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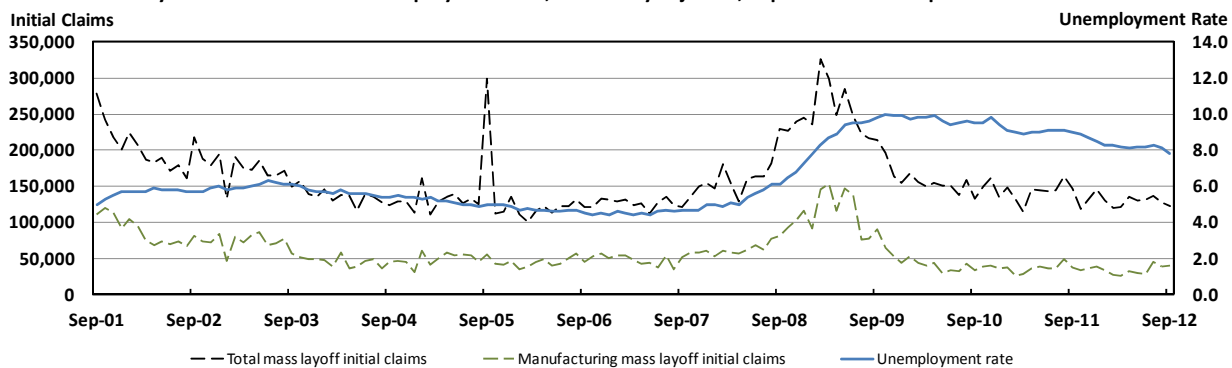
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MASS LAYOFFS — SEPTEMBER 2012

Employers took 1,316 mass layoff actions in September involving 122,462 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 in September increased by 49 from August, while the number of associated initial claims decreased by 4,992. In September, 366 mass layoff events were reported in the manufacturing sector resulting in 39,748 initial claims. 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, September 2001-September 2012



The national unemployment rate was 7.8 percent in September, down from 8.1 percent the prior month and from 9.0 percent a year earlier. Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 114,000 over the month and by 1,806,000 over the year.

Industry Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

The number of mass layoff events in September was 811, not seasonally adjusted, resulting in 70,570 initial claims for unemployment insurance. (See table 2.) Over the year, the number of average weekly mass layoff events for September decreased by 35 to 203, and associated average weekly initial claims decreased by 5,803 to 17,643. Thirteen of the 19 major industry sectors in the private economy reported over-the-year decreases in average weekly initial claims, with the largest decrease occurring in

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

Industry	Initial claims	September peak	
		Year	Initial claims
Temporary help services ¹	6,131	2001	12,752
Motion picture and video production	3,647	1997	11,176
Professional employer organizations ¹	1,593	2008	4,520
Heavy duty truck manufacturing	1,544	2000	4,198
Warehouse clubs and supercenters	1,494	2009	1,705
Food service contractors	1,466	2001	1,631
Supermarkets and other grocery stores	1,151	2005	4,873
Light truck and utility vehicle manufacturing	(²)	2000	3,688
Tire manufacturing, except retreading	(²)	1996	1,249
Discount department stores	819	2005	3,550

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

² Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.

construction. (See table 3.) In September 2012, the six-digit industry with the largest number of private nonfarm initial claims due to mass layoffs was temporary help services. (See table A.)

In September, the manufacturing sector accounted for 29 percent of mass layoff events and 34 percent of 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 decreases in average weekly initial claims. (See table 3.)

Geographic Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Among the census regions, the South registered the largest number of initial claims due to mass layoffs in September. Three of the 4 regions experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly initial claims, with the largest decrease occurring in the West. (See table 4.)

Among the states, California recorded the highest number of mass layoff initial claims in September, followed by Pennsylvania and New York. Thirty-four states and the District of Columbia experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly initial claims, led by California and Pennsylvania. (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 Extended Mass Layoffs news release for Third Quarter 2012 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, November 8, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. (EST). The Mass Layoffs news release for October is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, November 20, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. (EST).

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, October 2008 to September 2012, seasonally adjusted

Date	Total		Private nonfarm		Manufacturing	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
2008						
October	2,201	226,853	2,043	213,454	698	93,252
November	2,406	239,239	2,247	225,404	907	103,836
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	1,592	161,145	1,410	145,494	360	39,977
December	1,477	135,849	1,271	121,171	322	36,267
2011						
January	1,536	148,952	1,348	131,869	337	37,477
February	1,434	131,569	1,242	116,745	297	26,696
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

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

Date	Total		Private nonfarm		Manufacturing	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
2008						
October	2,125	221,784	1,917	205,553	689	100,457
November	2,574	241,589	2,389	226,657	997	107,620
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						
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

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	
	September 2011	September 2012	September 2011	September 2012	September 2011	September 2012	September 2011	September 2012
Total ²	1,189	811	117,232	70,570	238	203	23,446	17,643
Total, private	1,108	768	108,119	67,323	222	192	21,624	16,831
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	13	19	819	1,109	3	5	164	277
Total, private nonfarm	1,095	749	107,300	66,214	219	187	21,460	16,554
Mining	(³)	7	(³)	891	(³)	2	(³)	223
Utilities	3	(³)	159	(³)	1	(³)	32	(³)
Construction	150	65	10,813	4,765	30	16	2,163	1,191
Construction of buildings	27	17	1,933	1,174	5	4	387	294
Heavy and civil engineering construction	38	13	3,353	1,104	8	3	671	276
Specialty trade contractors	85	35	5,527	2,487	17	9	1,105	622
Manufacturing	296	221	32,058	22,748	59	55	6,412	5,687
Food	58	41	6,532	3,143	12	10	1,306	786
Beverage and tobacco products	7	7	656	560	1	2	131	140
Textile mills	11	5	1,784	858	2	1	357	215
Textile product mills	(³)	4	(³)	318	(³)	1	(³)	80
Apparel	11	4	993	255	2	1	199	64
Leather and allied products	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Wood products	21	8	1,662	660	4	2	332	165
Paper	6	(³)	544	(³)	1	(³)	109	(³)
Printing and related support activities	6	3	451	203	1	1	90	51
Petroleum and coal products	(³)	3	(³)	235	(³)	1	(³)	59
Chemicals	5	7	376	541	1	2	75	135
Plastics and rubber products	14	7	1,011	1,180	3	2	202	295
Nonmetallic mineral products	3	8	363	547	1	2	73	137
Primary metals	8	17	869	1,877	2	4	174	469
Fabricated metal products	20	12	2,010	1,007	4	3	402	252
Machinery	22	22	3,069	2,748	4	6	614	687
Computer and electronic products	19	12	1,235	711	4	3	247	178
Electrical equipment and appliances	17	14	1,872	1,739	3	4	374	435
Transportation equipment	38	30	6,006	4,582	8	8	1,201	1,146
Furniture and related products	18	9	1,342	942	4	2	268	236
Miscellaneous manufacturing	7	3	912	314	1	1	182	79
Wholesale trade	16	20	1,316	1,646	3	5	263	412
Retail trade ⁴	120	86	12,805	6,930	24	22	2,561	1,733
Building material and garden supply stores	10	8	1,331	741	2	2	266	185
Food and beverage stores	26	19	2,104	1,219	5	5	421	305
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	7	7	613	399	1	2	123	100
General merchandise stores	34	36	5,644	3,433	7	9	1,129	858
Transportation and warehousing ⁴	49	29	4,611	2,132	10	7	922	533
Truck transportation	5	4	673	211	1	1	135	53
Transit and ground passenger transportation	26	10	1,970	792	5	3	394	198
Support activities for transportation	5	3	890	166	1	1	178	42
Information	36	33	6,431	4,673	7	8	1,286	1,168
Finance and insurance	22	13	1,821	1,085	4	3	364	271
Real estate and rental and leasing	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Professional and technical services	39	24	6,476	1,793	8	6	1,295	448
Management of companies and enterprises	3	6	182	638	1	2	36	160
Administrative and waste services	186	131	17,285	10,087	37	33	3,457	2,522
Educational services	12	5	791	294	2	1	158	74
Health care and social assistance	39	28	2,711	1,962	8	7	542	491
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	27	30	2,092	2,173	5	8	418	543
Accommodation and food services	82	43	6,357	3,635	16	11	1,271	909
Accommodation	33	19	3,079	1,268	7	5	616	317
Food services and drinking places	49	24	3,278	2,367	10	6	656	592
Other services, except public administration	12	4	1,067	451	2	1	213	113
Unclassified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Government	81	43	9,113	3,247	16	11	1,823	812
Federal	17	1	1,685	85	3	-	337	21
State	33	11	2,857	949	7	3	571	237
State government education	13	4	1,171	463	3	1	234	116
Local	31	31	4,571	2,213	6	8	914	553
Local government education	20	22	3,741	1,711	4	6	748	428

¹ Average weekly analysis mitigates the effect of differing lengths of months. There were 5 weeks in September 2011 and 4 weeks in September 2012. 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	
	September 2011	September 2012	September 2011	September 2012	September 2011	September 2012	September 2011	September 2012
Total ²	1,189	811	117,232	70,570	238	203	23,446	17,643
Northeast	286	143	26,131	12,110	57	36	5,226	3,028
Connecticut	4	3	242	200	1	1	48	50
Maine	3	-	194	-	1	-	39	-
Massachusetts	8	4	617	418	2	1	123	105
New Hampshire	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-
New Jersey	40	26	3,922	2,156	8	7	784	539
New York	91	46	7,664	4,140	18	12	1,533	1,035
Pennsylvania	132	61	12,300	5,026	26	15	2,460	1,257
Rhode Island	(³)	3	(³)	170	(³)	1	(³)	43
Vermont	4	-	537	-	1	-	107	-
South	311	253	28,956	23,427	62	63	5,791	5,857
Alabama	14	9	1,419	1,396	3	2	284	349
Arkansas	9	5	825	598	2	1	165	150
Delaware	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-
District of Columbia	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-
Florida	69	57	4,538	3,549	14	14	908	887
Georgia	28	18	3,256	1,477	6	5	651	369
Kentucky	20	19	2,202	1,556	4	5	440	389
Louisiana	16	27	1,554	2,039	3	7	311	510
Maryland ⁴	9	11	617	919	2	3	123	230
Mississippi	8	12	521	910	2	3	104	228
North Carolina	44	37	5,449	3,622	9	9	1,090	906
Oklahoma	3	(³)	372	(³)	1	(³)	74	(³)
South Carolina	20	5	1,944	758	4	1	389	190
Tennessee	10	(³)	846	(³)	2	(³)	169	(³)
Texas	48	37	4,470	3,485	10	9	894	871
Virginia	8	12	569	2,615	2	3	114	654
West Virginia	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-
Midwest	219	156	21,885	14,914	44	39	4,377	3,729
Illinois	48	27	5,092	2,481	10	7	1,018	620
Indiana	22	15	2,179	1,317	4	4	436	329
Iowa	8	9	741	919	2	2	148	230
Kansas	3	6	334	798	1	2	67	200
Michigan	31	23	2,186	1,808	6	6	437	452
Minnesota	6	6	419	507	1	2	84	127
Missouri	21	13	1,520	1,908	4	3	304	477
Nebraska	3	(³)	578	(³)	1	(³)	116	(³)
North Dakota	-	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)
Ohio	37	30	4,985	2,532	7	8	997	633
South Dakota	-	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)
Wisconsin	40	21	3,851	1,742	8	5	770	436
West	373	259	40,260	20,119	75	65	8,052	5,030
Alaska	6	(³)	532	(³)	1	(³)	106	(³)
Arizona	9	3	678	207	2	1	136	52
California	297	213	33,690	16,581	59	53	6,738	4,145
Colorado	7	4	680	307	1	1	136	77
Hawaii	(³)	4	(³)	296	(³)	1	(³)	74
Idaho	5	(³)	365	(³)	1	(³)	73	(³)
Montana	3	(³)	228	(³)	1	(³)	46	(³)
Nevada	13	7	1,274	574	3	2	255	144
New Mexico	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Oregon	14	9	1,178	632	3	2	236	158
Utah	4	(³)	329	(³)	1	(³)	66	(³)
Washington	11	13	1,006	1,082	2	3	201	271
Wyoming	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rico	33	3	2,823	446	7	1	565	112

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.