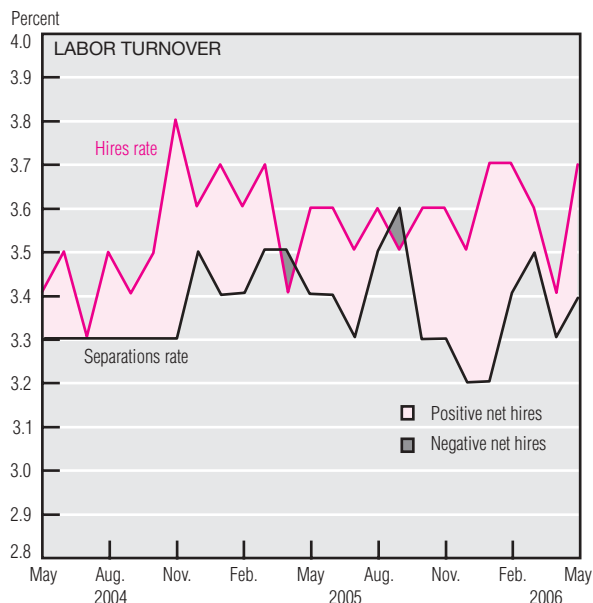
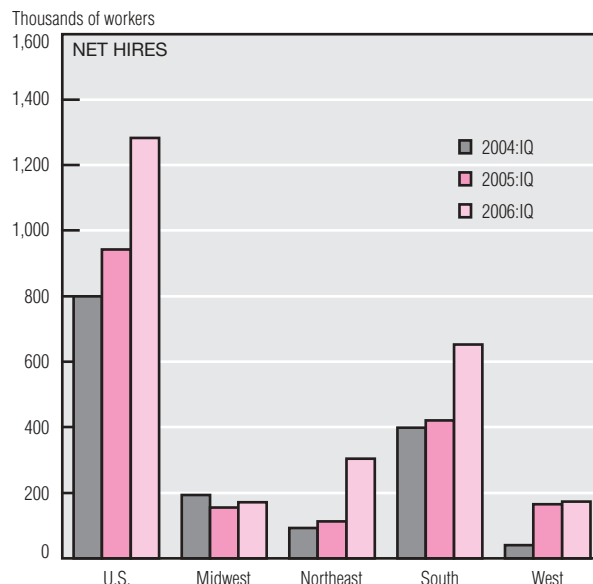
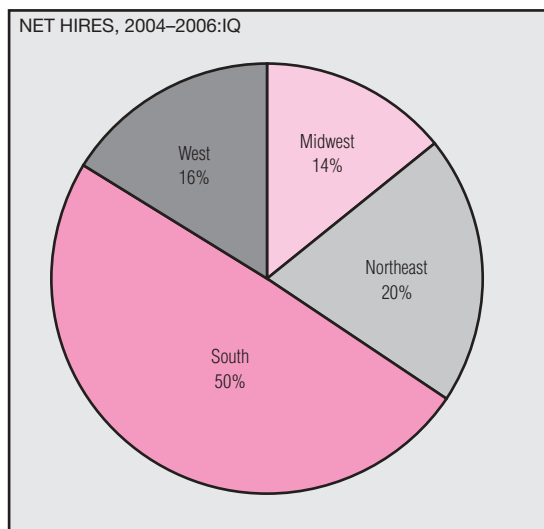


# Job Openings and Labor Turnover



**Average Net Hires Rates by Industry, 2004–May 2006**

	Percent		
	Hires	Separations	Net hires
Total private	3.93	3.71	0.22
Mining	3.39	2.96	0.43
Construction	5.63	5.43	0.20
Manufacturing	2.48	2.99	-0.51
TPU <sup>a</sup>	3.91	3.80	0.11
Information	2.36	2.45	-0.09
FIRE <sup>b</sup>	2.36	2.21	0.14
PBS <sup>c</sup>	5.08	4.57	0.51
Education and health services	2.60	2.32	0.28



a. Transportation and public utilities.  
 b. Finance, insurance, and real estate.  
 c. Professional and business services.

SOURCE: Author's calculations from U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey*, May 2006.

The Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey measures the number of unfilled jobs, an important component of unmet labor demand. The survey, begun in 2001, provides data on employment, job openings, hires, quits, layoffs, discharges, and other separations, which are useful in analyzing the health of the labor market.

Current data show that the net hires rate is positive, a sign of growing demand for labor. Rates of job openings and total separations were unchanged in May; this created a

positive net hires rate for the nation, continuing a trend that began in September 2005.

Professional and business services drove the increase, with an average net hires rate of 0.51% since 2004. Positive hires rates were also reported for mining (0.43%) and education and health services (0.28%). Manufacturing offset some of those gains with a net hires rate of -0.51% over the two-year period.

Most of the growth occurred in the South, which has accounted for

half of net hires since 2004. The rest of the nation shared the other half of net hires, with the Northeast claiming 20%, the West 16%, and the Midwest 14%.

In each of the last three years, the first quarter followed the trend of increasing net hires across the U.S. In 2006:1Q, the South and Northeast regions reported the most dramatic increases. Although the Midwest increased its number of net hires, it was the only region where the net hires rate did not rise.