

NEWS RELEASE



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JOB OPENINGS AND LABOR TURNOVER - OCTOBER 2010

There were 3.4 million job openings on the last business day of October, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The job openings rate increased over the month to 2.5 percent. The hires rate remained at 3.2 percent in October, while the separations rate was essentially unchanged at 3.1 percent. 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, November 2007 - October 2010



NOTE: The shaded area represents the recession that began in Dec. 2007 and ended in June 2009 as designated by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER).

Chart 2. Hires and separations rates, seasonally adjusted, November 2007 - October 2010



NOTE: The shaded area represents the recession that began in Dec. 2007 and ended in June 2009 as designated by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER).

Job Openings

The number of job openings in October was 3.4 million, which was up from 3.0 million in September. Since the most recent series trough in July 2009, the number of job openings has risen by 1.0 million or 44 percent. (See table 1.) This trough immediately followed the end of the recession in June 2009 (as designated by the National Bureau of Economic Research). Even with the gains since July 2009, the number of job openings in October remained 1.0 million below the 4.4 million openings when the recession began in December 2007.

The number of job openings in October (not seasonally adjusted) increased from 12 months earlier for total nonfarm and total private. The level was little changed over the year for government overall but decreased for federal government. Over the year, the job openings level increased in seven industries and decreased in two industries. The job openings level was up over the year in 3 of the 4 regions: the Northeast, South, and West. (See table 5.)

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

Table A. Job openings, filles, and total sep	aration	io by iii	uusti y	3000	_	ıjustcu				
	Jo	b openii	ngs		Hires		Tota	l separa	ations	
Industry	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.	
	2009	2010	2010 ^p	2009	2010	2010 ^p	2009	2010	2010 ^p	
				Levels	(in thou	ısands)				
Total	2,546	3,011	3,362	4,001	4,208	4,196	4,171	4,139	4,047	
Total private ¹	2,164	2,658	3,027	3,689	3,953	3,929	3,901	3,761	3,768	
Construction	65	71	56	325	336	370	381	334	346	
Manufacturing	141	203	205	243	260	269	293	261	271	
Trade, transportation, and utilities 2	363	472	488	772	863	849	844	813	806	
Retail trade	228	265	280	518	606	603	567	569	560	
Professional and business services	436	559	744	709	818	778	717	774	770	
Education and health services	529	529	632	522	514	482	473	487	434	
Leisure and hospitality		307	339	663	714	688	707	675	693	
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	19	41	36	100	118	100	128	105	107	
Accommodation and food services	249	266	303	563	595	588	579	570	586	
Government ³	382	354	335	312	254	267	269	378	279	
State and local government	292	250	265	271	222	234	242	269	239	
					es (perd					
Total	1.9	2.3	2.5	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1	
Total private ¹	2.0	2.4	2.7	3.4	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	
Construction	1.1	1.2	1.0	5.7	6.0	6.6	6.6	5.9	6.2	
Manufacturing	1.2	1.7	1.7	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.2	2.3	
Trade, transportation, and utilities 2	1.4	1.9	1.9	3.1	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2	
Retail trade	1.6	1.8	1.9	3.6	4.2	4.2	3.9	3.9	3.9	
Professional and business services	2.6	3.2	4.2	4.3	4.9	4.6	4.4	4.6	4.6	
Education and health services	2.7	2.6	3.1	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.2	
Leisure and hospitality		2.3	2.5	5.1	5.4	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.3	
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1.0	2.1	1.8	5.2	6.2	5.3	6.7	5.5	5.7	
Accommodation and food services	2.2	2.3	2.6	5.1	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	
Government ³	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.7	1.3	
State and local government	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.2	

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

Hires

In October, the hires rate remained at 3.2 percent for total nonfarm and the rate was essentially unchanged for all industries and regions. There were 4.2 million hires during the month, 9 percent higher than the most recent series trough in June 2009. (See table 2.) This trough coincided with the official end of the recession. Despite the gains since June 2009, the number of hires in October remained below the 5.0 million hires when the recession began in December 2007. Since their respective troughs, the hires level has risen at a slower pace than the job openings level.

Over the 12 months ending in October, the hires rate (not seasonally adjusted) was little changed for total nonfarm and total private but fell slightly for government. The hires rate increased over the past 12 months in retail trade, decreased in real estate and rental and leasing, and was essentially unchanged in the remaining industries. (See table 6.)

² Includes wholesale trade and transportation, warehousing, and utilities, not shown separately.

³ Includes federal government, not shown separately.

^p = preliminary.

Separations

Total separations includes quits (voluntary separations), layoffs and discharges (involuntary separations), and other separations (including retirements). The total separations, or turnover, rate in October was little changed for total nonfarm and total private, but the rate decreased for government. Over the 12 months ending in October, the total separations rate (not seasonally adjusted) was little changed for total nonfarm, total private, and government. (See tables 3 and 7.)

The quits rate can serve as a measure of workers' willingness or ability to change jobs. In October, the quits rate was little changed for total nonfarm (1.5 percent), total private (1.7 percent), and government (0.5 percent) and in every industry and region. (See table 4.) The number of quits in October (2.0 million) is somewhat higher than the series trough in September 2009 (1.7 million), but it is still well below the series peak in November 2006 (3.2 million).

Over the 12 months ending in October, the quits rate (not seasonally adjusted) increased for total nonfarm; total private; professional and business services; and arts, entertainment, and recreation as well as in the Midwest and South regions. (See table 8.)

The layoffs and discharges component of total separations is seasonally adjusted at the total nonfarm, total private, and government levels. The layoffs and discharges level was essentially unchanged in October for total nonfarm and total private but fell for government. The number of layoffs and discharges for total nonfarm peaked at 2.6 million in January 2009, falling to 1.7 million in October 2010. In government, the number of layoffs and discharges in October (108,000) was lower than when the recession began in December 2007 (117,000). (See table B below.)

The layoffs and discharges level (not seasonally adjusted) declined over the 12 months ending in October for total nonfarm and total private, but the level increased in federal government. The layoffs and discharges level declined over the year in many industries and in the South and Midwest regions. (See table 9.)

Table B. Layoffs and discharges, seasonally adjusted

	Levels	(in thou	sands)	Rates (percent)			
Industry	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.	
	2009	2010	2010 ^p	2009	2010	2010 ^p	
Total Total private Government	2,063 1,960 103	1,808 1,614 194	1,717 1,610 108		1.4 1.5 0.9	1.3 1.5 0.5	

^p = preliminary.

The other separations series is not seasonally adjusted. In October, there were 302,000 other separations for total nonfarm, 257,000 for total private, and 44,000 for government. Compared to October 2009, the number of other separations was little changed for total nonfarm and total private. The number of other separations decreased over the year for federal government. (See table 10.)

Relative Contributions to Separations

The total separations level is influenced by the relative contribution of its three components—quits, layoffs and discharges, and other separations. The percentage of total separations at the total nonfarm level attributable to the individual components has varied over time, but for the majority of the months

since the series began in December 2000, the proportion of quits has exceeded the proportion of layoffs and discharges. Other separations is historically a very small portion of total separations; it has rarely been above 10 percent of the total.

Since February 2010, the proportions of quits and of layoffs and discharges at the total nonfarm level have been close. In October 2010, the proportion of guits for total nonfarm was 49 percent and the proportion of layoffs and discharges was 42 percent. For total private, the proportions were 50 percent quits and 43 percent layoffs and discharges. For government, the proportions were 39 percent quits and 39 percent layoffs and discharges. The proportion of layoffs and discharges in government had been higher than usual in parts of 2009 and 2010 due to layoffs of temporary Census 2010 workers. This proportion decreased in October as most temporary Census 2010 workers had already been discharged. (See table C below.)

Table C. Quits and layoffs and discharges as a percentage of total separations, seasonally adjusted

(Levels in thousands)

			Q	uits			Layoffs and discharges					ges	
	С	ct.	Sept.		_ c	Oct.		Oct.		Sept.		ct.	
Industry	20	009	20	010	20)10 ^p	20	009	20	010	20)10 ^p	
ilidusti y		Portion		Portion		Portion		Portion		Portion		Portion	
	Level	of total	Level	of total	Level	of total	Level	of total	Level	of total	Level	of total	
Total	1,723	41%	1,983	48%	1,997	49%	2,063	49%	1,808	44%	1,717	42%	
Total private	1,620	42%	1,860	49%	1,887	50%	1,960	50%	1,614	43%	1,610	43%	
Government	102	38%	124	33%	110	39%	103	38%	194	51%	108	39%	

p = preliminary.

Net Change in Employment

Over the 12 months ending in October, hires (not seasonally adjusted) totaled nearly 50.8 million and separations (not seasonally adjusted) totaled 50.0 million, yielding a net employment gain of 0.7 million. These figures include workers who may have been hired and separated more than once during the year.

The Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey results for November 2010 are scheduled to be released on Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. (EST).

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

In a monthly survey of business establishments, data are collected for total employment, job openings, hires, quits, layoffs and discharges, and other separations. Data collection methods include computer-assisted telephone interviewing, touchtone data entry, web, fax, e-mail, 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 2007 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. Fulltime, 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 fulltime, 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 are 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.

Special collection procedures

An implied measure of employment change can be derived from the JOLTS data by subtracting separations from hires for a given month. Aggregating these monthly changes historically produced employment levels that overstated employment change as measured by CES at the total nonfarm level. Research into this problem showed that a significant amount of the divergence between the CES employment levels and the derived JOLTS employment levels was traceable to the Employment Services industry and to the State Government Education industry. In the former industry, businesses have a difficult time reporting hires and separations of temporary help workers. In the latter industry, employers have difficulty reporting hires and separations of student workers. BLS now devotes additional resources to the collection, editing, and review of data for these industries. BLS analysts more closely examine reported data that do not provide a consistent picture over time, and re-contact the respondents as necessary. Analysts work with the respondents to adjust their reporting practices as possible. Units that cannot be reconciled but are clearly incorrect on a consistent basis are not used; they are replaced by imputed values using standard techniques.

Sample and estimation methodology

The JOLTS survey 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 9.1 million establishments compiled as part of the operations of the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (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. The JOLTS sample is constructed from individual panels of sample units drawn on an annual basis. The full annual sample consists of one certainty panel composed of only large units selected with virtual certainty based on their size and 24 non-certainty panels. Each month a new noncertainty panel is rolled into collection, and the oldest non-certainty panel is rolled out. This means that at any given time the JOLTS sample is constructed from panels from three different annual sampling frames. The entire sample of old plus new panels is poststratified and re-weighted annually to represent the most recent sampling frame. Additionally, the out-ofbusiness establishments are removed from the old panels. The annual sample is supplemented with a quarterly sample of birth establishments (i.e., new establishments) to better reflect the impact of younger establishments in the JOLTS sample.

JOLTS total employment estimates are benchmarked monthly 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.

JOLTS business birth/death model

As with any sample survey, the JOLTS sample can only be as current as its sampling frame. The time lag from the birth of an establishment until its appearance on the sampling frame is approximately one year. In addition, many of these new units may fail within the first year. Since these universe units cannot be reflected on the sampling frame immediately, the JOLTS sample cannot capture job openings, hires, and sepa-

rations from these units during their early existence. BLS has developed a model to estimate birth/death activity for current months by examining the birth/death activity from previous years on the QCEW and projecting forward to the present using an econometric technique known as X-12 ARIMA modeling. The birth/death model also uses historical JOLTS data to estimate the amount of "churn" (hires and separations) that exists in establishments of various sizes. The model then combines the estimated churn with the projected employment change to estimate the number of hires and separations taking place in these units that cannot be measured through sampling.

The model-based estimate of total separations is distributed to the three components—quits; layoffs and discharges; and other separations—in proportion to their contribution to the sample-based estimate of total separations. Additionally, job openings for the modeled units are estimated by computing the ratio of openings to hires in the collected data and applying that ratio to the modeled hires. The estimates of job openings, hires, and separations produced by the birth/death model are then added to the sample-based estimates produced from the survey to arrive at the estimates for openings, hires, and separations.

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.

JOLTS uses moving averages as seasonal filters in seasonal adjustment. JOLTS seasonal adjustment includes both additive and multiplicative seasonal adjustment models and REGARIMA (regression with autocorrelated errors) modeling to improve the seasonal adjustment factors at the beginning and end of the series and to detect and adjust for outliers in the series.

Alignment procedure

JOLTS hires minus separations should be comparable to the CES net employment change. However, definitional differences as well as sampling and non-sampling errors between the two surveys historically caused JOLTS to diverge from CES over time. To limit the divergence, and improve the quality of the JOLTS

hires and separations series, BLS implemented the Monthly Alignment Method. The Monthly Alignment Method applies the CES employment trends to the seasonally adjusted JOLTS implied employment trend (hires minus separations) forcing them to be approximately the same, while preserving the seasonality of the JOLTS data. First, the two series are seasonally adjusted and the difference between the JOLTS implied employment trend and the CES net employment change is calculated. Next, the JOLTS implied employment trend is adjusted to equal the CES net employment change through a proportional adjustment. This proportional adjustment procedure adjusts the two components (hires, separations) proportionally to their contribution to the total churn (hires plus separations). For example, if hires are 40 percent of the churn for a given month, they will receive 40 percent of the needed adjustment and separations will receive 60 percent of the needed adjustment. The adjusted hires and separations are converted back to not seasonally adjusted data by reversing the application of the original seasonal factors. After the Monthly Alignment Method has been used to adjust the level estimates, rate estimates are computed from the adjusted levels. The monthly alignment procedure assures a close match of the JOLTS implied employment trend with the CES trend. The CES series is considered a highly accurate measure of net employment change owing to its very large sample size and annual benchmarking to universe counts of employment from the OCEW program.

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 to 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.

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 non-sampling 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.

Other information

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Job openings levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, seasonally adjusted

			Levels	³ (in thou	usands)						Rates			
Industry and region	Oct. 2009	May 2010	June 2010	July 2010	Aug. 2010	Sept. 2010	Oct. 2010 ^p	Oct. 2009	May 2010	June 2010	July 2010	Aug. 2010	Sept. 2010	Oct. 2010 ^p
Total	2,546	2,939	2,864	3,141	3,092	3,011	3,362	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.5
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	2,164	2,597	2,537	2,821	2,752	2,658	3,027	2.0	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.7
Construction	65	79	53	101	65	71	56	1.1	1.4	.9	1.8	1.1	1.2	1.0
Manufacturing	141	205	226	238	190	203	205	1.2	1.7	1.9	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities 5	363	452	449	485	449	472	488	1.4	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9
Retail trade	228	274	284	295	263	265	280	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.9
Professional and business services	436	601	514	564	590	559	744	2.6	3.5	3.0	3.3	3.4	3.2	4.2
Education and health services	529	512	487	515	487	529	632	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.6	3.1
Leisure and hospitality	268	288	317	365	381	307	339	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.3	2.5
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.	19	41	55	42	41	41	36	1.0	2.1	2.8	2.1	2.1	2.1	1.8
Accommodation and food services.	249	247	263	323	340	266	303	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.8	2.9	2.3	2.6
Government ⁶	382	342	327	320	341	354	335	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.5
State and local government	292	237	238	246	257	250	265	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3
REGION 7														
Northeast	532	657	631	639	666	565	676	2.1	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.2	2.7
South	915	1,078	982	1,100	1,159	1,101	1,293	1.9	2.2	2.0	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.7
Midwest	566	568	604	617	647	552	642	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.8	2.1
West	605	689	632	696	730	665	833	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.8

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

⁷ 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 levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, seasonally adjusted

			Levels	³ (in thou	usands)						Rates			
Industry and region	Oct.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Oct.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
	2009	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010 ^p	2009	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010 ^p
Total	4,001	4,581	4,250	4,275	4,156	4,208	4,196	3.1	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	3,689	3,846	3,946	3,985	3,891	3,953	3,929	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.6
Construction	325	321	289	361	357	336	370	5.7	5.7	5.2	6.4	6.4	6.0	6.6
Manufacturing	243	266	267	297	274	260	269	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities 5	772	819	876	864	798	863	849	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.5	3.4
Retail trade	518	567	589	608	571	606	603	3.6	3.9	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.2
Professional and business services	709	805	825	810	831	818	778	4.3	4.8	4.9	4.8	5.0	4.9	4.6
Education and health services	522	479	523	515	492	514	482	2.7	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.4
Leisure and hospitality	663	678	691	712	688	714	688	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.4	5.2
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.	100	105	127	119	109	118	100	5.2	5.5	6.7	6.2	5.7	6.2	5.3
Accommodation and food services.	563	573	564	593	579	595	588	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.2
Government ⁶	312	735	304	289	264	254	267	1.4	3.2	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.2
State and local government	271	246	247	247	228	222	234	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.2
REGION ⁷														
Northeast	805	844	718	731	702	787	753	3.3	3.4	2.9	3.0	2.8	3.2	3.0
South	1,420	1,681	1,505	1,531	1,541	1,562	1,550	3.0	3.6	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3
Midwest	949	1,090	1,013	1,011	946	924	973	3.2	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.3
West	933	1,014	923	923	870	950	931	3.2	3.5	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.3	3.2

¹ Hires are the number of hires during the entire 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 and because not all series are shown.

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

 $^{^{\}rm 5}$ Includes wholesale trade and transportation, warehousing, and utilities, not shown separately.

⁶ Includes federal government, not shown separately.

p = preliminary.

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 and because not all series are shown.

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

⁵ Includes wholesale trade and transportation, warehousing, and utilities not shown separately.

⁶ Includes federal government, not shown separately.

⁷ See footnote 7, table 1.

p = preliminary.

Table 3. Total separations levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, seasonally adjusted

			Levels	³ (in tho	usands)						Rates			
Industry and region	Oct.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Oct.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
	2009	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010 ^p	2009	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010 ^p
Total	4,171	4,146	4,436	4,390	4,210	4,139	4,047	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.1
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	3,901	3,816	3,884	3,940	3,796	3,761	3,768	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.5
Construction	381	340	314	361	321	334	346	6.6	6.1	5.6	6.5	5.7	5.9	6.2
Manufacturing	293	238	260	271	279	261	271	2.5	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities 5	844	800	874	855	814	813	806	3.4	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.2
Retail trade	567	574	604	613	583	569	560	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.9
Professional and business services	717	806	777	830	808	774	770	4.4	4.8	4.7	5.0	4.8	4.6	4.6
Education and health services	473	446	493	491	454	487	434	2.5	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.5	2.2
Leisure and hospitality	707	707	668	701	663	675	693	5.4	5.4	5.1	5.3	5.0	5.1	5.3
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	128	122	113	121	106	105	107	6.7	6.5	5.9	6.3	5.5	5.5	5.7
Accommodation and food services	579	585	555	580	557	570	586	5.2	5.2	5.0	5.2	5.0	5.1	5.2
Government ⁶	269	331	552	450	414	378	279	1.2	1.4	2.4	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.3
State and local government	242	263	275	268	267	269	239	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.2
REGION ⁷														
Northeast	727	734	748	775	731	707	738	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.0
South	1,544	1,521	1,606	1,533	1,602	1,553	1,442	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.1
Midwest	920	988	981	1,018	930	984	900	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.1	3.3	3.0
West	939	920	928	929	889	910	864	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.0

 $^{^{\}rm 1}\!$ Total separations are the number of total separations during the entire month.

Table 4. Quits levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, seasonally adjusted

			Levels	³ (in tho	usands)						Rates			
Industry and region	Oct.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Oct.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
	2009	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010 ^p	2009	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010 ^p
Total	1,723	1,929	1,951	1,974	1,998	1,983	1,997	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	1,620	1,828	1,819	1,855	1,881	1,860	1,887	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Construction	62	64	67	72	81	85	82	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5
Manufacturing	80	96	105	97	107	95	106	.7	.8	.9	.8	.9	.8	.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities 5	382	438	443	451	425	452	430	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.7
Retail trade	287	338	331	347	322	351	331	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.3
Professional and business services	277	330	325	357	385	350	385	1.7	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.3
Education and health services	267	254	268	258	249	245	249	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Leisure and hospitality	356	428	373	401	407	394	416	2.7	3.3	2.8	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.2
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	39	39	26	31	36	39	54	2.0	2.0	1.4	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.8
Accommodation and food services	317	390	347	370	370	355	362	2.8	3.5	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2
Government ⁶	102	101	131	119	117	124	110	.5	.4	.6	.5	.5	.6	.5
State and local government	98	88	105	100	101	112	99	.5	.4	.5	.5	.5	.6	.5
REGION 7														
Northeast	300	286	341	318	333	271	284	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1
South	677	736	796	749	791	804	768	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.6
Midwest	382	496	438	475	452	410	484	1.3	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.6
West	388	433	437	404	425	411	425	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5

¹ Quits are the number of quits 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 and because not all series are shown.

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

⁵ Includes wholesale trade and transportation, warehousing, and utilities not shown separately.

⁶ Includes federal government, not shown separately.

⁷ See footnote 7, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

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 and because not all series are shown.

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

⁵ Includes wholesale trade and transportation, warehousing, and utilities not shown separately.

⁶ Includes federal government, not shown separately.

⁷ See footnote 7, table 1.

p = preliminary.

Table 5. Job openings levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted

	Lev	els (in thousa	nds)	Rates			
Industry and region	Oct. 2009	Sept. 2010	Oct. 2010 ^p	Oct. 2009	Sept. 2010	Oct. 2010 ^p	
Total	2,676	2,998	3,573	2.0	2.2	2.6	
INDUSTRY							
Total private	2,284	2,672	3,222	2.1	2.4	2.9	
Mining and logging	6	17	20	.9	2.2	2.6	
Construction	58	76	46	1.0	1.3	.8	
Manufacturing	147	213	207	1.2	1.8	1.7	
Durable goods	69	146	142	1.0	2.0	1.9	
Nondurable goods	78	68	65	1.7	1.5	1.4	
Trade, transportation, and utilities	407	521	550	1.6	2.1	2.2	
Wholesale trade	76	98	107	1.3	1.7	1.9	
Retail trade	275	305	340	1.9	2.1	2.3	
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	56	118	103	1.2	2.4	2.1	
Information	89	64	83	3.1	2.3	3.0	
Financial activities	171	293	328	2.2	3.7	4.2	
Finance and insurance	104	267	290	1.8	4.5	4.9	
Real estate and rental and leasing	67	27	39	3.3	1.4	2.0	
Professional and business services	475	553	827	2.8	3.2	4.6	
Education and health services	543	509	663	2.7	2.5	3.2	
Educational services	37	47	61	1.1	1.5	1.8	
Health care and social assistance	506	462	602	3.0	2.7	3.5	
Leisure and hospitality	278	302	358	2.1	2.2	2.7	
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	20	36	38	1.1	1.7	2.0	
Accommodation and food services	257	267	320	2.3	2.3	2.8	
Other services	111	122	140	2.0	2.2	2.5	
Government	392	326	352	1.7	1.5	1.5	
Federal	103	89	76	3.5	3.0	2.6	
State and local	289	237	276	1.4	1.2	1.4	
REGION ³							
Northeast	569	587	719	2.2	2.3	2.8	
South	926	1,128	1,354	1.9	2.3	2.8	
Midwest	598	608	682	2.0	2.0	2.2	
West	582	675	818	2.0	2.3	2.7	

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 7, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

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

	Lev	els (in thousa	nds)	Rates			
Industry and region	Oct. 2009	Sept. 2010	Oct. 2010 ^p	Oct. 2009	Sept. 2010	Oct. 2010 ^p	
Total	4,273	4,391	4,475	3.3	3.4	3.4	
INDUSTRY							
Total private	3,961	4,036	4,208	3.7	3.7	3.9	
Mining and logging	19	21	26	2.8	2.7	3.4	
Construction	318	302	367	5.3	5.2	6.3	
Manufacturing	259	277	283	2.2	2.4	2.4	
Durable goods	125	141	153	1.8	2.0	2.1	
Nondurable goods	134	136	130	2.9	3.0	2.9	
Trade, transportation, and utilities	895	948	986	3.6	3.8	4.0	
Wholesale trade	133	149	126	2.4	2.6	2.2	
Retail trade	620	652	717	4.3	4.5	4.9	
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	142	148	143	3.0	3.1	3.0	
Information	66	57	72	2.4	2.1	2.7	
Financial activities	221	175	209	2.9	2.3	2.8	
Finance and insurance	138	129	157	2.4	2.3	2.8	
Real estate and rental and leasing	83	45	53	4.2	2.3	2.7	
Professional and business services	780	776	838	4.7	4.6	4.9	
Education and health services	575	612	526	3.0	3.1	2.6	
Educational services	98	142	90	3.0	4.6	2.7	
Health care and social assistance	477	470	436	2.9	2.9	2.6	
Leisure and hospitality	657	683	678	5.1	5.1	5.2	
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	80	106	75	4.3	5.3	4.1	
Accommodation and food services	577	577	603	5.2	5.1	5.3	
Other services	171	185	223	3.2	3.4	4.1	
Government	311	356	266	1.4	1.6	1.2	
Federal	41	35	33	1.4	1.2	1.2	
State and local	271	321	233	1.4	1.7	1.2	
REGION ³							
Northeast	820	877	804	3.3	3.5	3.2	
South	1,484	1,568	1,638	3.1	3.3	3.4	
Midwest	1,015	953	1,056	3.4	3.2	3.5	
West	954	993	977	3.3	3.4	3.4	

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 7, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

Table 7. Total separations levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted

	Lev	els (in thousa	nds)	Rates			
Industry and region	Oct. 2009	Sept. 2010	Oct. 2010 ^p	Oct. 2009	Sept. 2010	Oct. 2010 ^p	
Total	4,493	4,242	4,349	3.4	3.2	3.3	
INDUSTRY							
Total private	4,267	3,802	4,119	4.0	3.5	3.8	
Mining and logging	26	18	20	3.8	2.4	2.6	
Construction	438	326	400	7.3	5.6	6.8	
Manufacturing	332	251	310	2.8	2.1	2.6	
Durable goods	178	128	168	2.5	1.8	2.3	
Nondurable goods	153	124	142	3.4	2.7	3.1	
Trade, transportation, and utilities	868	806	825	3.5	3.3	3.3	
Wholesale trade	140	130	125	2.5	2.3	2.2	
Retail trade	572	557	560	4.0	3.9	3.9	
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	156	118	140	3.3	2.5	2.9	
Information	71	52	71	2.6	1.9	2.6	
Financial activities	236	158	205	3.1	2.1	2.7	
Finance and insurance	140	108	144	2.5	1.9	2.5	
Real estate and rental and leasing	96	50	61	4.8	2.6	3.1	
Professional and business services	768	726	816	4.6	4.3	4.8	
Education and health services	461	492	414	2.4	2.5	2.1	
Educational services	60	80	46	1.8	2.6	1.4	
Health care and social assistance	401	412	368	2.5	2.5	2.2	
Leisure and hospitality	870	811	863	6.7	6.1	6.6	
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	194	177	167	10.4	8.8	9.0	
Accommodation and food services	675	634	696	6.1	5.6	6.2	
Other services	199	162	194	3.7	3.0	3.6	
Government	226	440	231	1.0	2.0	1.0	
Federal	23	115	36	.8	4.0	1.3	
State and local	203	324	195	1.0	1.7	1.0	
REGION ³							
Northeast	777	786	812	3.1	3.2	3.3	
South	1,666	1,507	1,565	3.5	3.2	3.3	
Midwest	1,014	1,022	999	3.4	3.4	3.3	
West	1,037	926	972	3.6	3.2	3.3	

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 7, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

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

	Lev	els (in thousa	nds)	Rates			
Industry and region	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.	
	2009	2010	2010 ^p	2009	2010	2010 ^p	
Total	1,853	2,071	2,164	1.4	1.6	1.6	
INDUSTRY							
Total private	1,767	1,934	2,073	1.6	1.8	1.9	
Mining and logging	6	10	10	.9	1.3	1.3	
Construction	70	87	95	1.2	1.5	1.6	
Manufacturing	94	101	123	.8	.9	1.1	
Durable goods	41	44	57	.6	.6	.8	
Nondurable goods	53	57	66	1.2	1.2	1.5	
Trade, transportation, and utilities	407	469	450	1.6	1.9	1.8	
Wholesale trade	38	48	48	.7	.9	.9	
Retail trade	304	364	345	2.1	2.5	2.4	
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	65	58	57	1.4	1.2	1.2	
Information	30	27	41	1.1	1.0	1.5	
Financial activities	95	102	94	1.2	1.3	1.2	
Finance and insurance	67	61	67	1.2	1.1	1.2	
Real estate and rental and leasing	28	40	26	1.4	2.1	1.4	
Professional and business services	300	329	438	1.8	2.0	2.6	
Education and health services	282	258	263	1.5	1.3	1.3	
Educational services	33	39	32	1.0	1.3	1.0	
Health care and social assistance	250	218	231	1.5	1.3	1.4	
Leisure and hospitality	397	464	467	3.1	3.5	3.6	
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	42	60	63	2.3	3.0	3.4	
Accommodation and food services	355	404	404	3.2	3.5	3.6	
Other services	86	88	91	1.6	1.6	1.7	
Government	87	137	91	.4	.6	.4	
Federal	3	13	7	.1	.4	.3	
State and local	84	124	84	.4	.6	.4	
REGION ³							
Northeast	316	335	316	1.3	1.4	1.3	
South	723	818	834	1.5	1.4	1.8	
Midwest	416	463	555	1.5	1.7	1.0	
West	398	463 455	458	1.4	1.6	1.6	
vv &>(390	455	400	1.4	0.1	0.1	

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 7, table 1.

^p = preliminary.

Table 9. Layoffs and discharges levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted

	Lev	els (in thousa	nds)	Rates			
Industry and region	Oct. 2009	Sept. 2010	Oct. 2010 ^p	Oct. 2009	Sept. 2010	Oct. 2010 ^p	
Total	2,283	1,817	1,884	1.7	1.4	1.4	
INDUSTRY							
Total private	2,193	1,583	1,788	2.0	1.5	1.6	
Mining and logging	18	7	8	2.7	1.0	1.0	
Construction	362	225	280	6.0	3.8	4.8	
Manufacturing	220	136	167	1.9	1.2	1.4	
Durable goods	128	74	99	1.8	1.0	1.4	
Nondurable goods	92	61	68	2.0	1.4	1.5	
Trade, transportation, and utilities	343	257	309	1.4	1.0	1.2	
Wholesale trade	59	69	65	1.1	1.2	1.2	
Retail trade	216	145	171	1.5	1.0	1.2	
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	68	43	72	1.4	.9	1.5	
Information	29	17	24	1.1	.6	.9	
Financial activities	119	44	95	1.6	.6	1.3	
Finance and insurance	54	35	63	.9	.6	1.1	
Real estate and rental and leasing	65	9	32	3.3	.4	1.6	
Professional and business services	407	323	333	2.4	1.9	2.0	
Education and health services	153	204	122	.8	1.0	.6	
Educational services	25	37	12	.8	1.2	.4	
Health care and social assistance	128	166	110	.8	1.0	.7	
Leisure and hospitality	448	311	367	3.4	2.3	2.8	
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	144	115	100	7.7	5.7	5.4	
Accommodation and food services	303	196	267	2.7	1.7	2.4	
Other services	94	61	85	1.8	1.1	1.6	
Government	90	234	96	.4	1.1	.4	
Federal	7	92	22	.3	3.2	.8	
State and local	83	142	74	.4	.7	.4	
REGION ³							
Northeast	408	373	436	1.6	1.5	1.7	
South	825	556	608	1.7	1.2	1.3	
Midwest	515	483	370	1.7	1.6	1.2	
West	536	405	470	1.8	1.4	1.6	

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

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

³ See footnote 7, 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		
	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.
	2009	2010	2010 ^p	2009	2010	2010 ^p
Total	357	354	302	0.3	0.3	0.2
INDUSTRY						
Total private	308	285	257	.3	.3	.2
Mining and logging	2	1	2	.2	.2	.3
Construction	6	15	25	.1	.2	.4
Manufacturing	18	14	20	.2	.1	.2
Durable goods	9	9	12	.1	.1	.2
Nondurable goods	8	5	7	.2	.1	.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	118	80	66	.5	.3	.3
Wholesale trade	43	14	11	.8	.2	.2
Retail trade	52	49	44	.4	.3	.3
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	23	17	11	.5	.4	.2
Information	11	8	6	.4	.3	.2
Financial activities	22	13	16	.3	.2	.2
Finance and insurance	19	12	14	.3	.2	.2
Real estate and rental and leasing	3	1	3	.1	.1	.1
Professional and business services	62	74	45	.4	.4	.3
Education and health services	25	31	30	.1	.2	.2
Educational services	1	4	3	(⁴)	.1	.1
Health care and social assistance	24	28	27	.1	.2	.2
Leisure and hospitality	25	36	29	.2	.3	.2
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	8	2	5	.4	.1	.2
Accommodation and food services	17	34	25	.2	.3	.2
Other services	20	13	17	.4	.2	.3
Government	49	69	44	.2	.3	.2
Federal	13	11	7	.4	.4	.2
State and local	36	58	37	.2	.3	.2
REGION ³						
Northeast	54	78	61	.2	.3	.2
South	119	133	123	.3	.3	.3
Midwest	83	76	73	.3	.3	.2
West	101	67	45	.3	.2	.2

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 7, table 1.

⁴ Data round to zero.

^p = preliminary.