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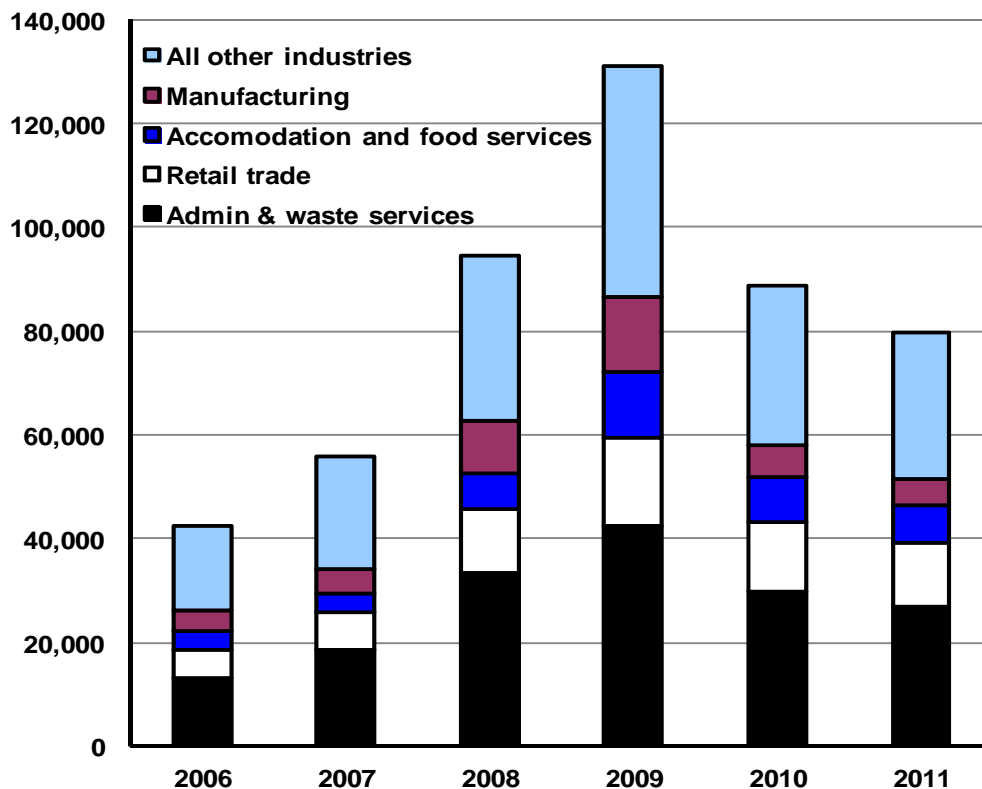
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MASS LAYOFFS IN FLORIDA – 2011 ANNUAL TOTALS

Employers in Florida took 1,091 mass layoff actions in 2011 that resulted in the separation of 79,766 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 Janet S. Rankin noted that the number of initial claims for unemployment insurance has declined each of the last two years after reaching 131,190 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 9,010, following a record drop of 42,414 in 2010.

Chart 1. Mass layoff initial claims, Florida, annual totals, 2006-11



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Industry distribution

Of all the industry sectors in Florida, administrative and waste services experienced the most mass layoff events in 2011, with 360—more than twice the number occurring in any other industry. (See table 1.) This sector also had the largest number of initial claimants for unemployment insurance at 26,959, making up 33.8 percent of the state’s total. Retail trade was second with 145 mass layoff events and 12,064 associated claims during the year, followed by accommodation and food services with 106 events and 7,388 claims. Combined, these three industries accounted for almost three-fifths of all initial claimants in the state in 2011.

Of the 11 sectors recording a drop in mass layoffs-related initial claimants from 2010 to 2011, administrative and waste services had the largest decrease at 2,683, followed by accommodation and food services with 1,622. Two other sectors finished 2011 with at least 1,000 fewer initial claimants than in 2010, retail trade (-1,295) and finance and insurance (-1,176). (See table A.) On a percentage basis, finance and insurance experienced the largest over-the-year decrease in annual claims, down 40.2 percent, followed by arts, entertainment, and recreation, down 39.0 percent.

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

Sector	Net change	
	2009-10	2010-11
Administrative and waste services	-12,682	-2,683
Accommodation and food services	-3,463	-1,622
Retail trade	-3,887	-1,295
Finance and insurance	-3,334	-1,176

In contrast, six sectors saw a rise in the number of initial claims associated with mass layoff events in 2011, led by education services, up 381 or 80.4 percent. Construction had the second highest increase in claims, up 342 or 11.9 percent, followed by information (164, 12.8 percent) and health care and social assistance (147, 6.4 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.

For personal assistance or further information on mass layoff data, as well as other Bureau products, contact the Southeast Information Office at (404) 893-4222 from 9:00a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

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 Layoffs events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, selected industries, Florida, annual totals

Industry	Mass layoff events				Initial claimants for unemployment insurance			
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total, all industries ¹	1,333	1,748	1,231	1091	94,656	131,190	88,776	79,766
Total, private	1,265	1,645	1,134	999	89,707	122,334	82,106	72,977
Total, private nonfarm	1,236	1,615	1,097	973	87,800	120,257	79,832	71,185
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	29	30	37	26	1,907	2,077	2,274	1,792
Crop production ²	13	13	15	11	1,066	1,140	1,088	831
Agriculture and forestry support activities	16	17	22	15	841	937	1,186	961
Utilities	3	(3)	(3)	5	127	(3)	(3)	301
Construction	91	91	51	46	4,944	5,420	2,877	3,219
Construction of buildings	32	28	13	11	1,965	2,021	931	1,128
Heavy and civil engineering construction	19	14	19	20	977	742	1,024	1,322
Specialty trade contractors	40	49	19	15	2,002	2,657	922	769
Manufacturing	145	205	84	71	10,013	14,599	6,068	5,164
Food	15	16	12	16	1,431	1,696	1,421	1,468
Beverage and tobacco products	(3)	8	9	5	(3)	929	576	475
Chemicals	(3)	(3)	(3)	7	(3)	(3)	(3)	386
Nonmetallic mineral products	13	21	10	7	900	1,155	562	287
Fabricated metal products	9	13	6	(3)	425	936	285	(3)
Computer and electronic products	10	22	(3)	8	631	1,235	(3)	512
Transportation equipment ²	42	50	24	11	2,802	4,062	1,964	812
Wholesale trade	20	48	17	21	1,031	2,777	1,080	1,163
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	15	29	10	8	788	1,795	676	587
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	5	17	7	11	243	870	404	480
Retail trade	155	216	151	145	12,448	17,246	13,359	12,064
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	19	15	8	11	1,034	644	397	614
Electronics and appliance stores	11	21	13	8	627	2,064	673	444
Building material and garden supply stores	18	14	11	9	1,303	1,209	977	965
Food and beverage stores	23	28	20	16	1,976	2,494	2,283	2,094
Health and personal care stores	10	15	11	10	557	1,084	830	883
Gasoline stations	12	17	14	15	734	965	775	781
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	8	20	11	10	400	1,330	536	482
General merchandise stores	40	58	56	52	4,893	5,646	6,386	4,829
Transportation and warehousing	31	45	27	20	2,230	3,403	3,296	2,720
Truck transportation	(3)	8	(3)	3	(3)	485	(3)	184
Transit and ground passenger transportation	7	14	10	11	947	1,758	1,889	2,243
Information	45	46	22	26	2,557	2,886	1,278	1,442
Telecommunications ²	25	27	18	20	1,482	1,704	1,074	1,144
Finance and insurance ²	88	85	46	29	5,512	6,262	2,928	1,752
Credit intermediation and related activities	69	64	34	24	4,543	5,106	2,355	1,515
Insurance carriers and related activities	17	14	8	(3)	875	725	385	(3)
Real estate and rental and leasing ²	16	31	19	12	943	1,739	958	822
Real estate ²	8	15	11	8	481	967	625	409
Rental and leasing services	8	16	8	(3)	462	772	333	(3)

Table 1. Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, selected industries, Florida, annual totals – Continued

Industry	<u>Mass layoff events</u>				<u>Initial claimants for unemployment insurance</u>			
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011
Professional and technical services ²	33	57	44	44	2,544	3,312	3,319	2,949
Administrative and waste services ²	403	483	403	360	33,432	42,324	29,642	26,959
Administrative and support services ²	398	480	401	358	33,220	42,201	29,564	26,862
Educational services	4	13	9	15	282	663	474	855
Health care and social assistance	42	41	38	37	2,238	2,398	2,311	2,458
Hospitals	13	12	12	10	747	669	768	502
Nursing and residential care facilities	10	11	11	12	459	600	610	613
Social assistance	11	12	8	10	619	769	605	1,110
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	30	39	30	23	1,809	3,168	2,259	1,379
Performing arts and spectator sports	10	12	8	8	490	608	459	413
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	20	27	22	15	1,319	2,560	1,800	966
Accommodation and food services	110	186	136	106	6,705	12,473	9,010	7,388
Accommodations	22	58	30	20	1,138	3,544	1,481	1,083
Food services and drinking places	88	128	106	86	5,567	8,929	7,529	6,305
Other services, except public administration	14	19	14	11	703	960	663	479
Membership associations and organizations	10	10	6	7	515	528	286	300
Government	68	103	97	92	4,949	8,856	6,670	6,789
Federal	9	11	14	14	564	659	1,254	1,370
State	8	18	18	19	444	909	838	1,169
Local	51	74	65	59	3,941	7,288	4,578	4,250

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 the NAICS versions.

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