

TOYOTA TO LAYOFF 350



Workers who get a job with Toyota in Japan have a certain idea of how their employment will go. It is an idea that we may have had in the past in America, but now we consider to be a little quaint. That idea is the idea that once they are on the payroll they will have a job for life. That idea is Japanese society is being put to the test as the company is getting ready to let go of workers in order to make their profits better, and stay in the black. At least, for the time being, the cuts are not coming to the workers in Japan, where it is significantly harder to get rid of workers once you have fired them, for the time being the company is getting ready to get rid of workers in Australia, where the company is getting rid of workers from its assembly plant. They are getting rid of about 350 workers at its Altona plant in Melbourne. This represents a loss of about 8 percent of the roughly 4,600 employees at the plant, so while this is not a massive cut, it is a still a significant job loss. The company is attributing the job loss to the cut down in the decrease in production over the last couple of years. The company has experienced a decrease of about 36% over the last four years. Max Yasuda, the CEO of Toyota Australia said the following about the job cuts in a statement, "The reality is that our volumes are down. What we assumed was a temporary circumstance has turned into a permanent situation." This is not the only job hit to come to manufacturing jobs in the recent past. For those of you who missed our earlier coverage manufacturing jobs were cut recently at both Abbott labs and PerkinElmer. At Abbott labs (<http://www.layoffwatch.com/2012/01/4212/>), "...the company has decided that they can service their customers without 700 of their employees. They announced, on Wednesday, that they would be letting go a number of the workers as part of a restructuring effort. The company is letting go of the workers in the USA and Puerto Rico, and the cuts will primarily have an impact on the manufacturing operations of the company. Half of the layoffs will come to the employees in the north of Chicago, near the company's headquarters, where about 200 jobs will be cut. The majority of the jobs will be cut from the hospital and laboratory diagnostic business. The rest of the cuts will come from the operations in other parts of the nation." At PerkinElmer (<http://www.layoffwatch.com/2012/01/perkinelmer-to-cut-75-jobs/>) the company, "... has decided to outsource jobs at their Shelton facility, located at 710 Bridgeport Avenue, and move the jobs to a foreign country, where the costs of manufacturing are lower, due to reduced worker wages and fewer regulatory issues. The company is not opening a new facility, but according to reports is simply moving the jobs to their existing facilities in Singapore and Llantrisant, U.K. The job cut is expected to be about 75 positions, which is not all of the 500 who are currently at the facility in Shelton, but that is still enough to qualify as a mass layoff action by the standards of the Bureau of Labor Statistics guidelines. By their standards any single location job loss of more than 50 individual workers qualifies as a mass layoff action. Mass layoffs require special rules for notification, as they are deemed to have a larger impact on the local community." Despite all of this analysts are expecting a growth in the manufacturing sector in the next couple of fiscal quarters.