



Technical information: (202) 691-5870  
<http://www.bls.gov/jlt/>

USDL 06-1784

Media contact: 691-5902

For release: 10:00 A.M. EDT  
Wednesday, October 11, 2006

## JOB OPENINGS AND LABOR TURNOVER: AUGUST 2006

The job openings rate increased in August, while the hires rate decreased and the total separations rate remained essentially unchanged, 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 September 2003 - August 2006

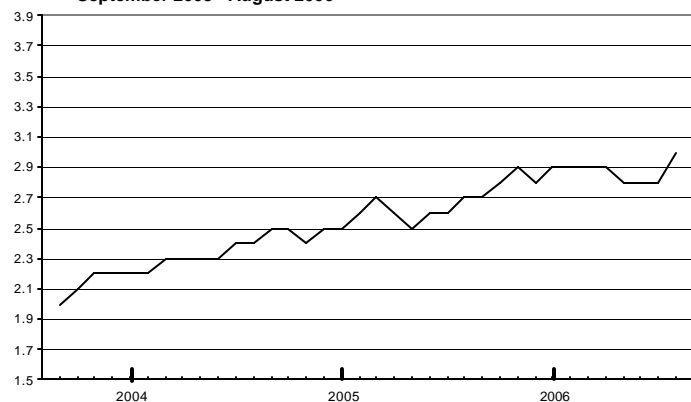
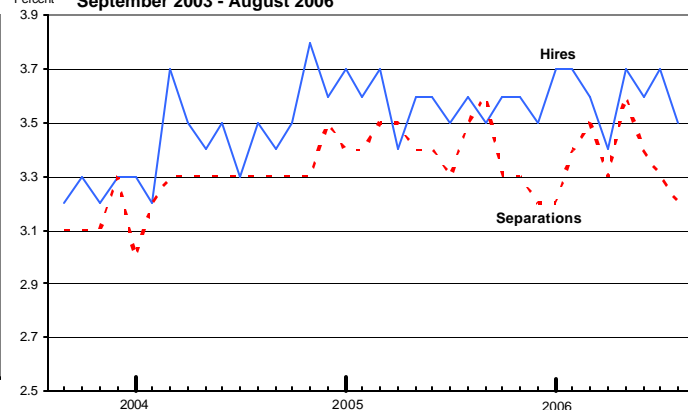


Chart 2. Hires and separations rates, seasonally adjusted,  
Percent September 2003 - August 2006



### Job Openings

On the last business day of August 2006, there were 4.1 million job openings in the United States and the job openings rate was 3.0 percent. The job openings rate increased over the month to the highest level since April 2001, after showing little change since November 2005. In August, the job openings rate increased in trade, transportation, and utilities and in three of the four regions—the Midwest, South, and West. There were no significant over-the-month decreases in the job openings rate in any industry or region. The industries with the highest seasonally adjusted job openings rates in August 2006 were professional and business services (3.8 percent), leisure and hospitality (3.7 percent), and education and health services (3.6 percent). (See table 1.)

Over the year, the job openings rate rose in many of the private sector industries, in federal government, and in three of the four regions (Midwest, Northeast, and South). The job openings rate did not decline significantly over the year in any industry or region. (See table 5.)

### Hires

The hires rate decreased to 3.5 percent in August. Hires are any additions to the payroll during the month. In August, the hires rate rose in government and fell in professional and business services and in the

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

Industry	Job openings			Hires			Total separations		
	Aug. 2005	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>p</sup>	Aug. 2005	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>p</sup>	Aug. 2005	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>p</sup>
Levels (in thousands)									
Total <sup>1</sup> .....	3,697	3,844	4,145	4,824	4,995	4,694	4,633	4,479	4,287
Total private <sup>1</sup> .....	3,239	3,363	3,683	4,489	4,741	4,299	4,377	4,168	4,033
Construction .....	133	148	180	446	365	383	454	415	346
Manufacturing .....	256	305	323	346	380	342	392	358	364
Trade, transportation, and utilities .....	637	605	704	1,043	1,045	1,018	1,036	935	994
Professional and business services .....	687	651	685	900	967	841	754	735	686
Education and health services .....	620	643	674	468	521	483	434	431	458
Leisure and hospitality .....	426	482	496	818	850	801	815	818	791
Government .....	459	478	467	342	338	374	265	306	267
Rates (percent)									
Total <sup>1</sup> .....	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.2
Total private <sup>1</sup> .....	2.8	2.9	3.1	4.0	4.2	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.6
Construction .....	1.8	1.9	2.3	6.1	4.9	5.1	6.2	5.5	4.6
Manufacturing .....	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.7	2.4	2.8	2.5	2.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities .....	2.4	2.3	2.6	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.6	3.8
Professional and business services .....	3.9	3.6	3.8	5.3	5.6	4.8	4.5	4.2	3.9
Education and health services .....	3.4	3.5	3.6	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.6
Leisure and hospitality .....	3.2	3.6	3.7	6.4	6.5	6.1	6.3	6.3	6.1
Government .....	2.1	2.1	2.1	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.2	1.4	1.2

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

Midwest and Northeast regions. The seasonally adjusted hires rate was highest in the leisure and hospitality industry (6.1 percent). (See table 2.)

From August 2005 to August 2006, the hires rate increased in state and local government and decreased in other services and in the Northeast region. (See table 6.)

### Separations

The total separations, or turnover, rate was little changed at 3.2 percent in August. Separations are terminations of employment that occur at any time during the month. In August, the total separations rate increased in the West region but in none of the industries. The rate declined in government and in the Midwest and Northeast regions. (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, was unchanged at 1.9 percent in August. Over the month, the quits rate did not change significantly in any industry or region. In August, the seasonally adjusted quits rate was the highest in the leisure and hospitality industry (4.2 percent), which also had the highest hires rate. (See table 4.)

Over the year, the quits rate grew in educational services and in state and local government. The quits rate declined in construction, retail trade, other services, and the Northeast. (See table 8.)

The other two components of total separations—layoffs and discharges, and other separations—are not seasonally adjusted. From August 2005 to August 2006, the layoffs and discharges rate decreased to 1.2 percent. For August 2006, the arts, entertainment, and recreation industry had the highest layoffs and discharges rate (2.6 percent). From August 2005 to August 2006, the other separations rate was little changed at 0.2 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 August 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 also 4.8 million hires and 4.5 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](mailto:Joltsinfo@bls.gov) or by calling (202) 691-5870.

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The Job Openings and Labor Turnover release for September 2006 is scheduled to be issued on Tuesday, November 7, 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 levels<sup>1</sup> and rates<sup>2</sup> by industry and region, seasonally adjusted**

Industry and region	Levels <sup>3</sup> (in thousands)							Rates						
	Aug. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>p</sup>	Aug. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>p</sup>
<b>Total<sup>4</sup></b> .....	3,697	4,089	4,070	3,945	3,960	3,844	4,145	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.0
<b>INDUSTRY</b>														
Total private <sup>4</sup> .....	3,239	3,633	3,603	3,496	3,476	3,363	3,683	2.8	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.1
Construction.....	133	144	138	119	161	148	180	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.6	2.1	1.9	2.3
Manufacturing.....	256	318	323	311	301	305	323	1.8	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	637	651	672	687	640	605	704	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.6
Professional and business services.....	687	702	748	693	616	651	685	3.9	3.9	4.2	3.9	3.4	3.6	3.8
Education and health services.....	620	692	674	651	659	643	674	3.4	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.6
Leisure and hospitality.....	426	506	485	496	487	482	496	3.2	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.7
Government.....	459	458	467	452	467	478	467	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1
<b>REGION<sup>5</sup></b>														
Northeast.....	617	732	672	670	699	699	736	2.4	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8
South.....	1,442	1,634	1,600	1,591	1,507	1,498	1,596	2.9	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.2
Midwest.....	724	721	770	787	777	739	820	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.5
West.....	925	985	1,022	918	935	911	982	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.2

<sup>1</sup> Job openings are the number of job openings on the last business day of the month.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

<sup>4</sup> Includes natural resources and mining, information, financial activities, and other services, not shown separately.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>p</sup> = preliminary.

**Table 2. Hires levels<sup>1</sup> and rates<sup>2</sup> by industry and region, seasonally adjusted**

Industry and region	Levels <sup>3</sup> (in thousands)							Rates						
	Aug. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>p</sup>	Aug. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>p</sup>
<b>Total<sup>4</sup></b> .....	4,824	4,884	4,649	4,949	4,899	4,995	4,694	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.5
<b>INDUSTRY</b>														
Total private <sup>4</sup> .....	4,489	4,503	4,301	4,573	4,508	4,741	4,299	4.0	4.0	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.2	3.8
Construction.....	446	344	376	374	366	365	383	6.1	4.6	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.1
Manufacturing.....	346	341	328	385	378	380	342	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	1,043	1,103	1,029	1,018	1,099	1,045	1,018	4.0	4.2	4.0	3.9	4.2	4.0	3.9
Professional and business services.....	900	922	858	1,006	905	967	841	5.3	5.4	5.0	5.8	5.2	5.6	4.8
Education and health services.....	468	435	481	549	465	521	483	2.7	2.5	2.7	3.1	2.6	2.9	2.7
Leisure and hospitality.....	818	899	775	811	846	850	801	6.4	6.9	6.0	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.1
Government.....	342	397	361	379	392	338	374	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.7
<b>REGION<sup>5</sup></b>														
Northeast.....	805	914	849	852	729	841	694	3.2	3.6	3.3	3.3	2.9	3.3	2.7
South.....	1,870	1,803	1,777	1,849	1,877	1,849	1,836	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8
Midwest.....	955	1,117	965	1,133	1,072	1,123	966	3.1	3.5	3.1	3.6	3.4	3.6	3.1
West.....	1,186	1,127	1,152	1,114	1,207	1,177	1,172	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.7	4.0	3.9	3.9

<sup>1</sup> Hires are the number of hires during the entire month.

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Includes natural resources and mining, information, financial activities, and other services, not shown separately.

<sup>5</sup> See footnote 5, table 1.

<sup>p</sup> = preliminary.

**Table 3. Total separations levels<sup>1</sup> and rates<sup>2</sup> by industry and region, seasonally adjusted**

Industry and region	Levels <sup>3</sup> (in thousands)							Rates						
	Aug. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>p</sup>	Aug. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>p</sup>
<b>Total<sup>4</sup></b> .....	4,633	4,681	4,495	4,811	4,631	4,479	4,287	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.2
<b>INDUSTRY</b>														
Total private <sup>4</sup> .....	4,377	4,360	4,203	4,488	4,299	4,168	4,033	3.9	3.9	3.7	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.6
Construction.....	454	422	373	478	324	415	346	6.2	5.6	5.0	6.4	4.3	5.5	4.6
Manufacturing.....	392	427	346	381	370	358	364	2.8	3.0	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	1,036	989	1,022	1,046	1,082	935	994	4.0	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.2	3.6	3.8
Professional and business services.....	754	798	790	833	755	735	686	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.4	4.2	3.9
Education and health services.....	434	399	437	487	424	431	458	2.5	2.3	2.5	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.6
Leisure and hospitality.....	815	769	770	799	802	818	791	6.3	5.9	5.9	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.1
Government.....	265	326	302	324	315	306	267	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.2
<b>REGION<sup>5</sup></b>														
Northeast.....	772	714	711	779	724	763	620	3.1	2.8	2.8	3.1	2.8	3.0	2.4
South.....	1,692	1,810	1,710	1,828	1,858	1,687	1,702	3.5	3.8	3.5	3.8	3.8	3.5	3.5
Midwest.....	1,053	1,014	992	1,045	871	1,087	895	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.3	2.8	3.4	2.8
West.....	1,140	1,188	1,116	1,136	1,137	979	1,094	3.9	4.0	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.3	3.7

<sup>1</sup> Total separations are the number of total separations during the entire month.

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Includes natural resources and mining, information, financial activities, and other services, not shown separately.

<sup>5</sup> See footnote 5, table 1.

<sup>p</sup> = preliminary.

**Table 4. Quits levels<sup>1</sup> and rates<sup>2</sup> by industry and region, seasonally adjusted**

Industry and region	Levels <sup>3</sup> (in thousands)							Rates						
	Aug. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>p</sup>	Aug. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>p</sup>
<b>Total<sup>4</sup></b> .....	2,651	2,763	2,541	2,723	2,699	2,623	2,586	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9
<b>INDUSTRY</b>														
Total private <sup>4</sup> .....	2,517	2,606	2,383	2,565	2,554	2,469	2,439	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.1
Construction.....	208	182	167	207	154	157	155	2.8	2.4	2.2	2.8	2.0	2.1	2.1
Manufacturing.....	186	205	175	202	190	189	201	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	640	598	613	622	615	586	602	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3
Professional and business services.....	387	426	409	434	386	412	377	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.2
Education and health services.....	275	267	253	276	290	277	301	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7
Leisure and hospitality.....	543	561	535	533	622	549	549	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.8	4.2	4.2
Government.....	132	156	159	159	146	156	146	.6	.7	.7	.7	.7	.7	.7
<b>REGION<sup>5</sup></b>														
Northeast.....	410	383	370	370	358	378	374	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5
South.....	1,094	1,129	1,026	1,152	1,153	1,081	1,121	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.3
Midwest.....	544	619	575	581	552	562	529	1.7	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7
West.....	611	642	593	612	631	598	579	2.1	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.9

<sup>1</sup> Quits are the number of quits during the entire month.

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Includes natural resources and mining, information, financial activities, and other services, not shown separately.

<sup>5</sup> See footnote 5, table 1.

<sup>p</sup> = preliminary.



**Table 5. Job openings levels<sup>1</sup> and rates<sup>2</sup> by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted**

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Aug. 2005	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>P</sup>	Aug. 2005	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Total</b> .....	4,001	4,046	4,495	2.9	2.9	3.2
<b>INDUSTRY</b>						
Total private.....	3,493	3,529	3,981	3.0	3.0	3.4
Natural resources and mining.....	11	13	16	1.7	1.9	2.3
Construction.....	136	163	199	1.7	2.1	2.5
Manufacturing.....	275	323	347	1.9	2.2	2.4
Durable goods.....	181	213	219	2.0	2.3	2.4
Nondurable goods.....	93	110	129	1.7	2.0	2.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	707	622	788	2.6	2.3	2.9
Wholesale trade.....	138	125	160	2.3	2.1	2.7
Retail trade.....	461	358	454	2.9	2.3	2.9
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	108	139	174	2.2	2.7	3.4
Information.....	97	157	169	3.1	4.9	5.2
Financial activities.....	243	236	248	2.9	2.7	2.9
Finance and insurance.....	197	186	201	3.2	2.9	3.2
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	45	50	47	2.0	2.2	2.1
Professional and business services.....	755	659	759	4.2	3.6	4.1
Education and health services.....	661	661	722	3.7	3.7	4.0
Educational services.....	67	62	63	2.6	2.4	2.4
Health care and social assistance.....	594	599	659	3.9	3.9	4.2
Leisure and hospitality.....	475	539	553	3.4	3.8	3.9
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	65	61	53	2.9	2.6	2.4
Accommodations and food services.....	410	479	500	3.5	4.0	4.2
Other services.....	133	155	180	2.4	2.8	3.2
Government.....	508	517	514	2.4	2.4	2.4
Federal.....	40	47	60	1.5	1.7	2.1
State and local.....	468	470	454	2.5	2.5	2.4
<b>REGION <sup>3</sup></b>						
Northeast.....	682	712	820	2.6	2.7	3.1
South.....	1,521	1,579	1,689	3.1	3.2	3.4
Midwest.....	798	801	913	2.5	2.5	2.8
West.....	1,000	954	1,073	3.3	3.1	3.4

<sup>1</sup> Job openings are the number of job openings on the last business day of the month.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> See footnote 5, table 1.

<sup>P</sup> = preliminary.

**Table 6. Hires levels<sup>1</sup> and rates<sup>2</sup> by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted**

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Aug. 2005	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>P</sup>	Aug. 2005	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Total</b> .....	5,591	5,276	5,397	4.2	3.9	4.0
<b>INDUSTRY</b>						
Total private.....	5,054	4,903	4,806	4.5	4.3	4.2
Natural resources and mining.....	24	23	26	3.7	3.3	3.7
Construction.....	454	376	393	6.0	4.8	5.0
Manufacturing.....	397	416	391	2.8	2.9	2.7
Durable goods.....	223	238	241	2.5	2.6	2.7
Nondurable goods.....	174	178	150	3.3	3.4	2.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	1,158	1,025	1,116	4.5	3.9	4.3
Wholesale trade.....	153	133	155	2.6	2.3	2.6
Retail trade.....	825	717	749	5.4	4.7	4.9
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	180	175	213	3.7	3.5	4.3
Information.....	81	99	102	2.6	3.2	3.3
Financial activities.....	185	274	180	2.3	3.3	2.2
Finance and insurance.....	118	177	120	2.0	2.9	2.0
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	68	97	60	3.1	4.4	2.7
Professional and business services.....	1,030	1,017	946	6.0	5.8	5.4
Education and health services.....	585	569	600	3.4	3.3	3.4
Educational services.....	89	70	95	3.6	2.8	3.8
Health care and social assistance.....	497	499	506	3.4	3.4	3.4
Leisure and hospitality.....	928	898	899	6.9	6.5	6.6
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	106	121	106	4.9	5.4	4.9
Accommodations and food services.....	822	776	793	7.3	6.7	6.9
Other services.....	212	206	152	3.9	3.8	2.8
Government.....	536	373	591	2.6	1.8	2.8
Federal.....	46	29	34	1.7	1.1	1.3
State and local.....	490	344	557	2.7	1.9	3.1
<b>REGION <sup>3</sup></b>						
Northeast.....	885	942	748	3.5	3.7	2.9
South.....	2,220	1,949	2,179	4.6	4.0	4.5
Midwest.....	1,150	1,126	1,148	3.7	3.6	3.6
West.....	1,335	1,260	1,322	4.5	4.2	4.4

<sup>1</sup> Hires are the number of hires during the entire month.

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

<sup>3</sup> See footnote 5, table 1.

<sup>P</sup> = preliminary.

**Table 7. Total separations levels<sup>1</sup> and rates<sup>2</sup> by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted**

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Aug. 2005	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>P</sup>	Aug. 2005	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Total</b> .....	5,951	4,717	5,480	4.5	3.5	4.1
<b>INDUSTRY</b>						
Total private.....	5,544	4,327	5,072	4.9	3.8	4.4
Natural resources and mining.....	26	16	24	4.1	2.3	3.4
Construction.....	544	372	399	7.1	4.8	5.1
Manufacturing.....	477	387	450	3.3	2.7	3.1
Durable goods.....	316	240	273	3.5	2.7	3.0
Nondurable goods.....	161	147	176	3.0	2.8	3.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	1,230	928	1,174	4.7	3.6	4.5
Wholesale trade.....	151	163	181	2.6	2.8	3.1
Retail trade.....	892	619	807	5.8	4.1	5.3
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	187	146	186	3.8	3.0	3.8
Information.....	98	83	96	3.2	2.7	3.1
Financial activities.....	222	246	244	2.7	2.9	2.9
Finance and insurance.....	160	149	160	2.7	2.4	2.6
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	62	97	84	2.8	4.4	3.8
Professional and business services.....	979	827	869	5.7	4.7	4.9
Education and health services.....	557	476	585	3.3	2.7	3.4
Educational services.....	74	65	96	3.0	2.6	3.8
Health care and social assistance.....	483	411	489	3.3	2.8	3.3
Leisure and hospitality.....	1,030	831	991	7.6	6.0	7.2
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	182	100	145	8.4	4.5	6.6
Accommodations and food services.....	848	731	846	7.5	6.3	7.3
Other services.....	379	160	240	7.0	2.9	4.4
Government.....	407	390	408	2.0	1.9	2.0
Federal.....	48	38	39	1.8	1.4	1.4
State and local.....	359	352	369	2.0	2.0	2.0
<b>REGION <sup>3</sup></b>						
Northeast.....	1,023	753	818	4.1	3.0	3.2
South.....	2,190	1,811	2,191	4.6	3.7	4.5
Midwest.....	1,391	1,100	1,168	4.5	3.5	3.7
West.....	1,347	1,053	1,303	4.5	3.5	4.3

<sup>1</sup> Total separations are the number of total separations during the entire month.

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

<sup>3</sup> See footnote 5, table 1.

<sup>P</sup> = preliminary.

**Table 8. Quits levels<sup>1</sup> and rates<sup>2</sup> by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted**

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Aug. 2005	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>P</sup>	Aug. 2005	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Total</b> .....	3,685	2,900	3,567	2.8	2.1	2.6
<b>INDUSTRY</b>						
Total private.....	3,470	2,713	3,336	3.1	2.4	2.9
Natural resources and mining.....	11	9	16	1.8	1.3	2.3
Construction.....	256	178	201	3.4	2.3	2.6
Manufacturing.....	262	218	285	1.8	1.5	2.0
Durable goods.....	156	129	173	1.7	1.4	1.9
Nondurable goods.....	106	89	112	2.0	1.7	2.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	861	606	807	3.3	2.3	3.1
Wholesale trade.....	98	85	118	1.7	1.4	2.0
Retail trade.....	644	431	570	4.2	2.8	3.7
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	120	90	120	2.4	1.8	2.4
Information.....	67	61	73	2.2	2.0	2.4
Financial activities.....	154	150	146	1.9	1.8	1.7
Finance and insurance.....	106	97	102	1.8	1.6	1.7
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	48	53	44	2.2	2.4	2.0
Professional and business services.....	561	471	533	3.3	2.7	3.0
Education and health services.....	367	299	405	2.2	1.7	2.3
Educational services.....	47	39	62	1.9	1.6	2.5
Health care and social assistance.....	320	259	343	2.2	1.7	2.3
Leisure and hospitality.....	746	611	754	5.5	4.4	5.5
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	84	52	82	3.9	2.3	3.8
Accommodations and food services.....	662	560	672	5.9	4.9	5.8
Other services.....	184	110	117	3.4	2.0	2.2
Government.....	215	187	231	1.0	.9	1.1
Federal.....	24	17	22	.9	.6	.8
State and local.....	191	170	210	1.1	.9	1.2
<b>REGION <sup>3</sup></b>						
Northeast.....	589	418	534	2.3	1.6	2.1
South.....	1,461	1,223	1,487	3.1	2.5	3.1
Midwest.....	798	594	757	2.6	1.9	2.4
West.....	837	666	788	2.8	2.2	2.6

<sup>1</sup> Quits are the number of quits during the entire month.

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

<sup>3</sup> See footnote 5, table 1.

<sup>P</sup> = preliminary.

**Table 9. Layoffs and discharges levels<sup>1</sup> and rates<sup>2</sup> by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted**

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Aug. 2005	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>P</sup>	Aug. 2005	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Total</b> .....	1,907	1,398	1,582	1.4	1.0	1.2
<b>INDUSTRY</b>						
Total private.....	1,765	1,264	1,463	1.6	1.1	1.3
Natural resources and mining.....	9	3	3	1.4	.4	.5
Construction.....	261	170	184	3.4	2.2	2.4
Manufacturing.....	164	125	131	1.1	.9	.9
Durable goods.....	118	79	78	1.3	.9	.9
Nondurable goods.....	46	46	53	.9	.9	1.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	308	239	294	1.2	.9	1.1
Wholesale trade.....	43	53	57	.7	.9	1.0
Retail trade.....	210	144	188	1.4	.9	1.2
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	55	41	49	1.1	.8	1.0
Information.....	21	16	19	.7	.5	.6
Financial activities.....	54	68	80	.7	.8	1.0
Finance and insurance.....	44	29	45	.7	.5	.7
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	10	39	35	.4	1.8	1.6
Professional and business services.....	365	274	290	2.1	1.6	1.6
Education and health services.....	153	130	146	.9	.7	.8
Educational services.....	22	22	31	.9	.9	1.2
Health care and social assistance.....	130	108	116	.9	.7	.8
Leisure and hospitality.....	248	200	207	1.8	1.5	1.5
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	95	47	58	4.3	2.1	2.6
Accommodations and food services.....	153	152	149	1.4	1.3	1.3
Other services.....	182	38	109	3.4	.7	2.0
Government.....	142	134	119	.7	.6	.6
Federal.....	15	10	12	.5	.4	.4
State and local.....	127	124	107	.7	.7	.6
<b>REGION <sup>3</sup></b>						
Northeast.....	374	260	232	1.5	1.0	.9
South.....	591	439	578	1.2	.9	1.2
Midwest.....	512	386	338	1.6	1.2	1.1
West.....	430	313	435	1.4	1.0	1.4

<sup>1</sup> Layoffs and discharges are the number of layoffs and discharges during the entire month.

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

<sup>3</sup> See footnote 5, table 1.

<sup>P</sup> = preliminary.

**Table 10. Other separations levels<sup>1</sup> and rates<sup>2</sup> by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted**

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Aug. 2005	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>P</sup>	Aug. 2005	July 2006	Aug. 2006 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Total</b> .....	359	420	331	0.3	0.3	0.2
<b>INDUSTRY</b>						
Total private.....	310	350	273	.3	.3	.2
Natural resources and mining.....	6	4	4	1.0	.6	.5
Construction.....	27	23	14	.4	.3	.2
Manufacturing.....	51	43	35	.4	.3	.2
Durable goods.....	42	32	23	.5	.4	.3
Nondurable goods.....	9	11	12	.2	.2	.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	61	83	73	.2	.3	.3
Wholesale trade.....	10	25	7	.2	.4	.1
Retail trade.....	39	43	49	.3	.3	.3
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	12	15	17	.3	.3	.3
Information.....	11	6	4	.4	.2	.1
Financial activities.....	15	28	19	.2	.3	.2
Finance and insurance.....	10	23	13	.2	.4	.2
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	4	5	6	.2	.2	.2
Professional and business services.....	53	82	47	.3	.5	.3
Education and health services.....	37	47	34	.2	.3	.2
Educational services.....	4	3	3	.2	.1	.1
Health care and social assistance.....	33	44	31	.2	.3	.2
Leisure and hospitality.....	37	20	30	.3	.1	.2
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	4	1	5	.2	.1	.2
Accommodations and food services.....	33	19	25	.3	.2	.2
Other services.....	13	12	15	.2	.2	.3
Government.....	49	70	58	.2	.3	.3
Federal.....	9	11	5	.3	.4	.2
State and local.....	41	59	52	.2	.3	.3
<b>REGION <sup>3</sup></b>						
Northeast.....	60	75	53	.2	.3	.2
South.....	138	149	126	.3	.3	.3
Midwest.....	81	121	72	.3	.4	.2
West.....	81	75	80	.3	.2	.3

<sup>1</sup> Other separations are the number of other separations during the entire month.

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

<sup>3</sup> See footnote 5, table 1.

<sup>P</sup> = preliminary.