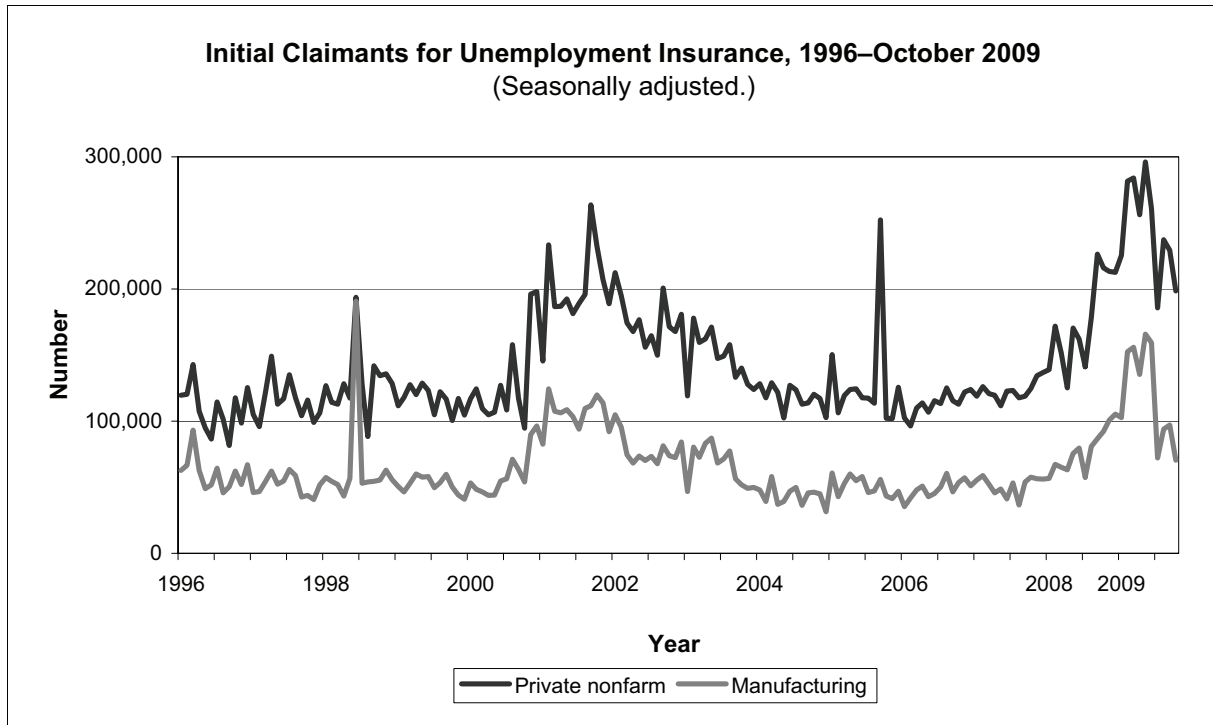


RECENT TRENDS IN THE LABOR MARKET

HIGHLIGHTS

This chapter contains information on mass layoff events, initial claimants for unemployment insurance, movement of work, job openings, hires, and separations.



From December 2007 through October 2009, the total number of mass layoff events (seasonally adjusted) was 49,357, and the number of initial claims filed (seasonally adjusted) in those events was 5,021,824. December 2007 was the start of a recession as designated by the National Bureau of Economic Research. (See Table 7-1.)

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2009, from January through October, the number of mass layoff events (seasonally adjusted), reached 25,872 while the number of initial claims rose to 2,627,390. Both were the highest totals on record from January through October since the Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program began recording data in April 1995. (See Table 7-1.)
- The manufacturing sector accounted for 29 percent of all mass layoff events and 36 percent of initial claims filed in October 2009; a year earlier, manufacturing made up 32 percent of events and 45 percent of initial claims. (See Table 7-3.)
- Of the four census regions, the West had the highest number of initial claims in October 2009 (64,631), followed by the Midwest (60,792), the South (45,772), and the Northeast (22,709). (See Table 7-4.)
- From January 2008 to September 2009, the number of job openings fell significantly. In January 2008, there were 4.3 million job openings and by September 2009, there were less than 2.5 million. (See Table 7-7.)

NOTES AND DEFINITIONS

MASS LAYOFFS

Collection and Coverage

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

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, analysis of over-the-month and over-the-year change in not seasonally adjusted series should take this calendar effect into consideration.

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

The MLS program discontinued the collection of "domestic relocation" and "overseas relocation" as standard reasons for layoff beginning with data for the first quarter 2004. It was felt these reasons do not reflect an economic reason, and instead relate to the effect of the actual reason.

Concepts and Definitions

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.

Extended layoff event is when there are fifty or more initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits from an

employer during a 5-week period, with at least 50 workers separated for more than 30 days.

Initial claimant is a person who files any notice of unemployment to initiate a request either for a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation, or for a subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

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

Mass layoff event is when there are fifty or more initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits from an employer during a five-week period, regardless of duration.

Movement-of-work action is relocation of work within the same company or to other companies, domestically or outside the United States. Because employers may cite more than one location to which work is moving, a layoff event may have more than one action associated with it.

Movement-of-work separations is the number of separations specifically associated with movement-of-work actions.

Outsourcing is the movement of work that was formerly conducted in-house by employees paid directly by a company to a different company under a contractual arrangement.

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.

Separations is the total number of people laid-off in an extended mass layoff event for more than 30 days, according to the employer.

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

Sources of Additional Information

For more extensive information see BLS news release USDL 09-1404 "Mass Layoffs (Monthly)" and USDL 09-1358 "Extended Mass Layoffs (Quarterly)" on the BLS Web site at <<http://www.bls.gov/mls/>>.

Table 7-1. Mass Layoff Events and Initial Claimants for Unemployment Insurance, 1996–October 2009, Seasonally Adjusted

(Number.)

Year and month	Total		Private nonfarm		Manufacturing	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
1996						
January	1 333	130 495	1 231	119 544	563	62 626
February	1 250	131 011	1 116	120 274	544	66 635
March	1 226	151 775	1 110	142 847	581	93 175
April	1 078	115 314	977	107 408	507	62 617
May	1 005	98 129	956	94 957	460	48 972
June	1 071	95 156	956	86 476	435	51 901
July	1 143	121 576	1 047	114 533	475	64 477
August	1 138	111 018	1 015	101 550	470	45 750
September	1 098	89 262	992	81 578	437	50 320
October	1 269	128 505	1 105	117 632	479	62 133
November	1 124	107 614	1 006	98 567	479	52 019
December	1 364	136 382	1 204	125 521	524	67 104
1997						
January	1 154	117 136	985	105 049	355	45 970
February	985	104 805	868	95 846	363	46 614
March	1 233	134 334	1 051	121 521	399	54 344
April	1 353	162 965	1 165	149 073	504	62 166
May	1 229	123 446	1 102	112 769	452	52 241
June	1 383	137 275	1 106	117 005	467	54 828
July	1 436	153 734	1 220	135 080	484	63 442
August	1 197	129 375	1 040	117 754	485	58 941
September	1 132	118 918	933	104 136	337	42 572
October	1 235	130 351	1 050	116 063	377	43 911
November	1 157	109 533	1 018	99 067	378	40 752
December	1 238	118 146	1 072	106 346	430	51 879
1998						
January	1 316	143 061	1 089	126 988	406	57 309
February	1 234	129 602	1 046	114 166	438	54 440
March	1 181	124 912	1 030	112 851	436	52 061
April	1 362	145 440	1 142	128 241	428	43 403
May	1 248	129 030	1 089	117 332	466	56 728
June	1 332	205 228	1 162	193 631	684	190 810
July	1 422	147 574	1 187	128 085	444	53 057
August	1 076	100 917	887	88 347	433	54 085
September	1 268	150 904	1 139	141 911	450	54 589
October	1 389	153 632	1 174	134 417	468	55 517
November	1 331	151 957	1 138	135 741	467	63 022
December	1 400	150 760	1 115	128 451	415	55 676
1999						
January	1 399	129 104	1 122	111 713	429	50 593
February	1 321	136 296	1 074	117 827	404	46 526
March	1 354	148 022	1 112	127 562	460	53 087
April	1 251	134 118	1 058	120 142	457	60 125
May	1 278	146 682	1 063	128 874	438	57 589
June	1 217	138 397	1 053	123 191	446	58 202
July	1 136	117 941	951	104 930	358	49 567
August	1 188	140 981	1 000	122 361	408	53 579
September	1 355	134 430	1 152	116 756	374	59 783
October	995	115 894	797	100 478	344	50 194
November	1 258	138 992	1 025	117 116	337	44 140
December	1 174	119 033	973	104 519	298	40 825
2000						
January	1 100	126 440	968	116 846	371	53 270
February	1 280	151 107	1 018	124 497	379	48 372
March	1 159	126 309	965	109 445	393	46 564
April	1 030	115 068	913	104 865	407	43 829
May	1 196	126 525	976	106 893	376	44 019
June	1 220	145 766	1 020	127 239	406	54 672
July	1 065	118 649	922	108 499	417	56 465
August	1 282	178 789	1 060	157 762	423	71 141
September	1 260	134 153	1 045	117 266	407	63 394
October	938	107 676	798	94 783	385	54 006
November	1 643	215 381	1 447	196 166	599	89 869
December	1 691	214 601	1 514	197 944	575	96 295
2001						
January	1 288	158 580	1 144	145 584	529	82 504
February	1 912	253 943	1 684	233 524	828	124 430
March	1 761	202 344	1 569	186 565	800	107 481
April	1 622	200 683	1 484	186 898	776	106 255
May	1 676	206 062	1 523	192 500	750	108 773
June	1 608	195 802	1 432	181 264	740	103 468
July	1 710	201 363	1 574	189 030	721	93 949
August	1 732	207 416	1 568	195 777	791	109 611
September	2 407	277 955	2 236	263 773	841	111 520
October	2 177	242 507	2 051	232 371	923	119 873
November	2 104	218 378	1 940	206 999	948	113 776
December	1 824	200 677	1 673	188 836	746	92 019
2002						
January	1 841	224 765	1 711	212 461	764	104 909
February	1 823	207 788	1 663	194 840	701	95 406
March	1 697	187 212	1 525	174 281	604	74 492
April	1 666	183 005	1 494	167 848	584	68 282
May	1 730	190 129	1 561	176 744	613	73 612
June	1 632	171 213	1 436	155 960	547	70 137
July	1 632	179 407	1 461	164 741	557	73 479
August	1 468	161 431	1 324	149 847	563	67 831
September	1 918	217 299	1 737	200 635	615	81 292
October	1 749	187 851	1 573	171 346	611	73 940
November	1 651	178 739	1 507	167 723	590	72 329
December	1 834	194 852	1 646	180 976	676	84 247

Table 7-1. Mass Layoff Events and Initial Claimants for Unemployment Insurance, 1996–October 2009, Seasonally Adjusted—Continued

(Number.)

Year and month	Total		Private nonfarm		Manufacturing	
	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants	Events	Initial claimants
2003						
January	1 336	132 819	1 160	119 199	382	46 839
February	1 831	191 434	1 650	178 003	650	80 285
March	1 784	175 384	1 589	159 467	609	72 679
April	1 702	172 252	1 555	162 323	637	83 268
May	1 744	185 159	1 556	171 221	646	87 077
June	1 726	164 597	1 518	147 553	640	68 197
July	1 661	165 130	1 450	149 233	567	71 319
August	1 546	171 996	1 383	157 968	563	77 405
September	1 571	149 250	1 370	133 276	479	56 454
October	1 525	157 759	1 319	140 086	422	51 872
November	1 370	139 572	1 225	127 963	379	49 219
December	1 395	136 166	1 226	124 009	428	49 789
2004						
January	1 414	145 593	1 221	128 305	396	47 882
February	1 257	130 205	1 111	117 788	365	39 214
March	1 362	138 397	1 222	129 094	396	58 213
April	1 349	136 837	1 175	121 841	347	37 115
May	1 240	116 392	1 077	102 443	340	39 208
June	1 397	139 975	1 231	127 229	370	46 998
July	1 315	135 186	1 165	123 768	371	49 945
August	1 417	127 814	1 226	112 867	344	36 298
September	1 275	124 279	1 149	113 689	337	45 732
October	1 265	129 312	1 153	120 337	366	46 319
November	1 306	129 014	1 161	117 300	374	44 939
December	1 163	114 258	1 009	102 732	285	31 445
2005						
January	1 474	159 945	1 341	150 403	387	60 842
February	1 087	117 129	964	106 399	350	42 747
March	1 204	129 993	1 056	119 466	368	52 667
April	1 244	134 425	1 111	123 958	396	60 052
May	1 264	137 475	1 121	124 468	397	54 998
June	1 196	126 416	1 082	117 568	367	58 003
July	1 241	130 331	1 094	117 510	354	46 056
August	1 143	125 536	1 000	113 465	342	47 255
September	2 250	296 913	2 035	252 291	420	55 974
October	1 109	111 202	991	102 111	320	43 387
November	1 162	113 502	1 027	102 058	325	41 493
December	1 263	136 751	1 135	125 700	358	46 940
2006						
January	1 112	111 601	986	102 359	293	35 390
February	960	104 045	872	96 317	317	41 810
March	1 078	118 270	976	109 842	320	48 026
April	1 198	123 674	1 062	113 849	366	50 747
May	1 132	116 808	1 013	106 743	312	42 958
June	1 156	124 955	1 044	115 491	356	45 280
July	1 204	123 172	1 077	113 324	381	50 109
August	1 278	136 289	1 117	125 064	376	60 524
September	1 167	124 083	1 054	115 451	390	46 470
October	1 195	121 439	1 081	112 777	401	53 597
November	1 209	131 459	1 096	122 136	402	57 084
December	1 201	133 311	1 100	124 019	369	51 113
2007						
January	1 261	129 190	1 116	118 890	406	55 341
February	1 240	134 524	1 130	126 105	404	58 861
March	1 261	129 480	1 151	120 923	407	52 356
April	1 281	130 263	1 145	119 683	381	45 654
May	1 200	119 259	1 097	111 585	368	48 682
June	1 256	132 078	1 138	122 726	356	41 135
July	1 288	131 556	1 182	123 322	405	53 318
August	1 262	125 334	1 162	117 557	331	36 577
September	1 279	125 527	1 183	118 917	440	54 006
October	1 346	133 514	1 224	124 666	436	57 527
November	1 352	143 419	1 233	134 445	408	56 330
December	1 469	145 916	1 354	136 914	447	56 152
2008						
January	1 476	149 068	1 350	139 076	435	56 579
February	1 669	183 038	1 532	172 013	526	67 235
March	1 585	161 497	1 471	151 550	483	65 252
April	1 344	135 352	1 215	125 074	487	63 247
May	1 701	180 558	1 563	170 538	538	75 520
June	1 717	174 748	1 561	162 071	555	79 744
July	1 535	152 499	1 390	141 239	455	57 648
August	1 887	188 951	1 735	178 479	626	80 913
September	2 290	240 721	2 114	226 492	643	86 617
October	2 204	230 330	2 042	216 095	687	92 256
November	2 333	225 639	2 185	213 288	868	100 643
December	2 275	226 117	2 100	212 559	871	105 402
2009						
January	2 227	237 902	2 070	225 490	738	102 577
February	2 769	295 477	2 628	281 500	1 235	152 618
March	2 933	299 388	2 751	283 989	1 259	155 909
April	2 712	271 226	2 519	256 111	1 111	135 252
May	2 933	312 880	2 736	296 108	1 331	165 802
June	2 763	279 231	2 536	260 747	1 235	159 310
July	2 157	206 791	1 928	185 718	621	72 266
August	2 690	259 307	2 428	237 302	900	93 982
September	2 561	248 006	2 324	229 371	856	97 066
October	2 127	217 182	1 918	198 453	619	70 572