

National Week In Review

Week Ending November 24, 2006

Regional and State Unemployment . . . In October, the Northeast posted the lowest regional unemployment rate at 4.2%, followed by the South (4.3%), West (4.3%) and the Midwest (4.8%). Four states recorded historical lows in their series: Alabama (3.2%), California (4.5%), Hawaii (2.1%), and Utah (2.5%). Michigan recorded the highest unemployment rate at 6.9%, followed by Mississippi (6.7%), **South Carolina (6.6%)** and Alaska (6.4%).

Mass Layoffs Claims Up . . . In October, employers took 1,171 mass layoff events, seasonally adjusted, resulting in 113,724 workers filing initial claims for unemployment insurance. The number of layoff events increased by 39, while the number of associated initial claims fell by 3,049 over the month. The manufacturing sector accounted for 32% of all mass layoff actions and 47% of all initial claims filed. Within manufacturing, the highest number of initial claims were recorded in transportation equipment manufacturing (+19,224, mostly automotive-related), followed by food manufacturing (+5,246) and machinery manufacturing (+5,167). Among the states, California had the highest number of initial claims filed due to mass layoff events at 25,931, followed by Kentucky (+9,645), Pennsylvania (+6,920), and Michigan (+6,432). In **South Carolina**, there were 16 mass layoff events resulting in 1,837 initial claims. A mass layoff event covers layoffs of 50 or more workers beginning in a given month, regardless of the duration of the layoffs.

Source:

□ Bureau of Labor Statistics

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