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## New York Employee Confidence Slips But Higher Than a Year Ago

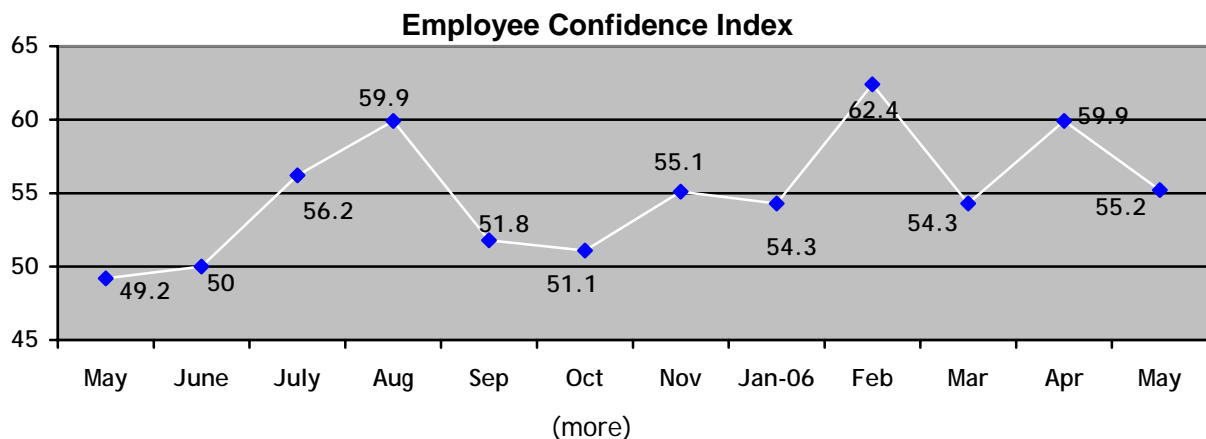
- o *More workers feel economy getting weaker*
- o *Fewer workers confident in ability to find new job*
- o *Three in four workers feel secure in their job*

NEW YORK, NY, June 15, 2005- The New York State Employee Confidence Index decreased 4.7 points to 55.2 in May, still six points higher than a year ago, as more workers reported pessimism about the economy and their ability to find a new job. In the Spherion® Employment Report, a monthly survey conducted by Harris Interactive® on behalf of Spherion Corporation (NYSE:SFN), 52 percent of workers believe fewer jobs available, a 12 percentage point increase from the previous month.

In addition, 42 percent of employed adults in New York feel the economy is getting weaker, up five percentage points from April, and 56 percent of workers are confident about their ability to find a new job, down seven percentage points from the previous month. However, 66 percent of workers are confident in the future of their current employer, a three percentage-point increase from April.

"The mixed reviews by New York workers indicate a substantial level of lingering uncertainty about the job market," said John Gramer, New York branch director of Spherion Professional Services. "Despite increased economic pessimism, the overall Index is six points higher than last year. In addition, three in four workers feel secure in their jobs, and two in five workers are likely to look for a new job in the next 12 months. In our staffing business, we're continuing to see strong demand for qualified candidates in media, digital marketing and financial services."

**Employee Confidence Index:** The New York Employee Confidence Index was 55.2 in May, down 4.7 points from the previous month. The Index, which is six points higher than a year ago, measures adult workers' confidence in their personal employment situation and the macroeconomic environment. The Index may have fell because more workers feel that fewer jobs are available, and fewer workers are confident in their ability to find a new job.



## May Employment Report Results

		<u>New York 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	24%	25%	-1%		23%	23%	0%
	Staying same	34%	38%	-4%		34%	34%	0%
	Getting weaker	42%	37%	+5%		43%	43%	0%
Job Availability	More jobs	21%	29%	-8%		27%	26%	+1%
	Same amount	27%	32%	-5%		34%	34%	0%
	Fewer jobs	52%	40%	+12%		39%	41%	-2%
Ability to Find New Job	Confident	56%	63%	-7%		60%	57%	+3%
	Neutral	28%	24%	+4%		27%	28%	-1%
	Not Confident	16%	12%	+4%		13%	15%	-2%
Future of Current Employer	Confident	66%	63%	+3%		66%	65%	+1%
	Neutral	19%	25%	-6%		22%	22%	0%
	Not Confident	15%	12%	+3%		12%	13%	-1%
Job Security	Confident	76%	79%	+1%		78%	76%	+2%
	Neutral	11%	10%	+1%		10%	11%	-1%
	Not Confident	13%	12%	-1%		12%	13%	-1%
Look for New Job	Likely	41%	41%	0%		38%	38%	0%
	Neutral	7%	13%	-6%		9%	11%	-2%
	Not Likely	52%	46%	+6%		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.

(more)

### Methodology

The May 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 2,894 employed adults, aged 18 years and older, of whom 193 are employed in New York (for April 2006 n=254), 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 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](http://www.spherion.com).

### About Harris Interactive®

Harris Interactive is the 13<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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