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Keller laying off 150 workers in Harrison County

Business First of Louisville - May 11, 2004 by [Ed Green](#) From Business First of Louisville

Furniture-maker Keller Manufacturing Co. Inc. has plans for another layoff that will cut about half its employees in Harrison County, Ind.

The company is cutting about 150 jobs at its New Salisbury, Ind., manufacturing plant -- a move that follows the layoffs of 70 workers in October, according to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

According to a letter obtained by Business First that was sent last week to some employees of the company and public officials in Southern Indiana, Keller will begin the most recent round of reductions at its New Salisbury headquarters and manufacturing plant on July 7 and continue through Oct. 29.

David Richardson and Dan Utz, senior financial officers with Keller, confirmed the layoffs but declined to discuss details.

Richardson referred questions to Keith Williams, president and CEO. Williams could not immediately be reached for comment.

Sharon Landlotz, Indiana's manager for rapid response in the Indiana Department of Workforce Development in Indianapolis, said she has been informed by her staff in Southern Indiana that the layoff is planned. However, she said she has not yet received the notice required under the federal Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act.

Fewer than 150 employees will be left at New Salisbury

Although Keller officials wouldn't provide details of the most recent round of layoffs, the cuts likely will leave fewer than 150 employees at Keller Manufacturing's facility in New Salisbury.

In August, the company began consolidating operations from its former headquarters in Corydon, Ind., at the New Salisbury site.

At that time, Williams, who took the helm at the struggling Keller in early August, said the decision to close the aging Corydon plant was made in order to cut costs.

He told Business First that Keller's combined employment at the plants was 362. Keller filed a notice with the state in October to cut 70 employees from the Corydon plant.

Prior to the closure of the Corydon plant, the company shut down its only other furniture-making facility, a plant in Culpeper, Va., in 2002.

Keller Manufacturing makes wooden bedroom, dining room and occasional furniture. The company markets through retailers in all 50 states and in Canada, Japan, Europe and the Middle East.

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