

Downsized After 22 Years on the Job

Michael Jackson

I experienced a major setback while I was working in the mailroom at a small law firm. Everything had been going fine for about 17 years. Then they decided to merge my firm with a much larger firm.

Dramatic changes happened quickly. We moved to a much larger building and went from using three floors to eight floors. Everything was so different—it was like starting a whole new job. Some of my close friends were let go; I met a lot of new people.

After about five years, I was doing my regular routines when my supervisor called me on the phone and asked me to meet with him in one of the conference rooms. I'll never forget that day. When I went in, the floor manager was also there. They told me the company was downsizing and they had to let me go. I was in shock, and I felt devastated. I didn't see it coming at all! After 22 years, I thought this could never happen to me.

They told me to wait in the room. Soon the human relations personnel came and explained in more detail how I could go and apply for unemployment and so forth. Afterwards, I went down-

stairs and packed my things. I went home that day feeling very depressed.

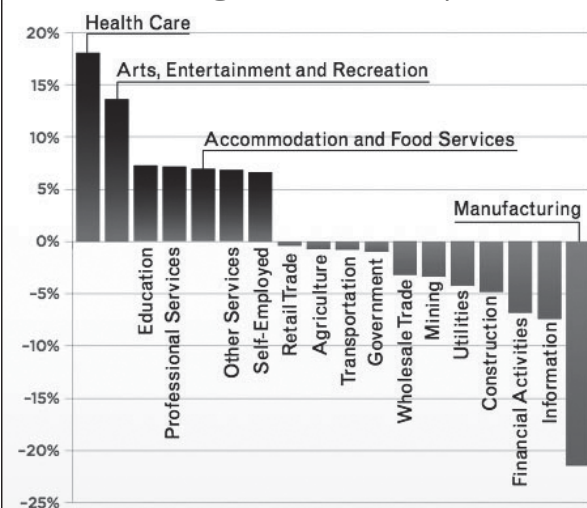
Quickly I learned how to look for jobs online, which was new for me. After 22 years of being employed, I discovered that most jobs require a high school diploma or GED. I

hope by earning a GED I will be able to get a better job. Losing my job after 22 years with the same firm was a huge setback in my life, but I learned to cope by taking action.



Michael Jackson was born in Jamaica and came to the U.S. in 1986. After he lost his job, he entered the Mid-Manhattan Learning Center #5 in New York City to pursue his GED and to gain more job skills. In his free time, he likes to workout and play soccer. He is a big soccer fan, as most Jamaicans are!

Percent Change in Jobs in NY, 2008-2018



Where Are the Jobs?

Study the chart. Describe what you see.

Name two job areas that are expected to increase and two that are expected to decrease.

Write several true statements that reflect the data in the chart.

Imagine there are 100,000 jobs in health care in NY in 2008. How many will there be in 2018? Create your own percent problems based on the chart and solve them.

Look at the Occupational Outlook Handbook at www.bls.gov/OCO **to learn more about which jobs are expected to grow, which ones pay a living wage, etc.**