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About The Program...

The MLS (Mass Layoff Statistics) Program is a cooperative effort of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the S.C. Employment Security Commission. Standard definitions and a standard operating system are used in identifying, describing, and tracking major job cutbacks using South Carolina's unemployment insurance databases. Extended layoff events are those in which at least 50 workers are separated for at least 31 days. Separations are the counts of individuals actually laid off from the establishment as obtained by contacting the employer directly. An initial claim is any notice of unemployment filed to request a (1) determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

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Quarterly Separations Down While Initial Claims Rise

Extended mass layoff separations dropped from 1,873 in the second quarter of 1997 to 1,323 in the third quarter of 1997. This 29.7 drop is reflective of the decrease in extended mass layoff events which dropped from 18 in the previous quarter to 12 in the third quarter. The most given reason for the separations was "slack work."

Manufacturing separations rose during the third quarter from 606 in the previous quarter to 795. The increased number of separations in textile mill products accounted for most of the increase in manufacturing separations. The most commonly cited reason for manufacturing separations was "vacation period," cited by 22.5 percent of manufacturing firms involved in extended mass layoffs.

With 1,267 separations in the second quarter, nonmanufacturing separations declined by 58.3 percent in the third quarter to 528 separations. The key factor behind this drop was the 94.2 percent drop in services. Approximately 56.8 percent of the nonmanufacturing firms involved in extended mass layoffs cited "slack work" as the reason for the separations.

About 53.2 percent of those filing initial claims resulting from an extended mass layoff event in the third quarter of 1997 were female. Some 49.7 percent of the initial claimants were black.

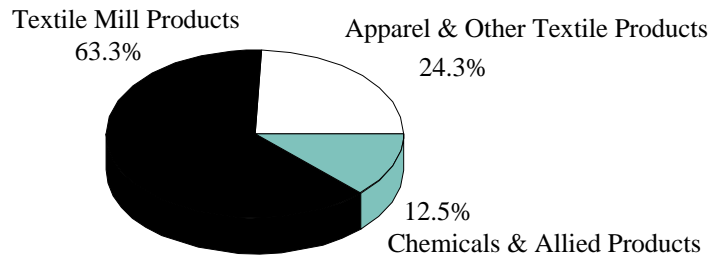


LAYOFF EVENT SIZE

The numbers of workers per event affected by extended mass layoffs rose during the third quarter. Approximately 50 percent of extended mass layoffs involved 100 - 149 workers per event. Over 91 percent of the quarter's extended mass layoffs involved less than 149 workers per event.

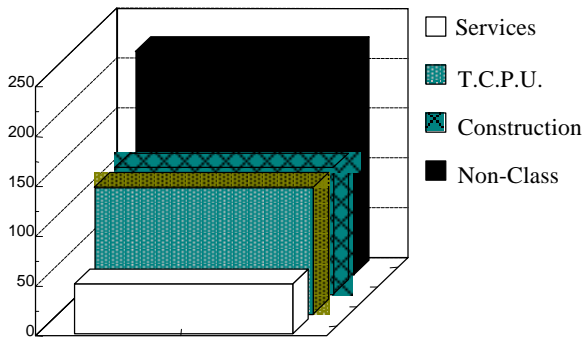
	Layoff Events		Separations	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	12	100.0	1,323	100.0
50-99	5	41.7	349	26.4
100-149	6	50.0	750	56.7
150-199	0	0.0	0	0.0
200-299	1	8.3	224	16.9
300-499	0	0.0	0	0.0

MANUFACTURING SEPARATIONS



Nondurables composed the quarter's manufacturing separations with 795 separations. Separations in textile mill products led manufacturing with 63.3 percent and 503 separations. Apparel & other textile products contributed 193 separations while chemical & allied products posted 99 separations.

NONMANUFACTURING SEPARATIONS



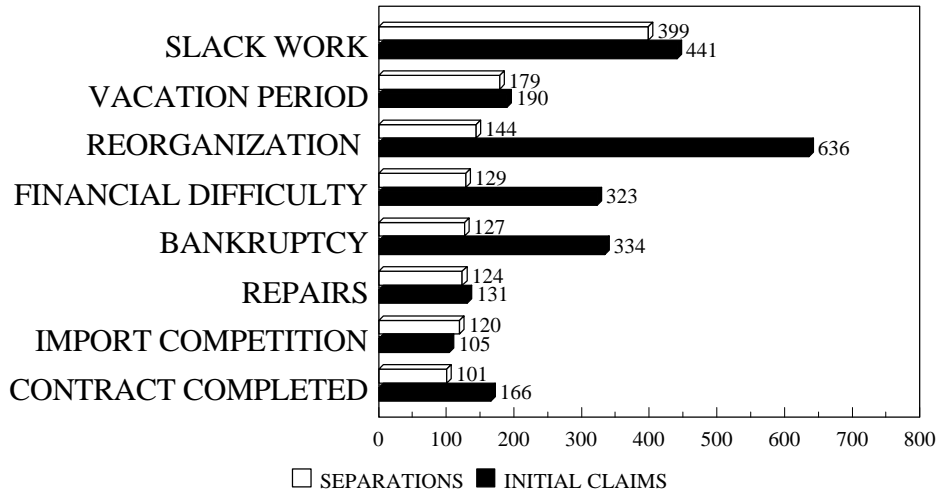
T.C.P.U. = Transportation & Public Utilities

Nonmanufacturing separations dropped significantly from the 1,267 posted in the second quarter of 1997. Third quarter nonmanufacturing separations totaled 528. Non-class led with 224 separations while T.C.P.U. and construction both posted 127 third quarter separations. Services, the previous quarter's leader, dropped from 864 to 50 separations.



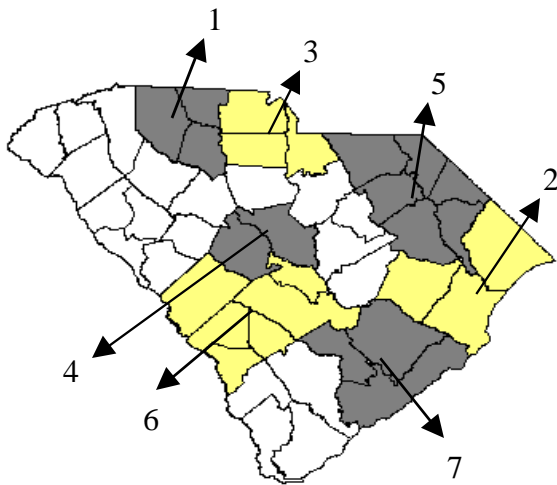
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REASONS FOR SEPARATIONS



The most frequently given reason by employers for third quarter 1997 separations was “slack work.” Almost 400 of the quarter’s 1,323 separations were due to “slack work,” which amounts to 30.2 percent. Layoffs caused by “vacation periods” made up 13.5 percent of the quarter’s separations. Approximately 10.9 percent of the quarter’s separations were due to “company reorganizations.” Reasons sited for the remaining quarterly separations were “financial difficulty,” “bankruptcy,” “plant or machine repairs,” “import competition,” and “contract completions,” respectively.

GEOGRAPHY OF SEPARATIONS



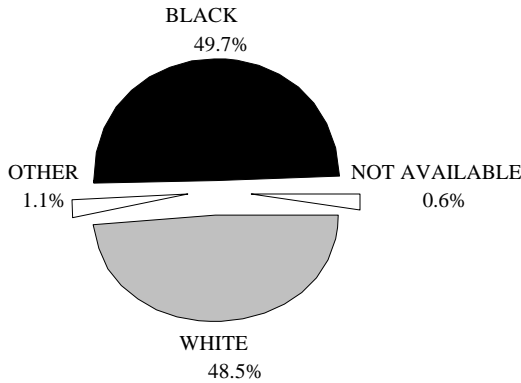
Rank	Service Delivery Area	Separations	%
1	CSU	608	46.0
2	Waccammaw	197	14.9
3	Catawba	144	10.9
4	Midlands	127	9.6
5	Pee Dee	120	9.0
6	Lower Savannah	76	5.7
7	Trident	51	3.9
8	Balance of State	0	0.0



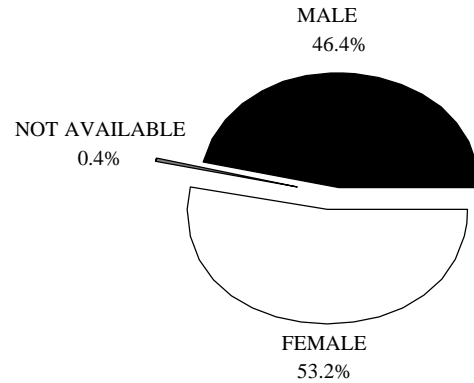
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INITIAL CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

ETHNIC BACKGROUND



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REASONS FOR SEPARATIONS

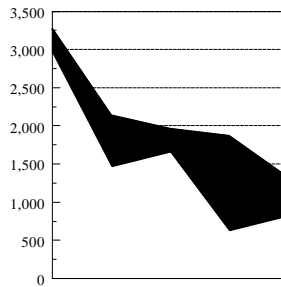
	SEPARATIONS		INITIAL CLAIMS	
	97/3*	97/2**	97/3*	97/2**
TOTAL	1,323	1,873	2,326	2,437
SLACK WORK	399	202	441	163
VACATION	179	0	190	0
REORGANIZATION	144	222	636	279
FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY	129	0	323	0
BANKRUPTCY	127	67	334	168
REPAIRS	124	75	131	72
IMPORT COMPETITION	120	0	105	0
CONTRACT COMPLETED	101	61	166	0
SEASONAL	0	1,131	0	252
OTHER	0	115	0	82

* 97/3=Third Quarter of 1997

** 97/2=Second Quarter of 1997

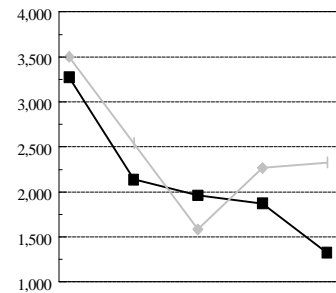
INITIAL CLAIMS / SEPARATIONS

SEPARATIONS



	96/3	96/4	97/1	97/2	97/3
MANUFACTURING	2,928	1,440	1,637	606	795
NONMANUFACTURING	344	698	326	1,267	528

INITIAL CLAIMS / SEPARATIONS



	96/3	96/4	97/1	97/2	97/3
SEPARATIONS	3,272	2,138	1,963	1,873	1,323
INITIAL CLAIMS	3,499	2,540	1,584	2,267	2,326

