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Ohio Employment Report: Employee Confidence Index Rises, Majority of Workers Likely to Look for New Job

- *More workers confident in ability to find a new job*
- *53 percent of workers likely to look for a new job*
- *Fewer workers say economy is getting stronger*

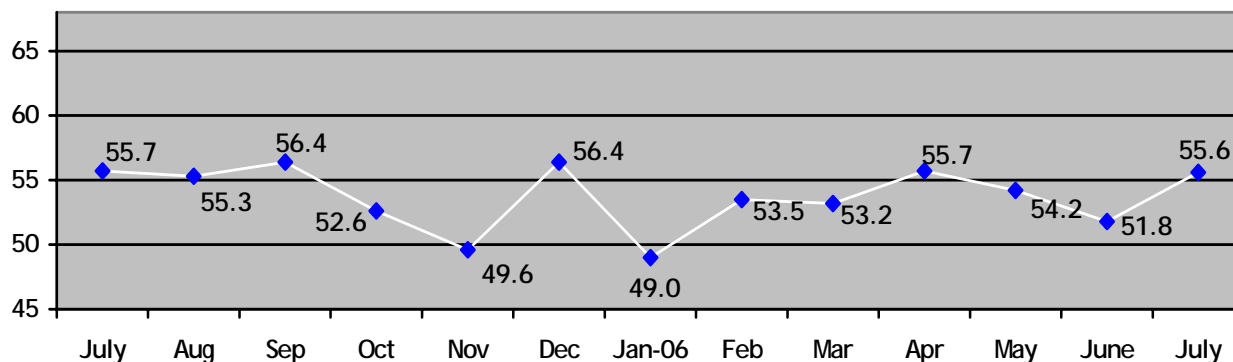
COLUMBUS, Ohio, August 22, 2006 — The Ohio Employee Confidence Index rose 3.8 points to 55.6 in July as more workers expressed confidence in their ability to find a new job. According to the Ohio Spherion® Employment Report, a monthly survey conducted by Harris Interactive® on behalf of Spherion Corporation (NYSE:SFN), 57 percent of employed adults in Ohio said they are confident in their ability to find a new job, a jump of 16 percentage points from the previous month.

In addition, Ohio workers are more likely to act upon this increase in personal confidence. Specifically, 53 percent said they are likely to look for a new job, a 14-percentage-point increase from June.

"Our Report shows us that many workers are confident in their personal employment situation. Not only are the majority of workers likely to look for a new job, but many are confident in their ability to find their next opportunity," said Robert Schulte, Spherion franchise owner in Ohio. "Employers need to respond to this and take the time to find out what their employees want in order to prevent top performers from leaving. With continued growth in the service industry, education and health services, as well as leisure and hospitality and business services, workers will have greater opportunities to find what they are looking for."

Employee Confidence Index: The overall Ohio Employee Confidence Index was 55.6 in July, an increase of 3.8 points from June and essentially unchanged from a year ago. The Index, which measures adult workers' confidence in their personal employment situation and the macroeconomic environment, increased because more workers reported optimism in their ability to find a new job.

Employee Confidence Index



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July Employment Report Results

		<u>Ohio Workers</u>			<u>U.S. Workers</u>		
		<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>% Change</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Economy	Getting stronger	22%	18%	-4%	19%	23%	+4%
	Staying same	29%	37%	+8%	38%	33%	-5%
	Getting weaker	48%	45%	-3%	43%	44%	+1%
Job Availability	More jobs	24%	23%	-1%	24%	25%	+1%
	Same amount	35%	35%	0%	37%	36%	-1%
	Fewer jobs	41%	42%	+1%	39%	38%	-1%
Ability to Find New Job	Confident	41%	57%	+16%	56%	57%	+1%
	Neutral	21%	29%	+8%	29%	28%	-1%
	Not confident	38%	14%	-24%	16%	15%	-1%
Future of Current Employer	Confident	63%	61%	-2%	65%	65%	0%
	Neutral	26%	27%	+1%	22%	24%	+2%
	Not confident	11%	12%	+1%	13%	12%	-1%
Likelihood to Lose Job	Likely	14%	12%	-2%	11%	12%	+1%
	Neutral	5%	13%	+8%	11%	9%	-2%
	Not likely	81%	75%	-6%	78%	79%	+1%
Look for New Job	Likely	39%	53%	+14%	36%	35%	-1%
	Neutral	15%	6%	-9%	10%	10%	0%
	Not likely	46%	41%	-5%	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.

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Methodology

The July 2006 Spherion® Employment Report is based on data from a Harris Interactive® online omnibus conducted on behalf of Spherion Corporation. A U.S. sample 2,836 employed adults, aged 18 years and older, of whom 116 are employed in Ohio (for June 2006 n=125), 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 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 2,836 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 Ohio state sample results is plus or minus nine 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.

About Harris Interactive

Harris Interactive is the 12th 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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