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## New York Employment Report: Slightly More Workers Confident in Strength of the Economy, Personal Employment Situation

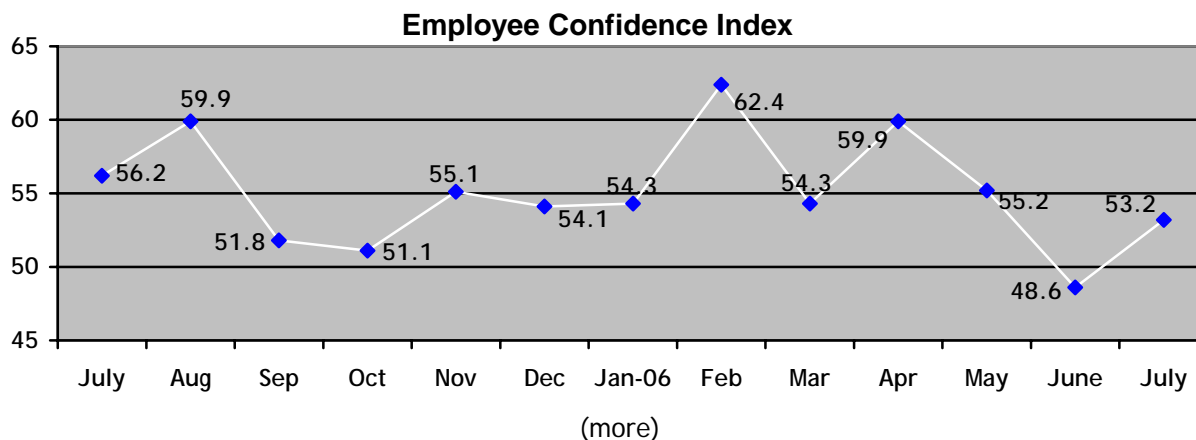
- o *More workers confident in availability of jobs*
- o *Percentage of workers likely to look for new job decreases*
- o *Majority of workers confident in the future of current employer*

NEW YORK, N.Y. - August 17, 2006- The New York Employee Confidence Index increased 4.6 points to 53.2 in July, according to the latest New York Spherion® Employment Report, a monthly survey conducted by Harris Interactive® on behalf of Spherion Corporation (NYSE:SFN). Overall worker confidence increased as more workers reported optimism in the strength of the economy and their personal employment situation.

Specifically, 41 percent of employed adults in New York feel the economy is getting weaker, down from 57 percent last month, and 17 percent of workers believe more jobs are available, compared to 13 percent in the previous month. Furthermore, 59 percent of workers expressed confidence in the future of their employer, a five-percentage-point increase from June.

“Job seekers are in really good shape right now,” said John Gramer, New York branch director for Spherion Professional Services. “The job market has become explosive and the best candidates now have multiple opportunities to choose from. As a result, salaries are increasing and employers are revamping their retention efforts, particularly in industries where highly qualified candidates remain in great demand, such as IT and accounting and finance.”

**Employee Confidence Index:** The New York Employee Confidence Index was 53.2 in July, up 4.6 points from the previous month. The Index, which measures adult workers’ confidence in their personal employment situations and the macroeconomic environment, increased due to more workers reporting confidence in the strength of the economy and their personal employment prospects.



## July Employment Report Results

		<u>New York 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>
<b>Economy</b>	Getting stronger	12%	14%	+2%	19%	23%	+4%
	Staying same	31%	45%	+14%	38%	33%	-5%
	Getting weaker	57%	41%	-16%	43%	44%	+1%
<b>Job Availability</b>	More jobs	13%	17%	+4%	24%	25%	+1%
	Same amount	39%	38%	-1%	37%	36%	-1%
	Fewer jobs	48%	44%	-4%	39%	38%	-1%
<b>Ability to Find New Job</b>	Confident	51%	52%	+1%	56%	57%	+1%
	Neutral	34%	31%	-3%	29%	28%	-1%
	Not confident	16%	17%	+1%	16%	15%	-1%
<b>Future of Current Employer</b>	Confident	54%	59%	+5%	65%	65%	0%
	Neutral	27%	26%	-1%	22%	24%	+2%
	Not confident	20%	16%	-4%	13%	12%	-1%
<b>Likelihood to Lose Job</b>	Likely	11%	9%	- 2%	11%	12%	+1%
	Neutral	15%	10%	-5%	11%	9%	-2%
	Not likely	74%	81%	+7%	78%	79%	+1%
<b>Look for New Job</b>	Likely	39%	32%	-7%	36%	35%	-1%
	Neutral	10%	12%	+2%	10%	10%	0%
	Not likely	52%	56%	+4%	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 the Harris Interactive® online omnibus conducted monthly on behalf of Spherion Corporation. A U.S. sample of 2,836 employed adults, aged 18 years and older, of whom 184 are employed in New York (for June 2006 n=263), 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 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 2,836 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 New York state sample results is plus or minus seven 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](http://www.spherion.com).

### About Harris Interactive

Harris Interactive is the 12<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.harrisinteractive.com).

To become a member of the Harris Poll Online, visit [www.harrispollonline.com](http://www.harrispollonline.com).

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