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New York Employment Report: Fewer Workers Optimistic about Strength of Economy, Personal Employment Situation

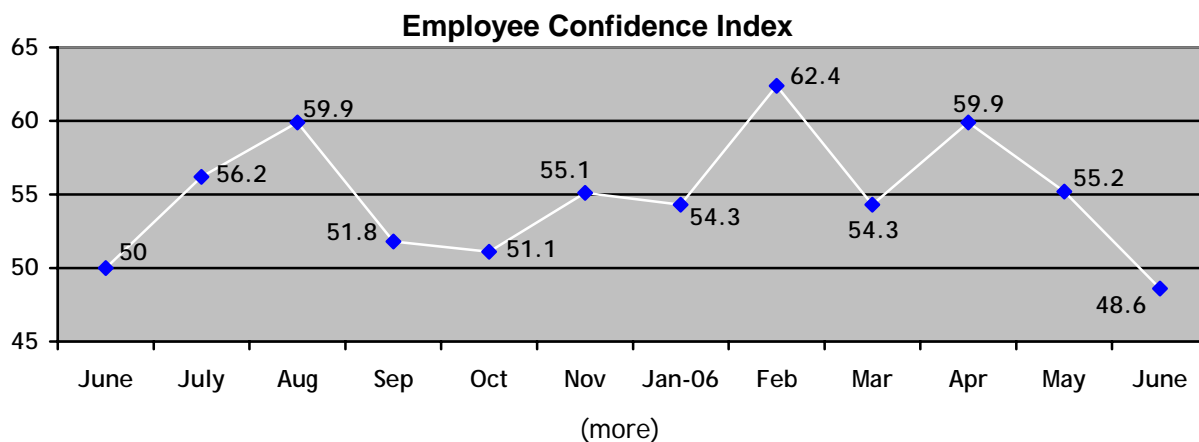
- Majority of workers say economy getting weaker
- Fewer workers confident in future of current employer
- Nearly four in 10 likely to look for a new job

NEW YORK, NY, July 20, 2006- The New York State Employee Confidence Index slid 6.6 points to 48.6 in June, the lowest mark since January 2005, as more New York workers reported pessimism in the strength of the economy and the future of their current employer. In the monthly survey conducted by Harris Interactive® on behalf of Spherion Corporation (NYSE:SFN), 57 percent of employed adults in New York say the economy is getting weaker, a 15-percentage point jump from the previous month. In addition, 54 percent of workers expressed confidence in the future of their current employer, a 12-percentage point decrease from May.

Despite the decline, 74 percent of workers remain confident that their job is secure, consistent with findings from the previous month. In addition, 39 percent of workers are likely to look for a new job in the next 12 months, virtually unchanged from the previous month and three percentage points higher than the national sample.

"Since this survey was taken shortly after the recent release of the lower than forecasted national job figures, New York workers may be reacting to that negative news," said John Gramer, New York branch director of Spherion® Professional Services. "Despite increased pessimism, nearly 40 percent of workers are likely to look for a new job in the next year, and about half of workers are confident in their ability to do so successfully. In our recruiting business in the state, technology has been the biggest growth industry, mostly because there are a lot of open positions and not enough qualified candidates. The same trends are occurring in certain accounting and finance specialties."

Employee Confidence Index: The New York Employee Confidence Index was 48.6 in June, down 6.6 points from the previous month and 1.4 points from June 2005. The Index, which measures adult employees' confidence in their personal employment situation and the macroeconomic environment, decreased because more workers feel pessimistic about the strength of the economy and job market and fewer are confident in the future of their current employer.



June Employment Report Results

		<u>New York 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	24%	12%	-12%	23%	19%	-4%
	Staying same	34%	31%	-3%	34%	38%	+4%
	Getting Weaker	42%	57%	+15%	43%	43%	0%
Job Availability	More jobs	21%	13%	-8%	27%	24%	-3%
	Same amount	27%	39%	+12%	34%	37%	+3%
	Fewer jobs	52%	48%	-4%	39%	39%	0%
Ability to Find New Job	Confident	56%	51%	-5%	60%	56%	-4%
	Neutral	28%	34%	+6%	27%	29%	+2%
	Not Confident	16%	16%	0%	13%	16%	+3%
Future of Current Employer	Confident	66%	54%	-12%	66%	65%	-1%
	Neutral	19%	27%	+8%	22%	22%	0%
	Not Confident	15%	20%	+5%	12%	13%	+1%
Likelihood to Lose Job	Confident	13%	11%	-2%	12%	11%	-1%
	Neutral	11%	15%	+4%	10%	11%	+1%
	Not Confident	76%	74%	-2%	78%	78%	0%
Look for New Job	Likely	41%	39%	-2%	38%	36%	-2%
	Neutral	7%	10%	+3%	9%	10%	+1%
	Not Likely	52%	52%	0%	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.

(more)

Methodology

The June 2006 Spherion Employment Report is based on data from the Harris Interactive® online survey conducted monthly on behalf of Spherion Corporation. A U.S. sample of 2,959 employed adults, aged 18 years and older, of whom 263 are employed in New York (for May 2006 n=193), 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 New York state sample results is plus or minus 7 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.

To become a member of the Harris Poll Online, visit www.harrispollonline.com.

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