

Adjusted Estimates of Worker Flows and Job Openings in JOLTS

Steven J. Davis, R. Jason Faberman, John C. Haltiwanger & Ian Rucker

SHARE   

WORKING PAPER 14137

DOI 10.3386/w14137

ISSUE DATE June 2008

We develop and implement a method to improve estimates of worker flows and job openings based on the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS). Our method involves reweighting the cross-sectional density of employment growth rates in JOLTS to match the corresponding density in the comprehensive Business Employment Dynamics (BED) data. To motivate our work, we compare JOLTS to other data sources and document large discrepancies with respect to aggregate employment growth, the magnitude of worker flows, and the cross-sectional density of establishment growth rates. We also discuss issues related to JOLTS sample design and nonresponse corrections. Our adjusted statistics for hires and separations exceed the published statistics by about one-third. The adjusted layoff rate is more than 60 percent greater than the published layoff rate. Time-series properties are also affected. For example, hires exhibit more volatility than separations in the published statistics, but the reverse holds in the adjusted statistics. The impact of our adjustment methodology on estimated job openings is more modest, raising the vacancy rate by about 8 percent.

Download a PDF

[Information on access](#)

Acknowledgements and Disclosures 

Download Citation 

Published Versions

[Adjusted Estimates of Worker Flows and Job Openings in JOLTS](#), Steven J. Davis, R. Jason Faberman, John C. Haltiwanger, Ian Rucker. in [Labor in the New Economy](#), Abraham, Spletzer, and Harper. 2010

Related

TOPICS

[Econometrics](#)
[Data Collection](#)
[Labor Economics](#)
[Unemployment and Immigration](#)

PROGRAMS

[Economic Fluctuations and Growth](#)
[Labor Studies](#)

More from NBER

In addition to [working papers](#), the NBER disseminates affiliates' latest findings through a range of free periodicals — the [NBER Reporter](#), the [NBER Digest](#), the [Bulletin on Retirement and Disability](#), the [Bulletin on Health](#), and the [Bulletin on Entrepreneurship](#) — as well as online conference reports, video lectures, and interviews.



16th Annual Martin Feldstein Lecture:

Lessons for Economists from the Pandemic

Cecilia E. Rouse, The Brookings Institution
and Princeton University
July 22, 2024

2024, 16th Annual Feldstein Lecture, Cecilia E. Rouse, "Lessons for Economists from the Pandemic"

FELDSTEIN LECTURE

PRESENTER: [CECILIA E. ROUSE](#)

Cecilia Rouse, president of the Brookings Institution and a professor at Princeton University, who chaired the Council...



Methods Lectures, Summer Institute 2024:

Analysis and Design of Multi-Armed Bandit Experiments and Policy Learning

Susan Athey, Stanford University and NBER
July 25, 2024

2024 Methods Lecture, Susan Athey, "Analysis and Design of Multi-Armed Bandit Experiments and Policy Learning"

METHODS LECTURES

PRESENTER: [SUSAN ATHEY](#)

SlidesBackground Materials:backgroundAthey, Susan, Undral Byambadalai, Vitor Hadad, Sanath Kumar Krishnamurthy, Weiwen...



Economics of Social Security Panel Discussion

Earnings Inequality and Payroll Tax Revenues

Karen Dynan, Harvard University
Karen Glenn, Social Security Administration
Stephen Goss, Social Security Administration
Fatih Guvenen, University of Minnesota and NBER
James Pearce, US Congressional Budget Office
NBER Summer Institute, July 24, 2024

2024, Economics of Social Security Panel, "Earnings Inequality and Payroll Tax Revenues"

National Bureau of Economic Research

[Contact Us](#)

1050 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138
[617-868-3900](tel:617-868-3900)
info@nber.org
webaccessibility@nber.org

[HOMEPAGE](#)

[Accessibility Policy](#)

[Diversity Policy](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

FOLLOW

