

Employment Report

FLORIDA

spherion
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Florida Employment Report: Fewer Workers Confident in Their Ability to Find New Job; Overall Confidence Drops Slightly

- *More workers believe the economy is getting stronger*
- *Nearly four in 10 workers confident that more jobs are available*
- *Lower percentage of workers confident in ability to find new job*

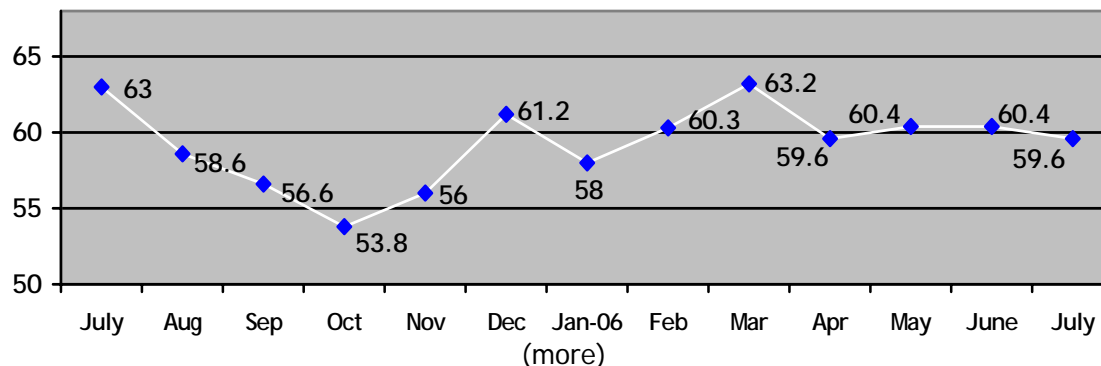
FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., August 18, 2006 - Confidence among Florida workers decreased slightly in July, according to a recent survey conducted by Harris Interactive® on behalf of Spherion Corporation (NYSE:SFN). The Florida Employee Confidence Index slipped 0.8 points to 59.6, primarily due to a decrease in the number of workers reporting they were confident in their ability to find a new job.

Despite the drop, workers expressed confidence in the macroeconomic situation. Twenty-seven percent of workers reported that the economy is getting stronger, up 14 percentage points from June. Additionally, the percentage of workers indicating that more jobs are available increased six percentage points to 37 percent.

"Although workers' overall confidence was down 0.8 percentage points in July, they continue to report high levels of optimism in the strength of the economy and availability of jobs. Florida's increased job creation, coupled with a low unemployment rate, creates a very strong job market," said Dawn Gill, district director of Florida for Spherion® Staffing Services. "We anticipate more employers will examine their current pool of candidates and evaluate ways to boost their retention efforts. We are seeing most businesses feel the strain of a tight labor market, especially with finance and accounting, technology, call center, distribution and manufacturing positions."

Employee Confidence Index: The overall Florida Employee Confidence Index was 59.6 in July, down 0.8 points from June and decreasing 3.4 percentage points from July 2005. The Index, which measures adult workers' confidence in their personal employment situation and the macroeconomic environment, declined as fewer workers reported confidence in their ability to find a new job.

Employee Confidence Index



July Employment Report Results

		<u>Florida Workers</u>			<u>U.S. Workers</u>		
		<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>% Point Change</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>% Point Change</i>
Economy	Getting stronger	13%	27%	+14%	19%	23%	+4%
	Staying same	46%	25%	-21%	38%	33%	-5%
	Getting weaker	41%	48%	+7%	43%	44%	+1%
Job Availability	More jobs	31%	37%	+6%	24%	25%	+1%
	Same amount	42%	25%	-17%	37%	36%	-1%
	Fewer jobs	28%	38%	+10%	39%	38%	-1%
Ability to Find New Job	Confident	68%	58%	-10%	56%	57%	+1%
	Neutral	20%	33%	+13%	29%	28%	-1%
	Not confident	13%	10%	-3%	16%	15%	-1%
Future of Current Employer	Confident	61%	61%	0%	65%	65%	0%
	Neutral	29%	29%	0%	22%	24%	+2%
	Not confident	9%	10%	+1%	13%	12%	-1%
Likelihood to Lose Job	Likely	6%	15%	+9%	11%	12%	+1%
	Neutral	18%	10%	-8%	11%	9%	-2%
	Not likely	76%	75%	-1%	78%	79%	+1%
Look for New Job	Likely	33%	35%	+2%	36%	35%	-1%
	Neutral	11%	11%	0%	10%	10%	0%
	Not likely	56%	54%	-2%	54%	55%	+1%

About the Spherion Employment Report

As part of the Spherion® Emerging Workforce® Series of employment surveys, the monthly Spherion Employment Report provides a snapshot of the latest workforce trends across the country and is issued in conjunction with state and national labor market releases. Three key indices are measured: the Spherion *Job Security Index*, which captures how likely respondents think it is that they will lose their job or that their job will be eliminated in the next 12 months; the Spherion *Job Transition Index*, which captures how likely respondents are to look for a new job in the next 12 months; and the *Employee Confidence Index*, which measures employees' overall confidence in the economy, the future of their employer, the availability of jobs, and their ability to find other employment. The Employee Confidence Index is based on these four components, with a 'score' calculated for each by taking the difference of the percentage of positive responses and the percentage of negative responses. These four scores are then averaged to indicate an overall level of employee confidence scaled from 0 (no confidence) to 100 (complete confidence). A reading above 50 indicates a positive confidence level.

(more)

Methodology

The July 2006 Spherion® Employment Report is based on data from a Harris Interactive® online omnibus conducted on behalf of Spherion Corporation. A U.S. sample of 2,836 employed adults, aged 18 years and older, of whom 139 are employed in Florida (for June 2006 n=116), was interviewed in a series of two polls conducted between July 5-7 and July 11-13, 2006. Figures for age, sex, race/ethnicity, income, education and region were weighted where necessary to bring them in line with their actual proportions in the population. Propensity score weighting adjusted for respondents' propensity to be online.

With pure probability samples, with 100 percent response rates, it is possible to calculate the probability that the sampling error (but not other sources of error) is not greater than some number. With a pure probability sample of 2,836 U.S. employed adults one could say with a 95 percent probability that the overall results have a sampling error of +/- two percentage points, and the sampling error for the Florida state sample results is plus or minus eight percentage points. However, that does not take other sources of error into account. This online survey is not based on a probability sample and therefore no theoretical sampling error can be calculated.

About Spherion

Spherion Corporation (NYSE:SFN) is a leading recruiting and staffing company that provides integrated solutions to meet the evolving needs of companies and job candidates. As an industry pioneer for 60 years, Spherion has screened and placed millions of individuals in temporary, temp-to-hire and full-time jobs. Positions range from administrative and light industrial to a host of professions that include accounting/finance, information technology, engineering, manufacturing, legal, human resources and sales/marketing.

With approximately 650 offices in the United States and Canada, Spherion delivers innovative workforce solutions that improve business performance. Spherion provides its services to more than 8,000 customers, from Fortune 500 companies to a wide range of small and mid-size organizations. Employing 375,000 people annually through its network, Spherion is one of North America's largest employers. To learn more, visit www.spherion.com.

About Harris Interactive

Harris Interactive is the 12th largest and fastest-growing market research firm in the world. The company provides research-driven insights and strategic advice to help its clients make more confident decisions which lead to measurable and enduring improvements in performance. Harris Interactive is widely known for *The Harris Poll*, one of the longest running, independent opinion polls and for pioneering online market research methods. The company has built what could conceivably be the world's largest panel of survey respondents, the Harris Poll Online. Harris Interactive serves clients worldwide through its United States, Europe and Asia offices, its wholly-owned subsidiary Novatris in France and through a global network of independent market research firms. The service bureau, HISB, provides its market research industry clients with mixed-mode data collection, panel development services as well as syndicated and tracking research consultation. More information about Harris Interactive may be obtained at www.harrisinteractive.com.

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