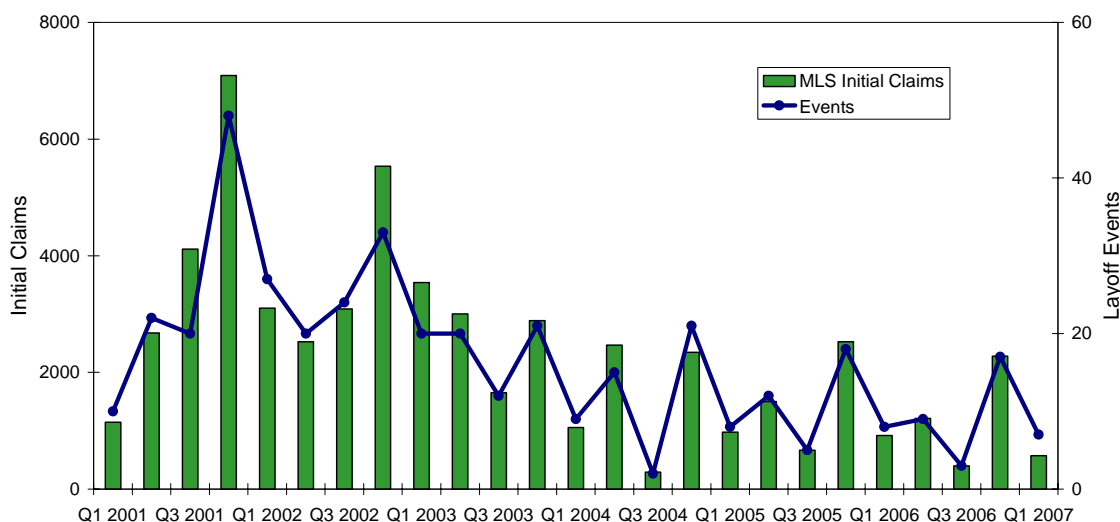


Mass Layoff Statistics First Quarter 2007 Summary

The Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program records and tracks layoff events occurring in Colorado through the use of the unemployment insurance program. A mass layoff event occurs when at least fifty people from a firm file a first-time or initial claim for unemployment insurance during any consecutive five-week period with the workers being separated for more than 30 days.

The first quarter of 2007 showed a decrease in the amount of mass layoff events and initial claims from both the previous quarter and one year ago. A total of seven mass layoff events were recorded from January through March of this year, down from 17 events during the final quarter of 2006 and just under the eight events from the first quarter of 2006. The first quarter's mass layoffs included 573 initial claims filed for unemployment insurance and a total of 567 total separations.

Colorado Mass Layoff Events and Initial Claims



The highest number of MLS claims and events this quarter came from construction with four of the quarter's events. Construction often turns up with winter layoffs due to the seasonal nature of the work. With the heavy snows this year, the construction industry had three more extended layoff events than in the first quarter of 2006. Additionally manufacturing experienced two extended layoff events this quarter while retail trade had a single layoff event.

Nationally, 965 mass layoff events left 139,269 workers away from their jobs for at least thirty-one days. The number of layoff events was essentially unchanged from the same time in 2006, while the number of separations decreased. Each extended layoff in the first quarter of 2007 averaged 144 separations, compared to 190 in the first quarter of 2006.

Layoffs due to business demand factors (contract completion, contract cancellation, domestic competition, excess inventory, import competition and slack work) accounted for the highest percentage – 41 - of events across the country. Layoffs due to seasonality (seasonal and vacation period) accounted for 24 percent of all events. Manufacturing industries claimed 33 percent of layoffs during the first quarter. Construction, an industry strongly affected by seasonal reasons in the winter months, experienced the second highest proportion of layoffs, at 29 percent.