

NEWS RELEASE



For release 10:00 a.m. (EST) Tuesday, November 20, 2012

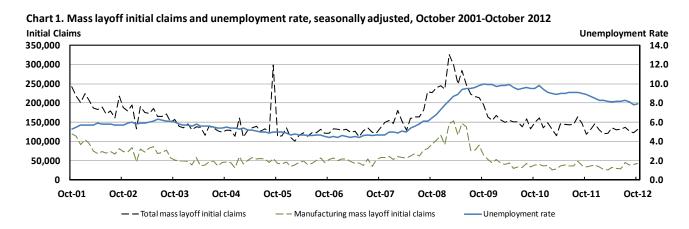
USDL-12-2292

Technical information: (202) 691-6392 • mlsinfo@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/mls

Media contact: (202) 691-5902 • PressOffice@bls.gov

MASS LAYOFFS — OCTOBER 2012

Employers took 1,360 mass layoff actions in October involving 131,173 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 October increased by 44 from September, and the number of associated initial claims increased by 8,711. In October, 344 mass layoff events were reported in the manufacturing sector resulting in 42,946 initial claims. Monthly mass layoff data are identified using administrative data sources without regard to layoff duration. (See table 1 and the note at the end of this release.)



The national unemployment rate was 7.9 percent in October, essentially unchanged from the prior month and down from 8.9 percent a year earlier. Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 171,000 over the month and by 1,949,000 over the year.

Industry Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

The number of mass layoff events in October was 1,142, not seasonally adjusted, resulting in 109,829 initial claims for unemployment insurance. (See table 2.) Over the year, the number of average weekly mass layoff events for October increased by 11 to 286, and associated average weekly initial claims increased by 3,228 to 27,457. Eleven of the 19 major industry sectors in the private economy reported over-the-year increases in average weekly initial claims, with the largest increase occurring in

Table A. Six-digit NAICS industries with the largest number of mass layoff initial claims in October 2012, private perform, not see apply adjusted.

in October 2012, private nonfarm, not seasonally adjusted

		October peak			
Industry	Initial Claims	Year	Initial claims		
Temporary help services ¹	12,955	1998	18,760		
Construction machinery manufacturing	3,410	2009	4,770		
Heavy duty truck manufacturing	(²)	2006	(²)		
Motion picture and video production	2,455	1997	7,692		
Fruit and vegetable canning	2,410	2002	4,500		
Professional employer organizations ¹	2,379	2008	7,242		
Food service contractors	2,133	2009	3,233		
Supermarkets and other grocery stores	2,100	2003	13,682		
Discount department stores	2,004	2002	4,959		
Lawn and garden equipment manufacturing	1,873	2010	2,077		

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

manufacturing. (See table 3.) In October 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 October, the manufacturing sector accounted for 26 percent of mass layoff events and 36 percent of associated initial claims in the private economy. Within manufacturing, the numbers of mass layoff claimants were highest in machinery and in transportation equipment. Twelve of the 21 manufacturing subsectors experienced over-the-year increases in average weekly initial claims. (See table 3.)

Geographic Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

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

Among the states, California recorded the highest number of mass layoff initial claims in October, followed by North Carolina, Illinois, and Ohio. Twenty-one states and the District of Columbia experienced over-the-year increases in average weekly initial claims, led by California and North Carolina. (See table 4.)

Note

The monthly data series in this release cover mass layoffs of 50 or more workers beginning in a given month, regardless of the duration of the layoffs. For private nonfarm establishments, information on the length of the layoff is obtained later and issued in a quarterly release that reports on mass layoffs lasting more than 30 days (referred to as "extended mass layoffs"). The quarterly release provides more information on the industry classification and location of the establishment and on the demographics of

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

the laid-off workers. The monthly data series in this release are subjected to average weekly analysis, which mitigates the effect of differing lengths of months. See the Technical Note for more detailed definitions and for a description of average weekly analysis.

The Mass Layoffs news release for November is scheduled to be released on Friday, December 21, 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, November 2008 to October 2012,

seasonally adjusted

	To	otal	Private	nonfarm	Manufacturing		
Date	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	
2008							
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							
	0.054	005 074	2.002	004 650	700	00.000	
January	2,254	235,371	2,083	221,653	726 1 251	92,293	
February	3,059 2,999	326,392 299,322	2,901 2,800	310,378 282,414	1,251 1,230	145,839 154,168	
March		249,129	2,349	232,632	1,007	116,051	
April	2,566 2,710	284,468	2,549	267,869	1,007	147,184	
May	2,710	247,597	2,257	230,502	1,048	137,649	
June	2,400	222,941	1,979	203,911	636	75,728	
July	,	216,047	2,115	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	751		
August	2,340 2,261	216,047	2,115	197,172 198,761	751 786	77,894 91,125	
September	2,261 1,969	195.752	2,048 1,772	178,172	786 571		
October	1,969	195,752	1,772	178,172	472	65,217 52,855	
November	1,757	155,056	1,588	140,835	472 424	52,855 44,096	
December	1,719	155,050	1,545	140,033	424	44,090	
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	
	.,		1,200	,			
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	122,462 131,173	1,198 1,220	113,824 120,794	366 344	39,748 42,946	
October	1,360						

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

	To	otal	Private	nonfarm	Manufacturing		
Date	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	
2008							
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							
	2 906	200 012	2 622	275 202	1.461	170 757	
January	3,806	388,813 218,438	3,633	375,293 210,755	945	172,757 103,588	
February	2,262 2,191	228,387	2,173 2,107	221,397	940	114,747	
March	2,547	256.930	2,385	243,321	887	100,872	
April	2,738	289,628	2,572	274,047	1,005	123,683	
May	2,730	256,357	2,051	216,063	674	85,726	
June	3,054	336,654	2,659	296,589	1,133	154,208	
July	1,428	125,024	1,334	117,193	436	41,151	
August	1,426	123,024	1,334	117,193	448	51,126	
September	1,934	193,904	1,678	172.883	566	69,655	
October	1,934	164,496	1,679	150,751	517	55,053	
November	2,310	214,648	2,166	203,655	615	64,540	
December	2,310	217,040	۷, ۱۵۵	200,000	013	07,540	
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							
	2,558	246,463	2,372	229,765	693	75,006	
January	1,024	85,585	919	78,718	222	18,471	
February 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	
	2, .00	200,000	2,200	2,5.0	000	. 0,000	
2012							
January	1,705	141,703	1,587	132,754	415	38,021	
February	895	73,974	820	69,076	196	16,555	
March	1,125	117,817	1,040	110,954	242	24,241	
April	1,421	146,358	1,293	132,697	256	32,518	
May	1,201	109,259	1,081	100,434	186	18,800	
June	1,890	198,537	1,485	158,334	255	28,570	
July	1,515	157,753	1,321	144,340	559	74,963	
August	1,063	104,045	992	97,694	251	31,193	
September	811	70,570	749	66,214	221	22,748	
October	1,142	109,829	968	97,390	277	37,702	

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

able 3. Industry distribution: Mass layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment				T				
			off totals		Average weekly mass layoffs			
Industry	Events		Initial claimants		Events		Initial claimants	
maddiy	October	October	October	October	October	October	October	October
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Total ²	4.404	4 4 4 4 0	00.044	400.000	075	200	04.000	07.457
	1,101	1,142	96,914	109,829	275	286	24,229	27,457
Total, private	1,015	1,074	88,044	104,318	254	269	22,011	26,080
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	65	106	4,296	6,928	16	27	1,074	1,732
Total, private nonfarm		968	83,748	97,390	238	242	20,937	24,348
Mining	(3)	4	(3)	238	(3)	1	(3)	60
Utilities	(3)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(3)	(³)
Construction	89	89	6,391	5,805	22	22	1,598	1,451
Construction of buildings	18	12	1,352	873	5	3	338	218
Heavy and civil engineering construction	29 42	33 44	2,204	2,150 2,782	7 11	8 11	551 709	538 696
Specialty trade contractors	265	277	2,835 28,447	37,702	66	69	7,112	9,426
Food	58	51	6,596	5,398	15	13	1,649	1,350
Beverage and tobacco products	5	7	445	455	1	2	111	114
Textile mills	15	15	1,242	1,683	4	4	311	421
Textile product mills	(³)	3	(3)	417	(3)	1	(³)	104
Apparel	` 6	6	`513	817	` 2	2	`128	204
Leather and allied products	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Wood products	15	3	1,276	268	4	1	319	67
Paper	3	(³)	278	(³)	1	(³)	70	(³)
Printing and related support activities	11	8	1,055	711	3	2	264	178
Petroleum and coal products	5	5	360	513	1	1	90	128
Chemicals	5	3	274	184	1	1	69	46
Plastics and rubber products	9 9	12	771	1,445	2 2	3 3	193	361
Nonmetallic mineral products	11	11 15	791 1,021	1,067 1,486	3	3 4	198 255	267 372
Primary metals Fabricated metal products	17	25	2,066	2,100	4	6	517	525
Machinery	22	37	3,617	9,361	6	9	904	2,340
Computer and electronic products	15	15	1,422	1,131	4	4	356	283
Electrical equipment and appliances	6	10	1,377	983	2	3	344	246
Transportation equipment	28	39	3,478	8,744	7	10	870	2,186
Furniture and related products	11	6	825	492	3	2	206	123
Miscellaneous manufacturing	10	3	700	191	3	1	175	48
Wholesale trade	21	18	1,489	983	5	5	372	246
Retail trade ⁴	99	84	9,240	8,620	25	21	2,310	2,155
Building material and garden supply stores	11	14	1,008	1,044	3	4	252	261
Food and beverage stores	19	26	1,705	2,138	5	7	426	535
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	7	9	378	1,104	2	2	95	276
General merchandise stores	36	22	4,380	3,394	9	6	1,095	849
Transportation and warehousing 4	29	29	2,345	2,851	7	7	586	713
Truck transportation	(³)	4	(³)	200	(³)	1	(³)	50
Transit and ground passenger transportation	12	11	1,185	926	3	3	296	232
Support activities for transportation	(³)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(³)
Information	23	34	2,452	4,441	6	9	613	1,110
Finance and insurance	25	29	1,973	1,743	6	7	493	436
Real estate and rental and leasing	7 34	8 43	544	465	2 9	2 11	136	116
Professional and technical services	(³)	(³)	2,469 (³)	3,482	-	_	617	871
Administrative and waste services	199	191	16,173	(³) 18,937	(³) 50	(³) 48	(³) 4,043	(³) 4,734
Educational services	8	9	518	547	2	2	130	137
Health care and social assistance	41	35	2,728	2,075	10	9	682	519
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	28	25	2,053	1,868	7	6	513	467
Accommodation and food services	72	75	5,986	6,441	18	19	1,497	1,610
Accommodation	21	28	1,624	2,237	5	7	406	559
Food services and drinking places	51	47	4,362	4,204	13	12	1,091	1,051
Other services, except public administration	5	10	492	746	1	3	123	187
Unclassified	1	4	113	212	-	1	28	53
Government	86	68	8,870	5,511	22	17	2,218	1,378
Federal	23	23	2,198	2,066	6	6	550	517
State	23	22	2,566	1,918	6	6	642	480
State government education	5	7	361	416	1	2	90	104
Local Local government education	40 13	23 6	4,106 974	1,527 296	10 3	6 2	1,027 244	382 74
Local government education	13	U	314	230	J	۷	4 11	74

¹ Average weekly analysis mitigates the effect of differing lengths of months. There were 4 weeks in October 2011 and 4 weeks in October 2012. Average weekly events and initial claimants may not sum to subtotals and totals due to rounding.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

 $^{^{\}rm 2}$ Data were reported by all states and the District of Columbia.

 $^{^{\}rm 3}$ Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.

⁴ Includes other industries not shown.

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

		Mass lay	off totals		Average weekly mass layoffs ¹			
Census region and state	Events		Initial Claimants		Eve	ents	Initial Claimants	
Ü	October 2011	October 2012	October 2011	October 2012	October 2011	October 2012	October 2011	October 2012
Total ²	1,101	1,142	96,914	109,829	275	286	24,229	27,457
Northeast	164 8	138 3	14,814 640	11,100 221	41 2	35 1	3,704 160	2,775 55
Maine	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Massachusetts New Hampshire	(³)	6 (³)	987 (³)	501	2 (³)	2 (³)	247 (³)	125 (³)
New Jersey New York	` 23 49	17 48	1,744 5,484	1,616 4,202	` 6 12	` 4 12	, 436 1,371	, 404 1,051
Pennsylvania	70	60	5,637	4,202	18	15	1,409	1,051
Rhode Island Vermont	(³)	- (³)	(³)	- (³)	(³)	- (³)	(³)	(³)
South	284	294	25,223	30,437	71	74	6,306	7,609
Alabama	7	13	967	1,037	2 5	3	242	259
Arkansas Delaware	18 (³)	16 (³)	2,520	1,888 (³)	(³)	(³)	630	472
District of Columbia	(³)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Florida	91	60	6,576	3,674	23	15	1,644	919
Georgia Kentucky	24 20	13 19	1,886 1,841	1,370 2,802	6 5	3 5	472 460	343 701
Louisiana	8	9	525	521	2	2	131	130
Maryland ⁴	3	9	163	1,146	1	2	41	287
Mississippi	9 27	12 57	668 2,195	872 8,957	2 7	3 14	167 549	218 2,239
North Carolina Oklahoma	7	5	2,193 574	411	2	14	144	103
South Carolina	10	12	1,329	1,485	3	3	332	371
Tennessee	4	9	292	713	1	2	73	178
Texas Virginia	39 13	46 10	3,454 1,830	4,099 965	10 3	12 3	864 458	1,025 241
West Virginia	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Midwest	215	212	22,090	26,366	54	53	5,523	6,592
Illinois Indiana	48 13	42 18	4,971 1,843	7,018 2,140	12 3	11 5	1,243 461	1,755 535
lowa	10	10	1,043	1,434	3	3	279	359
Kansas	(³)	4	(³)	481	(³)	1	(³)	120
Michigan	32	22	3,151	1,911	8	6	788	478
Minnesota Missouri	12 22	12 16	1,132 2,503	874 1,214	3 6	3 4	283 626	219 304
Nebraska	8	(3)	811	(³)	2	(3)	203	(³)
North Dakota	(³)	(3)	(³)	(³)	(³) _	(3)	(³)	(³)
OhioSouth Dakota	29 -	47 -	2,616 -	6,331	7	12	654 -	1,583
Wisconsin	38	38	3,577	4,200	10	10	894	1,050
West	438	498	34,787	41,926	110	125	8,697	10,482
Alaska	8	6	970	426	2	2	243	107
Arizona California	17 322	6 399	1,527 24,007	628 33,225	4 81	2 100	382 6,002	157 8,306
Colorado	10	11	873	957	3	3	218	239
Hawaii	5	3	340	201	1	1	85	50
Idaho Montana	9 7	5 6	613 730	390 561	2 2	1 2	153 183	98 140
Nevada	4	13	279	1,117	1	3	70	279
New Mexico	11	5	705	435	3	1	176	109
Oregon	21	17	2,354	1,479	5	4	589	370
Utah Washington	(³) 20	6 18	(³) 1,774	513 1,489	(³) 5	2 5	(³) 444	128 372
Wyoming	(³)	3	(³)	505	(³)	1	(³)	126
Puerto Rico	9	9	1,058	989	2	2	265	247

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.