

# Job postings by US employers hit record high

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WASHINGTON – Job openings posted by U.S. employers reached an all-time high in July, suggesting that the steady hiring of the past year will endure.

Openings edged up 0.9 percent from June to 6.2 million, the highest on records dating to 2000, the Labor Department said Tuesday. Hiring also increased. But the record number of openings makes clear that employers have many jobs to fill but are still searching for qualified workers at the pay levels being offered.

The number of people who quit their jobs also rose, a trend that generally means workers are leaving for jobs that pay better.

Sarah House, an economist at Wells Fargo, said that “hiring intentions remained strong” but that upcoming economic reports will likely reflect the negative effects of Harvey and Irma on the job market.

More job openings were posted in construction and manufacturing, along with health care, professional and business services and the information sector.

Tuesday’s figures on job openings follow a government report Friday that employers added 156,000 jobs in August and a downwardly revised 189,000 in July. (Friday’s figures represented a net total of jobs added minus jobs lost; Tuesday’s report includes overall hiring data.)

The record-high job openings suggest that the economy is at or near “full employment,” which is when nearly everyone who wants a job has one and the unemployment rate reflects mostly a temporary churn of job losses and gains.