

For release 10:00 a.m. (EST) Tuesday, February 26, 2013

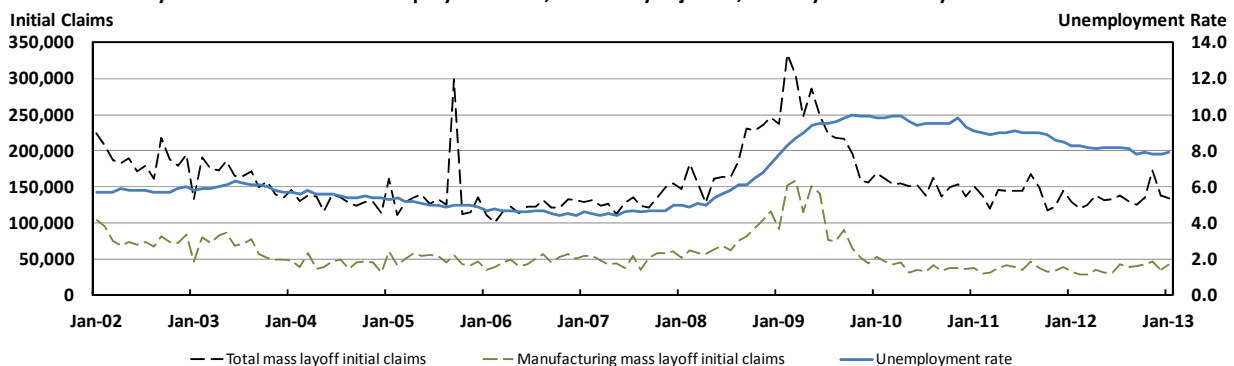
USDL-13-0286

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MASS LAYOFFS — JANUARY 2013

Employers took 1,328 mass layoff actions in January involving 134,026 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 decreased by 181 from December, and the number of associated initial claims decreased by 3,813. In January, 357 mass layoff events were reported in the manufacturing sector resulting in 43,068 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.)

Chart 1. Mass layoff initial claims and unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, January 2002-January 2013



The national unemployment rate was 7.9 percent in January, essentially unchanged from the prior month and down from 8.3 percent a year earlier. Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 157,000 over the month and by 2,016,000 over the year.

Industry Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

The number of mass layoff events in January was 1,528, not seasonally adjusted, resulting in 144,517 initial claims for unemployment insurance. (See table 2.) Over the year, the number of average weekly mass layoff events for January decreased by 44 to 382, while associated average weekly initial claims increased by 703 to 36,129. Eight 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.) The six-digit industry with the largest number of private nonfarm initial claims due to mass layoffs in January was temporary help services. (See table A.)

In January, the manufacturing sector accounted for 31 percent of mass layoff events and 37 percent of

Table A. Six-digit NAICS industries with the largest number of mass layoff initial claims in January 2013, private nonfarm, not seasonally adjusted

Industry	Initial claims	January peak	
		Year	Initial claims
Temporary help services ¹	14,937	1998	26,224
Highway, street, and bridge construction	3,772	2000	9,680
Discount department stores	3,440	2010	8,065
Professional employer organizations ¹	3,274	2009	11,345
Motion picture and video production	3,242	1998	12,038
School and employee bus transportation	2,520	2010	15,131
Food service contractors	2,316	2011	3,439
Payroll services	2,266	2002	8,686
Poultry processing	2,046	2013	2,046
Warehouse clubs and supercenters	2,009	2011	3,508

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

associated initial claims in the private economy. Within manufacturing, the numbers of mass layoff claimants were highest in transportation equipment and in food. Eleven 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 South had the largest number of initial claims due to mass layoffs in January. Three of the 4 regions experienced over-the-year increases in average weekly initial claims, with the largest increase occurring in the South. (See table 4.)

Among the states, California had the highest number of mass layoff initial claims in January, followed by North Carolina, Alabama, and New York. Twenty-five states experienced over-the-year increases in average weekly initial claims, led by California and North Carolina. (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 new release for February 2013 is scheduled to be released on Friday, March 22, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT).

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, February 2009 to January 2013, seasonally adjusted

Date	Total		Private nonfarm		Manufacturing	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
2009						
February	3,079	334,171	2,921	318,194	1,274	152,592
March	3,022	304,175	2,827	287,023	1,261	158,119
April	2,537	246,938	2,332	231,211	1,022	114,682
May	2,712	286,089	2,522	270,051	1,206	151,114
June	2,470	248,680	2,261	231,529	1,063	140,105
July	2,184	222,776	1,976	203,347	639	76,345
August	2,358	218,380	2,119	198,877	743	75,387
September	2,274	216,959	2,054	200,863	754	90,250
October	1,970	196,370	1,775	178,648	567	64,681
November	1,764	159,283	1,598	146,802	469	51,887
December	1,720	155,738	1,549	141,699	425	44,455
2010						
January	1,699	169,561	1,522	155,298	461	53,303
February	1,647	161,694	1,480	147,259	387	47,272
March	1,703	153,784	1,501	138,188	373	43,022
April	1,622	154,962	1,442	138,849	378	44,860
May	1,585	150,959	1,345	131,482	317	31,677
June	1,701	152,080	1,481	133,366	335	34,653
July	1,521	137,750	1,315	121,313	303	32,064
August	1,612	162,455	1,409	138,849	384	41,123
September	1,526	137,074	1,303	117,582	310	33,906
October	1,661	149,985	1,454	132,373	349	38,157
November	1,584	153,394	1,407	138,925	353	38,097
December	1,476	136,252	1,277	121,849	322	36,611
2011						
January	1,522	150,406	1,335	132,659	327	37,431
February	1,456	137,938	1,263	123,141	312	30,036
March	1,307	119,691	1,156	106,721	269	31,699
April	1,526	145,315	1,366	130,841	352	37,177
May	1,573	144,824	1,387	129,296	399	42,238
June	1,522	144,060	1,342	129,136	359	38,630
July	1,566	144,543	1,347	123,815	342	35,458
August	1,585	168,266	1,364	153,081	374	46,267
September	1,463	150,165	1,319	136,564	346	37,505
October	1,349	118,135	1,220	106,478	335	32,310
November	1,312	123,078	1,177	113,239	312	33,715
December	1,392	144,661	1,247	129,994	346	38,469
2012						
January	1,435	129,169	1,298	118,127	325	32,503
February	1,275	120,199	1,134	109,458	283	28,236
March	1,290	125,195	1,141	112,889	269	28,300
April	1,403	138,164	1,235	122,236	294	34,929
May	1,370	131,603	1,220	119,788	277	31,873
June	1,320	133,080	1,178	120,857	282	31,737
July	1,354	138,694	1,217	128,186	355	43,427
August	1,297	130,266	1,172	120,391	322	39,389
September	1,346	125,692	1,223	116,792	365	40,287
October	1,400	136,153	1,249	125,026	346	42,927
November	1,749	172,879	1,574	159,872	412	47,171
December	1,509	137,839	1,334	125,505	330	35,211
2013						
January	1,328	134,026	1,197	123,088	357	43,068

Table 2. Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, February 2009 to January 2013, not seasonally adjusted

Date	Total		Private nonfarm		Manufacturing	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
2009						
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						
January	2,860	278,679	2,682	265,074	962	104,846
February	1,183	102,818	1,091	96,022	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	92,435	897	83,021	230	23,088
September	920	77,654	806	67,987	187	19,403
October	1,642	148,638	1,373	127,865	351	40,861
November	1,676	158,048	1,477	142,591	389	41,383
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	811	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
December	1,973	187,137	1,822	177,452	477	50,686
2013						
January	1,528	144,517	1,424	135,970	455	50,793

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

Industry	Mass layoff totals				Average weekly mass layoffs ¹			
	Events		Initial claimants		Events		Initial claimants	
	January 2012	January 2013	January 2012	January 2013	January 2012	January 2013	January 2012	January 2013
Total ²	1,705	1,528	141,703	144,517	426	382	35,426	36,129
Total, private	1,634	1,466	135,663	139,018	409	367	33,916	34,755
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	47	42	2,909	3,048	12	11	727	762
Total, private nonfarm	1,587	1,424	132,754	135,970	397	356	33,189	33,993
Mining	16	11	1,019	811	4	3	255	203
Utilities	4	(³)	350	(³)	1	(³)	88	(³)
Construction	194	188	13,743	13,212	49	47	3,436	3,303
Construction of buildings	33	21	2,429	1,513	8	5	607	378
Heavy and civil engineering construction	69	88	4,786	6,544	17	22	1,197	1,636
Specialty trade contractors	92	79	6,528	5,155	23	20	1,632	1,289
Manufacturing	415	455	38,021	50,793	104	114	9,505	12,698
Food	56	58	4,964	6,530	14	15	1,241	1,633
Beverage and tobacco products	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Textile mills	20	35	2,274	4,550	5	9	569	1,138
Textile product mills	5	5	444	403	1	1	111	101
Apparel	17	16	1,899	2,149	4	4	475	537
Leather and allied products	(³)	4	(³)	485	(³)	1	(³)	121
Wood products	35	26	2,704	2,517	9	7	676	629
Paper	8	5	833	314	2	1	208	79
Printing and related support activities	16	5	1,347	483	4	1	337	121
Petroleum and coal products	4	(³)	273	(³)	1	(³)	68	(³)
Chemicals	13	10	1,064	849	3	3	266	212
Plastics and rubber products	24	20	1,931	1,761	6	5	483	440
Nonmetallic mineral products	36	19	2,569	1,317	9	5	642	329
Primary metals	15	26	1,649	2,274	4	7	412	569
Fabricated metal products	23	29	1,643	2,522	6	7	411	631
Machinery	22	34	1,938	5,404	6	9	485	1,351
Computer and electronic products	15	15	876	1,287	4	4	219	322
Electrical equipment and appliances	11	18	1,797	2,099	3	5	449	525
Transportation equipment	47	86	5,969	11,930	12	22	1,492	2,983
Furniture and related products	30	32	2,371	3,047	8	8	593	762
Miscellaneous manufacturing	13	7	1,113	488	3	2	278	122
Wholesale trade	29	28	2,262	2,334	7	7	566	584
Retail trade ⁴	181	136	16,612	13,622	45	34	4,153	3,406
Building material and garden supply stores	16	8	1,501	1,011	4	2	375	253
Food and beverage stores	31	25	2,575	1,882	8	6	644	471
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	16	14	1,041	945	4	4	260	236
General merchandise stores	77	52	8,406	7,502	19	13	2,102	1,876
Transportation and warehousing ⁴	137	87	13,404	6,419	34	22	3,351	1,605
Truck transportation	27	22	1,773	1,268	7	6	443	317
Transit and ground passenger transportation	75	35	8,592	2,667	19	9	2,148	667
Support activities for transportation	5	7	324	603	1	2	81	151
Information	33	36	2,925	5,477	8	9	731	1,369
Finance and insurance	30	25	2,076	2,226	8	6	519	557
Real estate and rental and leasing	4	3	207	178	1	1	52	45
Professional and technical services	45	41	3,084	5,684	11	10	771	1,421
Management of companies and enterprises	6	7	432	976	2	2	108	244
Administrative and waste services	276	237	21,596	22,170	69	59	5,399	5,543
Educational services	17	10	1,770	609	4	3	443	152
Health care and social assistance	36	23	2,053	1,461	9	6	513	365
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	33	32	3,107	2,455	8	8	777	614
Accommodation and food services	114	86	8,725	6,391	29	22	2,181	1,598
Accommodation	42	29	3,371	2,345	11	7	843	586
Food services and drinking places	72	57	5,354	4,046	18	14	1,339	1,012
Other services, except public administration	12	12	1,019	805	3	3	255	201
Unclassified	5	(³)	349	(³)	1	(³)	87	(³)
Government	71	62	6,040	5,499	18	16	1,510	1,375
Federal	13	9	1,196	933	3	2	299	233
State	25	19	2,576	1,435	6	5	644	359
State government education	9	8	602	443	2	2	151	111
Local	33	34	2,268	3,131	8	9	567	783
Local government education	12	12	788	1,350	3	3	197	338

¹ Average weekly analysis mitigates the effect of differing lengths of months. There were 4 weeks in January 2012 and 4 weeks in January 2013. Average weekly events and initial claimants may not sum to subtotals and totals due to rounding.

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.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

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

Census region and state	Mass layoff totals				Average weekly mass layoffs ¹			
	Events		Initial claimants		Events		Initial claimants	
	January 2012	January 2013	January 2012	January 2013	January 2012	January 2013	January 2012	January 2013
Total ²	1,705	1,528	141,703	144,517	426	382	35,426	36,129
Northeast	386	272	34,860	21,049	97	68	8,715	5,262
Connecticut	8	11	547	771	2	3	137	193
Maine	8	10	658	899	2	3	165	225
Massachusetts	18	7	1,821	587	5	2	455	147
New Hampshire	7	-	504	-	2	-	126	-
New Jersey	51	36	4,273	2,933	13	9	1,068	733
New York	166	97	17,607	8,000	42	24	4,402	2,000
Pennsylvania	120	105	8,912	7,265	30	26	2,228	1,816
Rhode Island	5	(³)	318	(³)	1	(³)	80	(³)
Vermont	3	(³)	220	(³)	1	(³)	55	(³)
South	496	515	43,925	52,634	124	129	10,981	13,159
Alabama	55	82	6,489	8,434	14	21	1,622	2,109
Arkansas	19	15	1,389	1,963	5	4	347	491
Delaware	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
District of Columbia	4	3	263	259	1	1	66	65
Florida	87	56	6,044	3,784	22	14	1,511	946
Georgia	41	63	4,097	6,616	10	16	1,024	1,654
Kentucky	33	24	2,847	1,738	8	6	712	435
Louisiana	8	9	518	545	2	2	130	136
Maryland ⁴	10	21	624	1,539	3	5	156	385
Mississippi	13	9	737	434	3	2	184	109
North Carolina	84	100	7,468	11,999	21	25	1,867	3,000
Oklahoma	6	3	443	241	2	1	111	60
South Carolina	32	47	3,475	6,739	8	12	869	1,685
Tennessee	24	14	1,820	934	6	4	455	234
Texas	51	35	3,981	3,611	13	9	995	903
Virginia	25	31	3,362	3,583	6	8	841	896
West Virginia	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Midwest	386	339	31,060	31,994	97	85	7,765	7,999
Illinois	55	53	4,823	6,251	14	13	1,206	1,563
Indiana	40	22	3,594	2,138	10	6	899	535
Iowa	17	22	1,271	2,045	4	6	318	511
Kansas	8	7	815	622	2	2	204	156
Michigan	53	54	3,962	3,727	13	14	991	932
Minnesota	20	13	1,591	1,039	5	3	398	260
Missouri	42	41	2,860	4,037	11	10	715	1,009
Nebraska	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
North Dakota	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Ohio	67	62	5,630	6,460	17	16	1,408	1,615
South Dakota	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin	78	57	6,014	4,994	20	14	1,504	1,249
West	437	402	31,858	38,840	109	101	7,965	9,710
Alaska	8	(³)	731	(³)	2	(³)	183	(³)
Arizona	(³)	5	(³)	585	(³)	1	(³)	146
California	342	303	23,787	29,088	86	76	5,947	7,272
Colorado	5	11	556	1,787	1	3	139	447
Hawaii	4	6	316	453	1	2	79	113
Idaho	6	9	445	670	2	2	111	168
Montana	5	7	503	543	1	2	126	136
Nevada	14	11	1,323	950	4	3	331	238
New Mexico	5	-	299	-	1	-	75	-
Oregon	19	23	1,699	2,880	5	6	425	720
Utah	7	7	514	526	2	2	129	132
Washington	18	17	1,446	1,167	5	4	362	292
Wyoming	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Puerto Rico	15	15	1,205	1,383	4	4	301	346

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

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.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.