



Employment Report

UNITED STATES



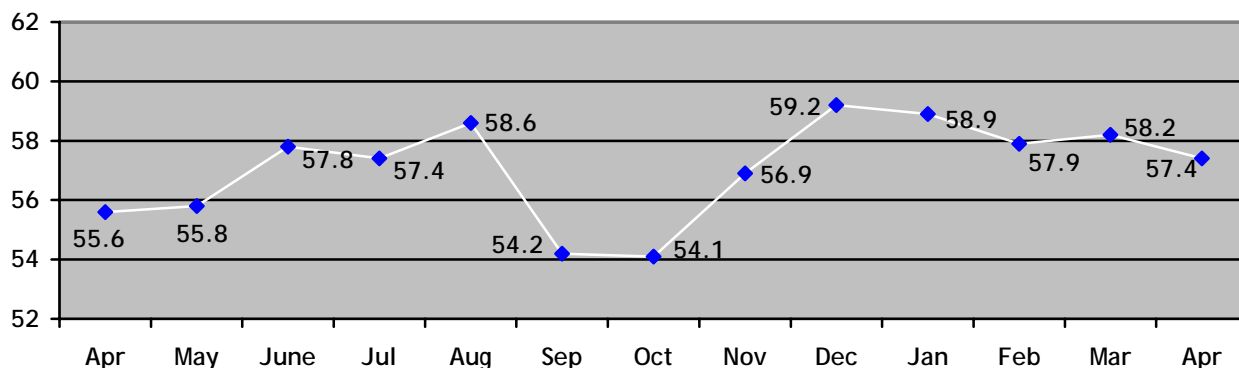
April 2006

Media Contact: Kip Havel
800 422-3819
kiphavel@spherion.com

Employee Confidence Index	↓	Macroeconomic Confidence Index	↓	Personal Confidence Index	↓	Job Security Index	↓	Job Transition Index	↑
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Employee Confidence Index: The overall April Employee Confidence Index was 57.4, reflecting a 0.8-point drop from March. The Index, which measures workers' confidence in their personal employment situation and the macroeconomic environment, decreased due to their weakening optimism in the economy and personal employment situation. The Index level is 1.8 points higher than the level recorded in April 2005.

Employee Confidence Index



The Employee Confidence Index is derived from the results of a continuing set of questions about the strength of the economy, availability of jobs, confidence in their ability to find a new job and confidence in the future of their current employer. To provide a more complete picture on employee attitudes, the Employee Confidence Index has been subdivided into two additional indices:

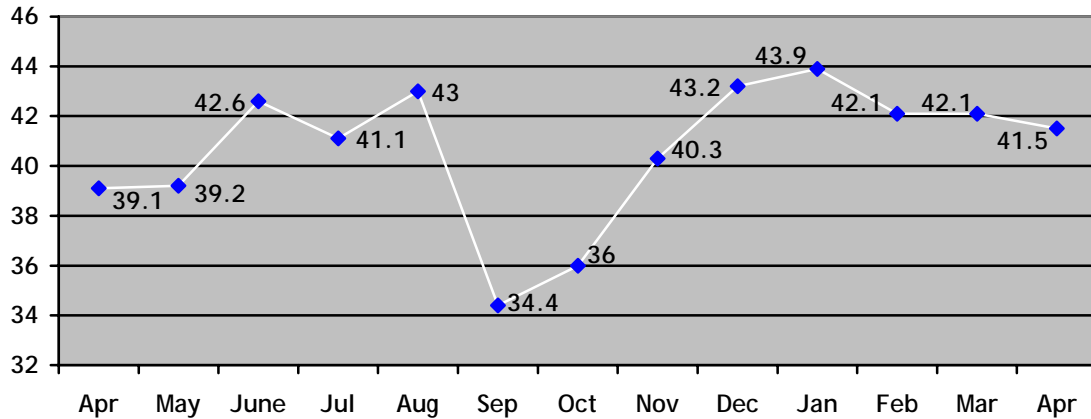
- *Macroeconomic Confidence Index*
This measurement reflects workers' views on the overall economy, its relative strength or weakness, as well as their opinion about the availability of jobs in the marketplace.
- *Personal Confidence Index*
This index measures workers' opinions of their own personal employment situation, their confidence in their own ability to find a job, as well as their confidence levels in their current employer.

For more information on the calculation of the Employee Confidence Index, please see the "About the Spherion Employment Report" section on page 5.

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Macroeconomic Confidence Index: The Macroeconomic Confidence Index decreased to 41.5, a 0.6-point decline from March as slightly more workers had concerns about the availability of jobs and the strength of the economy. The Index level is 2.4 points higher than in April 2005.

Macroeconomic Confidence Index



Note: The data below were 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.

- **Slightly More Workers Believe Fewer Jobs Are Available:**
41 percent of U.S. adult workers believe that fewer jobs are available, compared to 39 percent in March.

Job Availability

<u>April 2006</u>		<u>March 2006</u>	
More Jobs:	26%	More Jobs:	26%
Neutral:	34%	Neutral:	35%
Fewer Jobs:	41%	Fewer Jobs:	39%

- **Percentage of Workers That Believe Economy is Weakening Increases Slightly:**
43 percent of U.S. adult workers believe the economy is getting weaker, up two percentage points from the previous month.

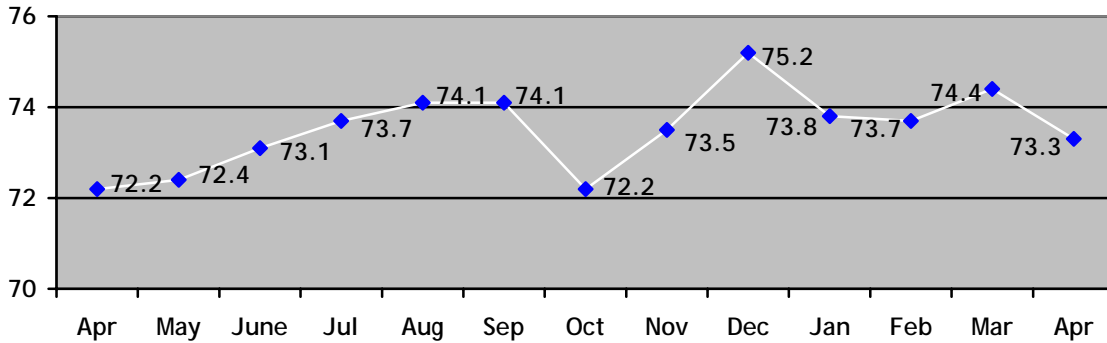
Strength of Economy

<u>April 2006</u>		<u>March 2006</u>	
Getting stronger:	23%	Getting stronger:	23%
Staying the same:	34%	Staying the same:	35%
Getting weaker:	43%	Getting weaker:	41%

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Personal Confidence Index: Workers' confidence in their personal employment situation decreased 1.1 points to 73.3 in April because fewer workers are confident in the future of their employer and their ability to find a new job. The Index level is 1.1 points higher than a year ago.

Personal Confidence Index



Note: The data below were 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.

- **Two-Thirds of Workers Confident in the Future of Their Employer:** 65 percent of U.S. adult workers feel confident in the future of their employer, compared to 66 percent from March.

Confidence in Future of Current Employer

<u>April 2006</u>		<u>March 2006</u>	
Confident:	65%	Confident:	66%
Neutral:	22%	Neutral:	23%
Not Confident:	13%	Not Confident:	12%

- **More than Half of Workers Confident in Their Ability to Find a New Job:** 57 percent of U.S. adult workers have confidence in their own ability to find a new job, compared to 58 percent in the prior month.

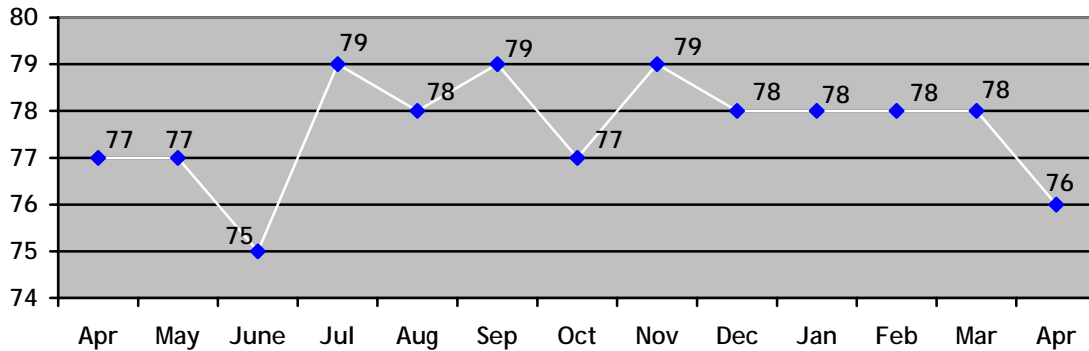
Own Ability to Find New Job

<u>April 2006</u>		<u>March 2006</u>	
Confident:	57%	Confident:	58%
Neutral:	28%	Neutral:	28%
Not Confident:	15%	Not Confident:	14%

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Job Security Index: Dropping for the first time in four months, the Job Security Index decreased to 76 percent in April. The Index is virtually unchanged from April 2005.

Job Security Index

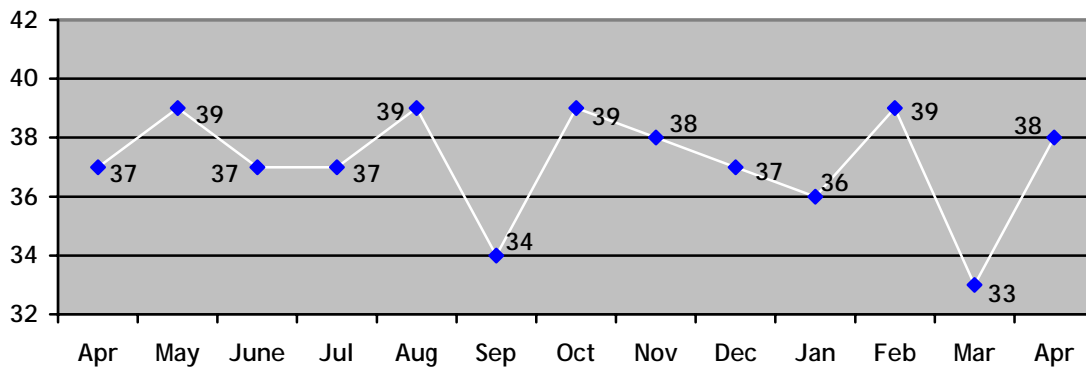


Likelihood of losing job or job elimination in next 12 months

<u>April 2006</u>		<u>March 2006</u>	
Likely:	13%	Likely:	12%
Neither unlikely nor likely:	11%	Neither unlikely nor likely:	10%
Unlikely:	76%	Unlikely:	78%

Job Transition Index: Rebounding from a six-percentage-point drop in the previous month, 38 percent of U.S. workers said they are likely to look for a new job in the next 12 months. The Index is three percentage points higher than the level reported in April 2005.

Job Transition Index



Likelihood of looking for new job in next 12 months

<u>April 2006</u>		<u>March 2006</u>	
Likely:	38%	Likely:	33%
Neither unlikely nor likely:	11%	Neither unlikely nor likely:	11%
Unlikely:	51%	Unlikely:	56%

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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, with each score ranking on a scale from 0 (no confidence) to 100 (complete confidence). A reading above 50 indicates a positive confidence level.

Methodology

The April 2006 Spherion Employment Report is based on data from the Harris Interactive QuickQuerySM online omnibus conducted monthly by Harris Interactive® on behalf of Spherion Corporation. A U.S. sample of 3,169 employed adults, aged 18 years and older, was interviewed in a series of two polls conducted between April 4-6 and April 10-12, 2006 (for March 2006 n=2,972). 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 3,169 U.S. employed adults one could say with a 95 percent probability that the overall results have a sampling error of +/- 2 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 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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EOE M/F/D/V

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