

Employee Confidence Index	↓	Macroeconomic Confidence Index	↓	Personal Confidence Index	↓	Job Security	↓	Job Transition	↓
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Illinois Employment Report: Over Forty-Percent of Workers Likely to Search for New Jobs Despite Drop in Overall Confidence

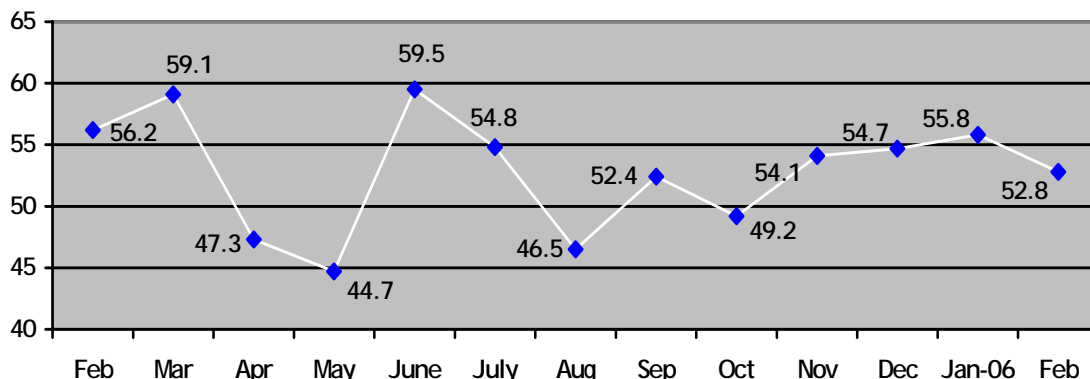
CHICAGO, Ill., March 23, 2006- Workers' outlook on the economy and their personal employment situation became more pessimistic in February, according to the latest Spherion Employment Report. The Illinois Employee Confidence Index declined to 52.8 in February, down three points from the previous month. The survey of working adults in Illinois, conducted by Harris Interactive® on behalf of Spherion Corporation (NYSE:SFN), also showed that workers' macroeconomic and personal confidence decreased, as more are concerned about job availability and their ability to find a job.

Despite this drop, 41 percent of Illinois workers report that they are likely to look for a new job in the next year. Although this decreased from last month, this level still remains above the level seen a year ago. *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.*

"With the state job creation falling in January, it is no surprise that workers were more skeptical about the economy and their personal employment situation. Despite this overall drop in confidence in February, the local and national job market favors the job seeker right now," said Michael Ruter, managing director of Spherion Professional Services in Chicago. "According to what we see in our own business, the Illinois labor market is strengthening and job seekers have more choices now. We are continuing to see a strong demand to fill positions in accounting and IT. We do not foresee this trend ending anytime soon."

Employee Confidence Index: The overall Illinois Employee Confidence Index was 52.8 in February, down three points from January. This Index is 3.4 points lower than in February 2005. The Index, which measures adult workers' confidence in their personal employment situation and the macroeconomic environment, decreased because fewer workers are confident in the strength of the economy and in the future of their current employer.

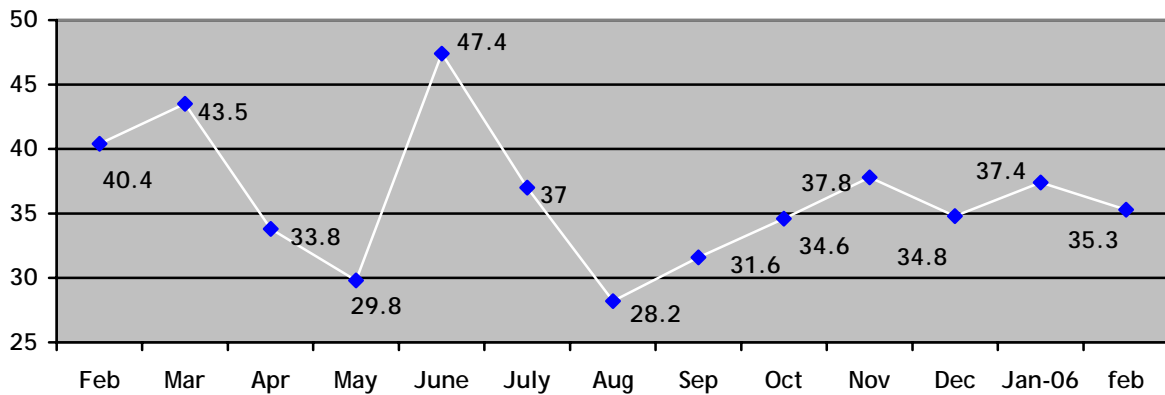
Employee Confidence Index



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Macroeconomic Confidence Index: The Macroeconomic Confidence Index was 35.3 in February, down from 37.4 in the previous month. This drop in confidence was due to more Illinois workers having concerns about the strength of the economy and the availability of jobs. The Index is 5.1 points lower than in February 2005.

Macroeconomic Confidence Index



Note: The data below was used to calculate the Macroeconomic Confidence Index. For the following, respondents were asked to select a point on a scale of 1 to 5 (where a "1" indicates a weak economy or fewer jobs available while a "5" indicates a stronger economy or more jobs available) that best represents their opinions.

- **More Workers Believe Fewer Jobs Are Available:** 55 percent of adult workers in Illinois believe that fewer jobs are available, up 12 percentage points from January. At the same time, the percentage of workers that reported more jobs were available increased.

Job Availability

<u>February 2006</u>		<u>January 2006</u>	
More Jobs:	20%	More Jobs:	18%
Neutral:	25%	Neutral:	39%
Fewer Jobs:	55%	Fewer Jobs:	43%

- **More Workers Believe the Economy is Strengthening:** 21 percent of adult Illinois workers believe the economy is getting stronger, up six percentage points from January.

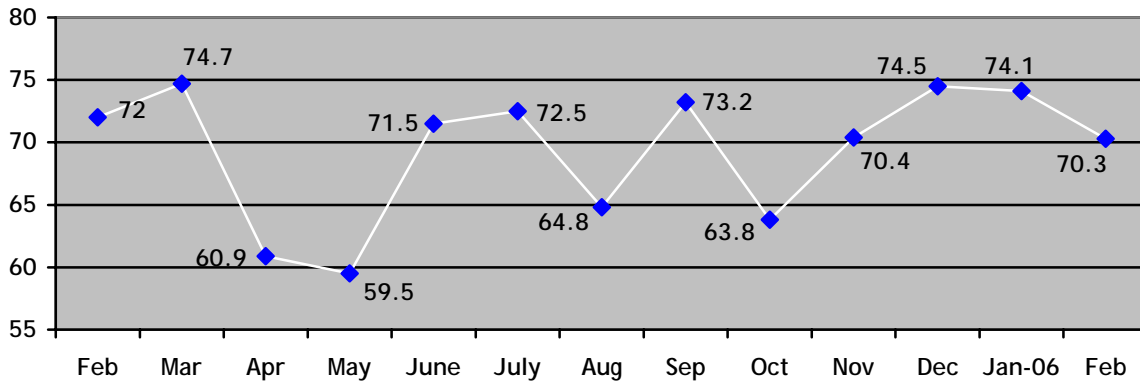
Strength of Economy

<u>February 2006</u>		<u>January 2006</u>	
Getting stronger:	21%	Getting stronger:	15%
Staying the same:	35%	Staying the same:	45%
Getting weaker:	44%	Getting weaker:	40%

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Personal Confidence Index: The Personal Confidence Index decreased 3.8 points from January, as the number of workers reporting confidence in their own ability to find a job and in the future of their employer decreased. This level is 2.3 points lower than one year ago.

Personal Confidence Index



Note: The data below was used to calculate the Personal Confidence Index. For the following, respondents were asked to select a point on a scale of 1 to 5 (where a "1" indicates no confidence in either one's ability to find a job or no confidence in the future of one's employer, while a "5" indicates a lot of confidence in one's ability to find a job or the future of one's employer) that best represents their opinions.

- **About Two-Thirds of Illinois Workers Remain Confident in the Future of Their Employer:** 67 percent of adult workers in Illinois feel confident in the future of their employer, compared to 68 percent in January.

Confidence in Future of Current Employer

<u>February 2006</u>		<u>January 2006</u>	
Confident:	67%	Confident	68%
Neutral:	24%	Neutral	21%
Not Confident	8%	Not Confident:	11%

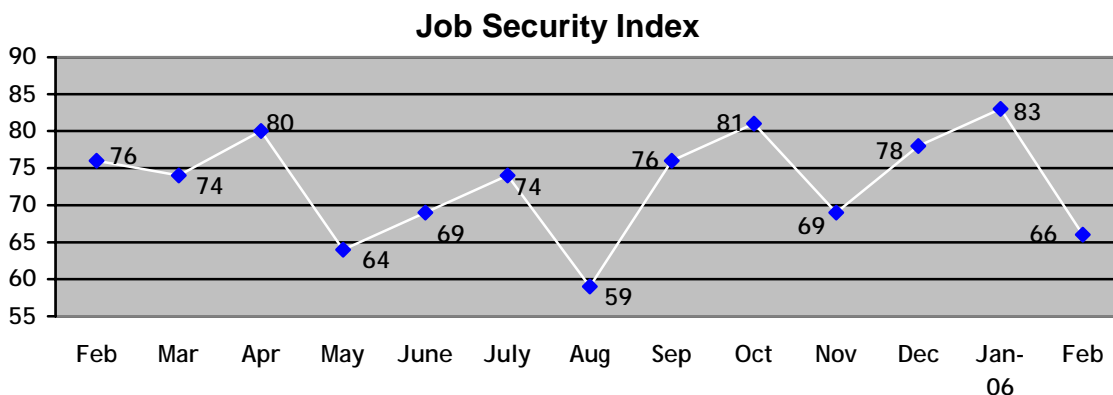
- **Fewer Workers Confident in Their Ability to Find New Job:** 41 percent of adult workers in Illinois have confidence in their own ability to find a new job, down 17 percentage points from January.

Own Ability to Find New Job

<u>February 2006</u>		<u>January 2006</u>	
Confident:	41%	Confident	58%
Neutral:	41%	Neutral	23%
Not Confident	19%	Not Confident:	18%

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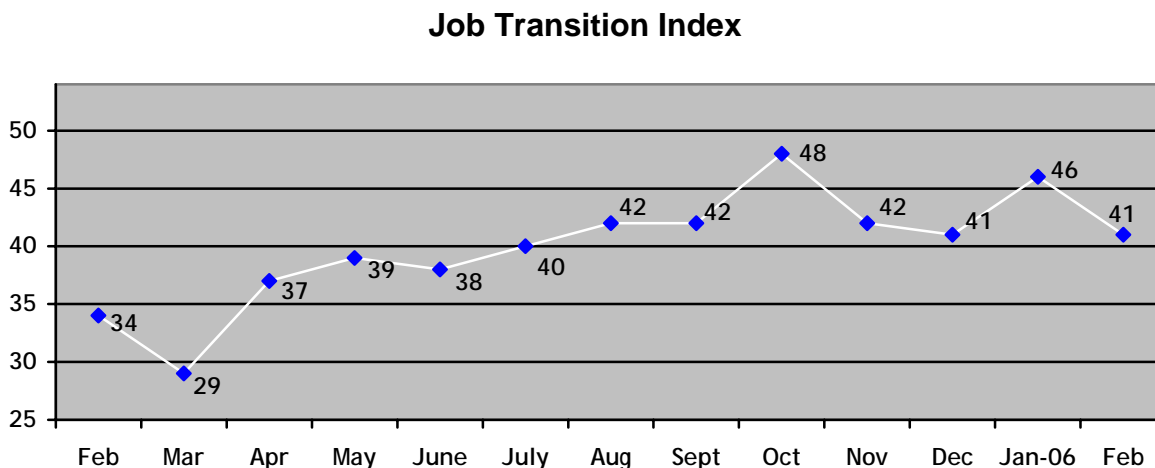
Job Security Index: 66 percent of Illinois workers believe it is unlikely that they will lose their job in the next year, down 17 percentage points from January. This level is 10 percentage points lower than last year.



Likelihood of losing job or job elimination in next 12 months

<u>February 2006</u>		<u>January 2006</u>	
Likely:	23%	Likely:	10%
Neither unlikely nor likely:	10%	Neutral	7%
Unlikely:	66%	Not Confident:	83%

Job Transition Index: 41 percent of workers say they are likely to look for a new job in the next 12 months, down five percentage points from the previous month. The Index level is 13 percentage points higher than in February 2005.



Likelihood of looking for new job in the next 12 months

<u>February 2006</u>		<u>January 2006</u>	
Likely:	41%	Likely:	46%
Neither unlikely nor likely:	11%	Neither unlikely nor likely:	4%
Unlikely:	48%	Unlikely:	50%

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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 that measures employees' overall confidence in the economy, their employer and their ability to find other employment. The Employee Confidence Index is calculated from the results of four components that reflect these aspects of employee confidence. For each component item a 'score' is calculated 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 and is scaled from 0 (no confidence) to 100 (complete confidence). A reading above 50 indicates a positive confidence level.

Methodology

The February 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 2957 employed adults aged 18 years and older, of whom 120 are employed in Illinois (for January n=135), was interviewed in a series of two polls conducted between February 7-9 and February 14-16, 2006. Figures for age, sex, race/ethnicity, income, education and region were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population. Propensity score weighting adjusted for respondents' propensity to be online. In theory, with probability samples of this size, one can say with 95 percent certainty that the overall results have a sampling error of plus or minus 2 percentage points of what they would be if the entire U.S. population of employed adults had been polled with complete accuracy. Sampling error for the Illinois state sample results is plus or minus 9 percentage points of what they would be if the entire Illinois employed adult population had been polled with complete accuracy. This online sample is not a probability sample.

About Spherion

Spherion Corporation is a leader in the staffing industry in North America, providing value-added staffing, recruiting and workforce solutions. Spherion has helped companies improve their bottom line by efficiently planning, acquiring and optimizing talent since 1946. To learn more, visit www.spherion.com.

About Harris Interactive®

Harris Interactive Inc. (www.harrisinteractive.com), based in Rochester, New York, is the 13th largest and the fastest-growing market research firm in the world, most widely known for *The Harris Poll*® and for its pioneering leadership in the online market research industry. Long recognized by its clients for delivering insights that enable confident business decisions, the Company blends the science of innovative research with the art of strategic consulting to deliver knowledge that leads to measurable and enduring value.

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