

South Carolina

Mass Layoff Statistics

2011 Data

Mass Layoff Statistics Annual Report

The Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program is a Federal and State effort which collects information on mass layoff actions that result in workers being separated from their jobs. MLS applies a standardized approach to identify, describe, and track the effects of major job cutbacks, using data from the State's Unemployment Insurance (UI) database.

Each state submits a monthly report on employers who have experienced a layoff event. These employers are contacted by their state agency. Information is obtained on the total number of people separated; the reasons for separation; worksite closures; recall expectations; and socioeconomic characteristics on UI claimants, such as gender, age, race, and residency.

These characteristics are collected at two points in time—when an initial claim is filed with the State Unemployment Insurance Agency, and when the claimant exhausts their regular UI benefits. In between these points, the unemployment status of claimants is tracked through the monitoring of unemployment (continued claims) filed under the regular State UI program. Data is available for all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, as well as by industry.

A *mass layoff event* occurs when at least 50 initial claims are filed against an establishment during a consecutive 5-week period, regardless of duration.

An *extended mass layoff event* occurs when at least 50 initial claims are filed against an establishment during a consecutive 5-week period **and** at least 50 workers have been separated from work for more than 30 days.

Establishments are identified according to industry classification and location. Unemployment insurance claimants are identified by such demographic characteristics as age, race, sex, ethnic group, and places of residence. The MLS program provides databases of establishments and claimants, both of which are used for further research and analysis.

Mass layoff statistical data is used for the following purposes:

- Sub-state allocations of Federal funds for dislocated workers through the Economic Development and Worker Adjustment Assistance Act.
- Analysis of ailing industries or geographic areas.
- Identification of the causes and scope of worker dislocation, especially in terms of the human and economic costs, and the characteristics of dislocated workers.
- Development of approaches for workforce planners and labor market analysts in assisting employers and workers at the local level.
- Analysis of a potentially available labor market supply.

The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, Labor Market Information in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics



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SC Department of
Employment and Workforce

Labor Market Information

Major Industries

There were 37 extended mass layoff events registered in South Carolina during 2011, which resulted in the separation and filing of 6,285 initial unemployment claims. The total number of workers separated from their jobs for more than 30 days experienced a significant decline when compared to the previous three years. There was a decrease of 62 percent in initial claims reported for 2011, compared to 2010. Overall, South Carolina has seen a reduction in extended mass layoff events and separations since 2008.

Over the year, the number of private nonfarm extended mass layoff events dropped in eight of the 18 major industry sectors. In 2011, Administrative and Waste Services recorded the largest number of events. The Manufacturing sector experienced 38 percent of the total separations, which resulted in 2,260 initial claims. During 2011, the highest number of events occurred in the second and third quarters.

Extended Mass Layoffs by Major Industries 2008 - 2011

Industry	2008		2009		2010		2011	
	Initial Claims	Separations	Initial Claims	Separations	Initial Claims	Separations	Initial Claims	Separations
Total, Private	19,692	17,759	22,417	19,070	16,660	16,018	6,285	8,372
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	812	896	512	696	573	757	0	0
Manufacturing	11,677	10,417	11,555	8,768	7,156	6,784	2,260	3,167
Wholesale Trade	303	303	707	695	-	-	-	-
Retail Trade	1,511	1,319	1,945	1,860	851	851	-	-
Transportation and Warehousing	780	757	912	914	870	870	617	412
Information	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	-
Finance and Insurance	-	-	325	231	436	212	-	-
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
Professional and Technical Services	-	-	293	-	-	-	-	-
Management of Companies and Enterprises	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Administrative and Waste Services	3,081	2,432	4,317	3,912	3,929	3,801	1,954	2,892
Educational Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health Care and Social Assistance	292	355	262	265	-	-	-	-
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	-	-	440	418	-	-	-	-
Accommodation and Food Services	293	430	700	719	1,936	1,914	-	-
Other Services, except Public Administration	-	-	366	226	412	385	-	-

- Indicates data is suppressed to protect confidentiality

Initial Claims by Workforce Investment Area

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998, provides assistance to qualified jobseekers for workforce education and career support through federal job training programs. In 2011, employers in the Lower Savannah Workforce Area reported the highest number of initial claims due to extended mass layoffs (1,560), followed by the Midlands Workforce Area (948).

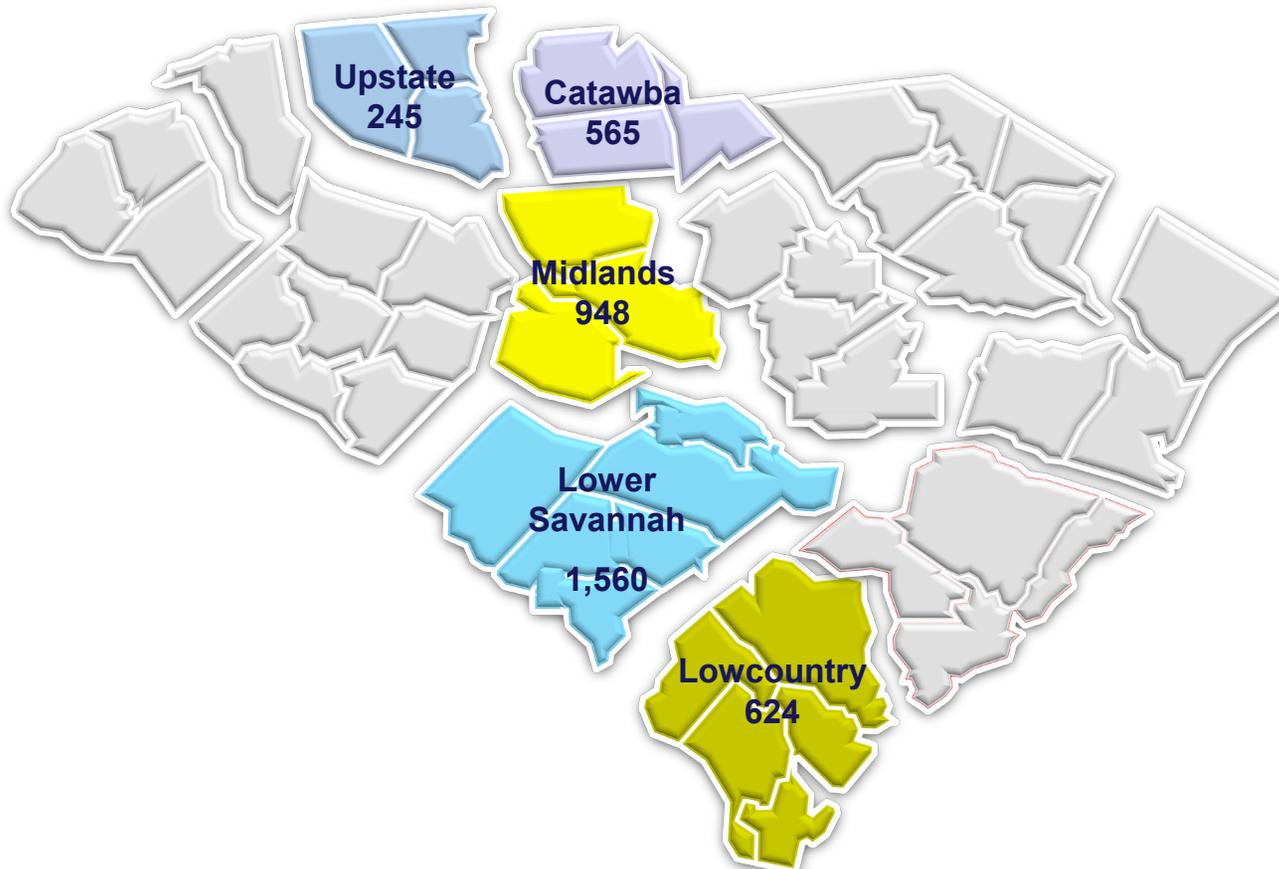
Of the twelve geographic Workforce areas, only nine reported separations from their jobs for 31 days or more during a 5-week period. Four Workforce areas have been suppressed in order to protect the confidentiality of establishments.

Within the twelve statistical areas, claimants residing in the southern region of the state averaged 39 percent of total initial claims.

Among the Workforce areas recording initial claims data, 28 percent of claimants were associated with Administrative and Support Services and 19 percent were in Machinery Manufacturing.

Of those Workforce Investment Areas that had extended mass layoffs, the Upstate Workforce area had the lowest total of initial claims filed during 2011, registering 3.9 percent of the total.

Workforce Investment Areas



Characteristics of Initial Claims

In total, there were 6,285 initial claims filed for Unemployment Insurance benefits in 2011. Three of the past four years in South Carolina, more than 60 percent of individuals filing initial claims were Black/Non-Hispanic. White/Non-Hispanic workers also presented a significant share of job losses.

Individuals in South Carolina between the ages of 30 and 44 accounted for the largest number of initial claims (1,967) filed in 2011. Overall, female claimants constituted the highest total of initial claims filed.

Initial Claimant Characteristics 2008 - 2011

Initial Claims by Race / Ethnicity								
	2008		2009		2010		2011	
	Initial Claims	Percent						
Totals	19,692	100	22,417	100	16,660	100	6,285	100
White/Non-Hispanic	6,458	32.8	10,095	45.0	5,985	35.9	1,963	31.2
Black/Non-Hispanic	12,539	63.7	11,312	50.5	10,040	60.3	3,890	61.9
Hispanic origin	173	0.9	300	1.3	252	1.5	229	3.6
American Indian or Alaskan Native	314	1.6	316	1.4	202	1.2	124	2.0
Asian or Pacific Islander	128	0.7	246	1.1	132	0.8	39	0.6
Information not available	80	0.4	148	0.7	49	0.3	40	0.6
Initial Claims by Gender								
	2008		2009		2010		2011	
	Initial Claims	Percent						
Totals	19,692	100	22,417	100	16,660	100	6,285	100
Males	10,382	52.7	11,952	53.3	8,395	50.4	2,714	43.2
Females	9,308	47.3	10,418	46.5	8,265	49.6	3,571	56.8
Information not available	2	0.0	47	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
Initial Claims by Age								
	2008		2009		2010		2011	
	Initial Claims	Percent						
Totals	19,692	100	22,417	100	16,660	100	6,285	100
Under 30	3,408	17.3	3,999	17.8	3,113	18.7	1,237	19.7
30 to 44	4,631	23.5	5,197	23.2	4,356	26.1	1,967	31.3
45 to 54	2,899	14.7	3,642	16.2	2,795	16.8	1,409	22.4
55 and over	1,919	9.7	2,966	13.2	2,088	12.5	1,312	20.9
Information not available	6,835	34.7	6,613	29.5	4,308	25.9	360	5.7

Primary Reasons for Mass Layoffs

The *Business Demand Reasons* category was the most prevalent cause cited by employers for mass layoffs during employer interviews for 2011. Separated workers in this category totaled 2,425 for extended mass layoffs.

Business Demand Reasons subcategories such as "Slack work/insufficient demand/non-seasonal business slowdowns (1,183) and Contract completions (1,011)" comprised 49 percent and 42 percent of separated workers, respectively. Compared to the previous year, 2011 showed an increase of 38 percent in separated workers.

Other/Miscellaneous Reasons (1,853) was the reason cited for 22 percent of separations and 12 events, while *Seasonal Reasons* (1,589) represented 19 percent of total separated workers.

Primary Reasons for Mass Layoffs 2011		
Reasons	Separated Workers	Initial Claims
Totals	8,372	6,285
Business Demand Reasons	2,425	1,353
Disaster/Safety Reasons	0	0
Financial Reasons	-	-
Organizational Reasons	-	-
Production Reasons	-	-
Seasonal Reasons	1,589	1,518
Other/Miscellaneous Reasons	1,853	1,829

- Indicates data is suppressed to protect confidentiality

Movement of Work

Movement of work occurs when a company reassigns work activities that were previously performed at a particular worksite by its employees, to one of the following:

1. another worksite within the company;
2. another company, under formal arrangements, at the same worksite; or
3. another company, under formal arrangements, at another worksite.

In 2011, movement of work inside the United States involved 305 extended mass layoffs. These separations were spread among six states. The majority of separations were mainly caused by a failing housing market.

Movement of work to a different location within the company was also seen in Mexico, resulting in 218 extended mass layoffs. Mexico had an increase of more than 500 jobs over the past four years.

Movement to Work 2011

Year	Mexico	Brazil	El Salvador	Inside US
2011	218	-	-	305*
2010	-	-	-	-
2009	217	-	-	-
2008	121	-	-	-

- Indicates data is suppressed to protect confidentiality

* Movement of work includes several states: AZ, KY, MI, MS, PA, and TN.

Glossary of Terms

Business Demand - The desire and claiming of goods and services by consumers.

Business Functions - Specific activities that a company performs in order to produce products, provide services, or otherwise achieve objectives. Currently, the MLS program codes functions into the following nine business processes:

- Strategic management
- Procurement, logistics, and distribution
- Operations
- Product development
- Marketing, sales, and account management
- Customer and after-sales service
- General management and company infrastructure
- Human resource management
- Technology and process development

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Event - A layoff for which the total number of initial claims meets or exceeds 50 (which is the BLS trigger number) within a consecutive 5-week period.

Employer - Someone who hires and pays wages, thereby providing a livelihood to individuals who perform work. The employment relationship confers authority on the employer, who has the right to control and direct the work to be performed. It is also a company covered by state unemployment insurance laws at which one predominant type of activity is conducted.

Establishment - A place of business with its possessions and staff.

Extended Mass Layoffs - Establishments where private sector nonfarm employers indicate that 50 or more workers were separated from their jobs for 31 days or more during a 5-week period.

Initial Claims (also Claimant) - Term used to define the first notice of unemployment a person files with the State Unemployment Insurance Agency to initiate a request, either for a determination of eligibility for compensation, or for a subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

Layoff - The act of suspending or dismissing an employee for lack of work, or due to corporate reorganization. These involve both people who are subject to recall and those who are terminated.

Mass Layoff - Fifty or more initial claims filed against an employer during a 5-week period, regardless of the duration of the layoff.

Movement of Work - Work activities being performed at a worksite which are reassigned in one of the following ways:

1. to another worksite within the company;
2. to another company under formal arrangements at the the same worksite; or
3. to another company under formal arrangements at another worksite

Seasonal - Dependant or related to a specific time of year.

Seasonal reasons - Insufficient demand or work slow down occurring during the off-season for an industry.

Separations - The release of employees from an employer as part of a mass layoff event; the total number of permanent layoffs in an event, as reported by the employer during an employer contact. Such releases involve both individuals subject to recall and those who were terminated by the establishment.

Slack work - Term used for a reduction in working hours due to a decrease in company workload.

This issue reflects labor market information for 2011, the most current annual data available for mass layoff statistics.

Due to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) confidentiality regulations, the disclosure of names of employers with mass layoffs is not permitted.

Visit the SC Department of Employment and Workforce, Labor Market Information website at the following address for all your labor market statistical data needs:
<http://www.scworkforceinfo.com>

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