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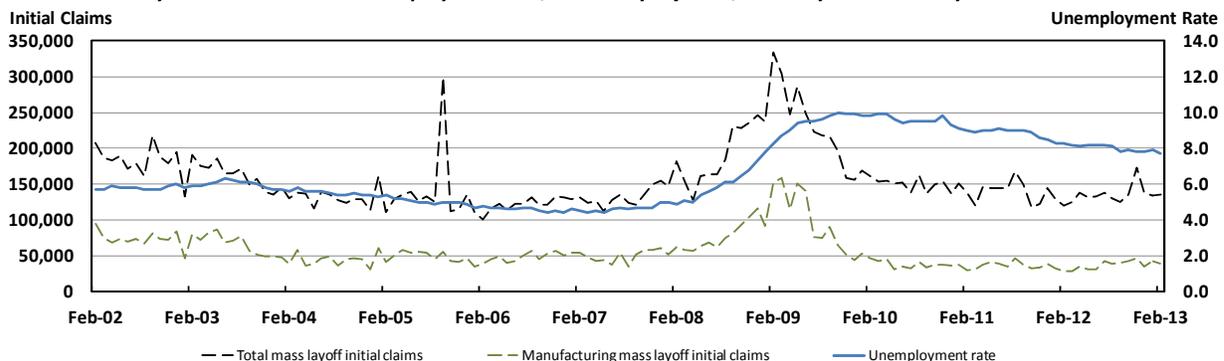
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MASS LAYOFFS — FEBRUARY 2013

Employers took 1,422 mass layoff actions in February involving 135,468 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 increased by 94 from January, and the number of associated initial claims increased by 1,442. In February, 295 mass layoff events were reported in the manufacturing sector resulting in 39,407 initial claims. Monthly mass layoff data are identified using administrative data sources without regard to layoff duration. (See table 1 and the note at the end of this release.)

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



The national unemployment rate was 7.7 percent in February, down from 7.9 percent the prior month and down from 8.3 percent a year earlier. Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 236,000 over the month and by 1,966,000 over the year.

Industry Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

The number of mass layoff events in February was 960, not seasonally adjusted, resulting in 79,786 initial claims for unemployment insurance. (See table 2.) Over the year, the number of average weekly mass layoff events for February increased by 16 to 240, and associated average weekly initial claims increased by 1,453 to 19,947.

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

Industry	Initial claims	February peak	
		Year	Initial claims
Temporary help services ¹	7,564	2001	18,893
School and employee bus transportation	2,592	2008	4,254
Automobile manufacturing	(²)	2001	13,977
Discount department stores	2,263	2004	2,669
Motion picture and video production	2,000	2011	6,260
Supermarkets and other grocery stores	1,869	2012	2,685
Professional employer organizations ¹	1,817	2009	6,452
Food service contractors	1,742	2009	2,580
Highway, street, and bridge construction	1,691	2003	3,316
Department stores, except discount	1,471	2001	2,994

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

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

Nine of the 19 major industry sectors in the private economy reported over-the-year increases in average weekly initial claims, with the largest increase occurring in manufacturing. (See table 3.) The six-digit industry with the largest number of private nonfarm initial claims due to mass layoffs in February was temporary help services. (See table A.)

In February, the manufacturing sector accounted for 21 percent of mass layoff events and 28 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. Nine 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 had the largest number of initial claims due to mass layoffs in February. Two 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 had the highest number of mass layoff initial claims in February, followed by New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, and North Carolina. Twenty-three states and the District of Columbia experienced over-the-year increases in average weekly initial claims, led by California, Kansas, and Indiana. (See table 4.)

Note

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

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

The Mass Layoffs news release for March 2013 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, April 23, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT).

Mass Layoffs Data Discontinued

On March 1, 2013, President Obama ordered into effect the across-the-board spending cuts (commonly referred to as sequestration) required by the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act, as amended. Under the order, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) must cut its current budget by more than \$30 million, 5 percent of the current 2013 appropriation, by September 30, 2013. In order to help achieve these savings and protect core programs, the BLS will eliminate two programs, including Mass Layoff Statistics, and all "measuring green jobs" products. The final release of Mass Layoffs Statistics data will occur on June 21st, with publication of the May 2013 data.

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, March 2009 to February 2013, seasonally adjusted

Date	Total		Private nonfarm		Manufacturing	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
2009						
March	3,022	304,175	2,827	287,023	1,261	158,119
April	2,537	246,938	2,332	231,211	1,022	114,682
May	2,712	286,089	2,522	270,051	1,206	151,114
June	2,470	248,680	2,261	231,529	1,063	140,105
July	2,184	222,776	1,976	203,347	639	76,345
August	2,358	218,380	2,119	198,877	743	75,387
September	2,274	216,959	2,054	200,863	754	90,250
October	1,970	196,370	1,775	178,648	567	64,681
November	1,764	159,283	1,598	146,802	469	51,887
December	1,720	155,738	1,549	141,699	425	44,455
2010						
January	1,699	169,561	1,522	155,298	461	53,303
February	1,647	161,694	1,480	147,259	387	47,272
March	1,703	153,784	1,501	138,188	373	43,022
April	1,622	154,962	1,442	138,849	378	44,860
May	1,585	150,959	1,345	131,482	317	31,677
June	1,701	152,080	1,481	133,366	335	34,653
July	1,521	137,750	1,315	121,313	303	32,064
August	1,612	162,455	1,409	138,849	384	41,123
September	1,526	137,074	1,303	117,582	310	33,906
October	1,661	149,985	1,454	132,373	349	38,157
November	1,584	153,394	1,407	138,925	353	38,097
December	1,476	136,252	1,277	121,849	322	36,611
2011						
January	1,522	150,406	1,335	132,659	327	37,431
February	1,456	137,938	1,263	123,141	312	30,036
March	1,307	119,691	1,156	106,721	269	31,699
April	1,526	145,315	1,366	130,841	352	37,177
May	1,573	144,824	1,387	129,296	399	42,238
June	1,522	144,060	1,342	129,136	359	38,630
July	1,566	144,543	1,347	123,815	342	35,458
August	1,585	168,266	1,364	153,081	374	46,267
September	1,463	150,165	1,319	136,564	346	37,505
October	1,349	118,135	1,220	106,478	335	32,310
November	1,312	123,078	1,177	113,239	312	33,715
December	1,392	144,661	1,247	129,994	346	38,469
2012						
January	1,435	129,169	1,298	118,127	325	32,503
February	1,275	120,199	1,134	109,458	283	28,236
March	1,290	125,195	1,141	112,889	269	28,300
April	1,403	138,164	1,235	122,236	294	34,929
May	1,370	131,603	1,220	119,788	277	31,873
June	1,320	133,080	1,178	120,857	282	31,737
July	1,354	138,694	1,217	128,186	355	43,427
August	1,297	130,266	1,172	120,391	322	39,389
September	1,346	125,692	1,223	116,792	365	40,287
October	1,400	136,153	1,249	125,026	346	42,927
November	1,749	172,879	1,574	159,872	412	47,171
December	1,509	137,839	1,334	125,505	330	35,211
2013						
January	1,328	134,026	1,197	123,088	357	43,068
February	1,422	135,468	1,218	119,856	295	39,407

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

Date	Total		Private nonfarm		Manufacturing	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
2009						
March	2,191	228,387	2,107	221,397	940	114,747
April	2,547	256,930	2,385	243,321	887	100,872
May	2,738	289,628	2,572	274,047	1,005	123,683
June	2,519	256,357	2,051	216,063	674	85,726
July	3,054	336,654	2,659	296,589	1,133	154,208
August	1,428	125,024	1,334	117,193	436	41,151
September	1,371	123,177	1,258	115,141	448	51,126
October	1,934	193,904	1,678	172,883	566	69,655
November	1,870	164,496	1,679	150,751	517	55,053
December	2,310	214,648	2,166	203,655	615	64,540
2010						
January	2,860	278,679	2,682	265,074	962	104,846
February	1,183	102,818	1,091	96,022	282	30,728
March	1,197	111,727	1,111	105,514	273	29,745
April	1,840	199,690	1,697	184,654	424	55,178
May	1,354	123,333	1,170	109,203	216	19,334
June	1,861	171,190	1,355	125,872	212	21,083
July	2,124	206,254	1,732	172,248	532	64,200
August	976	92,435	897	83,021	230	23,088
September	920	77,654	806	67,987	187	19,403
October	1,642	148,638	1,373	127,865	351	40,861
November	1,676	158,048	1,477	142,591	389	41,383
December	1,931	184,130	1,763	172,881	465	52,816
2011						
January	2,558	246,463	2,372	229,765	693	75,006
February	1,024	85,585	919	78,718	222	18,471
March	908	85,095	844	80,014	191	20,869
April	1,750	189,919	1,625	176,478	397	47,104
May	1,367	119,911	1,221	108,531	270	25,199
June	1,661	159,930	1,238	122,821	226	22,986
July	2,176	216,774	1,759	174,078	602	71,814
August	961	99,213	875	93,159	228	26,916
September	1,189	117,232	1,095	107,300	296	32,058
October	1,101	96,914	950	83,748	265	28,447
November	1,393	127,750	1,245	117,474	349	37,799
December	2,433	263,665	2,258	247,916	658	75,033
2012						
January	1,705	141,703	1,587	132,754	415	38,021
February	895	73,974	820	69,076	196	16,555
March	1,125	117,817	1,040	110,954	242	24,241
April	1,421	146,358	1,293	132,697	256	32,518
May	1,201	109,259	1,081	100,434	186	18,800
June	1,890	198,537	1,485	158,334	255	28,570
July	1,515	157,753	1,321	144,340	559	74,963
August	1,063	104,045	992	97,694	251	31,193
September	811	70,570	749	66,214	221	22,748
October	1,142	109,829	968	97,390	277	37,702
November	2,339	249,949	2,078	228,124	551	72,690
December	1,973	187,137	1,822	177,452	477	50,686
2013						
January	1,528	144,517	1,424	135,970	455	50,793
February	960	79,786	846	72,391	192	21,630

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	
	February 2012	February 2013	February 2012	February 2013	February 2012	February 2013	February 2012	February 2013
Total ²	895	960	73,974	79,786	224	240	18,494	19,947
Total, private	865	928	71,884	77,091	216	232	17,971	19,273
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	45	82	2,808	4,700	11	21	702	1,175
Total, private nonfarm	820	846	69,076	72,391	205	212	17,269	18,098
Mining	7	4	510	311	2	1	128	78
Utilities	-	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)
Construction	81	103	5,395	8,221	20	26	1,349	2,055
Construction of buildings	12	17	760	1,099	3	4	190	275
Heavy and civil engineering construction	19	37	1,319	3,645	5	9	330	911
Specialty trade contractors	50	49	3,316	3,477	13	12	829	869
Manufacturing	196	192	16,555	21,630	49	48	4,139	5,408
Food	45	41	4,208	3,879	11	10	1,052	970
Beverage and tobacco products	4	(³)	199	(³)	1	(³)	50	(³)
Textile mills	7	7	638	499	2	2	160	125
Textile product mills	4	6	512	470	1	2	128	118
Apparel	4	4	379	240	1	1	95	60
Leather and allied products	-	3	-	227	-	1	-	57
Wood products	13	11	1,292	1,075	3	3	323	269
Paper	6	3	397	220	2	1	99	55
Printing and related support activities	9	5	634	615	2	1	159	154
Petroleum and coal products	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Chemicals	(³)	4	(³)	272	(³)	1	(³)	68
Plastics and rubber products	9	7	547	1,575	2	2	137	394
Nonmetallic mineral products	7	7	505	591	2	2	126	148
Primary metals	6	10	428	1,221	2	3	107	305
Fabricated metal products	10	14	699	947	3	4	175	237
Machinery	9	15	994	1,347	2	4	249	337
Computer and electronic products	15	12	1,008	684	4	3	252	171
Electrical equipment and appliances	7	6	590	1,396	2	2	148	349
Transportation equipment	20	23	1,725	5,175	5	6	431	1,294
Furniture and related products	13	7	1,095	532	3	2	274	133
Miscellaneous manufacturing	4	3	467	388	1	1	117	97
Wholesale trade	17	12	1,594	854	4	3	399	214
Retail trade ⁴	135	128	12,716	10,111	34	32	3,179	2,528
Building material and garden supply stores	7	10	494	804	2	3	124	201
Food and beverage stores	26	24	2,735	1,915	7	6	684	479
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	19	23	1,390	1,392	5	6	348	348
General merchandise stores	57	47	6,096	4,496	14	12	1,524	1,124
Transportation and warehousing ⁴	32	34	3,506	3,833	8	9	877	958
Truck transportation	3	6	154	339	1	2	39	85
Transit and ground passenger transportation	17	19	2,561	2,939	4	5	640	735
Support activities for transportation	3	4	184	263	1	1	46	66
Information	42	37	4,456	3,247	11	9	1,114	812
Finance and insurance	22	20	1,891	1,400	6	5	473	350
Real estate and rental and leasing	5	6	305	427	1	2	76	107
Professional and technical services	25	45	1,931	2,907	6	11	483	727
Management of companies and enterprises	5	(³)	344	(³)	1	(³)	86	(³)
Administrative and waste services	155	164	11,920	11,875	39	41	2,980	2,969
Educational services	6	8	341	442	2	2	85	111
Health care and social assistance	26	26	1,686	1,601	7	7	422	400
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	19	12	1,442	808	5	3	361	202
Accommodation and food services	37	45	3,814	4,046	9	11	954	1,012
Accommodation	8	16	493	1,270	2	4	123	318
Food services and drinking places	29	29	3,321	2,776	7	7	830	694
Other services, except public administration	7	5	526	296	2	1	132	74
Unclassified	3	2	144	133	1	1	36	33
Government	30	32	2,090	2,695	8	8	523	674
Federal	5	7	337	561	1	2	84	140
State	10	13	715	1,178	3	3	179	295
State government education	7	6	531	395	2	2	133	99
Local	15	12	1,038	956	4	3	260	239
Local government education	6	4	377	311	2	1	94	78

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

² Data were reported by all states and the District of Columbia.

³ Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.

⁴ Includes other industries not shown.

NOTE: Dash represents zero.

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

Census region and state	Mass layoff totals				Average weekly mass layoffs ¹			
	Events		Initial claimants		Events		Initial claimants	
	February 2012	February 2013	February 2012	February 2013	February 2012	February 2013	February 2012	February 2013
Total ²	895	960	73,974	79,786	224	240	18,494	19,947
Northeast	203	159	18,074	15,631	51	40	4,519	3,908
Connecticut	5	15	505	1,656	1	4	126	414
Maine	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Massachusetts	5	10	358	840	1	3	90	210
New Hampshire	3	(³)	209	(³)	1	(³)	52	(³)
New Jersey	26	24	2,246	2,020	7	6	562	505
New York	91	52	8,124	4,652	23	13	2,031	1,163
Pennsylvania	61	45	4,448	4,261	15	11	1,112	1,065
Rhode Island	7	7	1,883	1,838	2	2	471	460
Vermont	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
South	242	237	19,704	19,264	61	59	4,926	4,816
Alabama	7	9	541	776	2	2	135	194
Arkansas	11	9	1,163	679	3	2	291	170
Delaware	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
District of Columbia	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Florida	65	55	3,742	3,090	16	14	936	773
Georgia	20	17	2,195	1,212	5	4	549	303
Kentucky	18	15	1,338	2,267	5	4	335	567
Louisiana	13	6	1,294	492	3	2	324	123
Maryland ⁴	10	7	825	492	3	2	206	123
Mississippi	6	5	353	269	2	1	88	67
North Carolina	27	34	2,604	3,282	7	9	651	821
Oklahoma	5	(³)	315	(³)	1	(³)	79	(³)
South Carolina	8	10	700	964	2	3	175	241
Tennessee	4	10	584	744	1	3	146	186
Texas	33	40	2,714	3,298	8	10	679	825
Virginia	10	14	1,027	1,243	3	4	257	311
West Virginia	-	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)
Midwest	152	146	13,591	15,411	38	37	3,398	3,853
Illinois	40	24	3,291	1,834	10	6	823	459
Indiana	4	12	314	2,115	1	3	79	529
Iowa	11	7	1,246	734	3	2	312	184
Kansas	4	8	447	2,956	1	2	112	739
Michigan	28	16	2,639	1,315	7	4	660	329
Minnesota	3	(³)	237	(³)	1	(³)	59	(³)
Missouri	7	15	449	840	2	4	112	210
Nebraska	8	6	610	448	2	2	153	112
North Dakota	-	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)
Ohio	25	25	2,381	2,211	6	6	595	553
South Dakota	-	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)
Wisconsin	22	26	1,977	2,344	6	7	494	586
West	298	418	22,605	29,480	75	105	5,651	7,370
Alaska	(³)	4	(³)	361	(³)	1	(³)	90
Arizona	13	5	1,023	527	3	1	256	132
California	225	360	16,919	24,357	56	90	4,230	6,089
Colorado	6	(³)	478	(³)	2	(³)	120	(³)
Hawaii	(³)	4	(³)	356	(³)	1	(³)	89
Idaho	6	3	399	201	2	1	100	50
Montana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nevada	5	8	427	701	1	2	107	175
New Mexico	5	(³)	348	(³)	1	(³)	87	(³)
Oregon	19	13	1,497	1,203	5	3	374	301
Utah	3	(³)	228	(³)	1	(³)	57	(³)
Washington	13	17	1,084	1,470	3	4	271	368
Wyoming	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rico	13	8	1,131	810	3	2	283	203

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.