

NEW YORK Employment Report



February 2006

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Employee Confidence Index ↑ Macroeconomic Confidence Index ↑ Personal Confidence Index ↑ Job Security ↑ Job Transition ↑

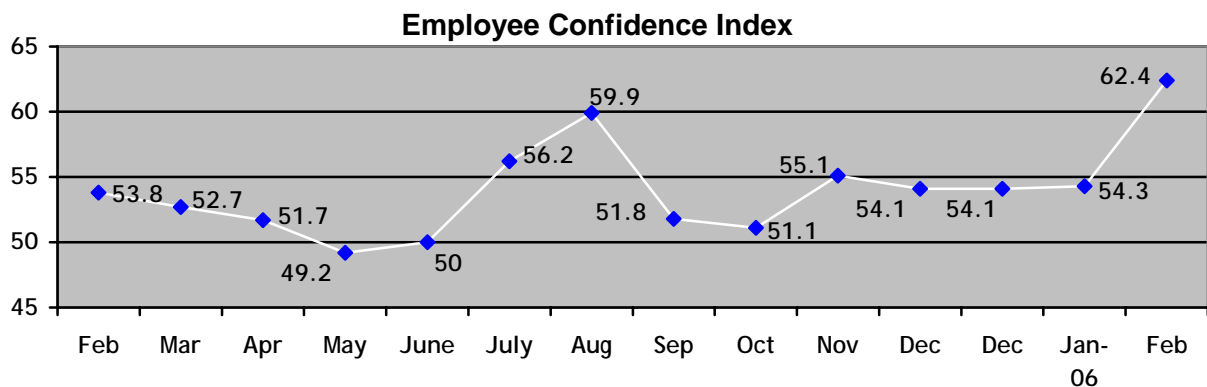
New York Employment Report: More Workers Express Confidence in the Economy and Job Market

NEW YORK, NY, March 29, 2006 - The Employee Confidence Index in New York reached a record high in February, driven by an upswing in the number of workers who are optimistic about the strength of the economy, the job market and their own personal employment situation. The New York Employee Confidence Index rose 8.1 points to 62.4, and is 8.6 points higher than a year ago, according to the latest New York Spherion Employment Report, conducted by Harris Interactive® on behalf of Spherion Corporation (NYSE:SFN). The subscale Macroeconomic Confidence Index also increased to an all-time high of 46.5, up nearly ten points from the prior month and 6.6 points from February 2005.

The subscale Personal Confidence Index was up 6.5 points from the previous month to 78.3 in February. The Index is 10.6 points higher than at the same time last year, as two-thirds of New York workers now express confidence in the future of their employer and in their ability to find a new job, a significant increase from last month. *For detailed information on the calculation of the Employee Confidence Index and its subscale measurements, please see the "About Spherion Employment Report" section below.*

"This month's Report confirms what we've been seeing in New York over the past year as demand for skilled workers in a number of key industries has continued to increase," said John Gramer, New York branch director of Spherion Professional Services. "In fact, top job candidates in hot sectors such as financial services, are now fielding multiple job offers, something we haven't seen in a long while. We're also experiencing a boom in the entertainment industry in New York, with tax breaks leading to the creation of more than 10,000 new jobs over the past year in film and television production."

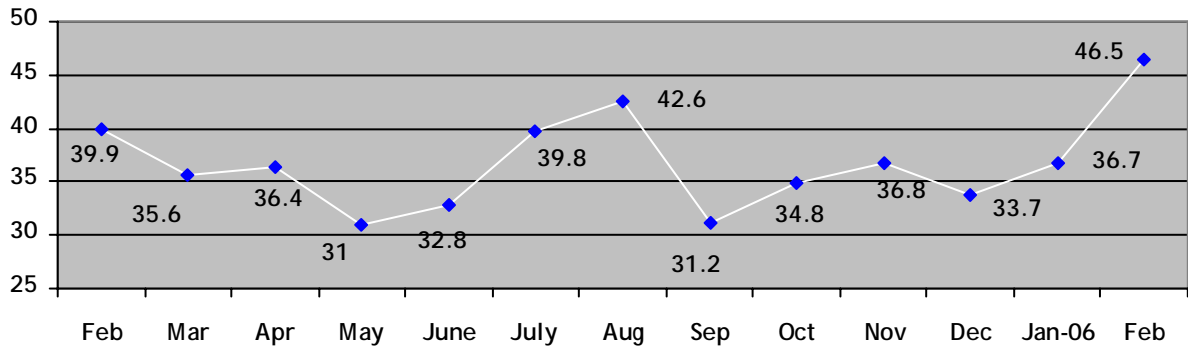
Employee Confidence Index: The New York Employee Confidence Index was 62.4 in February, up 8.1 points from the previous month, and 8.6 points higher from a year ago. The Index, which measures adult workers' confidence in their personal employment situation and the macroeconomic environment, increased because workers' outlook on the economy and their personal employment situation improved.



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Macroeconomic Confidence Index: The Macroeconomic Index was 46.5 in February, up from 36.7 in January, as more workers believe the economy is strengthening and that more jobs are available. The Index is 6.6 points higher than the level seen 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 More Job Are Available:** 30 percent of adult workers in New York believe that more jobs are available, compared to only 15 percent in the previous month.

Job Availability

<u>February 2006</u>		<u>January 2006</u>	
More Jobs:	30%	More Jobs:	15%
Neutral:	36%	Neutral:	41%
Fewer Jobs:	34%	Fewer Jobs:	45%

- **More Workers Confident in the Strength of Economy:** 24 percent of adult New York workers believe the economy is getting stronger, up three percentage points from January.

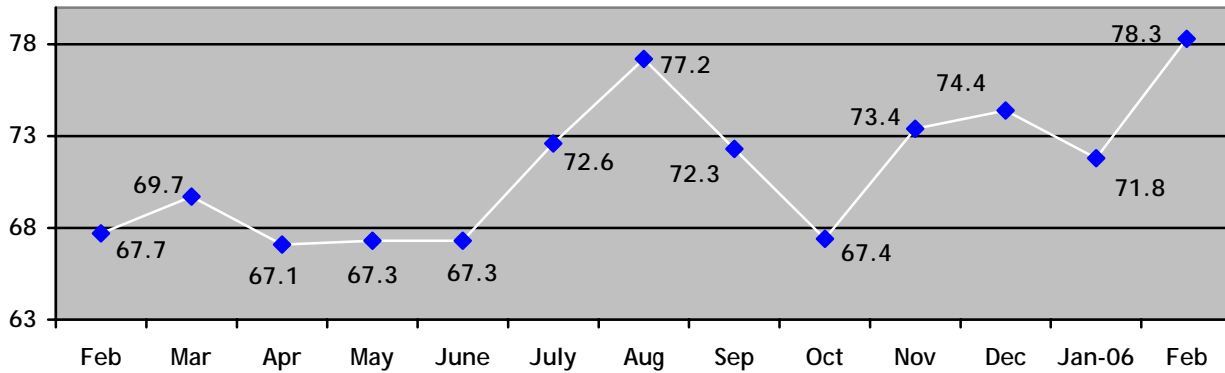
Strength of Economy

<u>February 2006</u>		<u>January 2006</u>	
Getting stronger:	24%	Getting stronger:	21%
Staying the same:	42%	Staying the same:	34%
Getting weaker:	34%	Getting weaker:	45%

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Personal Confidence Index: The New York Personal Confidence Index was 78.3 in February, up 6.5 points from the previous month. The Index is 10.6 points higher than the level last year.

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.

- **Two-thirds of New York Workers Confident in the Future of Employer**
67 percent of adult workers in New York feel confident in the future of their employer, compared to 57 percent in January.

Confidence in Future of Current Employer

<u>February 2006</u>		<u>January 2006</u>	
Confident:	67%	Confident:	57%
Neutral:	20%	Neutral:	27%
Not Confident:	12%	Not Confident:	16%

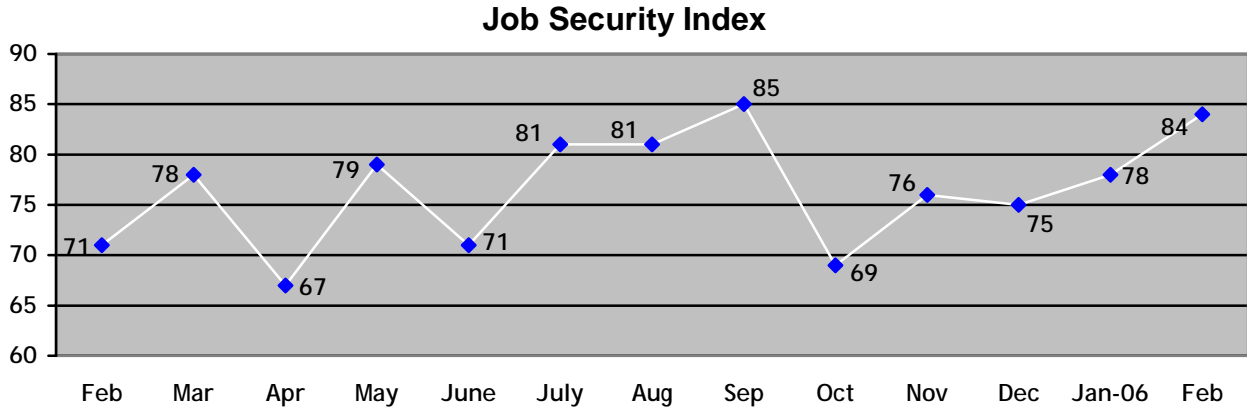
- **Percentage of Workers Confident in Ability to Find New Job Increases**
67 percent of adult workers in New York have confidence in their own ability to find a new job, an increase of eight percentage points from the previous month.

Own Ability to Find New Job

<u>February 2006</u>		<u>January 2006</u>	
Confident:	67%	Confident:	59%
Neutral:	24%	Neutral:	35%
Not Confident:	9%	Not Confident:	12%

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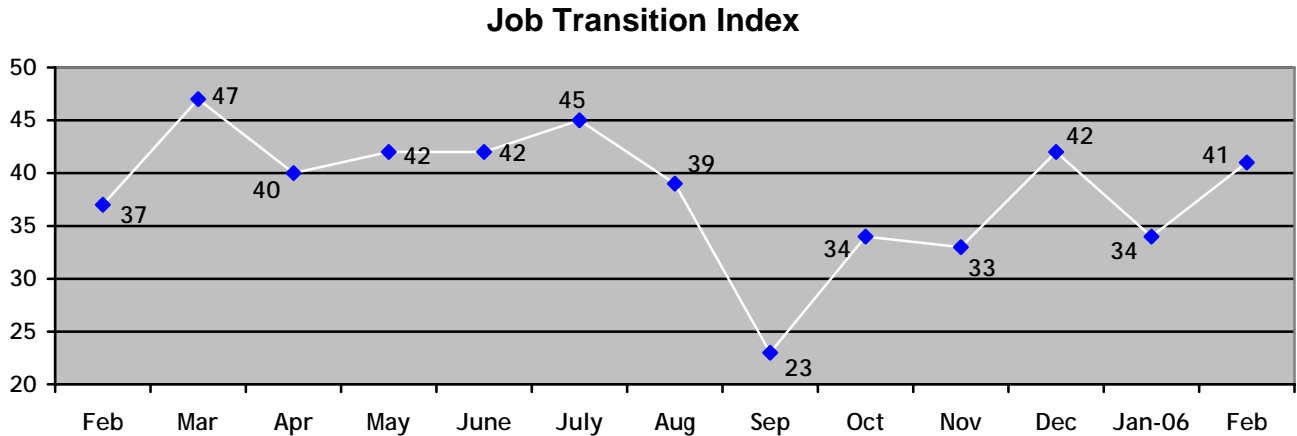
Job Security Index: The New York Job Security Index was 84 percent in February, compared to 78 percent in January. The Index level is 13 percentage points higher than in February 2005.



Likelihood of losing job or job elimination in next 12 months

<u>February 2006</u>		<u>January 2006</u>	
Likely:	6%	Likely:	12%
Neither unlikely nor likely:	10%	Neither unlikely nor likely:	11%
Unlikely:	84%	Unlikely:	78%

Job Transition Index: 41 percent of working adults in New York said they are likely to look for a new job in the next 12 months, up seven percentage points from the previous month. This is four percentage points higher than the level seen last year.



Likelihood of looking for new job in next 12 months

<u>February 2006</u>		<u>January 2006</u>	
Likely:	41%	Likely:	34%
Neither unlikely nor likely:	9%	Neither unlikely nor likely:	13%
Unlikely:	51%	Unlikely:	53%

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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® online survey conducted monthly on behalf of Spherion Corporation. A U.S. sample of 2957 employed adults, aged 18 years and older, of whom 187 are employed in New York (for January 2005 n=226), 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 results for the overall sample have a sampling error of plus or minus 2 percentage points. Sampling error for the New York sample results is plus or minus 7 percentage points of what it would be if the entire New York 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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