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Chicago, Ill.

For release: Monday, April 9, 2012

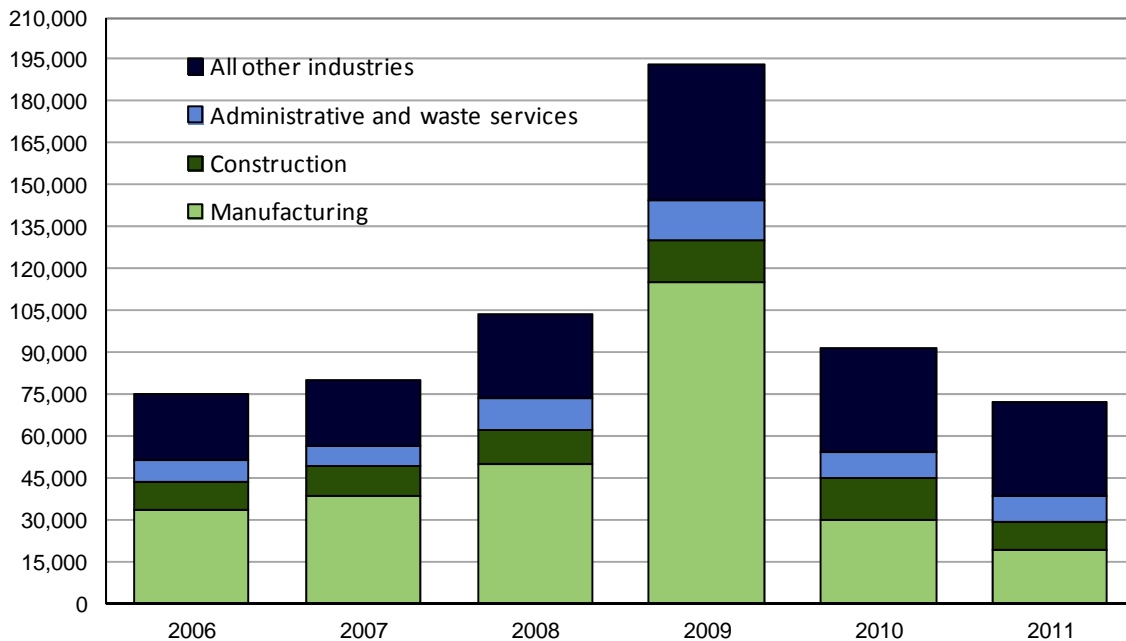
12-558-CHI

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MASS LAYOFFS IN ILLINOIS – 2011 ANNUAL TOTALS

Employers in Illinois took 676 mass layoff actions in 2011 that resulted in the separation of 72,086 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. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that the number of initial claims for unemployment insurance has declined each of the last two years after reaching 193,495 in 2009, the highest level in the history of the series, which goes back to 1996 on an annual basis. In 2011, initial claims for unemployment insurance declined by 19,191, following a record drop of 102,218 in 2010.

Chart 1. Mass layoff initial claims, Illinois, annual totals, 2006-2011



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Industry distribution

Of all the industry sectors in Illinois, manufacturing experienced the most mass layoff events in 2011 with 148. (See table 1.) This sector also had the largest number of initial claimants at 19,120, making up 26.5 percent of the state's total. (See chart 1.) Still, the number of claimants in manufacturing in 2011 was the lowest in the history of the series. Construction had the second highest numbers for mass layoff events, 119, and associated claims, 10,263, during the year, followed by administrative and waste services with 116 events and 9,345 claims. Combined, these three industries accounted for over one-half of all initial claimants in the state in 2011.

Of those sectors recording a drop in mass layoffs-related initial claims from 2010 to 2011, manufacturing had the largest decrease at 11,170, with the transportation equipment industry accounting for most of the loss. Construction had the next largest decline, down 4,434. One other sector finished 2011 with at least 1,000 fewer initial claimants than in 2010, local government (-2,420). (See table A.) On a percentage basis, federal government experienced the largest over-the-year decrease in annual claims, down 54.7 percent, followed by local government, down 45.9 percent.

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

Sector	Net change	
	2009-10	2010-11
Manufacturing	-85,106	-11,170
Construction	-390	-4,434
Local government	573	-2,420

In contrast, three sectors saw a rise in the number of initial claims associated with mass layoff events in 2011, led by professional and technical services, up 528 or 62.6 percent. Other services except public administration had the second highest increase in claims, up 302 or 50.6 percent. And though the manufacturing sector recorded the largest drop in claimants from 2010, one of its industries, food, added 915 claimants over the year, an increase of 23.1 percent, and another, fabricated metals, added 296, an increase of 28.4 percent.

Among the states, California recorded the highest number of mass layoff initial claims, 377,413, in 2011. Pennsylvania ranked second with 124,838, followed by New York (119,398) and Florida (79,766). Twenty-nine states experienced over-the-year decreases in total initial claims for the year, led by California (-42,396), Illinois (-19,191), and Florida (-9,010). One state, South Dakota, experienced no change in its initial claims count, while twenty states and the District of Columbia had increases in annual claims from 2010 to 2011, led by North Carolina (22,393) and Pennsylvania (12,270). In three of these states, Arkansas, Nebraska, and North Carolina, initial claims reached a series high in 2011.

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, Illinois, 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)	871	1,309	804	676	103,685	193,495	91,277	72,086
Total private	841	1,260	730	631	100,428	185,461	82,295	66,556
Total private nonfarm	838	1,256	728	629	100,257	185,205	82,166	66,409
Mining quarrying and oil and gas extraction	5	6	5	4	653	467	457	387
Mining except oil and gas	4	5	4	3	597	391	403	327
Construction	156	182	170	119	12,005	15,087	14,697	10,263
Construction of buildings	25	26	26	15	1,787	2,001	2,050	1,740
Heavy and civil engineering construction	56	59	59	44	4,389	5,463	5,678	3,802
Specialty trade contractors	75	97	85	60	5,829	7,623	6,969	4,721
Manufacturing	298	541	190	148	50,323	115,396	30,290	19,120
Food	39	46	36	42	4,398	4,690	3,963	4,878
Printing and related support activities	7	13	10	(3)	728	1,456	799	(3)
Chemicals	7	8	6	5	612	774	674	582
Plastics and rubber products (2)	13	28	7	7	2,431	8,563	931	463
Nonmetallic mineral products	17	16	15	10	1,485	1,460	1,382	970
Primary metals	15	40	10	6	1,911	6,079	1,391	505
Fabricated metal products	31	94	13	13	2,872	9,327	1,041	1,337
Machinery (2)	14	96	15	12	2,179	50,728	3,883	3,057
Transportation equipment (2)	104	101	55	28	28,619	23,154	14,102	4,842
Miscellaneous manufacturing (2)	(3)	11	(3)	3	(3)	825	(3)	203
Wholesale trade	15	29	(3)	9	1,352	2,421	(3)	699
Merchant w holesalers durable goods	7	18	(3)	3	465	1,368	(3)	180
Retail trade	57	72	57	58	4,828	7,643	6,410	6,561
Building material and garden supply stores	8	10	11	10	717	774	952	914
Food and beverage stores	9	8	5	(3)	663	577	423	(3)
Gasoline stations	(3)	(3)	(3)	4	(3)	(3)	(3)	266
General merchandise stores	23	29	26	26	2,162	3,933	3,777	3,472
Transportation and warehousing	56	86	51	49	7,465	11,835	7,322	7,190
Transit and ground passenger transportation	33	40	33	35	4,257	7,073	5,062	5,957
Warehousing and storage	(3)	12	9	(3)	(3)	1,886	1,392	(3)
Information	11	15	15	11	909	1,576	1,227	1,220
Publishing industries except Internet	(3)	9	8	(3)	(3)	900	754	(3)
Telecommunications	5	(3)	7	(3)	501	(3)	473	(3)
Finance and insurance (2)	26	32	18	10	1,850	3,001	1,417	905
Credit intermediation and related activities	17	24	10	7	1,276	2,170	762	467
Insurance carriers and related activities	6	8	7	(3)	392	831	578	(3)
Professional and technical services (2)	15	22	11	14	1,843	1,875	843	1,371
Management of companies and enterprises	(3)	9	7	6	(3)	1,019	546	391

See footnotes at end of table.

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

Industry	Mass layoff events				Initial claims for unemployment insurance			
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011
Administrative and waste services (2)	126	154	115	116	11,057	13,937	9,662	9,345
Administrative and support services (2)	125	154	115	116	10,989	13,937	9,662	9,345
Educational services	(3)	5	(3)	6	(3)	320	(3)	502
Health care and social assistance	16	29	25	22	1,205	2,400	1,857	1,689
Ambulatory health care services	-	(3)	(3)	5	-	(3)	(3)	355
Nursing and residential care facilities	-	-	4	(3)	-	-	284	(3)
Social assistance	8	14	14	10	574	1,107	1,105	842
Arts entertainment and recreation	6	5	(3)	7	400	440	(3)	645
Accommodation and food services	32	47	39	35	4,796	5,935	5,600	4,828
Accommodations	9	12	8	10	656	974	700	810
Food services and drinking places	23	35	31	25	4,140	4,961	4,900	4,018
Other services except public administration	10	15	8	10	793	1,377	597	899
Repair and maintenance	4	(3)	(3)	6	355	(3)	(3)	529
Membership associations and organizations	5	8	6	4	383	531	423	370
Government	30	49	74	45	3,257	8,034	8,982	5,530
Federal	3	10	12	8	309	1,067	1,562	708
State	8	14	11	10	1,156	2,267	2,147	1,969
Local	19	25	51	27	1,792	4,700	5,273	2,853

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

(2) Data beginning in 2008 are not strictly comparable to prior years due to a change in NAICS versions.

(3) Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.