
Mass Layoff Statistics

The Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program is conducted by the state of Utah in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The MLS program identifies, describes and tracks the effects of major job cutbacks using data from the state unemployment insurance database. A company is considered to have had a potential mass layoff if 50 or more initial unemployment insurance claims were filed against the company during a consecutive 5-week period. If a company experiences a potential mass layoff and 50 or more workers are separated from their jobs for more than 30 days, then the layoff is characterized as an extended mass layoff.

The size and health of Utah's economy are such that MLS events are somewhat of a rare occurrence within our state. Despite the uncommon nature of these events, MLS initial claim activity is strongly correlated with other more notable economic indicators. Further research is needed to determine if a causal relationship exists between these data, but there is potential for MLS as a leading economic indicator.

