

Media Contact:

Lesly Baer  
(800) 422-3819  
[leslybaer@spherion.com](mailto:leslybaer@spherion.com)

## Florida Employment Report: Employee Confidence Index Drops in August as Concerns about Economy, Job Market Grow

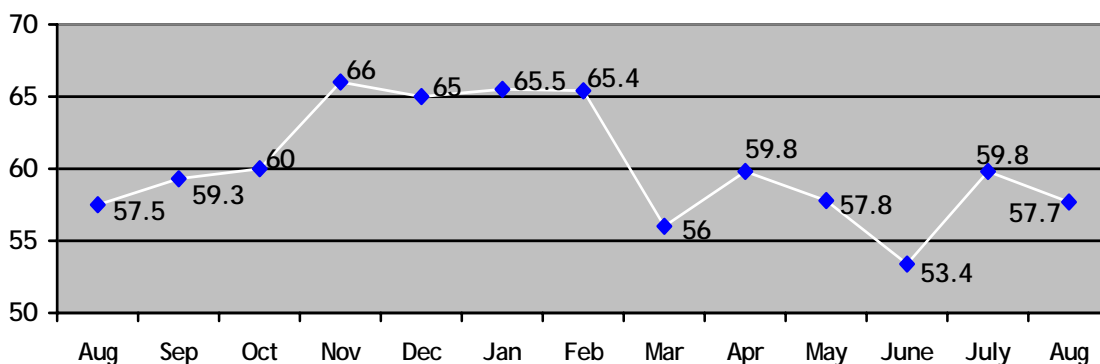
FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., September 21, 2007 - The Florida Employee Confidence Index decreased 2.1 points to 57.7 in August, according to the latest Spherion® Employment Report. The monthly survey of Florida workers, conducted by Harris Interactive® on behalf of Spherion Corporation, shows that more workers have concerns about the economy and job market. However, confidence in their own personal prospects rose.

### Results from the Florida Employment Report:

- Workers' outlook on the future of their current employer increased from 60 percent to 67 percent in August, a seven-percentage-point jump from July.
- Fewer workers believe the economy is strengthening. Specifically, 16 percent of workers believe the economy is getting stronger, compared to 26 percent in July.
- Seventy percent of workers are confident in their ability to find a new job, rising 10 percentage points from the previous month.
- Forty-three percent of workers believe fewer jobs are available, increasing 14 percentage points from July.

"Workers in all markets, including Florida, are feeling the impact of rising gas prices and the slowing housing market, which then trickles down to other industries, said Paula Franco, branch manager of Florida for Spherion Staffing Services. "There is a bright spot in all of this, though. Not only is Florida still at what is considered 'full employment,' but our latest report suggests that workers are more confident in their ability to find new jobs, as well as in their current employers. We are clearly seeing this in our own staffing and recruiting business, as talented workers continue to have their choice of jobs. Although there are plenty out there, certain industries are feeling the effects of the labor shortage more than others. Workers in accounting, technology, as well as those with call center and customer service experience remain in high demand."

### Employee Confidence Index



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## August Employment Report Results

		<u>Florida Workers</u>			<u>U.S. Workers</u>		
		<i>July</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>% Point Change</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>% Point Change</i>
Economy	Getting Stronger	26%	16%	-10	20%	19%	-1
	Staying Same	36%	28%	-8	40%	36%	-4
	Getting Weaker	38%	56%	+18	40%	45%	+5
Job Availability	More Jobs	30%	26%	-4	28%	26%	-2
	Same Amount	42%	31%	-11	37%	36%	-1
	Fewer Jobs	29%	43%	+14	35%	37%	+2
Ability to Find New Job	Confident	60%	70%	+10	60%	62%	+2
	Neutral	23%	24%	+1	27%	25%	-2
	Not Confident	17%	7%	-10	14%	12%	-2
Future of Current Employer	Confident	60%	67%	+7	64%	67%	+3
	Neutral	25%	19%	-6	24%	20%	-4
	Not Confident	14%	13%	-1	12%	13%	+1
Likelihood to Lose Job	Likely	14%	12%	-2	12%	11%	-1
	Neutral	8%	10%	+2	9%	9%	0
	Not Likely	77%	78%	+1	79%	80%	+1
Likelihood to Look for New Job	Likely	35%	31%	-4	36%	37%	+1
	Neutral	10%	15%	+5	9%	11%	+2
	Not Likely	55%	53%	-2	56%	52%	-4

### 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 August 2007 Spherion® Employment Report is based on data from a Harris Interactive® QuickQuery<sup>SM</sup> online survey conducted on behalf of Spherion Corporation. A U.S. sample of 3,126 employed adults, aged 18 years and older, of whom 153 are employed in Florida (for July 2007 n=137), was interviewed in a series of two polls conducted between August 6-8 and August 13-15, 2007. 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 3,126 U.S. employed adults one could say with a 95 percent probability that the overall results would have a sampling error of +/- two percentage points, and the sampling error for the Florida state sample results would be plus or minus eight 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 more than 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 locations 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 nearly 300,000 people annually through its network, Spherion is one of North America's largest employers. To learn more, visit [www.spherion.com](http://www.spherion.com). For up-to-date career tips and trends, visit Spherion's career blog, *The Big Time*<sup>SM</sup>, at [www.spherion.com/careerblog](http://www.spherion.com/careerblog).

## About Harris Interactive

Harris Interactive is the 13th largest and one of the fastest-growing market research firms in the world. The company provides innovative research, 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 it believes to be the world's largest panel of survey respondents, the Harris Poll Online. Harris Interactive serves clients worldwide through its North American, European and Asian offices, and through a global network of independent market research firms. More information about Harris Interactive may be obtained at [www.harrisinteractive.com](http://www.harrisinteractive.com).

To become a member of the Harris Poll Online and be invited to participate in online surveys, register at [www.harrispollonline.com](http://www.harrispollonline.com).

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