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USDL 09-0094

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For release: 10:00 A.M. (EST)
Wednesday, January 28, 2009

MASS LAYOFFS IN DECEMBER 2008 AND ANNUAL TOTALS FOR 2008

In December, employers took 2,275 mass layoff actions, 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 workers involved totaled 226,117 on a seasonally adjusted basis. The number of mass layoff events in December decreased by 58 from the prior month, while the number of associated initial claims increased slightly by 478. Over the year, the number of mass layoff events increased by 806, and the number of associated initial claims increased by 80,201. In December, 871 mass layoff events were reported in the manufacturing sector, seasonally adjusted, resulting in 105,402 initial claims. Over the month, mass layoff events in manufacturing increased by 3, and initial claims increased by 4,759, the fifth consecutive over-the-month increase for both measures. (See table 1.)

Chart 1. Mass layoff events, seasonally adjusted,
January 2004-December 2008

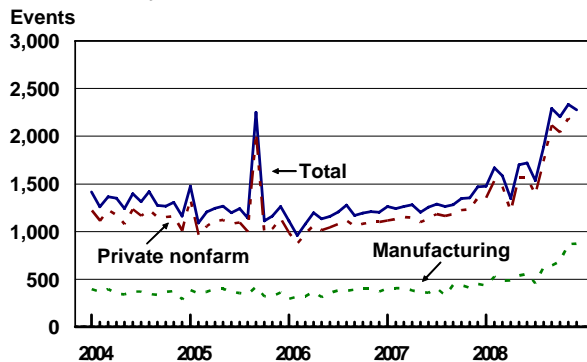
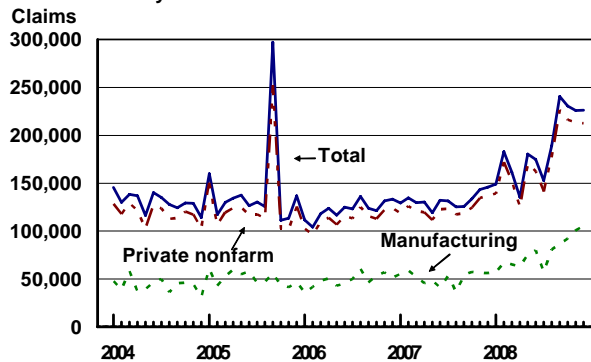


Chart 2. Mass layoff initial claims, seasonally adjusted,
January 2004-December 2008



Revision of Seasonally Adjusted Mass Layoff Data

Seasonally adjusted mass layoff data have been revised using updated seasonal adjustment factors that incorporate 2008 data. Seasonally adjusted estimates back to January 2004 were subject to revision. Revised seasonally adjusted data from January 2004 forward are shown in table 1. The originally published and revised figures for January 2004-November 2008 are available at <http://www.bls.gov/mls/home.htm>, along with additional information about the revisions.

Table A. Industries with the largest number of mass layoff initial claims in December 2008

Industry	Initial claims	December peak	
		Year	Initial claims
Temporary help services	15,246	2005	16,656
School and employee bus transportation	13,999	2006	14,747
Highway, street, and bridge construction	13,035	2005	20,088
Food service contractors	12,673	2006	13,903
Light truck and utility vehicle manufacturing	11,835	2008	11,835
Motor vehicle metal stamping	7,523	2008	7,523
All other motor vehicle parts manufacturing	6,757	2008	6,757
Automobile manufacturing	6,208	2005	9,021
Professional employer organizations	6,101	2008	6,101
All other plastics product manufacturing	5,789	2008	5,789

From the start of the recession in December 2007 through December 2008, the total number of mass layoff events (seasonally adjusted) was 23,485, and the number of initial claims (seasonally adjusted) was 2,394,434.

For all of 2008, on a not seasonally adjusted basis, the total numbers of mass layoff events at 21,137, and initial claims at 2,130,220, reached their highest annual levels since 2001 and 2002, respectively. Among the twenty-one major industry sectors, six registered series highs for both mass layoff events and initial claims for all of 2008—construction; transportation and warehousing; finance and insurance; real estate and rental and leasing; management of companies and enterprises; and accommodation and food services. Eleven states recorded series highs in mass layoff initial claims activity (with data available back to 1996).

The national unemployment rate was 7.2 percent in December, seasonally adjusted, up from 6.8 percent the prior month and from 4.9 percent a year earlier. In December, total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 524,000 over the month and by 2,589,000 from a year earlier.

Industry Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

The number of mass layoff events in December was 3,377 on a not seasonally adjusted basis; the number of associated initial claims was 351,305. (See table 2.) Both the number of events and initial claimants reached their highest December levels in program history (with data available back to 1995). Twelve major industry sectors reported program highs in terms of initial claimants for the month of December—mining; construction; manufacturing; wholesale trade; transportation and warehousing; finance and insurance; real estate and rental and leasing; management of companies and enterprises; administrative and waste services; educational services; accommodation and food services; and other services, except public administration.

The manufacturing sector accounted for 41 percent of all mass layoff events and 49 percent of initial claims filed in December 2008; a year earlier, manufacturing made up 32 percent of events and 41 percent of initial claims. This December, the number of manufacturing claimants was greatest in transportation equipment (64,336), followed by plastics and rubber products (14,215) and fabricated

Table B. Number of mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, 1996-2008

Year	Layoff events	Initial claimants for unemployment insurance
1996	14,111	1,437,628
1997	14,960	1,542,543
1998	15,904	1,771,069
1999	14,909	1,572,399
2000	15,738	1,835,592
2001	21,467	2,514,862
2002	20,277	2,245,051
2003	18,963	1,888,926
2004	15,980	1,607,158
2005	16,466	1,795,341
2006	13,998	1,484,391
2007	15,493	1,598,875
2008	21,137	2,130,220

metal products (12,576). (See table 3.) The construction industry accounted for 16 percent of mass layoff events and 12 percent of associated initial claims during the month.

The six-digit NAICS industry with the largest number of initial claims was temporary help services (15,246), followed by school and employee bus transportation (13,999) and highway, street, and bridge construction (13,035). Among the 10 industries with the highest levels of initial claims, 5 of the 10—all other plastics product manufacturing, light truck and utility vehicle manufacturing, motor vehicle metal stamping, all other motor vehicle parts manufacturing, and professional employer organizations—reached program highs in 2008 for the month of December (with data available back to 1995). (See table A.)

Geographic Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Of the 4 census regions, the Midwest had the highest number of initial claims due to mass layoffs in December (146,155), followed by the South (94,307), the West (65,942), and the Northeast (44,901). (See table 5.) Initial claims associated with mass layoffs increased over the year in all 4 regions, with the Midwest (+48,809) and the South (+46,802) experiencing the largest increases. In 2008, the Northeast and the South regions reported their highest December levels of initial claims in program history (with data available back to 1995).

Of the 9 geographic divisions, the East North Central (108,017) and the Pacific (53,162) had the highest numbers of initial claims due to mass layoffs in December. (See table 5.) All 9 divisions experienced over-the-year increases in initial claims, led by the East North Central (+33,643) and the East South Central (+23,850). This year, the Middle Atlantic, West North Central, East South Central, West South Central, and Mountain divisions reached their highest levels of initial claims for December in program history.

Table C. Industries with the largest number of mass layoff initial claims in 2008

Industry	2008		2007	
	Initial claims	Rank	Initial claims	Rank
Temporary help services	134,699	1	96,991	1
School and employee bus transportation	79,083	2	76,230	2
Food service contractors	54,677	3	57,131	3
Professional employer organizations	54,016	4	31,062	8
Automobile manufacturing	51,804	5	51,746	4
Motion picture and video production	45,394	6	51,133	5
Highway, street, and bridge construction	39,467	7	40,804	6
Light truck and utility vehicle manufacturing	38,450	8	16,522	14
Heavy duty truck manufacturing	36,788	9	31,076	7
Elementary and secondary schools	28,996	10	20,385	10

California recorded the highest number of initial claims filed due to mass layoff events in December with 43,265. The states with the next highest number of mass layoff initial claims were Ohio (27,836), Illinois (25,885), and Michigan (24,508). (See table 6.) In 2008, 13 states reached program highs in initial claims for the month of December—Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, and Tennessee. Forty-two states and the District of Columbia registered over-the-year increases in initial claims associated with mass layoffs, led by Ohio (+12,927), California (+12,675), Illinois (+10,873), and Alabama (+10,483).

Review of 2008

For all of 2008, the total numbers of mass layoff events at 21,137, and initial claims, at 2,130,220, reached their highest annual levels since 2001 and 2002, respectively. (See table B.)

The 10 detailed industries with the highest number of mass layoff initial claims in 2008 accounted for 26 percent of the total for the year. (See table C.) Temporary help services, school and employee bus transportation, and food service contractors ranked first, second, and third among the 10 industries in both 2008 and 2007. In 2008, light truck and utility vehicle manufacturing entered the top 10 industries in terms of initial claims, displacing discount department stores.

Manufacturing accounted for 33 percent of all mass layoff events and 41 percent of initial claims filed during 2008, up slightly from 2007 (30 and 38 percent, respectively). The number of manufacturing claimants was highest in transportation equipment manufacturing, 323,676, followed by food manufacturing, 72,081, and wood product manufacturing, 56,374.

Among the major industry sectors, manufacturing had the largest over-the-year increase in mass layoff-related initial claims (+260,213) from 2007 to 2008. Within manufacturing, transportation equipment (+95,463), plastics and rubber products (+24,638), and fabricated metal products (+23,083) experienced the largest increases from the previous year. Administrative and waste services had the second largest increase (+78,183) among the major industry sectors, due to more layoff activity in administrative and support services (+77,864).

Among the twenty-one major industry sectors, six registered series highs for both mass layoff events and initial claims for all of 2008—construction; transportation and warehousing; finance and insurance; real estate and rental and leasing; management of companies and enterprises; and accommodation and food services.

The Midwest reported the highest number of initial claims filed due to mass layoffs during 2008 (676,591). Layoffs in transportation equipment manufacturing accounted for 30 percent of the claims in the Midwest. Fabricated metal product manufacturing, machinery manufacturing, and administrative and support services, together accounted for an additional 17 percent of layoffs in that region in 2008. The fewest number of mass layoff initial claims during 2008 was reported in the Northeast (316,191).

From 2007 to 2008, all 4 regions had over-the-year increases in the number of initial claims from mass layoffs, led by the South (+176,875) and Midwest (+167,160). All 9 geographic divisions also experienced higher claimant activity in mass layoffs when compared with 2007, with the largest increases occurring in the East North Central (+123,510), the Pacific (+117,939), and the East South Central (+65,588).

Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, California recorded the largest number of initial claims (446,480) filed in mass layoff events during 2008, accounting for 21 percent of the national total. The states with the next highest numbers of initial claims were Michigan (132,468), Ohio (131,813), Pennsylvania (128,041), and Illinois (103,685). Eleven states—Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Montana, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, and Wyoming—recorded series highs in mass layoff claimant activity in 2008, while two states—Maine and Virginia—reported series lows.

For all of 2008, California reported the largest over-the-year increase in initial claims (+88,486), followed by Ohio (+48,384) and Florida (+38,960). The largest over-the-year decreases were reported in Maryland (-5,056), Virginia (-4,758), and New Jersey (-1,115).

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.

The report on Extended Mass Layoffs in Fourth Quarter 2008 is scheduled to be released on Friday, February 13. The report on Mass Layoffs in January 2009 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 25.

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).

Initial claimant. A person who files any notice of unem-

ployment 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 one 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, January 2005 to December 2008, seasonally adjusted

Date	Total		Private nonfarm		Manufacturing	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
2005						
January	1,474	159,945	1,341	150,403	387	60,842
February	1,087	117,129	964	106,399	350	42,747
March	1,204	129,993	1,056	119,466	368	52,667
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
2006						
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
2007						
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
2008						
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

Table 2. Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, January 2005 to December 2008, not seasonally adjusted

Date	Total		Private nonfarm		Manufacturing	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
2005						
January	2,564	263,952	2,421	253,409	823	108,985
February	810	74,644	722	68,372	230	24,931
March	806	88,937	733	83,793	246	33,030
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
2006						
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
2007						
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
2008						
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

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

Industry	Mass layoff events				Initial claimants for unemployment insurance			
	December 2007	October 2008	November 2008	December 2008	December 2007	October 2008	November 2008	December 2008
Seasonally adjusted								
Total	1,469	2,204	2,333	2,275	145,916	230,330	225,639	226,117
Total, private nonfarm	1,354	2,042	2,185	2,100	136,914	216,095	213,288	212,559
Manufacturing	447	687	868	871	56,152	92,256	100,643	105,402
Not seasonally adjusted								
Total ¹	2,167	2,125	2,574	3,377	224,214	221,784	241,589	351,305
Total, private	2,102	2,034	2,502	3,278	219,227	213,602	235,560	343,963
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	31	117	113	46	2,329	8,049	8,903	3,743
Total, private nonfarm	2,071	1,917	2,389	3,232	216,898	205,553	226,657	340,220
Mining	28	6	22	43	2,136	449	2,004	4,191
Utilities	4	(²)	3	6	225	(²)	332	355
Construction	461	206	382	544	35,564	14,864	29,775	40,579
Manufacturing	699	689	997	1,378	91,754	100,457	107,620	172,529
Food	68	75	71	77	10,267	11,144	7,123	7,797
Beverage and tobacco products	7	(²)	9	12	640	(²)	620	1,222
Textile mills	12	20	19	44	2,281	2,925	2,558	4,725
Textile product mills ³	8	10	10	7	848	792	669	672
Apparel ³	16	9	16	22	1,311	914	1,783	2,479
Leather and allied products	4	(²)	3	4	435	(²)	270	800
Wood products	59	68	93	86	5,698	6,932	9,439	8,465
Paper	5	17	28	34	571	1,392	2,645	4,384
Printing and related support activities	11	10	14	20	830	1,042	1,527	1,904
Petroleum and coal products	12	(²)	11	12	1,163	(²)	929	1,124
Chemicals	12	13	20	23	995	1,394	2,042	2,046
Plastics and rubber products ³	57	47	74	136	5,069	4,903	7,013	14,215
Nonmetallic mineral products	61	21	55	89	5,979	1,755	4,937	9,104
Primary metals	37	48	74	83	4,022	6,038	7,813	8,558
Fabricated metal products	55	47	104	145	5,252	4,632	8,905	12,576
Machinery ³	37	43	62	75	6,864	7,897	9,019	7,531
Computer and electronic products	21	36	40	53	1,559	3,705	3,592	5,245
Electrical equipment and appliances	16	21	27	51	1,495	3,873	2,891	9,049
Transportation equipment ³	171	149	190	352	31,910	36,110	25,042	64,336
Furniture and related products ³	19	32	55	37	2,868	2,902	6,716	4,764
Miscellaneous manufacturing ³	11	13	22	16	1,697	1,210	2,087	1,533
Wholesale trade	24	38	65	60	1,762	2,573	4,779	5,374
Retail trade	103	161	155	142	8,839	15,328	13,429	12,104
Transportation and warehousing	150	75	99	196	15,573	6,007	7,749	22,751
Information	51	49	48	71	8,770	7,820	5,390	9,138
Finance and insurance ³	36	63	48	40	2,311	5,025	3,591	2,998
Real estate and rental and leasing ³	6	15	18	16	322	1,014	1,084	1,382
Professional and technical services ³	50	46	66	76	5,303	3,022	6,695	6,280
Management of companies and enterprises	5	(²)	10	17	448	(²)	656	2,433
Administrative and waste services ³	218	334	280	348	19,367	30,945	26,341	31,069
Educational services	8	5	5	11	487	292	365	634
Health care and social assistance	31	39	33	36	2,484	2,823	2,775	2,626
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	20	42	33	23	1,238	3,106	2,642	1,503
Accommodation and food services	158	125	115	199	18,717	10,278	10,682	22,312
Other services, except public administration	19	16	10	24	1,598	962	748	1,821
Unclassified	-	2	-	2	-	136	-	141
Government	65	91	72	99	4,987	8,182	6,029	7,342
Federal	10	19	11	10	841	1,746	860	1,011
State	12	30	21	19	1,016	2,985	1,797	1,296
Local	43	42	40	70	3,130	3,451	3,372	5,035

¹ Data were reported by all states and the District of Columbia.

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

³ Data beginning in 2008 are not strictly comparable to prior years

due to a change in NAICS versions.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

Table 4. Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, October 2006 to December 2008, not seasonally adjusted

Date	Total mass layoffs		Private nonfarm					
			Mass layoffs		Extended mass layoffs lasting more than 30 days		Realization rates ¹	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
2006								
October	964	98,804	820	88,133				
November	1,315	136,186	1,172	125,009				
December	2,249	254,503	2,126	244,783				
Fourth Quarter	4,528	489,493	4,118	457,925	1,640	330,954	39.8	72.3
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	347,149	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	258,767	35.9	70.3
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	335,854	44.7	81.3
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	^{2,p} 1,330	^{2,p} 181,386	^p 31.4	^p 41.1
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				

¹ 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.

² 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.

^p = 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			
	December 2007	October 2008	November 2008	December 2008	December 2007	October 2008	November 2008	December 2008
United States ¹	2,167	2,125	2,574	3,377	224,214	221,784	241,589	351,305
Northeast	392	270	314	491	36,859	23,945	28,791	44,901
New England	56	25	40	70	5,777	2,522	3,505	7,024
Middle Atlantic	336	245	274	421	31,082	21,423	25,286	37,877
South	388	538	616	815	47,505	53,087	56,608	94,307
South Atlantic	192	295	304	362	18,797	25,535	25,648	33,456
East South Central	120	111	196	296	18,538	15,162	19,725	42,388
West South Central	76	132	116	157	10,170	12,390	11,235	18,463
Midwest	884	511	824	1,278	97,346	75,210	85,730	146,155
East North Central	667	406	645	961	74,374	60,196	65,287	108,017
West North Central	217	105	179	317	22,972	15,014	20,443	38,138
West	503	806	820	793	42,504	69,542	70,460	65,942
Mountain	67	98	126	139	4,968	9,191	11,050	12,780
Pacific	436	708	694	654	37,536	60,351	59,410	53,162

¹ 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			
	December 2007	October 2008	November 2008	December 2008	December 2007	October 2008	November 2008	December 2008
Total ¹	2,167	2,125	2,574	3,377	224,214	221,784	241,589	351,305
Alabama	33	26	48	88	3,677	3,865	5,289	14,160
Alaska	(²)	13	(²)	(²)	(²)	1,631	(²)	(²)
Arizona	4	13	20	13	263	979	1,603	1,213
Arkansas	8	18	21	25	680	1,877	2,026	2,517
California	370	621	580	546	30,590	51,286	47,690	43,265
Colorado	12	11	15	24	767	1,143	1,162	2,023
Connecticut	10	4	3	10	854	540	186	799
Delaware	4	(²)	6	8	241	(²)	415	817
District of Columbia	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	(²)	-	(²)	(²)
Florida	62	176	151	104	5,088	12,946	10,582	6,931
Georgia	36	61	51	83	3,111	6,825	4,970	8,508
Hawaii	12	9	9	15	1,161	910	641	1,650
Idaho	12	22	27	25	844	2,682	2,298	2,347
Illinois	140	64	126	202	15,012	7,842	11,564	25,885
Indiana	64	63	111	156	7,654	7,961	13,420	16,762
Iowa	52	23	49	82	6,337	3,818	8,213	10,005
Kansas	27	18	14	38	3,441	2,543	1,321	7,949
Kentucky	62	46	78	131	12,727	8,327	9,210	21,570
Louisiana	15	22	13	17	1,274	1,662	1,093	2,430
Maine	4	(²)	4	7	278	(²)	451	530
Maryland	29	11	7	15	2,628	885	828	1,002
Massachusetts	22	11	18	38	2,131	980	1,459	4,289
Michigan	213	81	157	248	25,005	16,851	14,657	24,508
Minnesota	46	23	60	67	4,386	1,880	5,442	7,374
Mississippi	9	17	34	27	640	1,513	2,736	2,399
Missouri	77	35	44	107	7,517	5,877	3,087	10,625
Montana	4	5	11	8	264	573	1,226	630
Nebraska	9	5	4	12	864	819	450	1,334
Nevada	19	29	33	41	1,370	2,421	2,992	4,303
New Hampshire	6	3	4	4	560	310	311	255
New Jersey	93	45	46	80	8,389	3,670	5,665	6,910
New Mexico	7	5	9	16	702	396	554	1,170
New York	72	54	79	111	6,700	4,725	7,366	10,511
North Carolina	7	18	34	33	789	1,838	3,410	3,314
North Dakota	5	(²)	5	8	356	(²)	1,631	666
Ohio	149	118	120	224	14,909	17,764	11,680	27,836
Oklahoma	13	6	18	20	1,732	1,137	1,708	3,210
Oregon	32	36	60	51	3,763	3,883	7,259	4,413
Pennsylvania	171	146	149	230	15,993	13,028	12,255	20,456
Rhode Island	10	3	-	7	1,465	325	-	820
South Carolina	29	23	36	84	4,236	2,268	3,916	9,381
South Dakota	(²)	-	3	3	(²)	-	299	185
Tennessee	16	22	36	50	1,494	1,457	2,490	4,259
Texas	40	86	64	95	6,484	7,714	6,408	10,306
Utah	8	9	10	12	706	721	1,161	1,094
Vermont	4	(²)	11	4	489	(²)	1,098	331
Virginia	21	4	16	27	2,390	655	1,316	2,782
Washington	21	29	44	40	1,940	2,641	3,724	3,663
West Virginia	(²)	-	(²)	6	(²)	-	(²)	416
Wisconsin	101	80	131	131	11,794	9,778	13,966	13,026
Wyoming	(²)	4	(²)	-	(²)	276	(²)	-
Puerto Rico	3	13	14	16	279	1,117	1,686	1,285

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

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

NOTE: Dash represents zero.