

Employment Report

ILLINOIS

spherion

May 2006

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Illinois Employment Report: Employee Confidence Index Hits One-Year High

- *More workers confident in future of employer*
- *More workers believe more jobs are available*
- *Fewer workers likely to search for a new job*

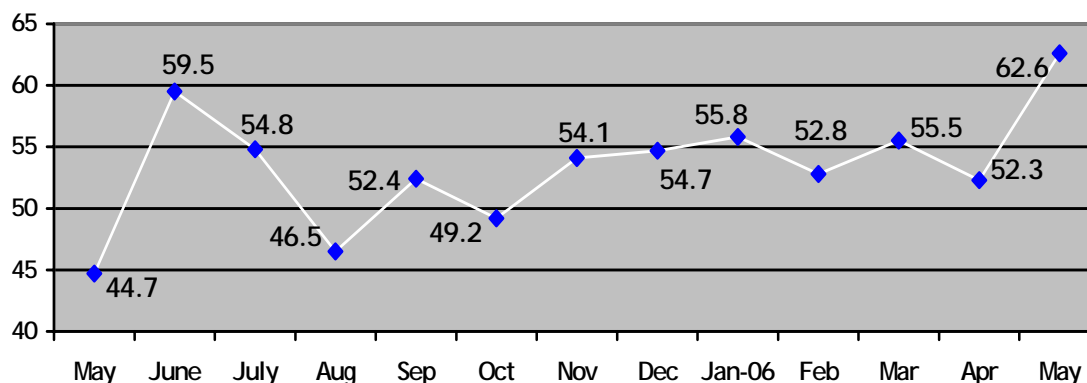
CHICAGO, Ill., June 15, 2006- Employee confidence in Illinois rose to its highest level of the year, according to the Illinois Spherion® Employment Report. The Illinois Employee Confidence Index rose to 62.6 in May from 52.3 in April, partially as a result of more workers reporting confidence in the job market and their personal employment situation. The survey of working adults in Illinois, conducted by Harris Interactive® on behalf of Spherion Corporation (NYSE:SFN), shows that fewer workers believe the economy is weakening and more workers are optimistic about the job availability.

In addition, the survey indicates that workers' confidence in their personal employment situation climbed in May. In total, nearly seven in 10 (69 percent) workers are confident in their ability to find a new job and 70 percent are confident in the future of their employer. *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 results of our survey aren't that surprising considering April's strong job report. Businesses are hiring and employees are being able to see how valuable they are in a tight labor market." said Michael Ruter, managing director of Spherion Professional Services in Chicago. "Employees realize that there is more of a demand to fill positions than a supply of available workers, especially in the logistics/distribution, contact centers/customer service and the professional and business services arena."

Employee Confidence Index: The overall Illinois Employee Confidence Index was 62.6 in May, up 10.3 points from April. This level is the highest reading over the year. The Index, which measures adult workers' confidence in their personal employment situation and the macroeconomic environment, may have increased as more workers reported optimism in the strength of the economy and confidence in their ability to find a new job.

Employee Confidence Index



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May Employment Report Results

		<u>Illinois Workers</u>			<u>U.S. Workers</u>		
		<i>May 2006</i>	<i>April 2006</i>	<i>% Change</i>	<i>May 2006</i>	<i>April 2006</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Economy	Getting stronger	22%	25%	-3%	23%	23%	0%
	Staying same	40%	23%	+17%	34%	34%	0%
	Getting weaker	38%	52%	-14%	43%	43%	0%
Job Availability	More jobs	27%	17%	+10%	27%	26%	+1%
	Same amount	41%	37%	+4%	34%	34%	0%
	Fewer jobs	32%	47%	-15%	39%	41%	-2%
Ability to Find New Job	Confident	69%	62%	+7%	60%	57%	+3%
	Neutral	20%	24%	-4%	27%	28%	-1%
	Not Confident	11%	14%	-3%	13%	15%	-2%
Future of Current Employer	Confident	70%	55%	+15%	66%	65%	+1%
	Neutral	22%	18%	+4%	22%	22%	0%
	Not Confident	7%	27%	-20%	12%	13%	-1%
Job Security	Confident	86%	84%	+2%	78%	76%	+2%
	Neutral	4%	6%	-2%	10%	11%	-1%
	Not Confident	9%	10%	-1%	12%	13%	-1%
Look for New Job	Likely	33%	41%	-8%	38%	38%	0%
	Neutral	5%	10%	-5%	9%	11%	-2%
	Not Likely	63%	49%	+14%	53%	51%	+2%

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.

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Methodology

The May 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 2,894 employed adults aged 18 years and older, of whom 140 are employed in Illinois (for April n=143), was interviewed in a series of two polls conducted between May 3-5 and May 9-11, 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.

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 2,894 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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