

For Immediate Release

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Employment Outlook Improving among U.S. Workers
According to *Hudson Employment Index*SM
Employees more optimistic about hiring plans, less fearful of layoffs

New York, February 4, 2004 – The outlook on employment conditions among U.S. workers grew more positive in January with the *Hudson Employment Index*SM rising 5.4 points to 105.4. The upward move reflects greater optimism about hiring plans and fewer concerns about job cuts. In fact, the number of Americans worried about losing their jobs fell to 17 percent, the lowest level in a year.

Data from the *Hudson Employment Index*, a monthly measure of employee attitudes on critical work issues, also reveals 31 percent of respondents predict their companies will be hiring more people, while only 16 percent expect layoffs. The gap between the two widened in January, rising to 15 percent from 12 percent the previous month.

“The claim of a jobless recovery is at best ambiguous,” according to Jeffrey Anderson, senior vice president, Hudson North America. “Our data, as well as our own experience with clients and candidates, indicates a growing confidence in the employment market that belies the most recent job creation numbers.”

Each month, on a quarterly rotation, the *Hudson Employment Index* survey examines a particular workplace issue in more depth. The theme this month was career opportunities, which includes ratings on opportunities for advancement and recognition for performance.

In almost every single category related to career opportunities, entrepreneurs (those who own their own business or are self-employed) rated higher than the national average. They also were more positive overall than government and private company employees. “Controlling your own destiny appears to correlate strongly with job fulfillment,” indicated Anderson.

For example, 61 percent of entrepreneurs indicated their best opportunity for career advancement was by staying within their current organization rather than by going to work for someone else. This compares with the national average of 42 percent, and government and company rates of 45 and 33 percent respectively.

Entrepreneurs are also less likely to believe that their next job will be better. However, employees are still ready and willing to explore new career avenues, with 61 percent reporting that they would be very or somewhat likely to consider a job offer and 31 percent reporting that they are currently looking for a different job.

Hudson, one of the world’s leading professional staffing, outsourcing and human capital solution providers, publishes the *Hudson Employment Index*, the first monthly measure of employee attitudes on critical work issues, including career opportunities, job satisfaction and workplace performance. Next month’s *Hudson Employment Index* will be released on March 3, 2004.

The Hudson Employment Index

The *Hudson Employment Index* (Hudson-Index.com) measures employee attitudes on critical work issues, including career opportunities, job satisfaction and workplace performance. The *Index* is compiled each month by Rasmussen Reports, LLC, an independent research firm, based upon telephone interviews and survey responses from approximately 9,000 U.S. workers (RasmussenReports.com).

Data reported in this release is based upon a national telephone survey of 9,416 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 *Hudson Employment Index* is a service mark owned by Hudson Highland Group, Inc.

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