



The cyclical behavior of separation and job finding rates in Colombia

Working Paper No. 910 Keep in mind

The series Working Papers on Economics is published by the Office for Economic Studies at the *Banco de la República* (Central Bank of *Colombia*). It contributes to the dissemination and promotion of the work by researchers from the institution. This series is indexed at Research Papers in Economics (RePEc).

On multiple occasions, these works have been the result of collaborative work with individuals from other national or international institutions. The works published are provisional, and their authors are fully responsible for the opinions expressed in them, as well as for possible mistakes. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Banco de la República or its Board of Directors.

AUTHOR OR EDITOR Viviana Alejandra Alfonso

This work uses readily accessible data about the stocks of unemployed workers, labor force and duration of unemployment to measure the job finding and separation rates for Colombia from 1984 to 2014. It also evaluates the relative contribution of these rates to the fluctuations of unemployment rate. It is found that contemporaneous movements in both rates explain significantly and in roughly the same proportion the changes in the unemployment rate during the analyzed period; however, for the last seven years job finding rate has driven the unemployment fluctuations. The results of this work differ from previous findings by Lasso (2011) where the separation rate is the most important in Colombia. Results are contrasted with the obtained for France and United States to show that Colombian unemployment is of European nature but has United States' features.

The series Borradores de Economía is published by the Economic Studies Department at the Banco de la República (Central Bank of Colombia). The works published are provisional, and their authors are fully responsible for the opinions expressed in them, as well as for possible mistakes. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Banco de la República or its Board of Directors.