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Texas Employee Confidence Index Drops Slightly in May

- Fewer workers express optimism in strength of economy and job market
- Four-four percent of workers are likely to look for a new job
- More workers are confident in ability to find a new job

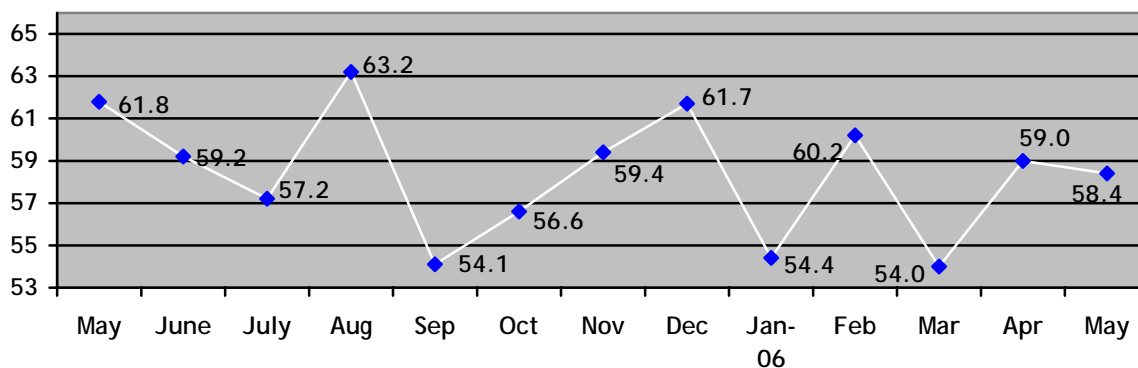
DALLAS, Texas, May 16, 2006 – Despite the addition of 14,800 jobs, the Texas Employee Confidence Index dropped to 58.4 in May, decreasing 0.6 from the previous month, as fewer workers expressed confidence in the strength of the economy and the job market. The Texas Spherion® Employment Report, a monthly survey conducted by Harris Interactive® on behalf of Spherion Corporation (NYSE:SFN), showed that 21 percent of Texas workers believe the economy is getting stronger, a decline of three percentage points from April. Twenty-two percent of workers believe more jobs are available, down 11 percentage points from April.

However, almost three-fourths (71 percent) of Texas workers have confidence in the future of their employer, an increase of three percentage points from April, and 65 percent of workers are confident in their ability to find a new job, an increase of eight percent from the prior month.

“Unemployment rates are still on the decline both locally in Texas as well as nationally, and are fast approaching four percent – the number that the federal government uses to determine that the population is “fully employed,” said Julie Van Wormer, vice president of Spherion in Texas. “Texas workers are taking advantage of a tight job market, and we are observing workers leaving jobs for small pay increases. We are seeing a return to 2000, when competition for workers – even those with less experience – is growing, as the supply of trained workers is decreasing. Employers have to start thinking of new ways to increase their retention rates and expedite the hiring process.”

Employee Confidence Index: The overall Texas Employee Confidence Index was 58.4 in May, down 0.6 from April and 3.4 points from May 2005. The Index, which measures adult workers’ confidence in their personal employment situation and the macroeconomic environment, may have decreased as workers reported less confidence in the economy and in job availability.

Employee Confidence Index



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May 2006 Employment Report Results

		<u>Texas 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	21%	24%	-3%	23%	23%	0%
	Staying same	37%	36%	+1%	34%	34%	0%
	Getting weaker	42%	40%	+2%	43%	43%	0%
Job Availability	More jobs	22%	33%	-11%	27%	26%	+1%
	Same amount	36%	33%	+3%	34%	34%	0%
	Fewer jobs	42%	35%	+7%	39%	41%	-2%
Ability to Find New Job	Confident	65%	57%	+8%	60%	57%	+3%
	Neutral	19%	23%	-4%	27%	28%	-1%
	Not Confident	15%	20%	-5%	13%	15%	-2%
Future of Current Employer	Confident	71%	68%	+3%	66%	65%	+1%
	Neutral	17%	17%	0%	22%	22%	0%
	Not Confident	12%	15%	-3%	12%	13%	-1%
Job Security	Confident	71%	82%	-11%	78%	76%	+2%
	Neutral	12%	11%	+1%	10%	11%	-1%
	Not Confident	16%	7%	+9%	12%	13%	-1%
Look for New Job	Likely	44%	35%	+9%	38%	38%	0%
	Neutral	11%	10%	+1%	9%	11%	-2%
	Not Likely	45%	55%	-10%	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.

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Methodology

The May 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 2,894 employed adults, aged 18 years and older, of whom 194 are employed in Texas (for April 2006 n=191), 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 Texas 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.

About Harris Interactive®

Harris Interactive is the 13th 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.

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