

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jennifer Bernhart
Hudson
(813) 890-7379
jennifer.bernhart@hudson.com

Anshula Ahluwalia
Ogilvy Public Relations
(312) 397-6074
anshula.ahluwalia@ogilvypr.com

U.S. Employees Upbeat About Job Market In Early 2005

Hudson Employment IndexSM Rises 2.6 Points in January

New York, February 2, 2005 – The outlook on employment conditions among U.S. workers grew more positive in January as the *Hudson Employment IndexSM* rose 2.6 points to 106.2. The upward move reflects greater optimism about personal finances, higher job satisfaction and fewer concerns about job cuts.

Emerging as the most bullish among all workers polled, 44 percent of private-sector managers expected their firms to hire more workers in the coming months. Simultaneously, there was a three-point decline (19 percent to 16 percent) in the number of workers who reported that their firms are laying off. National hiring expectations held at the same level as December (31 percent).

Employee satisfaction rose to an unprecedented high, with three-quarters of U.S. workers claiming that they are happy with their jobs. This figure is four points higher than the highest satisfaction level reported all through 2004.

“The employment outlook moving into 2005 looks and feels stronger than at the beginning of last year,” said Jeff Anderson, senior vice president, Hudson Global Resources, North America. “January is the best time to be job hunting as many companies have fresh hiring budgets and are eager to add new talent to their teams. Plus, with corporate earnings and spending on the rise, we will likely see continued hiring increases in the short-term.”

Workers’ assessments of personal financial situations also improved over last month. Forty-six percent of workers rated their personal finances as excellent or good in comparison to 43 percent in December, and 45 percent asserted that their own situation is improving versus only 42 percent last month. Men emerged more optimistic than women, with 49 percent rating their personal finances as excellent or good compared

to 43 percent of women. Furthermore, 49 percent of men versus 41 percent of women claimed improvement in their personal finances since last month.

Percentage of respondents who say their personal finances are improving:

	All Workers	Managers	Men	Women	Age 30-39	Age 40-49	Age 50-64
Jan'05	45	51	48	41	47	45	41
Dec'04	42	49	47	36	44	42	39

*Additional demographic details are available on www.hudson-index.com

Hudson, one of the world's leading professional staffing, outsourcing and human capital solution providers, publishes the *Hudson Employment Index*, a monthly measure of U.S. workforce confidence in the employment market. Next month's *Hudson Employment Index* will be released on March 2, 2005.

The Hudson Employment Index

The *Hudson Employment Index* (Hudson-Index.com) measures the U.S. workforce's confidence in the employment market. Based upon monthly telephone surveys with approximately 9,000 U.S. workers, the *Index* tracks aggregate employment trends around career opportunities, hiring intentions, job satisfaction and retention. The data is compiled each month by Rasmussen Reports, LLC, an independent research firm (RasmussenReports.com).

Survey results are segmented by eleven metropolitan cities and four industries. The metro markets are: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, Minneapolis-St. Paul, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Tampa, and Washington, D.C. Industry sectors surveyed are accounting and finance, healthcare, information technology, and manufacturing. The *Hudson Employment Index* also measures employee confidence by age, gender, race and compensation levels.

Data reported in this release is based upon a national telephone survey of 9,334 working Americans during the month of January. The margin of sampling error for a survey based upon this many 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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