

Employment Report



OHIO

February 2006

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Employee Confidence Index ↑

Macroeconomic Confidence Index ↓

Personal Confidence Index ↑

Job Security ↑

Job Transition ↓

Ohio Employee Confidence Index Increases as More Workers Upbeat about Personal Employment Situation

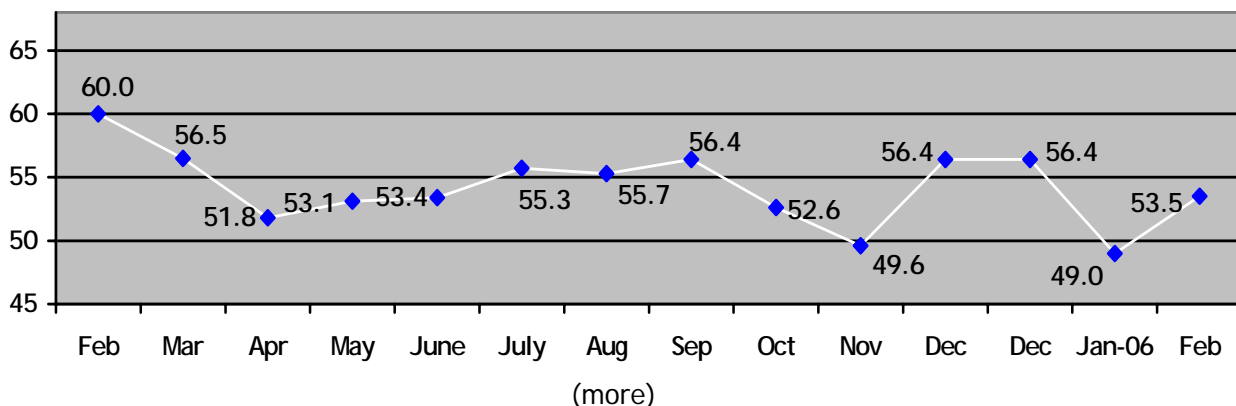
COLUMBUS, Ohio, March 28, 2006 — The Ohio Employee Confidence Index increased 4.5 points to 53.5 in February, on the growing number of workers expressing confidence in their ability to find a new job as well as the future of their employer, according to the Ohio Spherion® Employment Report. The monthly survey, conducted by Harris Interactive® on behalf of Spherion Corporation (NYSE:SFN), showed the subscale Personal Confidence Index surging 11.6 points to 75.6 in February. Specifically, sixty percent of adults employed in Ohio are confident in the future of their employer, an increase of 13 percentage points from the previous month.

However, the subscale Macroeconomic Confidence Index dropped 2.6 points to 31.4 in February as more workers expressed pessimism about job availability and the economy's strength. Despite this, the Job Security Index showed that 81 percent of workers think it is unlikely that they will lose their job in the next 12 months, compared to 71 percent in January. *For detailed information on the calculation of the Employee Confidence Index and its subscale measurements, please see the "About the Spherion Employment Report" section below.*

"This month's report highlights workers' increased confidence in their personal employment situation," said Robert Schulte, Spherion franchise owner in Ohio. "Although workers' confidence in the macroeconomic situation dropped in February, 81 percent of workers think it is unlikely that they will lose their jobs in the next year. In our own business, we're still seeing continued demand for jobs in manufacturing and accounting. In 2006, we foresee a gradual increase in job growth for Central Ohio."

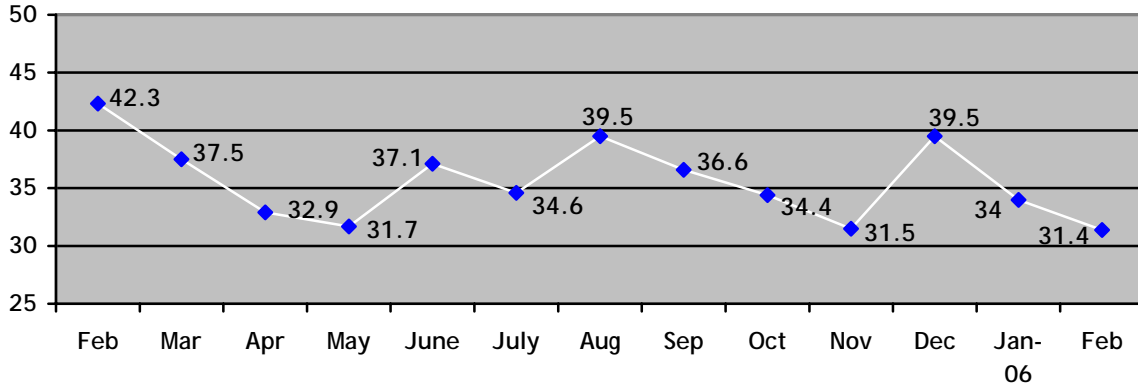
Employee Confidence Index: The overall Ohio Employee Confidence Index was 53.5 in February, increasing 4.5 points from January, but down 6.5 points from a year ago. The Index, which measures adult workers' confidence in their personal employment situation and the macroeconomic environment, increased as a result of more workers being optimistic about their personal employment situation.

Employee Confidence Index



Macroeconomic Confidence Index: Macroeconomic confidence in Ohio fell 2.6 points to 31.4 in February, as fewer workers were optimistic about the strength of the economy and the availability of jobs.

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 Fewer Jobs Are Available:** 58 percent of adult workers in Ohio believe fewer jobs are available, up 12 percentage points from the previous month.

Job Availability

<u>February 2006</u>		<u>January 2006</u>	
More Jobs:	20%	More Jobs:	12%
Neutral:	22%	Neutral:	42%
Fewer Jobs	58%	Fewer Jobs:	46%

- **Fewer Workers Believe the Economy is Strengthening:** 18 percent of adult Ohio workers believe the economy is getting stronger, down two percentage points from January.

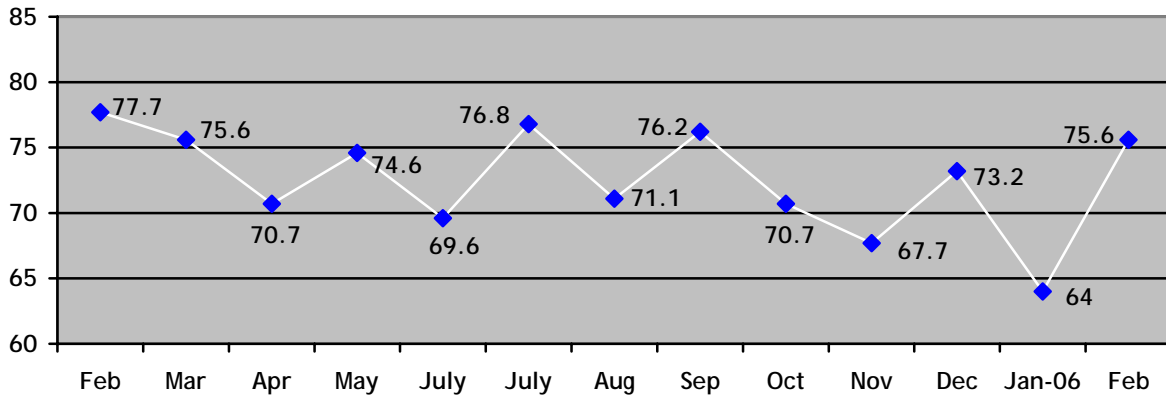
Strength of Economy

<u>February 2006</u>		<u>January 2006</u>	
Getting stronger:	18%	Getting stronger:	20%
Staying the same:	27%	Staying the same:	30%
Getting weaker:	55%	Getting weaker:	50%

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Personal Confidence Index: The Personal Confidence Index was 75.6 in February, rising 11.6 points from 64 in January. This increase was due to more workers being confident in the future of their employer and their ability to find a job. This level was 2.1 points lower than 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 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.

- **Percentage of Workers Confident in the Future of Their Employer Increases:** 60 percent of adult workers are confident in the future of their employer, compared to 47 percent in January.

Confidence in Future of Current Employer

<u>February 2006</u>		<u>January 2006</u>	
Confident:	60%	Confident:	47%
Neutral:	33%	Neutral:	29%
Not confident:	7%	Not confident:	24%

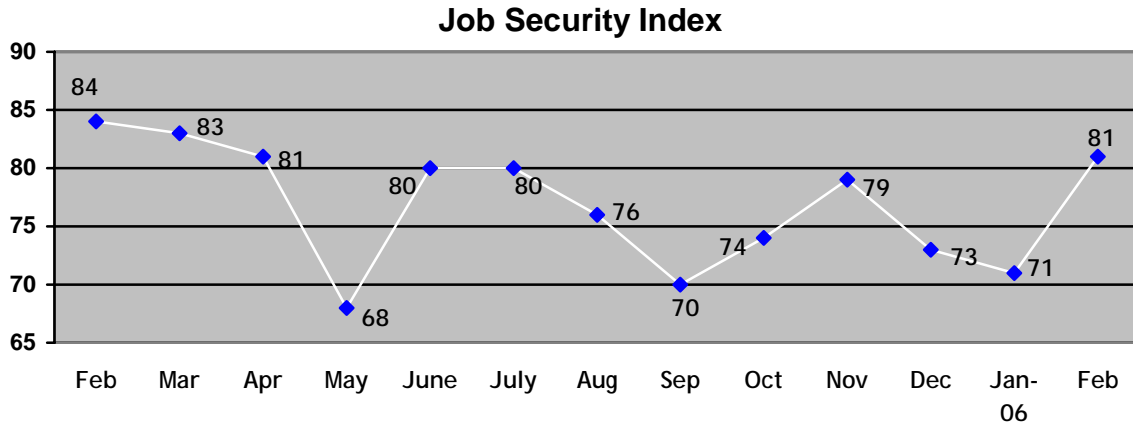
- **More Workers Confident in Ability to Find a New Job:** 64 percent of adult workers in Ohio have confidence in their own ability to find a new job, compared to 55 percent in January.

Own Ability to Find New Job

<u>February 2006</u>		<u>January 2005</u>	
Confident:	64%	Confident:	55%
Neutral:	21%	Neutral:	22%
Not Confident:	15%	Not Confident:	23%

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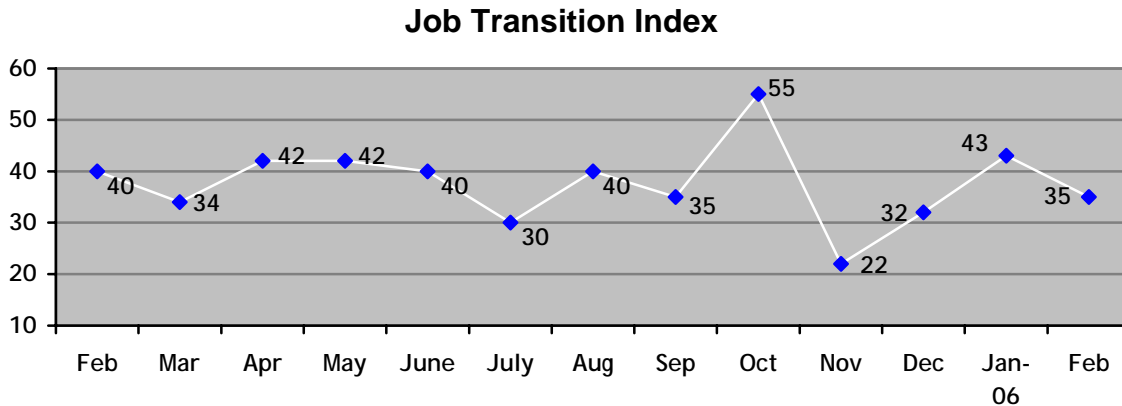
Job Security Index: The Ohio Job Security Index was 81 percent in February, up 10 percentage points from January. The Index level is down three percentage points from one year ago, however.



Likelihood of losing job or job elimination in next 12 months

	<u>February 2006</u>		<u>January 2006</u>
Likely:	12%	Likely:	18%
Neither unlikely nor likely:	6%	Neither unlikely nor likely:	11%
Unlikely:	81%	Unlikely:	71%

Job Transition Index: 35 percent of Ohio adult workers say they are likely to job search in the next year, down eight percentage points from January. The Index is five percentage points lower than last year.



Likelihood of looking for new job in next 12 months

	<u>February 2006</u>		<u>January 2006</u>
Likely:	35%	Likely:	43%
Neither unlikely nor likely:	14%	Neither unlikely nor likely:	4%
Not Confident:	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 a Harris Interactive® online survey conducted on behalf of Spherion Corporation. A U.S. sample of 2957 employed adults, aged 18 years and older, of whom 131 are employed in Ohio (for January 2005 n=100), 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 could 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 Ohio sample results is plus or minus 9 percentage points of what they would be if the entire Ohio 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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