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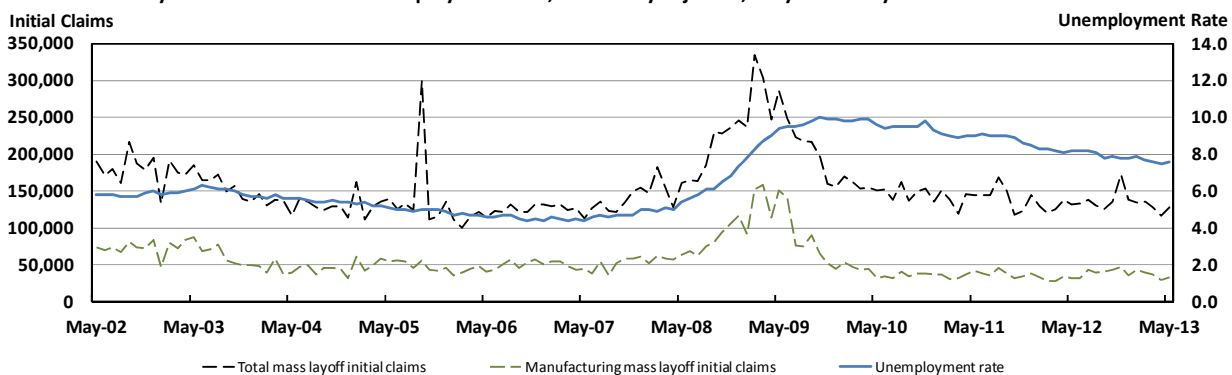
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MASS LAYOFFS — MAY 2013

Employers took 1,301 mass layoff actions in May involving 127,821 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 102 from April, and the number of associated initial claims increased by 10,972. In May, 276 mass layoff events occurred in the manufacturing sector resulting in 33,527 initial claims. Monthly mass layoff events 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, May 2002-May 2013



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. This news release is the final publication of monthly mass layoff survey data.

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

Industry	Initial claims	May peak	
		Year	Initial claims
Temporary help services ¹	11,779	2002	16,992
Food service contractors	10,421	2009	11,216
Child day care services	10,327	2013	10,327
Construction machinery manufacturing	4,084	2013	4,084
School and employee bus transportation	2,783	2008	6,323
Other individual and family services	2,427	2013	2,427
Motion picture and video production	2,222	1999	8,985
Professional employer organizations ¹	2,189	2009	5,898
Discount department stores	1,880	2002	3,981
Supermarkets and other grocery stores	1,851	1996	4,492

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

The national unemployment rate was 7.6 percent in May, essentially unchanged from the prior month and down from 8.2 percent a year earlier. Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 175,000 over the month, and increased by 2,115,000 over the year.

Industry Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

The number of mass layoff events in May was 1,383, not seasonally adjusted, resulting in 134,483 initial claims for unemployment insurance. (See table 2.) Over the year, the number of average weekly mass layoff events for May decreased by 23 to 277, and associated average weekly initial claims decreased by 418 to 26,897. 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 retail trade and information. (See table 3.) Temporary help services was the six-digit industry with the largest number of private nonfarm initial claims due to mass layoffs in May. (See table A.)

The manufacturing sector accounted for 18 percent of mass layoff events and 21 percent of the associated initial claims in the private economy in May. Within manufacturing, the numbers of mass layoff claimants were highest in machinery and in food. Eleven of the 21 manufacturing subsectors experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly initial claims. (See table 3.)

Geographic Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

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

Among the states, California had the highest number of mass layoff initial claims in May, followed by Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Twenty-eight states and the District of Columbia experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly initial claims, led by Missouri and New York. (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. 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.

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, June 2009 to May 2013, seasonally adjusted

Date	Total		Private nonfarm		Manufacturing	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
2009						
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
April	1,199	116,849	1,051	104,746	293	29,744
May	1,301	127,821	1,134	115,260	276	33,527

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

Date	Total		Private nonfarm		Manufacturing	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
2009						
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
April	1,174	119,196	1,068	109,105	248	25,780
May	1,383	134,483	1,218	121,545	221	26,125

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	
	May 2012	May 2013	May 2012	May 2013	May 2012	May 2013	May 2012	May 2013
Total ²	1,201	1,383	109,259	134,483	300	277	27,315	26,897
Total, private	1,099	1,255	101,354	123,833	275	251	25,339	24,767
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	18	37	920	2,288	5	7	230	458
Total, private nonfarm	1,081	1,218	100,434	121,545	270	244	25,109	24,309
Mining	5	5	262	353	1	1	66	71
Utilities	(³)	3	(³)	243	(³)	1	(³)	49
Construction	129	135	9,617	11,463	32	27	2,404	2,293
Construction of buildings	26	23	2,250	2,064	7	5	563	413
Heavy and civil engineering construction	40	49	3,198	4,677	10	10	800	935
Specialty trade contractors	63	63	4,169	4,722	16	13	1,042	944
Manufacturing	186	221	18,800	26,125	47	44	4,700	5,225
Food	48	57	4,487	6,040	12	11	1,122	1,208
Beverage and tobacco products	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Textile mills	7	7	685	523	2	1	171	105
Textile product mills	4	4	266	371	1	1	67	74
Apparel	10	8	711	664	3	2	178	133
Leather and allied products	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood products	4	6	262	530	1	1	66	106
Paper	6	6	628	554	2	1	157	111
Printing and related support activities	16	4	1,373	307	4	1	343	61
Petroleum and coal products	-	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)
Chemicals	5	5	546	385	1	1	137	77
Plastics and rubber products	5	5	300	469	1	1	75	94
Nonmetallic mineral products	5	3	488	195	1	1	122	39
Primary metals	9	16	641	1,125	2	3	160	225
Fabricated metal products	6	12	384	804	2	2	96	161
Machinery	12	29	1,175	7,155	3	6	294	1,431
Computer and electronic products	12	11	913	729	3	2	228	146
Electrical equipment and appliances	4	5	723	551	1	1	181	110
Transportation equipment	19	22	3,836	4,020	5	4	959	804
Furniture and related products	9	11	1,049	1,041	2	2	262	208
Miscellaneous manufacturing	(³)	5	(³)	329	(³)	1	(³)	66
Wholesale trade	16	26	976	1,674	4	5	244	335
Retail trade ⁴	117	103	11,529	9,008	29	21	2,882	1,802
Building material and garden supply stores	8	8	767	759	2	2	192	152
Food and beverage stores	18	22	1,302	1,851	5	4	326	370
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	14	8	773	500	4	2	193	100
General merchandise stores	49	32	6,414	3,534	12	6	1,604	707
Transportation and warehousing ⁴	38	45	4,628	5,188	10	9	1,157	1,038
Truck transportation	7	8	362	552	2	2	91	110
Transit and ground passenger transportation	13	21	2,844	3,338	3	4	711	668
Support activities for transportation	3	(³)	161	(³)	1	(³)	40	(³)
Information	39	43	5,349	4,020	10	9	1,337	804
Finance and insurance	31	18	2,478	1,273	8	4	620	255
Real estate and rental and leasing	4	7	428	540	1	1	107	108
Professional and technical services	56	64	3,780	6,685	14	13	945	1,337
Management of companies and enterprises	4	4	516	407	1	1	129	81
Administrative and waste services	169	207	12,483	17,588	42	41	3,121	3,518
Educational services	11	12	843	980	3	2	211	196
Health care and social assistance	95	133	9,725	15,256	24	27	2,431	3,051
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	26	28	1,920	1,720	7	6	480	344
Accommodation and food services	120	130	14,142	15,553	30	26	3,536	3,111
Accommodation	13	14	970	972	3	3	243	194
Food services and drinking places	107	116	13,172	14,581	27	23	3,293	2,916
Other services, except public administration	29	31	2,595	3,162	7	6	649	632
Unclassified	(³)	3	(³)	307	(³)	1	(³)	61
Government	102	128	7,905	10,650	26	26	1,976	2,130
Federal	7	8	519	782	2	2	130	156
State	24	36	1,856	2,902	6	7	464	580
State government education	15	23	1,008	1,672	4	5	252	334
Local	71	84	5,530	6,966	18	17	1,383	1,393
Local government education	37	52	2,359	3,935	9	10	590	787

¹ Average weekly analysis mitigates the effect of differing lengths of months. There were 4 weeks in May 2012 and 5 weeks in May 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	
	May 2012	May 2013	May 2012	May 2013	May 2012	May 2013	May 2012	May 2013
Total ²	1,201	1,383	109,259	134,483	300	277	27,315	26,897
Northeast	197	182	18,817	16,595	49	36	4,704	3,319
Connecticut	11	6	864	441	3	1	216	88
Maine	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Massachusetts	9	5	1,142	338	2	1	286	68
New Hampshire	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
New Jersey	22	21	1,967	2,033	6	4	492	407
New York	65	52	6,199	5,099	16	10	1,550	1,020
Pennsylvania	79	87	7,483	7,450	20	17	1,871	1,490
Rhode Island	4	3	439	181	1	1	110	36
Vermont	3	5	334	672	1	1	84	134
South	358	428	33,270	45,661	90	86	8,318	9,132
Alabama	13	28	1,019	2,411	3	6	255	482
Arkansas	9	12	1,031	1,398	2	2	258	280
Delaware	(³)	4	(³)	250	(³)	1	(³)	50
District of Columbia	3	3	187	177	1	1	47	35
Florida	75	78	4,621	4,914	19	16	1,155	983
Georgia	28	33	2,906	4,629	7	7	727	926
Kentucky	20	18	1,886	2,193	5	4	472	439
Louisiana	21	16	1,884	2,154	5	3	471	431
Maryland ⁴	9	16	706	1,531	2	3	177	306
Mississippi	28	26	3,961	4,634	7	5	990	927
North Carolina	46	54	4,247	6,177	12	11	1,062	1,235
Oklahoma	5	3	361	214	1	1	90	43
South Carolina	4	11	327	1,570	1	2	82	314
Tennessee	20	24	1,762	3,070	5	5	441	614
Texas	53	76	5,130	7,419	13	15	1,283	1,484
Virginia	21	23	3,038	2,688	5	5	760	538
West Virginia	(³)	3	(³)	232	(³)	1	(³)	46
Midwest	249	292	26,349	33,002	62	58	6,587	6,600
Illinois	64	60	7,361	11,153	16	12	1,840	2,231
Indiana	23	27	2,078	2,285	6	5	520	457
Iowa	12	13	1,208	1,179	3	3	302	236
Kansas	11	11	1,092	1,603	3	2	273	321
Michigan	22	41	1,922	4,333	6	8	481	867
Minnesota	(³)	16	(³)	1,565	(³)	3	(³)	313
Missouri	28	37	4,491	2,723	7	7	1,123	545
Nebraska	9	7	924	903	2	1	231	181
North Dakota	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Ohio	37	44	3,401	3,547	9	9	850	709
South Dakota	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
Wisconsin	35	31	3,298	3,268	9	6	825	654
West	397	481	30,823	39,225	99	96	7,706	7,845
Alaska	7	8	619	657	2	2	155	131
Arizona	14	15	1,245	1,262	4	3	311	252
California	307	377	22,995	30,069	77	75	5,749	6,014
Colorado	10	9	902	930	3	2	226	186
Hawaii	(³)	8	(³)	622	(³)	2	(³)	124
Idaho	3	(³)	201	(³)	1	(³)	50	(³)
Montana	3	6	223	422	1	1	56	84
Nevada	11	13	859	1,102	3	3	215	220
New Mexico	11	10	999	836	3	2	250	167
Oregon	15	19	1,416	2,057	4	4	354	411
Utah	5	(³)	366	(³)	1	(³)	92	(³)
Washington	8	9	736	733	2	2	184	147
Wyoming	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-	(³)	-
Puerto Rico	5	8	504	923	1	2	126	185

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.