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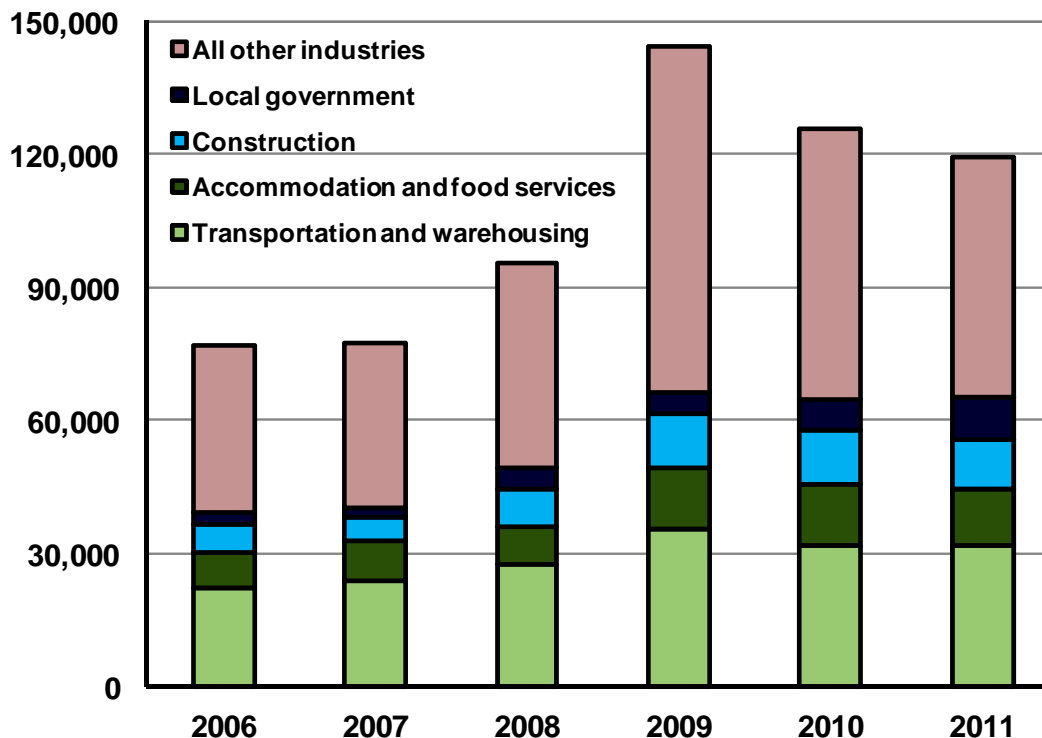
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MASS LAYOFFS IN NEW YORK –2011 ANNUAL TOTALS

Employers in New York State took 1,096 mass layoff actions in 2011 that resulted in the separation of 119,398 workers, as measured by new filings for unemployment insurance benefits during the year, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See chart 1.) Each action involved at least 50 persons from a single employer. Acting Regional Commissioner Joyce A. Sweeney pointed out that, although the number of claims declined by 6,511 over the year, the claims level in 2011 was the third highest in the history of the series, which goes back to 1996 on an annual basis.

Chart 1. Mass layoff initial claims, New York State, annual totals, 2006-11



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



Round-the-clock recorded messages for the **Consumer Price Index** and a variety of other **Bureau of Labor Statistics** data are available by dialing the **New York-New Jersey Information Office's** main telephone number: **(646) 264-3600**. For recorded messages, press '2'.

Industry distribution

Of all the industry sectors in New York, transportation and warehousing experienced the most mass layoff events in 2011 with 250. (See table 1.) This sector also had the largest number of initial claimants at 31,858, or 26.7 percent of the state's total. (See chart 1.) Construction had the second-highest mass layoff count, 140, but the 11,035 associated claims for unemployment insurance ranked third, while accommodation and food services, with 104 events, ranked second in claims, at 12,516. Manufacturing, also with 104 events, reported 9,212 initial claims. Combined, these four industries accounted for more than half (64,621) of the initial claimants in the state.

For the second consecutive year, manufacturing posted the largest decrease in mass layoff-related initial claims (-3,973) from 2010 to 2011, followed by accommodation and food services (-1,483) and construction (-1,431). (See table A.) No other sector finished 2011 with 1,000 or fewer initial claims. On a percentage basis, wholesale trade experienced the largest decrease in annual claims from 2010 to 2011 (-37.5 percent), followed by manufacturing (-30.1 percent).

Table A. Sectors with at least 1,000 fewer mass layoff initial claims in 2011, New York

<u>Sector</u>	Net change	
	<u>2009-10</u>	<u>2010-11</u>
Manufacturing	-7,486	-3,973
Accommodation and food services	375	-1,483
Construction	-47	-1,431

Interestingly, in six sectors recording a drop in initial claims over the year—construction, retail trade, professional and technical services, administrative and waste services, health care and social assistance, and accommodation and food services—the levels reached in 2011 were still the second or third highest recorded for the 15 years data are available. In contrast, eight sectors saw an increase in the number of initial claims associated with mass layoff events, led by local government, up 3,417 or 52.2 percent. Local government was one of three industry sectors to attain a program high for initial claims in 2011. (See table B.)

Table B. Sectors reaching series highs for mass layoff initial claimants in 2011, New York

<u>Sector</u>	<u>Initial claimants for unemployment insurance</u>
Local government	9,961
Educational services	5,562
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	5,200

Among the states, California recorded the greatest number of initial claims, 377,413, in 2011. Pennsylvania (124,838) ranked second, followed by New York (119,398) and Florida (79,766). Twenty-nine states experienced over-the-year declines in total initial claims for the year. Seven states, including New York, recorded a decline of at least 5,000, with the largest reduction in claims occurring in California (-42,396) and Illinois (-19,191). Twenty-one states and the District of Columbia had an increase in mass layoffs from 2010 to 2011, with seven states each adding more than 5,000 claimants, led by North Carolina (+22,393) and Pennsylvania (+12,270).

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; Federal Relay Service: (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.

Table 1. Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, New York State, selected sectors, annual totals

Industry	Mass layoff events				Initial claims for unemployment insurance			
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total, all industries ¹	897	1,367	1,121	1,096	95,612	144,247	125,909	119,398
Total private	869	1,318	1,068	1,021	90,232	137,942	118,012	107,583
Total private nonfarm	869	1,318	1,068	1,021	90,232	137,942	118,012	107,583
Mining quarrying and oil and gas extraction	8	6	5	(²)	535	612	364	(²)
Mining except oil and gas	6	5	5	(²)	399	538	364	(²)
Construction	105	169	158	140	8,106	12,513	12,466	11,035
Construction of buildings	11	19	13	16	764	1,293	869	1,182
Heavy and civil engineering construction	18	36	46	31	1,425	2,752	3,473	2,370
Specialty trade contractors	76	114	99	93	5,917	8,468	8,124	7,483
Manufacturing	107	206	113	104	11,908	20,671	13,185	9,212
Food	13	17	16	20	1,206	1,837	1,752	1,797
Beverage and tobacco products	(²)	(²)	3	(²)	(²)	(²)	160	(²)
Apparel	-	11	5	6	-	969	352	408
Printing and related support activities	7	11	7	10	554	888	491	713
Petroleum and coal products	(²)	7	5	6	(²)	546	437	525
Chemicals	7	12	6	(²)	479	1,117	583	(²)
Nonmetallic mineral products	12	15	9	4	1,136	1,380	620	377
Primary metals	(²)	15	7	(²)	(²)	1,722	576	(²)
Fabricated metal products	6	8	3	(²)	527	728	384	(²)
Machinery	(²)	19	13	8	(²)	1,811	3,504	738
Computer and electronic products	(²)	15	6	6	(²)	1,188	725	578
Electrical equipment and appliances	8	13	(²)	4	1,476	2,613	(²)	407
Transportation equipment	16	25	19	14	3,062	2,441	2,216	1,651
Furniture and related products	(²)	8	4	(²)	(²)	706	318	(²)
Wholesale trade	17	27	14	7	2,211	2,370	1,091	682
Merchant wholesalers durable goods	14	17	9	6	1,916	1,690	789	630
Merchant wholesalers nondurable goods	(²)	9	4	(²)	(²)	614	221	(²)
Retail trade	25	59	48	51	2,336	6,231	5,216	4,663
Food and beverage stores	-	8	(²)	3	-	576	(²)	217
Health and personal care stores	(²)	(²)	(²)	6	(²)	(²)	(²)	501
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	4	9	(²)	7	312	739	(²)	537
Sporting goods hobby book and music stores	-	4	(²)	6	-	304	(²)	647
General merchandise stores	11	15	15	16	1,239	1,895	2,347	1,516
Nonstore retailers	(²)	(²)	(²)	3	(²)	(²)	(²)	213
Transportation and warehousing	215	246	220	250	27,484	35,457	31,544	31,858
Transit and ground passenger transportation	192	224	206	237	25,351	32,952	30,224	30,734
Couriers and messengers	(²)	5	4	(²)	(²)	920	368	(²)

Table 1. Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, New York State, selected sectors, annual totals—Continued

Industry	Mass layoff events				Initial claims for unemployment insurance			
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011
Information	24	65	39	41	2,256	5,928	3,994	3,926
Publishing industries except Internet	(²)	16	4	5	(²)	1,246	265	367
Motion picture and sound recording industries	16	29	24	28	1,485	3,004	2,861	2,967
Broadcasting except Internet	(²)	12	8	(²)	(²)	976	554	(²)
Finance and insurance	55	65	26	22	4,750	6,266	2,059	2,203
Credit intermediation and related activities	23	27	16	13	2,081	2,904	1,399	1,133
Securities commodity contracts investments	27	29	6	6	2,314	2,730	385	576
Real estate and rental and leasing	(²)	6	6	(²)	(²)	1,016	1,068	(²)
Real estate	(²)	(²)	6	(²)	(²)	(²)	1,068	(²)
Professional and technical services	44	69	48	46	4,188	6,040	5,429	4,757
Administrative and waste services	77	117	110	97	6,948	10,578	9,319	8,505
Administrative and support services	74	110	105	91	6,712	9,963	9,023	8,046
Waste management and remediation services	3	(²)	(²)	6	236	(²)	(²)	459
Educational services	20	29	31	32	2,755	5,270	5,388	5,562
Health care and social assistance	31	50	54	53	2,472	3,548	4,401	4,115
Hospitals	(²)	13	11	7	(²)	968	1,183	510
Nursing and residential care facilities	(²)	(²)	3	(²)	(²)	(²)	177	(²)
Social assistance	25	28	36	35	1,769	1,935	2,788	2,728
Arts entertainment and recreation	34	54	54	48	2,782	4,643	5,041	5,200
Performing arts and spectator sports	31	45	41	37	2,552	4,015	3,728	3,610
Amusements gambling and recreation	(²)	6	11	9	(²)	437	1,137	1,417
Accommodation and food services	86	122	119	104	8,720	13,624	13,999	12,516
Accommodations	10	27	21	12	831	2,481	1,622	1,090
Food services and drinking places	76	95	98	92	7,889	11,143	12,377	11,426
Other services except public administration	16	21	17	18	1,983	2,599	1,721	2,295
Personal and laundry services	15	15	12	12	1,926	2,175	1,329	1,587
Membership associations and organizations	(²)	(²)	3	4	(²)	(²)	236	360
Unclassified	-	1	1	-	-	57	78	-
Government	28	49	53	75	5,380	6,305	7,897	11,815
Federal	3	5	7	10	219	530	707	791
State	6	11	9	13	444	964	646	1,063
Local	19	33	37	52	4,717	4,811	6,544	9,961

¹ Total includes all industries including those not listed in the table.

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

NOTE: Dash represents zero.