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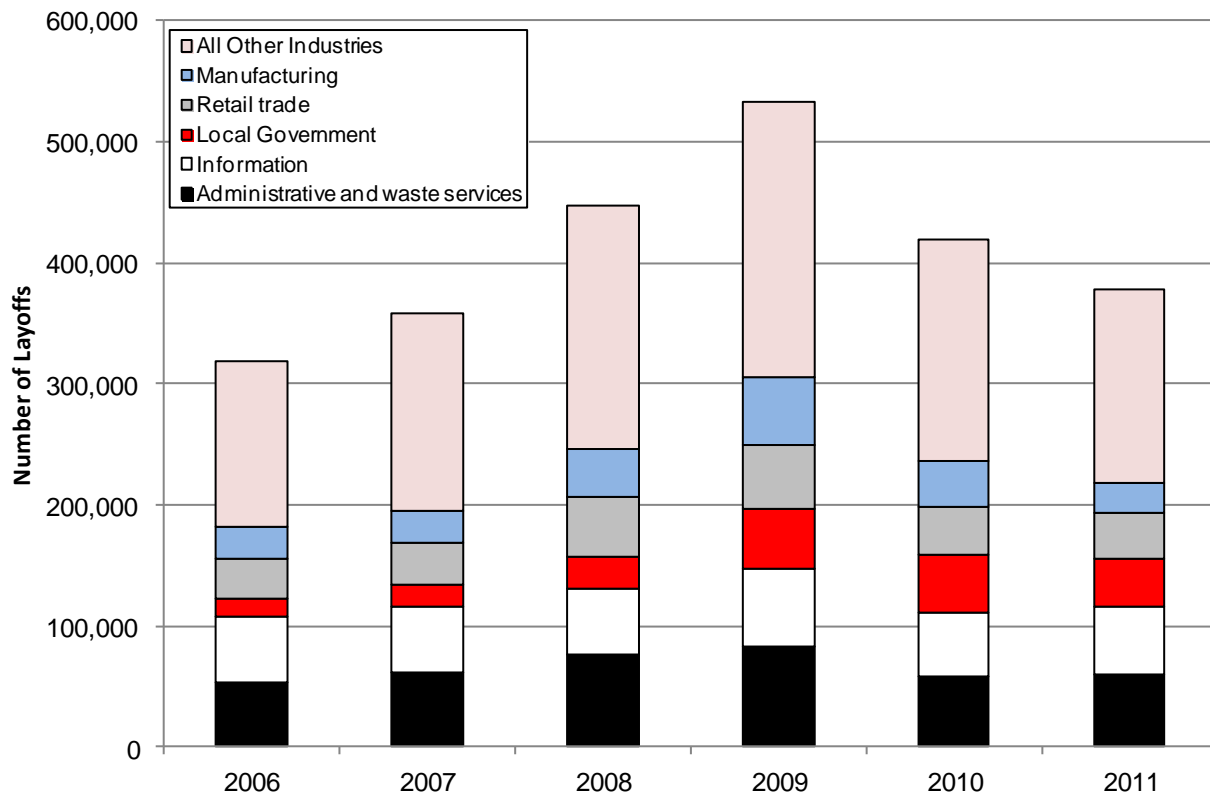
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### MASS LAYOFFS IN CALIFORNIA – 2011 ANNUAL TOTALS

Employers in California took 4,378 mass layoff actions in 2011 that resulted in the separation of 377,413 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 Richard J. Holden noted that the number of initial claims for unemployment insurance has declined each of the last two years after reaching 532,028 in 2009. Initial claims have exceeded 500,000 five times in the history of the series, which goes back to 1996 on an annual basis.

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



## Industry distribution

Of all the industry sectors in California, administrative and waste services experienced the most mass layoff events in 2011 with 597. (See table 1.) This sector also had the largest number of initial claimants at 60,147, making up 15.9 percent of the state's total. (See chart 1.) Local government was second with 492 mass layoff events, though the 38,743 associated initial claims for unemployment ranked third. Information, with 284 events, ranked second in claims with 55,969. Combined, these three industry sectors accounted for 41.0 percent 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 decline at 11,390, with the transportation equipment and computer and electronics equipment industries accounting for nearly half of the decrease. Construction had the second-largest decline (-8,095), followed by local government (-7,962). Five other sectors finished 2011 with at least 1,000 fewer initial claimants than in 2010, and four of these registered drops of more than 2,500. (See table A.) On a percentage basis, mining experienced the largest over-the-year decrease in annual claims, down 60.8 percent, followed by federal government, down 55.1 percent.

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

Sector	Net change	
	2009-2010	2010-2011
Manufacturing	-18,351	-11,390
Construction	-13,714	-8,095
Local government	-2,106	-7,962
Finance and insurance	-4,504	-4,197
Accommodation and food services	-6,810	-3,788
Transportation and warehousing	-3,873	-2,844
Retail trade	-12,798	-2,706
Wholesale trade	-3,680	-1,952

In contrast, the number of initial claims associated with mass layoff events in 2011 increased in six industry sectors. Three of these sectors finished the year with at least 1,000 more claimants above the 2010 level. Administrative and waste services led with 2,221 more claims, an increase of 3.8 percent. Information had the second highest increase in claims, up 2,065 or 3.8 percent, followed by professional and technical services, up 1,271 or 5.9 percent.

## State comparisons

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, California, 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)	5,403	6,377	5,110	4,378	446,480	532,028	419,809	377,413
Total private	4,946	5,703	4,429	3,807	414,482	476,886	367,356	332,667
Agriculture forestry fishing and hunting	563	584	570	503	38,080	38,326	36,488	33,730
Crop production	183	198	205	178	12,968	13,585	13,255	12,470
Agriculture and forestry support activities	379	382	362	322	25,067	24,562	23,059	21,120
Total private nonfarm	4,383	5,119	3,859	3,304	376,402	438,560	330,868	298,937
Mining quarrying and oil and gas extraction	7	24	11	8	430	1,374	988	387
Support activities for mining	(3)	18	(3)	5	(3)	1,059	(3)	267
Utilities	11	10	7	9	729	641	485	491
Construction	729	744	520	394	43,450	44,188	30,474	22,379
Construction of buildings	108	111	70	38	6,164	6,361	3,666	2,124
Heavy and civil engineering construction	200	187	148	117	13,003	12,709	9,996	7,013
Specialty trade contractors	421	446	302	239	24,283	25,118	16,812	13,242
Manufacturing	600	808	498	353	39,631	55,557	37,206	25,816
Food	141	126	130	117	12,013	10,896	10,521	9,976
Beverage and tobacco products	24	24	26	19	1,683	1,373	1,668	1,317
Apparel (2)	23	34	20	13	1,346	2,208	1,511	1,936
Wood products	36	42	16	12	2,589	3,829	1,679	1,077
Paper	13	16	7	(3)	776	808	338	(3)
Printing and related support activities	9	13	11	(3)	575	828	570	(3)
Petroleum and coal products	4	(3)	7	(3)	243	(3)	465	(3)
Chemicals	15	23	11	9	683	1,232	518	647
Plastics and rubber products (2)	16	23	18	(3)	871	1,252	862	(3)
Nonmetallic mineral products	69	69	47	19	3,877	4,430	2,963	1,209
Primary metals	8	18	8	6	461	1,012	372	311
Fabricated metal products	36	51	30	22	2,112	2,775	1,839	1,220
Machinery (2)	22	47	20	11	1,333	4,188	1,207	575
Computer and electronic products	83	180	79	54	5,138	12,304	4,907	2,878
Electrical equipment and appliances	5	24	10	(3)	298	1,356	655	(3)
Transportation equipment (2)	51	68	36	30	3,181	4,443	6,013	2,381
Furniture and related products (2)	24	16	7	(3)	1,237	792	361	(3)
Miscellaneous manufacturing (2)	19	19	14	13	1,100	1,091	684	679
Wholesale trade	106	168	107	79	5,646	10,009	6,329	4,377
Merchant w holesalers durable goods	54	79	37	24	2,827	4,808	2,193	1,244
Merchant w holesalers nondurable goods	37	60	45	37	2,110	3,722	2,714	2,160
Electronic markets and agents and brokers	15	29	25	18	709	1,479	1,422	973
Retail trade	510	532	425	383	49,484	53,295	40,497	37,791
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	57	42	21	17	3,205	2,203	1,235	963
Furniture and home furnishings stores	31	21	10	8	2,024	1,211	529	412
Electronics and appliance stores	33	43	25	18	2,719	4,179	2,111	1,302

See footnotes at end of table.

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

Industry	Mass layoff events				Initial claims for unemployment insurance			
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011
Building material and garden supply stores	24	33	18	16	3,386	3,522	2,521	2,530
Food and beverage stores	81	84	87	80	8,618	8,277	7,420	5,947
Health and personal care stores	28	31	27	29	2,593	3,311	2,158	2,680
Gasoline stations	10	8	6	9	498	602	348	433
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	92	121	103	91	6,117	7,707	6,270	5,605
Sporting goods hobby book and music stores	38	43	40	33	2,268	3,249	2,604	2,760
General merchandise stores	73	68	55	51	15,656	16,652	13,287	13,293
Miscellaneous store retailers	32	34	27	26	1,774	2,145	1,748	1,615
Nonstore retailers	11	4	6	5	626	237	266	251
Transportation and warehousing	175	181	131	105	16,763	15,569	11,696	8,852
Air transportation	7	9	7	3	766	796	438	190
Truck transportation	75	77	50	36	4,675	5,332	2,964	1,842
Transit and ground passenger transportation	46	44	39	36	5,859	4,500	4,848	3,628
Support activities for transportation	19	23	15	9	2,798	2,317	1,607	1,800
Couriers and messengers	16	16	9	8	1,927	1,908	1,205	771
Warehousing and storage	(3)	8	(3)	8	(3)	441	(3)	336
Information	328	368	291	284	53,940	63,817	53,904	55,969
Publishing industries except Internet	39	48	28	11	2,463	3,489	1,493	584
Motion picture and sound recording industries	216	241	205	219	46,211	54,386	48,017	51,254
Broadcasting except Internet	30	31	22	23	1,974	2,224	1,645	1,499
Telecommunications	36	35	30	24	2,968	2,933	2,461	2,158
Other information services	(3)	7	(3)	5	(3)	443	(3)	378
Finance and insurance (2)	210	247	186	140	16,637	19,133	14,629	10,432
Credit intermediation and related activities	116	91	64	49	9,421	8,450	5,452	4,367
Securities commodity contracts investments	12	26	13	9	730	1,523	742	522
Insurance carriers and related activities	81	97	68	50	6,428	7,380	5,322	3,855
Funds trusts and other financial vehicles (2)	(3)	33	41	31	(3)	1,780	3,113	1,643
Real estate and rental and leasing	62	80	48	33	3,346	4,725	2,620	1,750
Real estate (2)	22	27	21	9	1,167	1,531	1,064	460
Rental and leasing services	40	53	27	24	2,179	3,194	1,556	1,290
Professional and technical services	223	299	250	210	25,682	27,985	21,631	22,902
Administrative and waste services (2)	743	791	601	597	76,584	83,420	57,926	60,147
Administrative and support services (2)	740	782	594	594	76,459	82,969	57,635	60,017
Waste management and remediation services	(3)	9	7	(3)	(3)	451	291	(3)

See footnotes at end of table.

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

Industry	Mass layoff events				Initial claims for unemployment insurance			
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011
Educational services	36	57	70	69	2,227	3,668	4,080	4,381
Health care and social assistance	164	190	197	209	10,382	12,117	12,885	12,759
Ambulatory health care services	34	42	36	44	1,861	2,229	2,016	2,437
Hospitals	44	47	45	51	3,105	3,467	3,012	3,211
Nursing and residential care facilities	24	31	29	33	1,193	1,550	1,472	1,627
Social assistance	62	70	87	81	4,223	4,871	6,385	5,484
Arts entertainment and recreation	124	158	149	134	7,700	10,402	10,172	9,643
Performing arts and spectator sports	67	81	78	70	3,953	5,468	5,159	5,259
Amusements gambling and recreation	55	72	67	60	3,652	4,684	4,799	4,139
Accommodation and food services	309	383	300	247	20,894	28,396	21,586	17,798
Accommodations	100	147	103	72	6,300	10,705	7,031	5,094
Food services and drinking places	209	236	197	175	14,594	17,691	14,555	12,704
Other services except public administration	43	74	66	46	2,725	4,052	3,630	2,809
Repair and maintenance	10	12	8	7	503	542	466	422
Personal and laundry services	15	32	19	14	757	1,577	1,011	767
Membership associations and organizations	18	30	39	25	1,465	1,933	2,153	1,620
Government	457	674	681	571	31,998	55,142	52,453	44,746
Federal	5	4	4	3	531	546	758	340
State	64	81	77	76	4,363	5,785	4,990	5,663
Local	388	589	600	492	27,104	48,811	46,705	38,743

(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.