Job Openings and Labor Turnover (JOLTS)

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Labor Market Data

- Employment
  - Current Employment Statistics (CES)
- Unemployment
  - Current Population Survey (CPS)
- Labor dynamics—worker flows
  - Job Openings and Labor Turnover (JOLTS)
JOLTS Data Elements

- Employment (pay period of the 12th)
- Job openings (last day of the month)
- Hires (full month)
- Total Separations (full month)
  - Quits
  - Layoffs and Discharges
  - Other Separations
JOLTS Survey Scope

16,000 establishments sampled from:
- Nonagricultural industries
- All 50 states and the District of Columbia
- Private sector and government
- All size classes
Uses of Demand and Churn Data

- Identify types of unemployment
  - Structural: mismatch of workers/jobs
  - Frictional: movement of workers
  - Cyclical: business cycle

- Indicate health of the labor market
  - Job openings high or low?
  - Quits high or low?
  - Layoffs high or low?

- May have leading indicator properties
The unemployment rate and job openings rate
Seasonally adjusted

Unemployment rate
Job openings rate
Quits and layoffs and discharges
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

- **Quits**
- **Layoffs and Discharges**
Number of unemployed persons per job opening
Seasonally adjusted
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation
hires and separations rates
Seasonally Adjusted
Construction hires and separations rates
Seasonally Adjusted

percent

Hires
Separations

Dec-00  Jan-01  Feb-01  Mar-01  Apr-01  May-01  Jun-01  Jul-01  Aug-01  Sep-01  Oct-01  Nov-01
Dec-01  Jan-02  Feb-02  Mar-02  Apr-02  May-02  Jun-02  Jul-02  Aug-02  Sep-02  Oct-02  Nov-02
Dec-02  Jan-03  Feb-03  Mar-03  Apr-03  May-03  Jun-03  Jul-03  Aug-03  Sep-03  Oct-03  Nov-03
Dec-04  Jan-05  Feb-05  Mar-05  Apr-05  May-05  Jun-05  Jul-05  Aug-05  Sep-05  Oct-05  Nov-05
Dec-05  Jan-06  Feb-06  Mar-06  Apr-06  May-06  Jun-06  Jul-06  Aug-06  Sep-06  Oct-06  Nov-06
Dec-07  Jan-08  Feb-08  Mar-08  Apr-08  May-08  Jun-08  Jul-08  Aug-08  Sep-08  Oct-08  Nov-08
Dec-08  Jan-09  Feb-09  Mar-09  Apr-09  May-09  Jun-09  Jul-09  Aug-09  Sep-09  Oct-09  Nov-09
Dec-09  Jan-10  Feb-10  Mar-10  Apr-10  May-10  Jun-10  Jul-10  Aug-10  Sep-10  Oct-10  Nov-10
Dec-10  Jan-11  Feb-11  Mar-11

BLS
Manufacturing hires and separations rates
Seasonally Adjusted

Hires
Separations
Government hires and separations rates
Seasonally Adjusted

BLS
Hires Levels by Region
Seasonally Adjusted

- Northeast
- South
- Midwest
- West
JOLTS Developments

- JOLTS Symposium, Dec. 10, 2010
- How can we improve JOLTS?
  - With what we already collect
    - Size class estimates
  - Future survey enhancements
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Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey

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