

NEW YORK Employment Report



March 2006

Media Contact: Lesly Baer
(800) 422-3819
leslybaer@spherion.com

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

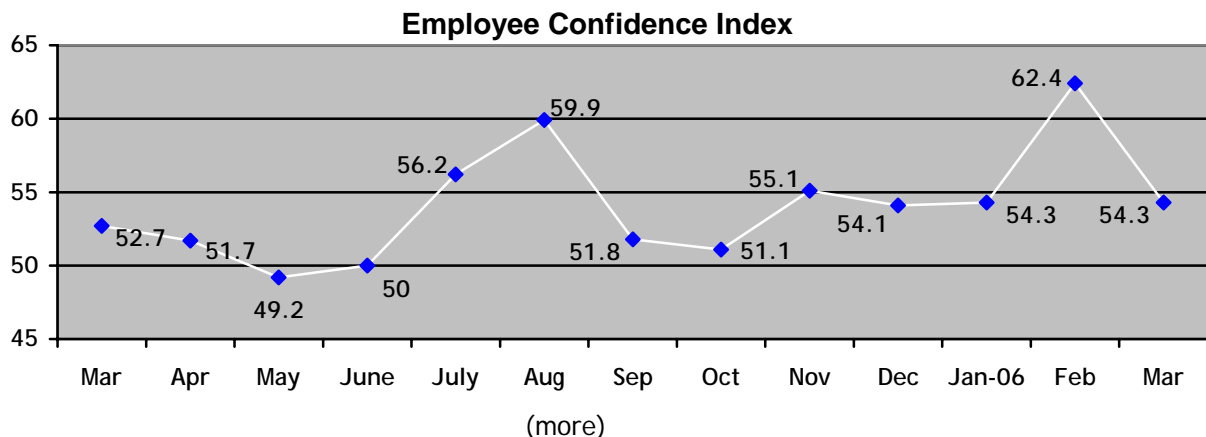
New York Employment Report Finds Employee Confidence Down as More Workers Believe Economy is Weakening and Fewer Jobs Available

NEW YORK, NY, April 20, 2005- Despite the addition of 6,400 private sector jobs this month, the New York Employee Confidence Index dropped 8.1 points in March to 54.3, due to a decline in the percentage of workers who believe the economy is getting stronger and more jobs are available. Nonetheless, the Index is up 1.6 points from the same time last year. The monthly survey, conducted by Harris Interactive® on behalf of Spherion Corporation (NYSE:SFN), showed an 11.2-point decrease in the subscale Macroeconomic Confidence Index to 35.3 in March. Forty-five percent of workers believe that fewer jobs are available and 41 percent believe the economy is getting weaker.

The subscale Personal Confidence Index declined five points to 73.3 in March as a result of fewer workers having confidence in their ability to find a new job and in the future of their employer. Despite the drop, the Index is 3.6 points higher than a year ago. *For detailed information on the calculation of the Employee Confidence Index and its subscale measurements, please see the "About Spherion Employment Report" section below.*

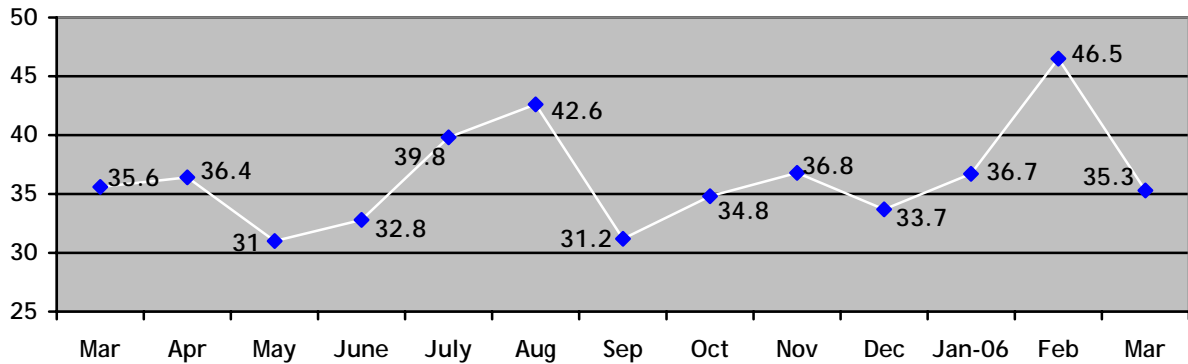
"Overall employee confidence returned to its average level in March after a record high the previous month, which may reflect a degree of economic uncertainty that still permeates a portion of the workforce," said John Gramer, New York branch director of Spherion Professional Services. "Nonetheless, we're seeing no direct impact on hiring, which remains strong. In fact, there are many more available jobs than candidates to fill them right now, as some employers are making relatively quick decisions to fill their open positions and are not necessarily waiting for the 'superstars' to become available. It seems that they realize that talented workers won't be available for long and that they must move quickly."

Employee Confidence Index: The New York Employee Confidence Index was 54.3 in March, down 8.1 points from the previous month and 1.6 points higher from a year ago. The Index, which measures adult workers' confidence in their personal employment situation and the macroeconomic environment, decreased because fewer workers were confident about the economy and their personal employment situation.



Macroeconomic Confidence Index: The Macroeconomic Index was 35.3 in March, down from 46.5 in February, as fewer workers believe the economy is strengthening and that more jobs are available. The Index is 0.3 points lower than in March 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.

- **Fewer Workers Believe More Job Are Available:** 11 percent of adult workers in New York believe that more jobs are available, compared to 30 percent in the previous month.

Job Availability

<u>March 2006</u>		<u>February 2006</u>	
More Jobs:	11%	More Jobs:	30%
Neutral:	43%	Neutral:	36%
Fewer Jobs:	45%	Fewer Jobs:	34%

- **Fewer Workers Believe the Economy is Getting Stronger:** 16 percent of adult New York workers believe the economy is getting stronger, down eight percentage points from February.

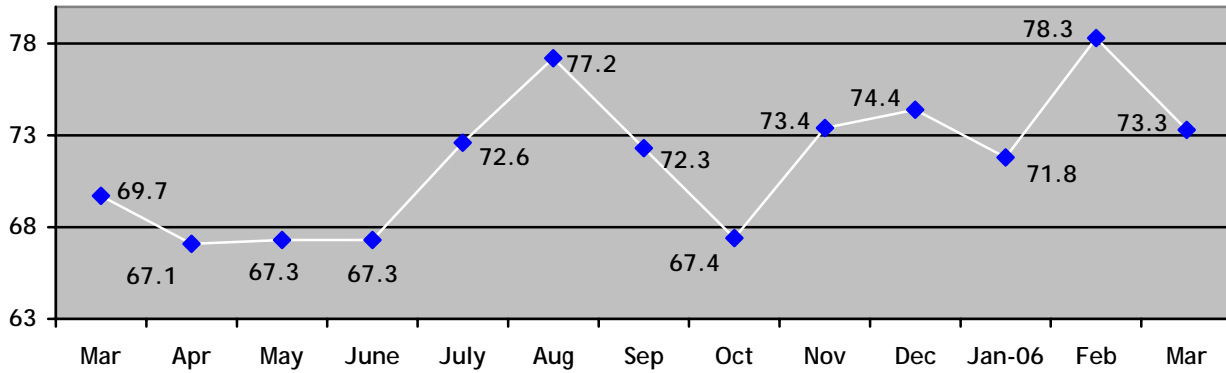
Strength of Economy

<u>March 2006</u>		<u>February 2006</u>	
Getting stronger:	16%	Getting stronger:	24%
Staying the same:	43%	Staying the same:	42%
Getting weaker:	41%	Getting weaker:	34%

(more)

Personal Confidence Index: The New York Personal Confidence Index was 73.3 in March, down five percentage points from the previous month. This drop was a result of fewer workers having confidence in the future of their employer and their ability to find a new job. The Index is 3.6 points higher than the level a 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 or 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.

- **Percentage of New York Workers Confident in the Future of Employer Decreases:** 62 percent of adult workers in New York feel confident in the future of their employer, down five percentage points from February.

Confidence in Future of Current Employer

<u>March 2006</u>		<u>February 2006</u>	
Confident:	62%	Confident:	67%
Neutral:	23%	Neutral:	20%
Not Confident:	15%	Not Confident:	12%

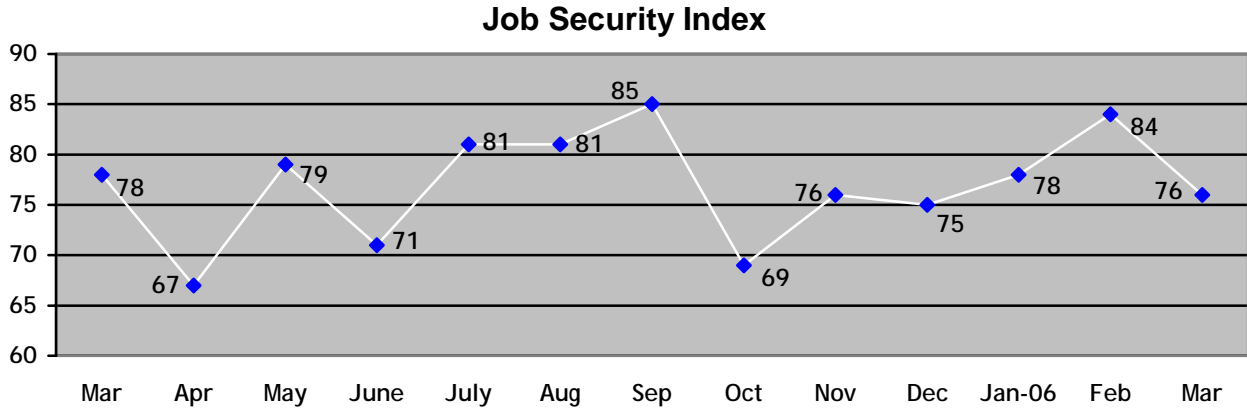
- **Percentage of Workers Confident in Their Ability to Find New Job Decreases:** 59 percent of adult workers in New York have confidence in their own ability to find a new job, showing an eight-percentage-point increase from the previous month.

Own Ability to Find New Job

<u>March 2006</u>		<u>February 2006</u>	
Confident:	59%	Confident:	67%
Neutral:	28%	Neutral:	24%
Not Confident:	13%	Not Confident:	9%

(more)

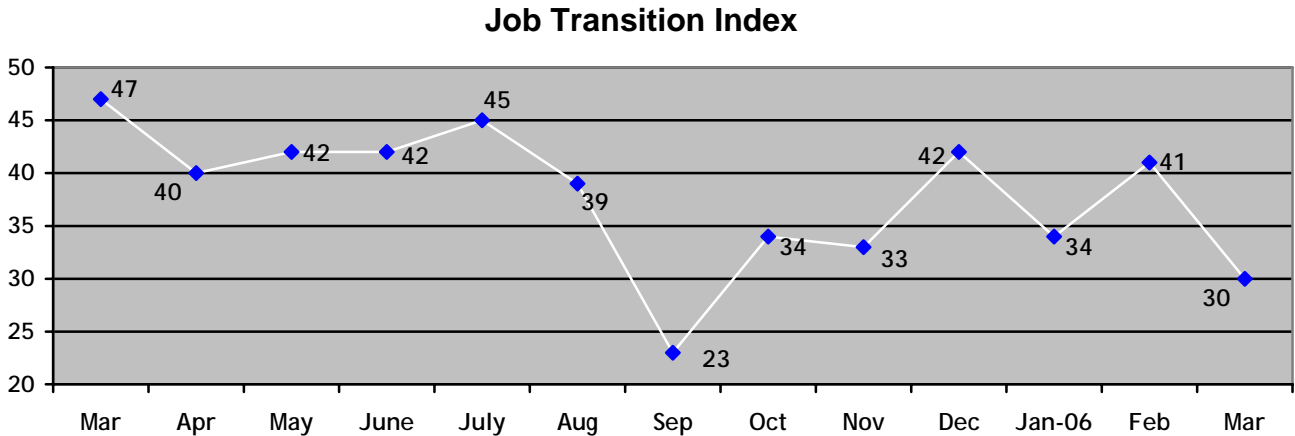
Job Security Index: The New York Job Security Index was 76 percent in March, compared to 84 percent in February. The Index level is two percentage points lower than in March 2005.



Likelihood of losing job or job elimination in next 12 months

<u>March 2006</u>		<u>February 2006</u>	
Likely:	9%	Likely:	6%
Neither unlikely nor likely:	14%	Neither unlikely nor likely:	10%
Unlikely:	76%	Unlikely:	84%

Job Transition Index: 30 percent of working adults in New York said they are likely to look for a new job in the next 12 months, down 11 percentage points from the previous month. The Index is 17 percentage points lower than the level seen last year.



Likelihood of looking for new job in next 12 months

<u>March 2006</u>		<u>February 2006</u>	
Likely:	30%	Likely:	41%
Neither unlikely nor likely:	10%	Neither unlikely nor likely:	9%
Unlikely:	60%	Unlikely:	51%

(more)

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 March 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 2972 employed adults, aged 18 years and older, of whom 194 are employed in New York (for February 2005 n=187), was interviewed in a series of two polls conducted between March 8-10 and March 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.

Harris Interactive serves clients worldwide through its United States, Europe (www.harrisinteractive.com/europe) and Asia offices, its wholly-owned subsidiary Novatris in Paris, France (www.novatris.com), and through an independent global network of affiliate market research companies.
EOE M/F/D/V

To become a member of the Harris Poll OnlineSM and be invited to participate in future online surveys, go to www.harrispollonline.com

###