



NEWS RELEASE



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JOB OPENINGS AND LABOR TURNOVER – AUGUST 2009

On the last business day of August, the number of job openings in the U.S. was little changed at a series low level of 2.4 million, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The hires rate was little changed and remained low at 3.1 percent in August. The total separations rate was little changed and remained low at 3.3 percent. This release includes estimates of the number and rate of job openings, hires, and separations for the total nonfarm sector by industry and geographic region.

Chart 1. Job openings rate, seasonally adjusted, September 2006 - August 2009

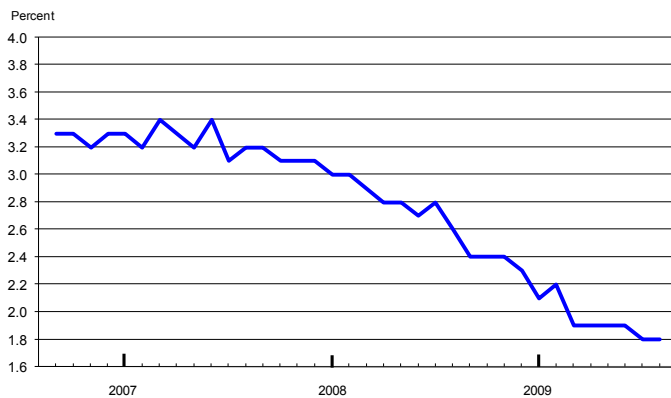
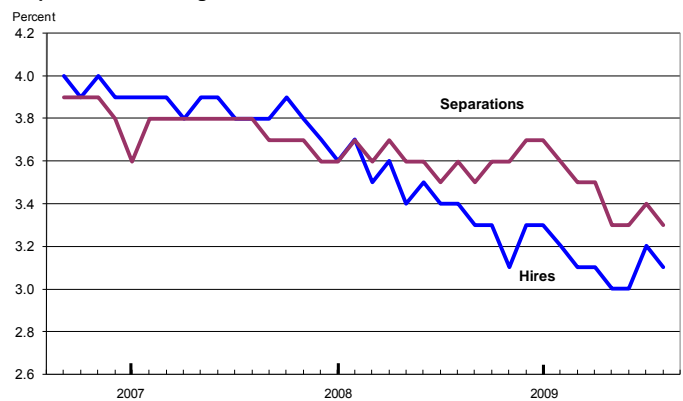


Chart 2. Hires and separations rates, seasonally adjusted, September 2006 - August 2009



Job Openings

The job openings rate was unchanged in August at a rate of 1.8 percent. The number of job openings has fallen by 2.4 million, or 50 percent, since the most recent peak in June 2007. The job openings rate was little changed in August in all industries and regions. (See table 1.)

Table A. Job openings, hires, and total separations by industry, seasonally adjusted

Industry	Job openings			Hires			Total separations		
	Aug. 2008	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p	Aug. 2008	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p	Aug. 2008	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p
	Levels (in thousands)								
Total ¹	3,722	2,408	2,387	4,654	4,228	4,029	4,888	4,430	4,265
Total private ¹	3,314	2,090	2,077	4,378	3,930	3,762	4,587	4,147	3,960
Construction.....	84	47	62	424	355	306	436	444	353
Manufacturing.....	300	110	125	285	272	249	348	329	318
Trade, transportation, and utilities ²	638	393	439	973	819	802	1,031	874	826
Retail trade.....	393	260	281	662	547	540	699	578	549
Professional and business services.....	692	431	401	810	686	708	871	738	721
Education and health services.....	707	553	514	554	522	541	505	500	506
Leisure and hospitality.....	438	256	247	838	716	700	857	713	718
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	56	17	20	161	138	104	152	121	117
Accommodation and food services.....	378	237	228	692	582	599	708	594	601
Government ³	421	314	307	305	282	264	290	298	291
State and local government.....	357	266	271	279	253	239	268	274	270
	Rates (percent)								
Total ¹	2.6	1.8	1.8	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.6	3.4	3.3
Total private ¹	2.8	1.9	1.9	3.8	3.6	3.5	4.0	3.8	3.6
Construction.....	1.2	0.8	1.0	5.9	5.8	5.0	6.1	7.2	5.8
Manufacturing.....	2.2	0.9	1.1	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.6	2.8	2.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities ²	2.4	1.5	1.7	3.7	3.3	3.2	3.9	3.5	3.3
Retail trade.....	2.5	1.7	1.9	4.3	3.7	3.7	4.6	3.9	3.7
Professional and business services.....	3.8	2.5	2.4	4.6	4.1	4.3	4.9	4.4	4.3
Education and health services.....	3.6	2.8	2.6	2.9	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.6
Leisure and hospitality.....	3.2	1.9	1.8	6.2	5.4	5.3	6.4	5.4	5.5
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	2.8	0.9	1.0	8.2	7.3	5.5	7.7	6.4	6.2
Accommodation and food services.....	3.2	2.1	2.0	6.0	5.2	5.3	6.2	5.3	5.3
Government ³	1.8	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3
State and local government.....	1.8	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.4

¹ Includes mining and logging, information, financial activities, and other services, not shown separately.

² Includes wholesale trade and transportation, warehousing, and utilities, not shown separately.

³ Includes federal government, not shown separately.

^p = preliminary.

Over the 12 months ending in August, the job openings rate (not seasonally adjusted) decreased for total nonfarm, total private, government, the majority of industries, and all four regions. The rate was little changed in construction; wholesale trade; real estate and rental and leasing; educational services; and other services. (See table 5.)

Hires

The hires level was little changed at 4.0 million in August but has declined by 1.6 million, or 28 percent, since the most recent peak in July 2006. The hires rate was low in August at 3.1 percent and little changed from July. The hires rate was little changed in August in all industries. The hires rate decreased over the month in the West and was little changed in the remaining regions. (See table 2.)

Over the 12 months ending in August, the hires rate (not seasonally adjusted) declined for total nonfarm, total private, and government. The hires rate decreased for mining and logging; construction; retail trade; finance and insurance; educational services; and state and local government. The hires rate fell over the past 12 months in the West and was little changed in the remaining regions. (See table 6.)

Separations

The total separations, or turnover, rate was little changed in August and remained low at 3.3 percent. The total separations rate (not seasonally adjusted) decreased over the 12 months ending in August for total nonfarm and total private. Total separations includes quits (voluntary separations), layoffs and discharges (involuntary separations), and other separations (including retirements). (See tables 3 and 7.)

The quits rate can serve as a measure of workers' willingness or ability to change jobs. The rate was little changed in August at 1.3 percent. The quits level was 1.7 million in August, which is 45 percent lower than the most recent peak in December 2006. (See table 4.)

Over the 12 months ending in August, the quits rate (not seasonally adjusted) was lower for total nonfarm, total private, government, the majority of industries, and all four regions. The industries for which the quits rate was little changed over the year include transportation, warehousing, and utilities; information; finance and insurance; real estate and rental and leasing; arts, entertainment and recreation; and federal government. (See table 8.)

The layoffs and discharges component of total separations is seasonally adjusted at the total nonfarm, total private, and government levels. The layoffs and discharges level for total nonfarm, total private, and government was little changed in August at 2.3 million, 2.2 million, and 135,000 respectively. The corresponding layoffs and discharges rates were 1.8 percent, 2.0 percent, and 0.6 percent. The number of layoffs and discharges in August was 46 percent higher than the recent low point in January 2006. (See table B below.)

The layoffs and discharges rate (not seasonally adjusted) was little changed over the 12 months ending in August for total nonfarm and total private and increased for government. The layoffs and discharges rate rose in mining and logging; construction; nondurable goods manufacturing; and state and local government. The layoffs and discharges rate increased in the Midwest and was little changed in the remaining regions. (See table 9.)

Table B. Layoffs and discharges, seasonally adjusted

Industry	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Aug. 2008	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^P	Aug. 2008	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^P
Total.....	2,169	2,431	2,323	1.6	1.8	1.8
Total private.....	2,078	2,348	2,179	1.8	2.2	2.0
Government.....	99	120	135	0.4	0.5	0.6

^P = preliminary.

The other separations series is not seasonally adjusted. In August, there were 321,000 other separations for total nonfarm, 263,000 for total private, and 58,000 for government. Compared to August 2008, the

number of other separations was little changed for total nonfarm, total private, and government. (See table 10.)

The total separations level is influenced by the relative contribution of its three components—quits, layoffs and discharges, and other separations. The percentage of total separations at the total nonfarm level attributable to the individual components has varied over time. The proportion of separations due to quits declined from 61 percent in January 2007 to a series low of 38 percent in April 2009. It then rose slightly and stood at 41 percent in August 2009. The proportion of layoffs and discharges reached a series high of 55 percent in July 2009 then dropped slightly to 54 percent in August 2009. (See tables 3 and 4, and table B above.)

Net Change in Employment

Over the 12 months ending in August, hires totaled 50.9 million and separations totaled 56.1 million, yielding a net employment loss of 5.2 million.

The Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey results for September 2009 are scheduled to be released on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. (EST).

Technical Note

The data for the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) are collected and compiled monthly from a sample of business establishments by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Collection

In a monthly survey of business establishments, data are collected for total employment, job openings, hires, quits, layoffs and discharges, and other separations. Data collection methods include computer-assisted telephone interviewing, touchtone data entry, fax, e-mail, and mail.

Coverage

The JOLTS program covers all private nonfarm establishments such as factories, offices, and stores, as well as federal, state, and local government entities in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Concepts

Industry classification. The industry classifications in this release are in accordance with the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). In order to ensure the highest possible quality of data, State Workforce Agencies verify with employers and update, if necessary, the industry code, location, and ownership classification of all establishments on a 3-year cycle. Changes in establishment characteristics resulting from the verification process are always introduced into the JOLTS sampling frame with the data reported for the first month of the year.

Employment. Employment includes persons on the payroll who worked or received pay for the pay period that includes the 12th day of the reference month. Full-time, part-time, permanent, short-term, seasonal, salaried, and hourly employees are included, as are employees on paid vacations or other paid leave. Proprietors or partners of unincorporated businesses, unpaid family workers, or persons on leave without pay or on strike for the entire pay period, are not counted as employed. Employees of temporary help agencies, employee leasing companies, outside contractors, and consultants are counted by their employer of record, not by the establishment where they are working.

Job openings. Establishments submit job openings information for the last business day of the reference month. A job opening requires that: 1) a specific position exists and there is work available for that position, 2) work could start within 30 days regardless of whether a suitable candidate is found, and 3) the employer is actively recruiting from outside the establishment to fill the position. Included are full-time, part-time, permanent, short-term, and seasonal openings. Active recruiting means that the establishment is taking steps to fill a

position by advertising in newspapers or on the Internet, posting help-wanted signs, accepting applications, or using other similar methods.

Jobs to be filled only by internal transfers, promotions, demotions, or recall from layoffs are excluded. Also excluded are jobs with start dates more than 30 days in the future, jobs for which employees have been hired but have not yet reported for work, and jobs to be filled by employees of temporary help agencies, employee leasing companies, outside contractors, or consultants. The job openings rate is computed by dividing the number of job openings by the sum of employment and job openings and multiplying that quotient by 100.

Hires. Hires are the total number of additions to the payroll occurring at any time during the reference month, including both new and rehired employees, full-time and part-time, permanent, short-term and seasonal employees, employees recalled to the location after a layoff lasting more than 7 days, on-call or intermittent employees who returned to work after having been formally separated, and transfers from other locations. The hires count does not include transfers or promotions within the reporting site, employees returning from strike, employees of temporary help agencies or employee leasing companies, outside contractors, or consultants. The hires rate is computed by dividing the number of hires by employment and multiplying that quotient by 100.

Separations. Separations are the total number of terminations of employment occurring at any time during the reference month, and are reported by type of separation--quits, layoffs and discharges, and other separations. Quits are voluntary separations by employees (except for retirements, which are reported as other separations). Layoffs and discharges are involuntary separations initiated by the employer and include layoffs with no intent to rehire; formal layoffs lasting or expected to last more than 7 days; discharges resulting from mergers, downsizing, or closings; firings or other discharges for cause; terminations of permanent or short-term employees; and terminations of seasonal employees. Other separations include retirements, transfers to other locations, deaths, and separations due to disability. Separations do not include transfers within the same location or employees on strike.

The separations rate is computed by dividing the number of separations by employment and multiplying that quotient by 100. The quits, layoffs and discharges, and other separations rates are computed similarly, dividing the number by employment and multiplying by 100.

Annual estimates. Annual estimates of rates and levels

of hires, quits, layoffs and discharges, other separations, and total separations are released with the January news release each year.

The JOLTS annual level estimates for hires, quits, layoffs and discharges, other separations, and total separations are the sum of the 12 published monthly levels. The annual rate estimates are computed by dividing the annual level by the Current Employment Statistics (CES) annual average employment level, and multiplying that quotient by 100. This figure will be approximately equal to the sum of the 12 monthly rates. Note that both the JOLTS and CES annual levels are rounded to the nearest thousand before the annual estimates are calculated. Consistent with BLS practices, annual estimates are published only for not seasonally adjusted data.

Annual estimates are not calculated for job openings because job openings are a stock, or point-in-time, measurement for the last business day of each month. Only jobs still open on the last day of the month are counted. For the same reason job openings cannot be cumulated throughout each month, annual figures for job openings cannot be created by summing the monthly estimates. Hires and separations are flow measures and are cumulated over the month with a total reported for the month. Therefore, the annual figures can be created by summing the monthly estimates.

Special Collection Procedures

An implied measure of employment change can be derived from the JOLTS data by subtracting separations from hires for a given month. Aggregating these monthly changes historically produced employment levels that overstated employment change as measured by CES at the total nonfarm level. Research into this problem showed that a significant amount of the divergence between the CES employment levels and the derived JOLTS employment levels was traceable to the Employment Services industry and to the State Government Education industry. In the former industry, businesses have a difficult time reporting hires and separations of temporary help workers. In the latter industry, employers have difficulty reporting hires and separations of student workers. BLS now devotes additional resources to the collection, editing, and review of data for these industries. BLS analysts more closely examine reported data that do not provide a consistent picture over time, and re-contact the respondents as necessary. Analysts work with the respondents to adjust their reporting practices as possible. Units that cannot be reconciled but are clearly incorrect on a consistent basis are not used, they are replaced by imputed values using standard techniques.

Sample and estimation methodology

The JOLTS survey design is a random sample of 16,000

nonfarm business establishments, including factories, offices, and stores, as well as federal, state, and local governments in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The establishments are drawn from a universe of over 9.1 million establishments compiled as part of the operations of the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program. This program includes all employers subject to state Unemployment Insurance (UI) laws and federal agencies subject to Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE).

The sampling frame is stratified by ownership, region, industry sector, and size class. The JOLTS sample is constructed from individual panels of sample units drawn on an annual basis. The full annual sample consists of one certainty panel composed of only large units selected with virtual certainty based on their size and 24 non-certainty panels. Each month a new non-certainty panel is rolled into collection, and the oldest non-certainty panel is rolled out. This means that at any given time the JOLTS sample is constructed from panels from three different annual sampling frames. The entire sample of old plus new panels is post-stratified and re-weighted annually to represent the most recent sampling frame. Additionally, the out-of-business establishments are removed from the old panels. The annual sample is supplemented with a quarterly sample of birth establishments (i.e., new establishments) to better reflect the impact of younger establishments in the JOLTS sample.

JOLTS total employment estimates are benchmarked monthly to the employment estimates of the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey. A ratio of CES to JOLTS employment is used to adjust the levels for all other JOLTS data elements.

JOLTS Business Birth/Death Model

As with any sample survey, the JOLTS sample can only be as current as its sampling frame. The time lag from the birth of an establishment until its appearance on the sampling frame is approximately one year. In addition, many of these new units may fail within the first year. Since these universe units cannot be reflected on the sampling frame immediately, the JOLTS sample cannot capture job openings, hires, and separations from these units during their early existence. BLS has developed a model to estimate birth/death activity for current months by examining the birth/death activity from previous years on the QCEW and projecting forward to the present using an econometric technique known as X-12 ARIMA modeling. The birth/death model also uses historical JOLTS data to estimate the amount of “churn” (hires and separations) that exists in establishments of various sizes. The model then combines the estimated churn with the projected employment change to estimate the number of hires and separations taking place in these units that cannot be measured through sampling.

The model-based estimate of total separations is distributed to the three components – quits; layoffs and discharges; and other separations - in proportion to their contribution to the sample-based estimate of total separations. Additionally, job openings for the modeled units are estimated by computing the ratio of openings to hires in the collected data and applying that ratio to the modeled hires. The estimates of job openings, hires, and separations produced by the birth/death model are then added to the sample-based estimates produced from the survey to arrive at the estimates for openings, hires, and separations.

Seasonal adjustment

BLS seasonally adjusts several JOLTS series using the X-12-ARIMA seasonal adjustment program. Seasonal adjustment is the process of estimating and removing periodic fluctuations caused by events such as weather, holidays, and the beginning and ending of the school year. Seasonal adjustment makes it easier to observe fundamental changes in the level of the series, particularly those associated with general economic expansions and contractions. A concurrent seasonal adjustment methodology is used in which new seasonal adjustment factors are calculated each month, using all relevant data, up to and including the data for the current month.

Alignment procedure

JOLTS hires minus separations should be comparable to the CES net employment change. However, definitional differences as well as sampling and non-sampling errors between the two surveys historically caused JOLTS to diverge from CES over time. To limit the divergence, and improve the quality of the JOLTS hires and separations series, BLS implemented the Monthly Alignment Method. The Monthly Alignment Method applies the CES employment trends to the seasonally adjusted JOLTS implied employment trend (hires minus separations) forcing them to be approximately the same, while preserving the seasonality of the JOLTS data. First, the two series are seasonally adjusted and the difference between the JOLTS implied employment trend and the CES net employment change is calculated. Next, the JOLTS implied employment trend is adjusted to equal the CES net employment change through a proportional adjustment. This proportional adjustment procedure adjusts the two components (hires, separations) proportionally to their contribution to the total churn (hires plus separations). For example, if hires are 40 percent of the churn for a given month, they will receive 40 percent of the needed adjustment and separations will receive 60 percent of the needed adjustment. The adjusted hires and separations are converted back to not seasonally adjusted data by reversing the application of the original seasonal factors. After the monthly alignment method has been used to adjust the level estimates, rate estimates are computed from the adjusted levels. The Monthly Alignment procedure assures a close match of the JOLTS

implied employment trend with the CES trend. The CES series is considered a highly accurate measure of net employment change owing to its very large sample size and annual benchmarking to universe counts of employment from the QCEW program.

Using JOLTS data

The JOLTS data series on job openings, hires, and separations are relatively new. The full sample is divided into panels, with one panel enrolled each month. A full complement of panels for the original data series based on the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system was not completely enrolled in the survey until January 2002. The supplemental panels of establishments needed to create NAICS estimates were not completely enrolled until May 2003. The data collected up until those points are from less than a full sample. Therefore, estimates from earlier months should be used with caution, as fewer sampled units were reporting data at that time.

In March 2002, BLS procedures for collecting hires and separations data were revised to address possible underreporting. As a result, JOLTS hires and separations estimates for months prior to March 2002 may not be comparable to estimates for March 2002 and later.

The federal government reorganization that involved transferring approximately 180,000 employees to the new Department of Homeland Security is not reflected in the JOLTS hires and separations estimates for the federal government. The Office of Personnel Management's record shows these transfers were completed in March 2003. The inclusion of transfers in the JOLTS definitions of hires and separations is intended to cover ongoing movements of workers between establishments. The Department of Homeland Security reorganization was a massive one-time event, and the inclusion of these intergovernmental transfers would distort the federal government time series.

JOLTS uses moving averages as seasonal filters in seasonal adjustment. JOLTS seasonal adjustment includes both additive and multiplicative seasonal adjustment models and REGARIMA (regression with autocorrelated errors) modeling to improve the seasonal adjustment factors at the beginning and end of the series and to detect and adjust for outliers in the series.

Reliability of the estimates

JOLTS estimates are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. When a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimates may differ from the "true" population values they represent. The exact difference, or sampling error, varies depending on the particular sample selected, and this variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. BLS analysis is generally conducted at the 90-percent level of confidence. That means that there is a

90-percent chance, or level of confidence, that an estimate based on a sample will differ by no more than 1.6 standard errors from the "true" population value because of sampling error. Estimates of sampling errors are available upon request.

The JOLTS estimates also are affected by nonsampling error. Nonsampling error can occur for many reasons, including the failure to include a segment of the population, the inability to obtain data from all units in the sample, the inability or unwillingness of respondents to provide data on a timely basis, mistakes made by respondents, errors made in the collection or processing of the data, and errors from the employment benchmark data used in estimation.

Other information

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Job openings levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels ³ (in thousands)							Rates						
	Aug. 2008	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2009	May 2009	June 2009	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p	Aug. 2008	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2009	May 2009	June 2009	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p
Total ⁴	3,722	2,633	2,513	2,523	2,513	2,408	2,387	2.6	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	3,314	2,269	2,042	2,191	2,163	2,090	2,077	2.8	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9
Construction.....	84	51	29	39	56	47	62	1.2	.8	.5	.6	.9	.8	1.0
Manufacturing.....	300	115	95	105	113	110	125	2.2	.9	.8	.9	.9	.9	1.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities ⁵	638	414	332	466	469	393	439	2.4	1.6	1.3	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.7
Retail trade.....	393	265	205	319	308	260	281	2.5	1.8	1.4	2.1	2.0	1.7	1.9
Professional and business services.....	692	428	461	451	445	431	401	3.8	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.4
Education and health services.....	707	537	515	530	531	553	514	3.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.6
Leisure and hospitality.....	438	289	322	265	276	256	247	3.2	2.1	2.4	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.8
Arts, entertainment, and recreation..	56	25	22	20	19	17	20	2.8	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.0	.9	1.0
Accommodation and food services..	378	263	312	239	254	237	228	3.2	2.3	2.7	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.0
Government ⁶	421	353	461	310	322	314	307	1.8	1.5	2.0	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3
State and local government.....	357	291	307	267	273	266	271	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4
REGION ⁷														
Northeast.....	707	583	520	554	609	508	507	2.7	2.3	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.0	2.0
South.....	1,409	1,000	942	888	882	870	871	2.8	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Midwest.....	794	499	512	512	496	509	507	2.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.7
West.....	864	556	570	544	561	517	541	2.7	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.8

¹ Job openings are the number of job openings on the last business day of the month.

² The job openings rate is the number of job openings on the last business day of the month as a percent of total employment plus job openings.

³ Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of the independent seasonal adjustment of the various series.

⁴ Includes mining and logging, information, financial activities, and other services, not shown separately.

⁵ Includes wholesale trade and transportation, warehousing, and utilities, not shown separately.

⁶ Includes federal government, not shown separately.

⁷ The States (including the District of Columbia) that comprise the regions are: Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; South: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia; Midwest: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin; West: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

^p = preliminary.

Table 2. Hires levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels ³ (in thousands)							Rates						
	Aug. 2008	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2009	May 2009	June 2009	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p	Aug. 2008	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2009	May 2009	June 2009	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p
Total ⁴	4,654	4,099	4,117	3,942	3,919	4,228	4,029	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.1
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	4,378	3,799	3,822	3,739	3,654	3,930	3,762	3.8	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.5
Construction.....	424	343	341	365	277	355	306	5.9	5.3	5.4	5.8	4.5	5.8	5.0
Manufacturing.....	285	244	236	206	225	272	249	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.9	2.3	2.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities ⁵	973	883	888	842	744	819	802	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.3	2.9	3.3	3.2
Retail trade.....	662	595	655	575	519	547	540	4.3	4.0	4.4	3.9	3.5	3.7	3.7
Professional and business services.....	810	668	733	721	644	686	708	4.6	4.0	4.4	4.3	3.9	4.1	4.3
Education and health services.....	554	483	475	473	530	522	541	2.9	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.8
Leisure and hospitality.....	838	693	691	695	695	716	700	6.2	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.3
Arts, entertainment, and recreation..	161	85	86	83	107	138	104	8.2	4.4	4.5	4.4	5.7	7.3	5.5
Accommodation and food services..	692	607	603	606	590	582	599	6.0	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.3
Government ⁶	305	271	340	273	262	282	264	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2
State and local government.....	279	247	246	257	237	253	239	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.2
REGION ⁷														
Northeast.....	800	696	729	712	735	714	710	3.1	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.9
South.....	1,714	1,458	1,619	1,423	1,428	1,544	1,517	3.5	3.0	3.4	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.2
Midwest.....	1,034	943	901	867	839	885	930	3.3	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.1
West.....	1,124	931	949	995	917	1,042	867	3.7	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.1	3.5	2.9

¹ Hires are the number of hires during the entire month.

² The hires rate is the number of hires during the entire month as a percent of total employment.

³ Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of the independent seasonal adjustment of the various series.

⁴ Includes mining and logging, information, financial activities, and other services, not shown separately.

⁵ Includes wholesale trade and transportation, warehousing, and utilities not shown separately.

⁶ Includes federal government, not shown separately.

⁷ See footnote 7, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

Table 3. Total separations levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels ³ (in thousands)							Rates						
	Aug. 2008	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2009	May 2009	June 2009	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p	Aug. 2008	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2009	May 2009	June 2009	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p
Total ⁴	4,888	4,712	4,641	4,356	4,306	4,430	4,265	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.3
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	4,587	4,434	4,362	4,066	3,939	4,147	3,960	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.6
Construction.....	436	463	437	411	355	444	353	6.1	7.2	6.9	6.5	5.7	7.2	5.8
Manufacturing.....	348	401	390	367	352	329	318	2.6	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities ⁵	1,031	1,001	982	951	816	874	826	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.2	3.5	3.3
Retail trade.....	699	646	678	601	549	578	549	4.6	4.3	4.6	4.1	3.7	3.9	3.7
Professional and business services.....	871	778	839	771	698	738	721	4.9	4.6	5.0	4.6	4.2	4.4	4.3
Education and health services.....	505	466	462	419	489	500	506	2.7	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.6
Leisure and hospitality.....	857	751	716	684	696	713	718	6.4	5.7	5.4	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.5
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	152	95	102	88	115	121	117	7.7	4.9	5.4	4.6	6.1	6.4	6.2
Accommodation and food services.....	708	649	612	596	594	594	601	6.2	5.8	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3
Government ⁶	290	265	255	288	340	298	291	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.3
State and local government.....	268	251	243	250	272	274	270	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4
REGION ⁷														
Northeast.....	824	878	700	774	799	716	743	3.2	3.5	2.8	3.1	3.2	2.9	3.0
South.....	1,799	1,741	1,682	1,565	1,535	1,602	1,509	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.2
Midwest.....	1,026	1,085	1,065	1,016	958	958	967	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.2
West.....	1,258	978	1,188	980	1,053	1,181	1,066	4.1	3.3	4.0	3.3	3.6	4.0	3.6

¹ Total separations are the number of total separations during the entire month.

² The total separations rate is the number of total separations during the entire month as a percent of total employment.

³ Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of the independent seasonal adjustment of the various series.

⁴ Includes mining and logging, information, financial activities, and other services, not shown separately.

⁵ Includes wholesale trade and transportation, warehousing, and utilities not shown separately.

⁶ Includes federal government, not shown separately.

⁷ See footnote 7, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

Table 4. Quits levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels ³ (in thousands)							Rates						
	Aug. 2008	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2009	May 2009	June 2009	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p	Aug. 2008	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2009	May 2009	June 2009	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p
Total ⁴	2,453	1,856	1,777	1,788	1,787	1,778	1,739	1.8	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	2,322	1,749	1,678	1,682	1,680	1,673	1,639	2.0	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Construction.....	151	102	74	84	70	68	63	2.1	1.6	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.0
Manufacturing.....	146	81	80	86	93	82	81	1.1	.7	.7	.7	.8	.7	.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities ⁵	541	444	385	398	391	415	384	2.1	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.5
Retail trade.....	397	344	271	296	299	295	290	2.6	2.3	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Professional and business services.....	361	278	272	281	257	265	255	2.0	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.5
Education and health services.....	285	249	228	249	264	235	245	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.3
Leisure and hospitality.....	529	433	430	396	429	411	429	3.9	3.3	3.3	3.0	3.3	3.1	3.3
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	45	35	41	45	46	38	43	2.3	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.0	2.3
Accommodation and food services.....	487	402	392	351	378	372	382	4.2	3.6	3.5	3.1	3.4	3.3	3.4
Government ⁶	139	107	99	107	111	107	104	.6	.5	.4	.5	.5	.5	.5
State and local government.....	131	106	96	97	99	101	96	.7	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5
REGION ⁷														
Northeast.....	337	273	263	303	279	234	265	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.1
South.....	978	751	691	718	693	724	677	2.0	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4
Midwest.....	567	431	410	397	403	435	372	1.8	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.2
West.....	566	408	453	398	434	404	435	1.8	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.5

¹ Quits are the number of quits during the entire month.

² The quits rate is the number of quits during the entire month as a percent of total employment.

³ Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of the independent seasonal adjustment of the various series.

⁴ Includes mining and logging, information, financial activities, and other services, not shown separately.

⁵ Includes wholesale trade and transportation, warehousing, and utilities not shown separately.

⁶ Includes federal government, not shown separately.

⁷ See footnote 7, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

Table 5. Job openings levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Aug. 2008	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p	Aug. 2008	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p
Total	3,906	2,575	2,544	2.8	1.9	1.9
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	3,457	2,232	2,221	2.9	2.0	2.0
Mining and logging.....	26	5	5	3.1	.7	.8
Construction.....	91	61	72	1.2	.9	1.1
Manufacturing.....	295	117	144	2.1	1.0	1.2
Durable goods.....	170	64	68	2.0	.9	.9
Nondurable goods.....	125	53	76	2.4	1.1	1.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	714	407	515	2.6	1.6	2.0
Wholesale trade.....	133	86	102	2.2	1.5	1.8
Retail trade.....	451	270	319	2.9	1.8	2.1
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	131	52	93	2.5	1.1	1.9
Information.....	90	59	46	2.9	2.0	1.6
Financial activities.....	204	148	131	2.4	1.9	1.7
Finance and insurance.....	165	106	96	2.7	1.8	1.6
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	38	42	35	1.7	2.0	1.7
Professional and business services.....	683	459	393	3.7	2.7	2.3
Education and health services.....	721	593	523	3.7	3.0	2.7
Educational services.....	76	54	72	2.7	1.9	2.5
Health care and social assistance.....	645	539	450	3.9	3.2	2.7
Leisure and hospitality.....	438	269	250	3.0	1.9	1.8
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	60	16	21	2.6	.7	1.0
Accommodation and food services.....	378	253	229	3.1	2.1	1.9
Other services.....	194	113	142	3.4	2.0	2.5
Government.....	449	343	324	2.1	1.6	1.5
Federal.....	70	60	30	2.4	2.1	1.1
State and local.....	379	282	293	2.0	1.5	1.6
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	744	523	538	2.8	2.1	2.1
South.....	1,439	944	907	2.8	2.0	1.9
Midwest.....	832	570	533	2.6	1.9	1.8
West.....	891	537	567	2.8	1.8	1.9

¹ Job openings are the number of job openings on the last business day of the month.

² The job openings rate is the number of job openings on the last business day of the month as a percent of total employment plus job openings.

³ See footnote 7, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

Table 6. Hires levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Aug. 2008	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p	Aug. 2008	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p
Total	5,159	4,694	4,425	3.8	3.6	3.4
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	4,651	4,377	3,987	4.0	4.0	3.6
Mining and logging.....	37	26	19	4.6	3.6	2.6
Construction.....	429	408	304	5.7	6.3	4.8
Manufacturing.....	311	306	271	2.3	2.6	2.3
Durable goods.....	181	150	134	2.1	2.1	1.9
Nondurable goods.....	130	156	137	2.6	3.4	3.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	1,031	860	843	3.9	3.4	3.4
Wholesale trade.....	145	143	113	2.4	2.5	2.0
Retail trade.....	707	556	577	4.6	3.8	3.9
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	179	161	154	3.6	3.4	3.3
Information.....	59	92	51	2.0	3.2	1.8
Financial activities.....	211	234	180	2.6	3.0	2.3
Finance and insurance.....	138	135	97	2.3	2.3	1.7
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	73	98	82	3.4	4.8	4.1
Professional and business services.....	797	756	713	4.5	4.5	4.3
Education and health services.....	681	597	685	3.7	3.2	3.6
Educational services.....	146	107	122	5.3	3.8	4.4
Health care and social assistance.....	535	491	563	3.4	3.0	3.5
Leisure and hospitality.....	885	805	747	6.3	5.8	5.4
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	140	165	94	6.3	7.5	4.4
Accommodation and food services.....	745	640	653	6.3	5.5	5.6
Other services.....	209	291	175	3.7	5.3	3.2
Government.....	508	317	438	2.4	1.5	2.1
Federal.....	23	40	29	.8	1.4	1.0
State and local.....	485	278	410	2.6	1.5	2.2
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	826	852	733	3.2	3.5	3.0
South.....	1,943	1,700	1,712	3.9	3.6	3.6
Midwest.....	1,107	946	1,006	3.6	3.2	3.4
West.....	1,283	1,196	975	4.2	4.1	3.3

¹ Hires are the number of hires during the entire month.

² The hires rate is the number of hires during the entire month as a percent of total employment.

³ See footnote 7, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

Table 7. Total separations levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Aug. 2008	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p	Aug. 2008	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p
Total	5,638	4,970	4,829	4.1	3.8	3.7
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	5,211	4,561	4,397	4.5	4.1	4.0
Mining and logging.....	27	31	27	3.3	4.2	3.7
Construction.....	490	478	386	6.5	7.4	6.0
Manufacturing.....	379	313	320	2.8	2.6	2.7
Durable goods.....	251	159	175	3.0	2.2	2.4
Nondurable goods.....	128	154	144	2.6	3.3	3.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	1,113	914	862	4.2	3.6	3.4
Wholesale trade.....	166	152	132	2.8	2.7	2.3
Retail trade.....	770	586	590	5.0	4.0	4.0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	178	176	140	3.5	3.7	3.0
Information.....	64	104	66	2.1	3.6	2.3
Financial activities.....	255	247	219	3.1	3.2	2.8
Finance and insurance.....	178	151	131	3.0	2.6	2.3
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	77	97	88	3.5	4.8	4.4
Professional and business services.....	913	781	741	5.1	4.7	4.4
Education and health services.....	611	615	618	3.3	3.2	3.3
Educational services.....	117	124	115	4.2	4.5	4.2
Health care and social assistance.....	494	490	503	3.1	3.0	3.1
Leisure and hospitality.....	1,058	797	902	7.5	5.8	6.5
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	217	115	178	9.8	5.2	8.3
Accommodation and food services.....	841	682	724	7.1	5.9	6.2
Other services.....	301	281	256	5.4	5.1	4.7
Government.....	427	409	432	2.0	1.9	2.0
Federal.....	35	25	35	1.3	.9	1.2
State and local.....	391	384	397	2.1	2.1	2.2
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	961	795	868	3.8	3.2	3.5
South.....	2,082	1,832	1,705	4.2	3.9	3.6
Midwest.....	1,168	1,011	1,094	3.8	3.4	3.7
West.....	1,427	1,333	1,162	4.6	4.5	4.0

¹ Total separations are the number of total separations during the entire month.

² The total separations rate is the number of total separations during the entire month as a percent of total employment.

³ See footnote 7, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

Table 8. Quits levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Aug. 2008	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p	Aug. 2008	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p
Total	3,108	2,142	2,203	2.3	1.6	1.7
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	2,893	2,003	2,042	2.5	1.8	1.9
Mining and logging.....	19	4	12	2.4	.5	1.6
Construction.....	219	100	90	2.9	1.6	1.4
Manufacturing.....	188	94	106	1.4	.8	.9
Durable goods.....	113	40	56	1.3	.5	.8
Nondurable goods.....	75	55	50	1.5	1.2	1.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	659	457	465	2.5	1.8	1.8
Wholesale trade.....	89	61	42	1.5	1.1	.7
Retail trade.....	488	318	353	3.2	2.2	2.4
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	83	78	70	1.6	1.6	1.5
Information.....	47	45	36	1.6	1.6	1.3
Financial activities.....	130	94	98	1.6	1.2	1.3
Finance and insurance.....	98	59	71	1.6	1.0	1.2
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	32	36	27	1.4	1.8	1.3
Professional and business services.....	448	321	306	2.5	1.9	1.8
Education and health services.....	349	285	300	1.9	1.5	1.6
Educational services.....	52	29	36	1.9	1.0	1.3
Health care and social assistance.....	297	256	265	1.9	1.6	1.6
Leisure and hospitality.....	667	503	545	4.7	3.6	4.0
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	73	53	75	3.3	2.4	3.5
Accommodation and food services.....	594	450	470	5.0	3.9	4.0
Other services.....	166	100	84	3.0	1.8	1.5
Government.....	215	139	161	1.0	.7	.8
Federal.....	17	4	17	.6	.1	.6
State and local.....	198	136	144	1.1	.7	.8
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	432	291	339	1.7	1.2	1.4
South.....	1,224	876	836	2.5	1.8	1.8
Midwest.....	768	493	491	2.5	1.7	1.7
West.....	683	483	537	2.2	1.6	1.8

¹ Quits are the number of quits during the entire month.

² The quits rate is the number of quits during the entire month as a percent of total employment.

³ See footnote 7, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

Table 9. Layoffs and discharges levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Aug. 2008	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p	Aug. 2008	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p
Total	2,227	2,476	2,305	1.6	1.9	1.8
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	2,071	2,297	2,091	1.8	2.1	1.9
Mining and logging.....	6	25	14	.7	3.5	1.9
Construction.....	255	366	291	3.4	5.7	4.5
Manufacturing.....	168	197	190	1.2	1.7	1.6
Durable goods.....	121	109	104	1.4	1.5	1.4
Nondurable goods.....	46	87	86	.9	1.9	1.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	369	384	332	1.4	1.5	1.3
Wholesale trade.....	66	81	84	1.1	1.4	1.5
Retail trade.....	232	216	185	1.5	1.5	1.3
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	71	87	63	1.4	1.8	1.3
Information.....	16	55	23	.5	1.9	.8
Financial activities.....	106	139	102	1.3	1.8	1.3
Finance and insurance.....	66	85	45	1.1	1.5	.8
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	39	54	57	1.8	2.7	2.8
Professional and business services.....	427	404	384	2.4	2.4	2.3
Education and health services.....	220	294	277	1.2	1.5	1.5
Educational services.....	58	88	75	2.1	3.2	2.7
Health care and social assistance.....	162	206	202	1.0	1.3	1.2
Leisure and hospitality.....	373	269	330	2.6	1.9	2.4
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	141	57	98	6.3	2.6	4.5
Accommodation and food services.....	232	211	232	2.0	1.8	2.0
Other services.....	133	164	149	2.4	3.0	2.7
Government.....	156	179	213	.7	.8	1.0
Federal.....	10	4	9	.3	.1	.3
State and local.....	146	175	204	.8	.9	1.1
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	477	427	473	1.9	1.7	1.9
South.....	745	826	746	1.5	1.7	1.6
Midwest.....	326	441	531	1.0	1.5	1.8
West.....	679	782	554	2.2	2.7	1.9

¹ Layoffs and discharges are the number of layoffs and discharges during the entire month.

² The layoffs and discharges rate is the number of layoffs and discharges during the entire month as a percent of total employment.

³ See footnote 7, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

Table 10. Other separations levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Aug. 2008	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p	Aug. 2008	July 2009	Aug. 2009 ^p
Total	303	351	321	0.2	0.3	0.2
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	247	260	263	.2	.2	.2
Mining and logging.....	2	1	1	.2	.2	.2
Construction.....	16	12	6	.2	.2	.1
Manufacturing.....	24	22	23	.2	.2	.2
Durable goods.....	17	10	16	.2	.1	.2
Nondurable goods.....	7	12	8	.1	.3	.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	85	73	65	.3	.3	.3
Wholesale trade.....	12	10	6	.2	.2	.1
Retail trade.....	50	51	52	.3	.3	.4
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	24	12	8	.5	.2	.2
Information.....	1	4	7	(⁴)	.1	.3
Financial activities.....	20	14	20	.2	.2	.3
Finance and insurance.....	14	7	15	.2	.1	.3
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	6	7	5	.3	.3	.2
Professional and business services.....	38	57	51	.2	.3	.3
Education and health services.....	42	36	41	.2	.2	.2
Educational services.....	7	8	4	.2	.3	.1
Health care and social assistance.....	35	28	37	.2	.2	.2
Leisure and hospitality.....	18	26	27	.1	.2	.2
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	3	5	5	.2	.2	.3
Accommodation and food services.....	15	21	21	.1	.2	.2
Other services.....	2	17	23	(⁴)	.3	.4
Government.....	56	91	58	.3	.4	.3
Federal.....	9	18	9	.3	.6	.3
State and local.....	47	73	49	.3	.4	.3
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	51	77	55	.2	.3	.2
South.....	113	130	123	.2	.3	.3
Midwest.....	75	77	72	.2	.3	.2
West.....	63	67	72	.2	.2	.2

¹ Other separations are the number of other separations during the entire month.

² The other separations rate is the number of other separations during the entire month as a percent of total employment.

³ See footnote 7, table 1.

⁴ Data round to zero.

^p = preliminary.