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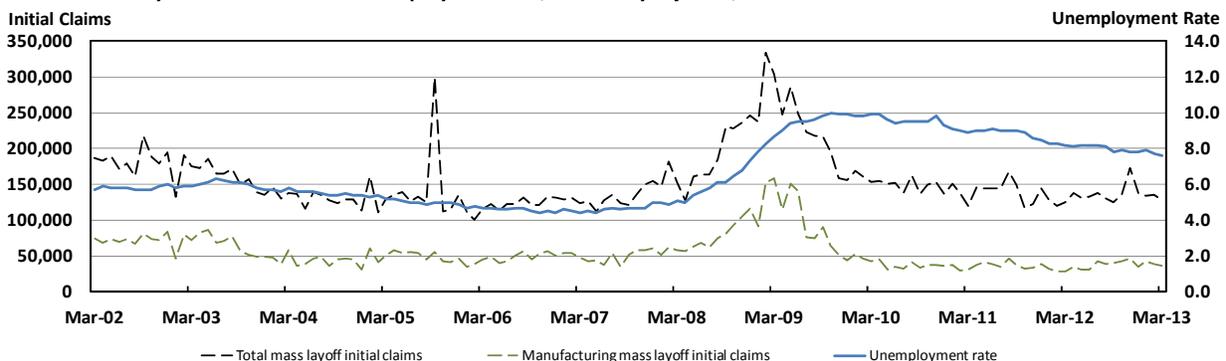
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MASS LAYOFFS — MARCH 2013

Employers took 1,337 mass layoff actions in March involving 127,939 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 decreased by 85 from February, and the number of associated initial claims decreased by 7,529. In March, 311 mass layoff events were reported in the manufacturing sector resulting in 36,696 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, March 2002-March 2013



The national unemployment rate was 7.6 percent in March, essentially unchanged from the prior month and down from 8.2 percent a year earlier. Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 88,000 over the month and by 1,910,000 over the year.

Industry Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

The number of mass layoff events in March was 1,132, not seasonally adjusted, resulting in 114,897 initial claims for unemployment insurance. (See table 2.) Over the year, the number of average weekly mass layoff events for March increased by 1 to 226, while associated average weekly initial claims decreased by 584 to 22,979.

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

Industry	Initial claims	March peak	
		Year	Initial claims
School and employee bus transportation	11,169	2013	11,169
Food service contractors	10,408	2013	10,408
Temporary help services ¹	9,344	2002	14,338
Motion picture and video production	2,895	2005	7,192
Construction machinery manufacturing	2,019	2009	7,933
Tire manufacturing, except retreading	1,981	2013	1,981
Discount department stores	1,791	2007	3,670
Professional employer organizations ¹	1,700	2009	4,892
Process and logistics consulting services	(²)	2009	1,846
Warehouse clubs and supercenters	1,459	2012	1,900

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

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

Ten of the 19 major industry sectors in the private economy reported over-the-year decreases in average weekly initial claims, with the largest decrease occurring in information. (See table 3.) The six-digit industry with the largest number of private nonfarm initial claims due to mass layoffs in March was school and employee bus transportation. (See table A.)

In March, the manufacturing sector accounted for 24 percent of mass layoff events and 26 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 decreases in average weekly initial claims. (See table 3.)

Geographic Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Among the census regions, the South had the largest number of initial claims due to mass layoffs in March, followed closely by the West. Only the West experienced an over-the-year decrease in average weekly initial claims. (See table 4.)

Among the states, California had the highest number of mass layoff initial claims in March, followed by Pennsylvania, Texas, Illinois, and New York. Twenty-four states experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly initial claims, led by California, North Carolina, and Oregon. (See table 4.)

Note

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

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

The Extended Mass Layoffs news release for the First Quarter 2013 is scheduled to be released on Monday, May 13, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT). The Mass Layoffs news release for April 2013 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, May 22, 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, April 2009 to March 2013, seasonally adjusted

Date	Total		Private nonfarm		Manufacturing	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
2009						
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
March	1,337	127,939	1,183	115,664	311	36,696

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

Date	Total		Private nonfarm		Manufacturing	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
2009						
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
March	1,132	114,897	1,048	108,200	268	28,923

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	
	March 2012	March 2013	March 2012	March 2013	March 2012	March 2013	March 2012	March 2013
Total ²	1,125	1,132	117,817	114,897	225	226	23,563	22,979
Total, private	1,083	1,097	113,790	111,521	217	219	22,758	22,304
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	43	49	2,836	3,321	9	10	567	664
Total, private nonfarm	1,040	1,048	110,954	108,200	208	210	22,191	21,640
Mining	8	10	823	845	2	2	165	169
Utilities	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Construction	121	126	9,148	9,526	24	25	1,830	1,905
Construction of buildings	17	28	1,432	2,330	3	6	286	466
Heavy and civil engineering construction	42	39	3,118	3,054	8	8	624	611
Specialty trade contractors	62	59	4,598	4,142	12	12	920	828
Manufacturing	242	268	24,241	28,923	48	54	4,848	5,785
Food	69	57	7,701	5,218	14	11	1,540	1,044
Beverage and tobacco products	5	7	326	1,330	1	1	65	266
Textile mills	6	4	786	572	1	1	157	114
Textile product mills	4	(³)	335	(³)	1	(³)	67	(³)
Apparel	9	5	651	828	2	1	130	166
Leather and allied products	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Wood products	14	14	1,154	1,079	3	3	231	216
Paper	8	6	578	322	2	1	116	64
Printing and related support activities	4	6	341	384	1	1	68	77
Petroleum and coal products	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Chemicals	4	4	242	261	1	1	48	52
Plastics and rubber products	9	13	614	2,882	2	3	123	576
Nonmetallic mineral products	11	11	844	713	2	2	169	143
Primary metals	3	10	223	907	1	2	45	181
Fabricated metal products	18	23	1,084	1,873	4	5	217	375
Machinery	12	16	845	3,268	2	3	169	654
Computer and electronic products	14	12	1,432	1,002	3	2	286	200
Electrical equipment and appliances	13	18	2,417	2,130	3	4	483	426
Transportation equipment	25	39	3,362	4,240	5	8	672	848
Furniture and related products	6	8	613	771	1	2	123	154
Miscellaneous manufacturing	5	9	396	729	1	2	79	146
Wholesale trade	20	12	1,639	1,098	4	2	328	220
Retail trade ⁴	100	84	10,375	8,204	20	17	2,075	1,641
Building material and garden supply stores	8	7	953	630	2	1	191	126
Food and beverage stores	20	17	1,826	1,117	4	3	365	223
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	9	3	604	184	2	1	121	37
General merchandise stores	39	33	5,146	4,268	8	7	1,029	854
Transportation and warehousing ⁴	72	90	9,013	12,753	14	18	1,803	2,551
Truck transportation	6	(³)	358	(³)	1	(³)	72	(³)
Transit and ground passenger transportation	47	69	7,045	11,251	9	14	1,409	2,250
Support activities for transportation	4	7	302	501	1	1	60	100
Information	49	32	9,195	4,261	10	6	1,839	852
Finance and insurance	30	18	2,168	1,810	6	4	434	362
Real estate and rental and leasing	6	8	359	674	1	2	72	135
Professional and technical services	42	36	6,331	4,167	8	7	1,266	833
Management of companies and enterprises	5	5	517	471	1	1	103	94
Administrative and waste services	165	179	16,911	15,271	33	36	3,382	3,054
Educational services	9	(³)	552	(³)	2	(³)	110	(³)
Health care and social assistance	33	31	2,752	2,395	7	6	550	479
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	16	15	1,110	1,716	3	3	222	343
Accommodation and food services	112	117	15,122	14,725	22	23	3,024	2,945
Accommodation	23	21	2,121	1,690	5	4	424	338
Food services and drinking places	89	96	13,001	13,035	18	19	2,600	2,607
Other services, except public administration	6	11	405	772	1	2	81	154
Unclassified	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-
Government	42	35	4,027	3,376	8	7	805	675
Federal	4	3	271	317	1	1	54	63
State	17	12	1,460	1,559	3	2	292	312
State government education	5	5	427	958	1	1	85	192
Local	21	20	2,296	1,500	4	4	459	300
Local government education	4	3	823	161	1	1	165	32

¹ Average weekly analysis mitigates the effect of differing lengths of months. There were 5 weeks in March 2012 and 5 weeks in March 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	
	March 2012	March 2013	March 2012	March 2013	March 2012	March 2013	March 2012	March 2013
Total ²	1,125	1,132	117,817	114,897	225	226	23,563	22,979
Northeast	198	229	18,520	23,264	40	46	3,704	4,653
Connecticut	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-
Maine	5	7	415	515	1	1	83	103
Massachusetts	11	7	1,073	516	2	1	215	103
New Hampshire	3	(³)	339	(³)	1	(³)	68	(³)
New Jersey	21	41	2,065	4,031	4	8	413	806
New York	54	55	5,226	6,562	11	11	1,045	1,312
Pennsylvania	92	111	8,034	10,053	18	22	1,607	2,011
Rhode Island	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Vermont	8	4	1,123	739	2	1	225	148
South	289	290	31,925	32,616	58	58	6,385	6,523
Alabama	18	12	2,130	2,111	4	2	426	422
Arkansas	16	22	1,835	2,610	3	4	367	522
Delaware	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
District of Columbia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Florida	55	58	4,836	4,547	11	12	967	909
Georgia	8	8	1,069	999	2	2	214	200
Kentucky	26	29	2,601	3,237	5	6	520	647
Louisiana	7	5	423	260	1	1	85	52
Maryland ⁴	3	14	182	1,368	1	3	36	274
Mississippi	12	15	1,314	1,237	2	3	263	247
North Carolina	60	35	6,060	3,905	12	7	1,212	781
Oklahoma	3	3	697	725	1	1	139	145
South Carolina	7	11	498	1,039	1	2	100	208
Tennessee	8	11	854	820	2	2	171	164
Texas	50	51	7,962	8,535	10	10	1,592	1,707
Virginia	13	13	1,206	1,042	3	3	241	208
West Virginia	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Midwest	219	230	24,470	26,698	44	46	4,894	5,340
Illinois	36	49	4,610	6,864	7	10	922	1,373
Indiana	18	16	1,830	1,982	4	3	366	396
Iowa	9	11	1,278	1,399	2	2	256	280
Kansas	11	11	1,588	878	2	2	318	176
Michigan	25	25	3,749	3,110	5	5	750	622
Minnesota	10	15	844	1,072	2	3	169	214
Missouri	20	19	1,614	2,674	4	4	323	535
Nebraska	(³)	8	(³)	816	(³)	2	(³)	163
North Dakota	(³)	3	(³)	412	(³)	1	(³)	82
Ohio	48	36	4,638	3,942	10	7	928	788
South Dakota	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin	37	37	3,777	3,549	7	7	755	710
West	419	383	42,902	32,319	84	77	8,580	6,464
Alaska	3	7	178	634	1	1	36	127
Arizona	15	11	1,286	752	3	2	257	150
California	319	289	33,461	23,802	64	58	6,692	4,760
Colorado	9	(³)	1,165	(³)	2	(³)	233	(³)
Hawaii	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-
Idaho	7	8	694	881	1	2	139	176
Montana	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Nevada	9	12	879	1,302	2	2	176	260
New Mexico	8	5	765	458	2	1	153	92
Oregon	20	13	2,153	1,204	4	3	431	241
Utah	5	7	385	582	1	1	77	116
Washington	19	25	1,546	2,256	4	5	309	451
Wyoming	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Puerto Rico	15	15	1,899	2,172	3	3	380	434

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.