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## **EXTENDED MASS LAYOFFS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2003 AND ANNUAL AVERAGES FOR 2003**

In the fourth quarter of 2003, 1,956 mass layoff actions were taken by employers that resulted in the separation of 359,085 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. Both the total number of layoff events and the number of separations were sharply lower than in October-December 2002 and were the lowest for a fourth quarter since 1999. (See table A.) The decline over the year was most notable in general merchandise stores, computer and electronic product manufacturing, and machinery manufacturing. In the fourth quarter of 2003 the national unemployment rate was 5.5 percent, not seasonally adjusted; a year earlier it was 5.6 percent. Nonfarm payroll employment, not seasonally adjusted, declined by 0.2 percent, or 211,000 jobs, between October-December 2002 and October-December 2003.

The completion of seasonal work accounted for 50 percent of all events and 198,054 separations during the period—the lowest level for a fourth quarter since 1999. Layoffs due to internal company restructuring represented 14 percent of events and resulted in 49,091 separations, both lower than a year earlier. Permanent closure of worksites occurred in 10 percent of all events and affected 31,711 workers, the lowest level for any fourth quarter. Forty percent of the employers anticipating a recall expected to extend the offer to all laid-off workers, the highest proportion for a fourth quarter since 2000.

For all of 2003, the total of extended mass layoff events was 7,245 and the total number of worker separations was 1,452,427. These annual totals were lower than in 2002, (7,295 and 1,546,976, respectively). Since their peak in 2001, the annual number of extended layoff events has fallen by 1,104, or 13 percent, and the number of separations has declined by 298,941, or 17 percent. Additional information on the annual data is available starting on page 7 of this release.

### Industry Distribution of Extended Layoffs

Extended mass layoff separations occurred in 420 of the 1,197 detailed industries for which data are available. Manufacturing industries accounted for 26 percent of private-sector layoff events and 24 percent of separations during October-December 2003. The 83,438 worker separations in manufacturing were the lowest for any fourth quarter since the mass layoff series began in 1995. Layoff activity in this sector was concentrated in food manufacturing (26,167, largely in the highly seasonal fruit and vegetable canning industry), followed by nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing (7,429), transportation equipment manufacturing (5,959), and computer and electronic product manufacturing (5,667). (See table 1.)

**Table A. Selected measures of extended mass layoff activity**

Period	Layoff events	Separations	Initial claimants
1999			
January-March .....	1,509	277,780	252,122
April-June .....	1,444	294,968	242,464
July-September .....	1,097	241,725	189,973
October-December ....	1,625	334,794	287,685
2000			
January-March .....	1,330	254,646	221,368
April-June .....	1,271	258,608	231,471
July-September .....	1,014	230,103	189,250
October-December ....	2,005	427,070	376,611
2001			
January-March .....	1,765	342,954	340,210
April-June .....	2,072	481,886	401,269
July-September .....	1,815	384,403	371,541
October-December ....	2,697	542,125	502,502
2002			
January-March .....	1,750	334,017	316,489
April-June .....	1,905	432,869	353,017
July-September .....	1,383	310,351	284,629
October-December <sup>r</sup> ...	2,257	469,739	421,646
2003			
January-March <sup>r</sup> .....	1,700	334,605	334,117
April-June <sup>r</sup> .....	2,131	457,836	418,702
July-September <sup>r</sup> .....	1,458	300,901	269,323
October-December <sup>p</sup> ...	1,956	359,085	272,807

p=preliminary.

r=revised.

Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting accounted for 16 percent of private-sector layoff events and 21 percent of separations, with nearly all layoff activity concentrated in agriculture and forestry support activities. Layoffs in construction comprised 24 percent of events and 18 percent of separations, mostly in highway, street, and bridge construction. Cutbacks in administrative and waste services accounted for 10 percent of events and 9 percent of separations, mainly in temporary help services. The retail trade sector accounted for an additional 4 percent of events and 7 percent of separations during the quarter, primarily in supermarkets and other grocery stores.

Layoffs in government establishments accounted for 3 percent of all events and separations, mostly in executive, legislative and general government and in the administration of environmental programs.

#### Reasons for Extended Layoff

Layoffs due to the completion of seasonal work accounted for 50 percent of the extended layoff events and resulted in 198,054 separations in the fourth quarter. (See table 2.) Seasonal layoffs typically peak in the fourth quarter. However, 2003 recorded the lowest level of seasonal separations for a fourth quarter

**Table B. Summary of employer expectations of a recall from extended layoff, fourth quarter 2002-fourth quarter 2003**

Nature of the recall	Percentage of events				
	IV 2002	I 2003	II 2003	III 2003 <sup>r</sup>	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>
Anticipate a recall ....	55.8	38.4	46.6	37.5	62.2
<b>Timeframe</b>					
Within 6 months .....	78.8	74.5	85.6	84.1	84.3
Within 3 months.....	32.6	45.6	55.7	53.7	35.6
<b>Size</b>					
At least half.....	86.7	80.1	86.9	84.5	90.7
All workers.....	37.3	29.4	46.5	40.0	39.8

p=preliminary.

r=revised.

since 1999. Seasonal layoffs were most numerous among workers in agriculture and forestry support activities (largely among farm labor contractors and crew leaders), heavy and civil engineering construction (mainly in highway, street, and bridge construction), crop production (mostly in vegetable and melon farming and in strawberry farming), and in food processing.

Internal company restructuring (bankruptcy, business ownership change, financial difficulty, and reorganization) accounted for 14 percent of layoff events and resulted in 49,091 separations. These layoffs were mostly among workers in telecommunications, in administrative and support services, in credit intermediation and related activities, and in computer and electronic product manufacturing. In the fourth quarter of 2002, layoff events for these reasons represented 17 percent of events and involved 82,973 workers.

Contract completion accounted for 10 percent of events and resulted in 31,326 separations during the fourth quarter. These layoffs were primarily in administrative and support services and in specialty trade contractors.

#### Recall Expectations

Sixty-two percent of employers reporting an extended layoff in the fourth quarter of 2003 indicated they anticipated some type of recall. This compares with 56 percent of the employers anticipating a recall a year earlier. (See table B.) Most of the employers not expecting a recall were in administrative and support services, transportation equipment manufacturing, and computer and electronic product manufacturing.

Among establishments expecting a recall, most employers expected to recall over one-half of the separated employees and to do so within 6 months. Forty percent of the employers expected to extend the offer to all laid-off workers, the highest proportion for a fourth quarter since 2000.

**Table C. Distribution of extended layoff events by size of layoff, October-December 2003<sup>P</sup>**

Size	Layoff events		Separations	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	1,956	100.0	359,085	100.0
50-99.....	738	37.7	52,354	14.6
100-149.....	453	23.2	53,415	14.9
150-199.....	236	12.1	39,517	11.0
200-299.....	244	12.5	57,592	16.0
300-499.....	175	8.9	64,834	18.1
500-999.....	86	4.4	53,458	14.9
1,000 or more...	24	1.2	37,915	10.6

p=preliminary.

Excluding layoff events due to seasonal work and vacation period (in which 96 percent of the employers expected a recall), employers expected to recall laid-off workers in 28 percent of the events, slightly higher than a year earlier when 25 percent of employers expected a recall. In layoff events due to internal company restructuring, employers anticipated a recall in only 7 percent of the events.

#### Size of Extended Layoff

Layoff events during the fourth quarter continued to be concentrated at the lower end of the extended layoff-size spectrum, with 61 percent involving fewer than 150 workers. These events, however, accounted for only 29 percent of all separations. (See table C.) Separations involving 500 or more workers accounted for 25 percent of all separations, down from 31 percent a year earlier. The average size of layoffs (as measured by separations per layoff event) differed widely by industry, ranging from a low of 82 separations in nursing and residential care facilities to a high of 726 in food and beverage stores.

#### Initial Claimant Characteristics

A total of 272,807 initial claimants for unemployment insurance were associated with extended mass layoffs in the fourth quarter of 2003. Of these claimants, 10 percent were black, 26 percent were Hispanic, 35 percent were women, and 14 percent were 55 years of age or older. (See table 3.) Thirty-nine percent of claimants were 30 to 44 years of age. Among the civilian labor force for the same period, 11 percent were black, 13 percent were Hispanic, 47 percent were women, and 15 percent were 55 years of age or older. Thirty-seven percent of the civilian labor force were ages 30 to 44.

#### Geographic Distribution

In the fourth quarter, the number of separations due to extended mass layoff events was highest in the West (158,816), followed by the Midwest (116,116), the South (43,368), and the Northeast (40,785). (See table 4.) Extended mass layoffs in the West were mainly in agriculture and forestry support activities, crop production, and food processing.

All four regions reported over-the-year decreases in separations, with the largest decrease occurring in the Northeast (-45,497). Each of the nine geographic divisions reported over-the-year declines in laid-off

**Table D. Mass layoff events and separations, selected metropolitan areas**

Metropolitan area	Events		Separations	
	IV 2002	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>	IV 2002	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>
Total, nonmetropolitan areas .....	338	262	57,936	43,640
Total, 331 metropolitan areas .....	1,380	1,084	270,024	201,823
Fresno, Calif. ....	67	61	22,179	20,713
Chicago, Ill. ....	120	95	22,970	18,363
Salinas, Calif. ....	49	54	15,958	17,584
Los Angeles-Long Beach, Calif. ....	35	28	7,902	9,612
Bakersfield, Calif. ....	35	31	11,831	6,330
Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.-Wis. ....	44	42	6,080	5,503
Detroit, Mich. ....	25	39	2,036	4,853
New York, N.Y. ....	38	26	7,847	4,481
Stockton-Lodi, Calif. ....	20	23	3,443	4,470
Visalia-Tulare-Porterville, Calif. ....	25	26	5,158	4,304

p=preliminary.

workers, with the largest declines in the Middle Atlantic (-29,972), New England (-15,525), and East North Central (-12,813) divisions.

Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, the largest number of worker separations occurred in California (125,775), followed by Illinois (39,238). These two states accounted for 37 percent of total layoff events and 46 percent of the separations during the fourth quarter of 2003. They were followed by Ohio (16,414), Florida (15,309), and Washington (14,471). (See table 5.) After excluding the substantial impact of seasonal work, California still reported the most laid-off workers (46,119), largely due to layoffs in food and beverage stores, administrative and support services, and agriculture and forestry support activities.

Over the year, New York reported the greatest decrease in laid-off workers (-20,698), followed by Massachusetts (-10,304) and Wisconsin (-9,298). The largest increase occurred in Michigan (+7,059).

Fifty-five percent of events and 56 percent of separations occurred in metropolitan areas in the fourth quarter of 2003, a decrease from 61 percent of events and 57 percent of separations during the fourth quarter of 2002. Among the 331 metropolitan areas, Fresno, Calif., reported the highest number of separations, 20,713, mainly in agriculture and forestry support activities. Next was Chicago, Ill., with 18,363 separations, largely in administrative and support services, specialty trade contractors, and heavy and civil engineering construction. Six of the 10 areas reporting the largest number of extended mass layoffs in the fourth quarter were in California. (See table D.) Employers located in nonmetropolitan areas separated 43,640 workers in mass layoffs, down from 57,936 workers in the fourth quarter of 2002.

#### Relative Impacts of Mass Layoffs

The index of mass layoff activity describes a geographic area's share of national mass layoffs relative to its share of national employment in establishments with at least 50 workers. This allows for geographic

**Table E. Index of mass layoff activity, fourth quarter 2002-fourth quarter 2003**

Region	Fourth quarter 2002	Fourth quarter 2003 <sup>p</sup>	Over-the-year change
Northeast .....	97.2	59.7	-37.5
South .....	45.0	35.5	-9.5
Midwest .....	114.7	125.7	11.0
West .....	174.2	211.1	36.9

p=preliminary.

comparisons that account for differences in each area's share of employment. (See note and table 6.) A separate index is calculated that excludes the impact of seasonal work and vacation periods from the separations data. (See table 7.)

Among the four regions, the West, with an index of 211.1 in the fourth quarter, recorded the highest concentration of mass layoffs relative to the region's employment followed by the Midwest, 125.7. (See table E.) The Northeast, 59.7, and the South, 35.5, reported indexes well below 100.0, indicating the relative infrequency of layoffs in those regions.

Over the year, the indexes for the Northeast and South regions recorded declines of 37.5 and 9.5 points, respectively, while those for the West and Midwest posted increases of 36.9 and 11.0 points, respectively.

Among the nine geographic divisions, the Pacific posted the highest index for the fourth quarter, 275.1, primarily due to layoff activity in agriculture and forestry support activities, crop production, and food processing. The next highest indexes were reported in the East North Central, 135.8, and West North Central, 100.4. The East South Central division had the lowest index, 16.2, followed by the West South Central, 23.1, and the South Atlantic divisions, 48.2.

Among the 47 states and the District of Columbia that reported private-sector extended mass layoffs during the fourth quarter of 2003, 34 states and the District of Columbia reported indexes below 100.0, indicating a relatively small share of layoffs. (See table 6.) Of the 13 States with indexes above 100.0, California had the highest index of 308.1—due to the high concentrations of layoff activity in agriculture and forestry support activities, crop production, and in food and beverage stores. (See chart 1.) Relative concentrations of layoffs also were high in Montana (238.7), Washington (220.0), and Illinois (213.8). Maryland, at 1.9, had the lowest relative concentration of mass layoffs followed by Tennessee (7.4), New Mexico (10.0), and Arizona (10.3).

After the exclusion of layoffs due to seasonal work and vacation, the Pacific division recorded the highest index, 207.8. This reflected a concentration of layoffs in food and beverage stores, administrative and support services, and in agriculture and forestry support activities. (See chart 2.)

At the state level, California reported the highest index, excluding seasonal and vacation period events, (244.4) for fourth quarter 2003, followed by Illinois (243.6) and Florida (166.7). The lowest indexes occurred in Maryland (4.3), Utah (6.7), the District of Columbia (8.4), and Tennessee (16.7). (See table 7 and chart 2.)

**Table F. Selected measures of mass layoff activity, 1996-2003**

Period	Layoff events	Separations	Initial claimants
1996 .....	5,697	1,184,355	957,745
1997 .....	5,683	1,146,115	1,041,907
1998 .....	5,851	1,227,573	1,232,384
1999 .....	5,675	1,149,267	972,244
2000 .....	5,620	1,170,427	1,018,700
2001 <sup>r</sup> .....	8,349	1,751,368	1,615,522
2002 <sup>r</sup> .....	7,295	1,546,976	1,375,781
2003 <sup>p</sup> .....	7,245	1,452,427	1,294,949

p=preliminary.

r=revised.

Review of 2003

For all of 2003, employers reported 7,245 extended mass layoff actions, affecting 1,452,427 workers. These totals were down from 7,295 events and 1,546,976 separations in 2002. Compared to their peak levels in 2001, the number of events was down by 13 percent and the number of separations was down by 17 percent. (See table F.) The annual average national unemployment rate increased from 5.8 percent in 2002 to 6.0 percent in 2003, while nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 0.3 percent, or 409,000 jobs.

Thirteen percent of extended events in 2003 were permanent closures, accounting for 210,884 worker separations. When compared to 2002, the number of permanent closures declined by 22 percent, resulting in 92,787 fewer separations. Since 2001, when permanent closures were at their highest, the number of closures was down by 26 percent and the number of associated separations was down by 44 percent. During 2003, permanent closures were most numerous in the manufacturing sector, primarily in computer and electronic products. Import competition was most often cited as the reason for closures in manufacturing during 2003, accounting for 19 percent of the total.

In 2003, employers expected a recall in only 47 percent of the mass layoff actions, about the same as a year earlier. In 5 of the past 8 years, a recall had been expected in about 60 percent of all layoff events. Employers in agriculture (81 percent), in construction (72 percent), in arts, entertainment, and recreation (70 percent) and in mining (70 percent), were more likely to have some type of recall than were those in other industries. Employers in the finance and insurance sector had the lowest percentage of recall expectation (3 percent), followed by those in information (10 percent). Manufacturing industries accounted for 37 percent of events and 35 percent of separations for which the employer did not expect to have a recall. These occurred primarily in computer and electronic products, transportation equipment, and primary metals.

In the private sector, manufacturing had the largest share of extended events and separations in 2003. Manufacturing accounted for 31 percent of all mass layoff events and 27 percent of all separations, the smallest shares on record. Since reaching a peak in 2001, the number of manufacturing events has declined by 37 percent and the number of separations declined by 41 percent. In 2003, within manufacturing, separations were most numerous in food manufacturing (76,071, largely in fruit and vegetable processing), transportation equipment (50,744 mostly in aircraft manufacturing) and computer and electronic products (42,155, mainly in semiconductors and related devices). Compared to 2002, 17 of the 21 manufacturing subgroups had declines in the number of separations with the largest occurring in computer and electronic products (-39,295) and apparel (-11,815). Textile mills had the largest increase (+3,048).

In 2003, seasonal work continued to be the most cited reason for layoff, accounting for 32 percent of all layoff events and 36 percent of all separations, unchanged from 2002. The layoffs in 2003 occurred primarily in establishments engaged in agriculture and forestry support activities, crop production, and food manufacturing.

Layoff activity due to internal company restructuring occurred largely among general merchandise stores, air transportation, and computer and electronic products. Employers cited this reason in 1,417 events (20 percent of the total), resulting in the separation of 304,546 workers (21 percent of the total).

Overseas relocation resulted in 13,013 workers being separated from their jobs in extended mass layoffs in 2003. Nearly all separations caused by out-of-country moves were from the manufacturing sector. Employers cited Mexico as the destination for relocation in 43 percent of these events.

The West reported more laid-off workers in 2003 than any other region, 564,248. Layoffs in the West were mainly in food production (agriculture and forestry support activities, crop production, and food manufacturing) and were primarily attributed to seasonal factors. The Northeast region continued to report the lowest annual number of separations (232,838). Compared to 2002, each of the four geographic regions reported a decrease in laid-off workers, the first time that all four regions had an over-the-year decrease. The largest decline occurred in the South (-47,424).

Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, California continued to report the largest number of separated workers in 2003 (428,067). After California were Illinois (132,251), Florida (105,928), and New York (90,116). These four states accounted for 46 percent of events and 52 percent of separations for the year. Total separations reported by California, Florida, and New York for 2003 were each the highest in the program's history. Arizona (-26,314) had the largest over-the-year decline in the number of separations; California recorded the largest over-the-year increase (+70,520).

#### 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 establishment filing initial claims for unemployment insurance during a consecutive 5-week period. Approximately 30 days after a mass layoff is triggered at an establishment, 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.

The index of mass layoff activity is calculated as the area's share, or ratio, of the total number of private sector separations in the U.S. divided by the same area's share of U.S. total private sector employment in establishments that employ at least 50 workers. It facilitates relative area-to-area comparisons by discounting the absolute size of the area. An index at or near 100.0 indicates the area's share of mass layoffs is in line with its share of employment. An index below 100.0 indicates the area has relatively few layoffs, and, conversely, an index over 100.0 indicates an area with a relatively high level of layoffs.

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

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The report on Mass Layoffs in January 2004 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 25, 2004.



NOTE: The fourth quarter of 2003 marks the final release of extended mass layoff data for the total economy. Due to budget constraints in the Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program, beginning with data for the first quarter of 2004, the scope of quarterly extended mass layoffs and plant closings has been redefined to cover only the private nonfarm economy. Quarterly information on layoff events in agriculture and government will no longer be collected. However, the monthly reporting of the MLS program, which is based only on administrative data, will be unaffected and will continue to cover the total economy.

# Technical Note

The Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program is a federal-state program which 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. Establishments 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. Establishments are identified according to industry classification and location, and unemployment insurance claimants are identified by such demographic factors as age, race, sex, 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.

The MLS program was resumed in April 1995; it had been terminated in November 1992 due to lack of funding. However, due to changes in concepts and definitions, data from the resumed program are not comparable to earlier data.

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

*Establishment.* A unit at a single physical location at which predominantly one type of economic activity is conducted.

*Extended layoff event.* Fifty or more initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits from an establishment 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 establishment beginning in a given month, regardless of duration.

*Worksite closure.* The full closure of either multi-unit or single-unit establishments or the partial closure of a multi-unit establishment where entire worksites affected by layoffs are closed or planned to be closed.

**Table 1. Industry distribution: Extended mass layoff events, separations, and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, selected quarters, 2002 and 2003**

Industry	Layoff events			Separations			Initial claimants for unemployment insurance		
	IV 2002 <sup>f</sup>	III 2003 <sup>f</sup>	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>	IV 2002 <sup>f</sup>	III 2003 <sup>f</sup>	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>	IV 2002 <sup>f</sup>	III 2003 <sup>f</sup>	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>
Total <sup>1</sup> .....	2,257	1,458	1,956	469,739	300,901	359,085	421,646	269,323	272,807
Total, private .....	2,201	1,327	1,902	450,793	272,834	348,985	409,869	245,468	265,098
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting .....	285	137	310	77,486	37,394	72,338	39,277	19,859	36,084
Mining .....	24	4	19	3,055	626	2,256	2,961	392	2,006
Utilities .....	6	( <sup>2</sup> )	5	1,454	( <sup>2</sup> )	841	895	( <sup>2</sup> )	705
Construction .....	462	106	452	68,133	13,898	63,382	72,730	17,394	55,554
Manufacturing .....	735	456	503	142,565	86,128	83,438	151,215	84,691	74,829
Food .....	124	59	117	31,729	19,251	26,167	25,422	12,974	18,345
Beverage and tobacco products .....	5	( <sup>2</sup> )	15	965	( <sup>2</sup> )	2,133	859	( <sup>2</sup> )	1,871
Textile mills .....	24	20	18	4,121	7,294	2,790	5,124	7,369	2,219
Textile product mills .....	11	6	8	3,479	1,260	921	3,650	914	877
Apparel .....	32	28	25	5,395	4,466	3,444	5,026	4,026	2,430
Leather and allied products .....	8	( <sup>2</sup> )	3	860	( <sup>2</sup> )	423	1,006	( <sup>2</sup> )	242
Wood products .....	38	17	22	5,763	1,656	2,159	5,964	1,967	2,254
Paper .....	19	12	9	3,133	1,798	952	2,708	1,202	766
Printing and related support activities .....	8	9	10	1,439	1,023	1,641	1,103	900	1,551
Petroleum and coal products .....	18	( <sup>2</sup> )	14	2,942	( <sup>2</sup> )	2,280	3,151	( <sup>2</sup> )	1,942
Chemicals .....	12	13	9	1,802	1,451	1,300	1,470	1,560	1,038
Plastics and rubber products .....	20	18	21	2,858	2,177	2,214	3,147	2,398	2,147
Nonmetallic mineral products .....	43	11	51	7,437	1,454	7,429	6,523	1,603	6,200
Primary metals .....	38	32	21	7,048	5,416	3,718	8,873	5,571	4,116
Fabricated metal products .....	35	29	30	5,215	4,213	3,561	5,139	3,972	3,151
Machinery .....	55	30	21	12,163	6,020	3,700	12,190	6,234	4,540
Computer and electronic products .....	93	56	30	17,073	7,959	5,667	20,207	8,166	4,216
Electrical equipment and appliances .....	28	15	12	8,295	2,834	2,992	13,398	2,693	2,420
Transportation equipment .....	79	62	43	13,347	10,978	5,959	18,411	16,901	11,191
Furniture and related products .....	24	18	12	4,293	3,736	1,848	4,882	3,382	1,483
Miscellaneous manufacturing .....	21	16	12	3,208	2,630	2,140	2,962	2,358	1,830
Wholesale trade .....	35	44	38	7,394	7,216	8,586	5,215	6,065	4,499
Retail trade .....	89	72	72	28,666	20,999	23,008	24,539	31,469	19,522
Transportation and warehousing .....	61	75	42	19,759	14,563	7,793	17,435	13,296	6,860
Information .....	64	49	44	15,387	12,024	11,473	15,239	11,342	11,136
Finance and insurance .....	47	55	44	9,217	10,664	6,376	8,963	9,478	5,764
Real estate and rental and leasing .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	6	5	( <sup>2</sup> )	1,280	889	( <sup>2</sup> )	1,254	362
Professional and technical services .....	56	51	40	11,692	8,561	7,400	11,166	8,065	5,068
Management of companies and enterprises .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	5	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	1,316	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	685
Administrative and waste services .....	176	128	182	34,330	38,519	30,275	35,426	23,748	24,573
Educational services .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	15	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	1,564	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	1,635	-
Health care and social assistance .....	33	48	32	5,507	5,696	3,691	4,949	4,361	3,548
Arts, entertainment, and recreation .....	33	30	34	7,942	5,386	11,274	4,580	4,657	3,579
Accommodation and food services .....	64	30	58	12,991	5,983	11,842	10,162	5,412	8,346
Other services, except public administration .....	18	15	16	2,712	1,495	2,562	2,368	1,418	1,901
Unclassified .....	3	2	1	629	335	245	536	335	77
Government .....	56	131	54	18,946	28,067	10,100	11,777	23,855	7,709
Federal .....	10	10	10	4,104	2,977	1,266	2,352	3,168	1,673
State .....	19	24	16	7,613	5,341	3,989	5,198	4,818	2,639
Local .....	27	97	28	7,229	19,749	4,845	4,227	15,869	3,397

<sup>1</sup> For the fourth quarter of 2003, data on layoffs were reported by employers <sup>r</sup> = revised.

in all states and the District of Columbia.

<sup>2</sup> Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.

<sup>p</sup> = preliminary.

NOTE: Industry data reflect the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), 2002. Dash represents zero.

**Table 2. Reason for separation: Extended mass layoff events, separations, and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, selected quarters, 2002 and 2003**

Reason for separation	Layoff events			Separations			Initial claimants for unemployment insurance		
	IV 2002 <sup>r</sup>	III 2003 <sup>r</sup>	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>	IV 2002 <sup>r</sup>	III 2003 <sup>r</sup>	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>	IV 2002 <sup>r</sup>	III 2003 <sup>r</sup>	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>
Total, all reasons <sup>1</sup> .....	2,257	1,458	1,956	469,739	300,901	359,085	421,646	269,323	272,807
Automation .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Bankruptcy .....	46	40	23	15,535	15,527	4,049	11,864	11,843	2,366
Business ownership change .....	33	32	19	8,480	6,421	5,220	6,126	4,734	1,633
Contract cancellation .....	44	24	24	8,416	19,404	4,306	7,060	2,955	2,012
Contract completed .....	194	201	198	35,783	31,257	31,326	41,288	36,976	31,729
Domestic relocation .....	18	28	17	5,546	4,582	2,930	3,478	4,175	3,161
Environment-related .....	–	–	( <sup>2</sup> )	–	–	( <sup>2</sup> )	–	–	( <sup>2</sup> )
Financial difficulty .....	111	95	68	22,145	13,972	12,919	21,081	13,805	7,728
Import competition .....	19	29	29	3,293	7,081	5,295	3,022	5,216	5,487
Labor dispute .....	11	8	7	2,300	5,393	10,032	2,245	13,052	7,307
Material shortage .....	4	( <sup>2</sup> )	–	379	( <sup>2</sup> )	–	509	( <sup>2</sup> )	–
Model changeover .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	5	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	340	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	374	( <sup>2</sup> )
Natural disaster .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	3	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	741	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	429
Overseas relocation .....	21	14	7	3,407	3,684	735	2,976	3,256	642
Plant or machine repair .....	5	5	6	877	618	815	981	674	598
Product line discontinued .....	9	5	5	1,025	795	503	1,060	811	484
Reorganization within company .....	185	151	159	36,813	27,000	26,903	38,962	32,763	23,290
Seasonal work .....	1,015	308	984	226,347	79,722	198,054	167,818	49,888	124,834
Slack work .....	319	214	174	51,379	30,737	21,241	66,309	36,635	27,566
Vacation period .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	28	8	( <sup>2</sup> )	5,412	1,187	( <sup>2</sup> )	4,411	1,039
Weather-related .....	19	3	28	2,242	423	3,535	2,635	440	3,321
Other .....	59	62	35	11,614	10,326	4,331	11,091	8,778	4,996
Not reported .....	139	202	157	32,516	37,904	24,403	31,967	38,187	23,855

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 1.

<sup>2</sup> Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.

<sup>p</sup> = preliminary.

<sup>r</sup> = revised.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

**Table 3. State and selected claimant characteristics: Extended mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, third and fourth quarters, 2003**

State	Layoff events		Total initial claimants		Percent of total							
	III 2003 <sup>f</sup>	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>	III 2003 <sup>f</sup>	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>	Black		Hispanic origin		Women		Persons age 55 and over	
					III 2003 <sup>f</sup>	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>	III 2003 <sup>f</sup>	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>	III 2003 <sup>f</sup>	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>	III 2003 <sup>f</sup>	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>
Total <sup>1</sup>	1,458	1,956	269,323	272,807	14.6	9.9	22.4	26.2	44.9	34.7	15.1	14.2
Alabama	7	4	1,658	494	44.1	39.1	4.8	1.6	38.8	34.8	17.2	26.7
Alaska	3	10	377	1,400	.3	3.5	19.9	22.6	31.0	27.2	19.4	12.8
Arizona	21	5	2,278	635	2.0	6.6	58.1	40.0	32.7	43.6	15.5	14.2
Arkansas	4	( <sup>2</sup> )	524	( <sup>2</sup> )	16.0	50.6	.6	7.0	59.4	39.1	19.1	8.2
California	427	538	90,000	75,108	8.0	5.0	43.8	60.8	48.6	44.0	11.7	11.4
Colorado	12	21	1,678	2,391	9.7	3.9	19.5	32.9	50.7	26.8	15.2	16.1
Connecticut	12	16	1,142	1,460	15.0	9.7	14.4	4.9	40.8	27.6	23.0	15.5
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia	( <sup>2</sup> )	5	( <sup>2</sup> )	382	23.8	19.1	.3	12.6	70.1	51.3	13.7	12.3
Florida	112	100	16,481	10,975	20.0	15.7	29.8	25.9	46.8	45.5	18.3	16.4
Georgia	14	21	2,618	2,766	64.9	55.1	.5	1.8	48.5	48.7	13.5	13.6
Hawaii	3	6	1,332	591	3.1	1.0	35.1	29.4	18.9	36.0	15.5	12.2
Idaho	12	11	1,914	2,611	.3	.3	22.6	27.8	39.3	48.2	18.7	20.1
Illinois	113	192	21,076	26,857	21.8	14.4	10.7	16.9	45.1	26.0	13.9	12.4
Indiana	21	50	5,484	11,095	17.6	11.7	3.0	3.0	30.2	24.8	16.6	14.7
Iowa	6	29	764	3,474	1.8	1.1	.3	4.2	50.7	15.9	15.1	16.0
Kansas	10	10	2,098	1,305	19.8	5.4	3.0	8.4	52.4	20.5	16.5	15.4
Kentucky	14	10	1,298	1,185	7.5	5.9	.6	.3	56.0	58.6	21.0	12.0
Louisiana	9	14	789	1,304	34.3	51.1	2.8	1.5	34.5	32.0	13.3	18.0
Maine	4	9	262	1,096	1.1	1.6	-	1.5	70.2	29.2	24.0	15.9
Maryland	7	( <sup>2</sup> )	637	( <sup>2</sup> )	43.6	30.2	-	1.4	46.3	19.4	22.3	59.0
Massachusetts	43	21	6,945	3,603	7.0	5.6	4.4	2.9	49.7	37.1	17.2	19.9
Michigan	49	104	11,570	16,456	28.6	12.3	2.7	9.1	35.9	35.1	13.6	12.9
Minnesota	15	90	2,040	9,846	9.6	1.5	2.8	10.8	46.2	14.5	14.6	14.7
Mississippi	9	4	771	228	80.7	78.1	.3	.4	52.5	46.1	9.2	19.3
Missouri	15	19	3,610	2,140	19.6	12.1	.4	.7	51.4	37.9	27.1	22.4
Montana	4	7	231	975	.4	.2	4.3	3.1	72.7	12.5	19.5	13.5
Nebraska	( <sup>2</sup> )	7	( <sup>2</sup> )	937	.5	1.1	.7	11.3	9.0	15.0	16.0	17.6
Nevada	5	4	587	825	14.1	6.9	18.6	20.7	45.1	25.0	32.0	23.9
New Hampshire	4	-	319	-	.9	-	16.0	-	48.3	-	16.3	-
New Jersey	56	54	8,322	8,775	28.9	14.8	14.3	12.8	58.0	39.5	23.3	23.8
New Mexico	4	3	543	163	2.2	.6	37.8	84.0	39.4	49.1	6.1	6.7
New York	101	82	15,292	9,858	12.2	6.7	7.2	6.9	47.1	28.4	15.3	16.1
North Carolina	28	35	7,735	4,681	31.5	52.6	5.5	5.7	50.9	56.8	26.1	17.9
North Dakota	( <sup>2</sup> )	6	( <sup>2</sup> )	950	-	.9	1.1	3.7	4.5	13.6	25.0	15.7
Ohio	51	121	7,894	15,159	9.5	10.4	1.6	3.8	33.2	21.3	13.2	11.4
Oklahoma	7	5	683	471	7.2	10.0	3.8	3.8	60.9	35.7	17.3	18.0
Oregon	22	31	4,271	5,619	2.0	1.0	12.6	24.2	38.8	37.7	18.4	14.3
Pennsylvania	66	70	13,740	12,052	9.6	8.2	2.0	2.5	34.8	37.9	17.4	20.0
Rhode Island	4	7	415	614	5.3	2.9	13.0	27.9	60.7	30.6	19.8	22.0
South Carolina	8	4	1,061	406	60.9	32.5	.8	-	57.8	56.4	1.9	.5
South Dakota	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	3.9	-	-	-	72.4	55.4	-	14.9
Tennessee	21	5	2,932	473	17.8	16.3	-	-	53.5	47.6	21.0	35.7
Texas	41	39	10,542	7,708	16.3	17.2	37.5	38.1	36.5	28.7	11.7	12.1
Utah	( <sup>2</sup> )	4	( <sup>2</sup> )	630	.6	.8	11.1	9.4	3.1	16.7	22.2	11.1
Vermont	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	1.2	-	-	-	10.8	-	9.6
Virginia	12	22	2,361	4,131	36.0	23.2	1.1	1.3	59.4	44.7	16.9	15.8
Washington	30	56	6,235	7,092	4.5	2.3	21.3	41.8	38.0	38.5	18.6	14.9
West Virginia	3	5	172	492	-	1.0	-	-	29.1	25.8	14.0	14.2
Wisconsin	41	93	7,520	12,737	11.2	3.6	4.0	13.8	31.3	22.5	15.5	15.1
Wyoming	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	.8	-	-	-	40.7	-	34.7
Puerto Rico	18	7	3,003	987	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	53.5	43.2	7.2	7.2

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 1.

P = preliminary.

<sup>2</sup> Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.

r = revised.

<sup>3</sup> 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, selected quarters, 2002 and 2003**

Census region and division	Layoff events			Separations			Initial claimants for unemployment insurance		
	IV 2002 <sup>r</sup>	III 2003 <sup>r</sup>	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>	IV 2002 <sup>r</sup>	III 2003 <sup>r</sup>	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>	IV 2002 <sup>r</sup>	III 2003 <sup>r</sup>	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>
United States <sup>1</sup> .....	2,257	1,458	1,956	469,739	300,901	359,085	421,646	269,323	272,807
Northeast .....	406	290	260	86,282	43,408	40,785	89,342	46,437	37,541
New England .....	115	67	54	24,728	11,844	9,203	19,355	9,083	6,856
Middle Atlantic .....	291	223	206	61,554	31,564	31,582	69,987	37,354	30,685
South .....	397	298	277	71,931	52,486	43,368	78,269	50,627	36,078
South Atlantic .....	226	186	194	41,803	35,024	31,620	41,589	31,430	23,972
East South Central .....	65	51	23	12,117	8,599	3,200	8,743	6,659	2,380
West South Central .....	106	61	60	18,011	8,863	8,548	27,937	12,538	9,726
Midwest .....	750	325	722	136,131	60,512	116,116	138,552	62,651	101,030
East North Central .....	562	275	560	103,343	51,555	90,530	106,819	53,544	82,304
West North Central .....	188	50	162	32,788	8,957	25,586	31,733	9,107	18,726
West .....	704	545	697	175,395	144,495	158,816	115,483	109,608	98,158
Mountain .....	88	60	56	24,251	9,850	12,017	15,343	7,393	8,348
Pacific .....	616	485	641	151,144	134,645	146,799	100,140	102,215	89,810

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 1.

<sup>p</sup> = preliminary.

<sup>r</sup> = revised.

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, selected quarters, 2002 and 2003**

State	Layoff events			Separations			Initial claimants for unemployment insurance		
	IV 2002 <sup>r</sup>	III 2003 <sup>r</sup>	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>	IV 2002 <sup>r</sup>	III 2003 <sup>r</sup>	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>	IV 2002 <sup>r</sup>	III 2003 <sup>r</sup>	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>
Total <sup>1</sup> .....	2,257	1,458	1,956	469,739	300,901	359,085	421,646	269,323	272,807
Alabama .....	8	7	4	790	1,258	513	1,420	1,658	494
Alaska .....	10	3	10	1,146	377	1,400	1,146	377	1,400
Arizona .....	21	21	5	5,263	3,824	680	3,189	2,278	635
Arkansas .....	7	4	( <sup>2</sup> )	1,525	1,179	( <sup>2</sup> )	4,114	524	( <sup>2</sup> )
California .....	488	427	538	123,479	120,621	125,775	78,397	90,000	75,108
Colorado .....	33	12	21	7,755	2,217	4,439	5,630	1,678	2,391
Connecticut .....	17	12	16	2,963	1,632	2,806	2,977	1,142	1,460
Delaware .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia .....	3	( <sup>2</sup> )	5	409	( <sup>2</sup> )	382	409	( <sup>2</sup> )	382
Florida .....	105	112	100	17,066	18,504	15,309	16,207	16,481	10,975
Georgia .....	28	14	21	6,515	2,662	3,361	7,120	2,618	2,766
Hawaii .....	10	3	6	2,468	1,559	776	1,901	1,332	591
Idaho .....	7	12	11	1,982	1,675	2,097	1,256	1,914	2,611
Illinois .....	213	113	192	45,739	26,804	39,238	39,022	21,076	26,857
Indiana .....	74	21	50	13,945	4,934	7,687	17,064	5,484	11,095
Iowa .....	22	6	29	2,881	960	4,174	4,322	764	3,474
Kansas .....	13	10	10	3,459	2,080	1,881	3,215	2,098	1,305
Kentucky .....	28	14	10	4,682	2,075	1,722	3,584	1,298	1,185
Louisiana .....	22	9	14	2,983	1,139	1,982	2,761	789	1,304
Maine .....	13	4	9	4,659	348	1,864	2,759	262	1,096
Maryland .....	7	7	( <sup>2</sup> )	1,316	1,440	( <sup>2</sup> )	1,207	637	( <sup>2</sup> )
Massachusetts .....	65	43	21	14,127	9,161	3,823	10,976	6,945	3,603
Michigan .....	54	49	104	6,048	6,967	13,107	8,621	11,570	16,456
Minnesota .....	93	15	90	14,813	1,811	12,690	13,387	2,040	9,846
Mississippi .....	14	9	4	2,211	1,770	374	1,354	771	228
Missouri .....	43	15	19	8,841	3,188	4,604	8,451	3,610	2,140
Montana .....	10	4	7	2,139	307	1,615	1,604	231	975
Nebraska .....	9	( <sup>2</sup> )	7	1,367	( <sup>2</sup> )	1,193	931	( <sup>2</sup> )	937
Nevada .....	7	5	4	3,955	1,168	1,029	2,214	587	825
New Hampshire .....	8	4	-	1,074	319	-	1,066	319	-
New Jersey .....	68	56	54	11,767	7,936	9,653	11,736	8,322	8,775
New Mexico .....	4	4	3	827	416	167	593	543	163
New York .....	145	101	82	34,426	16,627	13,728	32,790	15,292	9,858
North Carolina .....	28	28	35	6,353	7,868	5,855	5,550	7,735	4,681
North Dakota .....	8	( <sup>2</sup> )	6	1,427	( <sup>2</sup> )	970	1,427	( <sup>2</sup> )	950
Ohio .....	106	51	121	14,229	5,395	16,414	18,908	7,894	15,159
Oklahoma .....	7	7	5	902	549	435	1,105	683	471
Oregon .....	42	22	31	7,983	2,582	4,377	7,983	4,271	5,619
Pennsylvania .....	78	66	70	15,361	7,001	8,201	25,461	13,740	12,052
Rhode Island .....	10	4	7	1,155	384	627	1,214	415	614
South Carolina .....	20	8	4	4,171	1,129	589	5,217	1,061	406
South Dakota .....	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Tennessee .....	15	21	5	4,434	3,496	591	2,385	2,932	473
Texas .....	70	41	39	12,601	5,996	5,531	19,957	10,542	7,708
Utah .....	5	( <sup>2</sup> )	4	1,350	( <sup>2</sup> )	1,190	744	( <sup>2</sup> )	630
Vermont .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	( <sup>2</sup> )
Virginia .....	27	12	22	4,484	2,874	5,423	4,690	2,361	4,131
Washington .....	66	30	56	16,068	9,506	14,471	10,713	6,235	7,092
West Virginia .....	8	3	5	1,489	182	498	1,189	172	492
Wisconsin .....	115	41	93	23,382	7,455	14,084	23,204	7,520	12,737
Wyoming .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	( <sup>2</sup> )
Puerto Rico .....	3	18	7	769	2,231	594	664	3,003	987

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 1.

<sup>r</sup> = revised.

<sup>2</sup> Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

<sup>p</sup> = preliminary.

**Table 6. State distribution: Index of mass-layoff separations, private sector, fourth quarter 2002 and 2003**

State	Share of separations <sup>2</sup>		Share of establishment employment <sup>3</sup>		Index of mass-layoff separations <sup>4</sup>	
	IV 2002	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>	III 2001	III 2002	IV 2002	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>
Total <sup>1</sup> .....	1.00000	1.00000	1.00000	1.00000	100.0	100.0
Alabama .....	.00175	.00147	.01306	.01296	13.4	11.3
Alaska .....	.00254	.00401	.00186	.00188	136.9	212.9
Arizona .....	.01152	.00195	.01863	.01889	61.8	10.3
Arkansas .....	.00338	.00172	.00808	.00821	41.8	20.9
California .....	.26016	.35272	.11484	.11449	226.5	308.1
Colorado .....	.01316	.01272	.01548	.01502	85.0	84.7
Connecticut .....	.00657	.00804	.01292	.01294	50.9	62.2
Delaware .....	—	—	.00351	.00352	—	—
District of Columbia .....	.00091	.00082	.00434	.00452	20.9	18.2
Florida .....	.03702	.04351	.05690	.05751	65.1	75.7
Georgia .....	.01445	.00963	.03031	.02995	47.7	32.2
Hawaii .....	.00547	.00222	.00381	.00385	143.7	57.7
Idaho .....	.00440	.00601	.00342	.00346	128.5	173.8
Illinois .....	.09432	.10828	.05105	.05065	184.8	213.8
Indiana .....	.02833	.01773	.02380	.02395	119.0	74.0
Iowa .....	.00639	.01181	.01027	.01029	62.3	114.7
Kansas .....	.00767	.00539	.00953	.00945	80.5	57.1
Kentucky .....	.00891	.00493	.01287	.01287	69.2	38.3
Louisiana .....	.00613	.00521	.01251	.01249	49.0	41.7
Maine .....	.01034	.00534	.00399	.00400	258.9	133.7
Maryland .....	.00270	.00036	.01815	.01839	14.9	1.9
Massachusetts .....	.03031	.01049	.02659	.02624	114.0	40.0
Michigan .....	.01290	.03593	.03765	.03786	34.3	94.9
Minnesota .....	.03243	.03610	.02105	.02114	154.0	170.8
Mississippi .....	.00468	.00107	.00787	.00787	59.4	13.6
Missouri .....	.01880	.01251	.02001	.02021	94.0	61.9
Montana .....	.00386	.00463	.00190	.00194	202.7	238.7
Nebraska .....	.00303	.00342	.00652	.00645	46.5	53.0
Nevada .....	.00877	.00295	.00928	.00934	94.6	31.6
New Hampshire .....	.00238	—	.00413	.00416	57.6	—
New Jersey .....	.02479	.02692	.03049	.03063	81.3	87.9
New Mexico .....	.00161	.00048	.00465	.00477	34.7	10.0
New York .....	.07504	.03934	.06382	.06383	117.6	61.6
North Carolina .....	.01409	.01643	.02856	.02824	49.4	58.2
North Dakota .....	.00317	.00278	.00188	.00192	168.6	144.9
Ohio .....	.03108	.04405	.04468	.04461	69.6	98.7
Oklahoma .....	.00200	.00125	.01019	.00997	19.6	12.5
Oregon .....	.01771	.01226	.01091	.01094	162.3	112.0
Pennsylvania .....	.03371	.02312	.04571	.04603	73.7	50.2
Rhode Island .....	.00256	.00180	.00342	.00342	75.0	52.6
South Carolina .....	.00925	.00169	.01335	.01332	69.3	12.7
South Dakota .....	—	—	.00223	.00225	—	—
Tennessee .....	.00984	.00169	.02253	.02281	43.6	7.4
Texas .....	.02751	.01550	.07199	.07180	38.2	21.6
Utah .....	.00299	.00341	.00727	.00719	41.2	47.4
Vermont .....	.00166	.00024	.00176	.00174	94.7	13.6
Virginia .....	.00928	.01554	.02549	.02543	36.4	61.1
Washington .....	.03542	.04147	.01912	.01885	185.3	220.0
West Virginia .....	.00300	.00119	.00422	.00427	71.2	27.9
Wisconsin .....	.04982	.03759	.02229	.02233	223.5	168.4
Wyoming .....	.00217	.00229	.00112	.00116	194.2	198.3

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 1.

<sup>2</sup> The share of separations is the proportion of each State's private sector separations to the total number of private sector separations in the U.S. for the period.

<sup>3</sup> The share of establishment employment is the proportion of each State's private sector covered employment in establishments of 50 workers or more

to the comparable U.S. total. Covered employment refers to workers who are covered by State unemployment insurance laws.

<sup>4</sup> The index is the ratio of the share of separations to the share of establishment employment, multiplied by 100.

<sup>p</sup> = preliminary.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.



**Table 7. State distribution: Index of mass-layoff separations (excluding seasonal work and vacation periods),A38 private sector, fourth quarter 2002 and 2003**

State	Share of separations <sup>2</sup>		Share of establishment employment <sup>3</sup>		Index of mass-layoff separations <sup>4</sup>	
	IV 2002	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>	III 2001	III 2002	IV 2002	IV 2003 <sup>p</sup>
Total <sup>1</sup> .....	1.00000	1.00000	1.00000	1.00000	100.0	100.0
Alabama .....	.00337	.00331	.01306	.01296	25.8	25.5
Alaska .....	—	—	.00186	.00188	—	—
Arizona .....	.01446	.00439	.01863	.01889	77.6	23.2
Arkansas .....	.00504	.00387	.00808	.00821	62.4	47.1
California .....	.14499	.27978	.11484	.11449	126.2	244.4
Colorado .....	.01782	.01600	.01548	.01502	115.2	106.6
Connecticut .....	.00557	.00659	.01292	.01294	43.1	51.0
Delaware .....	—	—	.00351	.00352	—	—
District of Columbia .....	.00047	.00038	.00434	.00452	10.8	8.4
Florida .....	.06924	.09587	.05690	.05751	121.7	166.7
Georgia .....	.02733	.01576	.03031	.02995	90.2	52.6
Hawaii .....	.01026	.00445	.00381	.00385	269.4	115.5
Idaho .....	.00291	.00170	.00342	.00346	84.9	49.3
Illinois .....	.09166	.12338	.05105	.05065	179.6	243.6
Indiana .....	.03383	.02080	.02380	.02395	142.2	86.9
Iowa .....	.00449	.00555	.01027	.01029	43.7	53.9
Kansas .....	.01474	.01213	.00953	.00945	154.7	128.4
Kentucky .....	.01229	.01111	.01287	.01287	95.5	86.3
Louisiana .....	.00949	.00774	.01251	.01249	75.9	62.0
Maine .....	.00867	.00344	.00399	.00400	217.1	86.2
Maryland .....	.00476	.00080	.01815	.01839	26.2	4.3
Massachusetts .....	.03557	.00778	.02659	.02624	133.8	29.7
Michigan .....	.01758	.05487	.03765	.03786	46.7	144.9
Minnesota .....	.01213	.00622	.02105	.02114	57.6	29.4
Mississippi .....	.00899	.00241	.00787	.00787	114.2	30.6
Missouri .....	.01612	.00367	.02001	.02021	80.6	18.2
Montana .....	.00218	—	.00190	.00194	114.7	—
Nebraska .....	.00181	—	.00652	.00645	27.8	—
Nevada .....	.01685	.00664	.00928	.00934	181.7	71.1
New Hampshire .....	.00252	—	.00413	.00416	60.9	—
New Jersey .....	.03501	.03779	.03049	.03063	114.8	123.4
New Mexico .....	.00049	.00108	.00465	.00477	10.4	22.6
New York .....	.07150	.03092	.06382	.06383	112.0	48.4
North Carolina .....	.02373	.02971	.02856	.02824	83.1	105.2
North Dakota .....	.00149	.00066	.00188	.00192	79.2	34.3
Ohio .....	.03341	.05488	.04468	.04461	74.8	123.0
Oklahoma .....	.00346	.00281	.01019	.00997	33.9	28.1
Oregon .....	.02406	.01059	.01091	.01094	220.5	96.8
Pennsylvania .....	.05223	.04295	.04571	.04603	114.3	93.3
Rhode Island .....	.00418	.00109	.00342	.00342	122.5	31.9
South Carolina .....	.01614	.00259	.01335	.01332	120.9	19.4
South Dakota .....	—	—	.00223	.00225	—	—
Tennessee .....	.01889	.00381	.02253	.02281	83.8	16.7
Texas .....	.04257	.03183	.07199	.07180	59.1	44.3
Utah .....	.00170	.00048	.00727	.00719	23.4	6.7
Vermont .....	.00320	—	.00176	.00174	181.9	—
Virginia .....	.01218	.01474	.02549	.02543	47.8	58.0
Washington .....	.02374	.01694	.01912	.01885	124.2	89.9
West Virginia .....	.00468	.00191	.00422	.00427	111.0	44.7
Wisconsin .....	.03218	.01658	.02229	.02233	144.4	74.3
Wyoming .....	—	—	.00112	.00116	—	—

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 1.

<sup>2</sup> The share of separations is the proportion of each State's private sector separations to the total number of private sector separations in the U.S. for the period. Seasonal work and vacation periods as reasons for layoff are excluded from these calculations.

<sup>3</sup> The share of establishment employment is the proportion of each State's private sector covered employment in establishments of 50 workers or more

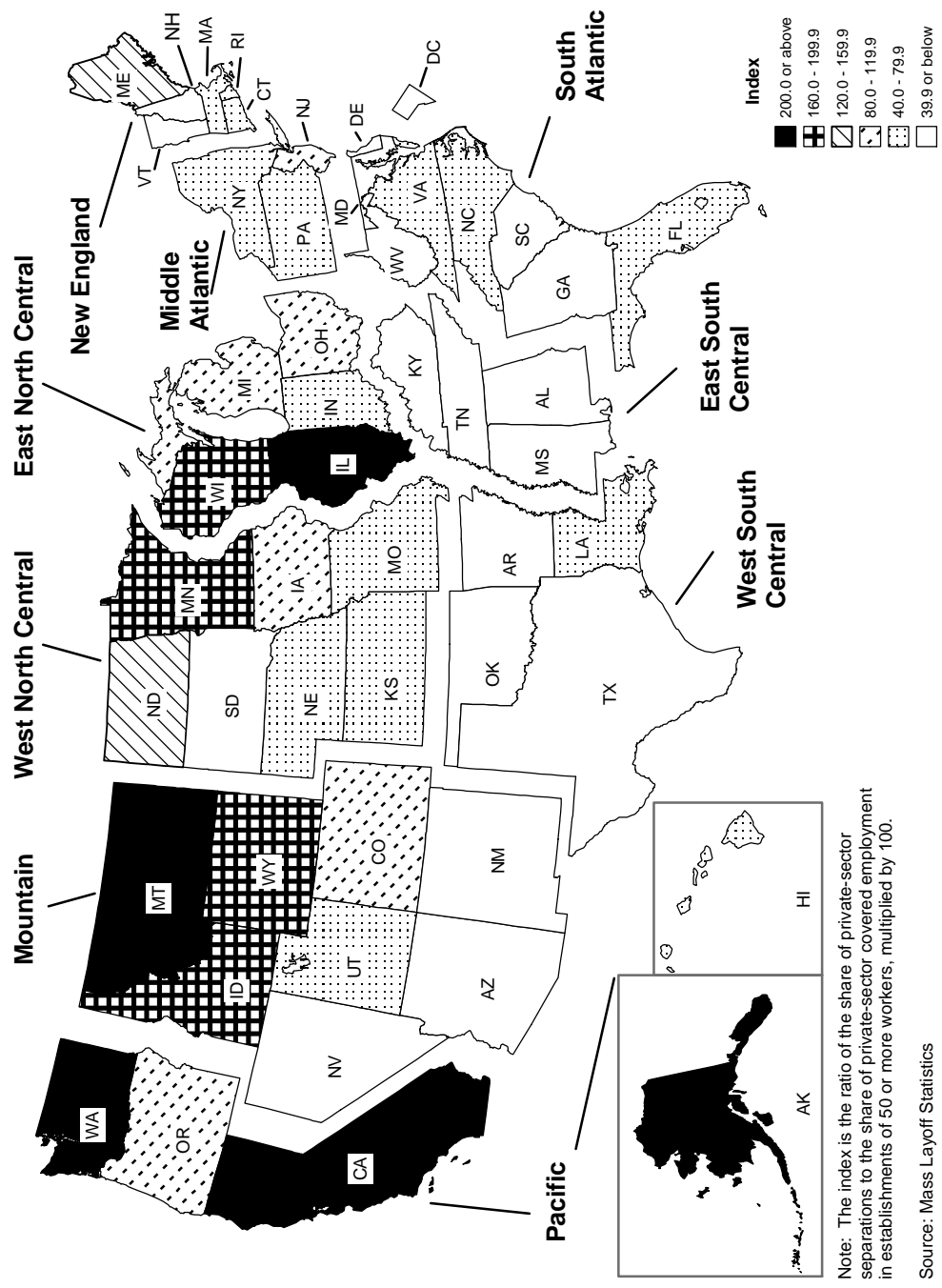
to the comparable U.S. total. Covered employment refers to workers who are covered by State unemployment insurance laws.

<sup>4</sup> The index is the ratio of the share of separations (excluding seasonal work and vacation periods) to the share of establishment employment, multiplied by 100.

<sup>p</sup> = preliminary.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

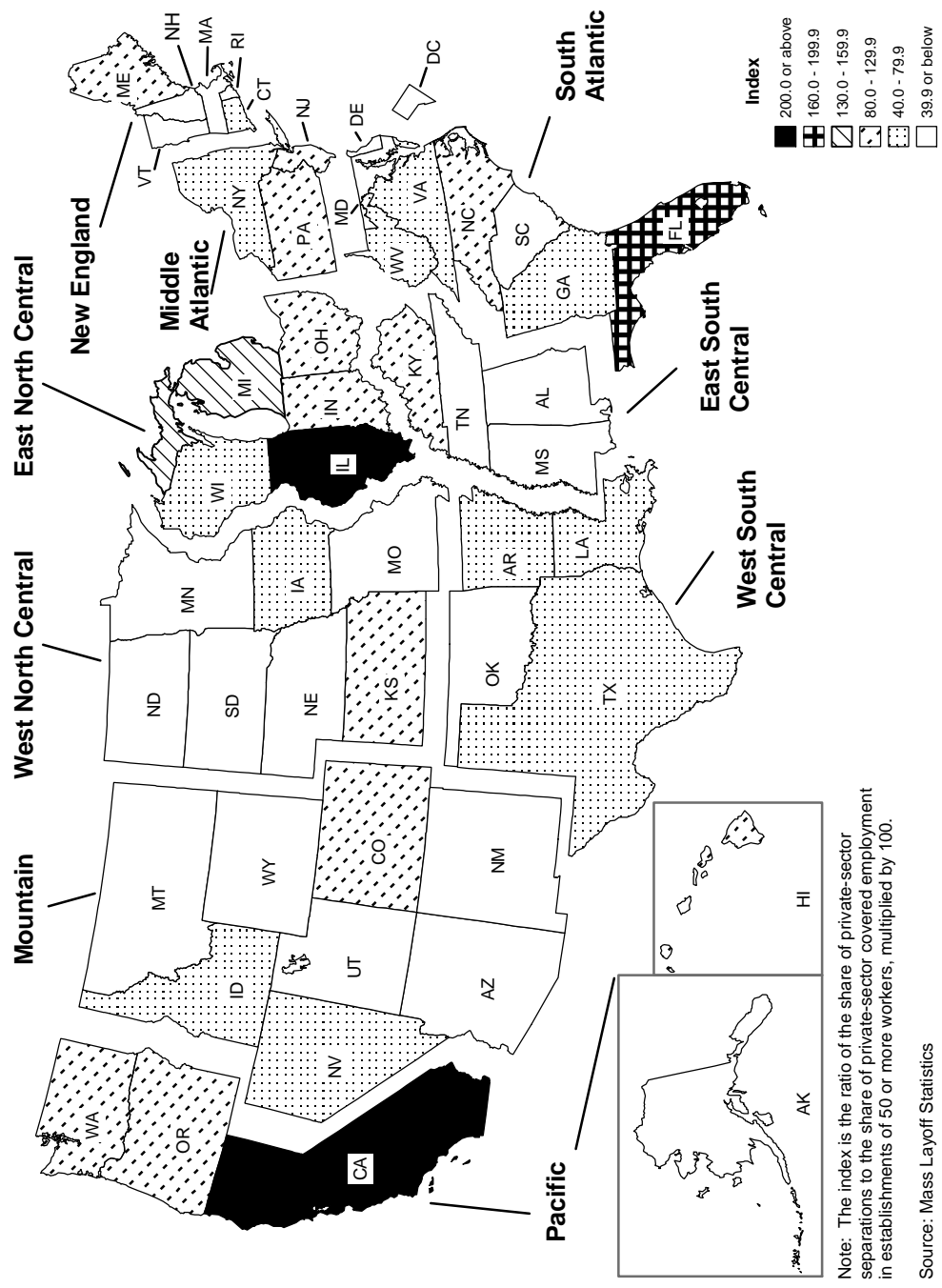
# Chart 1. Index of private-sector mass-layoff separations, fourth quarter 2003



Note: The index is the ratio of the share of private-sector separations to the share of private-sector covered employment in establishments of 50 or more workers, multiplied by 100.

Source: Mass Layoff Statistics

**Chart 2. Index of private-sector mass-layoff separations  
(excluding seasonal work and vacation period),  
fourth quarter 2003**



Note: The index is the ratio of the share of private-sector separations to the share of private-sector covered employment in establishments of 50 or more workers, multiplied by 100.

Source: Mass Layoff Statistics