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JOB OPENINGS AND LABOR TURNOVER: SEPTEMBER 2006

The job openings and total separations rates were unchanged in September, while the hires rate was 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 October 2003 - September 2006

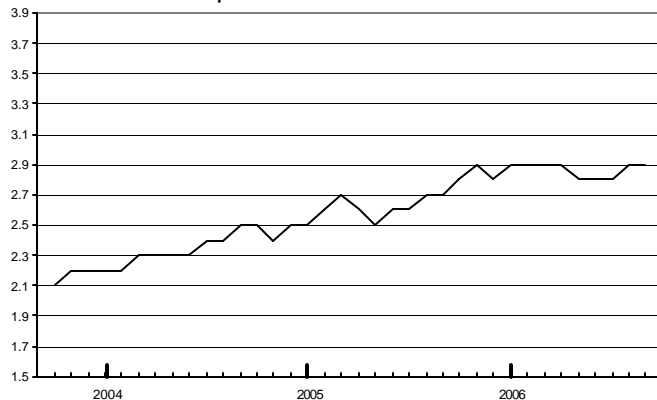
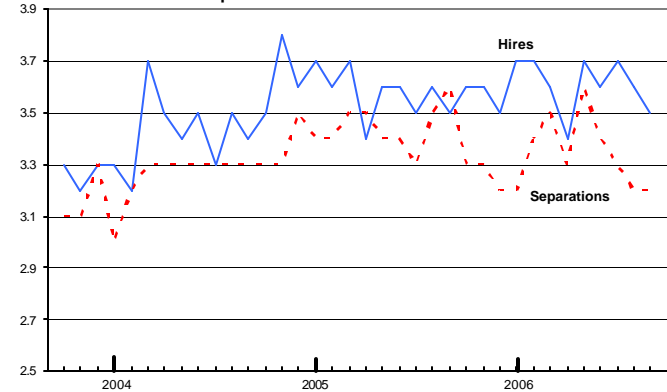


Chart 2. Hires and separations rates, seasonally adjusted,
Percent October 2003 - September 2006



Job Openings

On the last business day of September 2006, there were 4.1 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 little changed since November 2005. In September, the job openings rate did not change significantly in any industry or region. The industries with the highest seasonally adjusted job openings rate in September 2006 were education and health services (3.8 percent), leisure and hospitality (3.8 percent), and professional and business services (3.7 percent). (See table 1.)

Over the year, the job openings rate rose in several of the private sector industries, in state and local government, and in the Northeast region. The job openings rate did not decline significantly over the year in any industry or region. (See table 5.)

Hires

The hires rate was little changed at 3.5 percent in September. Hires are any additions to the payroll during the month. In September, the hires rate did not rise significantly in any industry but fell in trade, transportation, and utilities and in government. Geographically, the hires rate did not change significantly

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

Industry	Job openings			Hires			Total separations		
	Sept. 2005	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^p	Sept. 2005	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^p	Sept. 2005	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^p
	Levels (in thousands)								
Total ¹	3,728	4,061	4,053	4,748	4,831	4,684	4,798	4,386	4,339
Total private ¹	3,285	3,604	3,570	4,418	4,396	4,349	4,503	4,083	4,054
Construction.....	152	162	144	436	351	328	423	348	312
Manufacturing.....	285	310	300	346	353	316	437	364	387
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	629	686	690	983	1,070	966	1,000	997	975
Professional and business services.....	671	661	663	904	860	959	856	705	762
Education and health services.....	630	678	699	468	482	475	433	460	407
Leisure and hospitality.....	431	501	515	836	794	807	871	801	764
Government.....	443	464	480	314	409	324	302	304	291
	Rates (percent)								
Total ¹	2.7	2.9	2.9	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.2	3.2
Total private ¹	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	4.0	3.6	3.6
Construction.....	2.0	2.1	1.9	6.0	4.7	4.4	5.8	4.6	4.1
Manufacturing.....	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.2	3.1	2.6	2.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	2.4	2.6	2.6	3.8	4.1	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.7
Professional and business services.....	3.8	3.7	3.7	5.3	4.9	5.5	5.0	4.1	4.4
Education and health services.....	3.5	3.7	3.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.3
Leisure and hospitality.....	3.3	3.7	3.8	6.5	6.1	6.2	6.8	6.1	5.8
Government.....	2.0	2.1	2.1	1.4	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3

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

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

From September 2005 to September 2006, the hires rate increased in mining and in finance and insurance but decreased in construction; arts, entertainment, and recreation; federal government; and the Northeast region. (See table 6.)

Separations

The total separations, or turnover, rate was unchanged at 3.2 percent in September. Separations are terminations of employment that occur at any time during the month. In September, the total separations rate did not increase significantly in any industry but did decrease in education and health services. Geographically, the separations rate did not change significantly in any region over the month. (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, edged down to 1.8 percent in September. Over the month, the quits rate did not rise significantly in any industry or region but declined in leisure and hospitality and in the South region. In September, the seasonally adjusted quits rate was highest in the leisure and hospitality industry (3.6 percent), which also had the highest hires rate. (See table 4.)

Over the year, the quits rate fell in many industries and in three of the four regions—the Midwest, South, and West. The quits rate rose significantly over the year in only one industry: real estate and rental and leasing. (See table 8.)

The other two components of total separations—layoffs and discharges, and other separations—are not seasonally adjusted. From September 2005 to September 2006, the layoffs and discharges rate fell to 1.3 percent. For September 2006, the arts, entertainment, and recreation industry had the highest layoffs and discharges rate (12.5 percent). From September 2005 to September 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 September 2006, hires have averaged 4.9 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 4.8 million hires and 4.6 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 2006 is scheduled to be issued on Tuesday, December 12, 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 ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels ³ (in thousands)							Rates						
	Sept. 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^p	Sept. 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^p
Total ⁴	3,728	4,070	3,945	3,960	3,844	4,061	4,053	2.7	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	3,285	3,603	3,496	3,476	3,363	3,604	3,570	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.1	3.0
Construction.....	152	138	119	161	148	162	144	2.0	1.8	1.6	2.1	1.9	2.1	1.9
Manufacturing.....	285	323	311	301	305	310	300	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities....	629	672	687	640	605	686	690	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.6	2.6
Professional and business services....	671	748	693	616	651	661	663	3.8	4.2	3.9	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.7
Education and health services.....	630	674	651	659	643	678	699	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.8
Leisure and hospitality.....	431	485	496	487	482	501	515	3.3	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8
Government.....	443	467	452	467	478	464	480	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
REGION ⁵														
Northeast.....	661	672	670	699	699	747	773	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.9
South.....	1,451	1,600	1,591	1,507	1,498	1,548	1,543	2.9	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1
Midwest.....	760	770	787	777	739	809	790	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.4
West.....	890	1,022	918	935	911	955	972	2.9	3.3	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	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 levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels ³ (in thousands)							Rates						
	Sept. 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^P	Sept. 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^P
Total ⁴	4,748	4,649	4,949	4,899	4,995	4,831	4,684	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.5
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	4,418	4,301	4,573	4,508	4,741	4,396	4,349	3.9	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.2	3.9	3.8
Construction.....	436	376	374	366	365	351	328	6.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.4
Manufacturing.....	346	328	385	378	380	353	316	2.4	2.3	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities....	983	1,029	1,018	1,099	1,045	1,070	966	3.8	4.0	3.9	4.2	4.0	4.1	3.7
Professional and business services....	904	858	1,006	905	967	860	959	5.3	5.0	5.8	5.2	5.6	4.9	5.5
Education and health services.....	468	481	549	465	521	482	475	2.7	2.7	3.1	2.6	2.9	2.7	2.7
Leisure and hospitality.....	836	775	811	846	850	794	807	6.5	6.0	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.1	6.2
Government.....	314	361	379	392	338	409	324	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.9	1.5
REGION ⁵														
Northeast.....	796	849	852	729	841	738	697	3.2	3.3	3.3	2.9	3.3	2.9	2.7
South.....	1,842	1,777	1,849	1,877	1,849	1,907	1,946	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.0
Midwest.....	965	965	1,133	1,072	1,123	1,008	965	3.1	3.1	3.6	3.4	3.6	3.2	3.1
West.....	1,139	1,152	1,114	1,207	1,177	1,160	1,104	3.8	3.9	3.7	4.0	3.9	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 levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Level ³ (in thousands)							Rates						
	Sept. 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^p	Sept. 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^p
Total ⁴	4,798	4,495	4,811	4,631	4,479	4,386	4,339	3.6	3.3	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.2
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	4,503	4,203	4,488	4,299	4,168	4,083	4,054	4.0	3.7	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.6
Construction.....	423	373	478	324	415	348	312	5.8	5.0	6.4	4.3	5.5	4.6	4.1
Manufacturing.....	437	346	381	370	358	364	387	3.1	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	1,000	1,022	1,046	1,082	935	997	975	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.2	3.6	3.8	3.7
Professional and business services.....	856	790	833	755	735	705	762	5.0	4.6	4.8	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.4
Education and health services.....	433	437	487	424	431	460	407	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.3
Leisure and hospitality.....	871	770	799	802	818	801	764	6.8	5.9	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.1	5.8
Government.....	302	302	324	315	306	304	291	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3
REGION ⁵														
Northeast.....	797	711	779	724	763	695	760	3.2	2.8	3.1	2.8	3.0	2.7	3.0
South.....	1,779	1,710	1,828	1,858	1,687	1,703	1,634	3.7	3.5	3.8	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.4
Midwest.....	1,065	992	1,045	871	1,087	942	896	3.4	3.2	3.3	2.8	3.4	3.0	2.8
West.....	1,127	1,116	1,136	1,137	979	1,070	1,046	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.3	3.6	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 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 levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels ³ (in thousands)							Rates						
	Sept. 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^p	Sept. 2005	Apr. 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^p
Total ⁴	2,681	2,541	2,723	2,699	2,623	2,597	2,401	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	2,529	2,383	2,565	2,554	2,469	2,442	2,260	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.0
Construction.....	210	167	207	154	157	143	123	2.9	2.2	2.8	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.6
Manufacturing.....	213	175	202	190	189	194	181	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities....	566	613	622	615	586	604	582	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.2
Professional and business services....	448	409	434	386	412	388	393	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.3
Education and health services.....	283	253	276	290	277	300	272	1.6	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.5
Leisure and hospitality.....	557	535	533	622	549	542	476	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.8	4.2	4.1	3.6
Government.....	154	159	159	146	156	153	146	.7	.7	.7	.7	.7	.7	.7
Northeast.....	361	370	370	358	378	404	378	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.5
South.....	1,125	1,026	1,152	1,153	1,081	1,095	983	2.4	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.0
Midwest.....	574	575	581	552	562	551	511	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.6
West.....	627	593	612	631	598	553	543	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.8

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

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

³ 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 levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Sept. 2005	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^P	Sept. 2005	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^P
Total.....	3,897	4,396	4,235	2.8	3.1	3.0
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	3,465	3,890	3,765	3.0	3.3	3.2
Natural resources and mining.....	17	16	23	2.5	2.3	3.2
Construction.....	153	180	143	2.0	2.2	1.8
Manufacturing.....	294	336	309	2.0	2.3	2.1
Durable goods.....	196	218	198	2.1	2.4	2.2
Nondurable goods.....	99	117	110	1.8	2.2	2.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	708	764	780	2.7	2.8	2.9
Wholesale trade.....	119	146	165	2.0	2.4	2.7
Retail trade.....	461	453	465	2.9	2.9	3.0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	128	165	150	2.5	3.2	2.9
Information.....	112	153	166	3.5	4.7	5.2
Financial activities.....	257	253	235	3.1	2.9	2.7
Finance and insurance.....	209	200	196	3.4	3.1	3.1
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	48	53	38	2.2	2.3	1.7
Professional and business services.....	708	726	699	4.0	4.0	3.8
Education and health services.....	652	722	728	3.6	4.0	3.9
Educational services.....	69	62	61	2.4	2.4	2.1
Health care and social assistance.....	583	660	667	3.8	4.2	4.3
Leisure and hospitality.....	407	557	506	3.0	3.9	3.7
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	46	62	59	2.3	2.7	2.9
Accommodations and food services.....	361	496	447	3.2	4.1	3.8
Other services.....	157	182	177	2.8	3.2	3.2
Government.....	432	506	469	2.0	2.4	2.1
Federal.....	48	52	38	1.7	1.9	1.4
State and local.....	384	455	432	2.0	2.4	2.2
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	702	829	834	2.7	3.2	3.2
South.....	1,491	1,631	1,581	3.0	3.3	3.2
Midwest.....	810	905	840	2.5	2.8	2.6
West.....	895	1,030	979	2.9	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 See footnote 5, table 1.

^P = preliminary.

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

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Sept. 2005	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^P	Sept. 2005	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^P
Total.....	5,268	5,588	5,153	3.9	4.1	3.8
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	4,788	4,933	4,666	4.3	4.3	4.1
Natural resources and mining.....	15	26	30	2.3	3.7	4.4
Construction.....	449	351	333	6.0	4.5	4.3
Manufacturing.....	362	408	329	2.5	2.8	2.3
Durable goods.....	213	254	184	2.4	2.8	2.0
Nondurable goods.....	149	154	145	2.8	2.9	2.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	1,113	1,200	1,069	4.3	4.6	4.1
Wholesale trade.....	151	168	142	2.6	2.9	2.4
Retail trade.....	762	783	741	5.0	5.1	4.9
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	200	250	186	4.0	5.0	3.7
Information.....	81	93	81	2.6	3.0	2.6
Financial activities.....	188	199	233	2.3	2.4	2.8
Finance and insurance.....	117	127	152	2.0	2.1	2.5
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	71	72	82	3.3	3.3	3.7
Professional and business services.....	929	968	989	5.4	5.5	5.6
Education and health services.....	606	601	611	3.5	3.4	3.4
Educational services.....	131	94	128	4.7	3.7	4.6
Health care and social assistance.....	475	507	483	3.3	3.4	3.2
Leisure and hospitality.....	845	891	807	6.5	6.5	6.1
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	147	99	71	7.4	4.5	3.6
Accommodations and food services.....	697	792	736	6.3	6.9	6.5
Other services.....	201	196	183	3.7	3.6	3.4
Government.....	480	655	488	2.2	3.1	2.2
Federal.....	59	83	43	2.2	3.1	1.6
State and local.....	420	572	444	2.2	3.2	2.3
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	1,037	802	884	4.1	3.2	3.5
South.....	1,860	2,275	1,985	3.9	4.7	4.1
Midwest.....	1,117	1,201	1,082	3.6	3.8	3.4
West.....	1,255	1,309	1,203	4.2	4.4	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 levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Sept. 2005	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^p	Sept. 2005	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^p
Total.....	5,419	5,617	4,865	4.0	4.1	3.6
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	5,046	5,152	4,512	4.5	4.5	4.0
Natural resources and mining.....	17	23	22	2.7	3.3	3.2
Construction.....	463	400	336	6.1	5.1	4.3
Manufacturing.....	444	449	396	3.1	3.1	2.8
Durable goods.....	276	265	244	3.1	2.9	2.7
Nondurable goods.....	168	183	153	3.2	3.5	2.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	1,065	1,179	1,028	4.1	4.5	4.0
Wholesale trade.....	135	183	135	2.3	3.1	2.3
Retail trade.....	742	810	710	4.9	5.3	4.7
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	188	186	183	3.8	3.8	3.6
Information.....	97	102	83	3.2	3.3	2.7
Financial activities.....	184	243	202	2.3	2.9	2.4
Finance and insurance.....	113	160	122	1.9	2.6	2.0
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	71	83	80	3.3	3.7	3.7
Professional and business services.....	884	896	783	5.2	5.1	4.5
Education and health services.....	475	588	446	2.7	3.4	2.5
Educational services.....	85	97	60	3.0	3.8	2.1
Health care and social assistance.....	390	491	386	2.7	3.3	2.6
Leisure and hospitality.....	1,199	1,010	1,042	9.2	7.4	7.8
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	313	152	314	15.8	6.9	15.9
Accommodations and food services.....	886	858	728	8.0	7.4	6.4
Other services.....	217	263	174	4.0	4.8	3.2
Government.....	373	465	353	1.7	2.2	1.6
Federal.....	57	88	33	2.1	3.2	1.2
State and local.....	316	377	320	1.7	2.1	1.7
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	1,000	908	959	4.0	3.6	3.8
South.....	1,878	2,201	1,680	3.9	4.5	3.5
Midwest.....	1,244	1,237	1,031	4.0	3.9	3.3
West.....	1,297	1,270	1,195	4.4	4.2	4.0

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

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

³ See footnote 5, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

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

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Sept. 2005	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^P	Sept. 2005	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^P
Total.....	3,105	3,623	2,764	2.3	2.7	2.0
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	2,936	3,373	2,606	2.6	2.9	2.3
Natural resources and mining.....	9	16	12	1.4	2.3	1.7
Construction.....	233	190	141	3.1	2.4	1.8
Manufacturing.....	247	274	206	1.7	1.9	1.4
Durable goods.....	153	161	120	1.7	1.8	1.3
Nondurable goods.....	95	113	86	1.8	2.1	1.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	643	814	656	2.5	3.1	2.5
Wholesale trade.....	85	125	86	1.5	2.1	1.5
Retail trade.....	465	573	472	3.1	3.8	3.1
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	93	116	98	1.9	2.3	1.9
Information.....	68	72	61	2.2	2.3	2.0
Financial activities.....	107	147	124	1.3	1.8	1.5
Finance and insurance.....	77	103	75	1.3	1.7	1.2
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	29	44	49	1.4	2.0	2.2
Professional and business services.....	463	553	402	2.7	3.1	2.3
Education and health services.....	318	404	302	1.8	2.3	1.7
Educational services.....	45	60	34	1.6	2.4	1.2
Health care and social assistance.....	273	345	268	1.9	2.3	1.8
Leisure and hospitality.....	719	748	607	5.5	5.4	4.6
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	72	75	62	3.6	3.4	3.1
Accommodations and food services.....	647	673	545	5.9	5.8	4.8
Other services.....	129	155	95	2.4	2.8	1.8
Government.....	169	250	157	.8	1.2	.7
Federal.....	23	41	20	.8	1.5	.8
State and local.....	146	209	137	.8	1.2	.7
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	470	589	492	1.9	2.3	1.9
South.....	1,236	1,467	1,064	2.6	3.0	2.2
Midwest.....	675	815	588	2.2	2.6	1.9
West.....	722	752	620	2.4	2.5	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 levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Sept. 2005	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^p	Sept. 2005	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^p
Total.....	1,967	1,644	1,779	1.5	1.2	1.3
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	1,817	1,504	1,624	1.6	1.3	1.4
Natural resources and mining.....	8	3	8	1.2	.5	1.2
Construction.....	215	193	161	2.8	2.5	2.1
Manufacturing.....	154	141	161	1.1	1.0	1.1
Durable goods.....	89	80	105	1.0	.9	1.2
Nondurable goods.....	65	61	56	1.2	1.2	1.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	358	289	286	1.4	1.1	1.1
Wholesale trade.....	30	52	39	.5	.9	.7
Retail trade.....	242	185	177	1.6	1.2	1.2
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	86	53	69	1.7	1.1	1.4
Information.....	20	19	15	.7	.6	.5
Financial activities.....	67	77	57	.8	.9	.7
Finance and insurance.....	27	43	29	.4	.7	.5
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	41	34	29	1.9	1.5	1.3
Professional and business services.....	336	306	342	2.0	1.7	1.9
Education and health services.....	126	148	116	.7	.9	.7
Educational services.....	37	34	19	1.3	1.3	.7
Health care and social assistance.....	89	115	98	.6	.8	.7
Leisure and hospitality.....	460	233	416	3.5	1.7	3.1
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	239	75	248	12.0	3.4	12.5
Accommodations and food services.....	221	158	168	2.0	1.4	1.5
Other services.....	73	94	62	1.4	1.7	1.2
Government.....	151	140	155	.7	.7	.7
Federal.....	15	29	6	.5	1.1	.2
State and local.....	136	111	149	.7	.6	.8
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	493	268	401	2.0	1.1	1.6
South.....	536	612	514	1.1	1.3	1.1
Midwest.....	464	341	367	1.5	1.1	1.2
West.....	474	424	498	1.6	1.4	1.7

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 levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Sept. 2005	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^P	Sept. 2005	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2006 ^P
Total.....	347	350	322	0.3	0.3	0.2
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	293	275	281	.3	.2	.2
Natural resources and mining.....	1	4	3	.1	.6	.4
Construction.....	15	17	33	.2	.2	.4
Manufacturing.....	43	34	30	.3	.2	.2
Durable goods.....	34	24	19	.4	.3	.2
Nondurable goods.....	8	10	11	.2	.2	.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	63	77	86	.2	.3	.3
Wholesale trade.....	20	7	9	.4	.1	.2
Retail trade.....	34	52	61	.2	.3	.4
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	9	17	16	.2	.4	.3
Information.....	9	11	7	.3	.4	.2
Financial activities.....	10	18	21	.1	.2	.2
Finance and insurance.....	9	14	18	.2	.2	.3
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	1	5	2	.1	.2	.1
Professional and business services.....	86	36	40	.5	.2	.2
Education and health services.....	31	35	28	.2	.2	.2
Educational services.....	3	4	7	.1	.1	.3
Health care and social assistance.....	28	32	21	.2	.2	.1
Leisure and hospitality.....	20	29	18	.2	.2	.1
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	2	2	4	.1	.1	.2
Accommodations and food services.....	18	27	15	.2	.2	.1
Other services.....	15	14	16	.3	.3	.3
Government.....	54	75	40	.2	.4	.2
Federal.....	19	18	6	.7	.7	.2
State and local.....	35	57	34	.2	.3	.2
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	37	52	66	.1	.2	.3
South.....	105	123	101	.2	.3	.2
Midwest.....	105	81	76	.3	.3	.2
West.....	100	95	78	.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.