

United States Department of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

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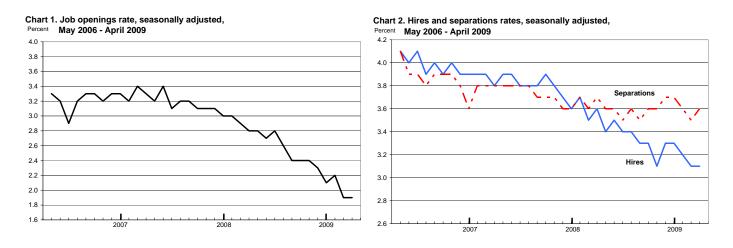
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JOB OPENINGS AND LABOR TURNOVER: APRIL 2009

On the last business day of April, job openings in the U.S. numbered 2.5 million, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The job openings level was at its lowest point since the series began in December 2000. The hires rate (3.1 percent) was unchanged in April and remained low. The total separations rate (3.6 percent) was little changed over the month. 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.



Job Openings

The job openings rate was unchanged in April at 1.9 percent. Since June 2007, the number of job openings has trended downward by 2.3 million, or 47 percent. In April, small declines in the job openings rate occurred in most industries; none of these declines were statistically significant. The job openings rate increased significantly for government due to an increase in job opportunities for temporary workers for Census 2010. (See table 1.)

Table A	Job	onenings.	hires, a	and total s	eparations b	w industry.	seasonally	v adiusted	1
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	Jo	b openi	ngs		Hires		Tota	l separa	tions
Industry	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.
	2008	2009	2009 ^p	2008	2009	2009 ^p	2008	2009	2009 ^p
				Levels	(in tho	usands)			
Total ¹	3,967	2,633	2,531	4,955	4,099	4,165	5,152	4,712	4,718
Total private ¹	3,547	2,269	2,080	4,635	3,799	3,803	4,825	4,434	4,431
Construction	109	51	30	401	343	348	461	463	441
Manufacturing	274	115	95	337	244	235	393	401	379
Trade, transportation, and utilities ²	630	414	332	1,035	883	897	1,090	1,001	1,008
Retail trade	388	265	219	699	595	655	741	646	691
Professional and business services	749	428	458	903	668	743	924	778	851
Education and health services	719	537	522	554	483	486	506	466	471
Leisure and hospitality	520	289	330	868	693	691	884	751	712
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	57	25	20	112	85	80	122	95	90
Accommodation and food services	470	263	317	750	607	606	763	649	616
Government ³	413	353	450	319	271	338	300	265	270
State and local government	383	291	317	292	247	252	277	251	249
				Rat	es (perc	ent)			
Total ¹	2.8	1.9	1.9	3.6	3.1	3.1	3.7	3.5	3.6
Total private ¹	3.0	2.0	1.9	4.0	3.4	3.5	4.2	4.0	4.0
Construction	1.5	0.8	0.5	5.5	5.3	5.5	6.3	7.2	7.0
Manufacturing	2.0	0.9	0.8	2.5	2.0	1.9	2.9	3.3	3.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities ²	2.3	1.6	1.3	3.9	3.5	3.5	4.1	3.9	4.0
Retail trade	2.4	1.8	1.5	4.5	4.0	4.4	4.8	4.3	4.7
Professional and business services	4.0	2.5	2.7	5.0	4.0	4.4	5.1	4.6	5.1
Education and health services	3.7	2.7	2.7	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.4	2.5
Leisure and hospitality	3.7	2.1	2.4	6.4	5.3	5.3	6.5	5.7	5.4
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	2.8	1.3	1.0	5.7	4.4	4.2	6.1	4.9	4.7
Accommodation and food services	3.9	2.3	2.7	6.5	5.4	5.4	6.6	5.8	5.5
Government ³	1.8	1.5	2.0	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.2
State and local government	1.9	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3

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

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

³ Includes federal government, not shown separately.

^p = preliminary.

Over the 12 months ending in April, the job openings rate (not seasonally adjusted) fell significantly in almost every industry except federal government where it rose significantly. The job openings rate also fell in all four regions. The rate did not change significantly in finance and insurance. (See table 5.)

Hires

The hires level was little changed at 4.2 million in April. However, monthly hires experienced an overall downward trend, falling by 1.5 million, or 26 percent, since July 2006. The hires rate was 3.1 percent in April. Government experienced a significant increase in the hires rate over the month mainly due to hiring of temporary workers for Census 2010. The hires rate did not change significantly in the remaining industries. Regionally, the South experienced a significant increase in the hires rate. The remaining regions did not change significantly. (See table 2.)

Over the 12 months ending in April, the hires rate (not seasonally adjusted) increased significantly in federal government. The rate decreased significantly over the year for total nonfarm, total private, and many industries including mining and logging; durable goods manufacturing; nondurable goods manufacturing; wholesale trade; finance and insurance; educational services; health care and social assistance; arts, entertainment, and recreation; and accommodation and food services. Regionally, the hires rate dropped significantly over the past 12 months in the Midwest and West. The rate did not change significantly in the Northeast and South. (See table 6.)

Separations

Total separations includes quits (voluntary separations), layoffs and discharges (involuntary separations), and other separations (including retirements). The total separations, or turnover, rate (seasonally adjusted) was 3.6 percent in April, little changed from March. The total separations rate (not seasonally adjusted) decreased significantly over the 12 months ending in April. (See tables 3 and 7)

The quits rate can serve as a barometer of workers' willingness or ability to change jobs. Although the rate was little changed over the month at 1.3 percent in April, the quits rate was at the lowest point in the 8-year series. Quits have been trending downward since December 2006 to a level of 1.8 million, a decline of 1.4 million or 44 percent. Comparing April 2009 to April 2008, the quits rate (not seasonally adjusted) was significantly lower for total nonfarm, total private, and government.

Over the 12 months ending in April, the majority of industries experienced a significant decline in the quits rate with the exceptions of information; educational services; arts, entertainment, and recreation; other services; and federal government. The quits rate did not rise significantly over the past 12 months in any industry. The quits rate fell significantly over the past 12 months in all four regions. (See tables 4 and 8.)

The layoffs and discharges component of total separations is seasonally adjusted at the total nonfarm, total private, and government levels. Layoffs and discharges in April were 2.6 million for total nonfarm, 2.4 million for total private, and 142,000 for government, corresponding to layoffs and discharges rates of 1.9 percent, 2.2 percent, and 0.6 percent, respectively. The layoffs and discharges rate was unchanged in April at the total nonfarm and total private levels. The government layoffs and discharges rate increased significantly.

Over the 12 months ending in April, the layoffs and discharges rate (not seasonally adjusted) rose significantly for total nonfarm, total private, government, and many industries including construction; durable goods manufacturing; retail trade; information; professional and business services; health care and social assistance; and state and local government. In the remaining industries, the layoffs and discharges rate did not change significantly. All four regions experienced a significant increase in the layoffs and discharges rate over the 12 months ending in April. (See table 9 for not seasonally adjusted layoffs and discharges.)

	Levels	(in thou	isands)		Rates	
Industry	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.
	2008	2009	2009 ^p	2008	2009	2009 ^p
Total	1,899	2,528	2,557	1.4	1.9	1.9
Total private	1,792	2,399	2,409	1.6	2.2	2.2
Government	94	118	142	0.4	0.5	0.6

Table B. Layoffs and discharges, seasonally adjusted

The other separations series is not seasonally adjusted. In April, there were 379,000 other separations for total nonfarm, 340,000 for total private, and 39,000 for government. Compared to April 2008, the number of other separations was little changed for total nonfarm, total private, and government. (See table 10.)

The total separations rate 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. The proportion of quits has been trending downward from 59 percent in January 2008 to a series low of 38 percent in April 2009. The proportion of layoffs and discharges has increased from 33 percent in August 2006 to 54 percent in April 2009. (See tables 3, 4, and table B above.)

Net Change in Employment

In the 12 months ending in April, hires totaled 53.7 million and separations totaled 58.4 million, yielding a net employment loss over the year of 4.7 million. Hires trended downward while total separations remained relatively level over the year. The two major components of separations had offsetting movements; quits declined while layoffs increased.

For More Information

For additional information, please read the Technical Note attached to this release, visit the JOLTS Web site at <u>www.bls.gov/jlt/</u>, send e-mail to <u>Joltsinfo@bls.gov</u>, or call (202) 691-5870.

The Job Openings and Labor Turnover release for May 2009 is scheduled to be issued on Tuesday, July 7.

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, 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. 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 are the total number of Separations. 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 Layoffs and discharges are other separations). 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 Other separations include retirements, employees. 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 non-certainty 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 post-stratified and re-weighted annually to represent the most recent sampling frame. Additionally, the out-of-business 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 separations 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.

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 QCEW 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.

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.

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 90percent 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.

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

			Levels	³ (in thou	usands)						Rates			
Industry and region	Apr.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Apr.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009	2009	2009 ^p	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009	2009	2009 ^p
Total ⁴	3,967	3,311	3,224	2,920	2,973	2,633	2,531	2.8	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.2	1.9	1.9
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	3,547	2,928	2,861	2,461	2,606	2,269	2,080	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.0	1.9
Construction	109	76	66	55	58	51	30	1.5	1.1	.9	.8	.9	.8	.5
Manufacturing	274	203	188	115	141	115	95	2.0	1.5	1.4	.9	1.1	.9	.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities ⁵	630	624	495	488	488	414	332	2.3	2.3	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.3
Retail trade	388	410	337	362	334	265	219	2.4	2.6	2.2	2.4	2.2	1.8	1.5
Professional and business services	-	505	562	501	482	428	458	4.0	2.8	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.5	2.7
Education and health services	-	697	685	636	589	537	522	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.0	2.7	2.7
Leisure and hospitality		302	315	272	332	289	330	3.7	2.2	2.3	2.0	2.4	2.1	2.4
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	57	35	40	27	30	25	20	2.8	1.8	2.0	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.0
Accommodation and food services	470	284	274	242	302	263	317	3.9	2.4	2.4	2.1	2.6	2.3	2.7
Government ⁶	413	378	345	417	367	353	450	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.5	2.0
State and local government	383	337	312	328	317	291	317	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6
REGION ⁷														
Northeast	647	582	633	560	607	583	550	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.2
South	1,498	1,267	1,245	1,109	1,109	1,000	951	2.9	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.0
Midwest	851	644	607	587	563	499	519	2.6	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.7
West	956	767	689	655	638	556	572	3.0	2.5	2.2	2.1	2.1	1.8	1.9

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

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

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

⁴ Includes 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 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

			Levels	³ (in tho	usands)						Rates			
Industry and region	Apr.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Apr.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009	2009	2009 ^p	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009	2009	2009 ^p
Total ⁴	4,955	4,226	4,508	4,460	4,339	4,099	4,165	3.6	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.1
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	4,635	3,928	4,214	4,141	4,042	3,799	3,803	4.0	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.5
Construction		340	366	381	370	343	348	5.5	4.9	5.3	5.7	5.6	5.3	5.5
Manufacturing	337	257	252	237	257	244	235	2.5	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.0	1.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities ⁵	1,035	852	891	949	814	883	897	3.9	3.3	3.4	3.7	3.2	3.5	3.5
Retail trade	699	576	595	587	563	595	655	4.5	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.8	4.0	4.4
Professional and business services	903	783	786	762	730	668	743	5.0	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.0	4.4
Education and health services	554	528	528	539	527	483	486	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.5	2.5
Leisure and hospitality	868	706	711	743	704	693	691	6.4	5.3	5.3	5.6	5.3	5.3	5.3
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	112	92	111	105	89	85	80	5.7	4.7	5.7	5.4	4.6	4.4	4.2
Accommodation and food services	750	620	605	627	614	607	606	6.5	5.4	5.3	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government 6	319	281	271	306	275	271	338	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.5
State and local government	292	251	253	261	252	247	252	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3
REGION ⁷														
Northeast	802	661	726	753	837	696	732	3.1	2.6	2.9	3.0	3.3	2.8	2.9
South	1,798	1,572	1,659	1,663	1,566	1,458	1,591	3.6	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.0	3.3
Midwest	1,092	934	1,009	1,003	904	943	921	3.5	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.0	3.1	3.1
West	1,293	1,043	1,053	1,002	960	931	965	4.2	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.3

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 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.

			Levels	³ (in thou	usands)						Rates			
Industry and region	Apr.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Apr.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009	2009	2009 ^p	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009	2009	2009 ^p
Total ⁴	5,152	4,863	4,958	4,949	4,833	4,712	4,718	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.6
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	4,825	4,571	4,673	4,686	4,555	4,434	4,431	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.0
Construction	461	472	452	524	463	463	441	6.3	6.8	6.6	7.8	7.0	7.2	7.0
Manufacturing	393	384	419	476	424	401	379	2.9	2.9	3.2	3.8	3.4	3.3	3.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities ⁵	1,090	1,030	1,041	1,049	920	1,001	1,008	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.1	3.6	3.9	4.0
Retail trade	741	680	664	645	590	646	691	4.8	4.5	4.4	4.3	3.9	4.3	4.7
Professional and business services	924	909	898	866	951	778	851	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.0	5.6	4.6	5.1
Education and health services	506	466	498	494	498	466	471	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.5
Leisure and hospitality	884	773	755	763	731	751	712	6.5	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.7	5.4
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	122	98	106	117	88	95	90	6.1	5.0	5.4	6.0	4.5	4.9	4.7
Accommodation and food services	763	673	647	650	635	649	616	6.6	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.8	5.5
Government ⁶	300	282	278	277	271	265	270	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
State and local government	277	258	251	267	251	251	249	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
REGION ⁷														
Northeast	842	767	799	813	783	878	705	3.3	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.5	2.8
South	1,890	1,841	1,815	1,898	1,742	1,741	1,704	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.6
Midwest	1,140	1,105	1,088	1,120	1,121	1,085	1,054	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.5
West	1,244	1,205	1,227	1,180	1,188	978	1,231	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.3	4.1

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

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 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 mining and logging, information, financial activities,

and other services, not shown separately.

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

			Levels	³ (in thou	usands)						Rates			
Industry and region	Apr.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Apr.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009	2009	2009 ^p	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009	2009	2009 ^p
Total ⁴	2,820	2,201	2,114	2,063	1,911	1,856	1,771	2.0	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	2,668	2,076	1,984	1,945	1,831	1,749	1,674	2.3	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.5
Construction	161	109	92	85	87	102	64	2.2	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.0
Manufacturing	187	122	87	105	105	81	82	1.4	.9	.7	.8	.8	.7	.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities ⁵	595	489	518	469	372	444	385	2.2	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.5	1.7	1.5
Retail trade	416	352	379	360	323	344	263	2.7	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.3	1.8
Professional and business services	464	349	297	326	310	278	269	2.6	2.0	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.6
Education and health services	321	251	256	248	258	249	230	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2
Leisure and hospitality		469	461	443	431	433	424	4.6	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2
Arts, entertainment, and recreation		35	29	31	36	35	39	2.5	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.9	1.8	2.0
Accommodation and food services	576	437	435	412	399	402	389	5.0	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.5
Government ⁶	150	122	130	105	115	107	99	.7	.5	.6	.5	.5	.5	.4
State and local government	142	117	121	100	110	106	93	.7	.6	.6	.5	.6	.5	.5
REGION ⁷														
Northeast	481	321	302	278	271	273	271	1.9	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
South	1,122	879	847	790	759	751	682	2.3	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.4
Midwest	602	491	452	491	468	431	412	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4
West	658	510	498	492	453	408	439	2.1	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.5

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

 2 The guits rate is the number of guits 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 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.

	Lev	els (in thousa	nds)		Rates	
Industry and region	Apr. 2008	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2009 ^p	Apr. 2008	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2009 ^p
Total	4,379	2,512	2,826	3.1	1.9	2.1
INDUSTRY						
Total private	3,952	2,180	2,365	3.3	2.0	2.1
Mining and logging	21	11	11	2.7	1.5	1.5
Construction	127	54	33	1.7	.9	.5
Manufacturing	301	118	115	2.2	1.0	.9
Durable goods	174	57	57	2.0	.8	.8
Nondurable goods	127	61	58	2.5	1.3	1.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	671	403	352	2.5	1.6	1.4
Wholesale trade	163	109	75	2.6	1.9	1.3
Retail trade	403	236	210	2.6	1.6	1.4
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	106	58	67	2.0	1.2	1.4
Information	111	55	43	3.5	1.9	1.5
Financial activities	279	172	194	3.3	2.2	2.4
Finance and insurance	207	126	154	3.3	2.1	2.6
Real estate and rental and leasing	72	46	40	3.3	2.3	2.0
Professional and business services	813	396	510	4.3	2.3	3.0
Education and health services	805	519	566	4.1	2.6	2.8
Educational services	79	33	52	2.4	1.0	1.6
Health care and social assistance	726	486	514	4.4	2.9	3.1
Leisure and hospitality	627	301	399	4.5	2.3	3.0
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	78	26	27	3.9	1.5	1.4
Accommodation and food services	549	274	373	4.6	2.4	3.2
Other services	197	151	141	3.4	2.7	2.5
Government	427	331	460	1.8	1.4	2.0
Federal	38	58	134	1.4	2.0	4.5
State and local	389	274	326	1.9	1.3	1.6
REGION ³						
Northeast	719	540	589	2.7	2.1	2.3
South	1,673	959	1,008	3.3	2.0	2.1
Midwest	940	497	571	2.9	1.6	1.9
West	1,047	517	658	3.3	1.7	2.2

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

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
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	Lev	els (in thousa	nds)		Rates	
Industry and region	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.
	2008	2009	2009 ^p	2008	2009	2009 ^p
Total	5,417	3,701	4,584	3.9	2.8	3.5
INDUSTRY						
Total private	5,174	3,513	4,313	4.5	3.2	3.9
Mining and logging	36	16	18	4.8	2.2	2.4
Construction	552	356	475	7.7	5.8	7.7
Manufacturing	346	237	236	2.6	1.9	2.0
Durable goods	201	145	133	2.3	1.9	1.8
Nondurable goods	145	92	103	2.9	2.0	2.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,086	818	957	4.1	3.2	3.8
Wholesale trade	201	125	147	3.4	2.2	2.6
Retail trade	703	552	675	4.6	3.8	4.6
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	181	140	136	3.6	2.9	2.8
Information	77	57	79	2.5	2.0	2.7
Financial activities	261	148	191	3.2	1.9	2.5
Finance and insurance	168	93	105	2.8	1.6	1.8
Real estate and rental and leasing	93	55	87	4.4	2.8	4.4
Professional and business services	995	629	827	5.6	3.8	4.9
Education and health services	552	419	473	2.9	2.2	2.4
Educational services	70	39	43	2.2	1.2	1.3
Health care and social assistance	483	379	430	3.1	2.4	2.7
Leisure and hospitality	1,027	676	816	7.7	5.3	6.3
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	153	82	102	7.9	4.6	5.5
Accommodation and food services	874	595	714	7.6	5.4	6.4
Other services	243	156	241	4.4	2.9	4.5
Government	243	188	271	1.1	.8	1.2
Federal	30	23	88	1.1	.8	3.1
State and local	213	165	183	1.1	.8	.9
REGION ³						
Northeast	885	610	803	3.4	2.5	3.2
South	1,914	1,348	1,719	3.9	2.8	3.6
Midwest	1,217	888	1,010	3.9	3.0	3.4
West	1,401	854	1,052	4.5	2.9	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 7, table 1.
^p = preliminary.

Table 7. Total separations levels	¹ and rates ² by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted
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	Lev	els (in thousa	nds)	Rates			
Industry and region	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	
	2008	2009	2009 ^p	2008	2009	2009 ^p	
Fotal	5,248	3,904	4,744	3.8	3.0	3.6	
INDUSTRY							
Total private	5,019	3,737	4,538	4.4	3.4	4.2	
Mining and logging	31	31	29	4.1	4.3	4.0	
Construction	445	374	426	6.2	6.1	6.9	
Manufacturing	432	371	401	3.2	3.0	3.3	
Durable goods	265	251	268	3.1	3.3	3.6	
Nondurable goods	168	120	134	3.4	2.6	2.9	
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,099	822	1,035	4.2	3.3	4.1	
Wholesale trade	201	148	177	3.4	2.6	3.1	
Retail trade	728	523	696	4.8	3.6	4.8	
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	170	151	162	3.3	3.1	3.4	
Information	83	69	91	2.8	2.4	3.1	
Financial activities	285	197	228	3.5	2.5	2.9	
Finance and insurance	185	112	139	3.1	1.9	2.4	
Real estate and rental and leasing	100	85	89	4.7	4.3	4.5	
Professional and business services	948	741	872	5.3	4.4	5.2	
Education and health services	520	393	475	2.8	2.0	2.5	
Educational services	62	41	52	2.0	1.3	1.6	
Health care and social assistance	458	352	423	2.9	2.2	2.6	
Leisure and hospitality	928	580	737	6.9	4.5	5.7	
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	116	62	87	6.0	3.5	4.7	
Accommodation and food services	811	518	650	7.1	4.7	5.8	
Other services	248	158	244	4.5	2.9	4.5	
Government	229	167	205	1.0	.7	.9	
Federal	22	12	20	.8	.4	.7	
State and local	207	156	185	1.0	.8	.9	
REGION ³							
Northeast	853	687	713	3.3	2.8	2.9	
South	2,070	1,475	1,807	4.2	3.1	3.8	
Midwest	1,085	880	982	3.5	2.9	3.3	
West	1,240	862	1,243	4.0	2.9	4.2	

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
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	Lev	els (in thousa	nds)	Rates			
Industry and region	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	
	2008	2009	2009 ^p	2008	2009	2009 ^p	
Total	2,996	1,591	1,869	2.2	1.2	1.4	
INDUSTRY							
Total private	2,867	1,515	1,789	2.5	1.4	1.6	
Mining and logging	18	7	12	2.4	.9	1.7	
Construction	173	80	68	2.4	1.3	1.1	
Manufacturing	198	73	88	1.5	.6	.7	
Durable goods	117	35	42	1.4	.5	.6	
Nondurable goods	81	38	46	1.6	.8	1.0	
Trade, transportation, and utilities	633	380	398	2.4	1.5	1.6	
Wholesale trade	101	48	47	1.7	.8	.8	
Retail trade	431	273	276	2.8	1.9	1.9	
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	101	59	75	2.0	1.2	1.6	
Information	51	22	40	1.7	.8	1.4	
Financial activities	162	63	86	2.0	.8	1.1	
Finance and insurance	104	37	50	1.7	.6	.9	
Real estate and rental and leasing	59	26	36	2.8	1.3	1.8	
Professional and business services	463	275	264	2.6	1.6	1.6	
Education and health services	336	211	234	1.8	1.1	1.2	
Educational services	24	19	21	.7	.6	.6	
Health care and social assistance	312	192	214	2.0	1.2	1.3	
Leisure and hospitality	663	336	448	5.0	2.6	3.4	
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	44	20	34	2.3	1.1	1.8	
Accommodation and food services	619	316	414	5.4	2.9	3.7	
Other services	170	69	152	3.1	1.3	2.8	
Government	129	76	79	.6	.3	.3	
Federal	8	2	5	.3	.1	.2	
State and local	121	74	75	.6	.4	.4	
REGION ³							
Northeast	490	237	273	1.9	1.0	1.1	
South	1,250	658	759	2.5	1.4	1.6	
Midwest	603	360	398	1.9	1.2	1.3	
West	653	335	438	2.1	1.1	1.5	

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.

Industry and region	Lev	els (in thousai	nds)	Rates			
	Apr. 2008	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2009 ^p	Apr. 2008	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2009 ^p	
Total	1,829	2,029	2,496	1.3	1.5	1.9	
INDUSTRY							
Total private	1,773	1,970	2,409	1.5	1.8	2.2	
Mining and logging	10	23	14	1.4	3.1	1.9	
Construction	235	285	340	3.3	4.7	5.5	
Manufacturing	202	274	292	1.5	2.3	2.4	
Durable goods	127	202	212	1.5	2.7	2.8	
Nondurable goods	74	73	80	1.5	1.6	1.7	
Trade, transportation, and utilities	336	368	511	1.3	1.5	2.0	
Wholesale trade	89	82	116	1.5	1.4	2.0	
Retail trade	188	204	319	1.2	1.4	2.2	
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	59	83	76	1.2	1.7	1.6	
Information	22	40	41	.7	1.4	1.4	
Financial activities	92	115	105	1.1	1.5	1.4	
Finance and insurance	62	61	57	1.0	1.0	1.0	
Real estate and rental and leasing	30	54	48	1.4	2.7	2.4	
Professional and business services	452	418	540	2.5	2.5	3.2	
Education and health services	139	132	199	.7	.7	1.0	
Educational services	35	13	27	1.1	.4	.9	
Health care and social assistance	104	119	172	.7	.7	1.1	
Leisure and hospitality	225	228	274	1.7	1.8	2.1	
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	65	40	52	3.3	2.3	2.8	
Accommodation and food services	161	188	222	1.4	1.7	2.0	
Other services	60	87	92	1.1	1.6	1.7	
Government	56	59	87	.2	.3	.4	
Federal	7	4	8	.3	.1	.3	
State and local	48	55	79	.2	.3	.4	
REGION ³							
Northeast	275	376	379	1.1	1.5	1.5	
South	668	720	900	1.3	1.5	1.9	
Midwest	380	461	509	1.2	1.5	1.7	
West	507	473	709	1.6	1.6	2.4	

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

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 7, table 1.

Industry and region	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
	Apr. 2008	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2009 ^p	Apr. 2008	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2009 ^p
otal	422	284	379	0.3	0.2	0.3
INDUSTRY						
Total private	378	251	340	.3	.2	.3
Mining and logging	3	2	3	.3	.3	.5
Construction	37	9	17	.5	.2	.3
Manufacturing	33	23	22	.2	.2	.2
Durable goods	21	15	14	.2	.2	.2
Nondurable goods	12	8	8	.3	.2	.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	130	74	126	.5	.3	.5
Wholesale trade	11	18	14	.2	.3	.2
Retail trade	110	46	100	.7	.3	.7
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	10	10	12	.2	.2	.3
Information	10	7	10	.3	.2	.3
Financial activities	31	20	37	.4	.3	.5
Finance and insurance	19	14	32	.3	.2	.6
Real estate and rental and leasing	12	6	5	.5	.3	.2
Professional and business services	33	48	68	.2	.3	.4
Education and health services	45	50	42	.2	.3	.2
Educational services	4	9	4	.1	.3	.1
Health care and social assistance	41	41	38	.3	.3	.2
Leisure and hospitality	39	16	15	.3	.1	.1
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	8	2	2	.4	.1	.1
Accommodation and food services	31	14	14	.3	.1	.1
Other services	17	2	(4)	.3	(4)	(4)
Government	44	33	39	.2	.1	.2
Federal	6	6	7	.2	.2	.3
State and local	38	27	32	.2	.1	.2
REGION ³						
Northeast	88	74	61	.3	.3	.2
South	152	98	148	.3	.2	.3
Midwest	102	59	75	.3	.2	.2
West	81	53	96	.3	.2	.3

Table 10. Other separations levels ¹ and rates ² by industry and region, not seasonally adjusted

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.