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EXTENDED MASS LAYOFFS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2003

In the third quarter of 2003, 1,375 mass layoff actions were taken by employers that resulted in the separation of 268,020 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 lower than in July-September 2002 and were the lowest for a third quarter since 2000. (See table A.) The decline from third quarter 2002 was most notable in computer and electronic product manufacturing, truck transportation, and general merchandise stores.

The completion of seasonal work accounted for 22 percent of all events and 74,805 separations during the period—the lowest level for a third quarter since 1998. Layoffs due to internal company restructuring represented 22 percent of events and resulted in 57,727 separations, both lower than a year earlier. Permanent closure of worksites occurred in 14 percent of all events and affected 46,646 workers. A year earlier, such closures occurred in 21 percent of all events and affected 80,152 workers. Forty percent of the employers anticipating a recall expected to extend the offer to all laid-off workers, the highest proportion for a third quarter since 2000.

Industry Distribution of Extended Layoffs

Extended mass layoff separations occurred in 441 of the 1,197 detailed industries for which data are available. Manufacturing industries accounted for 35 percent of private-sector layoff events and 34 percent of separations during July-September 2003. The 82,030 worker separations in manufacturing were lower than in the third quarter of 2002. Layoff activity in this sector was concentrated in food manufacturing (18,422, largely in the highly seasonal fruit and vegetable canning industry), followed by transportation equipment (9,955), computer and electronic product manufacturing (7,175), and textile mills (7,005). (See table 1.)

Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting accounted for 10 percent of private-sector layoff events and 14 percent of separations, with nearly all layoff activity concentrated in agriculture and forestry support activities. Layoffs in administrative and waste services comprised 10 percent of events and 13 percent of separations, almost entirely in temporary help services. Cutbacks in retail trade accounted for 5 percent of events and 7 percent of separations, mainly in supermarkets and other grocery stores. The transportation and warehousing sector accounted for an additional 6 percent of events and separations during the quarter, primarily from school and employee bus transportation.

Layoffs in government establishments accounted for 9 percent of all events and separations, the highest third quarter share of events and separations since the mass layoff series began in second quarter 1995. Layoffs in the government sector were primarily concentrated in elementary and secondary schools.

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 ^r	1,383	310,351	284,629
October-December ^r ...	2,257	469,672	421,570
2003			
January-March ^r	1,700	334,464	333,197
April-June ^r	2,131	457,434	415,316
July-September ^p	1,375	268,020	181,793

p=preliminary.

r=revised.

Reasons for Extended Layoff

Layoffs due to the completion of seasonal work accounted for 22 percent of the extended layoff events and resulted in 74,805 separations in the third quarter. (See table 2.) This marked the lowest level of seasonal separations for a third quarter since 1998. Seasonal layoffs were most numerous among workers in agriculture and forestry support activities (largely among farm labor contractors and crew leaders), food manufacturing (mainly in fruit and vegetable canning), and in crop production (mostly in grape vineyards and in strawberry farming).

Internal company restructuring (bankruptcy, business ownership change, financial difficulty, and reorganization) accounted for 22 percent of layoff events and resulted in 57,727 separations. These layoffs were mostly among workers in textile mills, in credit intermediation and related activities, and in food and beverage stores. In the third quarter of 2002, layoff events for these reasons represented 29 percent of events and involved 98,292 workers.

Contract completion accounted for 14 percent of events and resulted in 27,193 separations during the third quarter and were the largest third-quarter shares since 2000. These layoffs were primarily concentrated among administrative and support services.

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

Nature of the recall	Percentage of events				
	III 2002	IV 2002	I 2003	II 2003 ^r	III 2003 ^p
Anticipate a recall	36.4	55.8	38.4	46.6	38.3
Timeframe					
Within 6 months	77.5	78.8	74.5	85.6	84.4
Within 3 months.....	51.3	32.6	45.6	55.7	54.4
Size					
At least half.....	82.5	86.7	80.1	86.9	84.6
All workers.....	32.6	37.3	29.4	46.5	39.7

p=preliminary.

r=revised.

Out-of-country moves (overseas relocation) have resulted in 12,128 workers being separated from their jobs in extended mass layoffs so far this year, compared with 13,668 workers during the first three quarters of 2002. Company moves to Mexico have accounted for 41 percent of the workers thus far in 2003 compared with 45 percent a year earlier.

Recall Expectations

Thirty-eight percent of employers reporting an extended layoff in the third quarter of 2003 indicated they anticipated some type of recall. This compares with 36 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, computer and electronic product manufacturing, and credit intermediation and related activities.

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 third quarter since 2000.

Excluding layoff events due to seasonal work and vacation period (in which 93 percent of the employers expected a recall), employers expected to recall laid-off workers in 22 percent of the events. In layoff events due to internal company restructuring, employers anticipated a recall in only 10 percent of the events.

Size of Extended Layoff

Layoff events during the third quarter continued to be concentrated at the lower end of the extended layoff-size spectrum, with 65 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 34 percent of all separations, down from 39 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 68 separations in membership associations and organizations to a high of 821 in warehousing and storage industries.

Table C. Distribution of extended layoff events by size of layoff, July-September 2003^P

Size	Layoff events		Separations	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	1,375	100.0	268,020	100.0
50-99.....	603	43.9	42,339	15.8
100-149.....	294	21.4	34,217	12.8
150-199.....	142	10.3	23,892	8.9
200-299.....	146	10.6	34,334	12.8
300-499.....	112	8.1	41,148	15.4
500-999.....	52	3.8	32,973	12.3
1,000 or more...	26	1.9	59,117	22.0

p=preliminary.

Initial Claimant Characteristics

A total of 181,793 initial claimants for unemployment insurance were associated with extended mass layoffs in the third quarter of 2003. Of these claimants, 16 percent were black, 20 percent were Hispanic, 46 percent were women, and 16 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, 46 percent were women, and 15 percent were 55 years of age or older. Thirty-six percent of the civilian labor force were ages 30 to 44.

Geographic Distribution

In the third quarter, the number of separations due to extended mass layoff events was highest in the West (127,734), followed by the Midwest (56,038), the South (47,294), and the Northeast (36,954). (See table 4.) Extended mass layoffs in the West were mainly in administration and support services and in agricultural and forestry support activities.

Three of the four regions reported over-the-year decreases in separations, with the largest decrease occurring in the Northeast (-24,012), followed by the South (-22,814). The West had the only over-the-year increase (+15,153). Six of the nine geographic divisions reported over-the-year declines in laid-off workers, with the largest declines in the Middle Atlantic (-19,903), West South Central (-12,436), and West North Central (-11,008) divisions. The largest increase in separations occurred in the Pacific (+23,736) division.

Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, the largest number of worker separations occurred in California (105,816), followed by Illinois (26,884). These two states accounted for 38 percent of total layoff events and 50 percent of the separations during the third quarter of 2003. They were followed by Florida (14,247), New York (11,782), and Washington (9,506). (See table 5.) After excluding the substantial impact of seasonal work, California still reported the most laid-off workers (62,964), largely due to layoffs in administrative and support services, educational services, and motion picture and sound recording industries.

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

Metropolitan area	Events		Separations	
	III 2002	III 2003 ^p	III 2002	III 2003 ^p
Total, nonmetropolitan areas	188	170	34,637	25,731
Total, 331 metropolitan areas	970	795	209,233	150,754
Chicago, Ill	62	65	15,875	14,682
Los Angeles-Long Beach, Calif	37	42	11,305	11,152
Fresno, Calif	22	17	6,228	7,170
Ventura, Calif	24	27	5,550	5,569
Visalia-Tulare-Porterville, Calif	15	14	1,880	5,095
Riverside-San Bernardino, Calif	25	16	5,468	4,544
New York, NY	54	30	10,019	4,055
Modesto, Calif	4	4	8,810	3,938
Bakersfield, Calif	17	11	7,805	3,756
Stockton-Lodi, Calif	(1)	5	(1)	2,935

¹ Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.
p=preliminary.

Over the year, New York reported the greatest decrease in laid-off workers (-12,899), followed by Texas (-11,757) and Florida (-8,086). The largest increase occurred in California (+26,418).

Fifty-eight percent of events and 56 percent of separations occurred in metropolitan areas in the third quarter of 2003, a decrease from 70 percent of events and 67 percent of separations during the third quarter of 2002. Among the 331 metropolitan areas, Chicago, Ill., reported the highest number of separations, 14,682, mainly in administration and support services, amusement, gambling and recreation, and specialty trade contractors, closely followed by Los Angeles-Long Beach, Calif., with 11,152 separations, largely in administrative and support services and in food and beverage stores. The next-highest areas were Fresno, Calif. (7,170), Ventura, Calif. (5,569), and Visalia-Tulare-Porterville, Calif. (5,095). (See table D.) Eight of the 10 areas reporting the largest number of extended mass layoffs in the third quarter were in California. Employers located in nonmetropolitan areas separated 25,731 workers in mass layoffs, down from 34,637 workers in the third 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 comparisons that account for differences in each area's share of employment. 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 (See table 6.) A separate index is calculated that excludes the impact of seasonal work and vacation periods from the separation data. (See table 7.)

Among the four regions, the West, with an index of 226.4 in the third quarter, recorded the highest concentration of mass layoffs relative to the region's employment, due in part to the impact of the seasonal

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

Region	Third quarter 2002	Third quarter 2003 ^p	Over-the-year change
Northeast	101.7	71.3	-30.4
South	65.3	51.0	-14.3
Midwest	86.0	83.6	-2.4
West	171.8	226.4	54.6

p=preliminary.

agriculture sector. (See table E.) The Midwest, 83.6, the Northeast, 71.3, and the South, 51.0, all reported indexes well below 100.0, indicating the relative infrequency of layoffs in those regions.

Over the year, three of the four regions recorded declines, with the largest decrease occurring in the Northeast (-30.4). The West posted the only over-the-year increase (+54.6).

Among the nine geographic divisions, the Pacific posted the highest index for the quarter, 300.0, primarily due to layoff activity in administrative and support services, agriculture and forestry support activities, and food manufacturing. The next highest indexes were reported in East North Central, 101.1, and New England, 82.3. The West South Central division had the lowest index, 31.5, followed by the West North Central, 39.8, and the Mountain divisions, 48.9.

Among the 47 states and the District of Columbia that reported extended mass layoffs during the third quarter of 2003, 40 states and the District of Columbia reported indexes below 100.0, indicating a relatively small share of layoffs. (See table 6.) Of the seven States with indexes above 100.0, California had the highest index of 344.8—due to the high concentrations of layoff activity in administrative and support services, agriculture and forestry support activities, and in crop production. (See chart 1.) Relative concentrations of layoffs also were high in Illinois (198.1), Washington (193.6), and Idaho (185.2). Utah, at 11.5, had the lowest relative concentration of mass layoffs followed by Iowa (13.0), New Hampshire (13.9), and West Virginia, (16.0).

After the exclusion of seasonal work and vacation periods, the Pacific division recorded the highest index, 242.9, reflecting a concentration of layoffs in administrative and waste services and in manufacturing. (See chart 2.)

At the state level, California reported the highest index, excluding seasonal and vacation period events, (278.5) for third quarter 2003, followed by Idaho (219.1) and Hawaii (218.4). The lowest indexes occurred in West Virginia (15.9), Utah (16.3), Arizona (16.4), and Nebraska (16.5). (See table 7 and chart 2.)

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 third 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. Areas with indexes of more than 100.0 account for a larger share of layoffs relative to their share of larger establishment employment.

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

The report on Mass Layoffs in October 2003 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 26, 2003.

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		
	III 2002 ^f	II 2003 ^f	III 2003 ^p	III 2002 ^f	II 2003 ^f	III 2003 ^p	III 2002 ^f	II 2003 ^f	III 2003 ^p
Total ¹	1,383	2,131	1,375	310,351	457,434	268,020	284,629	415,316	181,793
Total, private	1,318	1,907	1,252	296,720	392,687	243,762	273,060	360,458	163,231
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	132	108	131	41,568	24,770	34,671	18,105	16,429	11,606
Mining	10	10	4	1,517	2,705	582	1,451	2,694	331
Utilities	(²)	8	(²)	(²)	924	(²)	(²)	996	(²)
Construction	63	143	101	8,503	20,583	11,852	12,177	23,064	11,161
Manufacturing	497	549	436	106,134	104,733	82,030	112,154	105,904	62,953
Food	50	93	55	20,320	18,018	18,422	10,144	17,742	8,489
Beverage and tobacco products	(²)	4	(²)	(²)	1,082	(²)	(²)	1,000	(²)
Textile mills	18	25	19	3,001	4,199	7,005	6,693	4,524	6,576
Textile product mills	6	6	6	1,043	604	1,257	1,851	678	898
Apparel	36	30	27	7,487	3,535	4,370	6,497	3,690	3,283
Leather and allied products	6	7	(²)	484	944	(²)	486	836	(²)
Wood products	12	16	17	1,584	2,357	1,629	2,288	4,146	1,682
Paper	14	12	11	1,959	1,689	1,586	1,907	1,850	908
Printing and related support activities	9	17	9	1,267	1,858	1,021	1,039	2,046	846
Petroleum and coal products	(²)	3	(²)	(²)	559	(²)	(²)	574	(²)
Chemicals	10	13	13	2,515	4,463	1,538	1,488	2,919	1,201
Plastics and rubber products	16	15	17	2,434	1,712	2,024	2,088	2,514	2,033
Nonmetallic mineral products	11	11	10	1,623	1,815	1,337	1,679	1,685	1,432
Primary metals	30	29	31	4,907	7,270	5,273	6,232	6,497	4,162
Fabricated metal products	25	32	29	4,629	5,261	3,988	3,894	5,530	3,480
Machinery	38	36	28	6,755	7,373	5,839	9,038	6,417	4,843
Computer and electronic products	105	71	50	20,630	11,109	7,175	20,626	11,297	5,591
Electrical equipment and appliances	27	18	16	4,952	2,922	2,891	7,308	3,572	2,177
Transportation equipment	55	65	59	15,025	21,335	9,955	22,340	21,870	10,513
Furniture and related products	10	34	18	1,877	4,914	3,606	2,806	4,801	2,521
Miscellaneous manufacturing	13	12	16	2,897	1,714	2,602	3,173	1,716	1,947
Wholesale trade	34	47	43	5,343	7,060	7,192	4,580	5,441	4,870
Retail trade	62	114	65	18,579	26,099	16,250	18,367	24,533	10,070
Transportation and warehousing	84	162	73	25,097	42,172	13,799	22,244	44,400	10,542
Information	70	76	46	14,787	22,358	10,120	15,702	21,674	9,237
Finance and insurance	53	52	47	10,984	9,776	9,263	11,005	8,564	6,672
Real estate and rental and leasing	6	6	(²)	1,197	915	(²)	1,161	864	(²)
Professional and technical services	58	75	50	9,150	16,433	7,799	8,943	13,681	5,931
Management of companies and enterprises	(²)	9	(²)	(²)	1,775	(²)	(²)	2,064	(²)
Administrative and waste services	124	172	120	33,487	35,291	32,342	32,597	31,109	16,350
Educational services	8	11	12	821	3,200	1,083	704	2,420	1,095
Health care and social assistance	39	139	44	4,448	20,981	5,035	4,157	17,670	3,636
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	26	55	28	7,541	16,877	4,433	3,485	6,265	3,161
Accommodation and food services	34	117	29	4,159	28,486	4,514	3,809	25,518	3,294
Other services, except public administration	12	51	14	1,929	7,055	1,288	1,431	6,674	1,161
Unclassified	—	3	2	—	494	335	—	494	335
Government	65	224	123	13,631	64,747	24,258	11,569	54,858	18,562
Federal	9	12	10	2,165	4,274	2,224	2,124	4,117	1,989
State	14	20	23	3,124	10,413	4,675	3,105	4,453	3,537
Local	42	192	90	8,342	50,060	17,359	6,340	46,288	13,036

¹ For the third quarter of 2003, 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.

^p = preliminary.

^f = revised.

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		
	III 2002 ^r	II 2003 ^r	III 2003 ^p	III 2002 ^r	II 2003 ^r	III 2003 ^p	III 2002 ^r	II 2003 ^r	III 2003 ^p
Total, all reasons ¹	1,383	2,131	1,375	310,351	457,434	268,020	284,629	415,316	181,793
Automation	3	–	(²)	406	–	(²)	273	–	(²)
Bankruptcy	59	65	39	24,103	16,458	14,332	20,244	13,355	9,312
Business ownership change	41	30	28	11,370	9,789	5,497	8,363	5,177	3,303
Contract cancellation	53	40	23	13,529	5,665	18,897	9,229	6,918	2,274
Contract completed	154	250	189	28,359	42,650	27,193	36,588	46,437	26,153
Domestic relocation	26	26	26	4,603	4,170	4,156	3,504	3,824	3,141
Energy-related	(²)	(²)	–	(²)	(²)	–	(²)	(²)	–
Environment-related	–	3	–	–	884	–	–	711	–
Financial difficulty	123	152	87	24,617	33,670	12,271	21,482	30,333	9,826
Import competition	17	32	29	3,010	5,660	6,947	2,616	5,480	4,242
Labor dispute	4	3	8	814	1,085	5,393	822	992	1,922
Material shortage	–	5	(²)	–	618	(²)	–	1,041	(²)
Model changeover	(²)	(²)	5	(²)	(²)	340	(²)	(²)	315
Natural disaster	–	(²)	(²)	–	(²)	(²)	–	(²)	(²)
Non-natural disaster	(²)	(²)	–	(²)	(²)	–	(²)	(²)	–
Overseas relocation	18	18	14	4,603	4,205	3,534	3,525	3,204	2,818
Plant or machine repair	7	7	5	825	1,161	618	656	804	673
Product line discontinued	10	10	6	1,693	1,829	903	1,137	2,454	657
Reorganization within company	181	186	145	38,202	33,040	25,627	38,189	32,897	18,745
Seasonal work	306	645	296	86,968	161,524	74,805	48,530	121,104	33,603
Slack work	268	266	193	43,857	41,201	25,447	62,309	48,830	26,556
Vacation period	15	92	26	3,605	18,937	4,531	2,106	18,677	3,883
Weather-related	(²)	3	3	(²)	2,456	423	(²)	2,463	412
Other	42	48	62	7,268	10,622	10,218	8,415	9,100	7,256
Not reported	51	243	187	11,862	59,499	26,585	15,767	58,886	26,380

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

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

^p = preliminary.

^r = revised.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

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

State	Layoff events		Total initial claimants		Percent of total							
	II 2003 ^r	III 2003 ^p	II 2003 ^r	III 2003 ^p	Black		Hispanic origin		Women		Persons age 55 and over	
					II 2003 ^r	III 2003 ^p	II 2003 ^r	III 2003 ^p	II 2003 ^r	III 2003 ^p	II 2003 ^r	III 2003 ^p
Total ¹	2,131	1,375	415,316	181,793	17.7	15.5	16.5	20.1	52.3	46.2	17.0	16.0
Alabama	17	7	2,502	1,115	40.2	50.2	7.8	5.6	53.1	37.8	17.9	20.6
Alaska	9	3	1,220	185	3.5	—	14.4	20.0	48.2	33.0	17.8	20.0
Arizona	46	14	7,157	1,426	2.7	2.0	52.3	68.2	47.8	30.0	14.2	16.2
Arkansas	8	4	845	413	49.3	12.8	2.2	.2	62.8	65.6	12.4	22.5
California	448	405	87,238	48,632	10.7	9.2	34.6	42.0	51.6	49.2	12.9	12.7
Colorado	20	12	3,337	1,210	5.7	9.9	21.8	18.3	53.2	52.7	14.7	16.1
Connecticut	16	12	3,226	935	11.0	15.0	9.3	15.2	72.9	39.6	16.6	22.9
Delaware	(²)	—	(²)	—	35.5	—	8.2	—	80.5	—	18.8	—
District of Columbia	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	16.2	27.9	.6	.4	64.5	74.6	15.6	14.1
Florida	206	94	33,046	12,332	26.5	20.2	29.8	29.1	51.8	47.0	19.7	18.8
Georgia	43	14	9,260	2,106	67.6	66.7	.7	.4	69.0	48.3	13.8	13.2
Hawaii	7	3	710	1,208	1.4	2.6	16.3	36.7	46.9	18.0	13.5	16.8
Idaho	13	12	1,926	1,750	.5	.2	14.7	24.4	50.9	40.7	22.6	19.0
Illinois	150	114	33,270	15,571	24.0	21.5	10.7	10.8	52.5	45.2	16.7	14.3
Indiana	50	21	11,526	4,019	16.2	18.7	3.6	2.6	48.5	33.6	18.8	15.5
Iowa	5	4	1,422	354	1.0	1.7	3.6	—	56.3	49.2	24.4	15.5
Kansas	11	10	1,529	1,766	15.0	22.5	3.1	2.5	45.7	56.1	18.9	17.1
Kentucky	26	14	3,742	1,119	7.8	8.4	.5	.7	39.4	57.6	16.0	20.8
Louisiana	36	9	4,398	715	63.0	34.5	1.4	2.1	69.5	36.5	15.3	14.1
Maine	13	4	1,378	260	.7	1.2	.1	—	46.3	70.0	14.3	23.5
Maryland	9	7	1,995	594	35.6	45.5	1.0	—	32.6	46.1	35.1	22.7
Massachusetts	58	43	10,418	5,933	10.1	7.2	2.5	4.1	60.1	52.0	18.7	17.3
Michigan	70	49	18,112	5,904	14.7	18.8	4.0	3.6	46.1	43.4	13.6	12.3
Minnesota	42	15	6,975	1,730	7.7	10.1	2.9	2.9	47.6	48.5	15.9	14.0
Mississippi	11	9	1,015	705	67.4	80.0	.9	.1	62.2	52.2	8.8	9.5
Missouri	34	12	7,348	1,560	33.4	22.9	.5	.4	67.5	67.1	23.3	25.9
Montana	11	4	1,334	231	.6	.4	3.7	4.3	54.6	72.7	14.2	19.5
Nebraska	7	(²)	594	(²)	17.0	.3	5.1	.8	58.8	8.8	27.4	16.0
Nevada	9	5	1,159	540	20.5	13.7	13.4	19.1	59.4	45.4	19.8	33.3
New Hampshire	6	(²)	635	(²)	.8	.7	6.1	.7	60.9	62.7	22.8	19.3
New Jersey	74	50	16,342	6,664	20.2	31.4	11.7	15.9	69.0	60.9	29.4	23.5
New Mexico	15	4	2,014	246	1.6	2.8	45.0	33.7	55.7	37.4	7.8	5.7
New York	114	85	28,133	10,284	15.1	12.3	8.9	8.5	55.2	50.9	18.3	15.8
North Carolina	48	28	7,812	7,274	38.4	31.4	3.4	5.7	54.1	52.2	16.9	25.9
North Dakota	4	(²)	461	(²)	.9	—	1.5	1.2	62.5	3.5	17.1	24.4
Ohio	54	51	12,295	5,810	11.0	10.1	1.8	1.3	36.6	33.9	16.0	13.6
Oklahoma	24	7	6,595	555	12.8	6.3	3.8	3.6	23.6	64.3	19.5	18.2
Oregon	29	22	4,156	4,222	3.1	2.1	9.5	12.1	48.3	38.9	19.0	18.4
Pennsylvania	96	65	27,539	10,031	11.3	9.2	2.2	2.2	54.4	36.2	23.5	17.9
Rhode Island	7	4	874	387	3.5	5.7	25.9	14.0	80.5	62.0	22.3	20.7
South Carolina	11	8	1,734	975	57.3	60.8	—	.8	64.2	57.7	.3	1.5
South Dakota	4	(²)	641	(²)	.5	3.9	.2	—	68.3	72.4	18.6	—
Tennessee	20	21	2,524	2,263	37.1	17.5	.1	—	51.1	55.3	12.2	22.8
Texas	84	41	20,602	8,234	19.6	16.4	36.0	36.5	45.2	39.3	13.3	12.2
Utah	8	(²)	1,042	(²)	1.6	.6	15.5	11.1	67.2	3.1	9.7	22.2
Vermont	10	—	1,076	—	.4	—	.2	—	43.4	—	15.7	—
Virginia	28	12	4,531	1,612	44.4	42.7	2.3	1.3	64.8	61.4	15.1	16.5
Washington	48	30	8,198	5,089	5.0	3.2	20.2	23.6	40.3	41.1	17.4	19.7
West Virginia	6	3	519	171	.2	—	—	—	63.4	29.2	16.8	14.0
Wisconsin	61	34	10,334	4,530	7.3	12.0	4.5	3.8	46.4	30.3	17.7	15.2
Wyoming	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerto Rico	14	18	2,937	2,339	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	64.8	53.1	12.7	8.2

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

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

³ Data are not available.

^p = preliminary.

^r = revised.

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		
	III 2002 ^r	II 2003 ^r	III 2003 ^p	III 2002 ^r	II 2003 ^r	III 2003 ^p	III 2002 ^r	II 2003 ^r	III 2003 ^p
United States ¹	1,383	2,131	1,375	310,351	457,434	268,020	284,629	415,316	181,793
Northeast	300	394	265	60,966	89,526	36,954	67,885	89,621	34,644
New England	63	110	65	15,708	27,037	11,599	12,939	17,607	7,665
Middle Atlantic	237	284	200	45,258	62,489	25,355	54,946	72,014	26,979
South	350	582	280	70,108	112,965	47,294	74,561	101,697	40,466
South Atlantic	203	356	168	40,764	74,348	30,315	40,780	59,474	25,347
East South Central	48	74	51	8,204	11,867	8,275	5,550	9,783	5,202
West South Central	99	152	61	21,140	26,750	8,704	28,231	32,440	9,917
Midwest	285	492	314	66,696	112,843	56,038	68,731	104,507	41,782
East North Central	215	385	269	48,074	89,165	48,424	45,800	85,537	35,834
West North Central	70	107	45	18,622	23,678	7,614	22,931	18,970	5,948
West	448	663	516	112,581	142,100	127,734	73,452	119,491	64,901
Mountain	78	122	53	16,669	29,040	8,086	11,303	17,969	5,565
Pacific	370	541	463	95,912	113,060	119,648	62,149	101,522	59,336

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

^r = 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		
	III 2002 ^r	II 2003 ^r	III 2003 ^p	III 2002 ^r	II 2003 ^r	III 2003 ^p	III 2002 ^r	II 2003 ^r	III 2003 ^p
Total ¹	1,383	2,131	1,375	310,351	457,434	268,020	284,629	415,316	181,793
Alabama	(²)	17	7	(²)	2,502	1,115	(²)	2,502	1,115
Alaska	-	9	3	-	1,279	185	-	1,220	185
Arizona	35	46	14	9,757	9,526	2,407	5,627	7,157	1,426
Arkansas	(²)	8	4	(²)	1,899	1,179	(²)	845	413
California	301	448	405	79,398	95,756	105,816	51,053	87,238	48,632
Colorado	24	20	12	3,522	8,495	1,894	3,348	3,337	1,210
Connecticut	12	16	12	3,592	3,690	1,553	2,892	3,226	935
Delaware	-	(²)	-	-	(²)	-	-	(²)	-
District of Columbia	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Florida	110	206	94	22,333	45,511	14,247	19,301	33,046	12,332
Georgia	15	43	14	3,372	10,916	2,363	6,580	9,260	2,106
Hawaii	(²)	7	3	(²)	690	1,559	(²)	710	1,208
Idaho	4	13	12	504	1,900	1,675	357	1,926	1,750
Illinois	109	150	114	29,186	37,024	26,884	23,573	33,270	15,571
Indiana	26	50	21	5,524	20,213	4,934	5,910	11,526	4,019
Iowa	5	5	4	556	1,686	356	492	1,422	354
Kansas	15	11	10	8,081	2,385	2,080	13,814	1,529	1,766
Kentucky	21	26	14	3,876	5,104	2,069	2,684	3,742	1,119
Louisiana	15	36	9	2,052	4,846	980	1,543	4,398	715
Maine	(²)	13	4	(²)	2,753	348	(²)	1,378	260
Maryland	6	9	7	1,495	2,222	1,440	947	1,995	594
Massachusetts	42	58	43	10,011	18,135	9,161	8,555	10,418	5,933
Michigan	12	70	49	3,993	15,289	6,117	2,636	18,112	5,904
Minnesota	22	42	15	4,336	6,893	1,811	3,800	6,975	1,730
Mississippi	6	11	9	1,057	1,558	1,770	766	1,015	705
Missouri	24	34	12	4,890	10,765	2,451	4,275	7,348	1,560
Montana	-	11	4	-	2,073	307	-	1,334	231
Nebraska	4	7	(²)	759	708	(²)	550	594	(²)
Nevada	10	9	5	1,106	1,124	1,168	1,081	1,159	540
New Hampshire	(²)	6	(²)	(²)	543	(²)	(²)	635	(²)
New Jersey	56	74	50	8,538	15,496	6,670	8,167	16,342	6,664
New Mexico	(²)	15	4	(²)	2,675	415	(²)	2,014	246
New York	122	114	85	24,681	32,189	11,782	26,790	28,133	10,284
North Carolina	30	48	28	7,583	8,687	7,868	6,357	7,812	7,274
North Dakota	-	4	(²)	-	613	(²)	-	461	(²)
Ohio	50	54	51	5,711	6,421	5,395	8,964	12,295	5,810
Oklahoma	4	24	7	793	5,712	549	667	6,595	555
Oregon	25	29	22	4,223	3,525	2,582	3,406	4,156	4,222
Pennsylvania	59	96	65	12,039	14,804	6,903	19,989	27,539	10,031
Rhode Island	(²)	7	4	(²)	840	384	(²)	874	387
South Carolina	14	11	8	1,760	1,442	1,058	2,115	1,734	975
South Dakota	-	4	(²)	-	628	(²)	-	641	(²)
Tennessee	19	20	21	3,052	2,703	3,321	1,915	2,524	2,263
Texas	77	84	41	17,753	14,293	5,996	25,806	20,602	8,234
Utah	(²)	8	(²)	(²)	3,247	(²)	(²)	1,042	(²)
Vermont	(²)	10	-	(²)	1,076	-	(²)	1,076	-
Virginia	20	28	12	2,926	4,056	2,874	4,397	4,531	1,612
Washington	41	48	30	11,955	11,810	9,506	7,354	8,198	5,089
West Virginia	6	6	3	870	937	182	658	519	171
Wisconsin	18	61	34	3,660	10,218	5,094	4,717	10,334	4,530
Wyoming	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rico	12	14	18	2,616	1,543	2,231	3,191	2,937	2,339

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

^r = revised.

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

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

^p = preliminary.

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

State	Share of separations ²		Share of establishment employment ³		Index of mass-layoff separations ⁴	
	III 2002	III 2003 ^P	II 2001	II 2002	III 2002	III 2003 ^P
Total ¹	1.00000	1.00000	1.00000	1.00000	100.0	100.0
Alabama .....	.00071	.00416	.01311	.01307	5.4	31.8
Alaska .....	.00000	.00069	.00164	.00167	0.0	41.3
Arizona .....	.03144	.00898	.01880	.01920	167.2	46.8
Arkansas .....	.00175	.00440	.00805	.00818	21.7	53.8
California .....	.25583	.39481	.11500	.11451	222.5	344.8
Colorado .....	.01135	.00707	.01543	.01500	73.6	47.1
Connecticut .....	.01157	.00579	.01290	.01307	89.7	44.3
Delaware .....	.00000	.00000	.00346	.00348	0.0	0.0
District of Columbia .....	.00137	.00106	.00428	.00450	32.0	23.5
Florida .....	.07196	.05316	.05836	.05868	123.3	90.6
Georgia .....	.01087	.00882	.03059	.03037	35.5	29.0
Hawaii .....	.00108	.00582	.00377	.00378	28.7	153.8
Idaho .....	.00162	.00625	.00332	.00338	48.9	185.2
Illinois .....	.09404	.10031	.05102	.05063	184.3	198.1
Indiana .....	.01780	.01841	.02363	.02378	75.3	77.4
Iowa .....	.00179	.00133	.01018	.01022	17.6	13.0
Kansas .....	.02604	.00776	.00949	.00957	274.4	81.1
Kentucky .....	.01249	.00772	.01291	.01287	96.8	60.0
Louisiana .....	.00661	.00366	.01258	.01261	52.6	29.0
Maine .....	.00070	.00130	.00389	.00388	18.0	33.5
Maryland .....	.00482	.00537	.01786	.01829	27.0	29.4
Massachusetts .....	.03226	.03418	.02673	.02639	120.7	129.5
Michigan .....	.01287	.02282	.03788	.03784	34.0	60.3
Minnesota .....	.01397	.00676	.02078	.02088	67.2	32.4
Mississippi .....	.00341	.00660	.00787	.00792	43.3	83.4
Missouri .....	.01576	.00914	.02001	.02024	78.7	45.2
Montana .....	.00000	.00115	.00183	.00192	0.0	59.7
Nebraska .....	.00245	.00224	.00639	.00644	38.2	34.8
Nevada .....	.00356	.00436	.00921	.00929	38.7	46.9
New Hampshire .....	.00121	.00057	.00413	.00410	29.2	13.9
New Jersey .....	.02751	.02489	.03052	.03063	90.2	81.3
New Mexico .....	.00182	.00155	.00453	.00467	40.1	33.2
New York .....	.07953	.04396	.06408	.06407	124.1	68.6
North Carolina .....	.02443	.02936	.02879	.02821	84.9	104.1
North Dakota .....	.00000	.00032	.00186	.00190	0.0	16.9
Ohio .....	.01840	.02013	.04461	.04433	41.3	45.4
Oklahoma .....	.00256	.00205	.01021	.01016	25.0	20.2
Oregon .....	.01361	.00963	.01062	.01054	128.1	91.4
Pennsylvania .....	.03879	.02576	.04577	.04606	84.8	55.9
Rhode Island .....	.00111	.00143	.00340	.00344	32.6	41.7
South Carolina .....	.00567	.00395	.01349	.01337	42.0	29.5
South Dakota .....	.00000	.00086	.00220	.00219	0.0	39.2
Tennessee .....	.00983	.01239	.02264	.02271	43.4	54.6
Texas .....	.05720	.02237	.07214	.07214	79.3	31.0
Utah .....	.00392	.00082	.00725	.00715	54.1	11.5
Vermont .....	.00376	.00000	.00173	.00174	217.3	0.0
Virginia .....	.00943	.01072	.02521	.02526	37.4	42.5
Washington .....	.03852	.03547	.01873	.01832	205.7	193.6
West Virginia .....	.00280	.00068	.00417	.00424	67.2	16.0
Wisconsin .....	.01179	.01901	.02193	.02208	53.8	86.1
Wyoming .....	.00000	.00000	.00103	.00108	0.0	0.0

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

² 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.

³ 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.

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

^P = preliminary.

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

State	Share of separations ²		Share of establishment employment ³		Index of mass-layoff separations ⁴	
	III 2002	III 2003 ^P	II 2001	II 2002	III 2002	III 2003 ^P
Total ¹	1.00000	1.00000	1.00000	1.00000	100.0	100.0
Alabama .....	.00100	.00438	.01311	.01307	7.6	33.5
Alaska .....	.00000	.00000	.00164	.00167	0.0	0.0
Arizona .....	.01815	.00315	.01880	.01920	96.6	16.4
Arkansas .....	.00247	.00625	.00805	.00818	30.6	76.4
California .....	.15815	.31890	.11500	.11451	137.5	278.5
Colorado .....	.01523	.00705	.01543	.01500	98.7	47.0
Connecticut .....	.01475	.00635	.01290	.01307	114.3	48.6
Delaware .....	.00000	.00000	.00346	.00348	0.0	0.0
District of Columbia .....	.00193	.00150	.00428	.00450	45.2	33.4
Florida .....	.08427	.06176	.05836	.05868	144.4	105.3
Georgia .....	.01511	.01252	.03059	.03037	49.4	41.2
Hawaii .....	.00153	.00826	.00377	.00378	40.6	218.4
Idaho .....	.00143	.00739	.00332	.00338	43.0	219.1
Illinois .....	.09541	.10791	.05102	.05063	187.0	213.1
Indiana .....	.01713	.02535	.02363	.02378	72.5	106.6
Iowa .....	.00207	.00189	.01018	.01022	20.3	18.5
Kansas .....	.02994	.00943	.00949	.00957	315.5	98.6
Kentucky .....	.01476	.00826	.01291	.01287	114.3	64.2
Louisiana .....	.00906	.00519	.01258	.01261	72.0	41.2
Maine .....	.00099	.00153	.00389	.00388	25.5	39.3
Maryland .....	.00617	.00689	.01786	.01829	34.5	37.7
Massachusetts .....	.03648	.03947	.02673	.02639	136.5	149.6
Michigan .....	.01779	.03185	.03788	.03784	47.0	84.2
Minnesota .....	.01658	.00711	.02078	.02088	79.8	34.0
Mississippi .....	.00276	.00885	.00787	.00792	35.1	111.8
Missouri .....	.01429	.00690	.02001	.02024	71.4	34.1
Montana .....	.00000	.00053	.00183	.00192	0.0	27.6
Nebraska .....	.00345	.00106	.00639	.00644	54.0	16.5
Nevada .....	.00471	.00565	.00921	.00929	51.1	60.9
New Hampshire .....	.00171	.00081	.00413	.00410	41.3	19.8
New Jersey .....	.02508	.02561	.03052	.03063	82.2	83.6
New Mexico .....	.00257	.00220	.00453	.00467	56.7	47.1
New York .....	.07973	.03150	.06408	.06407	124.4	49.2
North Carolina .....	.03450	.04170	.02879	.02821	119.8	147.8
North Dakota .....	.00000	.00046	.00186	.00190	0.0	24.0
Ohio .....	.02569	.02859	.04461	.04433	57.6	64.5
Oklahoma .....	.00361	.00291	.01021	.01016	35.4	28.6
Oregon .....	.01601	.00780	.01062	.01054	150.7	74.0
Pennsylvania .....	.05075	.03016	.04577	.04606	110.9	65.5
Rhode Island .....	.00128	.00106	.00340	.00344	37.6	30.8
South Carolina .....	.00640	.00405	.01349	.01337	47.4	30.3
South Dakota .....	.00000	.00122	.00220	.00219	0.0	55.7
Tennessee .....	.01389	.01713	.02264	.02271	61.3	75.4
Texas .....	.07787	.03133	.07214	.07214	108.0	43.4
Utah .....	.00553	.00117	.00725	.00715	76.3	16.3
Vermont .....	.00531	.00000	.00173	.00174	306.8	0.0
Virginia .....	.01331	.01523	.02521	.02526	52.8	60.3
Washington .....	.03212	.02648	.01873	.01832	171.5	144.6
West Virginia .....	.00396	.00067	.00417	.00424	94.8	15.9
Wisconsin .....	.01508	.02452	.02193	.02208	68.8	111.1
Wyoming .....	.00000	.00000	.00103	.00108	0.0	0.0

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

² 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.

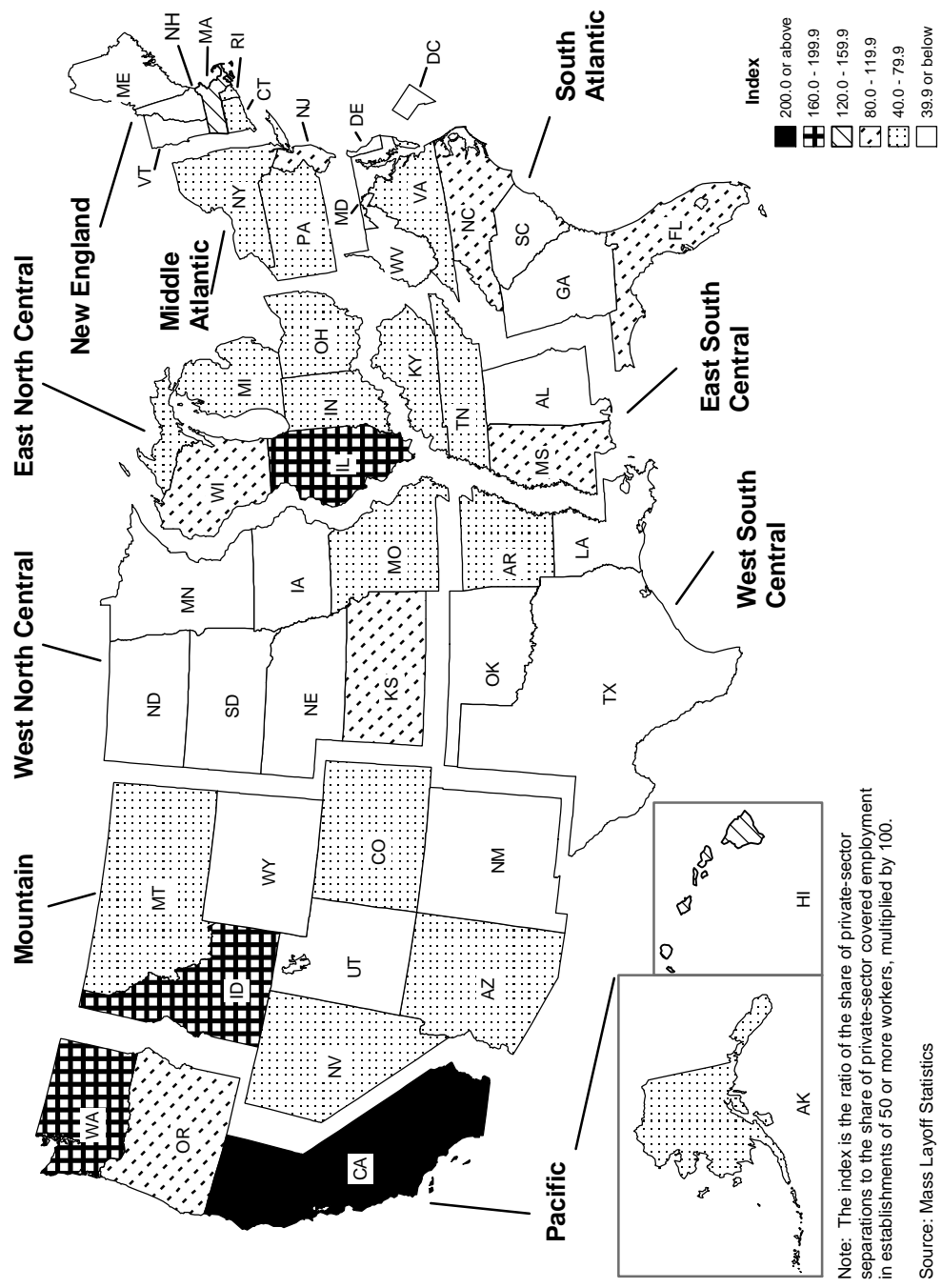
³ The share of establishment employment is the proportion of each State's private sector covered employment in establishments of 50 workers or more

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

⁴ 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.

^P = preliminary.

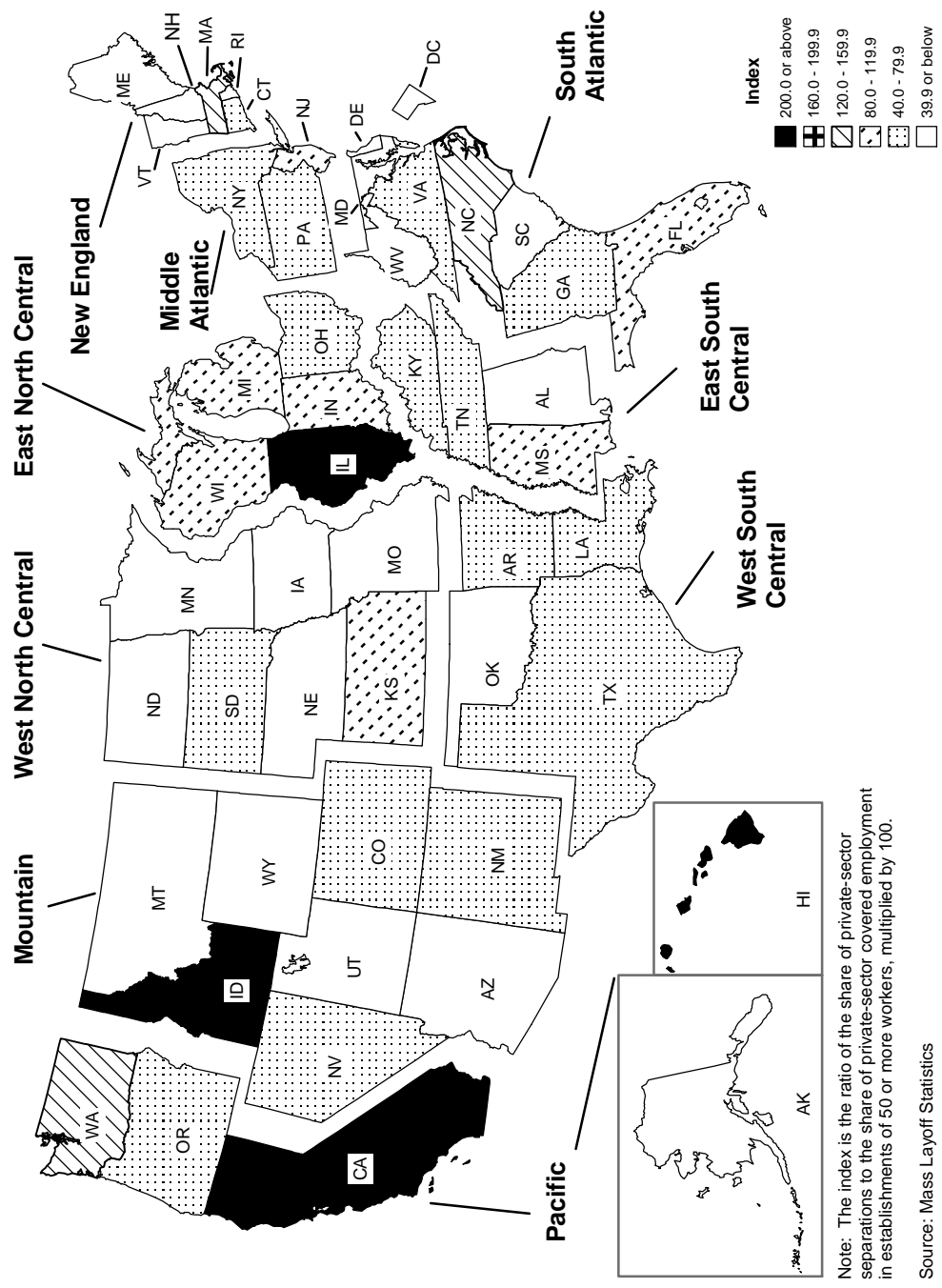
Chart 1. Index of private-sector mass-layoff separations, third quarter 2003



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),
third 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