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JOB OPENINGS AND LABOR TURNOVER: FEBRUARY 2006

The job openings, hires, and total separations rates were all essentially unchanged in February, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. 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,
Percent March 2003 - February 2006

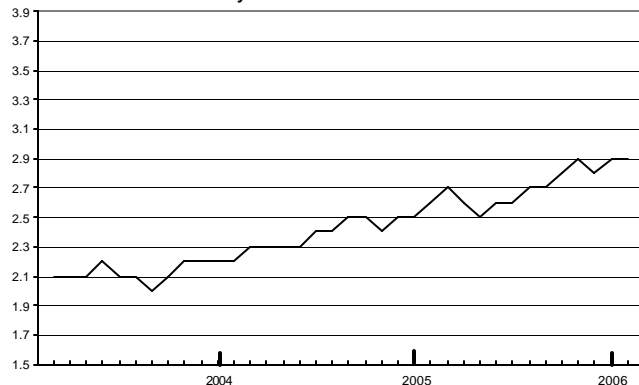
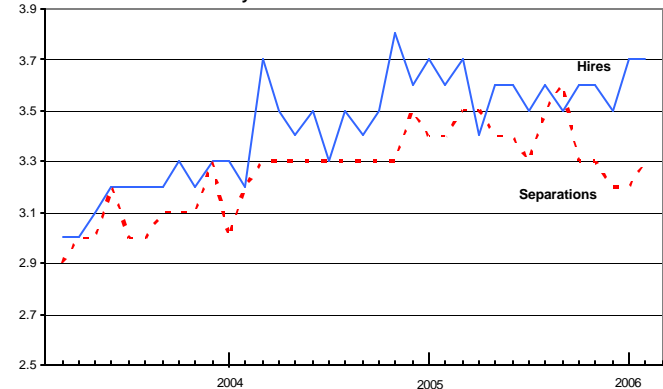


Chart 2. Hires and separations rates, seasonally adjusted,
Percent March 2003 - February 2006



Job Openings

On the last business day of February 2006, there were 4.1 million job openings in the United States, and the job openings rate was 2.9 percent. (See table 1.) The job openings rate was unchanged in February, but has generally trended upward since September 2003. In February, the job openings rate did not change significantly in any industry or region.

Hires and Separations

The hires rate was unchanged at 3.7 percent in February. (See table 2.) Hires are any additions to the payroll during the month. Over the month, the hires rate increased in the leisure and hospitality industry. The hires rate did not change significantly in any region.

The total separations, or turnover, rate was little changed at 3.3 percent in February. (See table 3.) Separations are terminations of employment that occur at any time during the month. In February, the total separations rate increased in the trade, transportation, and utilities industry. The total separations rate did not change significantly in any region.

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

Industry	Job openings			Hires			Total separations		
	Feb. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^p	Feb. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^p	Feb. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^p
	Levels (in thousands)								
Total ¹	3,494	3,981	4,054	4,832	4,941	4,972	4,481	4,285	4,492
Total private ¹	3,099	3,533	3,591	4,503	4,584	4,601	4,215	3,995	4,209
Construction	127	114	143	430	379	412	402	374	306
Manufacturing	256	324	329	335	366	327	345	353	387
Trade, transportation, and utilities	631	687	708	1,055	1,177	1,110	969	880	990
Professional and business services	605	777	727	920	953	850	874	780	833
Education and health services	601	627	637	479	446	440	392	353	395
Leisure and hospitality	426	507	536	786	847	1,042	814	848	853
Government	392	449	458	325	352	376	270	300	288
	Rates (percent)								
Total ¹	2.6	2.9	2.9	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.2	3.3
Total private ¹	2.7	3.0	3.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.8	3.5	3.7
Construction	1.7	1.5	1.9	6.0	5.1	5.5	5.6	5.0	4.1
Manufacturing	1.8	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2.4	2.6	2.6	4.1	4.5	4.3	3.8	3.4	3.8
Professional and business services	3.5	4.3	4.1	5.5	5.6	4.9	5.2	4.6	4.8
Education and health services	3.4	3.4	3.5	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.0	2.2
Leisure and hospitality	3.2	3.8	4.0	6.2	6.6	8.0	6.4	6.6	6.6
Government	1.8	2.0	2.0	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.2	1.4	1.3

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

p = preliminary

Total separations include quits (voluntary separations), layoffs and discharges (involuntary separations), and other separations (including retirements). The quits rate, which can serve as a barometer of workers' ability to change jobs, was essentially unchanged at 2.0 percent in February. (See table 4.) The quits rate rose in the education and health services industry. The quits rate did not change significantly in any region.

The other two components of total separations—layoffs and discharges, and other separations—are not seasonally adjusted. From February 2005 to February 2006, the layoffs and discharges rate fell to 0.9 percent but the other separations rate was unchanged at 0.2 percent. (See tables 9 and 10.)

Hires and separations data help show dynamic flows in the labor market. Over the last 12 months, hires have averaged 4.8 million per month and separations have averaged 4.5 million per month (not seasonally adjusted). The comparable figures a year earlier were 4.6 million hires and 4.4 million separations. (See the Technical Note for additional information on these measures.)

For More Information

For additional information, please read the Technical Note or visit the JOLTS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/jlt/>. Additional information about JOLTS also may be obtained by e-mailing Joltsinfo@bls.gov or by calling (202) 691-5870.

The Job Openings and Labor Turnover release for March 2006 is scheduled to be issued on Tuesday, May 9, 2006.

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

Each month, data are collected in a survey of business establishments 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, 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 2002 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 will be 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.

Sample methodology

The JOLTS sample 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 eight million establishments compiled as part of the operations of the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, or 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. Large firms fall into the sample with virtual certainty. JOLTS total employment estimates are controlled 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. Rates are then computed from the adjusted levels.

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 with 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.

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.

Data users should note that seasonal adjustment of the JOLTS series is conducted with fewer data observations than is customary. The historical data, therefore, may be subject to larger than normal revisions. Since the seasonal patterns in economic data series typically emerge over time, the standard use of moving averages as seasonal filters to capture these effects requires longer series than are currently available. As a result, the stable seasonal filter option is used in the seasonal adjustment of the JOLTS data. When calculating seasonal factors, this filter takes an average for each calendar month after detrending the series. The stable seasonal filter assumes that the seasonal factors are fixed; a necessary assumption until sufficient data are available. When the stable seasonal filter is no longer needed, other program features also may be introduced, such as outlier adjustment and extended diagnostic testing. Additionally, it is expected that more series, such as layoffs and discharges and additional industries, may be seasonally adjusted when more data are available.

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.

JOLTS hires and separations estimates cannot be used to exactly explain net changes in nonfarm payroll employment. Some reasons why it is problematic to compare changes in payroll employment with JOLTS hires and separations, especially on a monthly basis, are: 1) the reference period for payroll employment is the pay period including the 12th of the

month, while the reference period for hires and separations is the calendar month; and 2) payroll employment can vary from month to month simply because part-time and on-call workers may not always work during the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. Additionally, research has found that some reporters systematically underreport separations relative to hires due to a number of factors, including the nature of their payroll systems and practices. The shortfall appears to be about 2 percent or less over a 12-month period.

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 levels¹ and rates² by industry and region, seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels ³ (in thousands)							Rates						
	Feb. 2005	Sept. 2005	Oct. 2005	Nov. 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^P	Feb. 2005	Sept. 2005	Oct. 2005	Nov. 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^P
Total⁴	3,494	3,728	3,867	4,031	3,941	3,981	4,054	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.9
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	3,099	3,285	3,460	3,604	3,509	3,533	3,591	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.1
Construction.....	127	152	148	146	170	114	143	1.7	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.2	1.5	1.9
Manufacturing.....	256	285	297	333	313	324	329	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	631	629	654	696	661	687	708	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.6
Professional and business services.....	605	671	723	782	750	777	727	3.5	3.8	4.1	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.1
Education and health services.....	601	630	613	601	618	627	637	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5
Leisure and hospitality.....	426	431	498	519	522	507	536	3.2	3.3	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.8	4.0
Government.....	392	443	416	434	435	449	458	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0
REGION⁵														
Northeast.....	602	661	704	704	718	740	734	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8
South.....	1,352	1,451	1,515	1,562	1,612	1,550	1,574	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.2
Midwest.....	718	760	762	748	738	745	769	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4
West.....	824	890	873	1,046	919	928	977	2.7	2.9	2.9	3.4	3.0	3.0	3.2

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 natural resources and mining, information, financial activities, and other services, not shown separately.

⁵ 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 levels¹ and rates² by industry and region, seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels ³ (in thousands)							Rates						
	Feb. 2005	Sept. 2005	Oct. 2005	Nov. 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^P	Feb. 2005	Sept. 2005	Oct. 2005	Nov. 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^P
Total⁴	4,832	4,748	4,822	4,813	4,694	4,941	4,972	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.7
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	4,503	4,418	4,488	4,498	4,397	4,584	4,601	4.1	3.9	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.1
Construction.....	430	436	430	393	426	379	412	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.3	5.8	5.1	5.5
Manufacturing.....	335	346	449	335	307	366	327	2.3	2.4	3.2	2.4	2.2	2.6	2.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	1,055	983	967	954	1,011	1,177	1,110	4.1	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.9	4.5	4.3
Professional and business services.....	920	904	849	907	849	953	850	5.5	5.3	5.0	5.3	5.0	5.6	4.9
Education and health services.....	479	468	460	459	467	446	440	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.5
Leisure and hospitality.....	786	836	859	895	853	847	1,042	6.2	6.5	6.7	6.9	6.6	6.6	8.0
Government.....	325	314	319	314	293	352	376	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.7
REGION⁵														
Northeast.....	810	796	744	747	698	727	827	3.2	3.2	2.9	3.0	2.8	2.9	3.3
South.....	1,861	1,842	1,886	1,813	1,817	1,946	2,040	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	4.1	4.2
Midwest.....	1,090	965	1,017	1,031	1,038	1,043	1,051	3.5	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
West.....	1,104	1,139	1,154	1,188	1,127	1,176	1,088	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.8	4.0	3.7

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 natural resources and mining, information, financial activities, and other services, not shown separately.

⁵ See footnote 5, table 1.

^P = preliminary.

Table 3. Total separations levels¹ and rates² by industry and region, seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels ³ (in thousands)							Rates						
	Feb. 2005	Sept. 2005	Oct. 2005	Nov. 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^p	Feb. 2005	Sept. 2005	Oct. 2005	Nov. 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^p
Total⁴	4,481	4,798	4,359	4,476	4,359	4,285	4,492	3.4	3.6	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.3
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	4,215	4,503	4,103	4,205	4,067	3,995	4,209	3.8	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.7
Construction.....	402	423	392	371	348	374	306	5.6	5.8	5.3	5.0	4.7	5.0	4.1
Manufacturing.....	345	437	340	388	355	353	387	2.4	3.1	2.4	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	969	1,000	935	1,003	1,027	880	990	3.8	3.9	3.6	3.9	3.9	3.4	3.8
Professional and business services.....	874	856	757	753	735	780	833	5.2	5.0	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.6	4.8
Education and health services.....	392	433	404	418	400	353	395	2.3	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.0	2.2
Leisure and hospitality.....	814	871	798	834	843	848	853	6.4	6.8	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.6
Government.....	270	302	255	270	270	300	288	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.3
REGION⁵														
Northeast.....	717	797	657	619	685	701	735	2.9	3.2	2.6	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.9
South.....	1,699	1,779	1,710	1,711	1,759	1,653	1,650	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.4
Midwest.....	1,002	1,065	961	1,081	934	987	1,072	3.2	3.4	3.1	3.5	3.0	3.1	3.4
West.....	1,041	1,127	1,012	1,004	997	970	1,015	3.5	3.8	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4

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 natural resources and mining, information, financial activities, and other services, not shown separately.

⁵ See footnote 5, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

Table 4. Quits levels¹ and rates² by industry and region, seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels ³ (in thousands)							Rates						
	Feb. 2005	Sept. 2005	Oct. 2005	Nov. 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^p	Feb. 2005	Sept. 2005	Oct. 2005	Nov. 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^p
Total⁴	2,325	2,681	2,619	2,683	2,567	2,577	2,638	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	2,203	2,529	2,470	2,540	2,428	2,435	2,497	2.0	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2
Construction.....	145	210	205	183	189	179	145	2.0	2.9	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.4	1.9
Manufacturing.....	181	213	200	210	184	196	203	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	512	566	573	606	634	551	598	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.1	2.3
Professional and business services.....	402	448	345	359	365	415	449	2.4	2.6	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.6
Education and health services.....	252	283	258	277	254	225	269	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.5
Leisure and hospitality.....	490	557	597	595	558	569	577	3.9	4.3	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.5
Government.....	124	154	142	142	139	143	144	.6	.7	.6	.6	.6	.7	.7
REGION⁵														
Northeast.....	329	361	341	333	390	369	385	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.5
South.....	938	1,125	1,109	1,102	1,069	1,068	1,081	2.0	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2
Midwest.....	503	574	552	572	481	571	605	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.8	1.9
West.....	546	627	601	657	618	569	554	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.9

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 natural resources and mining, information, financial activities, and other services, not shown separately.

⁵ See footnote 5, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

Table 5. Job openings levels¹ and rates² by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Feb. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^P	Feb. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^P
Total	3,350	3,678	3,895	2.5	2.7	2.8
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	2,993	3,259	3,475	2.7	2.9	3.0
Natural resources and mining.....	9	9	12	1.5	1.5	1.8
Construction.....	118	94	134	1.7	1.3	1.9
Manufacturing.....	258	309	335	1.8	2.1	2.3
Durable goods.....	174	214	242	1.9	2.3	2.6
Nondurable goods.....	84	95	93	1.6	1.8	1.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	578	608	647	2.2	2.3	2.5
Wholesale trade.....	140	104	153	2.4	1.8	2.6
Retail trade.....	347	395	371	2.3	2.5	2.4
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	91	110	123	1.8	2.2	2.5
Information.....	81	111	112	2.6	3.5	3.5
Financial activities.....	235	294	314	2.8	3.5	3.7
Finance and insurance.....	182	232	273	3.0	3.7	4.3
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	53	62	41	2.5	2.8	1.9
Professional and business services.....	601	719	715	3.5	4.1	4.1
Education and health services.....	591	599	629	3.3	3.3	3.4
Educational services.....	47	59	68	1.6	2.1	2.2
Health care and social assistance.....	544	539	561	3.7	3.5	3.7
Leisure and hospitality.....	398	445	508	3.2	3.5	3.9
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	57	63	51	3.3	3.6	2.9
Accommodations and food services.....	341	381	457	3.2	3.5	4.1
Other services.....	125	71	69	2.3	1.3	1.3
Government.....	357	419	420	1.6	1.9	1.9
Federal.....	41	46	45	1.5	1.7	1.6
State and local.....	316	374	375	1.6	1.9	1.9
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	561	665	685	2.2	2.6	2.7
South.....	1,343	1,481	1,565	2.8	3.0	3.2
Midwest.....	671	667	720	2.1	2.1	2.3
West.....	774	865	925	2.6	2.9	3.0

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 5, table 1.

^P = preliminary.

Table 6. Hires levels¹ and rates² by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Feb. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^P	Feb. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^P
Total	4,004	4,196	4,144	3.1	3.2	3.1
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	3,778	3,877	3,879	3.5	3.5	3.5
Natural resources and mining.....	20	15	17	3.3	2.4	2.6
Construction.....	354	291	340	5.3	4.1	4.8
Manufacturing.....	314	361	302	2.2	2.6	2.1
Durable goods.....	212	207	174	2.4	2.3	1.9
Nondurable goods.....	101	153	128	1.9	3.0	2.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	804	861	850	3.2	3.3	3.3
Wholesale trade.....	117	99	114	2.1	1.7	2.0
Retail trade.....	562	531	575	3.8	3.5	3.8
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	124	231	160	2.6	4.7	3.3
Information.....	64	61	81	2.1	2.0	2.7
Financial activities.....	164	172	191	2.0	2.1	2.3
Finance and insurance.....	95	124	119	1.6	2.1	2.0
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	70	47	72	3.4	2.2	3.4
Professional and business services.....	835	906	764	5.1	5.4	4.5
Education and health services.....	414	413	378	2.4	2.4	2.1
Educational services.....	47	62	53	1.6	2.3	1.8
Health care and social assistance.....	367	351	325	2.6	2.4	2.2
Leisure and hospitality.....	610	635	815	5.0	5.2	6.6
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	77	71	104	4.6	4.2	6.1
Accommodations and food services.....	533	564	712	5.1	5.3	6.7
Other services.....	200	162	141	3.7	3.0	2.6
Government.....	226	319	265	1.0	1.5	1.2
Federal.....	31	43	43	1.1	1.6	1.6
State and local.....	195	276	222	1.0	1.4	1.1
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	570	564	592	2.3	2.3	2.4
South.....	1,641	1,740	1,816	3.5	3.7	3.8
Midwest.....	851	878	823	2.8	2.8	2.6
West.....	942	1,014	913	3.2	3.5	3.1

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 5, table 1.

^P = preliminary.

Table 7. Total separations levels¹ and rates² by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Feb. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^P	Feb. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^P
Total	3,679	4,186	3,707	2.8	3.2	2.8
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	3,493	3,938	3,506	3.2	3.6	3.2
Natural resources and mining.....	15	17	19	2.5	2.6	3.1
Construction.....	383	405	287	5.7	5.8	4.1
Manufacturing.....	296	344	344	2.1	2.4	2.4
Durable goods.....	193	192	201	2.2	2.2	2.3
Nondurable goods.....	103	151	143	2.0	2.9	2.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	834	991	855	3.3	3.8	3.3
Wholesale trade.....	133	101	139	2.3	1.8	2.4
Retail trade.....	569	761	605	3.8	5.0	4.0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	132	129	112	2.7	2.6	2.3
Information.....	45	63	63	1.5	2.1	2.1
Financial activities.....	157	165	202	2.0	2.0	2.5
Finance and insurance.....	96	117	134	1.6	1.9	2.2
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	62	48	68	3.0	2.2	3.2
Professional and business services.....	692	720	668	4.2	4.3	4.0
Education and health services.....	330	345	333	1.9	2.0	1.9
Educational services.....	24	38	24	.8	1.4	.8
Health care and social assistance.....	307	306	309	2.1	2.1	2.1
Leisure and hospitality.....	571	751	604	4.7	6.1	4.9
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	74	57	43	4.5	3.4	2.5
Accommodations and food services.....	497	694	561	4.7	6.5	5.2
Other services.....	171	137	130	3.2	2.6	2.4
Government.....	187	248	201	.8	1.1	.9
Federal.....	26	57	48	1.0	2.1	1.8
State and local.....	161	191	153	.8	1.0	.8
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	546	667	577	2.2	2.7	2.3
South.....	1,449	1,580	1,399	3.1	3.3	2.9
Midwest.....	810	971	876	2.6	3.1	2.8
West.....	875	968	855	3.0	3.3	2.9

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 5, table 1.

^P = preliminary.

Table 8. Quits levels¹ and rates² by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Feb. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^P	Feb. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^P
Total.....	1,914	2,262	2,177	1.5	1.7	1.6
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	1,817	2,142	2,063	1.7	1.9	1.9
Natural resources and mining.....	6	9	8	1.0	1.4	1.2
Construction.....	127	142	124	1.9	2.0	1.8
Manufacturing.....	153	166	174	1.1	1.2	1.2
Durable goods.....	99	96	103	1.1	1.1	1.2
Nondurable goods.....	54	69	71	1.0	1.3	1.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	425	516	498	1.7	2.0	1.9
Wholesale trade.....	73	52	69	1.3	.9	1.2
Retail trade.....	300	406	361	2.0	2.7	2.4
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	52	58	68	1.1	1.2	1.4
Information.....	32	41	44	1.0	1.4	1.4
Financial activities.....	80	100	120	1.0	1.2	1.5
Finance and insurance.....	60	76	72	1.0	1.3	1.2
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	20	24	47	1.0	1.1	2.2
Professional and business services.....	308	371	349	1.9	2.2	2.1
Education and health services.....	208	213	225	1.2	1.2	1.3
Educational services.....	15	23	16	.5	.8	.5
Health care and social assistance.....	194	190	210	1.3	1.3	1.4
Leisure and hospitality.....	373	504	443	3.1	4.1	3.6
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	37	28	24	2.2	1.7	1.4
Accommodations and food services.....	337	476	419	3.2	4.5	3.9
Other services.....	104	81	77	1.9	1.5	1.4
Government.....	97	120	114	.4	.6	.5
Federal.....	12	24	23	.4	.9	.9
State and local.....	86	96	91	.4	.5	.5
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	257	305	305	1.0	1.2	1.2
South.....	795	939	920	1.7	2.0	1.9
Midwest.....	401	508	487	1.3	1.6	1.6
West.....	462	510	464	1.6	1.7	1.6

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 5, table 1.

^P = preliminary.

Table 9. Layoffs and discharges levels¹ and rates² by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Feb. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^P	Feb. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^P
Total	1,463	1,564	1,230	1.1	1.2	0.9
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	1,417	1,494	1,179	1.3	1.4	1.1
Natural resources and mining.....	5	4	11	.9	.6	1.7
Construction.....	242	248	144	3.6	3.5	2.0
Manufacturing.....	115	132	121	.8	.9	.9
Durable goods.....	75	66	65	.8	.7	.7
Nondurable goods.....	39	65	57	.7	1.3	1.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	346	407	278	1.4	1.6	1.1
Wholesale trade.....	51	44	51	.9	.8	.9
Retail trade.....	232	312	197	1.6	2.1	1.3
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	64	52	30	1.3	1.1	.6
Information.....	10	12	13	.3	.4	.4
Financial activities.....	62	55	70	.8	.7	.9
Finance and insurance.....	22	35	51	.4	.6	.8
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	40	20	19	1.9	.9	.9
Professional and business services.....	303	260	280	1.8	1.6	1.7
Education and health services.....	99	108	86	.6	.6	.5
Educational services.....	7	12	7	.2	.4	.2
Health care and social assistance.....	92	96	79	.6	.7	.5
Leisure and hospitality.....	182	218	131	1.5	1.8	1.1
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	37	25	16	2.2	1.5	.9
Accommodations and food services.....	146	193	115	1.4	1.8	1.1
Other services.....	52	50	44	1.0	.9	.8
Government.....	46	70	50	.2	.3	.2
Federal.....	8	12	11	.3	.4	.4
State and local.....	38	59	39	.2	.3	.2
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	243	293	222	1.0	1.2	.9
South.....	533	518	375	1.1	1.1	.8
Midwest.....	346	361	319	1.1	1.2	1.0
West.....	340	392	314	1.2	1.3	1.1

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 5, table 1.

^P = preliminary.

Table 10. Other separations levels¹ and rates² by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Feb. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^P	Feb. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006 ^P
Total	302	360	301	.2	.3	.2
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	259	302	264	.2	.3	.2
Natural resources and mining.....	3	4	1	.6	.6	.2
Construction.....	14	15	19	.2	.2	.3
Manufacturing.....	28	46	48	.2	.3	.3
Durable goods.....	18	30	33	.2	.3	.4
Nondurable goods.....	9	16	15	.2	.3	.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	63	69	79	.2	.3	.3
Wholesale trade.....	9	6	19	.2	.1	.3
Retail trade.....	38	44	47	.3	.3	.3
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	16	19	13	.3	.4	.3
Information.....	3	10	6	.1	.3	.2
Financial activities.....	15	10	13	.2	.1	.2
Finance and insurance.....	14	6	11	.2	.1	.2
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	2	4	2	.1	.2	.1
Professional and business services.....	81	89	39	.5	.5	.2
Education and health services.....	23	24	22	.1	.1	.1
Educational services.....	2	3	2	.1	.1	.1
Health care and social assistance.....	21	21	20	.1	.1	.1
Leisure and hospitality.....	15	28	30	.1	.2	.2
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	1	4	3	.1	.2	.2
Accommodations and food services.....	14	25	27	.1	.2	.3
Other services.....	14	6	9	.3	.1	.2
Government.....	43	58	37	.2	.3	.2
Federal.....	7	21	13	.2	.8	.5
State and local.....	36	37	23	.2	.2	.1
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	46	68	50	.2	.3	.2
South.....	121	124	104	.3	.3	.2
Midwest.....	63	103	70	.2	.3	.2
West.....	73	65	77	.3	.2	.3

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 5, table 1.

^P = preliminary.