

United States Department of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

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(NOTE: This release was reissued on Wednesday, April 8, 2009, to correct text references to the most recent high points for job openings and hires, and for the most recent low point for the proportion of total separations attributable to layoffs and discharges. Also, a rounding error in a text statement concerning the proportion of total separations attributable to quits in February 2009 was corrected.)

JOB OPENINGS AND LABOR TURNOVER: FEBRUARY 2009

On the last business day of February, there were 3.0 million job openings in the United States, and the job openings rate was 2.2 percent, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The job openings rate and the hires rate (3.3 percent) were little changed in February, with both remaining low. The total separations rate (3.6 percent) was also essentially unchanged in February. 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

Job openings were essentially unchanged from January to February, although the number of job openings has trended downward since mid-2007. At 3.0 million in February, monthly openings were down 1.8 million, or 38 percent, since the most recent high in June 2007. The job openings rate changed significantly in February only in manufacturing, where it edged up. (See table 1.)

Table A	A. Job	openings,	hires.	and total s	eparations b	v industry.	seasonally adjusted	d
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	Jo	b openin	ngs		Hires		Tota	l separa	tions
Industry	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.
	2008	2009	2009 ^p	2008	2009	2009 ^p	2008	2009	2009 ^p
				Levels	(in tho	usands)			
Total ¹	4,248	2,920	3,006	5,035	4,460	4,360	5,088	4,949	4,825
Total private ¹	3,813	2,461	2,614	4,694	4,141	4,068	4,789	4,686	4,554
Construction	136	55	26	375	381	366	410	524	454
Manufacturing	278	115	140	325	237	249	372	476	420
Trade, transportation, and utilities ²	722	488	495	1,031	949	812	1,060	1,049	918
Retail trade	378	362	355	708	587	556	731	645	571
Professional and business services	766	501	471	851	762	760	924	866	947
Education and health services	806	636	625	581	539	536	534	494	505
Leisure and hospitality	558	272	282	927	743	696	932	763	726
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	64	27	20	140	105	85	147	117	93
Accommodation and food services	487	242	266	787	627	605	788	650	628
Government ³	446	417	392	335	306	270	293	277	254
State and local government	397	328	329	292	261	252	258	267	239
				Rat	es (perc	ent)		-	
Total ¹	3.0	2.1	2.2	3.7	3.3	3.3	3.7	3.7	3.6
Total private ¹	3.2	2.2	2.3	4.1	3.7	3.7	4.1	4.2	4.1
Construction	1.8	0.8	0.4	5.0	5.7	5.5	5.5	7.8	6.9
Manufacturing	2.0	0.9	1.1	2.4	1.9	2.0	2.7	3.8	3.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities ²	2.6	1.9	1.9	3.9	3.7	3.2	4.0	4.1	3.6
Retail trade	2.4	2.4	2.3	4.6	3.9	3.7	4.7	4.3	3.8
Professional and business services	4.1	2.8	2.7	4.7	4.4	4.5	5.1	5.0	5.6
Education and health services	4.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.6	2.6
Leisure and hospitality	4.0	2.0	2.1	6.9	5.6	5.3	6.9	5.7	5.5
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	3.1	1.4	1.0	7.0	5.4	4.4	7.4	6.0	4.8
Accommodation and food services	4.1	2.1	2.3	6.8	5.5	5.4	6.8	5.7	5.6
Government ³	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.1
State and local government	2.0	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2

¹ Includes 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 February, the job openings rate (not seasonally adjusted) was essentially unchanged in the Northeast region and in six industries: retail trade; information; finance and insurance; real estate and rental and leasing; educational services; and other services. In the remaining 11 industries and at the total nonfarm and total private level, the job openings rate fell significantly over the year. Three of the four regions experienced a significant decline in the job openings rate over the year: Midwest, South, and West. The job openings rate rose significantly over the year only in the federal government. (See table 5.)

Hires

Hires, at 4.4 million in February, were essentially unchanged from January. However, monthly hires were down 1,274,000, or 23 percent, since the most recent high in July 2006. The hires rate was 3.3 percent in February. No industry experienced a significant change in the hires rate in February. Regionally, the rate rose significantly in the Northeast and fell significantly in the Midwest. (See table 2.)

Over the 12 months ending in February, the hires rate did not increase significantly in any industry or region. The rate decreased significantly over the year for total nonfarm, total private, and several industries, including retail trade; finance and insurance; arts, entertainment, and recreation; accommodation and food services; federal government; and state and local government. In three of the four regions, the hires rate dropped significantly over the past 12 months: Midwest, South, and West. (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 essentially unchanged in February at 3.6 percent. The total separations rate (not seasonally adjusted) was also essentially unchanged over the 12 months ending in February because quits fell while layoffs and discharges rose. (See tables 3, 7, 8 and 9.)

The quits rate can serve as a barometer of workers' willingness or ability to change jobs. The rate remained at 1.5 percent in February—the lowest point in the 8-year series. Quits have been trending downward since December 2006, declining by 1.2 million, or 37 percent. Comparing February 2009 to February 2008, the quits rate was significantly lower for total nonfarm, total private, and most industries. The rate was essentially unchanged in information; educational services; arts, entertainment, and recreation; and other services. The rate did not rise significantly in the past 12 months in any industry. Regionally, the quits rate fell significantly in three of the four regions—Northeast, South, and West. The rate was essentially unchanged in the Midwest region. (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. Seasonally adjusted layoffs and discharges in February were 2.5 million for total nonfarm, 2.3 million for total private, and 106,000 for government, corresponding to layoffs and discharges rates of 1.8 percent, 2.1 percent, and 0.5 percent, respectively. Over the 12 months ending in February, the layoffs and discharges rate (not seasonally adjusted) rose significantly for total nonfarm, total private, and many industries, including mining and logging; construction; durable goods manufacturing; nondurable goods manufacturing; wholesale trade; transportation, warehousing, and utilities; finance and insurance; real estate and rental and leasing; and professional and business services. In the remaining industries, the rate was essentially unchanged. Regionally, the layoffs and discharges rate rose in the Midwest, South, and West and was little changed in the Northeast. (See table 9 for not seasonally adjusted layoffs and discharges. Seasonally adjusted layoffs and discharges are not presented in a table but are available through the JOLTS web site.)

The other separations series is not seasonally adjusted. Comparing February 2008 to February 2009, the number of other separations was little changed for total nonfarm (280,000), total private (251,000), and government (29,000). (See table 10.)

The total separations rate is driven by the relative contribution of its three components—quits, layoffs and discharges, and other separations. The percentage of total separations attributable to the individual components has varied over time. The proportion of quits has been trending downward from a high of 62 percent in January 2006 to a series low of 41 percent in February 2009. The proportion of layoffs and discharges has increased, climbing from the most recent low of 33 percent in August 2006 to 51 percent in February 2009. (See tables 3 and 4.)

Net Change in Employment

In the 12 months ending in February, hires totaled 55.3 million and separations totaled 59.2 million, yielding a net employment loss over the year of 3.9 million. The loss resulted from total separations remaining level over the year, while hires trended sharply downward.

For More Information

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

The Job Openings and Labor Turnover release for March 2009 is scheduled to be issued on Tuesday, May 12.

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	Feb.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Feb.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009 ^p	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009 ^p
Total ⁴	4,248	3,346	3,390	3,311	3,224	2,920	3,006	3.0	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.2
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	3,813	2,913	2,964	2,928	2,861	2,461	2,614	3.2	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.3
Construction	136	152	79	76	66	55	26	1.8	2.1	1.1	1.1	.9	.8	.4
Manufacturing	278	236	230	203	188	115	140	2.0	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.4	.9	1.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities ⁵	722	525	564	624	495	488	495	2.6	2.0	2.1	2.3	1.9	1.9	1.9
Retail trade	378	297	363	410	337	362	355	2.4	1.9	2.3	2.6	2.2	2.4	2.3
Professional and business services	766	608	603	505	562	501	471	4.1	3.3	3.3	2.8	3.1	2.8	2.7
Education and health services	806	624	646	697	685	636	625	4.1	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.2
Leisure and hospitality	558	427	417	302	315	272	282	4.0	3.1	3.0	2.2	2.3	2.0	2.1
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	64	44	47	35	40	27	20	3.1	2.2	2.4	1.8	2.0	1.4	1.0
Accommodation and food services	487	374	370	284	274	242	266	4.1	3.2	3.1	2.4	2.4	2.1	2.3
Government ⁶	446	431	427	378	345	417	392	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.7
State and local government	397	352	344	337	312	328	329	2.0	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6
REGION ⁷														
Northeast	680	644	636	582	633	560	596	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.3
South	1,649	1,269	1,314	1,267	1,245	1,109	1,128	3.2	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.3
Midwest	847	674	698	644	607	587	608	2.6	2.1	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0
West	1,055	785	734	767	689	655	615	3.3	2.5	2.3	2.5	2.2	2.1	2.0

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 thou	usands)						Rates			
Industry and region	Feb. 2008	Sept. 2008	Oct. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2008	Jan. 2009	Feb. 2009 ^p	Feb. 2008	Sept. 2008	Oct. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2008	Jan. 2009	Feb. 2009 ^p
Total ⁴	5,035	4,505	4,486	4,226	4,508	4,460	4,360	3.7	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.3
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	4,694	4,263	4,160	3,928 340	4,214	4,141	4,068	4.1 5.0	3.7 5.1	3.7 5.4	3.5 4 9	3.7 5 3	3.7 5.7	3.7
Manufacturing	325	305	290	257	252	237	249	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities ⁵	1,031	959	933	852	891	949	812	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.3	3.4	3.7	3.2
Retail trade	708	649	624	576	595	587	556	4.6	4.2	4.1	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.7
Professional and business services	851	787	788	783	786	762	760	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.5
Education and health services	581	506	544	528	528	539	536	3.1	2.7	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
Leisure and hospitality	927	814	769	706	711	743	696	6.9	6.1	5.7	5.3	5.3	5.6	5.3
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	140	117	119	92	111	105	85	7.0	6.0	6.1	4.7	5.7	5.4	4.4
Accommodation and food services	787	708	651	620	605	627	605	6.8	6.2	5.7	5.4	5.3	5.5	5.4
Government ⁶	335	278	318	281	271	306	270	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.2
State and local government	292	259	275	251	253	261	252	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
REGION ⁷														
Northeast	807	742	759	661	726	753	878	3.1	2.9	3.0	2.6	2.9	3.0	3.5
South	1,909	1,643	1,652	1,572	1,659	1,663	1,579	3.8	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.3
Midwest	1,081	1,038	1,051	934	1,009	1,003	875	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.0	3.3	3.3	2.9
West	1,216	1,088	1,043	1,043	1,053	1,002	1,000	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.3	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	Feb.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Feb.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009 ^p	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009 ^p
Total ⁴	5,088	4,852	4,910	4,863	4,958	4,949	4,825	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	4,789	4,553	4,607	4,571	4,673	4,686	4,554	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.1
Construction	410	412	440	472	452	524	454	5.5	5.8	6.2	6.8	6.6	7.8	6.9
Manufacturing	372	371	404	384	419	476	420	2.7	2.8	3.1	2.9	3.2	3.8	3.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities ⁵	1,060	1,046	1,034	1,030	1,041	1,049	918	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1	3.6
Retail trade	731	684	680	680	664	645	571	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.3	3.8
Professional and business services	924	809	906	909	898	866	947	5.1	4.6	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.0	5.6
Education and health services	534	488	507	466	498	494	505	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.6
Leisure and hospitality	932	830	794	773	755	763	726	6.9	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.5
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	147	115	124	98	106	117	93	7.4	5.9	6.4	5.0	5.4	6.0	4.8
Accommodation and food services	788	714	670	673	647	650	628	6.8	6.2	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.6
Government ⁶	293	294	294	282	278	277	254	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1
State and local government	258	280	265	258	251	267	239	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2
REGION ⁷														
Northeast	896	734	743	767	799	813	787	3.5	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.1
South	1,886	1,767	1,782	1,841	1,815	1,898	1,731	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.6
Midwest	1,056	1,116	1,168	1,105	1,088	1,120	1,130	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.7
West	1,270	1,184	1,209	1,205	1,227	1,180	1,181	4.1	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9

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

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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.

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,

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and other services, not shown separately.

entire month as a percent of total employment.

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			Levels	³ (in thou	usands)						Rates			
Industry and region	Feb.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Feb.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009 ^p	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009 ^p
Total ⁴	2,871	2,454	2,436	2,201	2,114	2,063	2,001	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5
INDUSTRY														
Total private ⁴	2,717	2,319	2,305	2,076	1,984	1,945	1,885	2.4	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7
Construction	175	128	107	109	92	85	107	2.3	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.6
Manufacturing	194	147	143	122	87	105	93	1.4	1.1	1.1	.9	.7	.8	.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities ⁵	608	580	548	489	518	469	403	2.3	2.2	2.1	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.6
Retail trade	427	414	377	352	379	360	305	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.0
Professional and business services	485	368	477	349	297	326	340	2.7	2.1	2.7	2.0	1.7	1.9	2.0
Education and health services	312	290	294	251	256	248	246	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Leisure and hospitality	614	514	516	469	461	443	438	4.5	3.8	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.3
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	55	52	39	35	29	31	39	2.7	2.7	2.0	1.8	1.5	1.6	2.0
Accommodation and food services	556	467	476	437	435	412	402	4.8	4.1	4.2	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.6
Government 6	151	134	132	122	130	105	110	.7	.6	.6	.5	.6	.5	.5
State and local government	136	133	122	117	121	100	106	.7	.7	.6	.6	.6	.5	.5
REGION ⁷													ĺ	
Northeast	456	338	347	321	302	278	271	1.8	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1
South	1,167	971	949	879	847	790	751	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6
Midwest	563	577	595	491	452	491	493	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6
West	709	560	541	510	498	492	499	2.3	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7

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

² The quits rate is the number of quits during the entire month as a

percent of total employment.

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

⁴ Includes 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 thousai	nds)		Rates	
Industry and region	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.
	2008	2009	2009 ^p	2008	2009	2009 ^p
Total	3,952	3,052	2,701	2.8	2.3	2.0
INDUSTRY						
Total private	3 553	2 636	2 351	3.0	23	21
Mining and logging	18	20	10	2.4	2.6	14
Construction	130	52	26	1.8	.8	.4
Manufacturing	277	122	133	2.0	1.0	11
Durable goods.	150	57	61	1.7	.7	.8
Nondurable goods	127	65	72	2.5	1.4	1.5
Trade transportation and utilities	644	499	434	2.4	1.9	17
Wholesale trade	202	79	112	3.3	1.4	1.9
Retail trade	303	344	285	2.0	2.3	1.9
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	138	75	37	2.7	1.5	.8
Information	76	65	55	2.5	2.2	1.9
Financial activities	240	247	212	2.9	3.0	2.6
Finance and insurance	188	214	141	3.0	3.5	2.3
Real estate and rental and leasing	52	33	72	2.4	1.6	3.5
Professional and business services	753	566	466	4.1	3.2	2.7
Education and health services	777	666	592	4.0	3.4	3.0
Educational services	55	70	46	1.7	2.3	1.4
Health care and social assistance	722	595	546	4.4	3.6	3.3
Leisure and hospitality	512	260	262	3.8	2.0	2.0
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	67	25	19	3.6	1.4	1.1
Accommodation and food services	445	235	243	3.8	2.1	2.2
Other services	127	140	161	2.3	2.5	2.9
Government	399	416	349	1.7	1.8	1.5
Federal	42	92	57	1.5	3.2	2.0
State and local	357	324	292	1.8	1.6	1.4
REGION ³						
Northeast	615	618	537	23	24	21
South	1 558	1 11/	1 053	2.0	2.4	2.1
Midweet	780	600	568	2.5	2.3	2.2 1 Q
Waet	000	720	542	2.0	2.0	1.9
vvcəl	990	120	545	3.1	2.4	1.0

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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	Leve	els (in thousai	nds)		Rates	
Industry and region	Feb. 2008	Jan. 2009	Feb. 2009 ^p	Feb. 2008	Jan. 2009	Feb. 2009 ^p
Total	4,063	4,337	3,382	3.0	3.3	2.6
INDUSTRY						
Total private	3,836	4,033	3,206	3.4	3.7	2.9
Mining and logging	27	28	19	3.7	3.6	2.5
Construction	296	333	291	4.2	5.3	4.7
Manufacturing	287	241	222	2.1	1.9	1.8
Durable goods	158	127	119	1.8	1.6	1.6
Nondurable goods	129	114	102	2.6	2.4	2.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	784	857	608	3.0	3.4	2.4
Wholesale trade	130	232	94	2.2	4.0	1.6
Retail trade	522	480	407	3.4	3.2	2.8
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	132	145	108	2.6	3.0	2.2
Information	55	95	47	1.8	3.3	1.6
Financial activities	211	248	144	2.6	3.1	1.8
Finance and insurance	134	168	92	2.2	2.9	1.6
Real estate and rental and leasing	77	80	51	3.6	3.9	2.6
Professional and business services	755	826	678	4.3	4.9	4.0
Education and health services	500	560	463	2.7	2.9	2.4
Educational services	72	65	68	2.3	2.2	2.1
Health care and social assistance	428	495	395	2.7	3.1	2.5
Leisure and hospitality	759	647	562	5.9	5.1	4.4
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	95	91	57	5.3	5.3	3.3
Accommodation and food services	664	556	505	5.9	5.1	4.6
Other services	162	198	173	2.9	3.7	3.2
Government	227	304	176	1.0	1.4	.8
Federal	28	34	11	1.0	1.2	.4
State and local	199	270	165	1.0	1.4	.8
REGION ³						
Northeast	570	715	626	2.2	2.9	2.5
South	1,676	1,708	1,330	3.4	3.6	2.8
Midwest	840	1,006	670	2.7	3.3	2.2
West	976	909	755	3.2	3.1	2.6
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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 inc	dustry and region	, not seasonally adjusted
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	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
Industry and region	Feb. 2008	Jan. 2009	Feb. 2009 ^p	Feb. 2008	Jan. 2009	Feb. 2009 ^p
Total	3,989	6,612	3,747	2.9	5.0	2.8
INDUSTRY						
Total private	3,815	6,282	3,601	3.4	5.7	3.3
Mining and logging	24	45	23	3.2	5.9	3.0
Construction	347	679	376	5.0	10.8	6.1
Manufacturing	318	693	359	2.3	5.5	2.9
Durable goods	180	460	233	2.1	5.9	3.0
Nondurable goods	138	233	126	2.8	4.9	2.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	890	1,508	749	3.4	5.9	3.0
Wholesale trade	140	343	133	2.3	5.9	2.3
Retail trade	630	928	476	4.1	6.2	3.3
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	120	237	140	2.4	4.8	2.9
Information	46	169	54	1.5	5.8	1.9
Financial activities	200	476	178	2.4	6.0	2.3
Finance and insurance	130	324	109	2.2	5.5	1.9
Real estate and rental and leasing	70	153	69	3.3	7.6	3.4
Professional and business services	736	977	781	4.2	5.8	4.7
Education and health services	406	669	389	2.2	3.5	2.0
Educational services	36	59	43	1.2	2.0	1.3
Health care and social assistance	370	610	346	2.4	3.8	2.2
Leisure and hospitality	702	819	521	5.4	6.5	4.1
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	89	109	53	5.0	6.3	3.0
Accommodation and food services	613	710	468	5.5	6.5	4.3
Other services	145	247	172	2.6	4.6	3.2
Government	174	330	147	.8	1.5	.6
Federal	24	33	12	.9	1.2	.4
State and local	150	297	135	.7	1.5	.7
REGION ³						
Northeast	655	1,122	579	2.6	4.5	2.3
South	1,520	2,448	1,362	3.1	5.1	2.9
Midwest	824	1,532	887	2.7	5.1	3.0
West	990	1,510	919	3.2	5.1	3.1

¹ Total separations are the number of total separations during the entire month.
² The total separations rate is the number of total separations during the entire month as a percent of total employment.
³ See footnote 7, table 1.
^p = preliminary.

Table 8.	Quits levels	¹ and rates ²	² by industry	v and region,	not seasonally	adjusted
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	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
industry and region	Feb. 2008	Jan. 2009	Feb. 2009 ^p	Feb. 2008	Jan. 2009	Feb. 2009 ^p
Total	2,215	2,382	1,527	1.6	1.8	1.2
INDUSTRY						
Total private	2,115	2,265	1,456	1.9	2.1	1.3
Mining and logging	13	18	6	1.8	2.3	.8
Construction	130	73	67	1.9	1.2	1.1
Manufacturing	158	134	75	1.2	1.1	.6
Durable goods	90	72	38	1.0	.9	.5
Nondurable goods	68	62	37	1.4	1.3	.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	490	573	320	1.9	2.2	1.3
Wholesale trade	80	58	35	1.3	1.0	.6
Retail trade	339	437	238	2.2	2.9	1.6
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	71	78	47	1.4	1.6	1.0
Information	28	60	24	.9	2.1	.8
Financial activities	123	139	58	1.5	1.8	.7
Finance and insurance	83	97	40	1.4	1.6	.7
Real estate and rental and leasing	40	42	18	1.9	2.1	.9
Professional and business services	390	348	282	2.2	2.1	1.7
Education and health services	238	336	186	1.3	1.8	1.0
Educational services	20	22	23	.6	.7	.7
Health care and social assistance	218	314	163	1.4	2.0	1.0
Leisure and hospitality	460	461	322	3.5	3.6	2.5
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	35	26	22	2.0	1.5	1.3
Accommodation and food services	425	435	300	3.8	4.0	2.7
Other services	85	124	116	1.5	2.3	2.2
Government	100	117	71	.4	.5	.3
Federal	10	7	2	.4	.3	.1
State and local	90	110	69	.4	.6	.3
REGION ³						
Northeast	330	332	189	1.3	1.3	.8
South	925	913	583	1.9	1.9	1.2
Midwest	417	586	363	1.3	1.9	1.2
West	543	552	392	1.8	1.9	1.3

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.

	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
industry and region	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.
	2008	2009	2009 ^p	2008	2009	2009 ^p
Total	1,483	3,715	1,940	1.1	2.8	1.5
INDUSTRY						
Total private	1 448	3 571	1 894	13	33	17
Mining and logging.	.,9	23	16	1.2	3.1	2.1
Construction	200	583	299	2.9	9.3	4.9
Manufacturing	135	513	263	1.0	4.1	2.1
Durable goods	77	351	180	.9	4.5	2.3
Nondurable goods	58	162	83	1.2	3.4	1.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	315	814	375	1.2	3.2	1.5
Wholesale trade	55	254	91	.9	4.4	1.6
Retail trade	219	430	202	1.4	2.9	1.4
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	41	131	81	.8	2.7	1.7
Information	15	97	25	.5	3.4	.9
Financial activities	55	293	108	.7	3.7	1.4
Finance and insurance	32	189	58	.5	3.2	1.0
Real estate and rental and leasing	23	104	50	1.1	5.1	2.5
Professional and business services	311	564	426	1.8	3.3	2.5
Education and health services	127	236	156	.7	1.2	.8
Educational services	14	34	17	.5	1.1	.5
Health care and social assistance	113	202	139	.7	1.3	.9
Leisure and hospitality	226	332	171	1.7	2.6	1.3
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	53	76	31	3.0	4.4	1.8
Accommodation and food services	173	257	140	1.5	2.3	1.3
Other services	53	114	53	1.0	2.1	1.0
Government	36	144	47	.2	.6	.2
Federal	6	11	5	.2	.4	.2
State and local	29	133	42	.1	.7	.2
REGION ³						
Northeast	260	691	318	1.0	28	1.3
South	504	1 342	689	1.0	2.0	14
Midwest	335	806	452	1.0	2.0	1.7
West	385	877	482	13	3.0	1.0
	000	011	702	1.0	0.0	1.0

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.

	Levels (in thousands)			Rates		
Industry and region	Feb. 2008	Jan. 2009	Feb. 2009 ^p	Feb. 2008	Jan. 2009	Feb. 2009 ^p
Total	291	514	280	0.2	0.4	0.2
INDUSTRY						
Total private Mining and logging Construction Manufacturing Durable goods Nondurable goods Trade, transportation, and utilities Wholesale trade Retail trade Transportation, warehousing, and utilities Information Financial activities Finance and insurance Real estate and rental and leasing Professional and business services Education and health services Educational services Health care and social assistance Leisure and hospitality Arts, entertainment, and recreation Accommodation and food services Other services	252 2 17 25 14 12 84 4 72 8 3 22 15 7 35 40 2 39 16 1 15 7 39	445 4 23 46 37 8 121 31 61 28 12 44 38 6 4 97 2 94 25 7 18 9	251 1 20 15 5 55 7 36 11 4 11 10 1 73 47 2 44 29 (⁴) 28 2 29	.2 .2 .2 .2 .2 .2 .2 .3 .1 .5 .2 .1 .3 .2 .3 .2 .2 .1 .2 .1 .2 .1 .2 .2 .2 .2 .3 .1 .5 .2 .1 .3 .2 .3 .2 .2 .2 .3 .1 .5 .2 .1 .3 .2 .2 .2 .2 .2 .3 .1 .5 .2 .1 .5 .2 .2 .2 .2 .2 .2 .3 .1 .5 .2 .1 .5 .2 .2 .2 .2 .1 .5 .2 .1 .5 .2 .2 .2 .2 .2 .1 .1 .5 .2 .2 .2 .2 .2 .1 .2 .2 .2 .2 .2 .1 .2 .2 .2 .2 .2 .2 .2 .2 .2 .2 .2 .2 .2	.4 .6 .4 .5 .2 .5 .5 .4 .6 .4 .5 .1 .6 .2 .4 .2 .2 .3	.2 .1 .2 .2 .1 .2 .1 .2 .1 .2 .1 .1 .2 .1 .1 .2 .1 .3 .2 .($^{(4)}$) .3 .($^{(4)}$)
Federal State and local	8 30	15 54	5 24	.3 .2	.6 .3	.2 .1
REGION ³						
Northeast South Midwest West	65 92 72 62	99 193 140 82	72 91 73 45	.3 .2 .2 .2	.4 .4 .5 .3	.3 .2 .2 .2

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.