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EXTENDED MASS LAYOFFS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2004 AND ANNUAL AVERAGES FOR 2004

In the fourth quarter of 2004, 1,295 mass layoff actions were taken by employers that resulted in the separation of 236,637 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 2003, with separations at its lowest level for any fourth quarter since the program began in 1995. (See table A.) The declines over the year were most notable in food and beverage stores, administrative and support services, heavy and civil engineering construction, and transportation equipment manufacturing. Extended mass layoffs that involve the

NOTE: With this release, BLS resumes quarterly publication of data on worker separations specifically associated with the movement of work within the same company or to other companies, domestically or outside the U.S. Such instances of movement of work are referred to as "actions," and, along with actions where movement of work does not occur, are components of layoff events. BLS first issued movement of work information on June 10, 2004, with data for the first quarter of 2004. Data collected for subsequent quarters included responses where employers could not disaggregate separations due to movement of work within or out of the country. BLS suspended publication of such information, pending review to determine if the quantity and quality of data available from employers were sufficient to meet the Bureau's statistical publication criteria.

After completing this review, BLS decided that the data collected on this topic meet sufficient statistical standards for publication. Beginning with this release, BLS will publish a range for separations associated with movement of work each quarter. The data provided by respondents on the number of separations associated with specific movement of work actions establish a lower bound (12,152 in the fourth quarter of 2004). The upper bound is the total number of separations in extended mass layoff events where there was some movement of work (16,361 in the fourth quarter). (See Table B.) The difference between the lower and upper bounds includes an unknown number of separations that were not due to movement of work and an unknown number of separations from movement of work actions where employers could not provide detail.

Table 11 of this release contains data, published for the first time for the second, third, and fourth quarters of 2004, on separations associated with specific movement of work actions. The figures in Table 11 are only for those movement of work actions where specific counts of separations were known. See the Technical Note later in this news release for information on movement of work concepts and definitions.

Table A. Selected measures of extended mass layoff activity

Period	Layoff events	Separations	Initial claimants
2000			
January-March	1,081	202,500	180,205
April-June	1,055	205,861	186,759
July-September	817	174,628	158,394
October-December	1,638	332,973	320,909
2001			
January-March	1,546	304,171	306,535
April-June	1,828	430,499	358,611
July-September	1,629	330,391	336,298
October-December	2,372	459,771	456,068
2002			
January-March	1,611	299,266	292,998
April-June	1,624	344,606	299,598
July-September	1,186	255,152	254,955
October-December	1,916	373,307	370,592
2003			
January-March	1,502	286,947	297,608
April-June	1,799	368,273	348,966
July-September	1,190	236,333	227,909
October-December	1,690	325,333	326,328
2004			
January-March ^r	1,339	276,448	238,305
April-June ^r	1,358	278,380	253,231
July-September ^r	887	164,822	145,889
October-December ^p	1,295	236,637	178,834

r = revised.

p = preliminary.

movement of work within the same company or to a different company, domestically or outside the U.S., occurred in about 11 percent of the nonseasonal layoff events and accounted for about 14 percent of the worker separations in nonseasonal events. (See table B.) Forty-eight 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.

In the fourth quarter of 2004, the national unemployment rate was 5.1 percent, not seasonally adjusted; a year earlier it was 5.5 percent. Private nonfarm payroll employment, not seasonally adjusted, increased by 1.8 percent or about 2 million jobs from October-December 2003 to October-December 2004.

The completion of seasonal work accounted for 47 percent of all events and resulted in 118,684 separations during the period—the lowest level for any fourth quarter since 1999. Layoffs due to internal company restructuring (bankruptcy, business ownership change, financial difficulty, and reorganization) represented 15 percent of events and resulted in 36,266 separations, the lowest level for a fourth quarter since 1995. Permanent closure of worksites occurred in 12 percent of all events and affected 32,733 workers, the fewest number of workers for any fourth quarter.

For all of 2004, the total of extended mass layoff events was 4,879 and the total number of worker separations was 956,327. These annual totals were significantly lower than in 2003 (6,181 and 1,216,886, respectively). Since reaching a peak in 2001, the annual number of extended layoff events has fallen by 2,496, or 34 percent, and the number of separations has declined by 568,505, or 37 percent. Additional information on the annual data is available starting on page 8 of this release.

Industry Distribution of Extended Layoffs

Extended mass layoff separations occurred in 356 of the 1,197 detailed industries for which data are available for the fourth quarter 2004. This is the fewest number of industries to have at least one extended mass layoff event in a fourth quarter since 1995.

Manufacturing industries accounted for 31 percent of private nonfarm layoff events and 30 percent of separations during October-December 2004. (See table 1.) The 69,922 worker separations in manufacturing were the fewest for manufacturing for any fourth quarter since the series began in 1995. In the fourth quarter of 2004, layoff activity in this sector was concentrated in food manufacturing (23,882), followed by transportation equipment manufacturing (7,939) and computer and electronic products manufacturing (4,679).

The construction sector had 29 percent of events and 23 percent of separations, mostly in heavy and civil engineering construction. Administrative and waste services accounted for 11 percent of private nonfarm layoff events and separations, primarily in temporary help services. Layoffs in the retail trade sector comprised 4 percent of events and 8 percent of separations, mostly among general merchandise stores and nonstore retailers. Layoffs in accommodation and food services accounted for 6 percent of events and 8 percent of separations, mainly in hotels and motels, except casino hotels.

Information technology-producing industries (communication equipment, communications services, computer hardware, and software and computer services) accounted for 4 percent of layoff events and 7,857 worker separations in the fourth quarter of 2004. A year earlier these industries accounted for 4 percent of layoff events and 15,318 separations. (See table 6.) This also marked the fewest number of separations in this industry grouping for a fourth quarter since 1999. Layoffs in the information technology-producing industries were most numerous in communications services with 3,082 separations, followed by the computer hardware industry.

Reasons for Extended Layoff

Layoffs due to the completion of seasonal work accounted for 47 percent of the extended layoff events and resulted in 118,684 separations in the fourth quarter, 50 percent of the total. This marked the first time that as much as half of the separations were due to seasonal layoffs. (See table 2.) Seasonal layoffs were most numerous among workers in heavy and civil engineering construction, in food manufacturing, and in general merchandise stores.

Internal company restructuring (due to bankruptcy, business ownership change, financial difficulty, and reorganization) accounted for 15 percent of layoff events and resulted in 36,266 separations. These layoffs were mostly among workers in credit intermediation and related activities, transportation equipment manufacturing, and food manufacturing. Over half of both the internal company restructuring layoff events and separations were due to reorganization within the company.

Table B. Extended mass layoff events and separations, selected measures, fourth quarter 2004^p

Action	Layoff events	Separations
Total private nonfarm	1,295	236,637
Total, excluding seasonal and vacation events ¹	690	117,953
Total events with movement of work ²	74	16,361
Movement of work actions	124	(3)
With separations reported	88	12,152
With separations unknown	36	(3)

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

² A layoff event can involve more than one action.

³ Data not available.

p = preliminary.

Movement of Work

Between October and December of 2004, 74 extended mass layoff events involved the movement of work; this was about 11 percent of total extended mass layoff events, excluding those for seasonal and vacation reasons. (See table B.) These movements of work were to other U.S. locations or to locations outside of the U.S., and they occurred either within the same company or to other companies. The extended mass layoff events involving movement of work were associated with the separation of 16,361 workers, about 14 percent of all separations resulting from nonseasonal/nonvacation mass layoff events. Revised data from the third quarter of 2004 show that there were 84 extended mass layoff events and 17,400 separations involving the movement of work. (See table 10.) The first quarter of 2004 marked the initial reporting of job loss data relating to the movement of work in the Bureau's Mass Layoff Statistics program.

Among the 74 extended mass layoff events with reported relocation of work in the fourth quarter of 2004, 74 percent were permanent closures of worksites, which affected 12,623 workers. In comparison, for the 1,295 total layoff events reported for the fourth quarter of 2004, only 12 percent involved the permanent closure of worksites.

Of the layoffs involving the movement of work, 70 percent of the events and 72 percent of the laid-off workers were from manufacturing industries during the fourth quarter of 2004. (See table 7.) Among all private nonfarm extended layoffs, manufacturing accounted for 31 percent of the events and 30 percent of the separations.

Internal company restructuring (bankruptcy, business ownership change, financial difficulty, and reorganization) accounted for 68 percent of layoff events associated with work relocation and resulted in

Table C. Movement of work actions by type of separation where the number of separations is known by employers, fourth quarter 2004^p

Action	Layoff events ¹	Separations
With separations reported	88	12,152
By location		
Out of country	31	5,134
Within company	28	4,701
Different company	3	433
Domestic relocations	57	7,018
Within company	50	6,310
Different company	7	708
By company		
Within company	78	11,011
Domestic	50	6,310
Out of country	28	4,701
Different company	10	1,141
Domestic	7	708
Out of country	3	433

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

p = preliminary.

10,369 separations during the fourth quarter. (See table 8.) Most of these were due to reorganization within the company. In contrast, only 15 percent of the layoff events in the total private nonfarm economy were because of internal company restructuring.

Among the regions, the South accounted for the largest proportion of workers in extended mass layoffs associated with the movement of work (42 percent) in the fourth quarter of 2004, followed by the Midwest (22 percent), the Northeast (19 percent), and the West (17 percent). (See table 9.)

As noted in table B, the 74 extended layoff events for the fourth quarter of 2004 discussed above involve 124 identifiable relocations of work. (An identifiable relocation of work occurs when the employer provides sufficient information on the new location of work and/or the number of workers affected by the movement. Some extended mass layoff events involve more than one relocation of work action. For example, an extended mass layoff event at an establishment may involve job loss due to movement of work to both another domestic location of the company and a location out of the country. This would be counted as two relocation of work actions.) Of the 124 relocations, employers were able to provide information on the

Table D. Summary of employer expectations of a recall from extended layoff, fourth quarter 2003-fourth quarter 2004

Nature of the recall	Percentage of events				
	IV 2003	I 2004	II 2004 ^r	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p
Anticipate a recall	58.2	39.6	55.2	41.0	65.1
Timeframe					
Within 6 months	85.5	82.5	84.6	84.1	84.3
Within 3 months	37.3	48.7	55.5	66.8	33.0
Size					
At least half	91.7	86.4	91.3	86.0	93.1
All workers	45.0	35.3	52.3	46.7	48.2

r = revised.

p = preliminary.

specific separations (12,152 workers) associated with the movement of work component of the layoff in 88 actions, or 71 percent of the total actions for the fourth quarter of 2004. Thus, a range of 12,152 (separations in movement of work actions where the employer was able to provide specific detail) to 16,361 (total separations in all layoff events that included movement of work) is established for separations due to the movement of work in the fourth quarter. (See table 10 for similar data for earlier quarters.)

In the 88 actions where employers were able to provide more complete separation information, 9 in 10 worker separations associated with the movement of work (11,011 out of 12,152) occurred among establishments within the same company. (See table C.) In 57 percent of these separations, the work activities were reassigned to places elsewhere in the U.S. Just over one-third of the movement-of-work situations involved out-of-country moves (31 out of 88). The separation of 5,134 workers was associated with out-of-country relocations—slightly more than two-fifths of all separations related to the movement of work and about 4 percent of all nonseasonal/nonvacation extended mass layoff separations. Domestic relocation of work—both within the company and to other companies—affected 7,018 workers. (See table 11.)

Recall Expectations

Sixty-five percent of employers reporting an extended layoff in the fourth quarter of 2004 indicated they anticipated some type of recall. This compares with 58 percent of the employers anticipating a recall a year earlier and is the highest proportion for a fourth quarter since 1997. (See table D.) 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-eight percent of the employers expected to extend the offer to all laid-off workers, the highest proportion for a fourth quarter since 2000.

Table E. Distribution of extended layoff events by size of layoff, October-December 2004^p

Size	Layoff events		Separations	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	1,295	100.0	236,637	100.0
50-99.....	478	36.9	34,696	14.7
100-149.....	307	23.7	36,536	15.4
150-199.....	157	12.1	26,765	11.3
200-299.....	187	14.4	43,874	18.5
300-499.....	99	7.6	35,480	15.0
500-999.....	50	3.9	31,697	13.4
1,000 or more...	17	1.3	27,589	11.7

p = preliminary.

Excluding layoff events due to seasonal work and vacation period (in which 98 percent of the employers expected a recall), employers expected to recall laid-off workers in 36 percent of the events. A year earlier, 29 percent of employers expected a recall in nonseasonal and nonvacation events. In layoff events due to internal company restructuring, employers anticipated a recall in only 4 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 30 percent of all separations. (See table E.) Separations involving 500 or more workers accounted for 25 percent of all separations, not very different from a year earlier. The average size of layoffs (as measured by separations per layoff event) differed widely by industry, ranging from a low of 93 separations in chemical manufacturing to a high of 781 in nonstore retailers.

Initial Claimant Characteristics

A total of 178,834 initial claimants for unemployment insurance were associated with extended mass layoffs in the fourth quarter of 2004. Of these claimants, 11 percent were black, 17 percent were Hispanic, 34 percent were women, and 16 percent were 55 years of age or older. (See table 3.) Thirty-eight 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 16 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 fourth quarter, the number of separations due to extended mass layoff events was highest in the Midwest (94,478), followed by the West (61,731), the South (41,776), and the Northeast (38,652). (See table 4.) Extended mass layoffs in the Midwest were mainly in heavy and civil engineering construction, administrative and support services, and specialty trade contractors.

All four regions reported over-the-year decreases in separations, with the largest decrease occurring in the Midwest (-36,520), followed by the West (-32,741), the Northeast (-10,638), and the South (-8,797).

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

Metropolitan area	Events		Separations	
	IV 2003	IV 2004 ^p	IV 2003	IV 2004 ^p
Total, nonmetropolitan areas	260	194	42,481	32,774
Total, 331 metropolitan areas	862	732	153,539	126,274
Chicago, Ill.	90	84	17,613	17,159
Detroit, Mich.	36	36	4,537	5,060
Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.-Wis.	41	33	5,413	4,794
Los Angeles-Long Beach, Calif.	28	15	10,275	4,649
New York, N.Y.	28	22	4,999	3,685
San Francisco, Calif.	6	11	1,253	2,866
Philadelphia, Pa.-N.J.	11	19	1,610	2,663
Fresno, Calif.	13	7	2,399	2,095
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, Wash.	10	7	1,228	2,085
Rockford, Ill.	6	7	1,112	1,928

p = preliminary.

Seven of the nine geographic divisions reported over-the-year declines in laid-off workers, with the largest declines occurring in the East North Central (-32,937) and Pacific division (-32,454). The over-the-year increases were in the East South Central (+2,753) and West South Central (+908) divisions.

Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, the largest number of worker separations occurred in California (37,864), followed by Illinois (36,232) and Florida (16,463). These three states accounted for 29 percent of total layoff events and 38 percent of the separations during the fourth quarter of 2004. They were followed by Minnesota (12,433), New York (11,525), Pennsylvania (11,182), Michigan (10,912), and Ohio (10,740). (See table 5.) After excluding the substantial impact of seasonal work, Illinois reported the most laid-off workers (17,429), largely due to layoffs in administrative and support services.

Over the year, California reported the greatest decrease in workers laid off during the fourth quarter (-26,539), followed by Wisconsin (-13,063), Michigan (-8,740), and Ohio (-7,354). The largest increases occurred in Tennessee (+1,530) and Pennsylvania (+1,455).

Fifty-seven percent of events and 53 percent of separations occurred in metropolitan areas in the fourth quarter of 2004, compared to 51 percent of events and 47 percent of separations during the fourth quarter of 2003. Among the 331 metropolitan areas, Chicago, Ill., reported the highest number of separations, 17,159. Next were Detroit Mich., with 5,060 separations, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.-Wis., with 4,794, and Los Angeles-Long Beach, Calif., with 4,649. (See table F.) Employers located in nonmetropolitan areas separated 32,774 workers in mass layoffs, down from 42,481 workers in the fourth quarter of 2003.

Review of 2004

For all of 2004, employers reported 4,879 extended mass layoff actions, affecting 956,327 workers. These totals were compare to 6,181 events and 1,216,886 separations in 2003. Compared with their peak levels in 2001, the number of events was down by 34 percent and the number of separations was down by 37 percent. (See table G.) The annual average national unemployment rate decreased from 6.0 percent in

Table G. Selected measures of mass layoff activity, 1996-2004

Period	Layoff events	Separations	Initial claimants
1996	4,760	948,122	805,810
1997	4,671	947,843	879,831
1998	4,859	991,245	1,056,462
1999	4,556	901,451	796,917
2000	4,591	915,962	846,267
2001	7,375	1,524,832	1,457,512
2002	6,337	1,272,331	1,218,143
2003	6,181	1,216,886	1,200,811
2004 ^p	4,879	956,327	816,259

p = preliminary.

2003 to 5.5 percent in 2004, while private nonfarm payroll employment increased by 1.3 percent, or 1,447,000 jobs.

Fifteen percent of extended events in 2004 were permanent closures, accounting for 157,512 worker separations. When compared with 2003, the number of permanent closures declined by 20 percent, resulting in 53,391 fewer separations. Since 2001, when permanent closures were at their highest, the number of closures was down by 41 percent and the number of associated separations was down by 58 percent. During 2004, permanent closures were most numerous in the manufacturing sector, primarily in food manufacturing. Reorganization within the company was most often cited as the reason for closures in manufacturing during 2004, accounting for 34 percent of the total.

In 2004, employers expected a recall in 51 percent of the mass layoff actions, higher than a year earlier when employers expected a recall in 43 percent of events. In 6 of the past 9 years, a recall had been expected in about 50 percent of all layoff events. Employers in arts, entertainment, and recreation (82 percent), construction (76 percent), mining (76 percent), and health care and social assistance (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 (5 percent), followed by those in information (12 percent). Manufacturing industries accounted for 34 percent of events and 27 percent of separations for which the employer did not expect to have a recall. These occurred primarily in transportation equipment, computer and electronic products, and food manufacturing.

Industry. Manufacturing had the largest share of extended events and separations in 2004—29 and 25 percent, respectively. However, these were the smallest shares on record for this industry group. Since reaching a peak in 2001, the number of manufacturing events has declined by 56 percent and the number of separations has declined by 62 percent. In 2004, within manufacturing, separations were most numerous in food manufacturing (61,459), transportation equipment (36,759), and computer and electronic products (14,867). Compared with 2003, 17 of the 21 manufacturing subgroups had declines in the number of separations, with the largest occurring in computer and electronic products (-27,503) and transportation equipment (-21,969). Plastics and rubber products manufacturing had the largest increase (+1,265).

Reason. In 2004, seasonal work continued to be the most frequently cited reason for layoff, accounting for 33 percent of all layoff events and 34 percent of all separations. A year earlier, seasonal layoffs accounted for 26 percent of events and 27 percent of separations. The seasonal layoffs in 2004 occurred

primarily in establishments engaged in food manufacturing, heavy and civil engineering construction, and in transit and ground passenger transportation.

Layoff activity due to internal company restructuring occurred largely among general credit intermediation and related activities, food manufacturing, and telecommunications. Employers cited this reason in 967 events (20 percent of the total), resulting in the separation of 192,784 workers (20 percent of the total).

Movement of work. In 2004, there were 357 extended mass layoff events that involved movement of work, either within the same company or to a different company, domestically or out of the U.S. The events involving movement of work were associated with the separation of 69,979 workers, about 11 percent of all separations resulting from nonseasonal/nonvacation mass layoff events. Sixty-two percent of events with movement-of-work involved the permanent closure of a worksite, affecting 48,144 workers. About two-thirds of the events and separations were in manufacturing industries, mostly in computer and electronic products and in transportation equipment. Employers citing internal company restructuring (bankruptcy, business ownership change, financial difficulty, and reorganization) accounted for over two-thirds of the movement-of-work events and separations. Among the regions, the Midwest accounted for the largest proportion of laid-off workers associated with the movement of work (34 percent), followed by the South (32 percent), the West (21 percent), and the Northeast (14 percent).

As part of the 357 layoff events involving movement of work, 466 specific movement-of-work actions were taken by employers. Employers were able to provide information on specific separations (53,923 laid-off workers) associated with the movement of work component of the layoff in 375 of the 466 actions. Thus, the number of separations due to the movement of work ranges between 53,923 (separations in movement-of-work actions where the employer was able to provide specific detail) up to 69,979 (total separations in all layoff events that included movement of work) for 2004.

Of the 375 movement-of-work actions for which complete information is available, 7 in 10 relocations were to other locations within the U.S., and more than 8 in 10 involved moving work within the company. The separation of 16,073 of the 53,923 workers was associated with out-of-country relocations, accounting for 30 percent of the separations related to the movement of work and 3 percent of all separations in non-seasonal/nonvacation extended mass layoff events. In out-of-country relocations, Mexico and China were cited 52 percent of the time as the destination to which work moved. Domestic relocation of work—both within the company and to other companies—affected 35,171 workers. California and North Carolina led the list of states to which work was being moved.

Geographic distribution. Among all private-sector nonfarm employers, those in the Midwest reported more laid-off workers in 2004 than any other region, 295,454. Layoffs in the Midwest were mainly in administrative and support services and heavy and civil engineering construction and were primarily attributed to seasonal factors. The Northeast region continued to report the lowest annual number of separations (177,013). The largest decline occurred in the West (-92,253).

Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, California continued to report the largest number of separated workers in 2004 (204,298). After California were Illinois (107,071), Florida (82,637), and New York (68,166). These four states accounted for 39 percent of events and 48 percent of separations in 2004 for the year. California (-60,878) had the largest over-the-year decline in the number of separations; Ohio recorded the largest over-the-year increase (+5,563).

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.

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

The report on Mass Layoffs in January 2005 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, February 24, 2005.

Technical Note

The Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program is a federal-state program which identifies, describes, and tracks the effects of major job cutbacks, using data from each state's unemployment insurance database. 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, gender, ethnic group, and place of residence. The program yields information on an individual's entire spell of unemployment, to the point when regular unemployment insurance benefits are exhausted.

Definitions

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 complete 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.

Movement of work concepts and questions

Because of the employer interview component, the BLS decided to use the MLS program as a vehicle for collecting additional information on offshoring and outsourcing associated with job loss, by adding questions that address movement of work. The term "moving work" means that the company experiencing the layoff has reassigned work activities that were performed at a worksite by the company's employees (1) to another worksite within the company; (2) to another company under formal arrangements at the same worksite; or (3) to another company under formal arrangements at another

worksite. The type of work activities subject to movement can include accounting, customer service, cleaning, warehousing, etc.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reliability of the data

The identification of establishments and layoff events in the MLS program and associated characteristics of claimants is

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

of 2004, outright refusal to participate in the employer interview accounted for 2.1 percent of all private nonfarm events. Although included in the total number of instances involving the movement of work, for the fourth quarter, employers in 36 relocations were unable to provide the number of separations specifically associated with the movement of work, 13 of which involved out-of-country moves.

Other information

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

Table 1. Industry distribution: Extended mass layoff events, separations, and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, private nonfarm sector, selected quarters, 2003 and 2004

Industry	Layoff events			Separations			Initial claimants for unemployment insurance		
	IV 2003	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p	IV 2003	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p	IV 2003	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	1,690	887	1,295	325,333	164,822	236,637	326,328	145,889	178,834
Mining	20	–	22	2,479	–	3,588	2,893	–	2,704
Utilities	5	–	4	859	–	1,840	861	–	1,324
Construction	473	83	376	69,124	10,962	53,421	74,936	12,954	45,872
Manufacturing	532	305	398	100,175	52,223	69,922	107,344	48,662	58,392
Food	121	54	101	28,315	12,587	23,882	22,682	10,997	17,155
Beverage and tobacco products	16	(²)	7	2,459	(²)	1,486	2,358	(²)	753
Textile mills	18	7	7	3,230	1,206	874	3,291	1,372	1,687
Textile product mills	8	7	3	931	812	341	1,135	1,232	321
Apparel	27	19	15	4,426	2,925	3,534	3,760	2,276	2,020
Leather and allied products	3	(²)	3	423	(²)	386	306	(²)	469
Wood products	23	5	7	2,906	450	704	3,887	608	1,120
Paper	10	6	11	1,039	1,079	1,344	1,026	886	1,040
Printing and related support activities	9	8	4	1,473	1,260	611	1,991	1,298	492
Petroleum and coal products	14	–	15	2,280	–	2,263	2,299	–	1,927
Chemicals	12	9	7	1,762	1,134	653	1,579	1,108	662
Plastics and rubber products	23	25	17	2,746	3,602	1,592	3,168	3,008	1,743
Nonmetallic mineral products	52	12	28	7,722	2,503	4,265	9,103	2,240	3,597
Primary metals	24	10	13	4,582	1,085	2,063	6,128	1,076	1,325
Fabricated metal products	31	31	21	3,794	4,135	2,969	3,925	4,125	2,700
Machinery	23	11	15	4,544	2,199	1,997	5,627	1,386	2,429
Computer and electronic products	32	19	27	5,922	2,967	4,679	5,396	2,825	3,339
Electrical equipment and appliances	12	9	17	3,067	2,219	3,263	2,745	3,074	3,757
Transportation equipment	48	50	48	14,041	8,402	7,939	22,792	8,234	7,543
Furniture and related products	13	12	23	2,201	2,217	3,540	1,928	1,688	2,876
Miscellaneous manufacturing	13	7	9	2,312	1,102	1,537	2,218	880	1,437
Wholesale trade	41	24	15	9,780	3,222	3,771	6,650	2,780	2,067
Retail trade	85	62	49	32,092	14,910	19,964	33,944	12,944	7,468
Transportation and warehousing	45	66	32	9,546	10,127	5,430	9,626	9,050	5,026
Information	50	27	42	14,588	6,717	6,974	15,938	5,730	6,948
Finance and insurance	47	36	28	7,319	11,272	5,443	8,394	7,904	3,583
Real estate and rental and leasing	5	3	(²)	903	844	(²)	422	852	(²)
Professional and technical services	42	26	25	8,369	5,792	4,996	7,235	4,601	3,641
Management of companies and enterprises ...	6	4	(²)	1,384	547	(²)	1,314	449	(²)
Administrative and waste services	192	112	145	37,051	26,174	24,954	34,490	23,640	19,427
Educational services	–	8	–	–	693	–	–	792	–
Health care and social assistance	33	60	29	4,039	9,893	5,439	4,050	5,979	3,762
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	35	20	39	11,377	2,605	8,122	4,793	2,649	4,048
Accommodation and food services	62	42	75	13,441	7,801	18,242	11,101	6,000	11,934
Other services, except public administration ...	16	9	9	2,562	1,040	2,275	2,260	903	1,299
Unclassified	1	–	2	245	–	399	77	–	104

¹ For the fourth quarter of 2004, data on layoffs were reported by employers in all states and the District of Columbia. Due to budget constraints in the 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 are no longer being collected. However, the monthly reporting of the MLS program in the release, *Mass Layoffs*, which is based only on

administrative data, will be unaffected and will continue to cover the total economy.

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

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

Table 2. Reason for layoff: Extended mass layoff events, separations, and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, private nonfarm sector, selected quarters, 2003 and 2004

Reason for layoff	Layoff events			Separations			Initial claimants for unemployment insurance		
	IV 2003	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p	IV 2003	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p	IV 2003	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	1,690	887	1,295	325,333	164,822	236,637	326,328	145,889	178,834
Automation	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Bankruptcy	26	19	24	4,347	3,620	3,885	2,860	2,601	2,412
Business ownership change	25	38	21	6,346	12,840	3,300	3,345	6,329	2,320
Contract cancellation	23	26	20	4,211	4,301	3,493	2,169	3,356	1,980
Contract completed	207	164	174	38,782	29,340	31,001	44,500	32,468	27,027
Domestic relocation	18	(³)	(³)	3,130	(³)	(³)	4,768	(³)	(³)
Environment-related	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)
Financial difficulty	56	45	42	12,769	9,619	7,637	9,799	6,441	5,791
Import competition	28	14	11	4,910	3,240	1,398	5,507	2,744	969
Labor dispute	7	(²)	12	10,568	(²)	4,424	8,524	(²)	4,155
Material shortage	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Model changeover	(²)	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-
Natural disaster	3	(²)	-	741	(²)	-	603	(²)	-
Non-natural disaster	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)	(²)
Overseas relocation	9	(³)	(³)	901	(³)	(³)	989	(³)	(³)
Plant or machine repair	6	4	5	815	633	600	689	496	540
Product line discontinued	5	9	5	507	1,551	1,276	600	1,369	976
Reorganization within company	161	122	107	34,711	27,587	21,444	38,049	23,588	16,819
Seasonal work	726	177	605	138,558	29,774	118,684	123,079	24,883	75,821
Slack work	190	118	159	25,900	14,501	19,879	40,686	19,334	24,920
Vacation period	7	14	-	1,293	1,512	-	1,586	1,378	-
Weather-related	28	13	28	3,508	1,864	3,494	4,312	1,869	2,541
Other	35	35	35	4,755	9,438	7,933	6,494	4,380	5,159
Not reported	124	79	42	27,958	13,393	7,104	27,263	12,970	6,901

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

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

³ Beginning with data for 2004, these reasons for layoff are no longer used.

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

Table 3. State and selected claimant characteristics: Extended mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, private nonfarm sector, third and fourth quarters, 2004

State	Layoff events		Total initial claimants		Percent of total							
	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p	Black		Hispanic origin		Women		Persons age 55 and over	
					III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	887	1,295	145,889	178,834	16.6	11.4	16.8	16.9	48.5	33.8	16.6	16.0
Alabama	3	4	422	586	72.0	57.7	4.0	2.9	73.7	58.7	14.0	16.4
Alaska	3	10	370	1,415	1.4	3.4	24.1	22.3	27.8	28.1	18.4	14.0
Arizona	4	6	606	915	6.3	5.7	45.7	22.2	53.0	49.8	13.2	16.0
Arkansas	-	4	-	307	-	15.6	-	.3	-	30.0	-	17.9
California	108	123	19,851	18,938	10.0	5.8	42.7	43.2	55.0	48.9	16.0	17.9
Colorado	(²)	21	(²)	2,043	17.2	5.3	21.1	32.7	49.7	28.7	7.5	15.7
Connecticut	7	6	1,040	669	19.2	7.3	8.8	7.8	61.0	17.8	21.0	17.6
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia	(²)	-	(²)	-	79.1	-	-	-	90.1	-	3.3	-
Florida	115	101	20,327	12,202	16.5	13.6	32.2	30.4	52.2	48.2	16.5	16.0
Georgia	13	13	1,847	1,722	52.1	61.0	2.6	1.8	47.6	53.1	14.4	16.6
Hawaii	(²)	5	(²)	414	2.0	2.9	22.6	26.8	37.2	19.6	7.0	12.3
Idaho	7	5	1,070	927	.5	.3	27.4	24.7	58.2	45.4	21.4	18.1
Illinois	77	155	13,556	22,391	25.9	14.8	11.0	21.2	44.6	23.8	14.7	13.1
Indiana	22	34	4,572	4,139	7.9	5.2	1.5	2.3	50.8	26.7	19.5	15.8
Iowa	9	28	1,445	4,232	6.2	1.4	8.1	4.3	51.1	20.9	13.5	15.2
Kansas	5	9	808	1,281	13.5	14.5	2.5	8.0	48.8	33.8	13.2	12.4
Kentucky	17	24	1,674	2,362	8.2	9.0	.1	.2	54.3	22.7	16.5	15.0
Louisiana	12	14	1,173	1,398	52.6	51.6	1.4	1.6	36.4	28.0	11.0	13.8
Maine	(²)	7	(²)	956	.7	.5	-	.4	10.8	22.4	13.7	13.7
Maryland	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	39.8	28.4	1.6	1.9	49.9	45.4	9.4	14.1
Massachusetts	22	22	3,828	2,513	9.0	5.1	6.6	3.0	46.4	43.1	15.1	16.2
Michigan	56	91	7,500	11,477	18.8	11.2	3.9	10.0	47.4	31.9	13.7	11.8
Minnesota	7	80	775	9,546	10.6	2.9	2.7	11.8	39.1	17.4	23.6	15.5
Mississippi	4	4	589	261	75.4	53.3	.3	.8	58.9	62.1	14.9	11.1
Missouri	12	19	2,384	2,661	22.8	8.6	.7	.6	61.1	38.7	24.1	29.1
Montana	-	5	-	428	-	.2	-	2.3	-	15.0	-	18.7
Nebraska	5	10	695	780	10.1	2.8	2.9	19.5	36.7	12.6	15.3	18.7
Nevada	-	4	-	326	-	20.6	-	18.7	-	39.9	-	14.7
New Hampshire	4	5	434	484	1.6	1.0	4.6	1.9	61.8	25.6	18.0	22.3
New Jersey	34	44	4,769	5,888	26.0	12.1	14.1	9.6	62.1	32.9	25.0	21.2
New Mexico	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	6.1	3.9	69.2	56.3	57.7	66.0	7.2	12.6
New York	97	78	14,402	10,901	15.9	9.6	9.2	7.0	47.6	31.5	20.0	17.2
North Carolina	15	18	1,924	1,923	41.8	41.4	3.3	8.8	52.1	52.0	15.8	18.2
North Dakota	-	8	-	925	-	.3	-	3.0	-	5.9	-	14.4
Ohio	48	80	6,848	9,887	11.5	10.7	1.7	2.9	40.3	20.2	16.0	11.5
Oklahoma	(²)	4	(²)	570	22.3	7.5	2.6	44.9	40.5	36.0	19.7	11.1
Oregon	8	20	1,397	3,540	1.6	1.0	26.9	36.5	58.7	47.3	24.5	17.8
Pennsylvania	66	77	12,860	14,679	7.6	10.1	2.1	2.0	36.0	41.2	18.5	21.5
Rhode Island	4	6	389	554	1.5	4.2	49.9	8.3	51.7	42.6	17.0	20.0
South Carolina	10	3	1,224	515	40.3	64.3	.2	.2	57.6	60.8	3.1	1.2
South Dakota	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tennessee	12	8	1,293	1,041	13.5	32.0	-	-	36.5	39.2	20.6	17.2
Texas	26	32	5,704	6,376	18.8	19.1	39.1	37.3	34.5	34.7	11.0	11.5
Utah	(²)	3	(²)	275	1.6	5.8	4.8	16.7	76.2	28.0	4.8	7.6
Vermont	-	3	-	183	-	.5	-	1.1	-	27.3	-	23.5
Virginia	11	12	2,389	2,312	40.3	59.3	6.4	3.2	53.1	64.6	13.6	16.8
Washington	13	30	2,309	4,317	6.2	4.8	16.1	38.1	44.8	38.2	16.6	13.7
West Virginia	(²)	8	(²)	1,004	.4	.7	-	-	46.7	36.4	7.6	13.9
Wisconsin	17	47	3,340	7,891	9.2	3.3	6.1	12.5	54.9	19.6	13.1	16.4
Wyoming	-	(²)	-	(²)	-	.8	-	.4	-	40.5	-	38.3
Puerto Rico	14	4	3,709	904	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	60.1	56.0	6.8	3.7

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

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

³ Data are not available.

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

Table 4. Census region and division: Extended mass layoff events, separations, and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, private nonfarm sector, selected quarters, 2003 and 2004

Census region and division	Layoff events			Separations			Initial claimants for unemployment insurance		
	IV 2003	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p	IV 2003	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p	IV 2003	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p
United States ¹	1,690	887	1,295	325,333	164,822	236,637	326,328	145,889	178,834
Northeast	296	235	248	49,290	33,570	38,652	56,760	37,861	36,827
New England	61	38	49	10,237	4,560	9,285	9,919	5,830	5,359
Middle Atlantic	235	197	199	39,053	29,010	29,367	46,841	32,031	31,468
South	283	245	251	50,573	42,324	41,776	48,029	39,653	32,892
South Atlantic	202	169	157	39,475	31,692	27,017	34,188	28,452	19,991
East South Central	22	36	40	3,032	5,137	5,785	2,308	3,978	4,250
West South Central	59	40	54	8,066	5,495	8,974	11,533	7,223	8,651
Midwest	713	258	561	130,998	49,416	94,478	140,254	41,923	75,210
East North Central	547	220	407	103,955	41,397	71,018	116,233	35,816	55,785
West North Central	166	38	154	27,043	8,019	23,460	24,021	6,107	19,425
West	398	149	235	94,472	39,512	61,731	81,285	26,452	33,905
Mountain	60	15	47	12,697	2,640	12,410	10,471	2,326	5,281
Pacific	338	134	188	81,775	36,872	49,321	70,814	24,126	28,624

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: The States (including the District of Columbia) that comprise the census divisions are: New England: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont; Middle Atlantic: New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania; South Atlantic: Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and

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

Table 5. State distribution: Extended mass layoff events, separations, and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, private nonfarm sector, selected quarters, 2003 and 2004

State	Layoff events			Separations			Initial claimants for unemployment insurance		
	IV 2003	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p	IV 2003	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p	IV 2003	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	1,690	887	1,295	325,333	164,822	236,637	326,328	145,889	178,834
Alabama	4	3	4	513	350	586	498	422	586
Alaska	10	3	10	1,419	370	1,415	1,419	370	1,415
Arizona	9	4	6	1,232	548	1,604	1,278	606	915
Arkansas	(²)	-	4	(²)	-	651	(²)	-	307
California	251	108	123	64,403	33,308	37,864	54,183	19,851	18,938
Colorado	21	(²)	21	4,526	(²)	5,073	3,092	(²)	2,043
Connecticut	16	7	6	2,987	1,312	1,498	2,181	1,040	669
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia	4	(²)	-	486	(²)	-	486	(²)	-
Florida	107	115	101	21,341	22,124	16,463	17,867	20,327	12,202
Georgia	21	13	13	4,193	2,267	1,236	3,909	1,847	1,722
Hawaii	6	(²)	5	776	(²)	487	670	(²)	414
Idaho	11	7	5	2,104	1,120	790	3,094	1,070	927
Illinois	184	77	155	38,846	16,086	36,232	33,037	13,556	22,391
Indiana	49	22	34	6,187	6,921	5,021	13,209	4,572	4,139
Iowa	28	9	28	4,120	908	3,625	4,022	1,445	4,232
Kansas	10	5	9	2,231	1,659	1,780	2,119	808	1,281
Kentucky	9	17	24	1,554	2,345	2,813	1,024	1,674	2,362
Louisiana	15	12	14	1,966	1,538	2,915	1,502	1,173	1,398
Maine	12	(²)	7	2,263	(²)	3,558	2,108	(²)	956
Maryland	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Massachusetts	19	22	22	3,634	2,364	2,886	4,168	3,828	2,513
Michigan	97	56	91	19,652	8,545	10,912	27,027	7,500	11,477
Minnesota	89	7	80	12,600	856	12,433	11,509	775	9,546
Mississippi	4	4	4	374	593	265	266	589	261
Missouri	25	12	19	5,658	2,345	3,675	4,084	2,384	2,661
Montana	7	-	5	1,615	-	647	1,163	-	428
Nebraska	8	5	10	1,315	2,251	1,022	1,187	695	780
Nevada	4	-	4	1,058	-	410	900	-	326
New Hampshire	5	4	5	513	434	484	513	434	484
New Jersey	62	34	44	11,677	4,266	6,660	12,067	4,769	5,888
New Mexico	3	(²)	(²)	172	(²)	(²)	172	(²)	(²)
New York	93	97	78	17,649	16,712	11,525	16,549	14,402	10,901
North Carolina	34	15	18	5,735	2,196	3,133	4,919	1,924	1,923
North Dakota	6	-	8	1,119	-	925	1,100	-	925
Ohio	114	48	80	18,094	7,527	10,740	20,962	6,848	9,887
Oklahoma	5	(²)	4	435	(²)	407	602	(²)	570
Oregon	26	8	20	4,027	1,722	4,138	5,392	1,397	3,540
Pennsylvania	80	66	77	9,727	8,032	11,182	18,225	12,860	14,679
Rhode Island	8	4	6	737	395	676	846	389	554
South Carolina	4	10	3	512	1,527	466	564	1,224	515
South Dakota	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tennessee	5	12	8	591	1,849	2,121	520	1,293	1,041
Texas	37	26	32	5,040	3,609	5,001	9,083	5,704	6,376
Utah	4	(²)	3	1,190	(²)	433	630	(²)	275
Vermont	(²)	-	3	(²)	-	183	(²)	-	183
Virginia	25	11	12	5,947	2,843	3,198	5,177	2,389	2,312
Washington	45	13	30	11,150	1,260	5,417	9,150	2,309	4,317
West Virginia	6	(²)	8	1,137	(²)	1,756	1,206	(²)	1,004
Wisconsin	103	17	47	21,176	2,318	8,113	21,998	3,340	7,891
Wyoming	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)
Puerto Rico	6	14	4	516	1,350	284	1,361	3,709	904

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

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

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

^r = revised.

Table 6. Information technology-producing industries: Extended mass layoff events and separations, private nonfarm sector, 1996-2004

Year	Total extended mass layoffs		Information technology-producing industries ¹							
			Computer hardware ²		Software and computer services ³		Communications equipment ⁴		Communications services ⁵	
	Layoff events	Separations	Layoff events	Separations	Layoff events	Separations	Layoff events	Separations	Layoff events	Separations
1996										
First quarter	1,263	246,820	27	6,377	11	9,008	6	900	15	3,541
Second quarter	1,130	209,688	23	4,475	(⁶)	(⁶)	10	1,359	4	615
Third quarter	847	181,569	28	3,818	(⁶)	(⁶)	8	1,710	5	1,290
Fourth quarter	1,520	310,045	22	3,214	(⁶)	(⁶)	8	1,354	9	1,166
Total	4,760	948,122	100	17,884	20	10,724	32	5,323	33	6,612
1997										
First quarter	1,141	226,735	15	2,644	7	899	7	504	9	1,602
Second quarter	1,303	280,255	16	2,532	8	863	4	553	(⁶)	(⁶)
Third quarter	851	172,392	15	3,091	6	682	6	983	(⁶)	(⁶)
Fourth quarter	1,376	268,461	18	3,667	4	762	6	475	4	819
Total	4,671	947,843	64	11,934	25	3,206	23	2,515	18	3,237
1998										
First quarter	1,115	178,251	29	5,212	8	1,550	7	725	9	1,685
Second quarter	1,333	336,536	37	8,455	5	357	7	1,317	5	650
Third quarter	1,028	201,186	63	11,066	5	1,175	12	3,031	5	1,051
Fourth quarter	1,383	275,272	37	11,336	5	974	7	1,898	6	764
Total	4,859	991,245	166	36,069	23	4,056	33	6,971	25	4,150
1999										
First quarter	1,262	230,711	35	4,363	10	1,796	10	1,600	6	1,002
Second quarter	1,194	246,251	28	3,891	7	1,731	8	1,097	(⁶)	(⁶)
Third quarter	898	184,429	22	11,546	7	1,141	5	840	(⁶)	(⁶)
Fourth quarter	1,202	240,060	18	2,757	5	526	4	807	6	1,430
Total	4,556	901,451	103	22,557	29	5,194	27	4,344	18	3,930
2000										
First quarter	1,081	202,500	22	5,195	14	2,717	9	1,402	4	771
Second quarter	1,055	205,861	18	8,862	22	9,114	7	805	7	977
Third quarter	817	174,628	10	1,678	12	1,422	4	1,465	6	1,280
Fourth quarter	1,638	332,973	16	3,070	22	3,521	5	946	7	1,020
Total	4,591	915,962	66	18,805	70	16,774	25	4,618	24	4,048
2001										
First quarter	1,546	304,171	91	20,991	44	7,963	22	4,441	24	5,312
Second quarter	1,828	430,499	161	38,986	87	12,943	36	12,109	28	6,386
Third quarter	1,629	330,391	142	24,813	55	6,820	39	8,200	36	7,134
Fourth quarter	2,372	459,771	109	17,797	56	8,290	43	10,124	48	11,252
Total	7,375	1,524,832	503	102,587	242	36,016	140	34,874	136	30,084
2002										
First quarter	1,611	299,266	84	18,574	39	4,442	32	8,192	42	6,664
Second quarter	1,624	344,606	69	11,764	49	5,454	27	4,870	53	8,538
Third quarter	1,186	255,152	76	15,017	42	5,415	34	6,529	42	7,945
Fourth quarter	1,916	373,307	74	14,298	32	7,071	19	3,645	39	8,987
Total	6,337	1,272,331	303	59,653	162	22,382	112	23,236	176	32,134
2003										
First quarter	1,502	286,947	71	11,900	33	5,689	23	4,402	41	6,591
Second quarter	1,799	368,273	54	9,221	27	4,124	21	3,098	29	5,891
Third quarter	1,190	236,333	46	6,488	26	4,433	9	1,289	15	2,604
Fourth quarter	1,690	325,333	25	5,080	14	1,984	9	1,619	28	6,635
Total	6,181	1,216,886	196	32,689	100	16,230	62	10,408	113	21,721
2004										
First quarter	1,339	276,488	27	3,222	16	2,992	8	894	23	4,197
Second quarter	^r 1,358	^r 278,380	18	2,959	21	3,576	-	-	22	5,295
Third quarter	^r 887	^r 164,822	^r 13	^r 2,288	^r 15	^r 1,617	4	430	^r 13	^r 4,317
Fourth quarter ^p	1,295	236,637	18	2,943	8	1,269	4	563	21	3,082
Total ^p	4,879	956,327	76	11,412	60	9,454	16	1,887	79	16,891

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

Table 7. Industry distribution: Extended mass layoff events and separations associated with the movement of work, 2004

Industry	Layoff events				Separations			
	I 2004	II 2004	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p	I 2004	II 2004	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	113	86	84	74	19,978	16,240	17,400	16,361
Mining.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Utilities.....	(²)	-	-	-	(²)	-	-	-
Construction.....	-	(²)	-	-	-	(²)	-	-
Manufacturing.....	75	57	58	52	12,827	10,999	11,575	11,778
Food.....	8	(²)	4	4	1,478	(²)	924	1,221
Beverage and tobacco products.....	(²)	-	(²)	-	(²)	-	(²)	-
Textile mills.....	3	4	-	(²)	810	537	-	(²)
Textile product mills.....	(²)	4	(²)	-	(²)	874	(²)	-
Apparel.....	5	4	4	3	1,237	847	613	1,405
Leather and allied products.....	(²)	-	-	(²)	(²)	-	-	(²)
Wood products.....	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	(²)	-	(²)	(²)
Paper.....	4	3	4	3	295	453	761	380
Printing and related support activities.....	3	(²)	(²)	(²)	264	(²)	(²)	(²)
Petroleum and coal products.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chemicals.....	4	(²)	(²)	-	634	(²)	(²)	-
Plastics and rubber products.....	5	5	7	(²)	1,134	632	1,235	(²)
Nonmetallic mineral products.....	-	-	3	-	-	-	467	-
Primary metal.....	(²)	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	(²)	-	(²)
Fabricated metal products.....	(²)	5	4	(²)	(²)	1,010	755	(²)
Machinery.....	6	(²)	(²)	(²)	870	(²)	(²)	(²)
Computer and electronic products.....	7	7	6	7	785	1,975	1,331	2,390
Electrical equipment and appliance.....	6	(²)	4	4	1,079	(²)	1,660	960
Transportation equipment.....	8	4	7	8	1,977	1,013	1,793	1,440
Furniture and related products.....	4	8	(²)	8	497	1,026	(²)	1,863
Miscellaneous manufacturing.....	4	(²)	3	3	739	(²)	540	692
Wholesale trade.....	3	4	5	(²)	675	410	704	(²)
Retail trade.....	4	6	11	(²)	540	1,039	2,290	(²)
Transportation and warehousing.....	5	(²)	-	3	1,152	(²)	-	619
Information.....	8	4	(²)	(²)	1,780	771	(²)	(²)
Finance and insurance.....	5	(²)	5	6	684	(²)	735	699
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	-	-	-	(²)	-	-	-	(²)
Professional and technical services.....	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Management of companies and enterprises.....	(²)	-	-	-	(²)	-	-	-
Administrative and waste services.....	4	5	-	4	647	1,372	-	513
Educational services.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Health care and social assistance.....	(²)	-	(²)	-	(²)	-	(²)	-
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accommodation and food services.....	-	-	-	(²)	-	-	-	(²)
Other services, except public administration.....	3	-	-	-	311	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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 8. Reason for layoff: Extended mass layoff events and separations associated with the movement of work, 2004

Reason for layoff	Layoff events				Separations			
	I 2004	II 2004	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p	I 2004	II 2004	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	113	86	84	74	19,978	16,240	17,400	16,361
Automation	(²)	—	—	(²)	(²)	—	—	(²)
Bankruptcy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Business ownership change	6	7	9	(²)	669	1,380	1,391	(²)
Contract cancellation	(²)	3	(²)	3	(²)	493	(²)	424
Contract completed	(²)	4	—	—	(²)	571	—	—
Environment-related	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Financial difficulty	13	(²)	5	(²)	3,492	(²)	882	(²)
Import competition	(²)	4	4	4	(²)	913	1,296	515
Labor dispute	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Material shortage	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Model changeover	—	(²)	—	—	—	(²)	—	—
Natural disaster	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plant or machine repair	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Product line discontinued	(²)	3	(²)	3	(²)	373	(²)	1,033
Reorganization within company	58	49	44	47	9,759	8,717	10,491	9,859
Seasonal work	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Slack work	5	4	4	3	735	1,260	887	515
Vacation period	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Weather-related	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	23	9	13	10	4,191	1,798	2,102	3,217
Not reported	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

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

³ The questions on movement of work were not asked of employers when the reason for layoff was either seasonal work or vacation period.

^p = preliminary.

^r = revised.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

Table 9. Census region and division: Extended mass layoff events and separations associated with the movement of work, 2004

Region and division	Layoff events				Separations			
	I 2004	II 2004	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p	I 2004	II 2004	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p
United States ¹	113	86	84	74	19,978	16,240	17,400	16,361
Northeast	14	10	11	14	2,691	1,342	2,366	3,126
New England	3	4	3	5	508	613	932	1,211
Middle Atlantic	11	6	8	9	2,183	729	1,434	1,915
South	30	35	19	23	5,889	6,421	3,116	6,830
South Atlantic	18	18	11	17	3,172	3,251	1,853	4,276
East South Central	5	12	8	(²)	956	2,253	1,263	(²)
West South Central	7	5	—	(²)	1,761	917	—	(²)
Midwest	37	22	40	20	6,442	4,503	9,224	3,679
East North Central	31	19	36	(²)	5,165	3,427	8,043	(²)
West North Central	6	3	4	(²)	1,277	1,076	1,181	(²)
West	32	19	14	17	4,956	3,974	2,694	2,726
Mountain	(²)	(²)	(²)	4	(²)	(²)	(²)	514
Pacific	(²)	(²)	(²)	13	(²)	(²)	(²)	2,212

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

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

^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 10. Extended mass layoff events and separations, selected measures, 2004

Measure	Layoff events				Separations			
	I 2004	II 2004 ^r	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p	I 2004 ^r	II 2004 ^r	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p
Total private nonfarm ¹	1,339	1,358	887	1,295	276,488	278,380	164,822	236,637
Total, excluding seasonal and vacation events ²	980	787	696	690	213,016	151,010	133,536	117,953
Total, movement of work ³	113	86	84	74	19,978	16,240	17,400	16,361
Movement of work actions.....	127	112	103	124	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)
With separations reported...	117	82	88	88	16,674	11,098	13,999	12,152
With separations unknown..	10	30	15	36	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

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

³ Movement of work can involve more than one action.

⁴ Data are not available.

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

Table 11. Movement of work actions by type of separation where number of separations is known by employers, 2004

Actions	Layoff events ¹				Separations			
	I 2004	II 2004	III 2004 ^r	IV 2004 ^p	I 2004	II 2004	III 2004	IV 2004 ^p
With separations reported ²	117	82	88	88	16,674	11,098	13,999	12,152
By location								
Out-of-country relocations.....	34	19	18	31	4,906	2,415	3,618	5,134
Within company.....	21	13	13	28	2,976	1,882	3,222	4,701
Different company.....	13	6	5	3	1,930	533	396	433
Domestic relocations.....	80	59	68	57	10,815	8,257	9,081	7,018
Within company.....	64	46	63	50	8,671	5,982	8,831	6,310
Different company.....	16	13	5	7	2,144	2,275	250	708
Unable to assign place of relocation.....	3	4	2	–	953	426	1,300	–
By company								
Within company.....	87	63	78	78	11,947	8,290	13,353	11,011
Domestic.....	64	46	63	50	8,671	5,982	8,831	6,310
Out of country.....	21	13	13	28	2,976	1,882	3,222	4,701
Unable to assign.....	2	4	2	–	300	426	1,300	–
Different company.....	30	19	10	10	4,727	2,808	646	1,141
Domestic.....	16	13	5	7	2,144	2,275	250	708
Out of country.....	13	6	5	3	1,930	533	396	433
Unable to assign.....	1	–	–	–	653	–	–	–

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

² See footnote 1, table 1.

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

Note: Dash represents zero.