



Technical information: (202) 691-6392  
<http://www.bls.gov/mls/>

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Media contact: (202) 691-5902

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## MASS LAYOFFS IN MARCH 2009

Employers took 2,933 mass layoff actions in March that resulted in the separation of 299,388 workers, seasonally adjusted, as measured by new filings for unemployment insurance benefits during the month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Each action involved at least 50 persons from a single employer. The number of mass layoff events in March increased by 164 from the prior month, while the number of associated initial claims increased by 3,911. Over the year, the number of mass layoff events increased by 1,348, and the number of associated initial claims increased by 137,891. In March, the manufacturing sector experienced 1,259 mass layoff events, seasonally adjusted, resulting in 155,909 initial claims. Over the month, mass layoff events in manufacturing increased by 24, and initial claims increased by 3,291. (See table 1.) Layoff events and initial claims rose to their highest levels on record, with data available back to 1995; events in the manufacturing sector also reached its highest level.

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

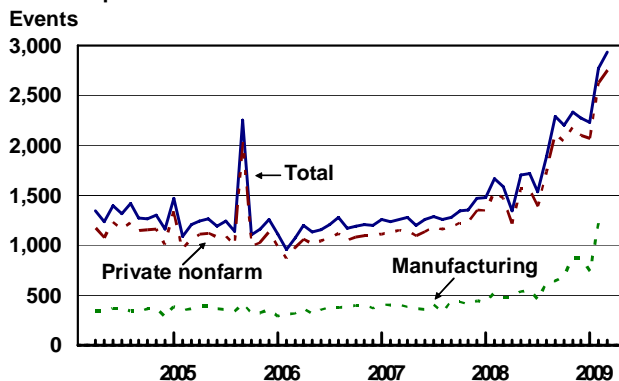
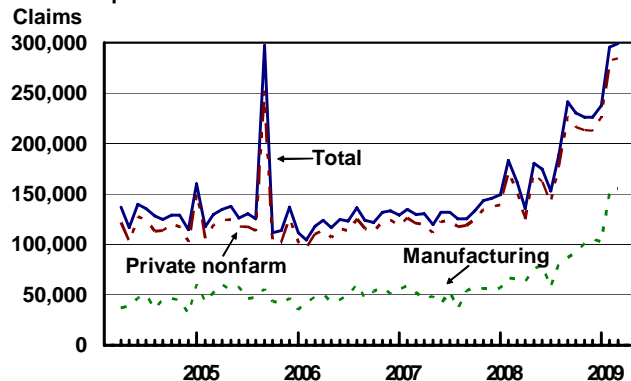


Chart 2. Mass layoff initial claims, seasonally adjusted, April 2004-March 2009



During the 16 months from December 2007 through March 2009, the total number of mass layoff events (seasonally adjusted) was 31,414, and the number of initial claims (seasonally adjusted) was 3,227,201. (December 2007 was the start of a recession as designated by the National Bureau of Economic Research.)

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

Industry	Initial claims	March peak	
		Year	Initial claims
Temporary help services <sup>1</sup> .....	9,964	2002	14,338
Construction machinery manufacturing .....	7,933	2009	7,933
Food service contractors .....	6,475	2007	7,636
Radio, TV, and other electronics stores .....	5,867	2009	5,867
Motion picture and video production .....	4,919	2005	7,192
Professional employer organizations <sup>1</sup> .....	4,892	2009	4,892
Motor vehicle power train components mfg. ....	4,843	2009	4,843
Light truck and utility vehicle manufacturing ....	4,446	2009	4,446
School and employee bus transportation .....	4,070	2008	8,073
Semiconductors and related device mfg. ....	3,476	2009	3,476

<sup>1</sup> See the Technical Note for more information on these industries.

The national unemployment rate was 8.5 percent in March 2009, seasonally adjusted, up from 8.1 percent the prior month and from 5.1 percent a year earlier. In March, total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 663,000 over the month and by 4,795,000 from a year earlier.

#### Industry Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

The number of mass layoff events in March was 2,191 on a not seasonally adjusted basis; the number of associated initial claims was 228,387. (See table 2.) Over the year, increases were recorded in both the number of mass layoff events (+1,102) and initial claims (+113,846). This year, both average weekly events and initial claimants reached their highest March levels in program history; data are available back to 1996. (Average weekly analysis mitigates the effect of differing lengths of months. See the Technical Note.) Thirteen of the 19 major industry sectors reported program highs in terms of average weekly initial claimants for the month of March—mining; construction; manufacturing; wholesale trade; retail trade; information; finance and insurance; real estate and rental and leasing; professional and technical services; management of companies and enterprises; administrative and waste services; arts, entertainment, and recreation; and accommodation and food services.

The manufacturing sector accounted for 43 percent of all mass layoff events and 50 percent of initial claims filed in March 2009; a year earlier, manufacturing made up 31 percent of events and 38 percent of initial claims. This March, the number of manufacturing claimants was greatest in transportation equipment (26,012) and machinery (18,081). (See table 3.) The retail trade industry accounted for 8 percent of mass layoff events and 9 percent of associated initial claims during the month.

Of the 10 detailed industries with the largest number of mass layoff initial claims, 6 reached their March peak. The six-digit NAICS industry with the largest number of initial claims was temporary help services (9,964). (See table A.)

### Geographic Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Of the 4 census regions, the Midwest registered the highest number of initial claims in March due to mass layoffs (81,957), followed by the South (61,432) and the West (55,505). (See table 5.) Initial claims associated with mass layoffs increased over the year in all 4 regions, with the Midwest (+47,072) and the South (+33,335) experiencing the largest increases. In 2009, all four regions reported their highest March levels of average weekly initial claims in program history.

Of the 9 geographic divisions, the East North Central (64,595) had the highest number of initial claims due to mass layoffs in March, followed by the Pacific (44,514) and the South Atlantic (27,819). (See table 5.) All divisions experienced over-the-year increases in initial claims, led by the East North Central (+36,748) and the Pacific (+18,158). This year, all divisions except the Pacific reached March program highs in terms of initial claims.

California recorded the highest number of initial claims filed due to mass layoff events in March with 38,130. The states with the next highest number of mass layoff initial claims were Illinois (18,096), Texas (14,284), and Ohio (13,067). (See table 6.) Forty-three states registered over-the-year increases in initial claims associated with mass layoffs, led by California (+16,318), Illinois (+11,402), and Texas (+9,179). In 2009, 26 states reached program highs in average weekly initial claims for the month of March—Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Wisconsin.

### Note

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

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The report on Extended Mass Layoffs in the First Quarter of 2009 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, May 12. The report on Mass Layoffs in April 2009 is scheduled to be released on Friday, May 22.

# Technical Note

The Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program is a federal-state program that uses a standardized automated approach to identifying, describing, and tracking the effects of major job cutbacks, using data from each state's unemployment insurance database. Each month, states report on employers which have at least 50 initial claims filed against them during a consecutive 5-week period. These employers then are contacted by the state agency to determine whether these separations lasted 31 days or longer, and, if so, other information concerning the layoff is collected. States report on layoffs lasting more than 1 month on a quarterly basis.

A given month contains an aggregation of the weekly unemployment insurance claims filings for the Sunday through Saturday weeks in that month. All weeks are included for the particular month, except if the first day of the month falls on Saturday. In this case, the week is included in the prior month's tabulations. This means that some months will contain 4 weeks and others, 5 weeks. The number of weeks in a given month may be different from year to year, and the number of weeks in a year may vary. Therefore, analysis of over-the-month and over-the-year change in not seasonally adjusted series should take this calendar effect into consideration.

The MLS program resumed operations in April 1995 after it had been terminated in November 1992 due to lack of funding. Prior to April 1995, monthly layoff statistics were not available.

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

## Definitions

*Employer.* Employers in the MLS program include those covered by state unemployment insurance laws. Information on employers is obtained from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, which is administered by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

*Industry.* Employers are classified according to the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). For temporary help and professional employer organization industries, monthly MLS-related statistics generally reflect layoffs related to underlying client companies in other industries. An individual layoff action at a client company can be small, but when initial claimants

associated with many such layoffs are assigned to a temporary help or professional employer organization firm, a mass layoff event may trigger.

*Initial claimant.* A person who files any notice of unemployment to initiate a request either for a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation, or for a subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

*Mass layoff event.* Fifty or more initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits filed against an employer during a 5-week period, regardless of duration.

## Seasonal adjustment

Effective with the release of data for January 2005, BLS began publishing six seasonally adjusted monthly MLS series. The six series are the numbers of mass layoff events and mass layoff initial claims for the total, private nonfarm, and manufacturing sectors.

Seasonal adjustment is the process of estimating and removing the effect on time series data of regularly recurring seasonal events such as changes in the weather, holidays, and the beginning and ending of the school year. The use of seasonal adjustment makes it easier to observe fundamental changes in time series, particularly those associated with general economic expansions and contractions.

The MLS data are seasonally adjusted using the X-12-ARIMA seasonal adjustment method on a concurrent basis. Concurrent seasonal adjustment uses all available monthly estimates, including those for the current month, in developing seasonal adjustment factors. Revisions to the most recent 5 years of seasonally adjusted data will be made once a year with the issuance of December data. Before the data are seasonally adjusted, prior adjustments are made to the original data to adjust them for differences in the number of weeks used to calculate the monthly data. Because weekly unemployment insurance claims are aggregated to form monthly data, a particular month's value could be calculated with 5 weeks of data in 1 year and 4 weeks in another. The effects of these differences could seriously distort the seasonal factors if they were ignored in the seasonal adjustment process. These effects are modeled in the X-12-ARIMA program and are permanently removed from the final seasonally adjusted series.

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

Date	Total		Private nonfarm		Manufacturing	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
<b>2005</b>						
April .....	1,244	134,425	1,111	123,958	396	60,052
May .....	1,264	137,475	1,121	124,468	397	54,998
June .....	1,196	126,416	1,082	117,568	367	58,003
July .....	1,241	130,331	1,094	117,510	354	46,056
August .....	1,143	125,536	1,000	113,465	342	47,255
September .....	2,250	296,913	2,035	252,291	420	55,974
October .....	1,109	111,202	991	102,111	320	43,387
November .....	1,162	113,502	1,027	102,058	325	41,493
December .....	1,263	136,751	1,135	125,700	358	46,940
<b>2006</b>						
January .....	1,112	111,601	986	102,359	293	35,390
February .....	960	104,045	872	96,317	317	41,810
March .....	1,078	118,270	976	109,842	320	48,026
April .....	1,198	123,674	1,062	113,849	366	50,747
May .....	1,132	116,808	1,013	106,743	312	42,958
June .....	1,156	124,955	1,044	115,491	356	45,280
July .....	1,204	123,172	1,077	113,324	381	50,109
August .....	1,278	136,289	1,117	125,064	376	60,524
September .....	1,167	124,083	1,054	115,451	390	46,470
October .....	1,195	121,439	1,081	112,777	401	53,597
November .....	1,209	131,459	1,096	122,136	402	57,084
December .....	1,201	133,311	1,100	124,019	369	51,113
<b>2007</b>						
January .....	1,261	129,190	1,116	118,890	406	55,341
February .....	1,240	134,524	1,130	126,105	404	58,861
March .....	1,261	129,480	1,151	120,923	407	52,356
April .....	1,281	130,263	1,145	119,683	381	45,654
May .....	1,200	119,259	1,097	111,585	368	48,682
June .....	1,256	132,078	1,138	122,726	356	41,135
July .....	1,288	131,556	1,182	123,322	405	53,318
August .....	1,262	125,334	1,162	117,557	331	36,577
September .....	1,279	125,527	1,183	118,917	440	54,006
October .....	1,346	133,514	1,224	124,666	436	57,527
November .....	1,352	143,419	1,233	134,445	408	56,330
December .....	1,469	145,916	1,354	136,914	447	56,152
<b>2008</b>						
January .....	1,476	149,068	1,350	139,076	435	56,579
February .....	1,669	183,038	1,532	172,013	526	67,235
March .....	1,585	161,497	1,471	151,550	483	65,252
April .....	1,344	135,352	1,215	125,074	487	63,247
May .....	1,701	180,558	1,563	170,538	538	75,520
June .....	1,717	174,748	1,561	162,071	555	79,744
July .....	1,535	152,499	1,390	141,239	455	57,648
August .....	1,887	188,951	1,735	178,479	626	80,913
September .....	2,290	240,721	2,114	226,492	643	86,617
October .....	2,204	230,330	2,042	216,095	687	92,256
November .....	2,333	225,639	2,185	213,288	868	100,643
December .....	2,275	226,117	2,100	212,559	871	105,402
<b>2009</b>						
January .....	2,227	237,902	2,070	225,490	738	102,577
February .....	2,769	295,477	2,628	281,500	1,235	152,618
March .....	2,933	299,388	2,751	283,989	1,259	155,909

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

Date	Total		Private nonfarm		Manufacturing	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
<b>2005</b>						
April .....	1,373	158,582	1,263	148,133	395	59,129
May .....	986	101,358	891	93,332	249	30,424
June .....	1,157	120,463	941	103,307	216	32,783
July .....	1,981	244,216	1,745	222,377	856	136,210
August .....	645	67,582	598	63,484	188	22,531
September .....	1,662	213,281	1,505	179,042	318	47,497
October .....	905	91,941	757	80,694	249	37,276
November .....	1,254	116,127	1,079	102,182	363	41,442
December .....	2,323	254,258	2,168	242,753	706	96,382
<b>2006</b>						
January .....	1,245	117,946	1,123	108,701	331	35,097
February .....	719	66,555	658	62,208	210	24,892
March .....	921	111,838	856	106,177	285	44,688
April .....	1,140	121,589	1,038	112,964	296	39,538
May .....	872	84,809	794	78,663	192	23,570
June .....	1,489	164,761	1,224	140,687	319	41,095
July .....	1,511	166,857	1,335	154,342	648	96,152
August .....	708	72,844	656	69,054	203	28,494
September .....	865	87,699	785	81,274	296	39,076
October .....	964	98,804	820	88,133	311	46,737
November .....	1,315	136,186	1,172	125,009	455	58,473
December .....	2,249	254,503	2,126	244,783	735	105,462
<b>2007</b>						
January .....	1,407	134,984	1,263	124,475	456	53,615
February .....	935	86,696	861	82,097	273	36,170
March .....	1,082	123,974	1,015	118,431	367	49,886
April .....	1,219	127,444	1,115	118,040	309	35,229
May .....	923	85,816	856	81,153	224	26,527
June .....	1,599	172,810	1,318	148,669	313	36,571
July .....	1,599	175,419	1,450	164,939	684	101,390
August .....	963	93,458	908	88,345	220	23,361
September .....	717	67,385	667	64,026	246	29,381
October .....	1,083	108,455	929	97,716	338	50,918
November .....	1,799	198,220	1,593	181,184	514	75,413
December .....	2,167	224,214	2,071	216,898	699	91,754
<b>2008</b>						
January .....	1,647	154,503	1,520	144,191	488	54,418
February .....	1,269	119,508	1,178	113,587	361	42,527
March .....	1,089	114,541	1,039	110,147	333	43,740
April .....	1,272	130,810	1,172	121,625	394	48,188
May .....	1,552	159,471	1,438	150,462	388	51,698
June .....	1,622	166,742	1,315	140,916	309	42,097
July .....	1,891	200,382	1,687	186,018	760	108,733
August .....	1,427	139,999	1,343	133,146	414	51,912
September .....	1,292	129,586	1,202	122,505	361	46,391
October .....	2,125	221,784	1,917	205,553	689	100,457
November .....	2,574	241,589	2,389	226,657	997	107,620
December .....	3,377	351,305	3,232	340,220	1,378	172,529
<b>2009</b>						
January .....	3,806	388,813	3,633	375,293	1,461	172,757
February .....	2,262	218,438	2,173	210,755	945	103,588
March .....	2,191	228,387	2,107	221,397	940	114,747

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

Industry	Mass layoff events				Initial claimants for unemployment insurance			
	March 2008	January 2009	February 2009	March 2009	March 2008	January 2009	February 2009	March 2009
<b>Seasonally adjusted</b>								
Total .....	1,585	2,227	2,769	2,933	161,497	237,902	295,477	299,388
Total, private nonfarm .....	1,471	2,070	2,628	2,751	151,550	225,490	281,500	283,989
Manufacturing .....	483	738	1,235	1,259	65,252	102,577	152,618	155,909
<b>Not seasonally adjusted</b>								
Total <sup>1</sup> .....	1,089	3,806	2,262	2,191	114,541	388,813	218,438	228,387
Total, private .....	1,063	3,709	2,215	2,140	111,984	380,158	213,548	223,981
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting .....	24	76	42	33	1,837	4,865	2,793	2,584
Total, private nonfarm .....	1,039	3,633	2,173	2,107	110,147	375,293	210,755	221,397
Mining .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	50	35	31	( <sup>2</sup> )	4,538	3,379	3,751
Utilities .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	3	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	234
Construction .....	119	388	199	166	7,891	27,762	14,040	11,612
Manufacturing .....	333	1,461	945	940	43,740	172,757	103,588	114,747
Food .....	58	84	57	63	7,705	8,083	5,379	6,077
Beverage and tobacco products .....	6	6	8	9	540	511	606	1,305
Textile mills .....	14	35	19	29	2,745	4,322	1,833	3,108
Textile product mills .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	19	8	6	( <sup>2</sup> )	2,811	769	554
Apparel .....	8	33	16	9	544	3,189	1,545	883
Leather and allied products .....	-	6	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	504	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Wood products .....	30	104	57	62	2,419	9,870	5,348	5,799
Paper .....	9	38	34	27	827	3,977	3,129	2,749
Printing and related support activities .....	9	38	21	23	736	4,187	1,758	2,124
Petroleum and coal products .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	8	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	515	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Chemicals .....	3	26	20	21	140	1,883	1,806	1,746
Plastics and rubber products .....	27	110	48	60	2,201	11,156	4,878	6,151
Nonmetallic mineral products .....	15	56	40	46	1,224	4,441	2,788	4,095
Primary metals .....	10	98	59	71	873	9,660	6,523	8,681
Fabricated metal products .....	20	151	99	88	1,878	13,746	8,735	8,186
Machinery .....	15	121	106	110	2,447	14,120	14,921	18,081
Computer and electronic products .....	10	76	78	68	917	6,747	7,439	8,130
Electrical equipment and appliances .....	9	53	35	47	2,692	5,807	5,399	6,476
Transportation equipment .....	72	316	171	155	14,318	57,173	22,440	26,012
Furniture and related products .....	11	48	44	24	842	6,928	6,333	3,020
Miscellaneous manufacturing .....	4	35	20	19	301	3,127	1,607	1,354
Wholesale trade .....	22	86	62	59	1,624	7,612	4,243	4,696
Retail trade .....	94	329	193	178	9,788	33,622	17,538	19,491
Transportation and warehousing .....	92	236	80	91	10,629	25,081	7,864	8,809
Information .....	35	69	72	75	4,316	9,405	8,476	8,559
Finance and insurance .....	46	88	74	57	3,692	7,683	5,685	4,469
Real estate and rental and leasing .....	5	26	17	16	552	1,870	1,083	980
Professional and technical services .....	24	87	82	81	3,225	7,032	7,895	7,191
Management of companies and enterprises .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	14	10	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	990	923
Administrative and waste services .....	130	473	235	227	10,076	46,646	23,566	18,762
Educational services .....	6	14	( <sup>2</sup> )	8	1,191	1,952	( <sup>2</sup> )	467
Health care and social assistance .....	20	41	33	24	1,347	4,279	2,032	1,820
Arts, entertainment, and recreation .....	8	49	10	17	492	4,421	655	1,259
Accommodation and food services .....	90	197	95	115	10,328	17,360	8,080	13,090
Other services, except public administration .....	10	25	18	9	906	2,155	1,083	537
Unclassified .....	-	1	-	-	-	49	-	-
Government .....	26	97	47	51	2,557	8,655	4,890	4,406
Federal .....	7	13	7	5	569	1,302	533	470
State .....	7	25	17	11	618	2,155	1,804	1,066
Local .....	12	59	23	35	1,370	5,198	2,553	2,870

<sup>1</sup> Data were reported by all states and the District of Columbia.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

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

**Table 4. Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, January 2007 to March 2009, not seasonally adjusted**

Date	Total mass layoffs		Private nonfarm					
			Mass layoffs		Extended mass layoffs lasting more than 30 days		Realization rates <sup>1</sup>	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
2007								
January .....	1,407	134,984	1,263	124,475				
February .....	935	86,696	861	82,097				
March .....	1,082	123,974	1,015	118,431				
First Quarter .....	3,424	345,654	3,139	325,003	1,110	199,250	35.4	61.3
April .....	1,219	127,444	1,115	118,040				
May .....	923	85,816	856	81,153				
June .....	1,599	172,810	1,318	148,669				
Second Quarter .....	3,741	386,070	3,289	347,862	1,421	259,234	43.2	74.5
July .....	1,599	175,419	1,450	164,939				
August .....	963	93,458	908	88,345				
September .....	717	67,385	667	64,026				
Third Quarter .....	3,279	336,262	3,025	317,310	1,018	173,077	33.7	54.5
October .....	1,083	108,455	929	97,716				
November .....	1,799	198,220	1,593	181,184				
December .....	2,167	224,214	2,071	216,898				
Fourth Quarter .....	5,049	530,889	4,593	495,798	1,814	347,151	39.5	70.0
2008								
January .....	1,647	154,503	1,520	144,191				
February .....	1,269	119,508	1,178	113,587				
March .....	1,089	114,541	1,039	110,147				
First Quarter .....	4,005	388,552	3,737	367,925	1,340	259,084	35.9	70.4
April .....	1,272	130,810	1,172	121,625				
May .....	1,552	159,471	1,438	150,462				
June .....	1,622	166,742	1,315	140,916				
Second Quarter .....	4,446	457,023	3,925	413,003	1,756	339,184	44.7	82.1
July .....	1,891	200,382	1,687	186,018				
August .....	1,427	139,999	1,343	133,146				
September .....	1,292	129,586	1,202	122,505				
Third Quarter .....	4,610	469,967	4,232	441,669	1,582	300,337	37.4	68.0
October .....	2,125	221,784	1,917	205,553				
November .....	2,574	241,589	2,389	226,657				
December .....	3,377	351,305	3,232	340,220				
Fourth Quarter .....	8,076	814,678	7,538	772,430	<sup>2,p</sup> 3,140	<sup>2,p</sup> 463,715	<sup>p</sup> 41.7	<sup>p</sup> 60.0
2009								
January .....	3,806	388,813	3,633	375,293				
February .....	2,262	218,438	2,173	210,755				
March .....	2,191	228,387	2,107	221,397				
First Quarter .....	8,259	835,638	7,913	807,445				

<sup>1</sup> The event realization rate is the percentage of all private nonfarm mass layoff events lasting more than 30 days. The initial claimant realization rate is the percentage of all private nonfarm mass layoff initial claimants associated with layoffs lasting more than 30 days.

<sup>2</sup> These quarterly numbers are provisional and will be revised as more data on these layoffs become available. Experience suggests that the

number of extended mass layoff events is generally revised upwards by less than 10 percent and the number of initial claimants associated with such events increases by 25-40 percent.

<sup>p</sup> = preliminary.



**Table 5. Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance by census region and division, not seasonally adjusted**

Census region and division	Mass layoff events				Initial claimants for unemployment insurance			
	March 2008	January 2009	February 2009	March 2009	March 2008	January 2009	February 2009	March 2009
United States <sup>1</sup> .....	1,089	3,806	2,262	2,191	114,541	388,813	218,438	228,387
Northeast .....	180	787	348	317	21,202	77,142	32,131	29,493
New England .....	14	97	78	68	1,014	8,414	7,744	7,021
Middle Atlantic .....	166	690	270	249	20,188	68,728	24,387	22,472
South .....	245	1,052	624	589	28,097	115,630	55,542	61,432
South Atlantic .....	139	574	295	276	14,166	58,892	23,842	27,819
East South Central .....	53	279	172	158	6,680	32,215	17,840	15,629
West South Central .....	53	199	157	155	7,251	24,523	13,860	17,984
Midwest .....	287	1,024	561	607	34,885	114,195	64,973	81,957
East North Central .....	224	821	434	466	27,847	93,852	52,690	64,595
West North Central .....	63	203	127	141	7,038	20,343	12,283	17,362
West .....	377	943	729	678	30,357	81,846	65,792	55,505
Mountain .....	43	149	128	109	4,001	12,657	11,381	10,991
Pacific .....	334	794	601	569	26,356	69,189	54,411	44,514

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 3.

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

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

**Table 6. State distribution: Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, not seasonally adjusted**

State	Mass layoff events				Initial claimants for unemployment insurance			
	March 2008	January 2009	February 2009	March 2009	March 2008	January 2009	February 2009	March 2009
Total <sup>1</sup> .....	1,089	3,806	2,262	2,191	114,541	388,813	218,438	228,387
Alabama .....	11	100	33	45	927	10,588	4,690	4,985
Alaska .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	10	7	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	788	557	( <sup>2</sup> )
Arizona .....	9	24	23	22	808	1,941	2,185	2,483
Arkansas .....	5	13	6	10	867	1,462	1,156	806
California .....	296	651	515	498	21,812	54,153	45,557	38,130
Colorado .....	6	24	15	13	533	1,814	1,237	1,578
Connecticut .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	14	12	11	( <sup>2</sup> )	1,349	824	928
Delaware .....	4	5	4	4	298	1,052	484	509
District of Columbia .....	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Florida .....	63	235	155	107	5,145	19,301	9,779	8,594
Georgia .....	20	137	45	46	3,302	16,654	3,830	4,152
Hawaii .....	4	14	15	5	304	998	1,211	376
Idaho .....	12	21	10	16	1,187	1,746	591	1,664
Illinois .....	51	130	115	109	6,694	13,443	19,469	18,096
Indiana .....	27	117	59	68	3,870	10,734	6,776	10,781
Iowa .....	11	64	33	38	1,051	7,353	4,374	6,140
Kansas .....	8	21	18	19	1,069	2,447	1,582	2,259
Kentucky .....	26	80	78	72	4,555	12,492	8,794	7,861
Louisiana .....	6	29	19	16	411	3,396	1,498	1,411
Maine .....	-	18	4	9	-	1,618	348	835
Maryland .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	31	11	8	( <sup>2</sup> )	2,535	800	531
Massachusetts .....	5	33	32	25	433	2,782	2,873	2,422
Michigan .....	41	229	79	87	3,980	26,453	7,392	11,121
Minnesota .....	9	41	24	30	617	3,289	1,777	3,665
Mississippi .....	7	25	8	12	493	2,353	458	745
Missouri .....	28	62	38	42	3,799	5,239	3,538	3,430
Montana .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	14	11	7	( <sup>2</sup> )	1,491	753	667
Nebraska .....	6	5	7	( <sup>2</sup> )	412	1,070	500	( <sup>2</sup> )
Nevada .....	7	33	43	27	522	2,805	3,881	2,351
New Hampshire .....	3	7	9	9	167	465	1,020	1,213
New Jersey .....	34	90	47	39	4,007	7,179	3,777	3,217
New Mexico .....	5	13	13	9	685	822	1,868	858
New York .....	29	279	82	70	3,436	31,893	8,927	6,974
North Carolina .....	16	41	34	44	1,367	4,149	3,833	6,277
North Dakota .....	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	3	4	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	207	1,259
Ohio .....	52	199	91	93	6,236	27,971	9,065	13,067
Oklahoma .....	6	21	19	17	868	2,772	1,437	1,483
Oregon .....	21	76	43	42	3,275	9,005	5,321	4,118
Pennsylvania .....	103	321	141	140	12,745	29,656	11,683	12,281
Rhode Island .....	4	17	9	9	303	1,526	1,291	889
South Carolina .....	17	102	33	48	1,659	10,703	3,471	6,157
South Dakota .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	6	4	5	( <sup>2</sup> )	530	305	323
Tennessee .....	9	74	53	29	705	6,782	3,898	2,038
Texas .....	36	136	113	112	5,105	16,893	9,769	14,284
Utah .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	19	11	14	( <sup>2</sup> )	1,978	753	1,313
Vermont .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	8	12	5	( <sup>2</sup> )	674	1,388	734
Virginia .....	14	15	8	14	1,808	3,313	786	1,229
Washington .....	12	43	21	23	913	4,245	1,765	1,833
West Virginia .....	3	7	3	4	428	1,127	681	301
Wisconsin .....	53	146	90	109	7,067	15,251	9,988	11,530
Wyoming .....	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Puerto Rico .....	4	29	28	22	344	2,992	2,282	2,035

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 3.

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

NOTE: Dash represents zero.