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JOB OPENINGS AND LABOR TURNOVER: APRIL 2006

The job openings rate was unchanged, while the hires and total separations rates decreased in April, 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 May 2003 - April 2006

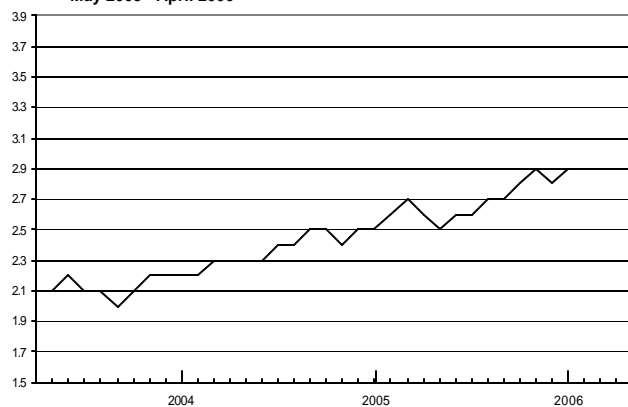
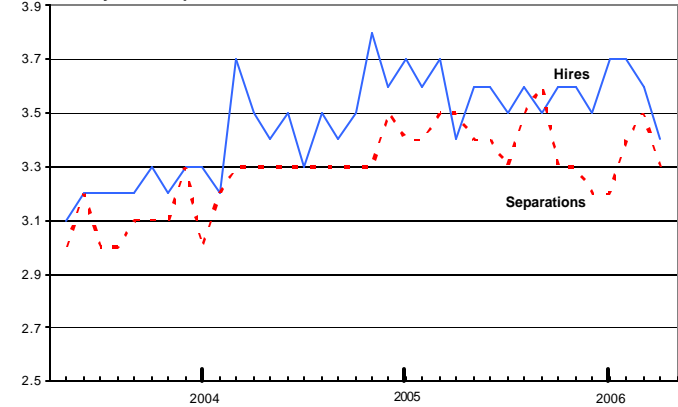


Chart 2. Hires and separations rates, seasonally adjusted,
Percent May 2003 - April 2006



Job Openings

On the last business day of April 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 in every industry and region, but the overall rate has generally trended upward since September 2003. The industries with the highest seasonally adjusted job openings rate in April 2006 were professional and business services (4.1 percent), leisure and hospitality (3.8 percent), and education and health services (3.7 percent). (See table 1.)

Over the year, the job openings rate increased in several industries, with the largest gains in information and educational services. The job openings rate also increased over the year in three of the four regions—the Northeast, South, and West. None of the industries or regions experienced a significant decrease in their job openings rate from the prior year. (See table 5.)

Hires

The hires rate decreased to 3.4 percent in April. Hires are any additions to the payroll during the month. Over the month, the hires rate increased in education and health services and decreased in trade, transporta-

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

Industry	Job openings			Hires			Total separations		
	Apr. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^p	Apr. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^p	Apr. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^p
	Levels (in thousands)								
Total ¹	3,589	4,089	4,095	4,574	4,884	4,544	4,614	4,681	4,419
Total private ¹	3,208	3,633	3,643	4,246	4,503	4,227	4,351	4,360	4,157
Construction	110	144	137	440	344	372	429	422	385
Manufacturing	266	318	333	320	341	320	378	427	355
Trade, transportation, and utilities	642	651	662	1,019	1,103	969	1,008	989	973
Professional and business services	645	702	743	830	922	858	877	798	786
Education and health services	616	692	673	498	435	485	438	399	422
Leisure and hospitality	465	506	516	707	899	750	707	769	769
Government	378	458	451	328	397	331	263	326	268
	Rates (percent)								
Total ¹	2.6	2.9	2.9	3.4	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.3
Total private ¹	2.8	3.1	3.1	3.8	4.0	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.7
Construction	1.5	1.9	1.8	6.1	4.6	5.0	5.9	5.6	5.1
Manufacturing	1.8	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.7	3.0	2.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2.4	2.4	2.5	3.9	4.2	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.7
Professional and business services	3.7	3.9	4.1	4.9	5.4	5.0	5.2	4.6	4.6
Education and health services	3.5	3.8	3.7	2.9	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.4
Leisure and hospitality	3.5	3.8	3.8	5.5	6.9	5.8	5.5	5.9	5.9
Government	1.7	2.0	2.0	1.5	1.8	1.5	1.2	1.5	1.2

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

p = preliminary.

tion, and utilities; leisure and hospitality; government; and in the Midwest region. In April, the seasonally adjusted hires rate was highest in the leisure and hospitality industry (5.8 percent). (See table 2.)

From April 2005 to April 2006, the hires rate rose in educational services, but fell in construction and health care and social assistance. The hires rate did not change significantly over the year in any geographic region. (See table 6.)

Separations

The total separations, or turnover, rate declined to 3.3 percent in April. Separations are terminations of employment that occur at any time during the month. In April, the total separations rate decreased in manufacturing, government, and in the South region. (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, dropped to 1.8 percent in April. The quits rate declined in the manufacturing industry and in the South region. In April, the seasonally adjusted quits rate was highest in the leisure and hospitality industry (3.9 percent), which also had the highest hires rate. (See table 4.)

Over the year, the quits rate fell in health care and social assistance, other services, and in the Northeast region. The quits rate did not rise significantly in any industry or region over the year. (See table 8.)

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

Flows in the Labor Market

Hires and separations data help show dynamic flows in the labor market. Over the 12 months ending in April 2006, hires have averaged 4.8 million per month and separations have averaged 4.5 million per month (not seasonally adjusted). The comparable figures for the prior 12-month period were 4.7 million hires and 4.4 million separations. (See the Technical Note for additional information on these measures.)

For More Information

For additional information, please read the Technical Note or visit the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (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 May 2006 is scheduled to be issued on Tuesday, July 11, 2006.

Technical Note

The data for the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) are collected and compiled monthly from a sample of business establishments by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Collection

Each month, data are collected in a survey of business establishments for total employment, job openings, hires, quits, layoffs and discharges, and other separations. Data collection methods include computer-assisted telephone interviewing, touchtone data entry, fax, and mail.

Coverage

The JOLTS program covers all private nonfarm establishments such as factories, offices, and stores, as well as federal, state, and local government entities in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Concepts

Industry classification. The industry classifications in this release are in accordance with the 2002 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). In order to ensure the highest possible quality of data, State Workforce Agencies verify with employers and update, if necessary, the industry code, location, and ownership classification of all establishments on a 3-year cycle. Changes in establishment characteristics resulting from the verification process are always introduced into the JOLTS sampling frame with the data reported for the first month of the year.

Employment. Employment includes persons on the payroll who worked or received pay for the pay period that includes the 12th day of the reference month. Full-time, part-time, permanent, short-term, seasonal, salaried, and hourly employees are included, as are employees on paid vacations or other paid leave. Proprietors or partners of unincorporated businesses, unpaid family workers, or persons on leave without pay or on strike for the entire pay period, are not counted as employed. Employees of temporary help agencies, employee leasing companies, outside contractors, and consultants are counted by their employer of record, not by the establishment where they are working.

Job openings. Establishments submit job openings information for the last business day of the reference month. A job opening requires that: 1) a specific position exists and there is work available for that position, 2) work could start within 30 days regardless of whether a suitable candidate is found, and 3) the employer is actively recruiting from outside the establishment to fill the position. Included are full-time, part-time, permanent, short-term, and seasonal openings. Active recruiting means that the establishment is taking steps to fill a position by advertising in newspapers or on the Internet, posting help-wanted signs, accepting applications, or using other similar methods.

Jobs to be filled only by internal transfers, promotions, demotions, or recall from layoffs are excluded. Also excluded

are jobs with start dates more than 30 days in the future, jobs for which employees have been hired but have not yet reported for work, and jobs to be filled by employees of temporary help agencies, employee leasing companies, outside contractors, or consultants. The job openings rate is computed by dividing the number of job openings by the sum of employment and job openings and multiplying that quotient by 100.

Hires. Hires are the total number of additions to the payroll occurring at any time during the reference month, including both new and rehired employees, full-time and part-time, permanent, short-term, and seasonal employees, employees recalled to the location after a layoff lasting more than 7 days, on-call or intermittent employees who returned to work after having been formally separated, and transfers from other locations. The hires count does not include transfers or promotions within the reporting site, employees returning from strike, employees of temporary help agencies or employee leasing companies, outside contractors, or consultants. The hires rate is computed by dividing the number of hires by employment and multiplying that quotient by 100.

Separations. Separations are the total number of terminations of employment occurring at any time during the reference month, and are reported by type of separation—quits, layoffs and discharges, and other separations. Quits are voluntary separations by employees (except for retirements, which are reported as other separations). Layoffs and discharges are involuntary separations initiated by the employer and include layoffs with no intent to rehire, formal layoffs lasting or expected to last more than 7 days, discharges resulting from mergers, downsizing, or closings, firings or other discharges for cause, terminations of permanent or short-term employees, and terminations of seasonal employees. Other separations include retirements, transfers to other locations, deaths, and separations due to disability. Separations do not include transfers within the same location or employees on strike.

The separations rate is computed by dividing the number of separations by employment and multiplying that quotient by 100. The quits, layoffs and discharges, and other separations rates are computed similarly, dividing the number by employment and multiplying by 100.

Annual estimates. Annual estimates of rates and levels of hires, quits, layoffs and discharges, other separations, and total separations are released with the January news release each year.

The JOLTS annual level estimates for hires, quits, layoffs and discharges, other separations, and total separations are the sum of the 12 published monthly levels. The annual rate estimates are computed by dividing the annual level by the Current Employment Statistics (CES) annual average employment level, and multiplying that quotient by 100. This figure will be approximately equal to the sum of the 12 monthly rates. Note that both the JOLTS and CES annual levels are rounded to the nearest thousand before the annual estimates are calculated. Consistent with BLS practices, annual estimates will be published only for not seasonally adjusted data.

Annual estimates are not calculated for job openings because job openings are a stock, or point-in-time, measurement for the last business day of each month. Only jobs still open on the last day of the month are counted. For the same reason job openings cannot be cumulated throughout each month, annual figures for job openings cannot be created by summing the monthly estimates. Hires and separations are flow measures and are cumulated over the month with a total reported for the month. Therefore, the annual figures can be created by summing the monthly estimates.

Sample methodology

The JOLTS sample design is a random sample of 16,000 nonfarm business establishments, including factories, offices, and stores, as well as federal, state, and local governments in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The establishments are drawn from a universe of over eight million establishments compiled as part of the operations of the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, or QCEW, program. This program includes all employers subject to state Unemployment Insurance (UI) laws and federal agencies subject to Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE).

The sampling frame is stratified by ownership, region, industry sector, and size class. Large firms fall into the sample with virtual certainty. JOLTS total employment estimates are controlled to the employment estimates of the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey. A ratio of CES to JOLTS employment is used to adjust the levels for all other JOLTS data elements. Rates are then computed from the adjusted levels.

Using JOLTS data

The JOLTS data series on job openings, hires, and separations are relatively new. The full sample is divided into panels, with one panel enrolled each month. A full complement of panels for the original data series based on the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system was not completely enrolled in the survey until January 2002. The supplemental panels of establishments needed to create NAICS estimates were not completely enrolled until May 2003. The data collected up until those points are from less than a full sample. Therefore, estimates from earlier months should be used with caution, as fewer sampled units were reporting data at that time.

In March 2002, BLS procedures for collecting hires and separations data were revised to address possible underreporting. As a result, JOLTS hires and separations estimates for months prior to March 2002 may not be comparable with estimates for March 2002 and later.

The federal government reorganization that involved transferring approximately 180,000 employees to the new Department of Homeland Security is not reflected in the JOLTS hires and separations estimates for the federal government. The Office of Personnel Management's record shows these transfers were completed in March 2003. The inclusion of

transfers in the JOLTS definitions of hires and separations is intended to cover ongoing movements of workers between establishments. The Department of Homeland Security reorganization was a massive one-time event, and the inclusion of these intergovernmental transfers would distort the federal government time series.

Seasonal adjustment

BLS seasonally adjusts several JOLTS series using the X-12-ARIMA seasonal adjustment program. Seasonal adjustment is the process of estimating and removing periodic fluctuations caused by events such as weather, holidays, and the beginning and ending of the school year. Seasonal adjustment makes it easier to observe fundamental changes in the level of the series, particularly those associated with general economic expansions and contractions. A concurrent seasonal adjustment methodology is used in which new seasonal adjustment factors are calculated each month, using all relevant data, up to and including the data for the current month.

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

Reliability of the estimates

JOLTS estimates are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. When a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimates may differ from the "true" population values they represent. The exact difference, or sampling error, varies depending on the particular sample selected, and this variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. BLS analysis is generally conducted at the 90-percent level of confidence. That means that there is a 90-percent chance, or level of confidence, that an estimate based on a sample will differ by no more than 1.6 standard errors from the "true" population value because of sampling error. Estimates of sampling errors are available upon request.

The JOLTS estimates also are affected by nonsampling error. Nonsampling error can occur for many reasons, including the failure to include a segment of the population, the inability to obtain data from all units in the sample, the inability or unwillingness of respondents to provide data on a timely basis, mistakes made by respondents, errors made in the collection or processing of the data, and errors from the employment benchmark data used in estimation.

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

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

Other information

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Job openings levels¹ and rates² by industry and region, seasonally adjusted

Industry and region	Levels ³ (in thousands)							Rates						
	Apr. 2005	Nov. 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^P	Apr. 2005	Nov. 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^P
Total⁴	3,589	4,031	3,941	3,981	3,994	4,089	4,095	2.6	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	3,208	3,604	3,509	3,533	3,531	3,633	3,643	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1
Construction.....	110	146	170	114	121	144	137	1.5	1.9	2.2	1.5	1.6	1.9	1.8
Manufacturing.....	266	333	313	324	318	318	333	1.8	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	642	696	661	687	660	651	662	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.5
Professional and business services.....	645	782	750	777	716	702	743	3.7	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.0	3.9	4.1
Education and health services.....	616	601	618	627	640	692	673	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.7
Leisure and hospitality.....	465	519	522	507	587	506	516	3.5	3.9	3.9	3.8	4.3	3.8	3.8
Government.....	378	434	435	449	460	458	451	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0
REGION⁵														
Northeast.....	605	704	718	740	707	732	744	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8
South.....	1,405	1,562	1,612	1,550	1,547	1,634	1,653	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.3
Midwest.....	732	748	738	745	797	721	733	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.2	2.3
West.....	839	1,046	919	928	957	985	956	2.8	3.4	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.1

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

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

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

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

⁵ The States (including the District of Columbia) that comprise the regions are: Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; South: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia,

Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia; Midwest: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin; West: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

^P = preliminary.

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

Industry and region	Levels ³ (in thousands)							Rates						
	Apr. 2005	Nov. 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^P	Apr. 2005	Nov. 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^P
Total⁴	4,574	4,813	4,694	4,941	4,954	4,884	4,544	3.4	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.4
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	4,246	4,498	4,397	4,584	4,578	4,503	4,227	3.8	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.7
Construction.....	440	393	426	379	403	344	372	6.1	5.3	5.8	5.1	5.4	4.6	5.0
Manufacturing.....	320	335	307	366	333	341	320	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	1,019	954	1,011	1,177	1,117	1,103	969	3.9	3.7	3.9	4.5	4.3	4.2	3.7
Professional and business services.....	830	907	849	953	841	922	858	4.9	5.3	5.0	5.6	4.9	5.4	5.0
Education and health services.....	498	459	467	446	435	435	485	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.7
Leisure and hospitality.....	707	895	853	847	1,019	899	750	5.5	6.9	6.6	6.6	7.9	6.9	5.8
Government.....	328	314	293	352	379	397	331	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.5
REGION⁵														
Northeast.....	874	747	698	727	814	914	838	3.5	3.0	2.8	2.9	3.2	3.6	3.3
South.....	1,696	1,813	1,817	1,946	2,061	1,803	1,742	3.6	3.8	3.8	4.1	4.3	3.7	3.6
Midwest.....	1,024	1,031	1,038	1,043	1,045	1,117	1,001	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.2
West.....	1,073	1,188	1,127	1,176	1,083	1,127	1,087	3.6	4.0	3.8	4.0	3.6	3.8	3.6

¹ Hires are the number of hires during the entire month.

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

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

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

⁵ See footnote 5, table 1.

^P = preliminary.

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

Industry and region	Levels ³ (in thousands)							Rates						
	Apr. 2005	Nov. 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^p	Apr. 2005	Nov. 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^p
Total⁴	4,614	4,476	4,359	4,285	4,531	4,681	4,419	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.3
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	4,351	4,205	4,067	3,995	4,252	4,360	4,157	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.8	3.9	3.7
Construction.....	429	371	348	374	335	422	385	5.9	5.0	4.7	5.0	4.5	5.6	5.1
Manufacturing.....	378	388	355	353	380	427	355	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.7	3.0	2.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	1,008	1,003	1,027	880	997	989	973	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.4	3.8	3.8	3.7
Professional and business services.....	877	753	735	780	826	798	786	5.2	4.4	4.3	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.6
Education and health services.....	438	418	400	353	403	399	422	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.4
Leisure and hospitality.....	707	834	843	848	881	769	769	5.5	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.8	5.9	5.9
Government.....	263	270	270	300	285	326	268	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.2
REGION⁵														
Northeast.....	840	619	685	701	736	714	718	3.3	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.8
South.....	1,748	1,711	1,759	1,653	1,694	1,810	1,668	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.5
Midwest.....	1,030	1,081	934	987	1,032	1,014	981	3.3	3.5	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.1
West.....	1,027	1,004	997	970	1,054	1,188	1,093	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.5	4.0	3.7

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

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

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

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

⁵ See footnote 5, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

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

Industry and region	Levels ³ (in thousands)							Rates						
	Apr. 2005	Nov. 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^p	Apr. 2005	Nov. 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^p
Total⁴	2,586	2,683	2,567	2,577	2,663	2,763	2,488	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.8
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	2,452	2,540	2,428	2,435	2,526	2,606	2,345	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.1
Construction.....	148	183	189	179	153	182	177	2.0	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.0	2.4	2.4
Manufacturing.....	182	210	184	196	202	205	176	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	580	606	634	551	602	598	577	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.2
Professional and business services.....	458	359	365	415	422	426	413	2.7	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.4
Education and health services.....	281	277	254	225	279	267	252	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.4
Leisure and hospitality.....	500	595	558	569	607	561	508	3.9	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.7	4.3	3.9
Government.....	131	142	139	143	139	156	144	.6	.6	.6	.7	.6	.7	.7
REGION⁵														
Northeast.....	441	333	390	369	368	383	366	1.8	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.4
South.....	1,019	1,102	1,069	1,068	1,114	1,129	995	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.1
Midwest.....	540	572	481	571	600	619	568	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.8
West.....	600	657	618	569	567	642	577	2.0	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.9	2.2	1.9

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

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

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

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

⁵ See footnote 5, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

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

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Apr. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^P	Apr. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^P
Total.....	3,723	4,088	4,258	2.7	3.0	3.1
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	3,347	3,637	3,810	2.9	3.2	3.3
Natural resources and mining.....	10	14	10	1.6	2.2	1.6
Construction.....	132	155	164	1.8	2.1	2.2
Manufacturing.....	267	323	337	1.8	2.2	2.3
Durable goods.....	179	221	234	2.0	2.4	2.5
Nondurable goods.....	88	102	103	1.6	1.9	1.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	646	648	665	2.5	2.5	2.5
Wholesale trade.....	135	151	136	2.3	2.5	2.3
Retail trade.....	414	379	414	2.7	2.5	2.7
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	97	118	115	1.9	2.3	2.3
Information.....	82	121	149	2.6	3.8	4.6
Financial activities.....	246	306	305	3.0	3.6	3.6
Finance and insurance.....	193	242	243	3.1	3.8	3.8
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	53	64	63	2.5	2.9	2.8
Professional and business services.....	659	675	756	3.8	3.8	4.2
Education and health services.....	614	690	677	3.4	3.7	3.7
Educational services.....	57	76	90	1.9	2.5	2.9
Health care and social assistance.....	557	614	587	3.7	4.0	3.8
Leisure and hospitality.....	558	567	624	4.2	4.3	4.6
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	79	71	101	4.1	3.9	5.2
Accommodations and food services.....	479	495	523	4.2	4.4	4.5
Other services.....	132	138	122	2.4	2.5	2.2
Government.....	376	451	447	1.7	2.0	2.0
Federal.....	42	45	34	1.5	1.6	1.3
State and local.....	334	407	413	1.7	2.0	2.1
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	629	717	775	2.4	2.8	3.0
South.....	1,459	1,627	1,725	3.0	3.3	3.5
Midwest.....	768	755	768	2.4	2.4	2.4
West.....	867	989	990	2.9	3.2	3.2

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

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

³ See footnote 5, table 1.

^P = preliminary.

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

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Apr. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^P	Apr. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^P
Total	4,819	4,718	4,759	3.6	3.5	3.5
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	4,577	4,441	4,516	4.1	4.0	4.0
Natural resources and mining.....	32	21	27	5.3	3.3	4.1
Construction.....	585	369	489	8.2	5.2	6.7
Manufacturing.....	330	357	327	2.3	2.5	2.3
Durable goods.....	197	216	205	2.2	2.4	2.3
Nondurable goods.....	132	141	121	2.5	2.7	2.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	1,006	1,039	959	3.9	4.0	3.7
Wholesale trade.....	162	115	139	2.8	2.0	2.4
Retail trade.....	695	754	679	4.6	5.0	4.5
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	149	170	141	3.1	3.5	2.9
Information.....	82	62	76	2.7	2.0	2.5
Financial activities.....	178	186	187	2.2	2.3	2.3
Finance and insurance.....	118	120	111	2.0	2.0	1.8
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	60	66	76	2.8	3.1	3.5
Professional and business services.....	920	914	943	5.5	5.4	5.5
Education and health services.....	442	400	432	2.5	2.3	2.4
Educational services.....	42	41	74	1.4	1.4	2.5
Health care and social assistance.....	400	359	358	2.8	2.4	2.4
Leisure and hospitality.....	822	943	868	6.5	7.5	6.7
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	161	135	172	8.7	7.8	9.3
Accommodations and food services.....	661	808	696	6.1	7.4	6.3
Other services.....	179	149	209	3.3	2.8	3.9
Government.....	241	277	243	1.1	1.2	1.1
Federal.....	37	45	29	1.3	1.7	1.1
State and local.....	205	232	214	1.1	1.2	1.1
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	850	801	819	3.4	3.2	3.2
South.....	1,748	1,752	1,751	3.7	3.7	3.6
Midwest.....	1,148	1,087	1,112	3.7	3.5	3.5
West.....	1,073	1,077	1,076	3.6	3.6	3.6

¹ Hires are the number of hires during the entire month.

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

³ See footnote 5, table 1.

^P = preliminary.

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

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Apr. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^P	Apr. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^P
Total	4,267	4,132	4,087	3.2	3.1	3.0
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	4,068	3,909	3,886	3.7	3.5	3.4
Natural resources and mining.....	16	25	24	2.6	3.9	3.6
Construction.....	347	392	311	4.9	5.5	4.2
Manufacturing.....	374	400	348	2.6	2.8	2.5
Durable goods.....	256	216	180	2.9	2.4	2.0
Nondurable goods.....	118	184	169	2.3	3.5	3.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	872	902	840	3.4	3.5	3.3
Wholesale trade.....	132	132	137	2.3	2.3	2.3
Retail trade.....	611	622	582	4.1	4.1	3.9
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	129	148	121	2.6	3.0	2.5
Information.....	78	63	78	2.5	2.1	2.6
Financial activities.....	178	198	174	2.2	2.4	2.1
Finance and insurance.....	114	133	120	1.9	2.2	2.0
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	64	64	54	3.0	3.0	2.5
Professional and business services.....	915	747	820	5.5	4.4	4.8
Education and health services.....	401	365	389	2.3	2.1	2.2
Educational services.....	36	41	39	1.2	1.4	1.3
Health care and social assistance.....	365	324	350	2.5	2.2	2.4
Leisure and hospitality.....	693	624	740	5.5	4.9	5.7
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	107	68	95	5.8	3.9	5.1
Accommodations and food services.....	586	556	645	5.4	5.1	5.8
Other services.....	194	193	161	3.6	3.6	3.0
Government.....	199	223	201	.9	1.0	.9
Federal.....	29	51	25	1.1	1.9	.9
State and local.....	171	173	176	.9	.9	.9
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	762	595	654	3.0	2.4	2.6
South.....	1,666	1,592	1,582	3.5	3.3	3.3
Midwest.....	899	868	849	2.9	2.8	2.7
West.....	940	1,077	1,002	3.2	3.6	3.4

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

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

³ See footnote 5, table 1.

^P = preliminary.

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

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Apr. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^P	Apr. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^P
Total	2,471	2,496	2,367	1.9	1.9	1.8
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	2,368	2,376	2,254	2.1	2.1	2.0
Natural resources and mining.....	9	13	11	1.4	2.0	1.7
Construction.....	142	169	171	2.0	2.4	2.3
Manufacturing.....	184	199	175	1.3	1.4	1.2
Durable goods.....	116	117	103	1.3	1.3	1.1
Nondurable goods.....	68	81	71	1.3	1.6	1.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	537	558	527	2.1	2.2	2.0
Wholesale trade.....	72	86	80	1.3	1.5	1.4
Retail trade.....	407	398	377	2.7	2.6	2.5
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	58	74	70	1.2	1.5	1.4
Information.....	52	44	59	1.7	1.4	1.9
Financial activities.....	93	106	103	1.1	1.3	1.2
Finance and insurance.....	60	85	68	1.0	1.4	1.1
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	33	21	35	1.6	1.0	1.6
Professional and business services.....	454	424	410	2.7	2.5	2.4
Education and health services.....	268	246	239	1.5	1.4	1.3
Educational services.....	20	19	19	.7	.6	.6
Health care and social assistance.....	248	227	220	1.7	1.5	1.5
Leisure and hospitality.....	481	467	486	3.8	3.7	3.8
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	50	36	49	2.7	2.1	2.6
Accommodations and food services.....	431	431	438	4.0	4.0	4.0
Other services.....	148	151	72	2.8	2.8	1.3
Government.....	103	120	113	.5	.5	.5
Federal.....	10	22	14	.4	.8	.5
State and local.....	93	98	99	.5	.5	.5
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	396	335	321	1.6	1.3	1.3
South.....	1,010	1,017	983	2.1	2.1	2.0
Midwest.....	503	548	527	1.6	1.8	1.7
West.....	563	595	536	1.9	2.0	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 See footnote 5, table 1.

^P = preliminary.

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

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Apr. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^P	Apr. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^P
Total.....	1,522	1,319	1,368	1.1	1.0	1.0
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	1,467	1,262	1,317	1.3	1.1	1.2
Natural resources and mining.....	5	10	10	.9	1.5	1.6
Construction.....	192	202	114	2.7	2.8	1.6
Manufacturing.....	156	170	140	1.1	1.2	1.0
Durable goods.....	115	78	58	1.3	.9	.6
Nondurable goods.....	41	93	81	.8	1.8	1.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	280	265	238	1.1	1.0	.9
Wholesale trade.....	56	37	43	1.0	.6	.7
Retail trade.....	174	173	169	1.2	1.1	1.1
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	51	56	25	1.0	1.1	.5
Information.....	16	14	14	.5	.5	.5
Financial activities.....	62	74	44	.8	.9	.5
Finance and insurance.....	36	38	28	.6	.6	.5
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	26	37	16	1.2	1.7	.8
Professional and business services.....	408	266	346	2.4	1.6	2.0
Education and health services.....	114	94	109	.7	.5	.6
Educational services.....	13	17	17	.4	.6	.6
Health care and social assistance.....	100	77	93	.7	.5	.6
Leisure and hospitality.....	193	135	225	1.5	1.1	1.7
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	54	30	44	2.9	1.7	2.3
Accommodations and food services.....	139	105	181	1.3	1.0	1.6
Other services.....	41	31	78	.8	.6	1.4
Government.....	55	57	50	.2	.3	.2
Federal.....	7	11	4	.3	.4	.1
State and local.....	48	45	47	.2	.2	.2
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	311	203	260	1.2	.8	1.0
South.....	551	470	457	1.2	1.0	.9
Midwest.....	332	267	260	1.1	.9	.8
West.....	327	379	390	1.1	1.3	1.3

¹ Layoffs and discharges are the number of layoffs and discharges during the entire month.

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

³ See footnote 5, table 1.

^P = preliminary.

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

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Apr. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^P	Apr. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006 ^P
Total	274	317	353	0.2	0.2	0.3
INDUSTRY						
Total private.....	233	270	315	.2	.2	.3
Natural resources and mining.....	2	3	2	.4	.5	.3
Construction.....	13	21	26	.2	.3	.4
Manufacturing.....	34	31	34	.2	.2	.2
Durable goods.....	25	21	18	.3	.2	.2
Nondurable goods.....	9	10	16	.2	.2	.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	55	78	76	.2	.3	.3
Wholesale trade.....	4	9	14	.1	.2	.2
Retail trade.....	30	52	36	.2	.3	.2
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	20	18	26	.4	.4	.5
Information.....	10	5	5	.3	.2	.2
Financial activities.....	23	17	27	.3	.2	.3
Finance and insurance.....	19	11	24	.3	.2	.4
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	5	7	3	.2	.3	.1
Professional and business services.....	53	57	65	.3	.3	.4
Education and health services.....	19	24	41	.1	.1	.2
Educational services.....	3	4	4	.1	.1	.1
Health care and social assistance.....	16	20	37	.1	.1	.3
Leisure and hospitality.....	19	22	29	.1	.2	.2
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	2	2	3	0.1	.1	.2
Accommodations and food services.....	17	20	26	.2	.2	.2
Other services.....	4	12	11	.1	.2	.2
Government.....	42	47	38	.2	.2	.2
Federal.....	12	17	7	.4	.6	.3
State and local.....	30	29	30	.2	.2	.2
REGION ³						
Northeast.....	55	56	73	.2	.2	.3
South.....	105	105	142	.2	.2	.3
Midwest.....	64	54	62	.2	.2	.2
West.....	50	102	76	.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.

³ See footnote 5, table 1.

⁴ Data round to zero.

^P = preliminary.