

NEWS RELEASE



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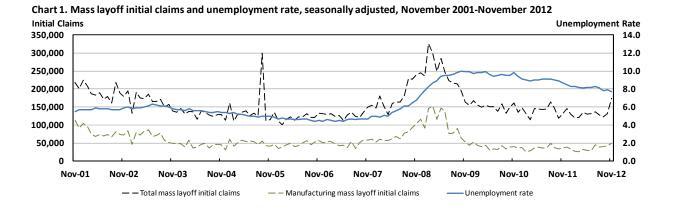
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MASS LAYOFFS — NOVEMBER 2012

Employers took 1,759 mass layoff actions in November involving 173,558 workers as measured by new filings for unemployment insurance benefits during the month, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Data are seasonally adjusted.) Each mass layoff involved at least 50 workers from a single employer. Mass layoff events increased by 399 from October, and the number of associated initial claims increased by 42,385. Mass layoff data for November reflect the impact of Hurricane Sandy on workers in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. In November, 413 mass layoff events were reported in the manufacturing sector resulting in 49,169 initial claims. Monthly mass layoff data are identified using administrative data sources without regard to layoff duration. (See table 1 and the note at the end of this release.)



Hurricane Sandy

Hurricane Sandy made landfall on the Northeast coast on October 29th, causing severe damage in some states. Data for November are the first from the Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program to reflect mass layoffs associated with the storm. Additional information on the storm's impact on MLS data will be available in the Extended Mass Layoffs news release for the Fourth Quarter 2012, scheduled to be released on Thursday, February 14, 2013.

Table A. Six-digit NAICS industries with the largest number of mass layoff initial claims in November 2012, private nonfarm, not seasonally adjusted

		November peak			
Industry	Initial Claims	Year	Initial claims		
Highway, street, and bridge construction	15,458	2012	15,458		
Temporary help services ¹	14,456	2000	19,023		
School and employee bus transportation	13,998	2012	13,998		
Casino hotels	11,901	2012	11,901		
Food service contractors	11,200	2012	11,200		
Commercial bakeries	8,562	2012	8,562		
Construction machinery manufacturing	4,620	2012	4,620		
Professional employer organizations ¹	3,165	2008	5,873		
Motion picture and video production	2,908	2000	8,664		
Landscaping services	2,865	2012	2,865		

¹ See the Technical Note for more information on these industries.

The national unemployment rate was 7.7 percent in November, down from 7.9 percent the prior month and from 8.7 percent a year earlier. Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 146,000 over the month and by 1,889,000 over the year.

Industry Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

The number of mass layoff events in November was 2,339, not seasonally adjusted, resulting in 249,949 initial claims for unemployment insurance. (See table 2.) Over the year, the number of average weekly mass layoff events for November increased by 120 to 468, and associated average weekly initial claims increased by 18,052 to 49,990. Sixteen of the 19 major industry sectors in the private economy reported over-the-year increases in average weekly initial claims, with the largest increase occurring in manufacturing. (See table 3.) Five of the 19 sectors reached a November program high in terms of both average weekly layoff events and initial claims: mining; transportation and warehousing; educational services; health care and social assistance; and accommodation and food services. The six-digit industry with the largest number of private nonfarm initial claims due to mass layoffs was highway, street, and bridge construction. (See table A.)

In November, the manufacturing sector accounted for 25 percent of mass layoff events and 30 percent of associated initial claims in the private economy. Within manufacturing, the numbers of mass layoff claimants were highest in food and in machinery. Fifteen of the 21 manufacturing subsectors experienced over-the-year increases in average weekly initial claims. (See table 3.)

Geographic Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Among the census regions, the Northeast, where Hurricane Sandy had the greatest impact, registered the largest number of initial claims due to mass layoffs in November. All four regions experienced over-the-year increases in average weekly initial claims, with the Northeast increasing to 16,898, a program high for that area for any month. (See table 4.)

Among the states, California recorded the highest number of mass layoff initial claims in November, followed by New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. Thirty-seven states experienced over-the-year increases in average weekly initial claims, led by New Jersey and New York. Four states reached a November program high in terms of both average weekly layoff events and initial claims: Alaska, Maine, New Jersey, and New York. (See table 4.)

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. The monthly data series in this release are subjected to average weekly analysis, which mitigates the effect of differing lengths of months. See the Technical Note for more detailed definitions and for a description of average weekly analysis.

The Mass Layoffs news release for December 2012 and Annual Totals for 2012 is scheduled to be released on Friday, January 25, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. (EST).

Revision of Seasonally Adjusted Mass Layoff Data

In accordance with usual practice, the release of mass layoff data for December 2012, scheduled for January 25, 2013, will incorporate annual updating of seasonal adjustment factors. Seasonally adjusted estimates back to January 2008 are subject to revision.

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.

The monthly data present preliminary mass layoff activity in the reference month and are not revised in subsequent months except in special circumstances (e.g., layoffs in states affected by Hurricane Katrina). Counts of initial claims associated with mass layoff events reflect activity through the end of the reference month. Additional mass layoff event and initial claims activity received after data for the reference month have been published by BLS are not updated in the monthly mass layoff series and, therefore, may not match revised mass layoff data issued in state publications. However, any additional mass layoff information meeting the extended mass layoff criteria will be reflected in BLS' quarterly publication of extended mass layoff data.

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, data users who intend to perform analysis of over-the-year change in the not seasonally adjusted series should use the average weekly mass layoff figures displayed in tables 3 and 4 of this release. The average weekly adjustment process produces a consistent series for each month across all years, permitting over-the-year analysis to be performed using strictly comparable data.

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

Average weekly mass layoff events and initial claimants. The number of events and initial claimants in a given month divided by the number of weeks contained within that month.

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

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

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

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

Seasonal adjustment

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

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

The MLS data are seasonally adjusted using the X-12-ARIMA seasonal adjustment method on a concurrent basis.

Concurrent seasonal adjustment uses all available monthly estimates, including those for the current month, in developing seasonal adjustment factors. Revisions to the most recent 5 years of seasonally adjusted data will be made once a year with the issuance of December data. Before the data are seasonally adjusted, prior adjustments are made to the original data to adjust them for differences in the number of weeks used to calculate the monthly data. Because weekly

unemployment insurance claims are aggregated to form monthly data, a particular month's value could be calculated with 5 weeks of data in 1 year and 4 weeks in another. The effects of these differences could seriously distort the seasonal factors if they were ignored in the seasonal adjustment process. These effects are modeled in the X-12-ARIMA program and are permanently removed from the final seasonally adjusted series .

Table 1. Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, December 2008 to November 2012,

seasonally adjusted

	To	otal	Private	nonfarm	Manufacturing		
Date	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	
2008							
December	2,437	244,889	2,261	230,621	935	116,181	
2009			·				
January	2,254	235,371	2,083	221,653	726	92,293	
February	3,059	326,392	2,901	310,378	1,251	145,839	
March	2,999	299,322	2,800	282,414	1,230	154,168	
April	2,566	249,129	2,349	232,632	1,007	116,051	
May	2,710	284,468	2,516	267,869	1,181	147,184	
June	2,466	247,597	2,257	230,502	1,048	137,649	
July	2,186	222,941	1,979	203,911	636	75,728	
August	2,340	216,047	2,115	197,172	751	77,894	
September	2,261	214,018	2,048	198,761	786	91,125	
October	1,969	195,752	1,772	178,172	571	65,217	
November	1,757	164,454	1,588	151,172	472	52,855	
December	1,719	155,056	1,543	140,835	424	44,096	
2010							
January	1,707	168,044	1,529	154,187	471	53,817	
February	1,631	156,292	1,465	141,831	374	43,620	
March	1,676	149,816	1,469	134,518	356	40,705	
April	1,637	154,558	1,452	138,503	368	44,506	
May	1,608	150,996	1,357	130,273	302	29,932	
June	1,695	151,435	1,475	132,742	325	33,298	
July	1,519	138,091	1,316	122,162	304	32,253	
August	1,588	159,329	1,399	136,697	390	43,154	
September	1,510	133,576	1,295	115,349	328	34,333	
October	1,654	149,589	1,446	132,146	354	38,937	
November December	1,592 1,477	161,145 135,849	1,410 1,271	145,494 121,171	360 322	39,977 36,267	
2011	.,	,	.,	,			
	1,536	148,952	1,348	131,869	337	37,477	
January	1,434	131,569	1,242	116,745	297	26,696	
February March	1,275	115,391	1,118	102,722	251	28,988	
April	1,548	145,836	1,383	131,317	341	37,053	
May	1,600	144,412	1,404	127,793	374	39,180	
June	1,513	143,384	1,334	128,410	344	36,265	
July	1,562	145,078	1,348	125,285	346	36,312	
August	1,551	164,275	1,347	149,874	382	49,194	
September	1,447	147,353	1,306	134,038	364	38,026	
October	1,335	118,924	1,205	107,330	341	33,926	
November	1,332	131,627	1,192	120,760	324	36,563	
December	1,384	145,648	1,238	130,583	351	39,081	
2012							
January	1,434	129,920	1,298	119,102	341	33,597	
February	1,293	119,463	1,153	108,577	282	27,388	
March	1,273	121,310	1,125	109,421	261	26,348	
April	1,388	135,600	1,222	120,213	287	33,243	
May	1,380	130,191	1,222	117,654	264	29,675	
June	1,317	131,406	1,171	118,451	267	29,093	
July	1,340	137,420	1,208	127,092	364	44,920	
August	1,267	127,454	1,148	117,952	314	38,667	
September	1,316	122,462	1,198	113,824	366	39,748	
October	1,360	131,173	1,220	120,794	344	42,946	
November	1,759	173,558	1,582	160,733	413	49,169	

Table 2. Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, December 2008 to November 2012, not seasonally adjusted

	To	otal	Private	nonfarm	Manufacturing		
Date	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	
2008							
December	3,377	351,305	3,232	340,220	1,378	172,529	
2009							
January	3,806	388,813	3,633	375,293	1,461	172,757	
February	2,262	218,438	2,173	210,755	945	103,588	
March	2,191	228,387	2,107	221,397	940	114,747	
April	2,547	256,930	2,385	243,321	887	100,872	
May	2,738	289,628	2,572	274,047	1,005	123,683	
June	2,519	256,357	2,051	216,063	674	85,726	
July	3,054	336,654	2,659	296,589	1,133	154,208	
August	1,428	125,024	1,334	117,193	436	41,151	
September	1,371	123,177	1,258	115,141	448	51,126	
October	1,934	193,904	1,678	172,883	566	69,655	
November	1,870	164,496	1,679	150,751	517	55,053	
December	2,310	214,648	2,166	203,655	615	64,540	
2010	0.000	270.670	0.600	265.074	000	104.040	
January	2,860	278,679 102.818	2,682	265,074 96.022	962	104,846	
February	1,183	- ,	1,091	, -	282	30,728	
March	1,197	111,727	1,111	105,514	273	29,745	
April	1,840	199,690	1,697	184,654	424	55,178	
May	1,354	123,333	1,170	109,203	216	19,334	
June	1,861	171,190	1,355	125,872	212	21,083	
July	2,124	206,254	1,732	172,248	532	64,200	
August	976 920	92,435	897 806	83,021 67,987	230 187	23,088	
September	1,642	77,654 148,638	1,373	127,865	351	19,403 40,861	
October	1,676	158,048	1,477	142,591	389	41,383	
November December	1,931	184,130	1,763	172,881	465	52,816	
2011							
January	2,558	246,463	2,372	229,765	693	75,006	
February	1,024	85,585	919	78,718	222	18,471	
March	908	85,095	844	80,014	191	20,869	
April	1,750	189,919	1,625	176,478	397	47,104	
May	1,367	119,911	1,221	108,531	270	25,199	
June	1,661	159,930	1,238	122,821	226	22,986	
July	2,176	216,774	1,759	174,078	602	71,814	
August	961	99,213	875	93,159	228	26,916	
September	1,189	117,232	1,095	107,300	296	32,058	
October	1,101	96,914	950	83,748	265	28,447	
November	1,393	127,750	1,245	117,474	349	37,799	
December	2,433	263,665	2,258	247,916	658	75,033	
2012							
January	1,705	141,703	1,587	132,754	415	38,021	
February	895	73,974	820	69,076	196	16,555	
March	1,125	117,817	1,040	110,954	242	24,241	
April	1,421	146,358	1,293	132,697	256	32,518	
May	1,201	109,259	1,081	100,434	186	18,800	
June	1,890	198,537	1,485	158,334	255	28,570	
July	1,515	157,753	1,321	144,340	559	74,963	
August	1,063	104,045	992	97,694	251	31,193	
September		70,570	749	66,214	221	22,748	
October	1,142	109,829	968	97,390	277	37,702	
November	2,339	249,949	2,078	228,124	551	72,690	

Table 3. Industry distribution: Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, not seasonally adjusted

Table 5. Industry distribution. Mass layon eve	into and init		off totals	ipioyinent	Average weekly mass layoffs ¹			
	Events		Initial claimants		Events		Initial claimants	
Industry	November	November	November	November	November	November	November	November
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Total ²	1,393	2,339	127,750	249,949	348	468	31,938	49,990
Total, private	1,332	2,243	123,294	240,496	333	449	30,824	48,099
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	87	165	5,820	12,372	22	33	1,455	2,474
Total, private nonfarm	1,245	2,078	117,474	228,124	311	416	29,369	45,625
Mining	10	37	739	2,963	3	7	185	593
Utilities	(³)	5	(³)	457	(³)	1	(³)	91
Construction		404	21,526	35,561	65	81	5,382	7,112
Construction of buildings		49	2,772	4,526	8	10	693	905
Heavy and civil engineering construction		226	13,320	21,196	39	45	3,330	4,239
Specialty trade contractors		129 551	5,434 37,799	9,839 72,690	18 87	26 110	1,359 9,450	1,968 14,538
Food		104	6,312	18,635	16	21	1,578	3,727
Beverage and tobacco products		11	925	1,103	3	2	231	221
Textile mills		29	1,181	4,232	3	6	295	846
Textile product mills	4	6	362	577	1	1	91	115
Apparel		20	1,198	1,621	2	4	300	324
Leather and allied products		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood products		21	2,410	1,611	6	4 2	603	322
Paper Printing and related support activities		11 15	851 624	1,031 1,151	3 2	3	213 156	206 230
Petroleum and coal products	_	18	160	1,415	1	4	40	283
Chemicals	_	15	394	1,296	1	3	99	259
Plastics and rubber products		25	947	2,811	3	5	237	562
Nonmetallic mineral products	20	21	1,360	1,835	5	4	340	367
Primary metals	13	42	1,092	4,376	3	8	273	875
Fabricated metal products		47	1,315	5,110	4	9	329	1,022
Machinery		40	3,223	9,920	7	8	806	1,984
Computer and electronic products		25	990	2,060	4	5	248	412
Electrical equipment and appliances		14 58	745 10,771	2,378 7,962	2 16	3 12	186 2,693	476 1,592
Transportation equipment Furniture and related products		22	2,285	2,554	4	4	2,693 571	511
Miscellaneous manufacturing		7	654	1,012	2	1	164	202
Wholesale trade		49	1,414	5,081	5	10	354	1,016
Retail trade ⁴		132	6,001	12,573	17	26	1,500	2,515
Building material and garden supply stores		10	826	890	3	20	207	178
Food and beverage stores		31	1,372	3,330	4	6	343	666
Clothing and clothing accessories stores		13	183	865	1	3	46	173
General merchandise stores	23	43	2,525	5,111	6	9	631	1,022
Transportation and warehousing 4	72	169	6,993	19,052	18	34	1,748	3,810
Truck transportation	10	12	521	926	3	2	130	185
Transit and ground passenger transportation		126	5,242	15,323	12	25	1,311	3,065
Support activities for transportation		11	(³)	1,084	(3)	2	(³)	217
Information Finance and insurance		32	3,682	3,884	8	6	921	777
Real estate and rental and leasing		22 10	2,061	1,629 653	4	4 2	515 (³)	326 131
Professional and technical services		53	(³) 4,724	5,119	(³) 12	11	1,181	1,024
Management of companies and enterprises		7	449	847	2	1	112	169
Administrative and waste services	_	312	16,714	27,260	52	62	4,179	5,452
Educational services	7	9	434	628	2	2	109	126
Health care and social assistance		51	2,233	5,336	7	10	558	1,067
Arts, entertainment, and recreation		. 44	2,864	3,869	8	9	716	774
Accommodation and food services		173	8,560	28,944	20	35	2,140	5,789
AccommodationFood services and drinking places		61 112	1,866 6,694	14,192 14,752	5 15	12 22	467 1,674	2,838 2,950
Other services, except public administration		17	710	1,534	2	3	1,674	2,950 307
Unclassified	-	1	- 10	1,554	-	-	-	9
Government	61	96	4,456	9,453	15	19	1,114	1,891
Federal	11	8	913	694	3	2	228	139
State	19	28	1,384	2,733	5	6	346	547
State government education	3	6	174	623	1	1	44	125
Local		60	2,159	6,026	8	12	540	1,205
Local government education	8	25	496	2,487	2	5	124	497

¹ Average weekly analysis mitigates the effect of differing lengths of months. There were 4 weeks in November 2011 and 5 weeks in November 2012. Average weekly events and initial claimants may not sum to subtotals and totals due to rounding.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

² Data were reported by all states and the District of Columbia.

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

⁴ Includes other industries not shown.

Table 4. Region and state distribution: Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, not seasonally adjusted

		Mass lay	off totals		Average weekly mass layoffs ¹				
Census region and state	ensus region and state Events Initial Claimants		aimants	Eve	ents	Initial Claimants			
	November 2011	November 2012	November 2011	November 2012	November 2011	November 2012	November 2011	November 2012	
Total ²	1,393	2,339	127,750	249,949	348	468	31,938	49,990	
Northeast	237 9	703 9	21,086 805	84,490 1,344	59 2	141 2	5,272 201	16,898 269	
Maine	(³)	10	(³)	1,193	(³)	2	(³)	239	
Massachusetts		14	1,248	1,608	4	3	312	322	
New Hampshire New Jersey		5 215	296 4,114	378 33,307	1 9	1 43	74 1,029	76 6,661	
New York		230	5,520	24,548	15	46	1,380	4,910	
Pennsylvania		209	8,178	20,958	26	42	2,045	4,192	
Rhode Island Vermont	(³)	3 8	(³) 543	281 873	(³)	1 2	(³) 136	56 175	
South	349	502	33,887	55,755	87	100	8,472	11,151	
Alabama		32	1,798	3,211	5	6	450	642	
Arkansas		25	1,843	3,594	5	5	461	719	
Delaware	, , ,	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	
District of Columbia	,	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	
Florida Georgia		57 29	3,420 2,372	4,783 4,489	13 7	11 6	855 593	957 898	
Kentucky		30	2,934	3,424	6	6	734	685	
Louisiana	17	12	1,404	1,379	4	2	351	276	
Maryland ⁴	7	18	643	1,384	2	4	161	277	
Mississippi	17	18	1,607	1,477	4	4	402	295	
North Carolina		89	2,524	9,407	8 2	18	631	1,881	
Oklahoma South Carolina		6 21	1,464 894	798 3,009	2	1 4	366 224	160 602	
Tennessee	_	19	988	2,085	4	4	247	417	
Texas		97	8,862	11,680	18	19	2,216	2,336	
Virginia West Virginia		33 9	2,788	3,850 675	7 (³)	7 2	697	770 135	
Midwest	391	498	40,372	57,438	98	100	10,093	11,488	
Illinois	57	86	5,056	12,919	14	17	1,264	2,584	
Indiana	32	36	4,367	5,474	8	7	1,092	1,095	
lowa	22	33	2,797	3,540	6	7	699	708	
Kansas Michigan	(³) 54	12 68	(³) 7,046	1,376 7,361	(³) 14	2 14	(³) 1,762	275 1,472	
Minnesota	_	56	2,991	5,184	9	11	748	1,037	
Missouri		30	1,440	2,974	6	6	360	595	
Nebraska		11	399	963	2	2	100	193	
North Dakota	(³)	8	(³)	843	(³)	2	(³)	169	
Ohio South Dakota		69	6,017	7,784	17	14	1,504	1,557	
Wisconsin	90	89	9,359	9,020	23	18	2,340	1,804	
West	416	636	32,405	52,266	104	127	8,101	10,453	
Alaska		9	395	1,325	2	2	99	265	
Arizona		10	666	788	2	2	167	158	
California Colorado		451 10	19,677 1,358	34,672 992	69 4	90 2	4,919 340	6,934 198	
Hawaii		(³)	(3)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	
Idaho		20	1,214	1,626	4	4	304	325	
Montana		12	895	1,084	3	2	224	217	
Nevada		25	1,754	2,281	4	5	439	456 446	
New Mexico Oregon	l ' '	13 37	(³) 2,225	730 3,792	(³) 5	3 7	(³) 556	146 758	
Utah		(³)	704	(³)	3	(³)	176	(³)	
Washington	33	40	3,033	4,079	8	8	758	816	
Wyoming		(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	
Puerto Rico	10	4	1,048	340	3	1	262	68	

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

² See footnote 2, table 3.

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

⁴ Data starting in June 2012 may not be comparable to prior data due to a change in MLS unemployment insurance procedures.