

# News

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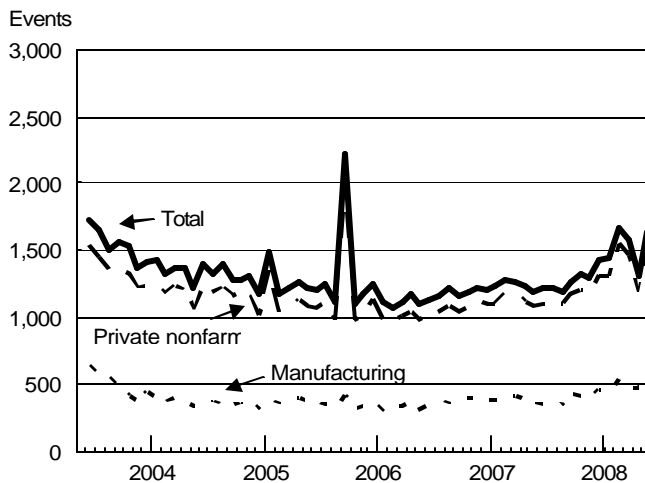
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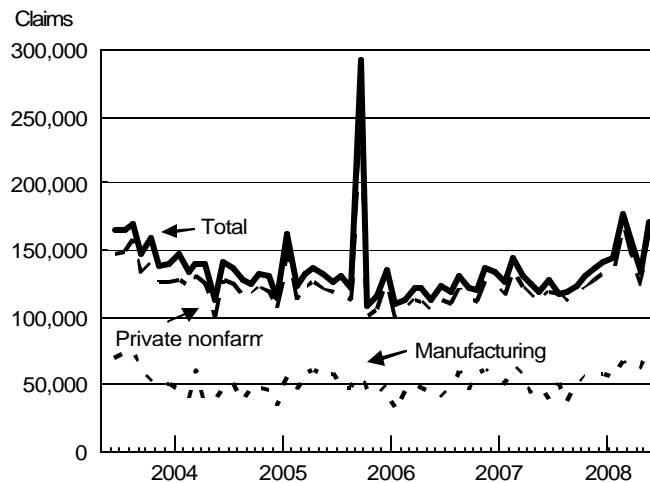
## MASS LAYOFFS IN MAY 2008

In May, employers took 1,626 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 171,387, on a seasonally adjusted basis. Layoff events and associated initial claimants were the highest for the month of May since 2003. The number of mass layoff events in May 2008 increased sharply by 318 from the prior month, while the number of associated initial claims rose by 37,473. In May, 528 mass layoff events were reported in the manufacturing sector, seasonally adjusted, resulting in 72,058 initial claims. Over the month, mass layoff events in manufacturing increased by 45 and initial claims increased by 11,506. (See table 1.)

**Chart 1. Mass layoff events, seasonally adjusted, June 2003-May 2008**



**Chart 2. Mass layoff initial claims, seasonally adjusted, June 2003-May 2008**



From January through May 2008, the total number of events (seasonally adjusted), at 7,615, and initial claims (seasonally adjusted), at 783,942, were considerably higher than in January-May 2007 (6,325 and 650,605, respectively).

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

Industry	Initial claims	May peak	
		Year	Initial claims
Temporary help services .....	8,389	2002	16,992
Food service contractors .....	7,376	2008	7,376
Motion picture and video production .....	6,874	1999	8,985
School and employee bus transportation .....	6,323	2008	6,323
Heavy duty truck manufacturing .....	5,053	2008	5,053
Child day care services .....	4,541	2008	4,541
Professional employer organizations .....	4,085	2008	4,085
Other social advocacy organizations .....	2,919	2008	2,919
Automobile manufacturing .....	2,763	2003	7,851
All other motor vehicle parts manufacturing .....	2,333	2008	2,333

The national unemployment rate was 5.5 percent in May, seasonally adjusted, up from 5.0 percent in the prior month and up from 4.5 percent a year earlier. Total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 49,000 in May from the previous month, but increased by 236,000 from a year earlier.

#### Industry Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

The number of mass layoff events in May was 1,552 on a not seasonally adjusted basis; the number of associated initial claims was 159,471. (See table 2.) Average weekly layoff events rose from 231 in May 2007 to 310 in May 2008, while average weekly initial claimants increased from 21,454 to 31,894. Both the average weekly number of events and claims reached the highest levels for the month of May since 2003.

The largest over-the-year increases in May 2008 average weekly initial claims associated with mass layoffs occurred in transportation equipment manufacturing (+1,766) and in transit and ground passenger transportation (+1,176). The largest decreases occurred in general merchandise stores (-256) and in textile mills (-126).

The manufacturing sector accounted for 25 percent of all mass layoff events and 32 percent of initial claims filed in May; a year earlier, manufacturing made up 24 percent of events and 31 percent of initial claims. In May 2008, the number of manufacturing claimants was highest in transportation equipment manufacturing (21,667), followed by food manufacturing (4,800). (See table 3.) Administrative and waste services accounted for 12 percent of mass layoff events and 10 percent of associated initial claims in May, primarily from temporary help services.

The six-digit NAICS industry with the highest number of initial claims was temporary help services with 8,389, followed by food service contractors (7,376) and motion picture and video production (6,874). Among the 10 industries with the highest levels of initial claims, 7 of the 10 reached program highs in 2008 for the month of May (with data available back to 1995). (See table A.)

### Geographic Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Of the 4 census regions, the highest number of initial claims in May due to mass layoffs was in the West (45,558). The Midwest had the second largest number of initial claims among the regions (45,462), followed by the South with 42,832 and the Northeast with 25,619. (See table 5.)

All 4 regions experienced over-the-year increases in average weekly initial claims—the Midwest (+3,156), the South (+2,944), the West (+2,365), and the Northeast (+1,976). Eight of the 9 divisions had over-the-year increases in average weekly initial claims, led by the East North Central (+3,334).

California recorded the highest number of initial claims filed due to mass layoff events in May with 34,085, largely due to layoffs in motion picture and sound recording industries and in administrative and support services. The next highest states reporting mass layoff initial claims were New York (9,613), Pennsylvania (8,975), Florida (8,841), and Kentucky (8,666). (See table 6.)

Forty states reported over-the-year increases in average weekly initial claims associated with mass layoffs, led by California (+1,422), New York (+1,333), Illinois (+843), and Florida (+752). States with the largest over-the-year decreases in average weekly claims were Missouri (-705) and Virginia (-162). In 2008, six states reported program highs in terms of average weekly initial claims for the month of May (with data available back to 1995)—Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Ohio.

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The report on Mass Layoffs in June 2008 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, July 23.

# 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, June 2004 to May 2008, seasonally adjusted**

Date	Total		Private nonfarm		Manufacturing	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
2004						
June .....	1,400	141,168	1,231	128,245	371	47,243
July .....	1,329	137,805	1,178	126,301	376	50,799
August .....	1,426	128,759	1,233	113,809	343	36,539
September .....	1,285	127,833	1,154	116,843	336	45,690
October .....	1,283	132,766	1,169	123,471	363	47,046
November .....	1,320	130,873	1,174	119,029	380	45,416
December .....	1,148	111,060	991	99,784	287	31,935
2005						
January .....	1,475	160,725	1,346	151,028	382	61,324
February .....	1,146	121,455	1,020	110,480	353	43,568
March .....	1,207	131,271	1,066	120,945	372	53,673
April .....	1,252	136,752	1,125	126,550	401	60,681
May .....	1,248	136,420	1,104	123,495	398	54,999
June .....	1,196	127,084	1,078	118,012	368	58,300
July .....	1,250	132,445	1,103	119,566	357	46,602
August .....	1,144	125,686	1,000	113,762	341	47,598
September .....	2,248	297,544	2,028	251,185	417	55,304
October .....	1,101	110,035	982	100,934	321	43,230
November .....	1,176	114,965	1,042	103,535	332	42,071
December .....	1,261	134,461	1,132	123,418	360	46,863
2006						
January .....	1,107	110,800	988	101,494	283	34,037
February .....	1,031	109,798	940	101,828	322	43,147
March .....	1,084	119,049	983	110,668	323	48,119
April .....	1,171	121,580	1,043	112,175	368	49,568
May .....	1,124	117,115	1,005	107,181	314	43,087
June .....	1,146	123,827	1,030	114,080	352	44,869
July .....	1,179	121,017	1,051	111,336	372	48,534
August .....	1,270	135,400	1,107	124,427	377	60,906
September .....	1,173	123,767	1,056	114,677	385	45,767
October .....	1,191	121,827	1,076	113,123	399	53,601
November .....	1,232	133,803	1,121	124,559	414	58,385
December .....	1,194	131,062	1,092	121,796	374	51,408
2007						
January .....	1,254	128,223	1,118	117,824	391	52,858
February .....	1,352	143,837	1,238	135,066	416	61,749
March .....	1,277	130,981	1,169	122,488	412	52,606
April .....	1,243	126,977	1,116	116,926	382	43,930
May .....	1,199	120,587	1,096	113,069	370	48,910
June .....	1,238	129,858	1,116	120,165	351	40,670
July .....	1,247	127,687	1,140	119,614	392	51,333
August .....	1,228	121,886	1,128	114,628	335	36,518
September .....	1,307	128,487	1,204	121,294	430	53,432
October .....	1,347	136,124	1,224	127,163	430	57,695
November .....	1,329	139,671	1,215	131,390	414	56,965
December .....	1,433	141,750	1,315	133,024	462	58,108
2008						
January .....	1,438	144,111	1,317	134,347	427	55,488
February .....	1,672	177,374	1,539	166,782	529	66,913
March .....	1,571	157,156	1,460	147,537	482	64,088
April .....	1,308	133,914	1,186	124,053	483	60,552
May .....	1,626	171,387	1,496	161,912	528	72,058

**Table 2. Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, June 2004 to May 2008, not seasonally adjusted**

Date	Total		Private nonfarm		Manufacturing	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
2004						
June .....	1,379	134,588	1,077	110,804	222	27,307
July .....	2,094	253,929	1,860	234,877	885	145,895
August .....	809	69,033	745	63,876	194	17,698
September .....	708	68,972	637	63,102	189	25,808
October .....	1,242	127,918	1,101	117,375	372	48,265
November .....	1,399	130,423	1,201	115,549	412	44,243
December .....	1,614	161,271	1,487	152,092	436	50,726
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

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

Industry	Mass layoff events				Initial claimants for unemployment insurance			
	May 2007	March 2008	April 2008	May 2008	May 2007	March 2008	April 2008	May 2008
<b>Seasonally adjusted</b>								
Total .....	1,199	1,571	1,308	1,626	120,587	157,156	133,914	171,387
Total, private nonfarm .....	1,096	1,460	1,186	1,496	113,069	147,537	124,053	161,912
Manufacturing .....	370	482	483	528	48,910	64,088	60,552	72,058
<b>Not seasonally adjusted</b>								
Total <sup>1</sup> .....	923	1,089	1,272	1,552	85,816	114,541	130,810	159,471
Total, private .....	880	1,063	1,234	1,467	82,760	111,984	127,631	152,510
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting .....	24	24	62	29	1,607	1,837	6,006	2,048
Total, private nonfarm .....	856	1,039	1,172	1,438	81,153	110,147	121,625	150,462
Mining .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	5	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	458
Utilities .....	5	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	4	439	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	475
Construction .....	91	119	112	167	6,230	7,891	8,106	12,411
Manufacturing .....	224	333	394	388	26,527	43,740	48,188	51,698
Food .....	34	58	66	48	2,579	7,705	7,085	4,800
Beverage and tobacco products .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	6	4	5	( <sup>2</sup> )	540	422	273
Textile mills .....	9	14	10	6	920	2,745	1,065	520
Textile product mills <sup>3</sup> .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	5	8	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	700	580
Apparel <sup>3</sup> .....	5	8	10	14	562	544	872	1,171
Leather and allied products .....	-	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Wood products .....	20	30	33	24	1,823	2,419	3,973	2,455
Paper .....	8	9	7	11	680	827	419	1,091
Printing and related support activities .....	7	9	11	9	551	736	1,136	833
Petroleum and coal products .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Chemicals .....	6	3	8	9	377	140	621	696
Plastics and rubber products <sup>3</sup> .....	11	27	28	21	810	2,201	2,522	1,793
Nonmetallic mineral products .....	7	15	14	14	583	1,224	1,251	1,175
Primary metals .....	13	10	14	9	963	873	1,386	1,217
Fabricated metal products .....	10	20	22	29	699	1,878	1,612	2,596
Machinery <sup>3</sup> .....	16	15	19	25	1,430	2,447	2,393	3,758
Computer and electronic products .....	11	10	15	14	758	917	1,544	1,250
Electrical equipment and appliances .....	7	9	13	13	1,622	2,692	1,153	1,845
Transportation equipment <sup>3</sup> .....	40	72	89	101	10,268	14,318	17,617	21,667
Furniture and related products <sup>3</sup> .....	11	11	18	20	1,063	842	1,746	3,285
Miscellaneous manufacturing <sup>3</sup> .....	5	4	3	5	613	301	395	445
Wholesale trade .....	10	22	26	21	1,021	1,624	2,649	1,513
Retail trade .....	87	94	95	109	7,827	9,788	7,933	10,090
Transportation and warehousing .....	31	92	108	99	2,782	10,629	12,228	11,176
Information .....	23	35	33	56	4,355	4,316	3,446	9,251
Finance and insurance <sup>3</sup> .....	33	46	43	38	2,414	3,692	2,978	2,666
Real estate and rental and leasing <sup>3</sup> .....	4	5	7	6	344	552	864	407
Professional and technical services <sup>3</sup> .....	41	24	59	66	3,168	3,225	7,282	6,924
Management of companies and enterprises .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	4	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	383
Administrative and waste services <sup>3</sup> .....	119	130	168	192	9,762	10,076	16,831	16,175
Educational services .....	4	6	5	6	204	1,191	464	383
Health care and social assistance .....	54	20	16	85	4,684	1,347	1,016	7,643
Arts, entertainment, and recreation .....	20	8	28	32	1,166	492	2,078	1,993
Accommodation and food services .....	87	90	68	122	8,401	10,328	6,743	13,212
Other services, except public administration .....	20	10	5	38	1,684	906	310	3,604
Unclassified .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Government .....	43	26	38	85	3,056	2,557	3,179	6,961
Federal .....	8	7	7	16	634	569	490	1,656
State .....	7	7	10	14	594	618	748	867
Local .....	28	12	21	55	1,828	1,370	1,941	4,438

<sup>1</sup> Data were reported by all states and the District of Columbia.

<sup>2</sup> Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.

<sup>3</sup> 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, April 2006 to May 2008, not seasonally adjusted**

Date	Total mass layoffs		Private nonfarm					
			Mass layoffs		Extended mass layoffs lasting more than 30 days		Realization rates <sup>1</sup>	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
2006								
April .....	1,140	121,589	1,038	112,964				
May .....	872	84,809	794	78,663				
June .....	1,489	164,761	1,224	140,687				
Second Quarter .....	3,501	371,159	3,056	332,314	1,353	264,927	44.3	79.7
July .....	1,511	166,857	1,335	154,342				
August .....	708	72,844	656	69,054				
September .....	865	87,699	785	81,274				
Third Quarter .....	3,084	327,400	2,776	304,670	929	161,764	33.5	53.1
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	330,901	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	259,082	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	1,019	173,518	33.7	54.7
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	346,030	39.5	69.8
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	<sup>2,p</sup> 1,111	<sup>2,p</sup> 165,933	<sup>p</sup> 29.7	<sup>p</sup> 45.1
April .....	1,272	130,810	1,172	121,625				
May .....	1,552	159,471	1,438	150,462				

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>p</sup> = 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			
	May 2007	March 2008	April 2008	May 2008	May 2007	March 2008	April 2008	May 2008
United States <sup>1</sup> .....	923	1,089	1,272	1,552	85,816	114,541	130,810	159,471
Northeast .....	150	180	244	266	12,593	21,202	24,621	25,619
New England .....	25	14	59	32	1,887	1,014	6,506	3,218
Middle Atlantic .....	125	166	185	234	10,706	20,188	18,115	22,401
South .....	222	245	256	402	22,490	28,097	27,299	42,832
South Atlantic .....	113	139	139	199	9,597	14,166	11,989	15,761
East South Central .....	55	53	59	116	7,748	6,680	8,783	16,810
West South Central .....	54	53	58	87	5,145	7,251	6,527	10,261
Midwest .....	217	287	330	390	23,747	34,885	37,169	45,462
East North Central .....	153	224	267	312	15,731	27,847	31,172	36,332
West North Central .....	64	63	63	78	8,016	7,038	5,997	9,130
West .....	334	377	442	494	26,986	30,357	41,721	45,558
Mountain .....	29	43	67	62	2,309	4,001	7,701	5,548
Pacific .....	305	334	375	432	24,677	26,356	34,020	40,010

<sup>1</sup> 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			
	May 2007	March 2008	April 2008	May 2008	May 2007	March 2008	April 2008	May 2008
Total <sup>1</sup> .....	923	1,089	1,272	1,552	85,816	114,541	130,810	159,471
Alabama .....	14	11	21	35	1,379	927	2,789	4,044
Alaska .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	4	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	499	( <sup>2</sup> )
Arizona .....	6	9	30	9	524	808	4,424	872
Arkansas .....	5	5	3	7	432	867	330	648
California .....	270	296	321	382	21,582	21,812	28,172	34,085
Colorado .....	3	6	5	8	276	533	455	930
Connecticut .....	6	( <sup>2</sup> )	7	11	521	( <sup>2</sup> )	535	924
Delaware .....	-	4	3	3	-	298	920	203
District of Columbia .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	-	( <sup>2</sup> )
Florida .....	60	63	65	125	4,066	5,145	4,130	8,841
Georgia .....	21	20	29	32	2,641	3,302	2,606	3,170
Hawaii .....	3	4	5	11	251	304	1,583	1,118
Idaho .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	12	3	12	( <sup>2</sup> )	1,187	206	1,131
Illinois .....	30	51	47	59	3,074	6,694	4,646	8,058
Indiana .....	18	27	40	44	1,416	3,870	4,031	4,943
Iowa .....	5	11	13	12	481	1,051	1,474	3,033
Kansas .....	10	8	5	12	613	1,069	359	893
Kentucky .....	19	26	21	39	4,593	4,555	4,651	8,666
Louisiana .....	8	6	5	22	878	411	396	3,101
Maine .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	3	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	184	-
Maryland .....	5	( <sup>2</sup> )	6	4	426	( <sup>2</sup> )	531	318
Massachusetts .....	9	5	18	9	649	433	1,936	946
Michigan .....	46	41	65	85	4,520	3,980	11,156	8,139
Minnesota .....	9	9	15	10	1,090	617	1,148	1,075
Mississippi .....	9	7	9	18	461	493	773	1,682
Missouri .....	35	28	24	35	5,459	3,799	2,205	3,298
Montana .....	6	( <sup>2</sup> )	3	6	419	( <sup>2</sup> )	212	437
Nebraska .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	6	3	5	( <sup>2</sup> )	412	453	413
Nevada .....	6	7	16	14	429	522	1,558	1,057
New Hampshire .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	3	5	5	( <sup>2</sup> )	167	451	384
New Jersey .....	31	34	34	38	2,936	4,007	3,070	3,813
New Mexico .....	3	5	4	9	312	685	316	690
New York .....	29	29	64	95	2,358	3,436	7,539	9,613
North Carolina .....	8	16	6	9	547	1,367	555	1,163
North Dakota .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Ohio .....	34	52	67	67	3,350	6,236	6,951	7,621
Oklahoma .....	5	6	( <sup>2</sup> )	3	428	868	( <sup>2</sup> )	624
Oregon .....	15	21	20	24	1,528	3,275	1,563	3,449
Pennsylvania .....	65	103	87	101	5,412	12,745	7,506	8,975
Rhode Island .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	4	11	3	( <sup>2</sup> )	303	1,641	243
South Carolina .....	6	17	22	11	473	1,659	2,563	809
South Dakota .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Tennessee .....	13	9	8	24	1,315	705	570	2,418
Texas .....	36	36	48	55	3,407	5,105	5,594	5,888
Utah .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	5	4	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	464	431
Vermont .....	5	( <sup>2</sup> )	15	4	317	( <sup>2</sup> )	1,759	721
Virginia .....	12	14	6	11	1,370	1,808	494	904
Washington .....	15	12	25	13	1,206	913	2,203	1,211
West Virginia .....	-	3	( <sup>2</sup> )	3	-	428	( <sup>2</sup> )	277
Wisconsin .....	25	53	48	57	3,371	7,067	4,388	7,571
Wyoming .....	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	-
Puerto Rico .....	12	4	17	17	978	344	1,437	2,626

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 3.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

<sup>2</sup> Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.