

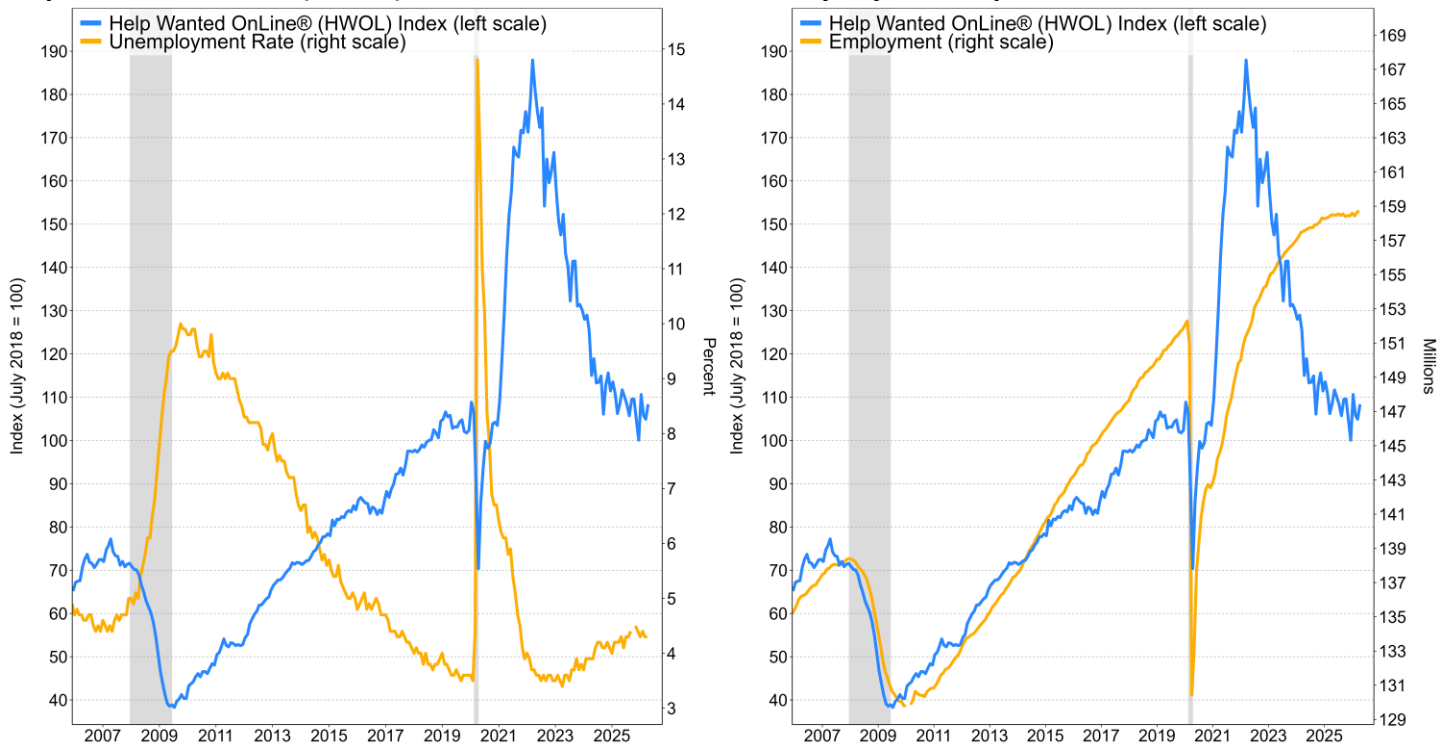
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Online Labor Demand Increased in April

NEW YORK, May 13, 2026...*The Conference Board–Lightcast Help Wanted OnLine® (HWOL) Index* increased in April 2026 to 108.4 (July 2018=100), up from a downwardly revised 104.9 in March. The 3.3% increase between April and March followed a 0.8% decrease between March and February. Overall, the Index is down 0.1% from one year ago.

The HWOL Index measures the change in advertised online job vacancies over time, reflecting monthly trends in employment opportunities across the US. The *Help Wanted OnLine®* Index is produced in collaboration with Lightcast, the global leader in real-time labor market data and analysis. This collaboration enhances the *Help Wanted OnLine®* program by providing additional insights into important labor market trends.

Help Wanted OnLine® (HWOL) Index: United States, seasonally adjusted, April 2026



Note: Shaded areas represent recessions as determined by the NBER Business Cycle Dating Committee.
Sources: The Conference Board, Lightcast, Bureau of Labor Statistics

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The release schedule, national historic table and technical note are available on The Conference Board website, <http://www.conference-board.org/data/helpwantedonline.cfm>. The underlying data for The Conference Board HWOL is collected by Lightcast.

Table 1. HWOL Data Series: Total ads by Census Division, seasonally adjusted, April 2026

Area ¹	Total Ads ² (Thousands)	Area ¹	Total Ads ² (Thousands)
United States	7,416.5	South Atlantic	1,471.1
New England	448.6	East South Central	391.9
Middle Atlantic	855.9	West South Central	832.8
East North Central	1,060.3	Mountain	598.7
West North Central	563.8	Pacific	992.3

Source: The Conference Board, Lightcast

1. Census Divisions defined by the U.S. Census Bureau
2. Ad levels are seasonally adjusted and may not add up to the total US count

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Table 2. HWOL Data Series: Total ads by State, seasonally adjusted, April 2026

State	Total Ads ¹ (Thousands)	State	Total Ads ¹ (Thousands)
Alabama	95.5	Montana	28.3
Alaska	22.3	Nebraska	47.2
Arizona	158.0	Nevada	63.8
Arkansas	61.8	New Hampshire	51.1
California	681.3	New Jersey	207.4
Colorado	162.5	New Mexico	52.1
Connecticut	86.0	New York	370.8
Delaware	28.4	North Carolina	237.8
Florida	427.7	North Dakota	31.3
Georgia	215.2	Ohio	258.1
Hawaii	31.3	Oklahoma	78.2
Idaho	44.0	Oregon	95.6
Illinois	303.6	Pennsylvania	276.2
Indiana	145.9	Rhode Island	27.3
Iowa	77.8	South Carolina	113.4
Kansas	81.6	South Dakota	28.1
Kentucky	85.1	Tennessee	150.2
Louisiana	82.9	Texas	610.7
Maine	39.0	Utah	74.8
Maryland	138.4	Vermont	24.9
Massachusetts	219.8	Virginia	230.2
Michigan	213.0	Washington	160.6
Minnesota	146.1	West Virginia	35.6
Mississippi	60.8	Wisconsin	141.0
Missouri	153.7	Wyoming	16.0

Source: The Conference Board, Lightcast

1. Ad levels are seasonally adjusted and may not add up to the total US count

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Table 3. HWOL Data Series: Total ads by selected MSAs, seasonally adjusted, April 2026

MSA ¹	Total Ads ² (Thousands)	MSA ¹	Total Ads ² (Thousands)
Birmingham, AL	24.4	Kansas City, MO	70.1
Phoenix, AZ	116.1	St. Louis, MO	70.9
Tucson, AZ	20.7	Las Vegas, NV	38.2
Los Angeles, CA	214.1	Buffalo, NY	21.4
Riverside, CA	55.2	New York, NY	376.7
Sacramento, CA	41.0	Rochester, NY	22.6
San Diego, CA	60.5	Charlotte, NC	67.6
San Francisco, CA	118.8	Cincinnati, OH	49.5
San Jose, CA	64.2	Cleveland, OH	49.8
Denver, CO	93.1	Columbus, OH	59.5
Hartford, CT	35.5	Oklahoma City, OK	33.9
Washington, DC	179.9	Portland, OR	57.5
Jacksonville, FL	34.6	Philadelphia, PA	131.9
Miami, FL	123.8	Pittsburgh, PA	59.4
Orlando, FL	53.3	Providence, RI	37.5
Tampa, FL	70.2	Memphis, TN	25.1
Atlanta, GA	130.6	Nashville, TN	62.2
Honolulu, HI	21.0	Austin, TX	74.3
Chicago, IL	218.5	Dallas, TX	196.1
Indianapolis, IN	56.8	Houston, TX	116.4
Louisville, KY	30.6	San Antonio, TX	48.2
New Orleans, LA	21.0	Salt Lake City, UT	40.9
Baltimore, MD	72.8	Richmond, VA	41.9
Boston, MA	172.0	Virginia Beach, VA	43.4
Detroit, MI	93.7	Seattle-Tacoma, WA	95.6
Minneapolis, MN	98.6	Milwaukee, WI	42.2

Source: The Conference Board, Lightcast

1. Metropolitan areas are based on 2013 OMB county-based Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) definitions
2. Ad levels are seasonally adjusted and may not add up to the total US count

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PROGRAM NOTES

The June 2025 data release reflects an update to our job board coverage as a few job boards made changes to their access policy. To minimize any impact, and improve and supplement our job board coverage, we have broadened and updated our job board coverage.

Prior to 2020, The Conference Board constructed the HWOL Index based solely on online job ads over time. Using a methodology designed to reduce non-economic volatility contributed by online job sources, the HWOL Index served an effective measure of changes in labor demand over time.

Beginning January 2020, the HWOL Index was refined as an estimate of change in job openings (based on BLS JOLTS), using a series of econometric models which incorporate job ads with other macroeconomic indicators such as employment and aggregate hours worked. By adopting a modeled approach which combines other data sources with data on online job ads, the HWOL Index more accurately tracks important movements in the labor market.

HWOL Annual Revision. With the April 2025 press release, the HWOL program has incorporated its annual revision, which helps ensure the accuracy and consistency of the HWOL Data Series. This year's annual revision includes updates to the Occupational coding and the Geographical coding for the HWOL Data Series from January 2015-forward. The HWOL Index has also been updated from January 2020-forward.

The Conference Board-Lightcast Help Wanted OnLine® (HWOL) Index measures changes over time in advertised online job vacancies, reflecting monthly trends in employment opportunities across the US. The HWOL Data Series aggregates the total number of ads available by month from the HWOL universe of online job ads. Ads in the HWOL universe are collected in real-time from over 50,000 online job domains including traditional job boards, corporate boards, social media sites, and smaller job sites that serve niche markets and smaller geographic areas.

Like The Conference Board's long-running Help Wanted Advertising Index of print ads (which was published for over 55 years and discontinued in July 2008), **Help Wanted OnLine®** measures help wanted advertising—i.e. labor demand. The HWOL Data Series began in May 2005 and was revised in December 2018. With the December 2018 revision, The Conference Board released the HWOL Index, improving upon the HWOL Data Series' ability to assess local labor market trends by reducing volatility and non-economic noise and improving correlation with local labor market conditions.

In 2019, Lightcast (formerly Emsi Burning Glass) joined the **Help Wanted OnLine®** program as the new sole provider of online job ad data for HWOL. With this partnership, the HWOL Data Series has been revised historically to reflect a new universe and methodology of online job advertisements and therefore cannot be used in conjunction with the pre-revised HWOL Data Series. The HWOL Data Series begins in January 2015 and the HWOL Index begins in December 2005. HWOL Index values prior to 2020 are based on job ads collected by CEB, Inc.

Those using this data are urged to review the information on the database and methodology available on The Conference Board website and contact us with questions and comments. Background information and technical note and discussion of revisions to the series are available at: <http://www.conference-board.org/data/helpwantedonline.cfm>.

About The Conference Board

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About Lightcast

As the global leader in labor market analytics, Lightcast illuminates the future of work with data-driven talent strategies. Formerly Emsi Burning Glass, Lightcast finds purpose in sharing the insights that build communities, educators, and companies, and takes pride in knowing our work helps others find fulfillment, too. Headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts, and Moscow, Idaho, Lightcast is active in more than 30 countries and has offices in the United Kingdom, Italy, New Zealand, and India. Lightcast is backed by global private equity leader KKR. <https://lightcast.io/>

Help Wanted OnLine® Publication Schedule

<u>Data for the Month</u>	<u>Release Date</u>
May 2026	June 10, 2026
June 2026	July 8, 2026
July 2026	August 12, 2026
August 2026	September 9, 2026
September 2026	October 7, 2026
October 2026	November 12, 2026
November 2026	December 9, 2026

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