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EXTENDED MASS LAYOFFS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2005 AND ANNUAL AVERAGES FOR 2005

In the fourth quarter of 2005, there were 1,299 mass layoff events that resulted in the separation of 217,803 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 during the October-December 2004 time period, with separations at their lowest level for any fourth quarter since data collection began in 1995. (See table A.) The declines over the year were most notable in food manufacturing, general merchandise stores, and electrical equipment and appliance manufacturing. Seventy percent of all employers reporting an extended layoff in the fourth quarter of 2005 indicated that they would recall some number of workers, the highest proportion for any fourth quarter. Extended mass layoffs that involve the movement of work within the same company or to a different company, either domestically or outside the U.S., occurred in 9 percent of the nonseasonal layoff events, accounting for 10 percent of worker separations related to nonseasonal events. (See table B.)

The completion of seasonal work accounted for 56 percent of all events and resulted in 123,288 separations during the period—the highest share of private nonfarm seasonal separations for any fourth quarter. Layoffs due to internal company restructuring (bankruptcy, business ownership change, financial difficulty, and reorganization) represented 12 percent of events and resulted in 28,731 separations, the lowest level of separations for any fourth quarter since the program began in 1995. Permanent closure of worksites occurred in 9 percent of all events and affected 20,352 workers, the fewest number of separations due to permanent closures for any fourth quarter.

In the fourth quarter of 2005, the national unemployment rate was 4.7 percent, not seasonally adjusted; a year earlier it was 5.1 percent. Private nonfarm payroll employment, not seasonally adjusted, increased by 1.6 percent or about 1.75 million jobs from October-December 2004 to October-December 2005.

For all of 2005, the total number of extended mass layoff events was 4,780 and the total number of worker separations was 851,997. These annual totals were lower than in 2004, when there were 5,010 events and 993,909 separations. Since reaching a peak in 2001, the annual number of extended layoff events has fallen by 2,595, or 35 percent, and the number of separations has declined by 672,835, or 44 percent. Additional information on the annual data is available starting on page 8 of this release.

Table A. Selected measures of extended mass layoff activity

Period	Layoff events	Separations	Initial claimants
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	1,339	276,503	238,392
April-June	1,358	278,831	254,063
July-September	886	164,608	148,575
October-December ...	1,427	273,967	262,049
2005			
January-March ^r	1,142	187,128	185,420
April-June ^r	1,203	245,790	212,364
July-September ^r	1,136	201,276	189,443
October-December ^p ...	1,299	217,803	178,896

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

Industry Distribution of Extended Layoffs

Extended mass layoff separations occurred in 311 of the 1,105 detailed industries for which data are available for the fourth quarter of 2005. This is the fewest number of industries to have at least one extended mass layoff event in a fourth quarter.

Manufacturing industries accounted for 28 percent of private nonfarm layoff events and separations during October-December 2005. (See table 1.) The 61,766 worker separations in manufacturing were the fewest in that sector for any fourth quarter. In the fourth quarter of 2005, separations in manufacturing were concentrated in food manufacturing (16,274), followed by transportation equipment manufacturing (12,850).

The construction sector had 35 percent of the events and 28 percent of the separations, mostly among heavy and civil engineering construction and in specialty trade contractors. Layoffs in the administrative and waste services sector comprised 11 percent of events and separations, mostly in temporary help services and in professional employer organizations. Retail trade accounted for 5 percent of private nonfarm layoff events and 8 percent of separations, primarily in mail-order houses. Layoffs in accommodation and food services accounted for 4 percent of events and 6 percent of separations, and were primarily concentrated in hotels and motels, except casino hotels.

Information technology-producing industries (communication equipment, communications services, computer hardware, and software and computer services) accounted for 3 percent of layoff events and 6,417 worker separations in the fourth quarter of 2005. (See table 6.) In the fourth quarter of 2004, these industries accounted for 4 percent of layoff events and 8,622 separations. Layoffs in the information technology-producing industries in the fourth quarter of 2005 were most numerous in computer hardware with 3,450 separations, followed by software and computer services with 1,331 separations.

Reasons for Extended Layoff

Layoffs due to the completion of seasonal work accounted for 56 percent of the extended layoff events and resulted in 123,288 separations in the fourth quarter of 2005. (See table 2.) Seasonal layoffs were most numerous among workers in heavy and civil engineering construction (highway, street, and bridge construction) and in food manufacturing (fruit and vegetable canning).

Contract completion accounted for 12 percent of events and resulted in 23,739 separations during the fourth quarter. These layoffs were primarily in administrative and support services, followed by specialty trade contractors.

Internal company restructuring (due to bankruptcy, business ownership change, financial difficulty, and reorganization) accounted for 12 percent of layoff events and resulted in 28,731 separations. These layoffs were mostly among workers in transportation equipment manufacturing, computer and electronic product manufacturing, and air transportation. Over half of both the internal company restructuring layoff events and separations were due to reorganization within the company.

Movement of Work

Between October and December of 2005, 54 extended mass layoff events involved the movement of work; this was about 9 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 9,851 workers, about 10 percent of all separations resulting from nonseasonal/nonvacation mass layoff events. A year earlier, there were 83 layoff events and 19,599 separations associated with the movement of work. (See table 10.)

Among the 54 extended mass layoff events with reported relocation of work, just over half (54 percent) were permanent closures of worksites, which affected 5,453 workers. In comparison, for the 1,299 total layoff events reported for the fourth quarter of 2005, only 9 percent involved the permanent closure of worksites.

Of the layoffs involving the movement of work, 70 percent of the events and 78 percent of the laid-off workers were from manufacturing industries during the fourth quarter of 2005. (See table 7.) Among all private nonfarm extended layoffs, manufacturing accounted for 28 percent of the events and separations.

Internal company restructuring (bankruptcy, business ownership change, financial difficulty, and reorganization) accounted for 74 percent of layoff events associated with work relocation and resulted in 7,601 separations during the fourth quarter. (See table 8.) Most of these were due to reorganization within the company. Only 12 percent of all layoff events in the total private nonfarm economy were because of internal company restructuring.

Table B. Extended mass layoff events and separations, selected measures, fourth quarter 2005^p

Action	Layoff events	Separations
Total private nonfarm	1,299	217,803
Total, excluding seasonal and vacation events ¹	572	94,190
Total events with movement of work ²	54	9,851
Movement-of-work actions	73	(³)
With separations reported ..	50	6,271
With separations unknown ..	23	(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 movement-of-work action.

³ Data not available.

^p = preliminary.

Among the regions, both the Midwest and the South accounted for the largest proportions of workers in extended mass layoffs associated with the movement of work (29 percent each) in the fourth quarter of 2005, followed by the Northeast (24 percent) and the West (18 percent).

As noted in table B, the 54 extended layoff events for the fourth quarter of 2005 discussed above involve 73 identifiable movement-of-work actions. An identifiable movement-of-work action 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 to a location out of the country. This would be counted as two movement-of-work actions. Of the 73 identifiable relocations, employers were able to provide information on the specific separations (6,271 workers) associated with the movement-of-work component of the layoff in 50 actions, or 68 percent of the total actions for the fourth quarter of 2005. Thus, a range of 6,271 (separations in movement-of-work actions where the employer was able to provide specific detail) to 9,851 (total separations in all layoff events that included movement of work) is established for job loss due to the movement of work in the fourth quarter. (See table 10.)

In the 50 actions where employers were able to provide more complete separations information, 80 percent of relocations (40 out of 50) occurred among establishments within the same company. (See table C.) In 65 percent of these 40 relocations, the work activities were reassigned to places elsewhere in the U.S.

Thirty-eight percent of the movement-of-work relocations involved out-of-country moves (19 out of 50). The separation of 2,047 workers was associated with out-of-country relocations, about 2 percent of all non-

Table C. Movement-of-work actions by type of separation where the number of separations is known by employers, fourth quarter 2005^p

Action	Layoff events ¹	Separations
With separations reported	50	6,271
By location		
Out of country.....	19	2,047
Within company.....	14	1,355
Different company	5	692
Domestic relocations	31	4,224
Within company.....	26	3,823
Different company	5	401
By company		
Within company	40	5,178
Domestic	26	3,823
Out of country	14	1,355
Different company	10	1,093
Domestic	5	401
Out of country	5	692

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

^p = preliminary.

seasonal/nonvacation extended mass layoff separations. Domestic relocation of work—both within the company and to other companies—affected 4,224 workers. (See table 11.)

Recall Expectations

Seventy percent of employers reporting an extended layoff in the fourth quarter of 2005 indicated they anticipated some type of recall. This compares with 64 percent of the employers anticipating a recall a year earlier and is the highest such proportion for any fourth quarter. (See table D.) The fourth quarter typically has the highest recall expectations for any quarter of the year. Most employers not expecting a recall during the fourth quarter were from administrative and support services and transportation equipment 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. Fifty percent of the employers expected to extend the offer to all laid-off workers.

Table D. Summary of employer expectations of a recall from extended layoff, fourth quarter 2004-fourth quarter 2005

Nature of the recall	Percentage of events				
	IV 2004	I 2005	II 2005	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p
Anticipate a recall	64.2	51.5	61.8	39.5	69.7
Timeframe					
Within 6 months	84.8	85.5	89.4	78.8	90.1
Within 3 months	33.1	53.4	59.5	57.9	36.5
Size					
At least half	92.9	92.5	92.9	80.2	92.8
All workers	49.8	43.2	51.1	43.2	50.5

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

Excluding layoff events due to seasonal work and vacation period (in which 97 percent of the employers expected a recall), employers expected to recall laid-off workers in 35 percent of the events. A year earlier, 34 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 6 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 62 percent involving fewer than 150 workers. These events, however, accounted for only 33 percent of all separations. (See table E.) Separations involving 500 or more workers, while comprising 4 percent of the events, accounted for 19 percent of all separations, down from 27 percent in October-December 2004. The average size of layoffs (as measured by separations per layoff event) differed widely by industry, ranging from a low of 65 separations in electronics and appliance stores to a high of 677 in nonstore retailers.

Initial Claimant Characteristics

A total of 178,896 initial claimants for unemployment insurance were associated with extended mass layoffs in the fourth quarter of 2005. Of these claimants, 12 percent were black, 15 percent were Hispanic, 31 percent were women, 36 percent were 30 to 44 years of age, and 16 percent were 55 years of age or older. (See table 3.) Among persons in the civilian labor force for the same period, 11 percent were black, 13 percent were Hispanic, 47 percent were women, 35 percent were age 30 to 44, and 17 percent were 55 years of age or older.

Geographic Distribution

In the fourth quarter, the number of separations due to extended mass layoff events was highest in the Midwest (106,095), followed by the South (39,487), the West (38,487), and the Northeast (33,734). (See

Table E. Distribution of extended layoff events by size of layoff, October-December 2005^P

Size	Layoff events		Separations	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	1,299	100.0	217,803	100.0
50-99.....	483	37.2	35,405	16.3
100-149.....	324	24.9	37,558	17.2
150-199.....	169	13.0	28,279	13.0
200-299.....	173	13.3	39,534	18.2
300-499.....	102	7.9	35,751	16.4
500-999.....	39	3.0	25,421	11.7
1,000 or more...	9	.7	15,855	7.3

^P = preliminary.

table 4.) Extended mass layoffs in the Midwest were mainly in heavy and civil engineering construction and in specialty trade contractors.

All four regions reported over-the-year decreases in separations, with the largest decrease occurring in the West (-29,298), followed by the Northeast (-14,727), the South (-7,541), and the Midwest (-4,598). Seven of the nine geographic divisions reported over-the-year declines in laid-off workers, with the largest declines occurring in the Pacific (-27,068) and Middle Atlantic (-12,752) divisions. The West South Central division reported the largest increase in separations (+1,140).

Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, the largest number of worker separations occurred in Illinois (32,967), followed by Ohio (19,640), New York (14,268), and Michigan (14,107). These four states accounted for 37 percent of total layoff events and separations during the fourth quarter of 2005. They were followed by California (13,959), Florida (12,824), Minnesota (12,646), and Wisconsin (7,967). (See table 5.) After excluding the substantial impact of seasonal work, Illinois reported the most laid-off workers (12,510), largely due to layoffs in administrative and support services.

Over the year, California reported the greatest decrease in workers laid off for all reasons during the fourth quarter (-26,923), followed by Wisconsin (-6,948) and Florida (-6,434). The largest increases occurred in Ohio (+8,900), Louisiana (+3,317), and Oregon (+1,492).

Fifty-seven percent of events and 56 percent of separations (121,969) occurred in metropolitan areas in the fourth quarter of 2005, compared with 56 percent of events and 52 percent of separations (141,366) during the fourth quarter of 2004. Among the 367 metropolitan areas, Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill.-Ind.-Wis., reported the highest number of separations, 16,034, in the fourth quarter of 2005. Next were New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.Y.-N.J.-Pa., with 7,905 separations, and New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, La., with 6,579 separations. (See table F.) Employers located in nonmetropolitan areas separated 30,980 workers in mass layoffs, down from 34,595 workers in the fourth quarter of 2004.

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

Metropolitan area	Events		Separations	
	IV 2004	IV 2005 ^P	IV 2004	IV 2005 ^P
Total, nonmetropolitan areas	205	208	34,595	30,980
Total, 367 metropolitan areas	804	746	141,366	121,969
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill.-Ind.-Wis.	89	86	17,869	16,034
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.Y.-N.J.-Pa.	69	63	10,505	7,905
New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, La.	5	15	1,235	6,579
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Mich.	36	45	5,060	6,000
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, Minn.-Wis.	33	40	4,794	5,824
Medford, Ore.	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, Ohio	11	15	1,051	3,175
St. Louis, Mo.-Ill.	5	11	2,428	2,524
Columbus, Ohio	6	9	464	1,825
Louisville, Ky.	7	9	1,022	1,815

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

^P = preliminary.

NOTE: The geographic boundaries of the metropolitan areas shown in this table are defined in Office of Management and Budget Bulletin 04-03, February 18, 2004.

Review of 2005

For all of 2005, employers reported 4,780 extended mass layoff actions, affecting 851,997 workers, down from 5,010 events and 993,909 separations in 2004. The total number of separations for 2005 was the lowest for any year since annual totals became available in 1996. Compared to their peak levels in 2001, the number of events was down by 35 percent and the number of separations was down by 44 percent. (See table G.) The annual average national unemployment rate decreased from 5.5 percent in 2004 to 5.1 percent in 2005, while private nonfarm payroll employment increased by 1.7 percent, or 1,847,000 jobs.

Eleven percent of extended events in 2005 were permanent closures, accounting for 102,788 worker separations. When compared with 2004, the share of total extended mass layoff events that resulted in a permanent worksite closure fell by 4 percentage points, as did the respective share of the associated separations. Both the total number of permanent closures and the associated separations reached series lows in 2005. Since 2001, when permanent closures were at their highest, the number of closures has fallen by 56 percent and the number of associated separations has declined by 73 percent. During 2005, permanent closures were most numerous in the manufacturing sector, primarily in transportation equipment manufacturing and food production. Reorganization within the company was most often cited as the reason for closures in manufacturing during 2005, accounting for 38 percent of the total closures.

Table G. Selected measures of mass layoff activity, 1996-2005

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.....	5,010	993,909	903,079
2005 ^p	4,780	851,997	766,123

^p = preliminary.

In 2005, employers expected a recall in 56 percent of the mass layoff events, higher than in 2004 when employers expected a recall in 51 percent of events. Employers in mining, construction, and arts, entertainment, and recreation 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 (8 percent), followed by those in the information sector (17 percent).

Of the layoff events where employers did not expect to recall laid-off workers, 34 percent were in the manufacturing sector. These occurred primarily in transportation equipment and computer and electronic products.

Industry. Manufacturing had the largest share of both extended events and separations in 2005—26 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 62 percent and the number of separations has declined by 66 percent. In 2005, within manufacturing, separations were most numerous in food manufacturing (48,944, largely in fruit and vegetable processing) and transportation equipment (41,474, mostly in automobile manufacturing). Compared with 2004, 17 of the 21 manufacturing subgroups had declines in the number of separations, with the largest occurring in food production (-15,106) and apparel manufacturing (-4,845). Wood products manufacturing had the largest increase (+2,708), followed by machinery (+2,568).

Reason. In 2005, seasonal work continued to be the most-cited reason for layoff, accounting for 37 percent of all layoff events and 40 percent of all separations. A year earlier, seasonal layoffs accounted for 33 percent of events and 34 percent of separations. The seasonal layoffs in 2005 occurred primarily in establishments engaged in heavy and civil engineering construction, amusements, gambling and recreation, and food manufacturing.

Layoff activity due to internal company restructuring occurred largely among transportation equipment manufacturing, credit intermediation and related activities, air transportation, and food and beverage stores. Internal company restructuring occurred in 759 events (16 percent of the total), resulting in the separation of 145,352 workers (17 percent of the total).

Movement of work. In 2005, there were 266 extended mass layoff events that involved work moving 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 51,920 workers, about 10 percent of all separations resulting from nonseasonal/nonvacation mass layoff events. Fifty-four percent of events with movement of work involved the permanent closure of a worksite, affecting 26,991 workers. More than two-thirds of the events and separations were in manufacturing industries, mostly in transportation equipment manufacturing. 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 (31 percent), followed by the South (30 percent), the West (21 percent), and the Northeast (18 percent).

As part of the 266 layoff events, 344 identifiable movement-of-work actions were taken by employers. Employers were able to provide information on specific separations associated with the movement-of-work component of the layoff in 252 actions, which totaled 33,255 laid-off workers. Thus, the number of separations due to the movement of work ranged between 33,255 (separations in movement-of-work actions where the employer was able to provide specific detail) to 51,920 (total separations in all layoff events that included movement of work) for 2005.

Of the 252 movement-of-work actions for which complete information is available, 6 in 10 relocations were to other locations within the U.S., and nearly 8 in 10 involved moving work within the company. The separation of 11,375 workers was associated with out-of-country relocations, which accounted for 34 percent of the separations related to the movement of work and 2 percent of all separations in nonseasonal/nonvacation extended mass layoff events. In out-of-country relocations, Mexico and China were cited 69 percent of the time as the destination to which work moved. Domestic relocation of work—both within the company and to other companies—affected 21,186 workers.

Geographic distribution. The Midwest reported more laid-off workers in 2005 than any other region, 294,762. Layoffs in the Midwest were mainly in heavy and civil engineering construction and administrative and support services and were primarily attributed to seasonal factors. The Northeast region continued to report the lowest annual number of separations (160,445). Compared with 2004, three of the four geographic regions reported a decrease in laid-off workers, with the largest decline in the West (-116,424). The South had the only over-the-year increase (+18,575).

Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, Illinois reported the largest number of separated workers in 2005 (101,106). After Illinois were California (80,361), New York (67,276), and Florida (65,860). These four states accounted for 34 percent of events and 37 percent of separations in 2005. California had the largest over-the-year decline in the number of separations (-126,426); Louisiana recorded the largest over-the-year increase (+47,288). Over 90 percent of the increase in Louisiana occurred in the third quarter and was related to the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Fifty-nine percent of events and 53 percent of separations occurred in metropolitan areas in 2005, compared with 56 percent of events and 47 percent of separations in 2004. Among the 367 metropolitan areas, New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, La., reported the highest number of separations, 48,542, with most related to the hurricanes. Next were New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.Y.-N.J.-Pa., with 44,931 separations, and Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill.-Ind.-Wis., with 41,946. Employers located in nonmetropolitan areas separated 105,330 workers in extended mass layoffs during 2005, down from 110,186 workers in 2004.

Table H. Hurricanes Katrina- and Rita-related mass layoff activity in Louisiana and Mississippi, September-December 2005^p

Measure	Total potential mass layoffs	Extended mass layoffs ¹
Events	964	358
Initial claims	136,930	47,767
Separations	(²)	56,310

¹ Includes private nonfarm establishments only.

² Separations are not available.

^p = preliminary.

Impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The impacts of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were seen in the Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program through initial claims filings against establishments in the most severely affected states—Louisiana and Mississippi. Total potential events in the period from August 28 through December 31 reached 964, with 136,930 initial claims filed. Private nonfarm extended mass layoffs directly or indirectly due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita totaled 358 events and 56,310 separations in the period. (See table H.) The majority of the extended mass layoff activity (96 percent of the events and 88 percent of the separations) occurred in September, and all of the events were from Louisiana and Mississippi employers. Accommodation and food service establishments reported the highest number of worker separations due to the hurricanes, followed by retail trade and healthcare and social assistance.

Extended mass layoff events accounted for 37 percent of the mass layoff events potentially related to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (358 of 964) in the 4-month period. It is important to note that the 964 potential events include 99 from government agencies which are not subject to the MLS employer interview. Also, in response to the interview, many employers responded that the layoff was temporary (less than 31 days) or did not occur at all.

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 2006 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, February 23, 2006.

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 2005, outright refusal to participate in the employer interview accounted for 2.4 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 23 relocations were unable to provide the number of separations specifically associated with the movement of work, 14 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, 2004 and 2005

Industry	Layoff events			Separations			Initial claimants for unemployment insurance		
	IV 2004	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p	IV 2004	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p	IV 2004	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	1,427	1,136	1,299	273,967	201,276	217,803	262,049	189,443	178,896
Mining	24	4	25	3,915	1,312	3,068	3,508	1,001	2,510
Utilities	6	(²)	3	2,153	(²)	519	1,730	(²)	454
Construction	418	90	452	61,066	10,507	60,935	67,029	14,721	53,907
Manufacturing	439	292	364	84,535	55,848	61,766	88,664	56,243	57,684
Food	109	50	83	26,473	10,214	16,274	23,241	8,786	13,833
Beverage and tobacco products	8	(²)	5	2,455	(²)	784	1,158	(²)	568
Textile mills	6	12	13	771	1,805	1,392	1,832	2,480	1,643
Textile product mills	3	6	(²)	350	619	(²)	385	851	(²)
Apparel	16	13	8	3,940	1,459	2,075	2,700	1,616	924
Leather and allied products	3	(²)	(²)	584	(²)	(²)	733	(²)	(²)
Wood products	10	11	15	1,358	2,828	1,740	2,036	2,822	1,535
Paper	12	9	8	1,423	1,174	1,143	1,212	984	805
Printing and related support activities	4	7	7	611	662	1,027	805	589	612
Petroleum and coal products	16	-	16	2,389	-	2,285	2,695	-	2,280
Chemicals	11	10	9	1,417	1,901	1,458	1,451	1,821	1,197
Plastics and rubber products	20	7	23	2,087	770	2,445	2,440	721	2,397
Nonmetallic mineral products	34	12	35	5,409	1,433	5,862	6,365	1,631	5,512
Primary metals	15	6	10	2,395	1,562	2,292	1,915	898	1,102
Fabricated metal products	23	25	11	3,368	2,623	1,342	3,575	2,978	1,036
Machinery	17	26	7	2,528	6,079	1,112	3,084	6,335	1,108
Computer and electronic products	27	21	20	4,791	4,259	3,729	4,144	3,126	2,666
Electrical equipment and appliances	17	9	(²)	5,149	4,604	(²)	7,091	4,607	(²)
Transportation equipment	54	46	64	11,815	9,715	12,850	16,427	11,629	17,006
Furniture and related products	23	9	15	3,540	2,235	1,872	3,501	2,266	1,798
Miscellaneous manufacturing	11	10	6	1,682	1,437	769	1,874	1,605	758
Wholesale trade	17	36	21	4,019	4,561	2,674	2,519	4,030	2,828
Retail trade	53	112	61	21,377	20,902	16,885	14,926	19,512	8,747
Transportation and warehousing	33	87	31	6,003	17,820	5,949	7,169	15,750	4,465
Information	46	26	18	8,416	3,425	3,397	9,144	3,265	2,957
Finance and insurance	31	25	15	6,045	5,029	2,276	5,341	5,178	1,938
Real estate and rental and leasing	3	7	(²)	1,383	562	(²)	970	978	(²)
Professional and technical services	28	34	32	6,189	5,029	5,036	5,850	5,519	5,008
Management of companies and enterprises	4	(²)	3	1,581	(²)	566	995	(²)	466
Administrative and waste services	153	121	147	28,401	22,670	23,830	25,775	22,413	20,746
Educational services	-	13	(²)	-	2,390	(²)	-	2,117	(²)
Health care and social assistance	31	94	19	7,467	11,064	4,497	5,049	9,377	2,549
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	46	32	40	8,875	13,985	9,434	5,916	6,386	4,875
Accommodation and food services	83	139	56	19,782	23,075	13,049	15,691	20,172	8,030
Other services, except public administration	10	18	9	2,357	2,285	1,551	1,641	2,099	1,058
Unclassified	2	1	-	403	178	-	132	178	-

¹ For the fourth quarter of 2005, 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, 2004 and 2005

Reason for layoff	Layoff events			Separations			Initial claimants for unemployment insurance		
	IV 2004	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p	IV 2004	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p	IV 2004	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	1,427	1,136	1,299	273,967	201,276	217,803	262,049	189,443	178,896
Automation	(²)	(²)	—	(²)	(²)	—	(²)	(²)	—
Bankruptcy	25	16	24	3,965	5,864	4,636	2,697	4,570	3,356
Business ownership change	28	29	14	4,743	5,298	2,282	3,811	4,628	1,685
Contract cancellation	23	19	16	4,164	3,309	2,452	2,977	2,869	1,393
Contract completed	187	165	151	36,520	25,849	23,739	38,110	31,161	23,170
Energy-related	—	(²)	(²)	—	(²)	(²)	—	(²)	(²)
Environment-related	(²)	—	(²)	(²)	—	(²)	(²)	—	(²)
Financial difficulty	48	32	29	10,373	6,200	5,752	7,540	5,667	3,751
Import competition	13	14	16	1,709	3,568	2,712	1,661	3,320	2,337
Labor dispute	13	11	(²)	5,824	6,365	(²)	4,814	5,200	(²)
Material shortage	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Model changeover	—	3	3	—	1,655	767	—	2,250	360
Natural disaster	—	(²)	—	—	(²)	—	—	(²)	—
Non-natural disaster	(²)	(²)	—	(²)	(²)	—	(²)	(²)	—
Plant or machine repair	5	3	(²)	600	280	(²)	588	310	(²)
Product line discontinued	6	10	13	1,496	1,493	2,007	1,388	1,430	1,282
Reorganization within company	116	104	94	23,945	20,616	16,061	22,349	19,958	14,594
Seasonal work	667	174	725	129,859	36,992	123,288	111,692	26,964	91,237
Slack work	166	117	125	22,196	16,426	15,790	38,246	20,618	21,885
Vacation period	—	9	(²)	—	662	(²)	—	627	(²)
Weather-related	32	344	24	4,217	49,832	7,528	3,785	45,473	3,569
Other	38	26	16	8,491	4,949	2,183	7,069	2,793	1,790
Not reported	55	54	40	14,780	10,757	7,051	14,611	10,686	7,051

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

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

^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, 2005

State	Layoff events		Total initial claimants		Percent of total							
	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p	Black		Hispanic origin		Women		Persons age 55 and over	
					III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	1,136	1,299	189,443	178,896	26.4	11.6	10.6	14.6	47.3	30.7	16.6	16.3
Alabama	3	6	384	622	61.5	35.4	2.3	2.1	43.8	29.7	25.8	20.9
Alaska	3	8	756	1,282	2.0	4.1	22.8	23.5	29.9	25.2	18.4	12.5
Arizona	3	(²)	787	(²)	1.4	7.1	53.1	25.0	20.6	30.4	27.3	16.1
Arkansas	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	64.2	21.6	—	—	88.7	72.2	24.5	20.6
California	87	79	13,199	10,461	10.3	6.7	31.1	45.6	50.5	50.8	18.7	17.4
Colorado	5	18	705	2,169	3.7	1.8	14.2	37.2	32.6	18.9	24.5	17.9
Connecticut	9	8	980	904	11.7	10.3	11.8	7.4	59.2	27.0	21.1	15.6
Delaware	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
District of Columbia	(²)	—	(²)	—	28.6	—	26.4	—	48.4	—	20.9	—
Florida	78	74	14,659	10,476	15.7	15.3	30.6	30.6	48.7	46.2	17.5	18.2
Georgia	13	15	2,224	1,780	48.6	68.2	.4	.5	60.8	58.6	15.6	15.6
Hawaii	3	3	359	300	2.5	1.0	13.6	22.0	40.4	5.3	18.9	8.7
Idaho	7	18	1,143	2,362	.5	.1	28.6	22.9	59.4	39.9	23.9	18.9
Illinois	75	164	15,346	21,335	24.5	14.9	11.5	21.9	40.2	24.5	14.9	12.7
Indiana	10	42	3,669	5,263	10.1	10.2	1.3	4.0	31.9	20.9	15.4	10.8
Iowa	3	34	1,713	4,317	1.5	1.9	.6	5.4	39.8	13.4	10.7	19.0
Kansas	5	4	500	630	8.6	3.8	5.4	8.6	28.6	13.2	12.0	16.8
Kentucky	15	24	1,616	2,324	13.4	8.8	.2	.1	47.8	28.0	16.0	16.4
Louisiana	331	18	41,600	2,751	58.7	64.2	4.3	3.9	59.1	63.9	10.9	4.8
Maine	3	4	315	647	1.6	.3	—	.2	73.0	18.9	18.4	19.2
Maryland	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	29.6	7.7	.3	—	32.6	6.2	22.0	10.8
Massachusetts	19	16	2,893	2,154	8.3	5.5	2.3	7.9	50.9	31.0	20.9	24.3
Michigan	38	107	8,339	17,405	13.7	13.0	2.6	7.5	37.7	26.9	14.7	13.1
Minnesota	19	84	4,752	10,336	3.4	2.0	1.9	11.6	21.5	18.0	17.2	16.5
Mississippi	45	(²)	8,941	(²)	43.7	29.0	10.3	3.8	56.3	58.0	15.1	13.7
Missouri	12	27	1,419	5,926	38.0	9.1	1.0	.4	62.0	32.8	23.5	23.3
Montana	(²)	11	(²)	969	.4	.3	1.8	3.5	14.7	12.3	26.7	17.9
Nebraska	(²)	11	(²)	964	1.7	4.9	25.6	16.8	22.3	19.4	9.1	19.9
Nevada	(²)	5	(²)	433	5.3	12.7	16.2	17.6	28.7	47.8	28.7	25.9
New Hampshire	3	5	281	936	1.1	1.5	6.4	25.0	54.8	23.4	24.6	15.6
New Jersey	34	32	5,173	3,741	21.8	14.2	10.9	15.0	49.1	35.7	28.7	26.5
New Mexico	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	5.0	—	15.0	90.8	26.7	40.6	11.7	20.8
New York	94	99	15,757	13,534	14.5	7.6	11.5	6.8	44.7	22.4	18.8	17.1
North Carolina	20	21	6,363	2,308	31.8	35.8	3.6	5.4	49.0	47.6	20.1	24.1
North Dakota	—	6	—	744	—	.1	—	3.1	—	7.0	—	16.9
Ohio	38	105	7,238	13,666	12.2	9.4	1.6	2.9	39.3	20.4	15.3	13.0
Oklahoma	(²)	3	(²)	590	18.1	6.9	4.0	15.9	30.7	43.9	11.6	31.7
Oregon	6	10	994	2,659	.5	.8	30.3	36.3	54.8	55.9	22.5	18.9
Pennsylvania	65	64	12,191	11,077	6.0	9.0	2.0	2.8	37.5	42.0	20.8	20.9
Rhode Island	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	1.7	1.4	6.7	8.6	95.0	14.1	25.0	13.6
South Carolina	10	10	1,779	1,855	54.5	53.4	.3	.2	61.6	53.1	5.1	11.2
South Dakota	—	(²)	—	(²)	—	1.8	—	.9	—	5.5	—	20.0
Tennessee	12	11	2,650	1,243	13.0	25.5	—	—	50.6	35.8	31.3	28.1
Texas	21	22	3,321	3,722	17.0	19.8	39.3	32.1	35.4	33.8	16.7	14.9
Utah	(²)	9	(²)	994	4.3	1.4	26.9	14.2	60.7	21.7	5.6	10.3
Vermont	—	5	—	468	—	—	—	.4	—	18.8	—	20.1
Virginia	10	16	1,307	1,615	44.5	40.1	2.0	5.8	45.4	49.7	18.2	17.5
Washington	9	30	1,069	5,048	5.6	3.1	5.1	35.4	32.5	35.5	23.9	16.9
West Virginia	3	(²)	435	(²)	.2	4.6	—	—	10.6	31.2	12.9	15.6
Wisconsin	11	57	2,649	7,625	6.7	2.5	16.7	12.2	29.0	18.0	20.1	14.4
Wyoming	—	(²)	—	(²)	—	.5	—	—	—	37.4	—	46.3
Puerto Rico	6	11	2,104	1,601	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	61.7	52.0	6.3	10.9

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, 2004 and 2005

Census region and division	Layoff events			Separations			Initial claimants for unemployment insurance		
	IV 2004	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p	IV 2004	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p	IV 2004	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p
United States ¹	1,427	1,136	1,299	273,967	201,276	217,803	262,049	189,443	178,896
Northeast	298	228	235	48,461	31,395	33,734	58,044	37,650	33,681
New England	51	35	40	9,800	4,443	7,825	8,110	4,529	5,329
Middle Atlantic	247	193	195	38,661	26,952	25,909	49,934	33,121	28,352
South	265	567	225	47,028	93,317	39,487	42,867	86,124	29,688
South Atlantic	166	137	138	30,802	29,580	22,042	26,399	27,162	18,208
East South Central	40	75	43	6,502	16,061	6,581	5,361	13,591	4,320
West South Central	59	355	44	9,724	47,676	10,864	11,107	45,371	7,160
Midwest	608	213	643	110,693	46,876	106,095	113,135	45,746	88,321
East North Central	441	172	475	82,685	36,626	79,845	85,505	37,241	65,294
West North Central	167	41	168	28,008	10,250	26,250	27,630	8,505	23,027
West	256	128	196	67,785	29,688	38,487	48,003	19,923	27,206
Mountain	57	20	66	14,495	8,191	12,265	8,136	3,546	7,456
Pacific	199	108	130	53,290	21,497	26,222	39,867	16,377	19,750

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, 2004 and 2005

State	Layoff events			Separations			Initial claimants for unemployment insurance		
	IV 2004	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p	IV 2004	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p	IV 2004	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	1,427	1,136	1,299	273,967	201,276	217,803	262,049	189,443	178,896
Alabama	4	3	6	1,005	444	806	1,005	384	622
Alaska	10	3	8	1,451	670	2,138	1,451	756	1,282
Arizona	8	3	(²)	2,034	1,406	(²)	1,244	787	(²)
Arkansas	4	(²)	(²)	651	(²)	(²)	368	(²)	(²)
California	131	87	79	40,882	16,921	13,959	28,771	13,199	10,461
Colorado	22	5	18	5,507	4,691	3,297	2,866	705	2,169
Connecticut	6	9	8	1,498	1,382	1,426	1,091	980	904
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia	-	(²)	-	-	(²)	-	-	(²)	-
Florida	106	78	74	19,258	18,156	12,824	16,200	14,659	10,476
Georgia	13	13	15	1,239	1,002	1,893	2,160	2,224	1,780
Hawaii	5	3	3	487	336	308	419	359	300
Idaho	10	7	18	1,435	1,185	2,645	1,946	1,143	2,362
Illinois	155	75	164	36,251	16,862	32,967	29,161	15,346	21,335
Indiana	34	10	42	5,021	2,614	5,164	8,529	3,669	5,263
Iowa	35	3	34	4,708	1,510	4,911	6,533	1,713	4,317
Kansas	11	5	4	2,160	548	875	1,816	500	630
Kentucky	24	15	24	3,091	2,613	3,898	2,678	1,616	2,324
Louisiana	19	331	18	3,665	44,614	6,982	2,207	41,600	2,751
Maine	7	3	4	3,558	207	2,645	1,943	315	647
Maryland	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Massachusetts	22	19	16	2,886	2,461	2,077	3,191	2,893	2,154
Michigan	92	38	107	15,758	7,530	14,107	19,338	8,339	17,405
Minnesota	81	19	84	12,553	5,571	12,646	12,510	4,752	10,336
Mississippi	4	45	(²)	265	9,691	(²)	261	8,941	(²)
Missouri	22	12	27	5,384	2,301	5,951	4,562	1,419	5,926
Montana	5	(²)	11	647	(²)	1,136	444	(²)	969
Nebraska	9	(²)	11	1,030	(²)	998	902	(²)	964
Nevada	4	(²)	5	410	(²)	505	326	(²)	433
New Hampshire	7	3	5	804	333	981	804	281	936
New Jersey	44	34	32	7,255	6,195	4,264	7,732	5,173	3,741
New Mexico	3	(²)	(²)	655	(²)	(²)	655	(²)	(²)
New York	116	94	99	18,846	14,132	14,268	20,347	15,757	13,534
North Carolina	17	20	21	3,030	5,906	2,308	2,087	6,363	2,308
North Dakota	8	-	6	1,173	-	744	1,173	-	744
Ohio	80	38	105	10,740	7,018	19,640	12,397	7,238	13,666
Oklahoma	4	(²)	3	407	(²)	361	642	(²)	590
Oregon	21	6	10	4,293	1,653	5,785	3,980	994	2,659
Pennsylvania	87	65	64	12,560	6,625	7,377	21,855	12,191	11,077
Rhode Island	6	(²)	(²)	685	(²)	(²)	712	(²)	(²)
South Carolina	6	10	10	1,094	1,408	1,898	1,129	1,779	1,855
South Dakota	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)
Tennessee	8	12	11	2,141	3,313	1,739	1,417	2,650	1,243
Texas	32	21	22	5,001	2,581	3,310	7,890	3,321	3,722
Utah	3	(²)	9	457	(²)	1,638	358	(²)	994
Vermont	3	-	5	369	-	468	369	-	468
Virginia	14	10	16	3,568	1,300	2,808	3,155	1,307	1,615
Washington	32	9	30	6,177	1,917	4,032	5,246	1,069	5,048
West Virginia	8	3	(²)	1,848	1,067	(²)	1,207	435	(²)
Wisconsin	80	11	57	14,915	2,602	7,967	16,080	2,649	7,625
Wyoming	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)
Puerto Rico	4	6	11	284	480	1,411	1,471	2,104	1,601

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, 1998-2005

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
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	276,503	27	3,222	16	2,992	8	894	23	4,197
Second quarter	1,358	278,831	18	2,959	21	3,576	-	-	22	5,295
Third quarter	886	164,608	13	2,288	15	1,617	4	430	13	4,317
Fourth quarter	1,427	273,967	18	3,055	10	1,547	4	563	23	3,457
Total	5,010	993,909	76	11,524	62	9,732	16	1,887	81	17,266
2005										
First quarter	1,142	187,128	13	1,526	13	2,679	4	439	17	3,569
Second quarter	1,203	245,790	20	2,973	17	2,106	4	842	11	1,904
Third quarter	1,136	201,276	23	3,280	12	1,742	(⁶)	(⁶)	11	1,127
Fourth quarter ^p	1,299	217,803	19	3,450	7	1,331	(⁶)	(⁶)	7	992
Total ^p	4,780	851,997	75	11,229	49	7,858	13	3,000	46	7,592

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, selected quarters, 2004 and 2005

Industry	Layoff events			Separations		
	IV 2004	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p	IV 2004	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	83	68	54	19,599	15,497	9,851
Mining	-	-	-	-	-	-
Utilities	-	-	(²)	-	-	(²)
Construction	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manufacturing	56	43	38	12,782	7,546	7,719
Food	5	5	4	1,401	929	816
Beverage and tobacco products	-	-	-	-	-	-
Textile mills	(²)	(²)	3	(²)	(²)	323
Textile product mills	-	(²)	-	-	(²)	-
Apparel	3	3	3	1,405	362	540
Leather and allied products	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)
Wood products	(²)	-	-	(²)	-	-
Paper	3	4	-	380	695	-
Printing and related support activities	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)
Petroleum and coal products	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chemicals	(²)	3	(²)	(²)	563	(²)
Plastics and rubber products	(²)	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-
Nonmetallic mineral products	-	-	(²)	-	-	(²)
Primary metals	(²)	-	-	(²)	-	-
Fabricated metal products	(²)	7	(²)	(²)	749	(²)
Machinery	3	3	(²)	604	594	(²)
Computer and electronic products	7	6	7	2,390	1,169	1,469
Electrical equipment and appliances	4	(²)	(²)	960	(²)	(²)
Transportation equipment	8	7	5	1,440	1,665	1,567
Furniture and related products	8	-	3	1,863	-	347
Miscellaneous manufacturing	3	-	(²)	692	-	(²)
Wholesale trade	3	5	(²)	307	744	(²)
Retail trade	3	4	(²)	1,429	1,078	(²)
Transportation and warehousing	3	4	-	619	4,489	-
Information	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Finance and insurance	7	6	4	1,449	695	746
Real estate and rental and leasing	(²)	-	-	(²)	-	-
Professional and technical services	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Management of companies and enterprises	(²)	-	-	(²)	-	-
Administrative and waste services	5	(²)	4	813	(²)	411
Educational services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Health care and social assistance	-	(²)	-	-	(²)	-
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accommodation and food services	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)
Other services, except public administration	-	(²)	-	-	(²)	-
Unclassified	-	-	-	-	-	-

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 8. Reason for layoff: Extended mass layoff events and separations associated with the movement of work, selected quarters, 2004 and 2005

Reason for layoff	Layoff events			Separations		
	IV 2004	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p	IV 2004	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	83	68	54	19,599	15,497	9,851
Automation	(²)	-	-	(²)	-	-
Bankruptcy	-	(²)	-	-	(²)	-
Business ownership change	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Contract cancellation	3	(²)	(²)	424	(²)	(²)
Contract completed	-	(²)	-	-	(²)	-
Energy-related	-	-	-	-	-	-
Environment-related	-	-	-	-	-	-
Financial difficulty	5	6	(²)	2,025	791	(²)
Import competition	5	6	8	586	1,183	1,399
Labor dispute	-	(²)	-	-	(²)	-
Material shortage	-	(²)	-	-	(²)	-
Model changeover	-	-	-	-	-	-
Natural disaster	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-natural disaster	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plant or machine repair	-	-	-	-	-	-
Product line discontinued	3	5	-	1,033	481	-
Reorganization within company	49	39	37	10,733	7,714	7,132
Seasonal work	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Slack work	4	(²)	(²)	594	(²)	(²)
Vacation period	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Weather-related	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	11	(²)	4	3,551	(²)	624
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.

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

Table 9. Census region and division: Extended mass layoff events and separations associated with the movement of work, selected quarters, 2004 and 2005

Census region and division	Layoff events			Separations		
	IV 2004	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p	IV 2004	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p
United States ¹	83	68	54	19,599	15,497	9,851
Northeast	15	10	13	3,526	1,651	2,321
New England	5	5	(²)	1,211	653	(²)
Middle Atlantic	10	5	(²)	2,315	998	(²)
South	26	22	17	7,901	3,961	2,860
South Atlantic	19	(²)	11	4,647	(²)	1,544
East South Central	(²)	(²)	3	(²)	(²)	253
West South Central	(²)	(²)	3	(²)	(²)	1,063
Midwest	21	17	12	4,679	7,347	2,878
East North Central	(²)	14	9	(²)	3,551	1,935
West North Central	(²)	3	3	(²)	3,796	943
West	21	19	12	3,493	2,538	1,792
Mountain	5	(²)	(²)	728	(²)	(²)
Pacific	16	(²)	(²)	2,765	(²)	(²)

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

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

^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 10. Extended mass layoff events and separations, selected measures, selected quarters, 2004 and 2005

Action	Layoff events			Separations		
	IV 2004	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p	IV 2004	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	1,427	1,136	1,299	273,967	201,276	217,803
Total, excluding seasonal and vacation events ²	760	953	572	144,108	163,622	94,190
Total, movement of work ³	83	68	54	19,599	15,497	9,851
Movement of work actions	138	83	73	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)
With separations reported	95	62	50	13,351	8,035	6,271
With separations unknown	43	21	23	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

² The question 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, selected quarters, 2004 and 2005

Actions	Layoff events ¹			Separations		
	IV 2004	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p	IV 2004	III 2005 ^r	IV 2005 ^p
With separations reported ²	95	62	50	13,351	8,035	6,271
By location						
Out-of-country relocations	32	20	19	5,258	2,702	2,047
Within company	29	15	14	4,825	2,137	1,355
Different company	3	5	5	433	565	692
Domestic relocations	63	42	31	8,093	5,333	4,224
Within company	55	32	26	7,285	3,075	3,823
Different company	8	10	5	808	2,258	401
Unable to assign place of relocation	–	–	–	–	–	–
By company						
Within company	84	47	40	12,110	5,212	5,178
Domestic	55	32	26	7,285	3,075	3,823
Out of country	29	15	14	4,825	2,137	1,355
Unable to assign	–	–	–	–	–	–
Different company	11	15	10	1,241	2,823	1,093
Domestic	8	10	5	808	2,258	401
Out of country	3	5	5	433	565	692
Unable to assign	–	–	–	–	–	–

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.