

Employment Report



OHIO

March 2006

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Employee Confidence Index ↓

Macroeconomic Confidence Index ↑

Personal Confidence Index ↓

Job Security ↓

Job Transition ↓

Ohio Employee Confidence Index Declines Slightly While Number of Workers with Pessimistic View of Economy's Strength Shrinks

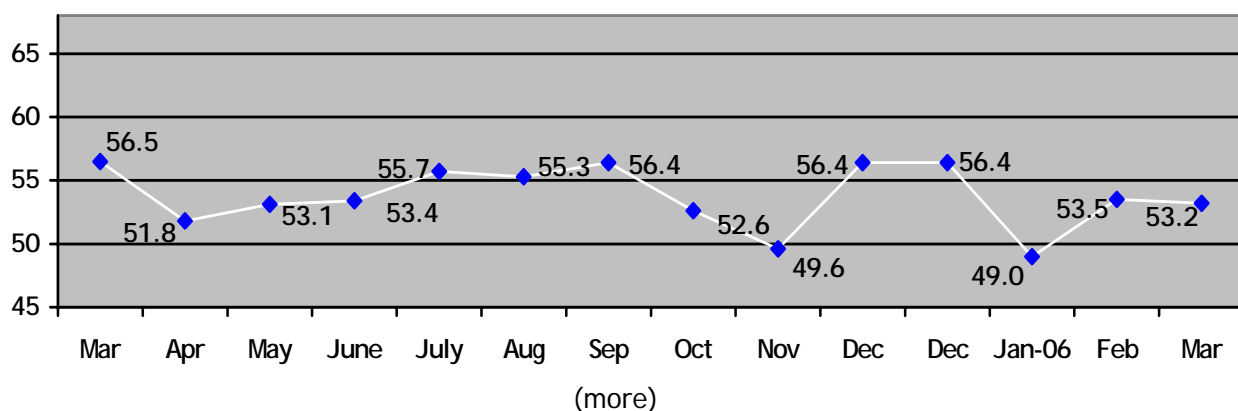
COLUMBUS, Ohio, April 25, 2006 — The Ohio Employee Confidence Index was down 0.3 points to 53.2 in March, as more workers are concerned about their personal job situation, but fewer workers believe the economy is getting weaker. According to the Ohio Spherion® Employment Report, a monthly survey conducted by Harris Interactive® on behalf of Spherion Corporation (NYSE:SFN), the subscale Macroeconomic Confidence Index rose 3.1 points to 34.5 in March. Only 45 percent of employed adults in Ohio believe the economy is getting weaker, a 10 percentage point drop from February.

The Personal Confidence Index dipped to 71.9, a 3.7-point decrease from the previous month, as the number of workers reporting confidence in their ability to find a new job slid from 64 percent in February to 55 percent in March. *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.*

"Given the shock waves still running through the state's job market because of recent auto industry layoffs, the relative stability in overall employee confidence can be considered a good thing right now," said Robert Schulte, Spherion franchise owner in Ohio. "Despite those setbacks, the state still managed to add 27,000 jobs since March of last year thanks to incremental growth in other sectors. In our staffing business, demand in sectors like light industrial continues to outpace the supply of qualified workers, and many people laid off by auto suppliers are being scooped up by companies in related fields."

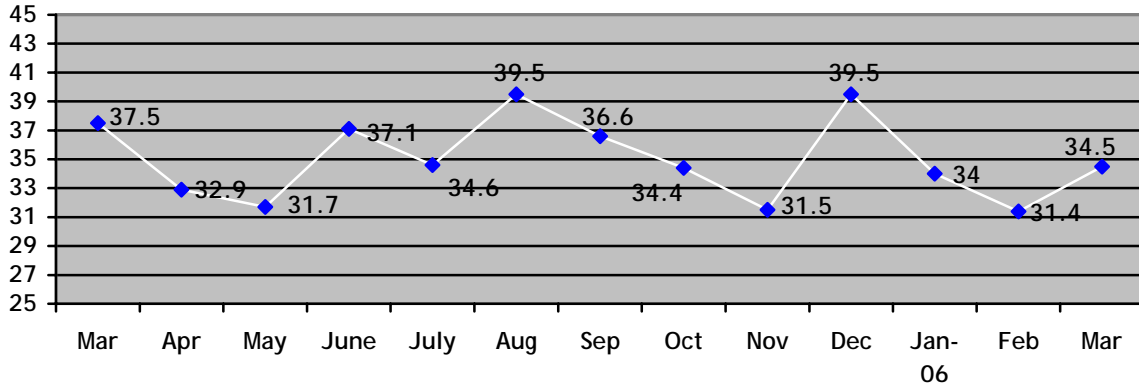
Employee Confidence Index: The overall Ohio Employee Confidence Index was 53.2 in March, decreasing 0.3 points from February and 3.3 points from a year ago. The Index, which measures adult workers' confidence in their personal employment situation and the macroeconomic environment, decreased as a result of more workers having concerns about job availability and their ability to find a new job.

Employee Confidence Index



Macroeconomic Confidence Index: Macroeconomic confidence in Ohio increased 3.1 points to 34.5 in March, as fewer workers reported that the economy is getting weaker.

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 Jobs Are Available:** 17 percent of adult workers in Ohio believe more jobs are available, down three percentage points from the previous month.

Job Availability

<u>March 2006</u>		<u>February 2006</u>	
More Jobs:	17%	More Jobs:	20%
Neutral:	31%	Neutral:	22%
Fewer Jobs	52%	Fewer Jobs:	58%

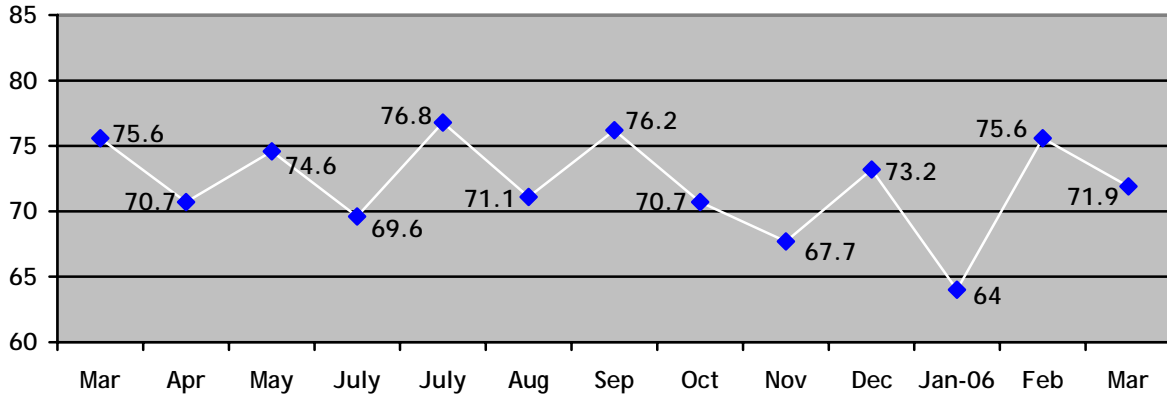
- **Fewer Workers Believe the Economy is Getting Weaker:** 45 percent of adult Ohio workers believe the economy is getting weaker, 10 percentage points lower from February.

Strength of Economy

<u>March 2006</u>		<u>February 2006</u>	
Getting stronger:	18%	Getting stronger:	18%
Staying the same:	37%	Staying the same:	27%
Getting weaker:	45%	Getting weaker:	55%

Personal Confidence Index: The Personal Confidence Index was 71.9 in March, down 3.7 points from 75.6 in February. This decrease was due to fewer workers being confident in their ability to find a job. This level was 3.7 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 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 Workers Confident in the Future of Their Employer Increases:** 64 percent of adult workers are confident in the future of their employer, compared to 60 percent in February.

Confidence in Future of Current Employer

	<u>March 2006</u>		<u>February 2006</u>
Confident:	64%	Confident:	60%
Neutral:	24%	Neutral:	33%
Not confident:	12%	Not confident:	7%

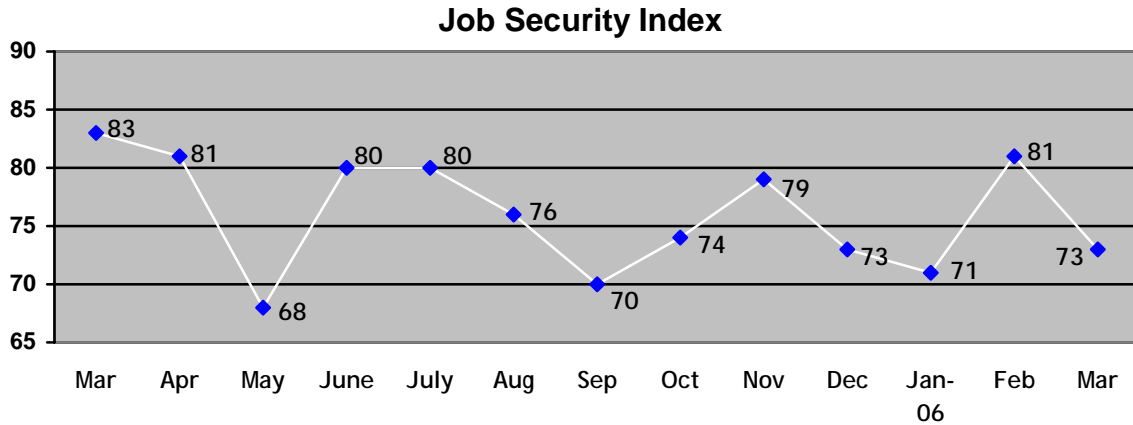
- **Fewer Workers Confident in Ability to Find a New Job:** 55 percent of adult workers in Ohio have confidence in their own ability to find a new job, a decrease of nine percentage points from February.

Own Ability to Find New Job

	<u>March 2006</u>		<u>February 2005</u>
Confident:	55%	Confident:	64%
Neutral:	25%	Neutral:	21%
Not Confident:	20%	Not Confident:	15%

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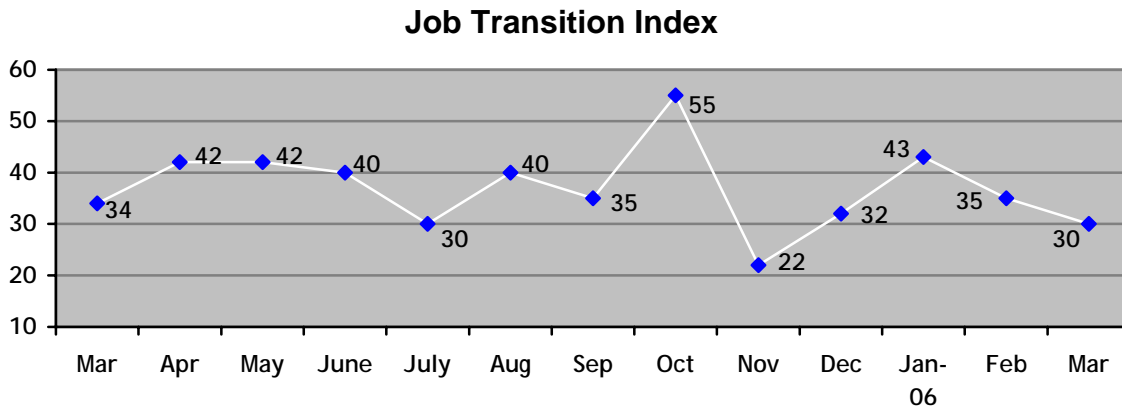
Job Security Index: The Ohio Job Security Index was 73 percent in March, down eight percentage points from February and 10 percentage points from a year ago.



Likelihood of losing job or job elimination in next 12 months

	<u>March 2006</u>		<u>February 2006</u>
Likely:	22%	Likely:	12%
Neither unlikely nor likely:	5%	Neither unlikely nor likely:	6%
Unlikely:	73%	Unlikely:	81%

Job Transition Index: 30 percent of Ohio adult workers say they are likely to job search in the next year, down five percentage points from February and five percentage points from a year ago.



Likelihood of looking for new job in next 12 months

	<u>March 2006</u>		<u>February 2006</u>
Likely:	30%	Likely:	35%
Neither unlikely nor likely:	11%	Neither unlikely nor likely:	14%
Not Confident:	59%	Unlikely:	51%

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 a Harris Interactive® online survey conducted on behalf of Spherion Corporation. A U.S. sample of 2972 employed adults, aged 18 years and older, of whom 118 are employed in Ohio (for February 2005 n=131), 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 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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