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Survey By The Mergis Group Shows Decline in Overall Confidence for Accounting and Finance Professionals; Index Hits Lowest Level Yet

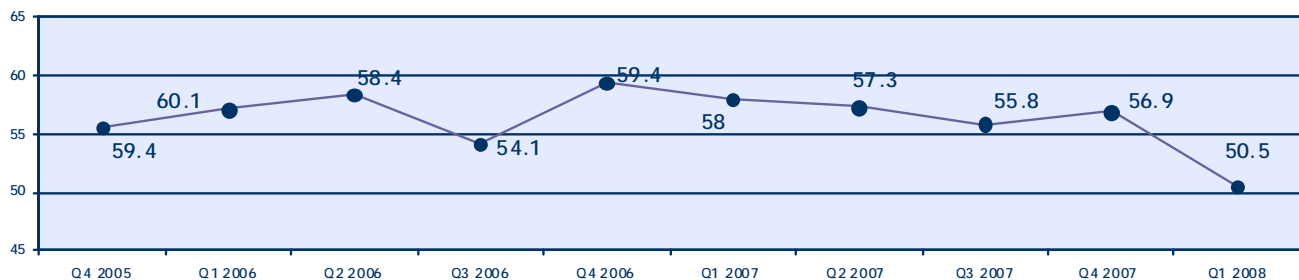
FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., April 21, 2008 — The Accounting and Finance Employee Confidence Index, a measure of overall confidence among U.S. accounting and finance workers, decreased 6.4 points to 50.5 in the first quarter of 2008, according to a recent survey commissioned by The Mergis Group®, a professional placement division of Spherion Corporation (NYSE:SFN). Conducted by Harris Interactive®, the survey yielded the lowest Index level since the Study’s 2005 inception. The drop can be attributed primarily to increases in the number of workers who believe that the economy is getting weaker and that fewer jobs are available.

Results from the Accounting & Finance Employment Report:

- Sixty-six percent of accounting and finance workers believe the economy is getting weaker, an increase of 16 percentage points from the fourth quarter of 2007.
- Fifty-six percent of accounting and finance workers believe that there are fewer jobs available, up 15 percentage points from the previous quarter.
- Despite the nation’s economic instability and the recent job loss endured within the industry, the amount of workers likely to look for a new job increased to 35 percent, showing a seven percentage-point increase from the fourth quarter of 2007.

“Given the volatility within this sector over the last few months, the continued decline of the Accounting and Finance Confidence Index is not surprising. Workers are starting to be concerned with the current economy, but in reality we are seeing a host of positive hiring trends,” said Jack Causa, senior vice president and group executive for The Mergis Group. “In our business, we are continuing to see positive growth in this sector, especially for those with hard-to-find skills such as tax, financial reporting, corporate auditing and accounting for derivatives. This growth, coupled with the U.S. Department of Labor projection that candidates in accounting and finance have the best job prospects of any industry in 2008, suggests that 2009 should be just as robust.”

Quarterly AF Occupational Index



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1Q 2008 Employment Report Results: Accounting & Finance		Accounting & Finance Workers			U.S. Workers		
		4Q 2007	1Q 2008	% Point Change	4Q 2007	1Q 2008	% Point Change
Economy	Getting stronger	17%	9%	-8	14%	7%	-7
	Staying same	34%	25%	-9	33%	24%	-9
	Getting weaker	50%	66%	+16	53%	69%	+16
Job Availability	More jobs	27%	14%	-13	21%	14%	-7
	Same amount	32%	30%	-2	38%	32%	-6
	Fewer jobs	41%	56%	+15	42%	54%	+12
Ability to Find New Job	Confident	59%	58%	-1	56%	53%	-3
	Neutral	23%	23%	0	28%	30%	+2
	Not Confident	18%	19%	+1	16%	17%	+1
Future of Current Employer	Confident	70%	72%	+2	63%	64%	+1
	Neutral	20%	15%	-5	24%	23%	-1
	Not Confident	10%	12%	+2	13%	14%	+1
Likelihood to Lose Job	Likely	10%	9%	-1	12%	12%	0
	Neutral	8%	9%	+1	10%	11%	+1
	Not Likely	82%	82%	0	78%	77%	-1
Look for New Job	Likely	28%	35%	+7	33%	36%	+3
	Neutral	9%	5%	-4	11%	10%	-1
	Not Likely	63%	60%	-3	56%	53%	-3

About the Spherion Employment Report

As part of the Spherion® Emerging Workforce® Series of employment surveys, the quarterly Accounting and Finance Employment Report provides a snapshot of the latest workforce trends among accounting and finance professionals across the country. 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 are scaled from 0 (no confidence) to 100 (complete confidence). A reading above 50 indicates a positive confidence level.

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Methodology

The 2008 Mergis® A&F Employment Report for the first quarter was conducted online within the United States by Harris Interactive on behalf of The Mergis Group® between January 7-9, January 16-18, February 6-8, February 11-13, March 4-6 and March 10-12, 2008. This survey was conducted among a U.S. sample of 9,512 employed adults, aged 18 years and older, of whom 439 work in accounting and finance positions. Results were weighted as needed for age, sex, race/ethnicity, income, education and region. Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online.

All sample surveys and polls, whether or not they use probability sampling, are subject to multiple sources of error which are most often not possible to quantify or estimate, including sampling error, coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response options, and post-survey weighting and adjustments. Therefore, Harris Interactive avoids the words "margin of error" as they are misleading. All that can be calculated are different possible sampling errors with different probabilities for pure, unweighted, random samples with 100% response rates. These are only theoretical because no published polls come close to this ideal.

Respondents for this survey were selected from among those who have agreed to participate in Harris Interactive surveys. The data have been weighted to reflect the composition of the U.S. adult population. Because the sample is based on those who agreed to be invited to participate in the Harris Interactive online research panel, no estimates of theoretical sampling error can be calculated.

About The Mergis Group

The Mergis Group is a leading professional placement firm that specializes in recruiting for positions in finance and accounting, engineering and manufacturing, sales and marketing, legal and human resources. The firm provides recruiting services to Fortune 500 and small and mid-sized companies through its network of 46 offices nationally.

The Mergis Group is a division of Spherion Corporation (NYSE:SFN). For more information, please visit www.mergisgroup.com.

About Harris Interactive

Harris Interactive® is a global leader in custom market research. Powered by science and technology, 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 serves clients globally through its North American, European and Asian offices, and through a network of independent market research firms. For more information, please visit www.harrisinteractive.com.

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