185	213,288	868	100,643
December	2,275	226,117	2,100	212,559	871	105,402
2009						
January	2,227	237,902	2,070	225,490	738	102,577
February	2,769	295,477	2,628	281,500	1,235	152,618

Table 2. Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, March 2005 to February 2009, not seasonally adjusted

Date	Total		Private nonfarm		Manufacturing	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
2005						
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
2006						
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
2007						
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
October	2,125	221,784	1,917	205,553	689	100,457
November	2,574	241,589	2,389	226,657	997	107,620
December	3,377	351,305	3,232	340,220	1,378	172,529
2009						
January	3,806	388,813	3,633	375,293	1,461	172,757
February	2,262	218,438	2,173	210,755	945	103,588

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

Industry	Mass layoff events				Initial claimants for unemployment insurance			
	February 2008	December 2008	January 2009	February 2009	February 2008	December 2008	January 2009	February 2009
Seasonally adjusted								
Total	1,669	2,275	2,227	2,769	183,038	226,117	237,902	295,477
Total, private nonfarm	1,532	2,100	2,070	2,628	172,013	212,559	225,490	281,500
Manufacturing	526	871	738	1,235	67,235	105,402	102,577	152,618
Not seasonally adjusted								
Total [1]	1,269	3,377	3,806	2,262	119,508	351,305	388,813	218,438
Total, private	1,232	3,278	3,709	2,215	116,852	343,963	380,158	213,548
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	54	46	76	42	3,265	3,743	4,865	2,793
Total, private nonfarm	1,178	3,232	3,633	2,173	113,587	340,220	375,293	210,755
Mining	5	43	50	35	335	4,191	4,538	3,379
Utilities	([2])	6	([2])	([2])	([2])	355	([2])	([2])
Construction	193	544	388	199	13,335	40,579	27,762	14,040
Manufacturing	361	1,378	1,461	945	42,527	172,529	172,757	103,588
Food	46	77	84	57	3,916	7,797	8,083	5,379
Beverage and tobacco products	9	12	6	8	795	1,222	511	606
Textile mills	10	44	35	19	1,373	4,725	4,322	1,833
Textile product mills	5	7	19	8	615	672	2,811	769
Apparel	([2])	22	33	16	([2])	2,479	3,189	1,545
Leather and allied products	–	4	6	([2])	–	800	504	([2])
Wood products	50	86	104	57	5,576	8,465	9,870	5,348
Paper	7	34	38	34	711	4,384	3,977	3,129
Printing and related support activities	11	20	38	21	714	1,904	4,187	1,758
Petroleum and coal products	([2])	12	8	([2])	([2])	1,124	515	([2])
Chemicals	6	23	26	20	368	2,046	1,883	1,806
Plastics and rubber products	15	136	110	48	1,081	14,215	11,156	4,878
Nonmetallic mineral products	25	89	56	40	1,836	9,104	4,441	2,788
Primary metals	13	83	98	59	1,480	8,558	9,660	6,523
Fabricated metal products	17	145	151	99	1,155	12,576	13,746	8,735
Machinery	15	75	121	106	1,129	7,531	14,120	14,921
Computer and electronic products	15	53	76	78	1,204	5,245	6,747	7,439
Electrical equipment and appliances	17	51	53	35	5,327	9,049	5,807	5,399
Transportation equipment	66	352	316	171	12,189	64,336	57,173	22,440
Furniture and related products	18	37	48	44	2,043	4,764	6,928	6,333
Miscellaneous manufacturing	10	16	35	20	638	1,533	3,127	1,607
Wholesale trade	17	60	86	62	1,248	5,374	7,612	4,243
Retail trade	123	142	329	193	11,662	12,104	33,622	17,538
Transportation and warehousing	53	196	236	80	7,318	22,751	25,081	7,864
Information	28	71	69	72	4,229	9,138	9,405	8,476
Finance and insurance	46	40	88	74	3,397	2,998	7,683	5,685
Real estate and rental and leasing	5	16	26	17	261	1,382	1,870	1,083
Professional and technical services	34	76	87	82	2,756	6,280	7,032	7,895
Management of companies and enterprises ...	3	17	([2])	14	181	2,433	([2])	990
Administrative and waste services	197	348	473	235	17,799	31,069	46,646	23,566
Educational services	5	11	14	([2])	374	634	1,952	([2])
Health care and social assistance	19	36	41	33	1,407	2,626	4,279	2,032
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	6	23	49	10	330	1,503	4,421	655
Accommodation and food services	78	199	197	95	6,121	22,312	17,360	8,080
Other services, except public administration ...	([2])	24	25	18	([2])	1,821	2,155	1,083
Unclassified	–	2	1	–	–	141	49	–
Government	37	99	97	47	2,656	7,342	8,655	4,890
Federal	3	10	13	7	249	1,011	1,302	533
State	11	19	25	17	819	1,296	2,155	1,804
Local	23	70	59	23	1,588	5,035	5,198	2,553

[1] Data were reported by all states and the District of Columbia.

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

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

Table 4. Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, January 2007 to February 2009, 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
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	347,151	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	259,084	35.9	70.4
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	1,756	339,184	44.7	82.1
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	1,582	300,337	37.4	68.0
October	2,125	221,784	1,917	205,553				
November	2,574	241,589	2,389	226,657				
December	3,377	351,305	3,232	340,220				
Fourth Quarter	8,076	814,678	7,538	772,430	[2,p] 3,140	[2,p] 463,715	[p] 41.7	[p] 60.0
2009								
January	3,806	388,813	3,633	375,293				
February	2,262	218,438	2,173	210,755				

[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 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.

[r] = revised.

[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			
	February 2008	December 2008	January 2009	February 2009	February 2008	December 2008	January 2009	February 2009
United States [1]	1,269	3,377	3,806	2,262	119,508	351,305	388,813	218,438
Northeast	212	491	787	348	21,554	44,901	77,142	32,131
New England	35	70	97	78	3,999	7,024	8,414	7,744
Middle Atlantic	177	421	690	270	17,555	37,877	68,728	24,387
South	305	815	1,052	624	29,835	94,307	115,630	55,542
South Atlantic	176	362	574	295	13,912	33,456	58,892	23,842
East South Central	64	296	279	172	8,907	42,388	32,215	17,840
West South Central	65	157	199	157	7,016	18,463	24,523	13,860
Midwest	232	1,278	1,024	561	25,941	146,155	114,195	64,973
East North Central	184	961	821	434	21,916	108,017	93,852	52,690
West North Central	48	317	203	127	4,025	38,138	20,343	12,283
West	520	793	943	729	42,178	65,942	81,846	65,792
Mountain	47	139	149	128	3,754	12,780	12,657	11,381
Pacific	473	654	794	601	38,424	53,162	69,189	54,411

[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, 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			
	February 2008	December 2008	January 2009	February 2009	February 2008	December 2008	January 2009	February 2009
Total [1]	1,269	3,377	3,806	2,262	119,508	351,305	388,813	218,438
Alabama	17	88	100	33	2,549	14,160	10,588	4,690
Alaska	–	([2])	10	7	–	([2])	788	557
Arizona	([2])	13	24	23	([2])	1,213	1,941	2,185
Arkansas	3	25	13	6	364	2,517	1,462	1,156
California	416	546	651	515	32,747	43,265	54,153	45,557
Colorado	4	24	24	15	326	2,023	1,814	1,237
Connecticut	([2])	10	14	12	([2])	799	1,349	824
Delaware	([2])	8	5	4	([2])	817	1,052	484
District of Columbia	([2])	([2])	([2])	([2])	([2])	([2])	([2])	([2])
Florida	102	104	235	155	6,572	6,931	19,301	9,779
Georgia	26	83	137	45	2,428	8,508	16,654	3,830
Hawaii	9	15	14	15	786	1,650	998	1,211
Idaho	7	25	21	10	497	2,347	1,746	591
Illinois	52	202	130	115	6,344	25,885	13,443	19,469
Indiana	24	156	117	59	3,709	16,762	10,734	6,776
Iowa	16	82	64	33	1,885	10,005	7,353	4,374
Kansas	3	38	21	18	192	7,949	2,447	1,582
Kentucky	24	131	80	78	4,219	21,570	12,492	8,794
Louisiana	13	17	29	19	2,640	2,430	3,396	1,498
Maine	4	7	18	4	245	530	1,618	348
Maryland	5	15	31	11	377	1,002	2,535	800
Massachusetts	9	38	33	32	698	4,289	2,782	2,873
Michigan	32	248	229	79	4,379	24,508	26,453	7,392
Minnesota	5	67	41	24	361	7,374	3,289	1,777
Mississippi	10	27	25	8	897	2,399	2,353	458
Missouri	19	107	62	38	1,127	10,625	5,239	3,538
Montana	([2])	8	14	11	([2])	630	1,491	753
Nebraska	5	12	5	7	460	1,334	1,070	500
Nevada	23	41	33	43	1,909	4,303	2,805	3,881
New Hampshire	3	4	7	9	351	255	465	1,020
New Jersey	35	80	90	47	3,439	6,910	7,179	3,777
New Mexico	([2])	16	13	13	([2])	1,170	822	1,868
New York	42	111	279	82	5,912	10,511	31,893	8,927
North Carolina	21	33	41	34	2,121	3,314	4,149	3,833
North Dakota	–	8	([2])	3	–	666	([2])	207
Ohio	42	224	199	91	4,387	27,836	27,971	9,065
Oklahoma	([2])	20	21	19	([2])	3,210	2,772	1,437
Oregon	29	51	76	43	3,125	4,413	9,005	5,321
Pennsylvania	100	230	321	141	8,204	20,456	29,656	11,683
Rhode Island	9	7	17	9	1,448	820	1,526	1,291
South Carolina	10	84	102	33	1,354	9,381	10,703	3,471
South Dakota	–	3	6	4	–	185	530	305
Tennessee	13	50	74	53	1,242	4,259	6,782	3,898
Texas	47	95	136	113	3,870	10,306	16,893	9,769
Utah	7	12	19	11	525	1,094	1,978	753
Vermont	8	4	8	12	1,084	331	674	1,388
Virginia	8	27	15	8	742	2,782	3,313	786
Washington	19	40	43	21	1,766	3,663	4,245	1,765
West Virginia	([2])	6	7	3	([2])	416	1,127	681
Wisconsin	34	131	146	90	3,097	13,026	15,251	9,988
Wyoming	([2])	–	([2])	([2])	([2])	–	([2])	([2])
Puerto Rico	23	16	29	28	2,113	1,285	2,992	2,282

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

NOTE: Dash represents zero.