

# U.S. News: Job Openings, Quits Reach Record Highs

Mena, Bryan . Wall Street Journal , Eastern edition; New York, N.Y. [New York, N.Y]. 04 May 2022: A.2.

[ProQuest document link](#)

---

## FULL TEXT

Job openings and the number of times workers quit reached the highest levels on record in March, as a shortage of workers continued to pressure the U.S. labor market.

The Labor Department on Tuesday reported a seasonally adjusted 11.5 million job openings in March, an increase from 11.3 million the prior month. The number of times workers quit their jobs rose to 4.5 million in the same month, slightly higher than the previous record in November of last year. Meanwhile, hiring cooled slightly from the month before to 6.7 million hires in March.

Separate private-sector estimates showed that demand for labor remained red-hot through April. Jobs site ZipRecruiter said employers had about 11 million job openings last month.

Consumer-facing industries such as accommodation and food services, along with arts and entertainment, had the highest rate of job openings in March, according to the Labor Department. Job openings in the healthcare industry were also near record highs.

According to a ZipRecruiter analysis of Labor Department data, job postings at larger employers -- those with more than 5,000 workers -- have more than doubled since February 2020. Manufacturing, retail, education and professional services have seen the largest increases. Openings reached their highest levels on record in the South.

The March job openings total was higher than the previous record of 11.4 million in December, according to the Labor Department.

"There is little sign of cooling in the greatest job seekers' market of all time," said Julia Pollak, chief economist of ZipRecruiter. "As businesses continue to face high turnover, and the gap between demand for labor and supply widens yet further, businesses will continue to experience upward pressure on wages."

The number of job openings continues to exceed the number of unemployed people seeking work. In March, there were nearly two job openings for every unemployed person, the Labor Department said. Openings have outpaced the level of unemployed people seeking jobs since last spring.

Employers have had difficulty hiring from the limited pool of available workers, and millions of people are expected to remain on the sidelines indefinitely. That has also pushed up wages.

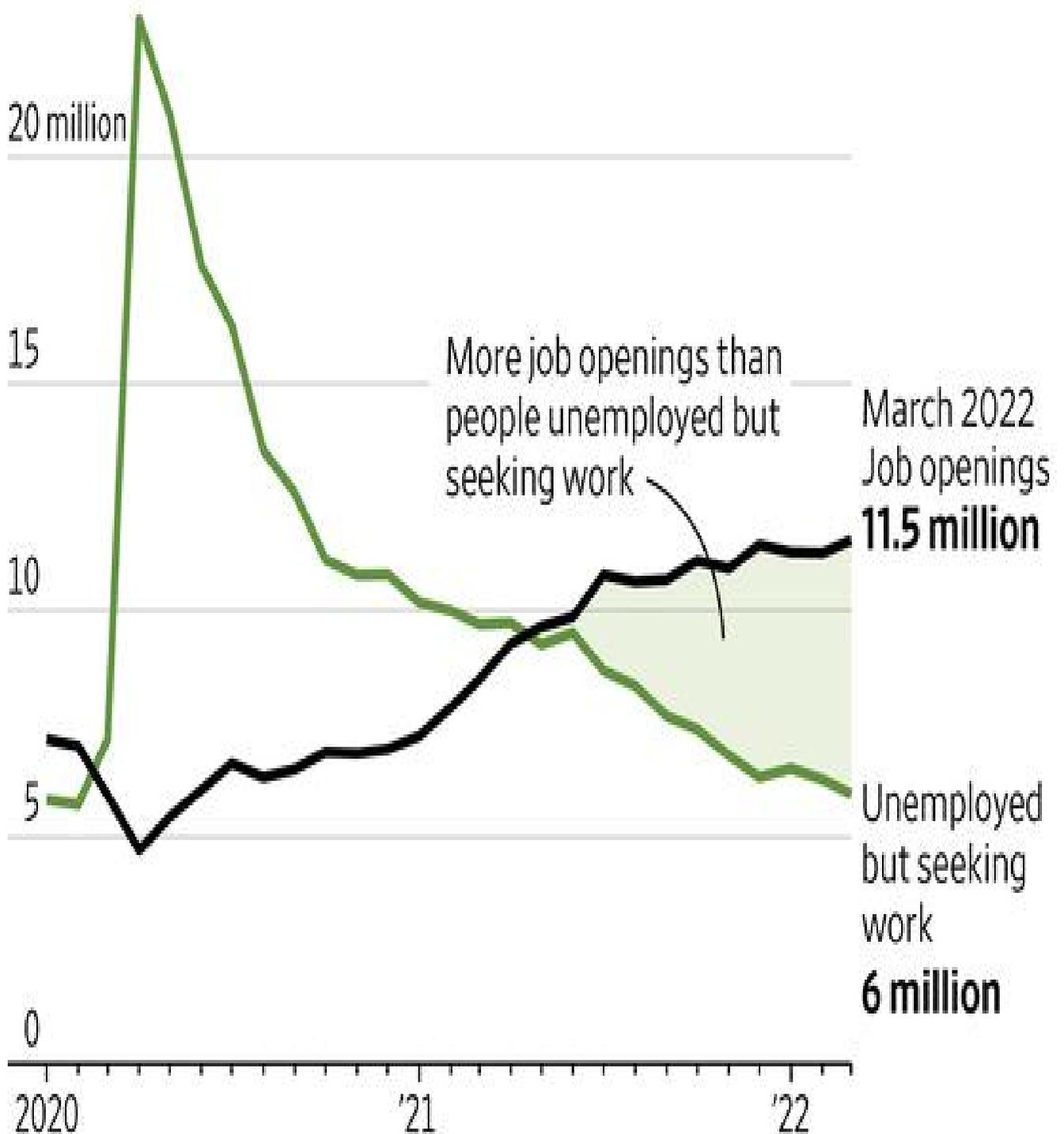
Many people in the labor market also are finding they have gained leverage, making it easier to switch jobs.

The tight labor market has helped spur record compensation gains for workers, keeping pressure on inflation.

Employees who switch jobs often win double-digit pay raises.

Average hourly earnings for workers in the private sector were 5.6% higher than the year before in March, rising significantly faster than the roughly 3% rate recorded the year before the pandemic began, according to the Labor Department.

# U.S. job openings compared to the number of people who are unemployed but seeking work



Note: Seasonally adjusted. March 2022 data are preliminary.

Source: Labor Department via the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

[Enlarge this image.](#)

Credit: By Bryan Mena

## DETAILS

<b>Subject:</b>	Resignations; Job openings; Labor shortages; Employers; Economic conditions; Labor market; Wages & salaries; Workforce
<b>Business indexing term:</b>	Subject: Resignations Job openings Employers Economic conditions Labor market Wages & salaries Workforce
<b>Location:</b>	United States--US
<b>Publication title:</b>	Wall Street Journal, Eastern edition; New York, N.Y.
<b>First page:</b>	A.2
<b>Publication year:</b>	2022
<b>Publication date:</b>	May 4, 2022
<b>Publisher:</b>	Dow Jones & Company Inc
<b>Place of publication:</b>	New York, N.Y.
<b>Country of publication:</b>	United States, New York, N.Y.
<b>Publication subject:</b>	Business And Economics--Banking And Finance
<b>ISSN:</b>	00999660
<b>Source type:</b>	Newspaper
<b>Language of publication:</b>	English
<b>Document type:</b>	News
<b>ProQuest document ID:</b>	2659017748
<b>Document URL:</b>	<a href="https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/u-s-news-job-openings-quits-reach-record-highs/docview/2659017748/se-2?accountid=44910">https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/u-s-news-job-openings-quits-reach-record-highs/docview/2659017748/se-2?accountid=44910</a>
<b>Copyright:</b>	Copyright 2022 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
<b>Last updated:</b>	2022-05-04
<b>Database:</b>	ABI/INFORM Collection,U.S. Major Dailies

Database copyright © 2022 ProQuest LLC. All rights reserved.

[Terms and Conditions](#) [Contact ProQuest](#)