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### Falling Oil Prices Continue to Drive Job Cuts **FEBRUARY JOB CUTS DOWN 5% TO 50,579; 38% OF ALL CUTS THIS YEAR DUE TO OIL PRICES**

**CHICAGO, March 5, 2015** – Planned job cuts declined slightly in February, as US-based employers announced workforce reductions totaling 50,579, five percent fewer than the 53,041 in January, according to the report on monthly job cuts released Thursday by global outplacement consultancy Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc.

The February total was up 21 percent from a year ago, when employers announced 41,835 job cuts during the month. This marks the third consecutive monthly job-cut total that exceeded the comparable year-ago figure.

Employers announced 103,620 planned layoffs through the first two months of 2015, which is up 19 percent from the 86,942 job cuts recorded during the same period in 2014.

Once again, the energy sector saw the heaviest job cutting in February, with these firms announcing 16,339 job cuts, due primarily to oil prices.

Falling oil prices have been responsible for 39,621 job cuts, to date. That represents 38 percent of all recorded workforce reductions announced in the first two months of 2015. In February, 36 percent of all job cuts (18,299) were blamed on oil prices.

“Oil exploration and extraction companies, as well as the companies that supply them, are definitely feeling the impact of the lowest oil prices since 2009. These companies, while reluctant to completely shutter operations, are being forced to trim payrolls to contain costs,” said John A. Challenger, chief executive officer of Challenger, Gray & Christmas.

“While oil-related companies will see profits slide, the net impact of falling oil prices will likely be positive for the economy, as a whole. Some economists are estimating that GDP could see a 0.5 percentage point boost from low oil prices, due mostly to the extra spending power among consumers. Meanwhile, companies that are big users of oil, such as transportation firms, airlines, and manufacturers of plastic and paint products will see higher profits thanks to cheap oil,” noted Challenger.

Indeed, in a January survey by the National Association for Business Economics, 50 percent of in-house corporate economists said that falling oil prices have already had a positive impact on their firms.

Cheap oil does not yet appear to be helping stem the tide of job cuts in the retail sector, which saw the second highest number of job cuts in February with 9,163. Employers in the sector have announced 15,862 job cuts, so far this year. That is little changed from the 15,242 retail job cuts announced in the first two months of 2014.

“So far, falling oil prices have not resulted in higher retail spending. However, that is not necessarily the cause behind ongoing job cuts in retail. Falling oil prices might stave off job cuts for some retailers but, the fact is, some retailers are beyond the point where cheap oil will help turn things around. For example, the heaviest retail job cuts last month were the result of RadioShack’s long decline, which culminated in bankruptcy and liquidation,” said Challenger.

While retail has not yet been lifted by falling oil prices, recent hiring announcements indicate that automotive and transportation firms are starting to see the benefits. Last month, transportation firms announced plans to hire 5,236, while automotive firms plan to add 3,185.

“These reports probably represent just a small fraction of actual job creation, since most employers do not formally announce hiring plans,” noted Challenger.

In all, announced hiring plans totaled 14,574 in February, up 66 percent from 8,774 in January.

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JOB-CUT ANNOUNCEMENT REPORT**

**TOP FIVE INDUSTRIES  
Year To Date**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Energy	36,532	513
Retail	15,862	15,242
Industrial Goods	8,349	4,051
Financial	7,175	14,608
Computer	6,582	7,249

**MONTH BY MONTH TOTALS**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
January	53,041	45,107
February	50,579	41,835
March		34,399
April		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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>103,620</b>	<b>483,171</b>

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	42,516
California	9,695
New York	6,909
Pennsylvania	3,785
Florida	3,638

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

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**JOB CUTS BY INDUSTRY**

	<b>14-Feb</b>	<b>15-Jan</b>	<b>15-Feb</b>	<b>Jan-Feb 2014</b>	<b>Jan-Feb 2015</b>
<b>Aerospace/Defense</b>	1,300	1,000	1763	2,166	2,763
<b>Apparel</b>	234		207	384	207
<b>Automotive</b>	518	120	72	1,808	192
<b>Chemical</b>	175	293		347	293
<b>Commodities</b>		453		402	453
<b>Computer</b>	793	3,732	2,850	7,249	6,582
<b>Construction</b>	166	222		218	222
<b>Consumer Products</b>	1,309	144	241	3,156	385
<b>Education</b>	1,500	301	2,126	1,715	2,427
<b>Electronics</b>	1,150	919	177	2,628	1,096
<b>Energy</b>	100	20,193	16339	513	36,532
<b>Entertainment/Leisure</b>	1,659	1,911	1,972	4,082	3,883
<b>Financial</b>	9,791	5,375	1,800	14,608	7,175
<b>Food</b>	3,022	2,115	594	4,101	2,709
<b>Government</b>	1,835	200	2,188	3,023	2,388
<b>Health Care/Products</b>	2538	1,018	1841	5,196	2,859
<b>Industrial Goods</b>	2,622	4,859	3,490	4,051	8,349
<b>Insurance</b>	309		892	509	892
<b>Legal</b>	9			218	0
<b>Media</b>	720	558	67	801	625
<b>Non-Profit</b>	35	62	20	159	82
<b>Pharmaceutical</b>	1,035	172	338	1,941	510
<b>Real Estate</b>	3	37	250	84	287
<b>Retail</b>	3,848	6,699	9,163	15,242	15,862
<b>Services</b>	369	49	941	669	990
<b>Telecommunications</b>	5,147	607	475	6,952	1,082
<b>Transportation</b>	1,565	2,002	2,173	4,637	4,175
<b>Utility</b>	83		600	83	600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41,835</b>	<b>53,041</b>	<b>50,579</b>	<b>86,942</b>	<b>103,620</b>

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**JOB CUTS BY REGION, STATE**

<b>EAST</b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>Y-T-D</b>
New York	1,769	6,909
Pennsylvania	2,882	3,785
New Jersey	1,135	2,777
Dist. of Columbia	908	933
Maryland	673	775
Vermont	462	662
Maine	20	213
Connecticut	93	93
Massachusetts	89	89
Rhode Island	53	53
Delaware		0
New Hampshire		0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,084</b>	<b>16,289</b>

<b>MIDWEST</b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>Y-T-D</b>
Illinois	2,035	3,246
Ohio	784	1,360
Indiana	704	1,273
Wisconsin	1,140	1,210
Iowa		1,136
Kansas	30	1,030
Minnesota	776	1,016
Missouri	670	856
Michigan	185	377
Nebraska	269	290
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,593</b>	<b>11,794</b>

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**JOB CUTS BY REGION, STATE**

<b>WEST</b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>Y-T-D</b>
Texas	22,683	42,516
California	2,427	9,695
Oklahoma	531	2,531
Colorado	200	2,017
Washington	662	752
Wyoming	400	405
Oregon	150	241
Arizona	47	190
Utah		178
Montana	20	105
North Dakota	80	80
New Mexico		65
Idaho	61	61
Hawaii	60	60
Alaska	24	24
Nevada		0
South Dakota		0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27,345</b>	<b>58,920</b>

<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>Y-T-D</b>
Florida	1,727	3,638
Virginia	3,013	3,295
N. Carolina	981	2,296
Alabama	410	2,020
Georgia	60	1,860
Louisiana	1,433	1,518
Tennessee	655	677
West Virginia	107	448
S. Carolina		300
Arkansas	100	278
Kentucky	71	221
Mississippi		66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,557</b>	<b>16,617</b>

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**JOB CUTS BY REASON**

	<b>February</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Oil Prices	18,299	39,621
Restructuring	8,960	30,007
Closing	6,842	9,702
Cost-Cutting	5,943	8,145
Bankruptcy	5,471	5,471
Demand Downturn	560	3,631
Economic Conditions		1,863
Merger/Acquisition	1,569	1,844
Loss of Contract	1,345	1,345
Outsourcing	1,150	1,325
Relocation	400	466
Technological Update		150
Voluntary Severance	40	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,579</b>	<b>103,620</b>

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**QUARTER BY QUARTER**

	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>1989</b>	9,850	10,100	24,085	67,250	<b>111,285</b>
<b>1990</b>	107,052	87,686	49,104	72,205	<b>316,047</b>
<b>1991</b>	110,056	76,622	147,507	221,107	<b>555,292</b>
<b>1992*</b>	110,815	85,486	151,849	151,850	<b>500,000</b>
<b>1993</b>	170,615	84,263	194,486	165,822	<b>615,186</b>
<b>1994</b>	192,572	107,421	117,706	98,370	<b>516,069</b>
<b>1995</b>	97,716	114,583	89,718	137,865	<b>439,882</b>
<b>1996</b>	168,695	101,818	91,784	114,850	<b>477,147</b>
<b>1997</b>	134,257	51,309	95,930	152,854	<b>434,350</b>
<b>1998</b>	139,140	131,303	161,013	246,339	<b>677,795</b>
<b>1999</b>	210,521	173,027	173,181	118,403	<b>675,132</b>
<b>2000</b>	141,853	81,568	168,875	221,664	<b>613,960</b>
<b>2001</b>	406,806	370,556	594,326	585,188	<b>1,956,876</b>
<b>2002</b>	478,905	292,393	269,090	426,435	<b>1,466,823</b>
<b>2003</b>	355,795	274,737	241,548	364,346	<b>1,236,426</b>
<b>2004</b>	262,840	209,895	251,585	315,415	<b>1,039,735</b>
<b>2005</b>	287,134	251,140	245,378	288,402	<b>1,072,054</b>
<b>2006</b>	255,878	180,580	202,771	200,593	<b>839,822</b>
<b>2007</b>	195,986	197,513	194,095	180,670	<b>768,264</b>
<b>2008</b>	200,656	275,292	287,142	460,903	<b>1,223,993</b>
<b>2009</b>	562,510	318,165	240,233	151,122	<b>1,272,030</b>
<b>2010</b>	181,183	116,494	113,595	118,701	<b>529,973</b>
<b>2011</b>	130,749	115,057	233,258	127,018	<b>606,082</b>
<b>2012</b>	143,094	139,997	102,910	137,361	<b>523,362</b>
<b>2013</b>	145,041	113,891	128,452	121,667	<b>509,051</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>121,341</b>	<b>124,693</b>	<b>117,374</b>	<b>119,763</b>	483,171
<b>2015</b>					
<b>AVG</b>	204,656	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**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>January</b>	8,774	6,312	60,585	7,568	29,492
<b>February</b>	<b>14,574</b>	11,054	92,372	10,720	72,581
<b>March</b>		6,860	8,115	12,390	10,869
<b>April</b>		11,145	9,322	11,794	59,648
<b>May</b>		10,141	9,618	7,722	10,248
<b>June</b>		15,530	8,774	12,314	15,498
<b>July</b>		16,544	9,728	10,350	10,706
<b>August</b>		9,657	7,662	12,079	15,201
<b>September</b>		567,705	445,617	425,683	76,551
<b>October</b>		147,935	87,874	75,065	159,177
<b>November</b>		11,291	14,177	28,526	63,527
<b>December</b>		<b>7,332</b>	11,362	16,266	14,074
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,348</b>	<b>821,506</b>	<b>765,206</b>	<b>630,477</b>	<b>459,971</b>

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**ANNOUNCED HIRING PLANS**

<b>INDUSTRY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>YEAR-TO-DATE</b>
Aerospace/Defense	340	340
Apparel		120
Automotive	3,185	5,220
Chemical		45
Commodities		0
Computer	590	1,490
Construction	300	340
Consumer Products	320	633
Education		0
Electronics		131
Energy		0
Entertainment/Leisure		180
Financial	2,700	2,900
Food		235
Government		0
Health Care/Products	153	803
Industrial Goods	500	1,377
Insurance		90
Legal		0
Media	300	300
Non-Profit	950	950
Pharmaceutical		258
Real Estate		0
Retail		0
Services		150
Telecommunications		1,050
Transportation	5,236	6,736
Utility		0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,574</b>	<b>23,348</b>

