



Technical information: (202) 691-5870
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USDL 05-2144

Media contact: 691-5902

For release: 10:00 A.M. EST
Tuesday, November 8, 2005

JOB OPENINGS AND LABOR TURNOVER: SEPTEMBER 2005

The job openings rate increased in September while the hires and total separations rates were 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 October 2002 - September 2005

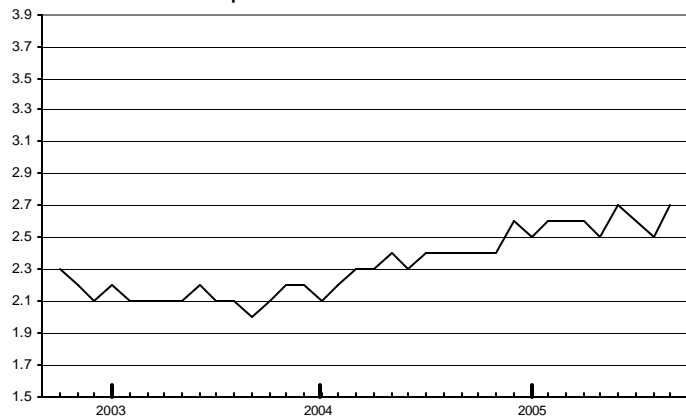
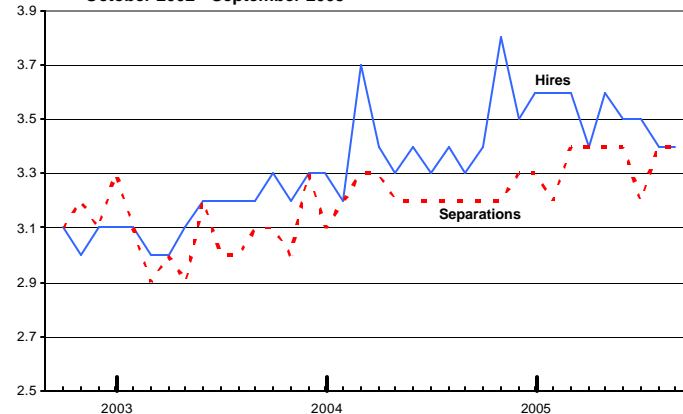


Chart 2. Hires and separations rates, seasonally adjusted,
Percent October 2002 - September 2005



Job Openings

On the last business day of September 2005, there were 3.7 million job openings in the United States, and the job openings rate was 2.7 percent. (See table 1.) The job openings rate rose in September, continuing the generally upward trend that began in September 2003. Over the month, the job openings rate increased in government and in the South region.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck Florida and the Gulf Coast, potentially affecting estimates for August and September. While JOLTS does not produce data at the detailed local level, some effect of the storms may be reflected in the JOLTS estimates.

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

Industry	Job openings			Hires			Total separations		
	Sept. 2004	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^p	Sept. 2004	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^p	Sept. 2004	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^p
	Levels (in thousands)								
Total ¹	3,265	3,487	3,677	4,406	4,601	4,589	4,214	4,499	4,610
Total private ¹	2,905	3,130	3,251	3,957	4,276	4,231	3,918	4,235	4,318
Construction	105	136	151	363	435	435	377	452	425
Manufacturing	245	266	276	361	344	341	368	369	404
Trade, transportation, and utilities	609	620	609	908	998	971	909	1,019	988
Professional and business services	583	590	667	761	786	843	686	670	802
Education and health services	529	604	620	416	465	457	380	406	452
Leisure and hospitality	419	427	457	772	771	785	732	785	821
Government	360	370	426	375	337	339	305	271	298
	Rates (percent)								
Total ¹	2.4	2.5	2.7	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.4
Total private ¹	2.6	2.7	2.8	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.8
Construction	1.5	1.8	2.0	5.2	6.0	6.0	5.4	6.2	5.8
Manufacturing	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2.3	2.3	2.3	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.9	3.8
Professional and business services	3.4	3.4	3.8	4.6	4.6	4.9	4.2	3.9	4.7
Education and health services	3.0	3.3	3.4	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.2	2.3	2.6
Leisure and hospitality	3.2	3.2	3.5	6.2	6.0	6.2	5.8	6.1	6.4
Government	1.6	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.4

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

Hires and Separations

The hires rate was unchanged at 3.4 percent in September. (See table 2.) Hires are any additions to the payroll during the month. Over the month, the hires rate did not change significantly in any industry or region.

The total separations, or turnover, rate was unchanged at 3.4 percent in September. (See table 3.) Separations are terminations of employment that occur at any time during the month. In September, the total separations rate increased in the professional and business services industry and in government. The total separations rates in the four geographic regions did not change significantly from August.

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 September. (See table 4.) The quits rate increased in manufacturing and in professional and business services, but did not change significantly in any geographic region.

The other two components of total separations—layoffs and discharges, and other separations—are not seasonally adjusted. From September 2004 to September 2005, the layoffs and discharges rate was unchanged at 1.3 percent, but the other separations rate decreased to 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 4.7 million per month and separations have averaged 4.4 million per month (not seasonally adjusted). The comparable figures a year earlier were 4.4 million hires and 4.2 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 October 2005 is scheduled to be issued on Tuesday, December 13, 2005.

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 Employment Security 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.

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						
	Sept. 2004	Apr. 2005	May 2005	June 2005	July 2005	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^p	Sept. 2004	Apr. 2005	May 2005	June 2005	July 2005	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^p
Total⁴	3,265	3,576	3,416	3,647	3,588	3,487	3,677	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.7
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	2,905	3,178	3,050	3,239	3,204	3,130	3,251	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.8
Construction.....	105	113	107	104	128	136	151	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.8	2.0
Manufacturing.....	245	259	240	269	287	266	276	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.8	2.0	1.8	1.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	609	627	597	624	600	620	609	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3
Professional and business services.....	583	691	659	686	666	590	667	3.4	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.4	3.8
Education and health services.....	529	608	611	609	607	604	620	3.0	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4
Leisure and hospitality.....	419	457	440	517	439	427	457	3.2	3.5	3.3	3.9	3.3	3.2	3.5
Government.....	360	396	378	394	388	370	426	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.9
REGION														
Northeast.....	564	602	563	634	610	609	628	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.4
South.....	1,239	1,414	1,303	1,333	1,343	1,353	1,458	2.6	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	3.0
Midwest.....	699	742	786	781	764	704	742	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.3
West.....	797	818	799	869	832	841	869	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.9

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

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

³ 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.

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: 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.

Table 2. Hires levels¹ and rates² by industry and region, seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels ³ (in thousands)							Rates						
	Sept. 2004	Apr. 2005	May 2005	June 2005	July 2005	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^p	Sept. 2004	Apr. 2005	May 2005	June 2005	July 2005	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^p
Total⁴	4,406	4,538	4,740	4,694	4,649	4,601	4,589	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	3,957	4,212	4,398	4,365	4,342	4,276	4,231	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8
Construction.....	363	412	420	393	381	435	435	5.2	5.7	5.8	5.4	5.3	6.0	6.0
Manufacturing.....	361	319	342	347	345	344	341	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	908	1,042	1,030	1,045	990	998	971	3.6	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.8
Professional and business services.....	761	792	887	835	832	786	843	4.6	4.7	5.3	4.9	4.9	4.6	4.9
Education and health services.....	416	487	466	457	453	465	457	2.4	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.6
Leisure and hospitality.....	772	742	750	877	834	771	785	6.2	5.8	5.9	6.9	6.5	6.0	6.2
Government.....	375	329	339	337	330	337	339	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.6
REGION														
Northeast.....	794	825	764	794	772	738	776	3.1	3.3	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.0
South.....	1,754	1,701	1,816	1,786	1,689	1,750	1,777	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.7
Midwest.....	889	1,020	1,129	1,054	1,045	970	924	2.8	3.3	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.1	2.9
West.....	963	1,037	1,048	1,070	1,081	1,144	1,125	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.9	3.8

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.

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: See NOTE, table 1.

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

Industry and region	Levels ³ (in thousands)							Rates						
	Sept. 2004	Apr. 2005	May 2005	June 2005	July 2005	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^p	Sept. 2004	Apr. 2005	May 2005	June 2005	July 2005	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^p
Total⁴	4,214	4,562	4,504	4,477	4,270	4,499	4,610	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.4
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	3,918	4,306	4,256	4,223	4,007	4,235	4,318	3.6	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.8
Construction.....	377	421	408	380	370	452	425	5.4	5.8	5.6	5.3	5.1	6.2	5.8
Manufacturing.....	368	369	369	350	361	369	404	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	909	1,018	989	980	948	1,019	988	3.6	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.8
Professional and business services.....	686	869	851	818	747	670	802	4.2	5.2	5.1	4.8	4.4	3.9	4.7
Education and health services.....	380	433	405	401	391	406	452	2.2	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.6
Leisure and hospitality.....	732	709	750	803	750	785	821	5.8	5.6	5.9	6.3	5.9	6.1	6.4
Government.....	305	256	254	254	257	271	298	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4
REGION														
Northeast.....	725	807	714	761	715	734	748	2.9	3.2	2.8	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.9
South.....	1,604	1,766	1,743	1,653	1,567	1,639	1,744	3.4	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.7
Midwest.....	922	982	976	946	1,011	1,047	1,051	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.3
West.....	982	1,006	1,034	1,062	1,001	1,094	1,071	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.4	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

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: See NOTE, table 1.

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

Industry and region	Levels ³ (in thousands)							Rates						
	Sept. 2004	Apr. 2005	May 2005	June 2005	July 2005	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^p	Sept. 2004	Apr. 2005	May 2005	June 2005	July 2005	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^p
Total⁴	2,291	2,520	2,514	2,475	2,474	2,605	2,686	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.0
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	2,166	2,395	2,391	2,348	2,351	2,467	2,537	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.3
Construction.....	159	146	168	139	140	222	207	2.3	2.0	2.3	1.9	1.9	3.1	2.8
Manufacturing.....	181	178	183	190	189	184	211	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	529	577	589	588	577	604	568	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.2
Professional and business services.....	358	417	420	386	353	374	447	2.2	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.6
Education and health services.....	235	272	249	256	271	260	281	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6
Leisure and hospitality.....	451	506	488	510	525	517	557	3.6	4.0	3.8	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.4
Government.....	127	125	123	124	125	139	153	.6	.6	.6	.6	.6	.6	.7
REGION														
Northeast.....	317	446	373	350	381	380	372	1.3	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5
South.....	950	992	1,020	960	964	1,054	1,102	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.3
Midwest.....	492	540	554	542	548	570	600	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.9
West.....	541	573	562	653	577	585	617	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.2	2.0	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.

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: See NOTE, table 1.

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

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Sept. 2004	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^P	Sept. 2004	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^P
Total.....	3,408	3,749	3,848	2.5	2.7	2.8
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	3,061	3,348	3,437	2.7	2.9	3.0
Natural resources and mining.....	10	10	13	1.6	1.5	2.0
Construction.....	101	148	153	1.4	1.9	2.0
Manufacturing.....	256	285	287	1.7	1.9	2.0
Durable goods.....	158	189	187	1.7	2.1	2.1
Nondurable goods.....	98	96	99	1.8	1.8	1.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	690	686	683	2.6	2.6	2.6
Wholesale trade.....	120	130	113	2.1	2.2	1.9
Retail trade.....	490	428	441	3.2	2.7	2.8
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	80	127	128	1.6	2.5	2.5
Information.....	71	98	105	2.2	3.0	3.2
Financial activities.....	236	236	247	2.8	2.8	2.9
Finance and insurance.....	193	198	200	3.1	3.1	3.2
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	43	38	47	2.0	1.7	2.1
Professional and business services.....	609	629	704	3.5	3.5	3.9
Education and health services.....	542	639	633	3.1	3.6	3.5
Educational services.....	47	65	65	1.7	2.5	2.3
Health care and social assistance.....	495	574	569	3.4	3.8	3.8
Leisure and hospitality.....	411	475	451	3.1	3.4	3.4
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	57	63	38	2.9	2.9	2.0
Accommodations and food services.....	354	412	412	3.2	3.5	3.6
Other services.....	135	144	162	2.4	2.5	2.9
Government.....	347	401	410	1.6	1.9	1.9
Federal.....	46	43	46	1.6	1.5	1.7
State and local.....	302	358	364	1.6	2.0	1.9
REGION						
Northeast.....	590	676	665	2.3	2.6	2.5
South.....	1,266	1,399	1,511	2.6	2.9	3.1
Midwest.....	739	779	782	2.3	2.4	2.4
West.....	813	895	890	2.7	3.0	2.9

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

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

^P = preliminary.

NOTE: See NOTE, table 1.

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

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Sept. 2004	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^p	Sept. 2004	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^p
Total	4,918	5,296	5,114	3.7	4.0	3.8
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	4,329	4,778	4,581	3.9	4.2	4.1
Natural resources and mining.....	21	19	17	3.4	3.0	2.6
Construction.....	373	447	454	5.2	5.9	6.0
Manufacturing.....	388	394	363	2.7	2.7	2.5
Durable goods.....	241	216	219	2.7	2.4	2.4
Nondurable goods.....	146	178	144	2.7	3.3	2.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	1,029	1,101	1,087	4.0	4.2	4.2
Wholesale trade.....	151	159	147	2.7	2.8	2.6
Retail trade.....	650	772	751	4.3	5.1	5.0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	229	169	189	4.7	3.4	3.8
Information.....	65	84	81	2.1	2.6	2.6
Financial activities.....	200	186	176	2.5	2.2	2.1
Finance and insurance.....	118	117	117	2.0	1.9	1.9
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	82	69	59	3.9	3.1	2.7
Professional and business services.....	763	862	851	4.6	5.0	5.0
Education and health services.....	537	580	586	3.2	3.4	3.4
Educational services.....	116	92	121	4.3	3.7	4.3
Health care and social assistance.....	421	488	465	3.0	3.4	3.2
Leisure and hospitality.....	766	875	783	6.0	6.5	6.0
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	130	104	76	6.8	4.9	4.0
Accommodations and food services.....	636	771	708	5.9	6.8	6.4
Other services.....	187	229	182	3.5	4.2	3.3
Government.....	589	517	533	2.7	2.5	2.5
Federal.....	44	44	57	1.6	1.6	2.1
State and local.....	545	473	476	2.9	2.6	2.5
REGION						
Northeast.....	1,018	779	996	4.0	3.1	3.9
South.....	1,786	2,041	1,807	3.8	4.3	3.8
Midwest.....	1,050	1,186	1,066	3.4	3.8	3.4
West.....	1,063	1,289	1,245	3.7	4.4	4.2

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.

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: See NOTE, table 1.

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

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Sept. 2004	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^p	Sept. 2004	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^p
Total	4,725	5,731	5,186	3.6	4.3	3.9
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	4,354	5,312	4,810	3.9	4.7	4.3
Natural resources and mining.....	20	22	16	3.2	3.4	2.4
Construction.....	403	545	461	5.6	7.2	6.1
Manufacturing.....	372	448	414	2.6	3.1	2.9
Durable goods.....	239	288	253	2.7	3.2	2.8
Nondurable goods.....	133	160	160	2.4	3.0	3.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	964	1,201	1,046	3.8	4.6	4.1
Wholesale trade.....	140	152	124	2.5	2.6	2.2
Retail trade.....	681	853	741	4.6	5.6	4.9
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	144	196	180	2.9	4.0	3.6
Information.....	75	90	99	2.4	2.9	3.2
Financial activities.....	232	234	170	2.9	2.8	2.1
Finance and insurance.....	138	166	108	2.3	2.7	1.8
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	94	68	62	4.4	3.1	2.8
Professional and business services.....	691	844	812	4.2	4.9	4.7
Education and health services.....	409	528	483	2.4	3.1	2.8
Educational services.....	70	77	89	2.6	3.1	3.2
Health care and social assistance.....	339	451	394	2.4	3.1	2.7
Leisure and hospitality.....	970	1,008	1,107	7.6	7.5	8.5
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	246	175	230	12.9	8.3	12.0
Accommodations and food services.....	724	833	877	6.7	7.4	7.9
Other services.....	219	392	204	4.0	7.1	3.7
Government.....	371	419	376	1.7	2.0	1.7
Federal.....	32	44	49	1.2	1.6	1.8
State and local.....	339	375	327	1.8	2.1	1.7
REGION						
Northeast.....	896	954	925	3.5	3.8	3.6
South.....	1,662	2,116	1,832	3.6	4.4	3.8
Midwest.....	1,066	1,379	1,228	3.4	4.4	3.9
West.....	1,101	1,281	1,202	3.8	4.4	4.1

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.

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: See NOTE, table 1.

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

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Sept. 2004	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^p	Sept. 2004	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^p
Total.....	2,636	3,558	3,118	2.0	2.7	2.3
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	2,497	3,328	2,950	2.3	2.9	2.6
Natural resources and mining.....	12	12	9	2.0	1.8	1.4
Construction.....	177	266	233	2.4	3.5	3.1
Manufacturing.....	204	255	243	1.4	1.8	1.7
Durable goods.....	127	148	155	1.4	1.6	1.7
Nondurable goods.....	77	108	88	1.4	2.0	1.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	613	812	649	2.4	3.1	2.5
Wholesale trade.....	85	97	75	1.5	1.7	1.3
Retail trade.....	461	598	484	3.1	3.9	3.2
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	66	116	90	1.4	2.4	1.8
Information.....	40	62	69	1.3	2.0	2.2
Financial activities.....	123	166	91	1.5	2.0	1.1
Finance and insurance.....	69	113	74	1.2	1.9	1.2
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	54	53	17	2.5	2.4	.8
Professional and business services.....	374	501	460	2.3	2.9	2.7
Education and health services.....	262	344	318	1.6	2.0	1.8
Educational services.....	37	46	49	1.4	1.8	1.8
Health care and social assistance.....	226	298	268	1.6	2.0	1.8
Leisure and hospitality.....	571	710	751	4.5	5.3	5.8
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	62	64	66	3.3	3.0	3.5
Accommodations and food services.....	508	646	684	4.7	5.7	6.2
Other services.....	120	200	127	2.2	3.6	2.3
Government.....	139	230	169	.6	1.1	.8
Federal.....	10	21	20	.4	.8	.7
State and local.....	129	208	149	.7	1.2	.8
REGION						
Northeast.....	413	536	484	1.6	2.1	1.9
South.....	1,034	1,402	1,213	2.2	2.9	2.5
Midwest.....	571	822	710	1.8	2.6	2.3
West.....	617	798	711	2.1	2.7	2.4

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.

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: See NOTE, table 1.

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

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Sept. 2004	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^p	Sept. 2004	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^p
Total.....	1,742	1,819	1,770	1.3	1.4	1.3
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	1,559	1,685	1,619	1.4	1.5	1.4
Natural resources and mining.....	4	9	5	.7	1.3	.8
Construction.....	194	253	212	2.7	3.3	2.8
Manufacturing.....	140	162	143	1.0	1.1	1.0
Durable goods.....	90	118	81	1.0	1.3	.9
Nondurable goods.....	49	44	62	.9	.8	1.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	296	326	337	1.2	1.3	1.3
Wholesale trade.....	47	43	27	.8	.7	.5
Retail trade.....	187	219	232	1.2	1.4	1.5
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	63	64	78	1.3	1.3	1.6
Information.....	23	21	21	.8	.7	.7
Financial activities.....	75	53	67	.9	.6	.8
Finance and insurance.....	37	43	24	.6	.7	.4
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	38	10	43	1.8	.5	2.0
Professional and business services.....	276	280	302	1.7	1.6	1.8
Education and health services.....	116	149	130	.7	.9	.7
Educational services.....	30	26	37	1.1	1.0	1.3
Health care and social assistance.....	86	123	93	.6	.8	.6
Leisure and hospitality.....	356	254	336	2.8	1.9	2.6
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	177	108	158	9.3	5.1	8.3
Accommodations and food services.....	179	146	178	1.7	1.3	1.6
Other services.....	79	179	65	1.5	3.2	1.2
Government.....	183	134	151	.9	.7	.7
Federal.....	10	11	13	.4	.4	.5
State and local.....	174	123	138	.9	.7	.7
REGION						
Northeast.....	403	347	400	1.6	1.4	1.6
South.....	504	584	526	1.1	1.2	1.1
Midwest.....	416	496	440	1.3	1.6	1.4
West.....	419	393	404	1.5	1.3	1.4

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.

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: See NOTE, table 1.

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

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Sept. 2004	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^p	Sept. 2004	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005 ^p
Total	347	354	298	.3	.3	.2
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	298	299	241	.3	.3	.2
Natural resources and mining.....	3	1	1	.5	.2	.2
Construction.....	32	26	15	.4	.3	.2
Manufacturing.....	28	31	27	.2	.2	.2
Durable goods.....	22	22	17	.2	.2	.2
Nondurable goods.....	6	9	10	.1	.2	.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	55	64	60	.2	.2	.2
Wholesale trade.....	7	12	23	.1	.2	.4
Retail trade.....	33	36	26	.2	.2	.2
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	15	16	12	.3	.3	.2
Information.....	11	7	9	.4	.2	.3
Financial activities.....	34	15	12	.4	.2	.1
Finance and insurance.....	32	9	10	.5	.2	.2
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	2	5	2	.1	.2	.1
Professional and business services.....	40	63	50	.2	.4	.3
Education and health services.....	30	35	36	.2	.2	.2
Educational services.....	3	6	3	.1	.2	.1
Health care and social assistance.....	27	29	33	.2	.2	.2
Leisure and hospitality.....	43	45	20	.3	.3	.2
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	7	3	5	.4	.1	.3
Accommodations and food services.....	37	42	15	.3	.4	.1
Other services.....	20	12	12	.4	.2	.2
Government.....	49	55	57	.2	.3	.3
Federal.....	13	12	16	.5	.4	.6
State and local.....	36	43	40	.2	.2	.2
REGION						
Northeast.....	80	72	41	.3	.3	.2
South.....	123	131	93	.3	.3	.2
Midwest.....	79	62	78	.3	.2	.2
West.....	64	90	87	.2	.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.

^p = preliminary.

NOTE: See NOTE, table 1.