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Oil Related Job Cuts Subside **MAY JOB CUTS DECLINE BY 33% TO 41,034**

CHICAGO, June 4, 2015 – After reaching a three year high in April, planned job cuts announced by U.S.-based firms declined sharply in May, falling by 33 percent to 41,034, according the latest report released Thursday by global outplacement consultancy Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc.

The latest tally on employer downsizing activity comes on the heels of the 61,582 planned job cuts announced in April. That was the highest monthly total since 61,887 layoffs were recorded in May 2012.

Last month's total was 23 percent lower than a year ago, when 52,961 planned job cuts were announced in May.

To date, employers have announced 242,830 in 2015. That is 13 percent more than the 214,600 job cuts announced in the first five months of 2014.

Job cut announcements related to falling oil prices appear to be ebbing. In May, just over 1,000 planned layoffs were attributed to the drop in oil. In contrast, April saw 20,675 job cuts blamed on oil prices.

“Oil prices are starting to stabilize. Exploration and extraction companies responded quickly to the drop in prices, but they are likely to be careful about cutting too deeply, as they will need workers on hand when demand inevitably increases. Unless, there is another severe drop in the price of oil, we probably will not see another surge in oil-related job cuts this year,” said John A. Challenger, chief executive officer of Challenger, Gray & Christmas.

In May, the heaviest downsizing occurred in the financial sector, where announced job cuts will impact 5,539 workers. The bulk of these cuts came from banking giant JP Morgan Chase, which announced that the number of tellers working in its branches will shrink by 5,000 over the next 18 months.

Overall, financial cuts total 14,853 in 2015, which is 28 percent fewer than the 20,581 job cuts announced in the sector during the first five months of 2014.

The government was the second leading job-cut sector in May, having announced 5,539 layoffs during the month. Most of these originated from one employer; the state of Massachusetts, which announced plans to trim its payroll by 4,500 workers in an effort to close a \$1.8 billion budget gap.

“A lot of states were undoubtedly hoping that economic recovery would solve their budget woes, most of which can be traced back to overwhelmed pension systems. For most states, these dreams have failed to materialize. At least 16 states, including Massachusetts, Maryland, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Washington are expected to experience budget shortfalls over the next year or two,” said Challenger.

“We could definitely see an upswing in state layoffs over the next few months, if more of these financially troubled state governments follow in Massachusetts’ footsteps.”

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

**TOP FIVE INDUSTRIES
Year To Date**

	2015	2014
Energy	60,210	3,225
Retail	27,283	25,696
Industrial Goods	25,181	11,131
Financial	14,853	20,581
Health Care/Products	12,738	18,125

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	41,034	52,961
June		31,434
July		46,887
August		40,010
September		30,477
October		51,183
November		35,940
December		32,640
TOTAL	242,830	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	73,126
New York	23,660
California	20,666
Pennsylvania	10,901
New Jersey	10,339

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

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JOB CUTS BY INDUSTRY

	14-May	15-Apr	15-May	Jan-May 2014	Jan-May 2015
Aerospace/Defense	986	1,406	162	8,122	5,286
Apparel		350	30	1,342	959
Automotive	959	3,043	1,445	4,805	6,126
Chemical	954	4,349	1,784	1,323	6,426
Commodities	548			1,274	453
Computer	18,799	2,508	1,733	29,863	11,101
Construction	66		18	438	240
Consumer Products	1,655	6,018	359	6,405	7,354
Education	2,311	3,322	2,615	8,169	10,834
Electronics	641	190	350	3,994	3,446
Energy	829	19,745	2,654	3,225	60,210
Entertainment/Leisure	245	2,975	249	7,695	8,115
Financial	1,151	758	5,539	20,581	14,853
Food	913	724	3,754	9,734	8,401
Government	3,248	1,604	5,502	8,478	9,561
Health Care/Products	3,919	4,509	2,812	18,125	12,738
Industrial Goods	2,161	4,309	3,134	11,131	25,181
Insurance	375	131	9	1,161	1,172
Legal	116	32	700	407	770
Media	838	168	902	2,938	2,404
Non-Profit	531	41	129	1,366	286
Pharmaceutical	505	708	2,542	3,358	4,922
Real Estate	66	120		181	407
Retail	472	3,594	1,187	25,696	27,283
Services	2,728	731	604	5,761	3,144
Telecommunications	957		949	12,784	2,462
Transportation	6,884	247	1,872	14,742	7,807
Utility	104			1,502	889
TOTAL	52,961	61,582	41,034	214,600	242,830

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JOB CUTS BY REGION, STATE

EAST	MAY	Y-T-D
New York	7,455	23,660
Pennsylvania	1,191	10,901
New Jersey	3,775	10,339
Massachusetts	4,823	6,078
Maryland	59	1,245
Dist. of Columbia	40	1,225
Connecticut		714
Vermont	3	679
Maine	140	476
Delaware	194	194
Rhode Island		97
New Hampshire	26	26
TOTAL	17,706	55,634

MIDWEST	MAY	Y-T-D
Illinois	2,561	10,215
Ohio	444	9,847
Minnesota	762	7,827
Michigan	2,687	6,026
Wisconsin	492	5,430
Iowa	50	3,458
Indiana	447	2,339
Missouri	403	1,947
Kansas	31	1,356
Nebraska	9	439
TOTAL	7,886	48,884

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JOB CUTS BY REGION, STATE

WEST	MAY	Y-T-D
Texas	3,323	73,126
California	4,675	20,666
Oklahoma		3,626
Colorado	298	2,749
Washington	173	1,686
Utah		1,078
Alaska	500	665
Oregon	100	624
Hawaii	421	549
South Dakota		477
Wyoming	42	450
Idaho		289
Nevada	213	273
Arizona		190
North Dakota	56	136
Montana		105
New Mexico		103
TOTAL	9,801	106,792

SOUTH	MAY	Y-T-D
Florida	763	7,132
Virginia	350	4,658
N. Carolina	813	4,364
Alabama	678	3,344
Arkansas		2,813
West Virginia	1,861	2,629
Georgia	190	2,050
Louisiana	80	1,746
Tennessee	680	1,477
S. Carolina	226	940
Kentucky		244
Mississippi		123
TOTAL	5,641	31,520

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JOB CUTS BY REASON

	MAY	YTD
Restructuring	16,239	69,698
Oil Prices	1,019	69,304
Closing	8530	35,038
Cost-Cutting	7,700	20,344
Demand Downturn	1,685	16,487
Merger/Acquisition	1,489	8,762
Loss of Contract	499	5,920
Bankruptcy		5,509
Financial Losses	508	2,308
Economic Conditions		1,863
Relocation	869	1,703
Outsourcing	50	1,450
Listeria	1,450	1,450
Legal Trouble	18	1,416
Competition	511	511
Voluntary Severance	40	490
Bird Flu	272	272
Government Regulation	155	155
Technological Update		150
TOTAL	40,567	241,763

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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.

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**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	12,598	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	56,256	821,506	765,206	630,477	459,971

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ANNOUNCED HIRING PLANS

INDUSTRY	MAY	YEAR-TO-DATE
Aerospace/Defense		1,105
Apparel		120
Automotive	2,105	11,315
Chemical	50	115
Commodities		0
Computer	1,050	3,552
Construction	165	805
Consumer Products	400	1,884
Education		27
Electronics	43	174
Energy	50	290
Entertainment/Leisure		480
Financial	325	3,525
Food	550	985
Government		0
Health Care/Products	210	1,106
Industrial Goods	290	2,062
Insurance		90
Legal		2
Media		650
Non-Profit		950
Pharmaceutical		358
Real Estate		0
Retail	5,210	9,080
Services	450	963
Telecommunications	1,650	9,832
Transportation	50	6,786
Utility		
TOTAL	12,598	56,256