

For Immediate Release

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Gas Prices & Slow Summer Hiring Weaken Worker Confidence

***Hudson Employment IndexSM* Drops to 102.3 Despite Rise in Job Security**

NEW YORK, May 31, 2006 – U.S. worker confidence in the employment market declined in May, as the *Hudson Employment IndexSM* fell 5.4 points to 102.3. Lowered optimism regarding personal finances and less anticipated hiring contributed to the drop. However, positive news regarding job security kept the latest *Index* above most of the readings from the second half of 2005 as well as the 99.9 recorded last May.

Workers Less Happy with Finances, Employers' Hiring Plans

The work force was less satisfied with their finances in May, as the percent rating their situation as excellent or good fell from 45 percent in April to 43 percent. There was also a three-point decrease to 40 percent in the number of workers who indicated their personal finances were improving, taking this to the lowest level since November 2005.

Additionally, the number of workers expecting their employers to hire returned to 32 percent in May after jumping to 34 percent in April. Managers also cooled their hiring plans, as the number anticipating a boost in headcount edged down a point to 33 percent.

Areas of Confidence Reveal Silver Lining

Despite the overall drop in confidence, May's polling revealed areas of optimism. In particular, just 20 percent of the work force was concerned about job loss in May, down from 21 percent in April and 22 percent one year ago. Additionally, the number of workers expecting layoffs held steady at 17 percent, while the number content with their jobs was also stable at 74 percent.

“The drop in confidence is not unexpected, especially when you consider the elevated gas prices, rising interest rates and slipping stocks, which are all compounded by upcoming seasonal factors,” said Steve Wolfe, executive vice president, Hudson, North America. “However, the news isn't all bad. Workers are

still generally satisfied at work and confident that their jobs are safe despite the constant barrage of negative headlines.”

	All Workers May 2006	All Workers April 2006	All Managers May 2006	All Workers May 2005
<i>Hudson Employment Index</i>	102.3	107.7	113.9	99.9
Expected layoffs	17%	17%	17%	19%
Personal finances getting worse	42%	40%	36%	42%
Happy at work	74%	74%	79%	72%

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

Hudson, one of the world’s leading professional staffing, outsourcing and talent management 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 July 5.

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 9,312 working Americans during the month of May. 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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clients and candidates in more than 20 countries through its Hudson and Highland Partners businesses. More information is available at www.hudson.com.

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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