

News

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EXTENDED MASS LAYOFFS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2007 AND ANNUAL TOTALS FOR 2007

In the fourth quarter of 2007, there were 1,619 mass layoff events that resulted in the separation of 265,454 workers from their jobs for at least 31 days, according to preliminary figures released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The construction industry experienced a record high in both layoff events and separations in the fourth quarter of 2007. Other industries registering fourth quarter highs in terms of separated workers were arts, entertainment, and recreation and finance and insurance, the latter mostly due to higher layoff activity in credit intermediation and related activities. Both the total number of layoff events and the number of separations were lower than during the October-December 2006 time period. (See table A.) Fourth quarter 2007 layoff data are preliminary and are subject to revision. (See the Technical Note.)

Among the 7 categories of economic reasons for layoff, the completion of seasonal work accounted for the highest share of events (42 percent) and number of separations (119,325) in October-December 2007. Layoffs due to business demand reasons had the next highest proportion of events (34 percent). (See table B and the chart.) The only category of economic reasons for which the number of separations increased over the year was financial issues.

Sixty-one extended mass layoff events involved the movement of work and were associated with the separation of 10,076 workers. (See table C.) These events accounted for 7 percent of the nonseasonal layoff events and nonseasonal separations.

Permanent closure of worksites occurred in 8 percent of all extended mass layoff events, the lowest proportion reported since collection began in 1996. Events involving permanent closures affected 27,723 workers, down from 43,158 separations reported during the fourth quarter 2006. Fifty-six percent of employers reporting an extended layoff in the fourth quarter of 2007 indicated they anticipated some type of recall, about the same as last year.

The national unemployment rate averaged 4.6 percent, not seasonally adjusted, in the fourth quarter of 2007, up from 4.2 percent a year earlier. Private nonfarm payroll employment, not seasonally adjusted, increased by 0.9 percent, or about 1.1 million, over the year.

For all of 2007, the total number of extended mass layoff events was 5,170, affecting 931,053 workers. While the total number of layoff events increased in 2007 from a year earlier, the number of separations

Table A. Selected measures of extended mass layoff activity

Period	Layoff events	Separations	Initial claimants
2003			
January-March	1,502	286,947	297,608
April-June	1,799	368,273	348,966
July-September	1,190	236,333	227,909
October-December	1,690	325,333	326,328
2004			
January-March	1,339	276,503	238,392
April-June	1,358	278,831	254,063
July-September	886	164,608	148,575
October-December	1,427	273,967	262,049
2005			
January-March	1,142	186,506	185,486
April-June	1,203	246,099	212,673
July-September	1,136	201,878	190,186
October-December	1,400	250,178	246,188
2006			
January-March	963	183,089	193,510
April-June	1,353	295,964	264,927
July-September	929	160,254	161,764
October-December ^r ...	1,640	296,662	330,901
2007			
January-March ^r	1,111	226,074	199,295
April-June ^r	1,421	278,719	258,812
July-September ^r	1,019	160,806	172,508
October-December ^p ...	1,619	265,454	234,612

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

decreased over the period. Additional information on the annual data is available starting on page 8 of this release.

Industry Distribution of Extended Layoffs

Construction industries experienced a record high number of extended mass layoff events (622) and separations (78,716) in the fourth quarter of 2007. (See table 1.) The largest number of separations was in heavy and civil engineering construction (44,151, mostly associated with highway, street, and bridge construction), followed by specialty trade contractors (22,559) and construction of buildings (12,006).

Manufacturing accounted for 24 percent of events and 27 percent of separations in the fourth quarter, largely in food manufacturing and transportation equipment manufacturing. Layoffs in the administrative and waste services sector accounted for 8 percent of all extended mass layoff events and 7 percent of separations. The layoffs in this sector were concentrated in landscaping services. Cutbacks in the finance and

Table B. Distribution of extended layoff events and separations by economic reason categories, October-December 2007^P

Category	Layoff events		Separations	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,619	100.0	265,454	100.0
Business demand	548	33.8	73,241	27.6
Organizational changes	81	5.0	21,122	8.0
Financial issues	111	6.9	22,238	8.4
Production specific	22	1.4	3,655	1.4
Disaster/safety	5	.3	692	.3
Seasonal	683	42.2	119,325	45.0
Other/miscellaneous	169	10.4	25,181	9.5

^P = preliminary.

insurance sector accounted for 6 percent of events and separations and were primarily in the credit intermediation and related activities industry.

Information technology-producing industries (communications equipment, communications services, computer hardware, and software and computer services) accounted for 24 extended mass layoff events and 3,351 separations during the fourth quarter of 2007, the lowest figures reported for any quarter since 2000. (See table 6.)

Reasons for Extended Layoffs

Among the seven categories of economic reasons for extended mass layoffs, 42 percent of the events were related to seasonal factors (seasonal and vacation period). These events resulted in 119,325 separations during the fourth quarter of 2007. (See table 2.) Seasonal job cuts were most numerous in heavy and civil engineering construction (highway, street, and bridge construction), amusements, gambling, and recreation (amusement and theme parks), and in specialty trade contractors (nonresidential site preparation contractors).

Business demand reasons (contract cancellation, contract completion, domestic competition, excess inventory, import competition, and slack work) accounted for 34 percent of the extended layoff events and resulted in 73,241 separations, primarily in specialty trade contractors and in heavy and civil engineering construction.

Job losses related to financial issues (bankruptcy, cost control, and financial difficulty) accounted for 7 percent of events and resulted in 22,238 separations. These layoffs were most common among workers in credit intermediation and related activities and in hospitals.

Over-the-year decreases in separations were reported in 6 of the 7 categories of economic reasons for layoffs, with the largest declines in organizational change (-14,995) and seasonal (-10,207). Separations due to financial issues registered the only over-the-year increase (+8,169).

Movement of Work

Table C. Extended mass layoff events and separations, selected measures, fourth quarter 2007^p

Action	Layoff events	Separations
Total, private nonfarm.....	1,619	265,454
Total, excluding seasonal and vacation events ¹	936	146,129
Total events with movement of work ²	61	10,076
Movement of work actions	80	(³)
With separations reported	61	6,682
With separations unknown..	19	(³)

¹ The questions on movement of work were not asked of employers when the reason for layoff was either seasonal work or vacation period.

² A layoff event can involve more than one movement of work action.

³ Data are not available.

^p = preliminary.

Between October and December of 2007, 61 extended mass layoff events involved the movement of work and were associated with the separation of 10,076 workers. (See table C.) These movements of work were to other domestic locations or to locations outside of the U.S., and they occurred either within the same company or to other companies. A year earlier, there were 69 layoff events and 15,782 separations associated with the movement of work. (See table 10.)

Among the 61 extended mass layoff events with reported relocation of work in the fourth quarter of 2007, 66 percent were permanent closures of worksites, which affected 7,147 workers. In comparison, 8 percent of the total extended mass layoff events reported for the quarter involved the permanent closure of worksites.

Of the layoffs involving the movement of work, 70 percent of the events and 71 percent of the laid-off workers were from manufacturing industries during the fourth quarter. (See table 7.) Among all private nonfarm extended layoffs, manufacturing accounted for 24 percent of the events and 27 percent of the separations.

While 5 percent of the extended mass layoff events in the total private nonfarm economy were because of organizational change, such changes accounted for 44 percent of layoff events associated with work relocation and resulted in 4,605 separations during the fourth quarter. (See table 8.)

Among the regions, the Midwest accounted for the largest proportion of workers affected by extended mass layoffs associated with the movement of work (57 percent), followed by the South (21 percent), the Northeast (14 percent), and the West (9 percent). (See table 9.)

Table D. Movement of work actions by type of separation where the number of separations is known by employers, fourth quarter 2007^P

Activities	Actions ¹	Separations
With separations reported	61	6,682
By location		
Out-of-country relocations ...	24	2,667
Within company	23	2,580
Different company	1	87
Domestic relocations	37	4,015
Within company	36	3,835
Different company	1	180
By company		
Within company	59	6,415
Domestic	36	3,835
Out of country	23	2,580
Different company	2	267
Domestic	1	180
Out of country	1	87

¹ Only actions for which separations associated with the movement of work were reported are shown.

^P = preliminary.

Some extended mass layoff events involve more than one relocation of work action. For example, an extended mass layoff event at an employer may involve job loss due to movement of work to both another domestic location of the company and a location out of the country. This would be counted as two movement of work actions. The 61 extended layoff events with movement of work for the fourth quarter of 2007 involved 80 identifiable relocations of work. (See table C.) An identifiable relocation of work occurs when the employer provides sufficient information on the new location of work and/or the number of workers affected by the movement. Of the 80 relocations, employers were able to provide information on the specific number of separations associated with the movement of work component of the layoff in 61 actions involving 6,682 workers. (See table 10.)

In the 61 actions where employers were able to provide more complete separations information, 97 percent of relocations (59 out of 61) occurred within the same company. (See table D.) Sixty-one percent of these relocations (37 out of 61) were domestic reassignments, while 39 percent involved out-of-country moves (24 out of 61). Domestic relocation of work—both within the company and to other companies—affected 4,015 workers. Out-of-country relocations were associated with the separation of 2,667 workers, 2 percent of all nonseasonal and nonvacation extended mass layoff separations. (See table 11.)

Table E. Summary of employer expectations of a recall from extended layoff, fourth quarter 2006-fourth quarter 2007

Nature of the recall	Percentage of events				
	IV 2006	I 2007	II 2007	III 2007 ^r	IV 2007 ^p
Anticipate a recall.....	56.7	40.1	57.1	37.9	56.5
Timeframe					
Within 6 months	89.8	83.6	87.5	83.9	88.0
Within 3 months	38.9	51.3	59.7	62.7	33.7
Size					
At least half	93.5	87.2	93.3	86.0	91.1
All workers	53.7	38.6	57.2	45.6	50.3

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

Recall Expectations

Fifty-six percent of employers reporting an extended layoff in the fourth quarter of 2007 indicated they anticipated some type of recall, about the same as a year earlier. (See table E.) Of those employers expecting to recall workers, 50 percent anticipated recalling all of the separated employees, 91 percent anticipated extending the offer to at least half of all laid-off employees, and 88 percent expected a recall within 6 months.

Excluding layoff events due to seasonal work and vacation period (in which 98 percent of the employers expected a recall), employers anticipated recalling laid-off workers in 26 percent of the events, essentially unchanged from 27 percent a year earlier.

Size of Extended Layoffs

The average size of a layoff (as measured by separations per layoff event) in the fourth quarter 2007 was 164, compared to 181 per layoff in 2006. The average differed widely by industry, ranging from a low of 75 in clothing and clothing accessories stores to a high of 776 in transit and ground passenger transportation.

Layoff events during October-December 2007 continued to be concentrated at the lower end of the extended layoff-size spectrum, with 69 percent of the events involving fewer than 150 workers. Layoffs involving less than 150 workers accounted for 36 percent of all separations during the period, compared to 32 percent in the fourth quarter of 2006. Separations involving 500 or more workers, while comprising only 4 percent of the events, accounted for 24 percent of all separations, down from 28 percent a year earlier. (See table F.)

Table F. Distribution of extended layoff events by size of layoff, fourth quarter 2007^p

Size	Layoff events		Separations	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,619	100.0	265,454	100.0
50-99	720	44.5	50,227	18.9
100-149	392	24.2	46,512	17.5
150-199	163	10.1	26,985	10.2
200-299	175	10.8	40,286	15.2
300-499	104	6.4	36,636	13.8
500-999	43	2.7	28,790	10.8
1,000 or more ..	22	1.4	36,018	13.6

^p = preliminary.

Initial Claimant Characteristics

A total of 234,612 initial claimants for unemployment insurance were associated with extended mass layoffs in the fourth quarter of 2007. Of these claimants, 12 percent were black, 18 percent were Hispanic, 29 percent were women, 36 percent were 30 to 44 years of age, and 16 percent were 55 years of age or older. (See table 3.) Among persons in the civilian labor force for the same period, 11 percent were black, 14 percent were Hispanic, 47 percent were women, 33 percent were age 30 to 44, and 18 percent were 55 years of age or older.

Geographic Distribution

Among the 4 census regions, the highest number of separations due to extended mass layoff events in the fourth quarter of 2007 was in the Midwest, with 110,899, followed by the West, with 79,404. (See table 4.) Extended mass layoffs in the Midwest were largely in heavy and civil engineering construction and in specialty trade contractors.

The Midwest region reported the largest over-the-year decrease in separations (-20,206), mainly due to fewer layoffs in transportation equipment manufacturing, followed by the South (-10,900). The West region experienced the only over-the-year increase in separations (+9,190), due in part to layoffs in food manufacturing. Six of the 9 geographic divisions reported over-the-year decreases in laid-off workers, with the largest declines occurring in the East North Central (-18,848) and South Atlantic (-11,507) divisions. The Pacific division reported the largest increase in separations (+12,536).

California recorded the largest number of worker separations (58,922), followed by Illinois (30,467), Ohio (19,959), Michigan (16,067), Wisconsin (12,107), and Minnesota (12,047). These six states accounted for 59 percent of total extended mass layoff events and 56 percent of total separations during the fourth quarter of 2007. (See table 5.) After excluding the substantial impact of seasonal reasons, California still reported the highest number of job cuts (49,548), largely due to layoffs in credit intermediation and related activities and in specialty trade contractors.

Table G. Mass layoff events and separations, selected metropolitan areas

Metropolitan area	Events		Separations	
	IV 2006 ^r	IV 2007 ^p	IV 2006 ^r	IV 2007 ^p
Total, nonmetropolitan areas	259	189	36,079	36,446
Total, 369 metropolitan areas	858	814	155,348	121,829
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill.-Ind.-Wis.	92	100	14,974	15,687
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Calif.	72	91	10,589	11,691
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Mich.	45	45	12,224	9,541
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N. Y.-N.J.-Pa.	44	38	5,338	6,610
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington,				
Minn.-Wis.	41	37	6,565	5,874
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, Calif.	20	39	1,842	4,086
Medford, Ore.	3	3	3,680	3,250
San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, Calif.	12	30	1,678	3,171
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, Calif.	14	15	3,282	2,991
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, Calif.	22	33	2,294	2,828

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: The geographic boundaries of the metropolitan areas shown in this table are defined in Office of Management and Budget Bulletin 07-01, December 18, 2006.

Over the year, Michigan reported the greatest decrease in separated workers in extended layoffs during the fourth quarter (-9,307), followed by Florida (-8,514) and New York (-4,182). The largest increases occurred in California (+18,483), Tennessee (+5,073), and Iowa (+2,288).

Fifty percent of events and 46 percent of separations (121,829) occurred in metropolitan areas in the fourth quarter of 2007, compared with 52 percent of events and 52 percent of separations (155,348) during the fourth quarter of 2006. Among the 369 metropolitan areas, Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill.-Ind.-Wis., reported the highest number of separations (15,687) in the fourth quarter of 2007. Next were Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Calif., with 11,691 separations and Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Mich., with 9,541 separations. (See table G.) Employers located in nonmetropolitan areas separated 36,446 workers in extended mass layoffs, essentially unchanged from 36,079 workers in the fourth quarter of 2006.

Review of 2007

For all of 2007, employers reported 5,170 extended mass layoff actions, affecting 931,053 workers. Compared to 2006, the number of events was up from 4,885, but the number of separations was down slightly from 935,969. (See table H.) The annual average national unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.6 percent from 2006, while private nonfarm payroll employment increased by 1.1 percent, or 1,310,000 jobs.

Table H. Selected measures of mass layoff activity, 1996-2007

Year	Layoff events	Separations	Initial claimants
1996	4,760	948,122	805,810
1997	4,671	947,843	879,831
1998	4,859	991,245	1,056,462
1999	4,556	901,451	796,917
2000	4,591	915,962	846,267
2001	7,375	1,524,832	1,457,512
2002	6,337	1,272,331	1,218,143
2003	6,181	1,216,886	1,200,811
2004	5,010	993,909	903,079
2005	4,881	884,661	834,533
2006 ^r	4,885	935,969	951,102
2007 ^p	5,170	931,053	865,227

^p = preliminary.

^r = revised.

Eleven percent of extended events in 2007 were permanent closures, accounting for 124,937 worker separations. Permanent closures were most numerous in the manufacturing sector, primarily in transportation equipment manufacturing, plastics and rubber products, food, and computer and electronic products. When compared with 2006, layoff activity resulting in permanent closures decreased in 2007.

In 2007, employers expected a recall in 49 percent of the mass layoff events, down from 52 percent of events in 2006.

Industry Distribution of Extended Layoffs

Manufacturing had the largest share of extended events and separations in 2007—25 percent of both. Separations were most numerous in transportation equipment manufacturing (59,150, mainly in motor vehicle manufacturing) and in food manufacturing (42,541, largely fruit and vegetable canning and fresh and frozen seafood processing). Compared to 2006, 13 of the 21 manufacturing subgroups had decreases in the number of separations, with the largest decreases occurring in transportation equipment manufacturing (-22,128) and food manufacturing (-7,688). Fabricated metal product manufacturing had the largest increase (+2,650), followed by machinery manufacturing (+2,404) and wood product manufacturing (+2,209).

The construction, and finance and insurance industries, both had the highest levels of layoff events and separations since the series began in 1996. Construction layoffs were primarily concentrated in heavy and civil engineering construction (highway, street, and bridge construction), and layoffs in finance and insurance were highest in credit intermediation and related activities (real estate credit).

Reasons for Extended Layoffs

In 2007, seasonal factors (seasonal and vacation period) were the most-cited reason for layoff among the seven categories, accounting for 35 percent of all layoff events and 38 percent of all separations, unchanged from 2006. Seasonal layoffs in 2007 occurred primarily in transit and ground passenger transportation, heavy and civil engineering construction, and food services and drinking places.

Layoff activity due to business demand reasons (contract cancellation, contract completion, domestic competition, excess inventory, import competition, and slack work) also accounted for 35 percent of the extended mass layoff events and resulted in 237,301 separations. Business demand layoffs occurred largely among specialty trade contractors, transportation equipment manufacturing, administrative and support services, and heavy and civil engineering construction.

Over-the-year decreases in separations were reported in 5 of the 7 categories of economic reasons for layoffs, with the largest declines in organizational change (-27,228) and in business demand reasons (-20,577). Separations due to financial issues (+50,042) increased over the year.

Movement of Work

In 2007, there were 259 extended mass layoff events that involved work moving within the same company or to a different company, domestically or out of the U.S. The events involving movement of work were associated with the separation of 45,212 workers, about 8 percent of all separations resulting from nonseasonal/nonvacation mass layoff events. Sixty-nine percent of events with movement of work involved the permanent closure of a worksite, affecting 32,444 workers. Manufacturing industries accounted for more than two-thirds of the events and separations involving movement of work, mostly in transportation equipment manufacturing and in computer and electric product manufacturing. Among the regions, the South accounted for the largest proportion of laid-off workers associated with the movement of work (34 percent), followed by the Midwest (31 percent).

As part of the 259 layoff events, 342 identifiable movement-of-work actions were taken by employers. Employers were able to provide information on specific separations associated with the movement of work component of the layoff in 248 actions (out of the 342), which totaled 29,709 laid-off workers. Thus for 2007, the number of separations due to the movement of work ranged between 29,709 (separations in movement-of-work actions where the employer was able to provide specific detail) to 45,212 (total separations in all layoff events that included movement of work).

Of the 248 movement-of-work actions for which complete information is available, 2 out of 3 relocations were to other locations within the U.S., and 88 percent involved moving work within the company. The separation of 11,526 workers was associated with out-of-country relocations, which accounts for 39 percent of the separations related to the movement of work and 2 percent of all separations in nonseasonal/nonvacation extended mass layoff events.

Geographic Distribution

The West reported more workers affected by extended mass layoffs in 2007 than any other region, 333,954. In the West, food and beverage stores had the largest number of separations, with 51,365, followed by credit intermediation and related activities, and specialty trade contractors. The South region reported the lowest annual number of separations (152,509). Compared to 2006, 3 of the 4 geographic regions reported a decrease in laid-off workers, with the largest decline in the South (-47,302). The West had the only over-the-year increase (+86,650).

Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, California reported the largest number of separated workers in 2007 (252,805), the highest number of annual separations since 2003 and the highest number of extended mass layoff events in the program's history. States with the next highest number of separations due to extended mass layoffs were Illinois (81,719), Michigan (53,504), New York (51,755), Ohio (43,831), and New Jersey (41,389). These six states accounted for 55 percent of events and 56 percent of

separations in 2007. Florida recorded the largest over-the-year decline in separations (-41,635); California had the largest over-the-year increase in the number of separations (+91,998).

Among the 369 metropolitan areas, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Calif., reported the highest number of separations, 45,824. The next highest numbers of separations were in Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill.-Ind.-Wis., with 35,424 and New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.Y.-N.J.-Pa., with 34,287. Employers located in nonmetropolitan areas separated 101,238 workers in mass layoffs during 2007, essentially unchanged from 2006.

Note

The quarterly series on extended mass layoffs cover layoffs of at least 31-days duration that involve 50 or more individuals from a single employer filing initial claims for unemployment insurance during a consecutive 5-week period. Approximately 30 days after a mass layoff is triggered, the employer is contacted for additional information. Data for the fourth quarter are preliminary and subject to revision. This release also includes revised data for previous quarters. Data are not seasonally adjusted, but survey data suggest that there is a seasonal pattern to layoffs. Thus, comparisons between consecutive quarters should not be used as an indicator of trend.

For additional information about the program, see the Technical Note.

The report on Mass Layoffs in January 2008 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 27, 2008.

Upcoming Changes to Mass Layoff Data

With the release of January 2008 data on February 27, 2008, the Mass Layoff Statistics program will revise the basis for industry classification from the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) to the 2007 NAICS. The new classification reflects minor definitional changes within manufacturing, telecommunications, financial activities, and professional, scientific, and technical services. Several industry titles and descriptions will also be updated.

For additional information on the 2007 NAICS, see <http://www.census.gov/epcd/www/naics.html>.

Technical Note

The Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program is a federal-state program which identifies, describes, and tracks the effects of major job cutbacks, using data from each state's unemployment insurance database. Employers which have at least 50 initial claims filed against them during a consecutive 5-week period are contacted by the state agency to determine whether these separations are of at least 31 days duration, and, if so, information is obtained on the total number of persons separated and the reasons for these separations. Employers are identified according to industry classification and location, and unemployment insurance claimants are identified by such demographic factors as age, race, gender, ethnic group, and place of residence. The program yields information on an individual's entire spell of unemployment, to the point when regular unemployment insurance benefits are exhausted.

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).

Extended layoff event. Fifty or more initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits from an employer during a 5-week period, with at least 50 workers separated for more than 30 days.

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.

Layoff. The separation of persons from an employer as part of a mass layoff event. (See below.) Such layoffs involve both persons subject to recall and those who are terminated by the establishment.

Mass layoff. Fifty or more initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits from an employer beginning in a given month, regardless of duration.

Worksite closure. The complete closure of either multi-unit or single-unit employers or the partial closure of a multi-unit employer where entire worksites affected by layoffs are closed or planned to be closed.

Revisions to preliminary data

The latest quarterly data in this news release are considered preliminary. After the initial publication of quarterly information, more data are collected as remaining employer interviews for the quarter are completed and additional initial claimant information associated with extended layoff events is received.

Movement of work concepts and questions

Because of the employer interview component, the BLS decided to use the MLS program as a vehicle for collecting additional information on offshoring and outsourcing associated with job loss, by adding questions that address movement of work. The term "moving work" means that the company experiencing the layoff has reassigned work activities that were performed at a worksite by the company's employees (1) to another worksite within the company; (2) to another company under formal arrangements at the same worksite; or (3) to another company under formal arrangements at another worksite. The type of work activities subject to movement can include accounting, customer service, cleaning, warehousing, etc.

"Overseas relocation" is the movement of work from within the U.S. to locations outside of the U.S. "Overseas relocation" can occur within the same company and involve movement of work to a different location of that company outside of the U.S., or to a different company altogether.

"Domestic relocation" is the movement of work to other locations inside the U.S., either within the same company or to a different company.

"Overseas relocation" and "domestic relocation" are no longer used in the same way as they were in earlier extended mass layoff news releases. Therefore, the data presented in this news release are not comparable to those that were presented in earlier news releases.

Questions on movement of work and location are asked for all identified layoff events when the reason for separation is other than "seasonal work" or "vacation period." Seasonal and vacation layoff events were excluded because movement of work appears unlikely.

Questions on movement of work are asked after the analyst verifies that a layoff in fact occurred and lasted more than 30 days, and obtained the total number of workers separated from jobs, the date the layoff began, and the economic reason for the layoff. If the reason for layoff is other than seasonal or vacation, the employer was asked the following:

(1) "Did this layoff include your company moving work from this location(s) to a different geographic location(s) within your company?"

(2) "Did this layoff include your company moving work that was performed in-house by your employees to a different company, through contractual arrangements?"

A "yes" response to either question is followed by:

"Is the location inside or outside of the U.S.?" and "How many of the layoffs were a result of this relocation?"

Layoff actions are classified as “overseas relocation” if the employer responds “yes” to questions 1 and/or 2, and indicates that the location(s) was outside of the U.S. Domestic relocation is determined if the employer responds “yes” to questions 1 and/or 2 and indicates that the location(s) was within the U.S.

After asking the movement of work questions, the employer interview continues and responses are obtained for questions on recall expectations and open/closed status of the worksite.

Reliability of the data

The identification of employers and layoff events in the MLS program and associated characteristics of claimants is based on administrative data on covered establishments and unemployment insurance claims, and, therefore, is not subject to issues associated with sampling error. Nonsampling errors such as typographical errors may occur but are not likely to be significant. While the MLS employers and layoff events are not subject to sampling error, and all such employers are asked the

interview questions, the employer responses are subject to nonsampling error. Nonsampling error can occur for many reasons, including the inability to obtain information for all respondents, inability or unwillingness of respondents to provide correct information, and errors made in the collection or processing of the data. For the fourth quarter of 2007, outright refusal to participate in the employer interview accounted for 3.3 percent of all private nonfarm events. Although included in the total number of instances involving the movement of work, for the fourth quarter, employers in 19 relocations were unable to provide the number of separations specifically associated with the movement of work, 4 of which involved out-of-country moves.

Other information

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Industry distribution: Extended mass layoff events, separations, and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, private nonfarm sector, selected quarters, 2006 and 2007

Industry	Layoff events			Separations			Initial claimants for unemployment insurance		
	IV 2006 ^f	III 2007 ^f	IV 2007 ^p	IV 2006 ^f	III 2007 ^f	IV 2007 ^p	IV 2006 ^f	III 2007 ^f	IV 2007 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	1,640	1,019	1,619	296,662	160,806	265,454	330,901	172,508	234,612
Mining	29	4	21	4,632	677	2,890	4,798	530	1,973
Utilities	3	—	(²)	454	—	(²)	517	—	(²)
Construction	567	187	622	72,481	17,315	78,716	87,619	28,053	72,476
Manufacturing	479	269	385	93,795	43,329	71,611	130,869	53,469	79,252
Food	78	30	65	18,402	5,833	15,624	20,263	6,608	13,700
Beverage and tobacco products	11	(²)	5	971	(²)	572	1,065	(²)	545
Textile mills	13	9	11	2,504	2,730	1,808	3,135	4,552	2,925
Textile product mills	6	3	(²)	743	908	(²)	1,370	918	(²)
Apparel	9	16	9	836	1,706	1,344	893	1,788	1,161
Leather and allied products	3	—	(²)	408	—	—	227	—	(²)
Wood products	44	21	39	5,134	2,756	5,545	7,963	3,496	5,463
Paper	6	5	5	633	893	759	691	882	729
Printing and related support activities	8	(²)	14	1,004	(²)	2,142	1,192	(²)	1,318
Petroleum and coal products	20	—	15	2,931	—	2,100	3,146	—	2,021
Chemicals	4	6	7	521	463	1,836	439	583	1,489
Plastics and rubber products	24	11	14	3,838	1,213	2,577	4,563	1,617	1,864
Nonmetallic mineral products	39	8	52	6,319	919	7,114	7,585	1,074	6,710
Primary metals	16	9	13	1,678	1,486	2,378	2,189	2,331	2,294
Fabricated metal products	28	21	20	3,512	3,093	2,712	4,419	3,574	2,578
Machinery	20	18	21	2,563	3,608	4,056	3,946	3,546	5,463
Computer and electronic products	20	27	10	5,913	5,957	1,595	3,135	4,911	1,017
Electrical equipment and appliances	14	5	11	4,493	328	2,873	7,304	441	6,568
Transportation equipment	84	54	49	25,957	8,694	12,100	52,231	14,582	19,794
Furniture and related products	23	14	14	3,333	1,411	1,876	3,553	1,124	1,976
Miscellaneous manufacturing	9	7	6	2,102	791	1,574	1,560	995	851
Wholesale trade	26	19	35	3,140	2,336	3,990	3,145	1,838	3,319
Retail trade	70	59	63	27,329	10,094	15,372	22,430	11,481	9,632
Transportation and warehousing	33	84	39	4,964	15,251	8,976	4,841	14,498	6,421
Information	23	18	26	2,724	2,415	3,825	4,141	2,713	5,016
Finance and insurance	52	134	93	11,269	25,563	15,429	8,112	24,368	13,000
Real estate and rental and leasing	5	8	6	401	1,194	859	412	1,354	742
Professional and technical services	33	35	43	5,479	5,144	7,724	7,159	5,728	6,959
Management of companies and enterprises	6	8	8	1,182	782	1,392	1,129	1,043	876
Administrative and waste services	165	60	127	30,030	8,225	18,697	31,253	9,349	16,431
Educational services	3	9	(²)	266	1,323	(²)	458	1,726	(²)
Health care and social assistance	20	49	22	3,352	9,708	4,661	2,516	5,001	3,217
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	41	22	45	13,589	6,118	17,219	5,283	2,734	4,664
Accommodation and food services	73	40	65	20,100	8,622	11,520	14,813	6,978	8,472
Other services, except public administration	12	13	13	1,475	2,560	1,843	1,406	1,572	1,464
Unclassified	—	1	—	—	150	—	—	73	—

¹ For the fourth quarter of 2007, data on layoffs were reported by employers in all states and the District of Columbia.

^f = revised.

^p = preliminary.

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

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

Table 2. Reason for layoff: Extended mass layoff events, separations, and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, private nonfarm sector, selected quarters, 2006 and 2007

Reason for layoff	Layoff events			Separations			Initial claimants for unemployment insurance		
	IV 2006 ^f	III 2007 ^f	IV 2007 ^p	IV 2006 ^f	III 2007 ^f	IV 2007 ^p	IV 2006 ^f	III 2007 ^f	IV 2007 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	1,640	1,019	1,619	296,662	160,806	265,454	330,901	172,508	234,612
Business demand	565	421	548	81,305	49,268	73,241	135,626	72,956	84,227
Contract cancellation	19	15	16	2,159	2,320	3,028	2,311	1,723	2,368
Contract completion	312	201	260	41,797	20,331	29,753	58,169	31,535	31,133
Domestic competition	–	3	(²)	–	254	(²)	–	208	(²)
Excess inventory/saturated market	–	6	(²)	–	1,551	(²)	–	1,641	(²)
Import competition	22	16	15	3,245	3,273	2,786	3,318	3,601	2,740
Slack work/insufficient demand/non-seasonal business slowdown	212	180	245	34,104	21,539	36,180	71,828	34,248	46,652
Organizational changes	143	99	81	36,117	17,717	21,122	30,333	17,208	15,369
Business-ownership change	25	27	20	11,279	4,990	9,279	4,580	3,472	4,710
Reorganization or restructuring of company	118	72	61	24,838	12,727	11,843	25,753	13,736	10,659
Financial issues	64	123	111	14,069	29,267	22,238	11,609	24,108	18,698
Bankruptcy	15	21	14	2,229	6,819	4,480	1,814	2,904	2,265
Cost control/cost cutting/increase profitability	–	36	35	–	6,130	6,915	–	8,023	9,195
Financial difficulty	49	66	62	11,840	16,318	10,843	9,795	13,181	7,238
Production specific	28	(²)	22	9,168	(²)	3,655	5,159	(²)	4,066
Automation/technological advances	3	4	(²)	271	1,468	(²)	353	1,293	(²)
Energy related	(²)	–	–	(²)	–	–	(²)	–	–
Governmental regulations/intervention	–	4	(²)	–	997	(²)	–	604	(²)
Labor dispute/contract negotiations/strike	(²)	(²)	7	(²)	(²)	1,177	(²)	(²)	1,774
Material or supply shortage	(²)	–	(²)	(²)	–	(²)	(²)	–	(²)
Model changeover	(²)	–	(²)	(²)	–	(²)	(²)	–	(²)
Plant or machine repair/maintenance	7	(²)	8	1,714	(²)	1,360	1,094	(²)	815
Product line discontinued	11	–	(²)	4,329	–	(²)	1,781	–	(²)
Disaster/safety	8	(²)	5	733	(²)	692	1,249	(²)	632
Hazardous work environment	(²)	(²)	–	(²)	(²)	–	(²)	(²)	–
Natural disaster (not weather related)	–	(²)	–	–	(²)	–	–	(²)	–
Non-natural disaster	–	(²)	–	–	(²)	–	–	(²)	–
Extreme weather-related event	(²)	–	5	(²)	–	692	(²)	–	632
Seasonal	697	218	683	129,532	40,361	119,325	119,430	34,465	86,355
Seasonal	691	123	679	128,648	23,314	119,043	118,713	20,066	85,959
Vacation period–school related or otherwise	6	95	4	884	17,047	282	717	14,399	396
Other/miscellaneous	135	140	169	25,738	19,623	25,181	27,495	20,406	25,265
Other	18	9	10	3,726	1,363	1,642	5,540	2,050	2,069
Data not provided: refusal	49	43	53	9,990	6,003	7,871	9,990	6,000	7,872
Data not provided: does not know	68	88	106	12,022	12,257	15,668	11,965	12,356	15,324

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

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

^f = revised.

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

Table 3. State and selected claimant characteristics: Extended mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, private nonfarm sector, third and fourth quarters, 2007

State	Layoff events		Total initial claimants		Percent of total							
					Black		Hispanic origin		Women		Persons age 55 and over	
	III 2007 ^f	IV 2007 ^p	III 2007 ^f	IV 2007 ^p	III 2007 ^f	IV 2007 ^p	III 2007 ^f	IV 2007 ^p	III 2007 ^f	IV 2007 ^p	III 2007 ^f	IV 2007 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	1,019	1,619	172,508	234,612	15.5	12.2	18.4	17.6	42.5	29.2	18.2	16.3
Alabama	8	8	1,411	1,128	69.5	58.2	4.5	3.0	45.2	46.7	18.0	16.9
Alaska	(²)	7	(²)	904	4.1	3.2	26.3	13.7	27.8	25.0	21.8	16.5
Arizona	8	5	1,578	733	7.9	16.4	24.9	32.9	55.7	50.3	12.2	7.1
Arkansas	7	8	1,107	2,718	46.7	20.5	4.5	1.2	31.3	35.1	9.8	22.7
California	317	422	50,397	57,132	8.3	6.9	36.6	38.3	39.5	35.2	13.6	13.9
Colorado	(²)	15	(²)	1,804	2.9	2.5	12.7	41.0	59.5	13.7	24.3	18.8
Connecticut	(²)	8	(²)	976	13.2	13.7	7.8	6.7	58.9	34.0	16.3	22.0
Delaware	-	(²)	-	(²)	-	7.8	-	7.8	-	30.1	-	63.1
District of Columbia	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	98.6	54.7	1.4	17.2	83.8	62.5	4.9	7.8
Florida	50	59	5,986	5,660	15.4	13.0	28.9	25.4	46.2	40.2	18.4	20.4
Georgia	21	15	4,594	3,479	44.0	33.6	5.3	9.3	58.5	41.2	17.7	16.6
Hawaii	3	3	344	317	11.6	11.4	9.9	10.1	32.6	21.1	23.3	11.7
Idaho	3	7	1,137	1,051	1.8	.4	11.6	24.5	34.7	30.5	17.5	15.4
Illinois	70	178	12,863	21,260	25.5	13.2	11.1	22.8	44.1	19.0	15.6	12.6
Indiana	14	45	3,363	10,380	9.8	12.5	3.4	4.3	43.9	25.4	22.8	14.7
Iowa	4	19	614	4,853	2.9	1.8	5.2	4.6	36.8	24.3	9.4	17.1
Kansas	3	8	476	1,105	8.4	12.0	.6	6.2	43.9	25.2	29.4	17.6
Kentucky	13	15	1,433	1,721	8.2	2.5	.1	.1	26.6	12.0	22.1	17.3
Louisiana	4	8	738	728	26.4	66.1	.4	1.6	20.7	17.7	30.6	16.3
Maine	4	8	310	902	1.0	1.3	-	.2	48.7	27.6	15.2	19.0
Maryland	12	19	1,394	2,359	34.7	32.3	.9	.1	57.3	35.2	16.3	20.0
Massachusetts	22	25	4,696	2,452	14.3	8.4	2.5	.8	48.2	27.6	23.1	19.6
Michigan	29	94	8,027	21,569	24.2	21.9	2.8	7.2	41.3	25.2	12.4	17.4
Minnesota	8	75	1,159	8,892	.8	2.7	2.7	9.4	24.5	14.5	18.8	16.8
Mississippi	5	4	588	613	78.1	64.4	1.7	.2	74.7	26.8	12.8	20.9
Missouri	21	33	2,523	3,093	26.7	7.5	.3	.4	52.0	27.5	20.5	25.1
Montana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nebraska	(²)	6	(²)	520	2.1	2.1	1.4	9.8	41.8	7.9	21.3	30.8
Nevada	(²)	9	(²)	1,262	15.5	7.4	25.7	20.8	54.3	24.6	32.9	18.5
New Hampshire	(²)	3	(²)	337	-	1.2	1.9	1.8	38.9	5.6	59.3	29.4
New Jersey	30	37	4,234	4,309	22.2	15.3	8.5	11.5	49.9	41.0	22.2	24.1
New Mexico	6	3	1,156	377	4.4	1.6	40.5	79.0	34.3	51.7	17.2	29.4
New York	135	50	23,233	8,327	17.9	9.8	16.8	9.2	49.3	29.0	28.0	18.0
North Carolina	6	5	943	656	23.5	44.4	9.0	2.0	61.5	35.1	20.6	26.1
North Dakota	-	8	-	962	-	.5	-	3.2	-	12.3	-	17.4
Ohio	28	116	5,577	16,512	13.1	13.2	1.6	3.1	28.5	24.0	16.7	14.2
Oklahoma	4	(²)	363	(²)	17.4	3.6	7.2	5.4	62.0	30.4	19.8	3.6
Oregon	12	22	1,695	5,392	.8	1.5	21.6	27.4	46.6	38.6	14.5	17.9
Pennsylvania	72	62	14,114	12,841	6.6	6.2	3.6	4.3	34.5	36.8	22.3	20.6
Rhode Island	4	6	411	700	3.2	2.7	27.3	12.9	80.5	32.3	20.0	15.7
South Carolina	6	12	1,134	1,457	60.9	72.5	.6	.1	60.9	56.7	8.7	9.4
South Dakota	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	-	-	1.6	14.7	65.6	34.7	40.6	37.3
Tennessee	9	27	1,031	4,497	22.4	40.3	-	.1	59.8	40.0	19.1	25.3
Texas	24	29	5,217	4,048	20.3	19.6	30.1	41.3	42.6	37.0	11.7	11.2
Utah	5	11	570	1,631	1.9	.9	14.4	14.4	17.7	10.4	4.4	11.6
Vermont	(²)	4	(²)	399	-	-	-	.5	35.7	26.6	17.2	22.8
Virginia	10	18	887	1,527	19.7	43.9	2.6	5.2	44.8	52.5	23.1	19.4
Washington	15	15	1,979	2,323	4.3	4.0	14.0	33.9	31.9	33.0	15.9	18.1
West Virginia	(²)	6	(²)	500	-	.4	-	-	17.6	8.8	16.0	15.8
Wisconsin	11	76	2,787	9,832	1.2	4.2	15.2	8.0	27.7	14.3	24.9	13.4
Wyoming	-	(²)	-	(²)	-	1.3	-	-	-	40.8	-	34.2
Puerto Rico	11	8	2,647	1,213	.1	.1	97.1	98.5	63.2	55.0	11.1	13.8

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

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

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

^f = revised.

Table 4. Census region and division: Extended mass layoff events, separations, and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, private nonfarm sector, selected quarters, 2006 and 2007

Census region and division	Layoff events			Separations			Initial claimants for unemployment insurance		
	IV 2006 ^r	III 2007 ^r	IV 2007 ^p	IV 2006 ^r	III 2007 ^r	IV 2007 ^p	IV 2006 ^r	III 2007 ^r	IV 2007 ^p
United States ¹	1,640	1,019	1,619	296,662	160,806	265,454	330,901	172,508	234,612
Northeast	293	271	203	45,223	46,902	35,931	58,821	47,392	31,243
New England	52	34	54	9,957	8,696	11,055	7,959	5,811	5,766
Middle Atlantic	241	237	149	35,266	38,206	24,876	50,862	41,581	25,477
South	279	182	237	50,120	26,981	39,220	49,384	27,093	31,314
South Atlantic	171	108	137	32,139	15,450	20,632	31,115	15,205	15,805
East South Central	55	35	54	8,559	5,471	11,325	7,569	4,463	7,959
West South Central	53	39	46	9,422	6,060	7,263	10,700	7,425	7,550
Midwest	657	191	659	131,105	32,557	110,899	149,932	37,594	99,053
East North Central	504	152	509	105,530	26,161	86,682	122,480	32,617	79,553
West North Central	153	39	150	25,575	6,396	24,217	27,452	4,977	19,500
West	411	375	520	70,214	54,366	79,404	72,764	60,429	73,002
Mountain	68	26	51	14,289	6,237	10,943	10,703	5,201	6,934
Pacific	343	349	469	55,925	48,129	68,461	62,061	55,228	66,068

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

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 5. State distribution: Extended mass layoff events, separations, and initial claimants for unemployment insurance, private nonfarm sector, selected quarters, 2006 and 2007

State	Layoff events			Separations			Initial claimants for unemployment insurance		
	IV 2006 ^f	III 2007 ^f	IV 2007 ^P	IV 2006 ^f	III 2007 ^f	IV 2007 ^P	IV 2006 ^f	III 2007 ^f	IV 2007 ^P
Total, private nonfarm ¹	1,640	1,019	1,619	296,662	160,806	265,454	330,901	172,508	234,612
Alabama	15	8	8	3,228	1,714	1,489	2,768	1,411	1,128
Alaska	12	(²)	7	4,548	(²)	1,486	2,088	(²)	904
Arizona	4	8	5	554	2,014	782	524	1,578	733
Arkansas	5	7	8	2,411	1,083	1,140	1,367	1,107	2,718
California	288	317	422	40,439	42,041	58,922	50,141	50,397	57,132
Colorado	17	(²)	15	3,067	(²)	3,193	2,316	(²)	1,804
Connecticut	9	(²)	8	2,135	(²)	1,543	1,754	(²)	976
Delaware	-	-	(²)	-	-	(²)	-	-	(²)
District of Columbia	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Florida	82	50	59	16,355	8,199	7,841	14,812	5,986	5,660
Georgia	22	21	15	2,811	2,285	2,813	4,233	4,594	3,479
Hawaii	6	3	3	836	503	447	794	344	317
Idaho	13	3	7	1,800	1,280	1,523	1,818	1,137	1,051
Illinois	181	70	178	33,328	13,488	30,467	30,604	12,863	21,260
Indiana	48	14	45	8,264	2,211	8,082	10,058	3,363	10,380
Iowa	17	4	19	1,448	491	3,736	5,238	614	4,853
Kansas	9	3	8	1,096	333	1,027	1,372	476	1,105
Kentucky	23	13	15	2,959	1,975	2,385	2,649	1,433	1,721
Louisiana	9	4	8	2,143	813	1,624	1,151	738	728
Maine	8	4	8	1,459	341	1,827	1,293	310	902
Maryland	20	12	19	2,280	1,377	2,460	3,088	1,394	2,359
Massachusetts	24	22	25	5,215	7,348	5,969	3,718	4,696	2,452
Michigan	105	29	94	25,374	5,166	16,067	47,956	8,027	21,569
Minnesota	83	8	75	12,921	1,163	12,047	13,355	1,159	8,892
Mississippi	5	5	4	702	796	708	594	588	613
Missouri	36	21	33	8,607	4,174	5,370	6,250	2,523	3,093
Montana	12	-	-	1,676	-	-	1,727	-	-
Nebraska	(²)	(²)	6	(²)	(²)	859	(²)	(²)	520
Nevada	3	(²)	9	1,139	(²)	854	1,328	(²)	1,262
New Hampshire	5	(²)	3	490	(²)	415	540	(²)	337
New Jersey	45	30	37	9,737	6,927	6,805	7,150	4,234	4,309
New Mexico	9	6	3	1,501	1,156	387	1,501	1,156	377
New York	105	135	50	13,690	24,583	9,508	19,966	23,233	8,327
North Carolina	12	6	5	1,086	761	503	1,508	943	656
North Dakota	5	-	8	1,128	-	962	982	-	962
Ohio	96	28	116	22,570	3,882	19,959	18,485	5,577	16,512
Oklahoma	5	4	(²)	603	413	(²)	1,360	363	(²)
Oregon	19	12	22	7,514	1,813	6,217	6,215	1,695	5,392
Pennsylvania	91	72	62	11,839	6,696	8,563	23,746	14,114	12,841
Rhode Island	(²)	4	6	(²)	464	779	(²)	411	700
South Carolina	9	6	12	1,713	1,493	1,510	1,571	1,134	1,457
South Dakota	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Tennessee	12	9	27	1,670	986	6,743	1,558	1,031	4,497
Texas	34	24	29	4,265	3,751	4,398	6,822	5,217	4,048
Utah	8	5	11	1,507	604	2,004	1,243	570	1,631
Vermont	4	(²)	4	472	(²)	522	472	(²)	399
Virginia	17	10	18	6,676	963	4,653	4,065	887	1,527
Washington	18	15	15	2,588	1,387	1,389	2,823	1,979	2,323
West Virginia	7	(²)	6	1,016	(²)	673	1,636	(²)	500
Wisconsin	74	11	76	15,994	1,414	12,107	15,377	2,787	9,832
Wyoming	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)
Puerto Rico	14	11	8	2,038	938	557	2,916	2,647	1,213

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

^P = preliminary.

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

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

^f = revised.

Table 6. Information technology-producing industries: Extended mass layoff events and separations, private nonfarm sector, 2000-2007

Year	Total extended mass layoffs		Information technology-producing industries ¹							
			Computer hardware ²		Software and computer services ³		Communications equipment ⁴		Communications services ⁵	
	Layoff events	Separations	Layoff events	Separations	Layoff events	Separations	Layoff events	Separations	Layoff events	Separations
2000										
First quarter	1,081	202,500	22	5,195	8	1,931	9	1,402	4	771
Second quarter	1,055	205,861	18	8,862	11	1,580	7	805	7	977
Third quarter	817	174,628	10	1,678	9	1,132	4	1,465	6	1,280
Fourth quarter	1,638	332,973	16	3,070	20	3,297	5	946	7	1,020
Total	4,591	915,962	66	18,805	48	7,940	25	4,618	24	4,048
2001										
First quarter	1,546	304,171	91	20,991	34	5,710	22	4,441	24	5,312
Second quarter	1,828	430,499	161	38,986	75	10,219	36	12,109	28	6,386
Third quarter	1,629	330,391	142	24,813	45	5,724	39	8,200	36	7,134
Fourth quarter	2,372	459,771	109	17,797	51	7,767	43	10,124	48	11,252
Total	7,375	1,524,832	503	102,587	205	29,420	140	34,874	136	30,084
2002										
First quarter	1,611	299,266	84	18,574	35	3,824	32	8,192	42	6,664
Second quarter	1,624	344,606	69	11,764	39	4,326	27	4,870	53	8,538
Third quarter	1,186	255,152	76	15,017	36	4,359	34	6,529	42	7,945
Fourth quarter	1,916	373,307	74	14,298	27	6,180	19	3,645	39	8,987
Total	6,337	1,272,331	303	59,653	137	18,689	112	23,236	176	32,134
2003										
First quarter	1,502	286,947	71	11,900	28	5,214	23	4,402	41	6,591
Second quarter	1,799	368,273	54	9,221	20	2,856	21	3,098	29	5,891
Third quarter	1,190	236,333	46	6,488	24	4,189	9	1,289	15	2,604
Fourth quarter	1,690	325,333	25	5,080	8	1,167	9	1,619	28	6,635
Total	6,181	1,216,886	196	32,689	80	13,426	62	10,408	113	21,721
2004										
First quarter	1,339	276,503	27	3,222	13	2,786	8	894	23	4,197
Second quarter	1,358	278,831	18	2,959	15	2,775	-	-	22	5,295
Third quarter	886	164,608	13	2,288	14	1,467	4	430	13	4,317
Fourth quarter	1,427	273,967	18	3,055	10	1,547	4	563	23	3,457
Total	5,010	993,909	76	11,524	52	8,575	16	1,887	81	17,266
2005										
First quarter	1,142	186,506	13	1,526	9	2,355	4	439	17	3,569
Second quarter	1,203	246,099	20	2,973	13	1,558	4	842	11	1,904
Third quarter	1,136	201,878	23	3,307	7	1,034	2	1,075	11	1,127
Fourth quarter	1,400	250,178	19	4,122	3	720	3	644	8	1,125
Total	4,881	884,661	75	11,928	32	5,667	13	3,000	47	7,725
2006										
First quarter	963	183,089	12	1,159	6	744	(⁶)	(⁶)	7	833
Second quarter	1,353	295,964	10	3,294	7	1,564	8	988	7	1,252
Third quarter	929	160,254	14	3,544	6	487	(⁶)	(⁶)	11	1,831
Fourth quarter	1,640	296,662	12	4,039	4	708	5	1,482	9	1,017
Total	4,885	935,969	48	12,036	23	3,503	19	3,753	34	4,933
2007										
First quarter	1,111	^r 226,074	19	3,007	5	875	3	415	5	885
Second quarter	1,421	^r 278,719	22	3,634	4	413	5	433	6	592
Third quarter	^r 1,019	^r 160,806	22	5,279	7	1,117	4	403	4	342
Fourth quarter ^p	1,619	265,454	7	1,173	5	960	3	352	9	866
Total ^p	5,170	931,053	70	13,093	21	3,365	15	1,603	24	2,685

¹ Information technology-producing industries are defined in *Digital Economy 2003*, (U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, 2003). In the MLS program, however, computer and software merchant wholesalers and computer and software stores are only included in the computer hardware industry.

² The industries included in this grouping, based on the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), are: semiconductor machinery manufacturing; office machinery manufacturing; electronic computer manufacturing; computer storage device manufacturing; computer terminal manufacturing; other computer peripheral equipment mfg.; electron tube manufacturing; bare printed circuit board manufacturing; semiconductors and related device mfg.; electronic capacitor manufacturing; electronic resistor manufacturing; electronic coils, transformers, and inductors; electronic connector manufacturing; printed circuit assembly manufacturing; other electronic component manufacturing; industrial process variable instruments; electricity and signal testing instruments; analytical laboratory instrument mfg.; computer and software merchant wholesalers; and computer and software stores.

³ The industries included in this grouping, based on the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), are: software publishers; internet service providers; web search portals; data processing and related services; custom computer programming

services; computer systems design services; computer facilities management services; other computer related services; office equipment rental and leasing; and computer and office machine repair.

⁴ The industries included in this grouping, based on the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), are: telephone apparatus manufacturing; audio and video equipment manufacturing; broadcast and wireless communications equip.; fiber optic cable manufacturing; software reproducing; and magnetic and optical recording media mfg.

⁵ The industries included in this grouping, based on the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), are: wired telecommunications carriers; cellular and other wireless carriers; telecommunications resellers; cable and other program distribution; satellite telecommunications; other telecommunications; and communication equipment repair.

⁶ Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

Table 7. Industry distribution: Extended mass layoff events and separations associated with the movement of work, selected quarters, 2006 and 2007

Industry	Layoff events			Separations		
	IV 2006	III 2007 ^r	IV 2007 ^p	IV 2006	III 2007 ^r	IV 2007 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	69	63	61	15,782	12,361	10,076
Mining	-	-	-	-	-	-
Utilities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Construction	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manufacturing	50	45	43	12,775	8,949	7,189
Food	3	(²)	3	559	(²)	683
Beverage and tobacco products	-	(²)	-	-	(²)	-
Textile mills	4	5	(²)	1,120	1,505	(²)
Textile product mills	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Apparel	(²)	5	-	(²)	660	-
Leather and allied products	(²)	-	-	(²)	-	-
Wood products	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paper	-	-	(²)	-	-	(²)
Printing and related support activities	(²)	(²)	3	(²)	(²)	411
Petroleum and coal products	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chemicals	-	-	(²)	-	-	(²)
Plastics and rubber products	3	5	(²)	468	595	(²)
Nonmetallic mineral products	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Primary metals	(²)	(²)	3	(²)	(²)	388
Fabricated metal products	3	3	5	525	462	879
Machinery	4	3	(²)	515	565	(²)
Computer and electronic products	(²)	3	3	(²)	1,924	620
Electrical equipment and appliances	7	(²)	5	3,198	(²)	1,310
Transportation equipment	9	6	10	1,664	1,059	1,438
Furniture and related products	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Miscellaneous manufacturing	3	3	-	842	188	-
Wholesale trade	(²)	5	(²)	(²)	678	(²)
Retail trade	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Transportation and warehousing	3	(²)	(²)	754	(²)	(²)
Information	(²)	-	3	(²)	-	252
Finance and insurance	7	7	5	1,028	1,612	860
Real estate and rental and leasing	(²)	-	-	(²)	-	-
Professional and technical services	(²)	(²)	3	(²)	(²)	577
Management of companies and enterprises	-	-	(²)	-	-	(²)
Administrative and waste services	3	-	(²)	427	-	(²)
Educational services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Health care and social assistance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accommodation and food services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other services, except public administration	-	(²)	-	-	(²)	-
Unclassified	-	-	-	-	-	-

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

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

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

^r = revised.

Table 8. Reason for layoff: Extended mass layoff events and separations associated with the movement of work, selected quarters, 2006 and 2007

Reason for layoff	Layoff events			Separations		
	IV 2006 ^r	III 2007 ^r	IV 2007 ^p	IV 2006 ^r	III 2007 ^r	IV 2007 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	69	63	61	15,782	12,361	10,076
Business demand	12	17	(²)	2,129	3,303	(²)
Contract cancellation	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Contract completion	(²)	(²)	-	(²)	(²)	-
Domestic competition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Excess inventory/saturated market	-	(²)	-	-	(²)	-
Import competition	7	10	7	1,463	2,269	1,165
Slack work/insufficient demand/non-seasonal business slowdown	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Organizational changes	43	23	27	8,340	4,723	4,605
Business-ownership change	5	4	5	1,160	903	1,325
Reorganization or restructuring of company	38	19	22	7,180	3,820	3,280
Financial issues	(²)	18	18	(²)	3,763	2,981
Bankruptcy	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cost control/cost cutting/increase profitability	-	(²)	(²)	-	(²)	(²)
Financial difficulty	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Production specific	8	(²)	-	4,016	(²)	-
Automation/technological advances	-	(²)	-	-	(²)	-
Energy related	-	-	-	-	-	-
Governmental regulations/intervention	-	-	-	-	-	-
Labor dispute/contract negotiations/strike	-	-	-	-	-	-
Material or supply shortage	-	-	-	-	-	-
Model changeover	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plant or machine repair/maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Product line discontinued	8	-	-	4,016	-	-
Disaster/safety	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hazardous work environment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Natural disaster (not weather related)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-natural disaster	-	-	-	-	-	-
Extreme weather-related event	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other/miscellaneous	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Other	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Data not provided: refusal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Data not provided: does not know	-	(²)	-	-	(²)	-

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

^r = revised.

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

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

Table 9. Census region and division: Extended mass layoff events and separations associated with the movement of work, selected quarters, 2006 and 2007

Census region and division	Layoff events			Separations		
	IV 2006	III 2007 ^r	IV 2007 ^p	IV 2006	III 2007 ^r	IV 2007 ^p
United States ¹	69	63	61	15,782	12,361	10,076
Northeast	10	9	9	2,006	1,400	1,362
New England	(²)	3	3	(²)	514	562
Middle Atlantic	(²)	6	6	(²)	886	800
South	20	29	16	5,292	5,292	2,102
South Atlantic	10	14	8	2,086	2,321	902
East South Central	7	(²)	5	1,206	(²)	512
West South Central	3	(²)	3	2,000	(²)	688
Midwest	28	15	28	5,933	2,706	5,747
East North Central	20	8	22	4,469	1,355	4,140
West North Central	8	7	6	1,464	1,351	1,607
West	11	10	8	2,551	2,963	865
Mountain	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Pacific	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

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

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

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 10. Extended mass layoff events and separations, selected measures, selected quarters, 2006 and 2007

Action	Layoff events			Separations		
	IV 2006	III 2007 ^r	IV 2007 ^p	IV 2006	III 2007 ^r	IV 2007 ^p
Total, private nonfarm ¹	1,640	1,019	1,619	296,662	160,806	265,454
Total, excluding seasonal and vacation events ²	943	801	936	167,130	120,445	146,129
Total, movement of work ³	69	63	61	15,782	12,361	10,076
Movement of work actions	94	87	80	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)
With separations reported	66	60	61	10,462	7,159	6,682
With separations unknown	28	27	19	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

² The questions on movement of work were not asked of employers when the reason for layoff was either seasonal work or vacation period.

³ Movement of work can involve more than one action.

⁴ Data are not available.

^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

Table 11. Movement of work actions by type of separation where number of separations is known by employers, selected quarters, 2006 and 2007

Activities	Actions ¹			Separations		
	IV 2006	III 2007 ^r	IV 2007 ^p	IV 2006	III 2007 ^r	IV 2007 ^p
With separations reported ²	66	60	61	10,462	7,159	6,682
By location						
Out-of-country relocations	27	21	24	5,581	3,187	2,667
Within company	24	11	23	5,426	1,504	2,580
Different company	3	10	1	155	1,683	87
Domestic relocations	39	38	37	4,881	3,793	4,015
Within company	35	34	36	4,494	3,396	3,835
Different company	4	4	1	387	397	180
Unable to assign place of relocation	–	1	–	–	179	–
By company						
Within company	59	46	59	9,920	5,079	6,415
Domestic	35	34	36	4,494	3,396	3,835
Out of country	24	11	23	5,426	1,504	2,580
Unable to assign	–	1	–	–	179	–
Different company	7	14	2	542	2,080	267
Domestic	4	4	1	387	397	180
Out of country	3	10	1	155	1,683	87
Unable to assign	–	–	–	–	–	–

¹ Only actions for which separations associated with the movement of work were reported are shown.

² See footnote 1, table 1.

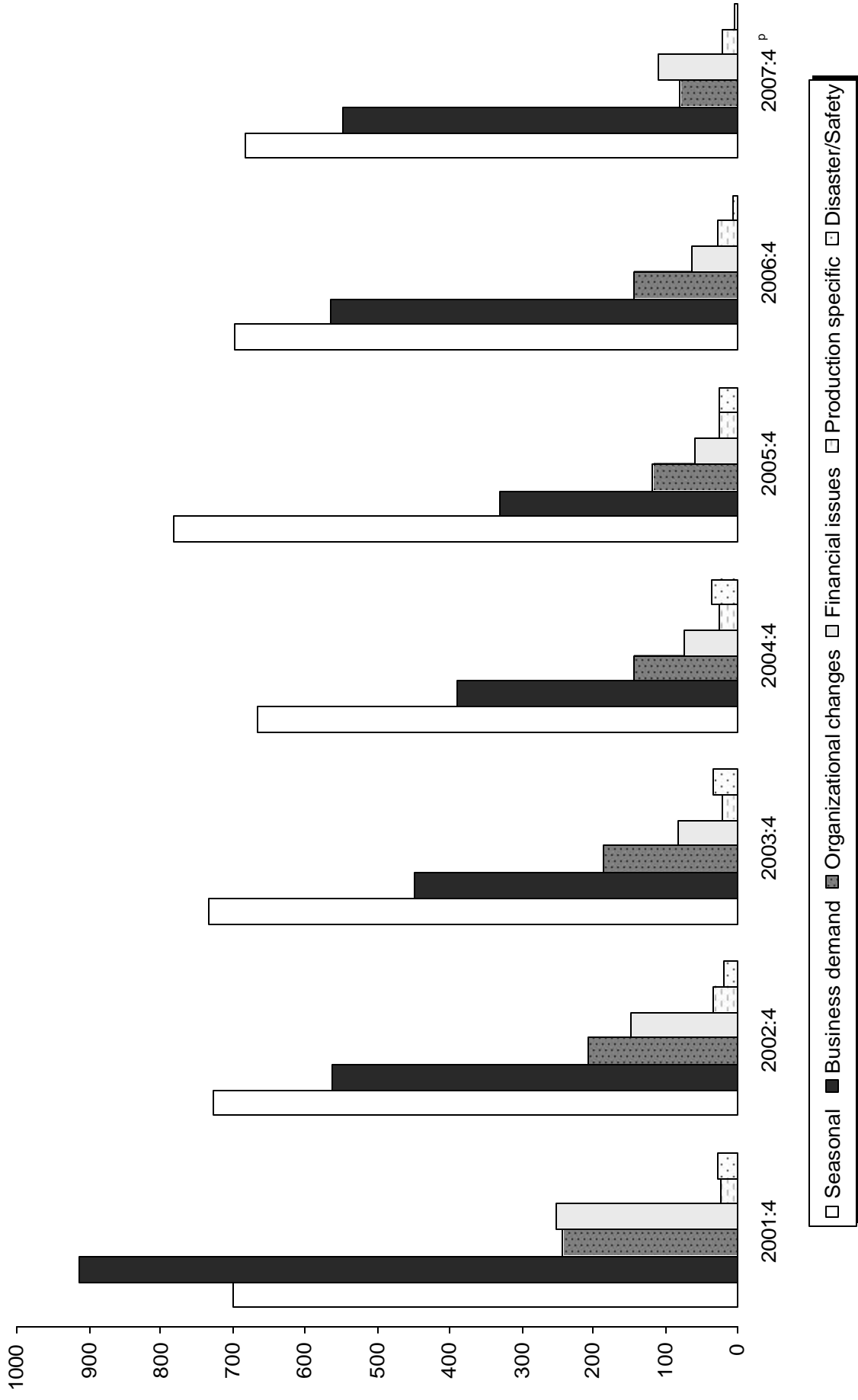
^r = revised.

^p = preliminary.

Note: Dash represents zero.

Extended Mass Layoff Events by Reason Categories¹

Fourth quarters, 2001-07



¹ The chart excludes information on layoffs due to other/miscellaneous reasons.

^P = preliminary.