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Job Cuts Continue Decline as Economy Improves **34,399 MARCH JOB CUTS BRING CLOSE TO LOWEST FIRST-QUARTER TOTAL IN NEARLY 20 YEARS**

CHICAGO, April 3, 2014 – New figures released Thursday by global outplacement consultancy Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc. show employers announced the fewest first-quarter job cuts in 19 years, providing further evidence that the economy continues to gain strength as it enters the sixth year of recovery.

The first quarter closed with 34,399 March job cuts, the second lowest monthly total since January 2013. The only month to see fewer cuts during that period was December, when just 30,623 job cuts were announced. The March total was 18 percent lower than the 41,835 planned job cuts reported in February and 30 percent lower than a year ago when March job cuts totaled 49,255.

Through the first quarter of 2014, employers announced 121,341 job cuts, down 16 percent from the 145,041 cuts tracked during the first three months of 2013. The first-quarter total was virtually unchanged from the previous quarter, when 121,667 job cuts were recorded.

The first quarter total was the lowest quarterly total since Q2 of 2013 (113,891). Even more significant, however, is the fact that it is the lowest Q1 total since 1995, when 97,716 job cuts were announced.

“The first quarter typically experiences some of the heaviest job cutting of the year. Since we began tracking planned layoffs in 1989, the first quarter is only slightly lower than the fourth quarter when it comes to the pace of downsizing, with an average job-cut total of just over 205,000. Employers are well below that pace this year, suggesting that layoffs continue to decline in a recovery that is approaching its five-year anniversary,” said John A. Challenger, chief executive officer of Challenger, Gray & Christmas.

First quarter job cuts were led by the retail sector, where employers announced 18,231 job cuts through the first three months of 2014, including 2,989 in March. The financial sector follows closely with 15,306 job cuts announced over the first three months of 2014.

Neither retail nor financial firms saw the heaviest job cuts last month, however. The top job-cutting sector in March was health care, which announced plans to reduce payrolls by 5,768, bringing its year-to-date total to 10,984, which ranks fourth among all industries.

“We continue to see downsizing in the health care sector, as hospitals adjust to lower Medicare reimbursements and cutbacks in Medicaid funding. There has also been a surge in job cuts among the workers hired to sign-up Americans for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. With the sign-up period ending on March 31, call centers around the country have been purging their payrolls of these temporary employees,” noted Challenger.

“Call center workers are also being impacted by a series of layoffs announced by wireless carrier Sprint. While Sprint is struggling to keep up with AT&T and Verizon, at least some of the recent cuts appear to be the result of smarter consumers. A company spokesperson told one news outlet that many of the call center reductions reflect customers' growing familiarity with smartphones as well as simplified rate plans which have resulted in fewer customer service calls,” said Challenger.

Job cuts within the telecommunications industry have risen sharply this year. The 11,277 job cuts announced by these firms, to date, ranks third among all industries and marks a 225 percent increase from the 3,471 telecommunications job cuts recorded in the first three months of 2013.

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

**TOP FIVE INDUSTRIES
Year To Date**

	2014	2013
Retail	18,231	25,400
Financial	15,306	33,819
Telecommunications	11,277	3,471
Health Care/Products	10,964	11,713
Computer	9,133	3,526

MONTH BY MONTH TOTALS

	2014	2013
January	45,107	40,430
February	41,835	55,356
March	34,399	49,255
April		38,121
May		36,398
June		39,372
July		37,701
August		50,462
September		40,289
October		45,730
November		45,314
December		30,623
TOTAL	121,341	509,051

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

New York	18,589
California	17,891
Illinois	9,293
Pennsylvania	7,833
Texas	6,618

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

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JOB CUTS BY INDUSTRY

	13-Mar	14-Feb	14-Mar	Jan-Mar 2013	Jan-Mar 2014
Aerospace/Defense	3,921	1,300	895	9,766	3,061
Apparel	117	234	106	307	490
Automotive	104	518	795	4,349	2,603
Chemical	130	175	22	904	369
Commodities			324	67	726
Computer	491	793	1,884	3,526	9,133
Construction	52	166	154	245	372
Consumer Products	930	1,309	964	2,197	4,120
Education	1,391	1,500	1,639	3,812	3,354
Electronics	388	1,150	423	1,395	3,051
Energy	611	100	427	2,544	940
Entertainment/Leisure	716	1,659	2,509	5,717	6,591
Financial	3,517	9,791	698	33,819	15,306
Food	1,573	3,022	1,855	6,090	5,956
Government	1,448	1,835	1,678	3,721	4,701
Health Care/Products	6,349	2,538	5,768	11,713	10,964
Industrial Goods	2,810	2,622	2,813	7,562	6,864
Insurance	943	309	207	1,108	716
Legal	106	9	1	118	219
Media	290	720	333	5,154	1,134
Non-Profit	66	35	340	596	499
Pharmaceutical	2151	1,035	580	3,185	2,521
Real Estate	100	3		378	84
Retail	16,445	3,848	2,989	25,400	18,231
Services	652	369	797	1,134	1,466
Telecommunications	2,536	5,147	4,325	3,471	11,277
Transportation	1,216	1,565	1,754	6,344	6,391
Utility	202	83	119	419	202
TOTAL	49,255	41,835	34,399	145,041	121,341

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JOB CUTS BY REGION, STATE

EAST	MARCH	Y-T-D
New York	6,934	18,589
Pennsylvania	1,272	7,833
New Jersey	361	3,381
Massachusetts	652	2,268
Maryland	131	1,976
Dist. of Columbia	212	1,277
Connecticut	181	1,116
Maine	447	707
Vermont	238	381
Rhode Island	88	322
New Hampshire	139	199
Delaware	176	176
TOTAL	10,831	38,225

MIDWEST	MARCH	Y-T-D
Illinois	3,022	9,293
Minnesota	1,071	5,603
Ohio	595	4,941
Michigan	325	3,793
Indiana	892	2,200
Missouri	495	2,108
Wisconsin	490	2,078
Kansas	755	1,339
Iowa	286	490
Nebraska		63
TOTAL	7,931	31,908

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

WEST	MARCH	Y-T-D
California	4,850	17,891
Texas	1,218	6,618
Idaho	700	3,419
Washington	1,552	1,899
Colorado	430	952
Oklahoma	367	787
Oregon	281	487
Hawaii	220	390
Nevada		308
Alaska		200
Arizona	7	132
South Dakota		120
Utah	24	94
New Mexico		50
Montana		24
Wyoming		0
North Dakota		0
TOTAL	9,649	33,371

SOUTH	MARCH	Y-T-D
Florida	1,730	4,038
Arkansas	14	3,054
Virginia	1,206	2,076
Mississippi	1,300	1,855
Kentucky	330	1,488
Tennessee	915	1,454
N. Carolina	198	1,402
Alabama	256	1,227
Louisiana	13	532
Georgia		330
S. Carolina	18	218
West Virginia	8	163
TOTAL	5,988	17,837

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JOB CUTS BY REASON

	MARCH	YTD
Restructuring	8,569	51,910
Closing	14,301	33,523
Cost-Cutting	4,594	16,498
Demand Downturn	1,162	4,999
Merger/Acquisition	3,116	3,647
Voluntary Severance	270	2,829
Economic Conditions	253	2,626
Outsourcing	972	1,617
Health Reform	92	894
Loss of Contract	212	680
Relocation	192	571
Legal Trouble	9	459
Sequestration	390	390
Labor Dispute	250	250
Bankruptcy	17	203
Competition		100
Natural Disaster		95
Technological Update		47
Foreclosure		3
TOTAL	34,399	121,291

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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	578,510	318,165	240,233	151,122	1,288,030
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				121,341
AVG	205,272	158,436	182,785	212,303	735,153

*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.
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ANNOUNCED HIRING PLANS
Monthly Totals

	2014	2013	2012	2011
January	6,312	60,585	7,568	29,492
February	11,054	92,372	10,720	72,581
March	6,860	8,115	12,390	10,869
April		9,322	11,794	59,648
May		9,618	7,722	10,248
June		8,774	12,314	15,498
July		9,728	10,350	10,706
August		7,662	12,079	15,201
September		445,617	425,683	76,551
October		87,874	75,065	159,177
November		14,177	28,526	63,527
December		11,362	16,266	14,074
TOTAL	24,226	765,206	630,477	459,971

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

ANNOUNCED HIRING PLANS

INDUSTRY	MARCH	YEAR-TO-DATE
Aerospace/Defense	447	647
Apparel		0
Automotive	1,266	2,566
Chemical		60
Commodities		0
Computer	1,350	4,400
Construction		235
Consumer Products	100	200
Education	80	1,505
Electronics		300
Energy	1000	1,000
Entertainment/Leisure		50
Financial	150	679
Food	340	423
Government		14
Health Care/Products	125	1,375
Industrial Goods	162	2,986
Insurance	700	1,070
Legal		60
Media		60
Non-Profit	70	70
Pharmaceutical	120	656
Real Estate		0
Retail	120	3,595
Services	100	226
Telecommunications	730	1,512
Transportation		537
Utility		0
TOTAL	6,860	24,226