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Job Cuts Surge to 3-Year High **EMPLOYERS ANNOUNCE 61,582 IN APRIL**

CHICAGO, May 7, 2015 – Falling oil prices contributed to a 68 percent surge in job cuts last month, as US-based employers announced workforce reductions totaling 61,582 in April, up from 36,594 in March, according to the latest report on monthly layoffs released Thursday by global outplacement consultancy Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc.

The April total was 53 percent higher than the same month a year ago, when 40,298 planned job cuts were recorded. It represents the highest monthly total since May 2012 (61,887) and the highest April total since 2009 (132,590).

Year to date, employers have announced 201,796 planned job cuts, which marks a 25 percent increase from the 161,639 layoffs tracked in the first four months of 2014. This is the largest four-month total since 2010.

Driving the increased pace of job cutting in April and for the year is the dramatic decline in oil prices, which is forcing producers and suppliers to cut production. Of the 61,582 job cut announced last month, 20,675 or 34 percent were directly attributed to oil prices.

For the year, oil prices were blamed for 68,285 job cuts, or about 34 percent of the 201,796 planned layoffs announced between January 1 and April 30.

“Schlumberger, Baker Hughes and Halliburton have all announced multiple rounds of job cuts in recent months, including April. The largest job cut of the month came from Schlumberger, which announced that it will shed 11,000 workers, in addition to the 9,000 laid off in January,” said John A. Challenger, chief executive officer of Challenger, Gray & Christmas.

“The jobs that are most vulnerable are those in the field – engineers, oil rig operators, drill operators, refinery operators, etc. Managers and executives in the corporate offices are more secure, but the drop in oil prices is leading to increased merger activity, which could put more executives at risk of job loss,” said Challenger.

Most of the oil-related layoffs have occurred in the energy sector, which is the top job-cutting industry to date, with 57,556 planned cuts. That is more than double the second-ranked retail sector, which has announced 26,096 job cuts this year.

The pace of retail sector job cuts is slightly higher than a year ago, when these employers announced 25,224 job cuts through the first four months.

“Low oil prices should be helping retailers. However, the extra money in Americans’ wallets do not appear to be making it into the nation’s cash registers. Retail sales have been lackluster, at best. Furthermore, consumer products giant Procter & Gamble announced in April that it would reduce its headcount by as many as 6,000 workers over the next two years, following a poor earnings report,” noted Challenger.

“We could be witnessing the after-effect of the severe and protracted recession. Much like the generation that lived through the Great Depression, those who scraped by during the recession are being extra careful with their money. Another factor is that not everyone’s boat is rising with the tide. Many Americans are still struggling to find work and those that do are not earning as much they once did,” he said.

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**CHALLENGER, GRAY & CHRISTMAS, INC.
JOB-CUT ANNOUNCEMENT REPORT**

**TOP FIVE INDUSTRIES
Year To Date**

	2015	2014
Energy	57,556	2,396
Retail	26,096	25,224
Industrial Goods	22,047	8,970
Health Care/Products	9,926	14,206
Computer	9,368	11,064

MONTH BY MONTH TOTALS

	2015	2014
January	53,041	45,107
February	50,579	41,835
March	36,594	34,399
April	61,582	40,298
May		52,961
June		31,434
July		46,887
August		40,010
September		30,477
October		51,183
November		35,940
December		32,640
TOTAL	201,796	483,171

Some reductions are identified by employers as workers who will take early retirement offers or other special considerations to leave the company.

LAYOFF LOCATION

Year To Date

Texas	69,803
New York	16,205
California	15,991
Pennsylvania	9,710
Ohio	9,403

Listings are identified by the location of the layoff or corporate headquarters as stated in announcement.

**CHALLENGER, GRAY & CHRISTMAS, INC.
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JOB CUTS BY INDUSTRY

	14-Apr	15-Mar	15-Apr	Jan-Apr 2014	Jan-Apr 2015
Aerospace/Defense	4,075	955	1,406	7,136	5,124
Apparel	852	372	350	1,342	929
Automotive	1,243	1,446	3,043	3,846	4,681
Chemical			4,349	369	4,642
Commodities				726	453
Computer	1,931	278	2,508	11,064	9,368
Construction				372	222
Consumer Products	630	592	6,018	4,750	6,995
Education	2,504	2,470	3,322	5,858	8,219
Electronics	302	1,810	190	3,353	3,096
Energy	1,456	1279	19,745	2,396	57,556
Entertainment/Leisure	859	1,008	2,975	7,450	7,866
Financial	4,124	1,381	758	19,430	9,314
Food	2,865	1,214	724	8,821	4,647
Government	529	67	1,604	5,230	4,059
Health Care/Products	3,242	2,558	4,509	14,206	9,926
Industrial Goods	2,106	9,389	4,309	8,970	22,047
Insurance	70	140	131	786	1,163
Legal	72	38	32	291	70
Media	966	709	168	2,100	1,502
Non-Profit	336	34	41	835	157
Pharmaceutical	332	1162	708	2,853	2,380
Real Estate	31		120	115	407
Retail	6,993	6,640	3,594	25,224	26,096
Services	1,567	819	731	3,033	2,540
Telecommunications	550	431		11,827	1,513
Transportation	1,467	1,513	247	7,858	5,935
Utility	1,196	289		1,398	889
TOTAL	40,298	36,594	61,582	161,639	201,796

**CHALLENGER, GRAY & CHRISTMAS, INC.
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JOB CUTS BY REGION, STATE

EAST	APRIL	Y-T-D
New York	4,811	16,205
Pennsylvania	4,002	9,710
New Jersey	3,613	6,564
Massachusetts	990	1,255
Maryland	289	1,186
Dist. of Columbia	162	1,185
Connecticut	281	714
Vermont	9	676
Maine	123	336
Rhode Island	44	97
Delaware		0
New Hampshire		0
TOTAL	14,324	37,928

MIDWEST	APRIL	Y-T-D
Ohio	6,850	9,403
Illinois	832	7,654
Minnesota	1,005	7,065
Wisconsin	2,144	4,938
Iowa	2,147	3,408
Michigan	1,899	3,339
Indiana	465	1,892
Missouri	142	1,544
Kansas	295	1,325
Nebraska		430
TOTAL	15,779	40,998

**CHALLENGER, GRAY & CHRISTMAS, INC.
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JOB CUTS BY REGION, STATE

WEST	APRIL	Y-T-D
Texas	22,760	69,803
California	1,162	15,991
Oklahoma	474	3,626
Colorado	159	2,451
Washington	761	1,513
Utah	900	1,078
Oregon	278	524
South Dakota		477
Wyoming	3	408
Idaho	63	289
Arizona		190
Alaska		165
Hawaii	68	128
Montana		105
New Mexico	38	103
North Dakota		80
Nevada		60
TOTAL	26,666	96,991

SOUTH	APRIL	Y-T-D
Florida	491	6,369
Virginia	92	4,308
N. Carolina	848	3,551
Arkansas	2,335	2,813
Alabama	440	2,666
Georgia		1,860
Louisiana		1,666
Tennessee		797
West Virginia	227	768
S. Carolina	300	714
Kentucky	23	244
Mississippi	57	123
TOTAL	4,813	25,879

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JOB CUTS BY REASON

	APRIL	YTD
Oil Prices	20,675	68,285
Restructuring	9,208	53,459
Closing	10,581	26,508
Demand Downturn	9,042	14,802
Cost-Cutting	3,404	12,644
Merger/Acquisition	2,877	7,273
Bankruptcy	38	5,509
Loss of Contract	3350	5,421
Economic Conditions		1,863
Financial Losses	1800	1,800
Outsourcing	75	1,400
Legal Trouble	54	1,398
Relocation	368	834
Voluntary Severance	110	450
Technological Update		150
TOTAL	61,582	201,796

**CHALLENGER, GRAY & CHRISTMAS, INC.
JOB-CUT ANNOUNCEMENT REPORT**

QUARTER BY QUARTER

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
1989	9,850	10,100	24,085	67,250	111,285
1990	107,052	87,686	49,104	72,205	316,047
1991	110,056	76,622	147,507	221,107	555,292
1992*	110,815	85,486	151,849	151,850	500,000
1993	170,615	84,263	194,486	165,822	615,186
1994	192,572	107,421	117,706	98,370	516,069
1995	97,716	114,583	89,718	137,865	439,882
1996	168,695	101,818	91,784	114,850	477,147
1997	134,257	51,309	95,930	152,854	434,350
1998	139,140	131,303	161,013	246,339	677,795
1999	210,521	173,027	173,181	118,403	675,132
2000	141,853	81,568	168,875	221,664	613,960
2001	406,806	370,556	594,326	585,188	1,956,876
2002	478,905	292,393	269,090	426,435	1,466,823
2003	355,795	274,737	241,548	364,346	1,236,426
2004	262,840	209,895	251,585	315,415	1,039,735
2005	287,134	251,140	245,378	288,402	1,072,054
2006	255,878	180,580	202,771	200,593	839,822
2007	195,986	197,513	194,095	180,670	768,264
2008	200,656	275,292	287,142	460,903	1,223,993
2009	562,510	318,165	240,233	151,122	1,272,030
2010	181,183	116,494	113,595	118,701	529,973
2011	130,749	115,057	233,258	127,018	606,082
2012	143,094	139,997	102,910	137,361	523,362
2013	145,041	113,891	128,452	121,667	509,051
2014	121,341	124,693	117,374	119,763	483,171
2015	140,214				140,214
AVG	202,269	157,138	180,269	208,602	

*Estimate based on half-year total. Challenger began tracking job-cut data in 1993. Before that, it was tabulated by an independent newsletter no longer published.

**CHALLENGER, GRAY & CHRISTMAS, INC.
JOB-CUT ANNOUNCEMENT REPORT**

**ANNOUNCED HIRING PLANS
By Month**

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
January	8,774	6,312	60,585	7,568	29,492
February	14,574	11,054	92,372	10,720	72,581
March	6,412	6,860	8,115	12,390	10,869
April	13,898	11,145	9,322	11,794	59,648
May		10,141	9,618	7,722	10,248
June		15,530	8,774	12,314	15,498
July		16,544	9,728	10,350	10,706
August		9,657	7,662	12,079	15,201
September		567,705	445,617	425,683	76,551
October		147,935	87,874	75,065	159,177
November		11,291	14,177	28,526	63,527
December		7,332	11,362	16,266	14,074
TOTAL	43,658	821,506	765,206	630,477	459,971

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ANNOUNCED HIRING PLANS

INDUSTRY	APRIL	YEAR-TO-DATE
Aerospace/Defense	115	1,105
Apparel		120
Automotive	1,455	9,210
Chemical		65
Commodities		0
Computer	800	2,502
Construction	300	640
Consumer Products	431	1,484
Education	27	27
Electronics		131
Energy		240
Entertainment/Leisure	300	480
Financial		3,200
Food	100	435
Government		0
Health Care/Products	50	896
Industrial Goods	165	1,772
Insurance		90
Legal	2	2
Media	300	650
Non-Profit		950
Pharmaceutical		358
Real Estate		0
Retail	3,440	3,870
Services	263	513
Telecommunications	6,150	8,182
Transportation		6,736
Utility		0
TOTAL	13,898	43,658