

For Immediate Release

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U.S. Workers Start Year with Measured Confidence
New Hudson Employment IndexesSM for Legal and Hispanic Workers
Register Below National Average

NEW YORK, February 1, 2006 – The *Hudson Employment IndexSM* remained on par with December’s 103.4 reading as U.S. worker confidence slipped just .8 points to 102.6 in January. The most notable change contributing to this slight decline was the flagging optimism about hiring amongst managers. However, overall hiring expectations and job satisfaction held steady in January with only negligible shifts in employees’ perceptions of their finances and job security. Buoyed by December’s strong *Index*, the latest reading is higher than most recorded in 2005, although well below the 107.0 reading in January 2005.

The survey also found that Hispanic workers were less optimistic than the overall workforce, as were people who work in the legal profession. The *Indexes* for these sectors, segmented for the first time in this month’s survey, stood at 98.1 and 100.4, respectively.

Hiring Expectations Down Among Managers

Managers were less confident about their firms’ hiring plans in January than the previous month. Only 29 percent anticipated more hiring in the coming months, compared to 33 percent in December. They were also slightly less optimistic than workers overall, 30 percent of whom anticipated a boost in headcount (unchanged from December).

“Whereas we typically see a new year’s increase, our polling indicates that workers are approaching this year with a ‘wait-and-see’ attitude,” said Steve Wolfe, executive vice president, Hudson, North America. “This is not a great cause for concern, though, as worker sentiment remains essentially unchanged from December, which showed increased optimism overall.”

Tax Season Encourages Accounting & Finance Workers

Accounting and finance workers were more confident in January than in December, likely reflecting an anticipated increase in business during the upcoming tax season. These workers were more optimistic

about their job security, personal finances and job satisfaction. However, there was only a one-point increase, to 34 percent, in the number who expected their employers to add staff.

| | All Workers | All Managers | Accounting & Finance Workers | Hispanic Workers | Legal Workers |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---|-------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Hudson Employment Index</i> | 102.6 | 111.7 | 112.6 | 98.1 | 100.4 |
| Expected hiring | 30% | 29% | 34% | 30% | 23% |
| Concerned about job security | 19% | 19% | 18% | 22% | 19% |
| Rated personal finances as excellent | 12% | 17% | 17% | 10% | 14% |

*A more detailed data report is available at www.hudson-index.com.

Hudson, one of the world’s leading professional staffing, outsourcing and human capital solutions providers, publishes the *Hudson Employment Index*, a monthly measure of U.S. worker confidence in the employment market. Results are not seasonally adjusted. Next month’s *Hudson Employment Index* will be released on March 8.

The Hudson Employment Index

The *Hudson Employment Index* (Hudson-Index.com) is based on monthly telephone surveys with approximately 9,000 U.S. workers. The *Index* tracks aggregate employment trends regarding career opportunities, hiring intentions, job satisfaction and retention. The data is compiled each month by Rasmussen Reports, LLC, an independent research firm (www.RasmussenReports.com).

Survey results are segmented by 11 cities: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, Minneapolis-St. Paul, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Tampa, and Washington, D.C. The *Index* surveys five occupational sectors: accounting and finance, health care, information technology, manufacturing and legal. The *Hudson Employment Index* also measures employee confidence by age, gender, race and compensation.

Data reported in this release is based on a national telephone survey of 9,327 working Americans during the month of January. The margin of sampling error for a survey based on this number of interviews is approximately +/-1 percent with a 95 percent level of confidence. The data is not seasonally adjusted. It will be reviewed at year-end to determine if seasonal adjustments are appropriate. The *Hudson Employment Index* is a service mark owned by Hudson Highland Group, Inc.

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Special Note: Safe Harbor Statement Under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995: Except for historical information contained herein, the statements made in this release constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Such forward-looking statements involve certain risks and uncertainties, including statements regarding the company's strategic direction, prospects and future results. Certain factors, including factors outside of our control, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in the forward- looking statements, including economic and other conditions in the markets in which we operate, risks associated with acquisitions, competition, seasonality and the other risks discussed in our Form 10-K and our other filings made with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which discussions are incorporated in this release by reference.

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