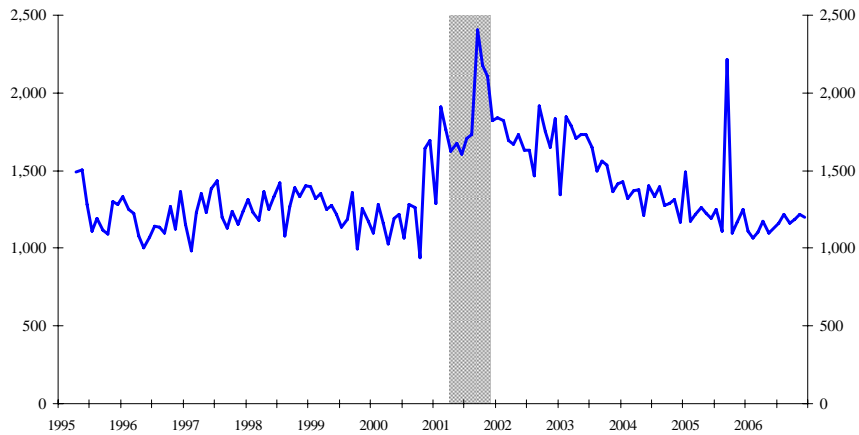


Chart 1-13. The number of mass layoff events spiked in September 2005 after the Gulf Coast hurricanes

Number of mass layoff events



NOTE: Shaded area represents recession. Data are seasonally adjusted.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chart 1-13. The number of mass layoff events spiked in September 2005 after the Gulf Coast hurricanes

- A mass layoff event occurs when fifty or more initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits are filed against an establishment during a 5-week period.
- The number of mass layoff events spiked in September 2005 in the aftermath of the Gulf Coast hurricanes, with 2,217 layoff actions affecting about 292,000 workers. The number of layoff actions had been on a declining trend since September 2001.
- During 2006, 13,998 total mass layoff events occurred in the nation, resulting in 1,484,391 initial claims filings for unemployment insurance. In 2005, there were 16,466 events and 1,795,341 initial claimants. The total number of initial claims for 2006 was the lowest reported for any January-December period since 1996.