

Program Overview

The Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program is a Federal/State cooperative program that collects data on mass layoff actions that result in workers being separated from their jobs. The Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes both monthly and quarterly releases. Monthly mass layoff numbers are from establishments which have at least 50 initial claims for unemployment insurance (UI) filed against them during a 5-week period. Quarterly issued extended mass layoff numbers are from a subset of such establishments—where private sector nonfarm employers confirm that 50 or more workers were separated from their jobs for at least 31 days. Worker separations is the term used to describe the number of workers affected by a layoff event.

Summary for 2012

In 2012 there were 63 confirmed extended mass layoff events within the private nonfarm sector in Arizona which resulted in 14,051 worker separations.

Events by Quarter



In 2012, the highest number of confirmed mass layoff events in Arizona took place within the second quarter. Arizona typically has a relatively high number of mass layoff events occurring in the second quarter due to the seasonal nature of produce packing in the southern portion of

Arizona and the seasonal effect that the end of the school year has on some private sector businesses within the state.

Events by Industry

The industries that experienced confirmed extended mass layoff events in Arizona in 2012 are summarized as follows:



Other – 7 events involving 1543 separations

Finance and insurance - 5 events involving 577 separations

Professional and technical services - 4 events involving 1941 separations

Accommodation and food services - 5 events involving 1280 separations

Manufacturing - 7 events involving 894 separations

Construction – 10 events involving 1812 separations

Health care and social assistance - 9 events involving 1732 separations

Retail trade - 7 events involving 2366 separations

Administrative and waste services - 9 events involving 1906 separations

The industry that experienced the most confirmed mass layoff events in 2012 in Arizona was the construction sector. No one sector of those combined in the 'Other' category had more than three confirmed mass layoff events in 2012.

2012 Compared to 2011

There were 63 total confirmed mass layoff events in Arizona in 2012 and 67 in 2011.

