

*For Immediate Release*

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

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

## **Worker Confidence Continues to Increase, According to Hudson Employment Index<sup>SM</sup>**

### *Monthly Measure of Employee Confidence Climbs to 108.9 in August*

**New York, September 1, 2004** – The *Hudson Employment Index<sup>SM</sup>* continued its ascent in August to 108.9, marking a half-point increase from July and revealing another small, yet steady rise in employee confidence in the labor market. A key factor contributing to the rise in the *Index* is the decline in the percentage of workers worried about losing their jobs, which dropped to 17 percent this month, matching its lowest reading of the year.

Nationwide, the percentage of employees who anticipate hiring in their firms remained stable with 33 percent of workers and 34 percent of managers reporting that they expect their employers to add staff. Private sector workers continued to be more bullish than the overall workforce, with 39 percent reporting hiring plans by their employers for the fifth straight month. Meanwhile, the number of workers rating their personal finances as excellent or good has grown incrementally, peaking this month at 45 percent.

“Employees are maintaining an overall positive outlook on jobs despite current debate about the strength of the labor market,” said Jeff Anderson, senior vice president of Hudson Global Resources. “Since the beginning of the year, we have seen a notable increase in the demand for staffing and outsourced solutions. In fact, the number of consultants that Hudson North America has placed grew over 30 percent since January.”

#### **Percentage of respondents who say their companies are hiring in coming months**

	<b>Dec '03</b>	<b>Jan '04</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>
<b>All Workers</b>	29	31	31	33	33	32	34	33	33
<b>Managers</b>	32	33	32	35	35	33	36	34	34
<b>Private-Sector Employees</b>	32	36	36	38	39	39	39	39	39

Of particular note is that in Florida, where residents are still dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Charley, employee confidence dropped significantly last month. The Florida *Index* declined from 116.9 in July to 108.6 in August.

Hudson, one of the world's leading professional staffing, outsourcing and human capital solution providers, publishes the *Hudson Employment Index*, a monthly measure of the U.S. workforce's confidence in the employment market. Next month's *Hudson Employment Index* will be released on September 29, 2004.

### **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 *Index* is compiled each month by Rasmussen Reports, LLC, an independent research firm (RasmussenReports.com).

Data reported in this release is based upon a national telephone survey of 9,568 working Americans during the month of August. 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.

### **Hudson**

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Hudson is a division of Hudson Highland Group, Inc. (NASDAQ: HHGP) one of the world's leading professional staffing, retained executive search and human capital solution providers. More information is available at 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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