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JOB OPENINGS AND LABOR TURNOVER: MAY 2006

The hires rate increased, while the job openings and total separations rates were essentially unchanged in May, 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 June 2003 - May 2006

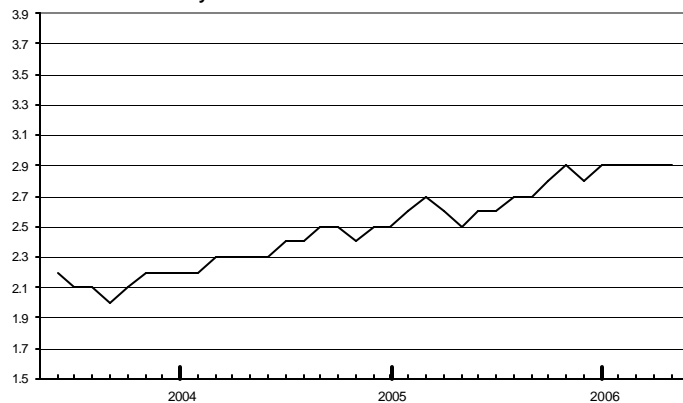
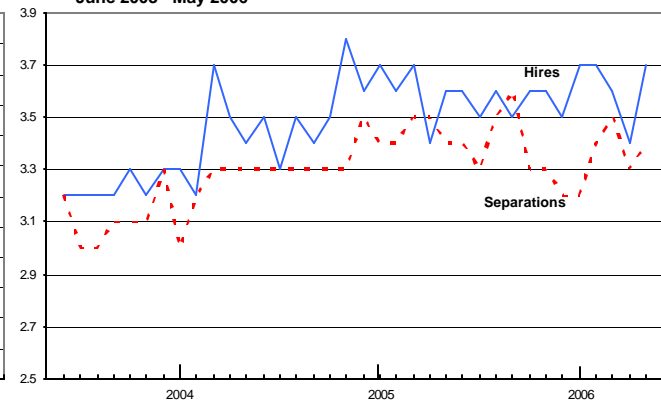


Chart 2. Hires and separations rates, seasonally adjusted,
Percent June 2003 - May 2006



Job Openings

On the last business day of May 2006, there were 4.0 million job openings in the United States, and the job openings rate was 2.9 percent. The job openings rate was unchanged over the month and has been essentially unchanged since November 2005. There were no significant over-the-month changes in the job openings rate in any industry or region. The industries with the highest seasonally adjusted job openings rates in May 2006 were professional and business services, and leisure and hospitality (3.8 percent each), and education and health services (3.5 percent). (See table 1.)

Over the year, the job openings rate increased in several industries and in three of the four regions—the Northeast, South, and West. None of the industries or regions experienced a significant decrease in the job openings rate from the prior year. (See table 5.)

Hires

The hires rate increased to 3.7 percent in May, offsetting declines in the previous 2 months. Hires are any additions to the payroll during the month. In May, the hires rate increased in manufacturing, professional and business services, and in the Midwest region. There were no significant declines in the hires rate in any

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

Industry	Job openings			Hires			Total separations		
	May 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^p	May 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^p	May 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^p
	Levels (in thousands)								
Total ¹	3,364	4,070	3,989	4,778	4,649	4,962	4,543	4,495	4,654
Total private ¹	3,005	3,603	3,542	4,454	4,301	4,586	4,290	4,203	4,339
Construction.....	114	138	125	434	376	365	405	373	461
Manufacturing.....	235	323	308	344	328	377	384	346	382
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	613	672	706	1,043	1,029	1,047	1,013	1,022	1,005
Professional and business services.....	623	748	677	862	858	1,004	794	790	854
Education and health services.....	597	674	643	469	481	518	427	437	440
Leisure and hospitality.....	447	485	518	782	775	810	762	770	742
Government.....	361	467	452	325	361	380	260	302	321
	Rates (percent)								
Total ¹	2.5	2.9	2.9	3.6	3.4	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.4
Total private ¹	2.6	3.1	3.0	4.0	3.8	4.1	3.8	3.7	3.8
Construction.....	1.5	1.8	1.6	6.0	5.0	4.9	5.6	5.0	6.1
Manufacturing.....	1.6	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.4	2.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	2.3	2.5	2.6	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9
Professional and business services.....	3.6	4.2	3.8	5.1	5.0	5.8	4.7	4.6	5.0
Education and health services.....	3.3	3.7	3.5	2.7	2.7	2.9	2.5	2.5	2.5
Leisure and hospitality.....	3.4	3.6	3.8	6.1	6.0	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.7
Government.....	1.6	2.1	2.0	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.2	1.4	1.5

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

industry or region. The seasonally adjusted hires rate was highest in the leisure and hospitality industry (6.2 percent). (See table 2.)

From May 2005 to May 2006, the hires rate rose in nondurable goods manufacturing, professional and business services, and the federal government and declined in construction. The hires rate did not change significantly over the year in any geographic region. (See table 6.)

Separations

The total separations, or turnover, rate was little changed at 3.4 percent in May. Separations are terminations of employment that occur at any time during the month. In May, the total separations rate increased in construction; all other industries and regions were about unchanged. (See table 3.)

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, rose to 2.0 percent in May. The quits rate increased in the construction and manufacturing industries and in the South region. In May, the seasonally adjusted quits rate was highest in the leisure and hospitality industry (4.1 percent), which also had the highest hires rate. (See table 4.)

Over the year, the quits rate grew in several industries and in the South region. The quits rate declined in real estate and rental and leasing as well as in other services. (See table 8.)

The other two components of total separations—layoffs and discharges, and other separations—are not seasonally adjusted. From May 2005 to May 2006, the layoffs and discharges rate was little changed at 1.0 percent. For May 2006, the construction industry had the highest layoffs and discharges rate (2.3 percent). From May 2005 to May 2006, the other separations rate increased to 0.3 percent. (See tables 9 and 10.)

Flows in the Labor Market

Hires and separations data help show dynamic flows in the labor market. Over the 12 months ending in May 2006, hires have averaged 4.8 million per month and separations have averaged 4.5 million per month (not seasonally adjusted). The comparable figures for the prior 12-month period were 4.7 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 June 2006 is scheduled to be issued on Wednesday, August 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						
	May 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^P	May 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^P
Total⁴	3,364	3,941	3,981	3,994	4,089	4,070	3,989	2.5	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	3,005	3,509	3,533	3,531	3,633	3,603	3,542	2.6	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.0
Construction.....	114	170	114	121	144	138	125	1.5	2.2	1.5	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.6
Manufacturing.....	235	313	324	318	318	323	308	1.6	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	613	661	687	660	651	672	706	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.6
Professional and business services.....	623	750	777	716	702	748	677	3.6	4.2	4.3	4.0	3.9	4.2	3.8
Education and health services.....	597	618	627	640	692	674	643	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.7	3.5
Leisure and hospitality.....	447	522	507	587	506	485	518	3.4	3.9	3.8	4.3	3.8	3.6	3.8
Government.....	361	435	449	460	458	467	452	1.6	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.0
REGION⁵														
Northeast.....	550	718	740	707	732	672	663	2.1	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.5
South.....	1,320	1,612	1,550	1,547	1,634	1,600	1,627	2.7	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.3
Midwest.....	749	738	745	797	721	770	762	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.4
West.....	773	919	928	957	985	1,022	960	2.6	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.1

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						
	May 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^P	May 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^P
Total⁴	4,778	4,694	4,941	4,954	4,884	4,649	4,962	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.7
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	4,454	4,397	4,584	4,578	4,503	4,301	4,586	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.8	4.1
Construction.....	434	426	379	403	344	376	365	6.0	5.8	5.1	5.4	4.6	5.0	4.9
Manufacturing.....	344	307	366	333	341	328	377	2.4	2.2	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	1,043	1,011	1,177	1,117	1,103	1,029	1,047	4.0	3.9	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.0	4.0
Professional and business services.....	862	849	953	841	922	858	1,004	5.1	5.0	5.6	4.9	5.4	5.0	5.8
Education and health services.....	469	467	446	435	435	481	518	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.9
Leisure and hospitality.....	782	853	847	1,019	899	775	810	6.1	6.6	6.6	7.9	6.9	6.0	6.2
Government.....	325	293	352	379	397	361	380	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.7
REGION⁵														
Northeast.....	805	698	727	814	914	849	834	3.2	2.8	2.9	3.2	3.6	3.3	3.3
South.....	1,766	1,817	1,946	2,061	1,803	1,777	1,874	3.7	3.8	4.1	4.3	3.7	3.7	3.9
Midwest.....	1,110	1,038	1,043	1,045	1,117	965	1,136	3.6	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.1	3.6
West.....	1,101	1,127	1,176	1,083	1,127	1,152	1,115	3.7	3.8	4.0	3.6	3.8	3.9	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						
	May 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^p	May 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^p
Total⁴	4,543	4,359	4,285	4,531	4,681	4,495	4,654	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.4
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	4,290	4,067	3,995	4,252	4,360	4,203	4,339	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.8
Construction.....	405	348	374	335	422	373	461	5.6	4.7	5.0	4.5	5.6	5.0	6.1
Manufacturing.....	384	355	353	380	427	346	382	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.7	3.0	2.4	2.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	1,013	1,027	880	997	989	1,022	1,005	3.9	3.9	3.4	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9
Professional and business services.....	794	735	780	826	798	790	854	4.7	4.3	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.6	5.0
Education and health services.....	427	400	353	403	399	437	440	2.5	2.3	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.5
Leisure and hospitality.....	762	843	848	881	769	770	742	6.0	6.5	6.6	6.8	5.9	5.9	5.7
Government.....	260	270	300	285	326	302	321	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.5
REGION⁵														
Northeast.....	739	685	701	736	714	711	781	2.9	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.8	3.1
South.....	1,741	1,759	1,653	1,694	1,810	1,710	1,744	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.5	3.6
Midwest.....	985	934	987	1,032	1,014	992	1,052	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.3
West.....	1,059	997	970	1,054	1,188	1,116	1,075	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.5	4.0	3.7	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 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						
	May 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^p	May 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^p
Total⁴	2,534	2,567	2,577	2,663	2,763	2,541	2,737	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	2,406	2,428	2,435	2,526	2,606	2,383	2,579	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.3
Construction.....	164	189	179	153	182	167	208	2.3	2.6	2.4	2.0	2.4	2.2	2.8
Manufacturing.....	168	184	196	202	205	175	207	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	602	634	551	602	598	613	624	2.3	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4
Professional and business services.....	411	365	415	422	426	409	444	2.4	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.6
Education and health services.....	257	254	225	279	267	253	280	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.6
Leisure and hospitality.....	494	558	569	607	561	535	529	3.9	4.3	4.4	4.7	4.3	4.1	4.1
Government.....	127	139	143	139	156	159	159	.6	.6	.7	.6	.7	.7	.7
REGION⁵														
Northeast.....	380	390	369	368	383	370	386	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5
South.....	1,009	1,069	1,068	1,114	1,129	1,026	1,132	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.3
Midwest.....	551	481	571	600	619	575	590	1.8	1.5	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.9
West.....	591	618	569	567	642	593	620	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.9	2.2	2.0	2.1

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		
	May 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^P	May 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^P
Total	3,617	4,236	4,285	2.6	3.0	3.1
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	3,224	3,766	3,794	2.8	3.2	3.2
Natural resources and mining.....	12	11	15	2.0	1.6	2.2
Construction.....	143	168	155	1.9	2.2	2.0
Manufacturing.....	254	329	332	1.8	2.3	2.3
Durable goods.....	166	233	222	1.8	2.5	2.4
Nondurable goods.....	88	96	110	1.6	1.8	2.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	636	673	736	2.4	2.5	2.8
Wholesale trade.....	142	140	159	2.4	2.3	2.6
Retail trade.....	374	395	440	2.4	2.6	2.8
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	120	138	137	2.4	2.7	2.7
Information.....	74	142	138	2.3	4.4	4.3
Financial activities.....	220	314	307	2.6	3.7	3.6
Finance and insurance.....	161	251	245	2.6	3.9	3.8
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	58	64	63	2.7	2.9	2.8
Professional and business services.....	639	768	685	3.7	4.3	3.8
Education and health services.....	627	686	675	3.5	3.7	3.7
Educational services.....	70	106	82	2.4	3.4	2.7
Health care and social assistance.....	557	580	593	3.7	3.8	3.8
Leisure and hospitality.....	505	574	585	3.7	4.3	4.2
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	64	101	66	3.2	5.1	3.2
Accommodations and food services.....	441	473	520	3.8	4.1	4.4
Other services.....	116	101	164	2.1	1.8	2.9
Government.....	393	470	491	1.7	2.1	2.2
Federal.....	41	48	48	1.5	1.7	1.8
State and local.....	352	422	443	1.8	2.1	2.2
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	608	694	726	2.4	2.7	2.8
South.....	1,387	1,661	1,717	2.8	3.3	3.4
Midwest.....	774	810	790	2.4	2.5	2.4
West.....	847	1,070	1,051	2.8	3.5	3.4

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		
	May 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^P	May 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^P
Total	5,444	4,871	5,675	4.1	3.6	4.2
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	5,113	4,604	5,285	4.6	4.1	4.7
Natural resources and mining.....	27	27	24	4.4	4.1	3.5
Construction.....	559	495	464	7.6	6.7	6.1
Manufacturing.....	390	333	437	2.7	2.3	3.1
Durable goods.....	254	216	272	2.8	2.4	3.0
Nondurable goods.....	137	117	165	2.6	2.3	3.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	1,144	1,011	1,144	4.4	3.9	4.4
Wholesale trade.....	160	146	161	2.8	2.5	2.7
Retail trade.....	801	725	814	5.3	4.8	5.4
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	183	140	169	3.7	2.8	3.4
Information.....	85	79	101	2.8	2.6	3.3
Financial activities.....	258	194	234	3.2	2.3	2.8
Finance and insurance.....	159	114	135	2.7	1.9	2.2
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	99	80	99	4.7	3.7	4.6
Professional and business services.....	914	935	1,101	5.4	5.4	6.4
Education and health services.....	459	433	511	2.6	2.4	2.9
Educational services.....	45	69	59	1.6	2.3	2.0
Health care and social assistance.....	414	364	452	2.9	2.5	3.0
Leisure and hospitality.....	1,032	898	1,061	7.9	7.0	8.0
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	198	181	209	10.1	9.7	10.5
Accommodations and food services.....	834	717	851	7.6	6.5	7.6
Other services.....	245	199	209	4.5	3.7	3.9
Government.....	331	266	390	1.5	1.2	1.7
Federal.....	43	53	74	1.6	2.0	2.7
State and local.....	288	214	316	1.5	1.1	1.6
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	931	833	966	3.7	3.3	3.8
South.....	1,992	1,794	2,125	4.2	3.7	4.4
Midwest.....	1,320	1,080	1,371	4.2	3.4	4.3
West.....	1,201	1,164	1,213	4.0	3.9	4.0

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		
	May 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^P	May 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^P
Total	4,485	4,158	4,631	3.3	3.1	3.4
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	4,213	3,929	4,291	3.8	3.5	3.8
Natural resources and mining.....	18	22	12	2.8	3.4	1.8
Construction.....	356	299	407	4.9	4.1	5.4
Manufacturing.....	367	341	369	2.6	2.4	2.6
Durable goods.....	259	183	199	2.9	2.0	2.2
Nondurable goods.....	108	157	169	2.1	3.0	3.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	1,035	892	1,031	4.0	3.5	4.0
Wholesale trade.....	156	135	140	2.7	2.3	2.4
Retail trade.....	691	622	750	4.6	4.1	4.9
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	187	135	141	3.8	2.7	2.8
Information.....	76	95	81	2.5	3.1	2.6
Financial activities.....	190	182	205	2.3	2.2	2.5
Finance and insurance.....	108	125	148	1.8	2.0	2.4
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	81	57	56	3.8	2.7	2.6
Professional and business services.....	767	814	860	4.6	4.7	5.0
Education and health services.....	449	406	471	2.6	2.3	2.6
Educational services.....	65	37	85	2.3	1.2	2.9
Health care and social assistance.....	384	369	386	2.7	2.5	2.6
Leisure and hospitality.....	732	745	702	5.6	5.8	5.3
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	80	83	56	4.1	4.4	2.8
Accommodations and food services.....	652	663	645	5.9	6.0	5.7
Other services.....	223	134	155	4.1	2.5	2.8
Government.....	272	229	340	1.2	1.0	1.5
Federal.....	27	53	65	1.0	2.0	2.4
State and local.....	245	176	275	1.3	.9	1.4
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	652	643	707	2.6	2.5	2.8
South.....	1,834	1,628	1,844	3.8	3.4	3.8
Midwest.....	952	858	1,022	3.0	2.7	3.2
West.....	1,047	1,029	1,059	3.5	3.4	3.5

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		
	May 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^P	May 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^P
Total	2,641	2,421	2,868	2.0	1.8	2.1
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	2,498	2,294	2,687	2.2	2.0	2.4
Natural resources and mining.....	12	11	8	1.9	1.6	1.3
Construction.....	167	159	213	2.3	2.2	2.8
Manufacturing.....	173	176	215	1.2	1.2	1.5
Durable goods.....	108	108	111	1.2	1.2	1.2
Nondurable goods.....	65	68	104	1.2	1.3	2.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	634	568	661	2.5	2.2	2.5
Wholesale trade.....	72	79	69	1.3	1.4	1.2
Retail trade.....	495	405	503	3.3	2.7	3.3
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	66	84	90	1.4	1.7	1.8
Information.....	51	66	65	1.7	2.2	2.1
Financial activities.....	123	92	130	1.5	1.1	1.6
Finance and insurance.....	68	65	98	1.1	1.1	1.6
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	54	28	32	2.6	1.3	1.5
Professional and business services.....	423	402	469	2.5	2.3	2.7
Education and health services.....	273	239	299	1.6	1.3	1.7
Educational services.....	30	18	44	1.0	.6	1.5
Health care and social assistance.....	243	222	256	1.7	1.5	1.7
Leisure and hospitality.....	514	510	541	4.0	3.9	4.1
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	44	42	34	2.2	2.2	1.7
Accommodations and food services.....	470	469	507	4.3	4.2	4.5
Other services.....	128	70	85	2.4	1.3	1.6
Government.....	143	127	181	.6	.6	.8
Federal.....	12	27	30	.4	1.0	1.1
State and local.....	132	100	151	.7	.5	.8
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	385	323	400	1.5	1.3	1.6
South.....	1,061	1,012	1,200	2.2	2.1	2.5
Midwest.....	581	532	623	1.9	1.7	2.0
West.....	614	552	646	2.1	1.8	2.1

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		
	May 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^P	May 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^P
Total	1,533	1,370	1,373	1.1	1.0	1.0
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	1,450	1,313	1,273	1.3	1.2	1.1
Natural resources and mining.....	3	10	2	.6	1.5	.3
Construction.....	179	110	173	2.4	1.5	2.3
Manufacturing.....	150	131	124	1.1	.9	.9
Durable goods.....	113	57	68	1.3	.6	.8
Nondurable goods.....	36	75	56	.7	1.4	1.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	353	247	253	1.4	1.0	1.0
Wholesale trade.....	77	43	46	1.3	.7	.8
Retail trade.....	170	180	173	1.1	1.2	1.1
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	106	23	33	2.2	.5	.7
Information.....	20	24	11	.7	.8	.4
Financial activities.....	52	60	51	.6	.7	.6
Finance and insurance.....	26	32	30	.4	.5	.5
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	26	28	21	1.2	1.3	1.0
Professional and business services.....	277	348	322	1.7	2.0	1.9
Education and health services.....	148	123	150	.9	.7	.8
Educational services.....	32	15	39	1.1	.5	1.3
Health care and social assistance.....	116	108	111	.8	.7	.7
Leisure and hospitality.....	186	205	136	1.4	1.6	1.0
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	35	38	20	1.8	2.1	1.0
Accommodations and food services.....	150	166	116	1.4	1.5	1.0
Other services.....	82	54	52	1.5	1.0	1.0
Government.....	83	58	99	.4	.3	.4
Federal.....	8	12	15	.3	.4	.6
State and local.....	75	46	84	.4	.2	.4
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	211	256	233	.8	1.0	.9
South.....	675	458	480	1.4	.9	1.0
Midwest.....	299	259	327	1.0	.8	1.0
West.....	348	398	333	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		
	May 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^P	May 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006 ^P
Total	312	367	390	0.2	0.3	0.3
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	265	323	330	.2	.3	.3
Natural resources and mining.....	2	2	1	.4	.3	.2
Construction.....	11	29	22	.1	.4	.3
Manufacturing.....	44	34	29	.3	.2	.2
Durable goods.....	38	19	20	.4	.2	.2
Nondurable goods.....	7	15	9	.1	.3	.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	47	77	117	.2	.3	.5
Wholesale trade.....	7	12	25	.1	.2	.4
Retail trade.....	26	37	74	.2	.2	.5
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	15	28	18	.3	.6	.4
Information.....	5	4	4	.2	.1	.1
Financial activities.....	16	30	23	.2	.4	.3
Finance and insurance.....	14	28	20	.2	.5	.3
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	1	1	3	.1	.1	.2
Professional and business services.....	66	64	69	.4	.4	.4
Education and health services.....	28	43	22	.2	.2	.1
Educational services.....	4	4	3	.1	.1	.1
Health care and social assistance.....	25	39	19	.2	.3	.1
Leisure and hospitality.....	32	30	25	.2	.2	.2
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	1	3	3	.1	.2	.1
Accommodations and food services.....	31	27	23	.3	.2	.2
Other services.....	13	9	17	.2	.2	.3
Government.....	46	45	60	.2	.2	.3
Federal.....	8	15	19	.3	.5	.7
State and local.....	39	30	41	.2	.2	.2
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	56	64	74	.2	.3	.3
South.....	98	158	164	.2	.3	.3
Midwest.....	72	67	72	.2	.2	.2
West.....	85	79	80	.3	.3	.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.