



New methodology for calculating openings:

Current short-term openings were calculated using the new Separations methodology. Long-term openings for Local Areas using the new Separations methodology will be finalized in June 2019 (current long-term openings were calculated using the Replacements methodology).

Introducing the new Separations methodology:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has implemented a new methodology to measure occupational separations for 2016-2026 projections.

Why the change? Because the workforce has evolved since the previous methodology, the Replacements methodology, was developed in the early 1990s. While the Replacements methodology is not inaccurate, the new Separations methodology was created to better account for changes in the workforce and to help project what will happen within this dynamic new economy.

The purpose of the new Separations methodology and the Replacements methodology remain the same: to provide estimates of workers who leave their occupation and need to be replaced by new workers.

- The Replacements methodology only captured workers who took a once-traditional career path by staying in the same industry or occupation until retirement, and reflected primarily retirement and death as a reason for exiting the workforce.
- But the workforce is constantly evolving, and workers leave an occupation for reasons other than retirement or death, such as changing careers, being promoted to management or completing a retraining program. The Separations methodology accounts for different types of job changes.

For more information about the Separations methodology, visit:

www.bls.gov/emp/ep_separations.htm.