

Employment Report

ILLINOIS

spherion

June 2006

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Illinois Employment Report: Worker Confidence Down, Slightly More Workers Likely to Job Search

- *More workers report doubt in strength of economy*
- *Fewer workers confident in ability to find a new job*
- *Percentage of workers likely to search for a new job unchanged*

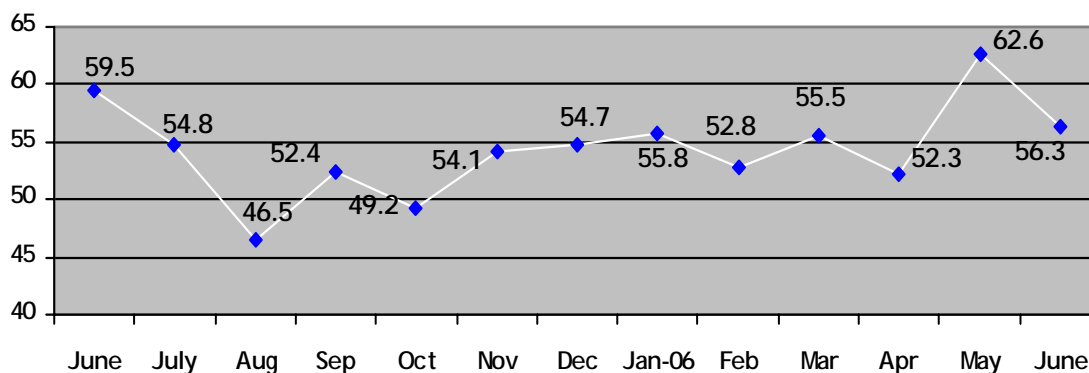
CHICAGO, Ill., July 20, 2006- Illinois workers' confidence took a dip in June, according to the latest Spherion® Illinois employment report. The Illinois Employee Confidence Index dropped 6.3 points to 56.3 in June after rising nearly 10 points in May. The survey, conducted by Harris Interactive® on behalf of Spherion Corporation (NYSE:SFN), shows that lower levels of worker confidence in the economy and their personal employment situation contributed to this decline.

Thirty-four percent of Illinois workers indicated that they are likely to look for a new job in the next 12 months, virtually unchanged from May's reading (33 percent). *For detailed information on the calculation of the Employee Confidence Index and its subscale measurements, please see the "About the Spherion Employment Report" section below.*

"The drop in confidence is not a surprise, especially when you consider the rising interest rates and gas prices," said Michael Ruter, managing director of Spherion Professional Services in Chicago. "Workers seem to be reacting to these indicators, but employers, on the other hand, seem to be showing an increase in confidence by placing more orders for permanent positions. This shows us that they are confident in the long-term health of their business. Particularly, we are seeing greater demand for customer service positions and high-level administrative assistants, in addition to application developers and professionals with financial auditing experience."

Employee Confidence Index: The overall Illinois Employee Confidence Index was 56.3 in June, down 6.3 points from May. The Index, which measures adult workers' confidence in their personal employment situation and the macroeconomic environment, may have decreased as more workers reported doubt in the economy and their personal prospects.

Employee Confidence Index



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June Employment Report Results

		<u>Illinois Workers</u>			<u>U.S. Workers</u>		
		<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>% Change</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Economy	Getting stronger	22%	20%	-2%	23%	19%	-4%
	Staying same	40%	31%	-9%	34%	38%	+4%
	Getting Weaker	38%	49%	+11%	43%	43%	0%
Job Availability	More jobs	27%	24%	-3%	27%	24%	-3%
	Same amount	41%	28%	-13%	34%	37%	+3%
	Fewer jobs	32%	48%	+16%	39%	39%	0%
Ability to Find New Job	Confident	69%	62%	-7%	60%	56%	-4%
	Neutral	20%	23%	+3%	27%	29%	+2%
	Not Confident	11%	15%	+4%	13%	16%	+3%
Future of Current Employer	Confident	70%	67%	-3%	66%	65%	-1%
	Neutral	22%	21%	-1%	22%	22%	0%
	Not Confident	7%	12%	+5%	12%	13%	+1%
Likelihood to Lose Job	Likely	9%	13%	+4%	12%	11%	-1%
	Neutral	4%	8%	+4%	10%	11%	+1%
	Not Likely	86%	78%	-8%	78%	78%	0%
Look for New Job	Likely	33%	34%	+1%	38%	36%	-2%
	Neutral	5%	10%	+5%	9%	10%	+1%
	Not Likely	63%	56%	-7%	53%	54%	+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.

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Methodology

The June 2006 Spherion® Employment Report is based on data from the Harris Interactive QuickQuerySM online omnibus conducted monthly by Harris Interactive® on behalf of Spherion Corporation. A U.S. sample of 2,959 employed adults aged 18 years and older, of whom 140 are employed in Illinois (for May n=140), was interviewed in a series of two polls conducted between June 6-8 and June 14-16, 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 2,959 U.S. employed adults one could say with a 95 percent probability that the overall results have a sampling error of +/- 2 percentage points, and the sampling error for the Illinois state sample results is plus or minus 8 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 more than 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 13th 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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