



JOBS FEAST IN THE EAST

MANPOWERGROUP EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK SURVEY REVEALS THE EAST OF ENGLAND IS MOST UPBEAT REGION IN THE UK FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE QUARTER

- **Outlook of +9% for the region**
- **However, candidate shortages make roles hard to fill**
- **Surge in over 50s seeking manufacturing opportunities**

14 MARCH 2017: Employers in the East of England are the most likely to hire in the country for the second consecutive quarter, according to ManpowerGroup, the world's workforce experts. This is the tenth consecutive quarter when hiring intentions in the region have outperformed the national average Employment Outlook.

The ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey is based on responses from 2,119 UK employers. It asks whether employers intend to hire additional workers or reduce the size of their workforce in the coming quarter. It is the most comprehensive, forward-looking employment survey of its kind and is used as a key economic statistic by both the Bank of England and the UK government.

Simon Edwards, Operations Director at Manpower said: "The East of England looks set to continue its hiring boom over the next three months. Hiring in the region has been buoyant for so long that parts of the region have reached zero unemployment, meaning there is a severe lack of available candidates and many roles are proving tricky to fill.

"However, the hiring outlook isn't universally positive. The market in Peterborough is more cautious with many local organisations making cutbacks, but marketing, digital and technology firms have bucked this local trend. The need for tech-savvy workers remains high and employers are making more use of online communities like Stack Overflow to source developers and programmers with the right talent.

"It's a particularly tough market for graduates and students, as employers look to recruit people with at least two years of experience. Graduates are also facing more competition from older candidates looking to upskill and fill roles that are in highest demand. We have seen a significant rise in candidates in the over 50s age bracket applying for manufacturing roles, such as machine operation and manufacturing assembly. Now people are working for longer, candidates in this age group are keen to move around and widen their experience."

Nationally, private sector hiring has dropped to its weakest level since Q1 2014. Employers in six of the nine sectors surveyed reported a falling Outlook. The overall Net Employment Outlook, which includes both public and private sector employers, has dropped two points to +5%.

Mark Cahill, ManpowerGroup UK Managing Director: “The impending trigger of Article 50 is clearly affecting confidence in the jobs market. The private sector plans to hire at its slowest rate since 2014 (+4%), with only construction, manufacturing and transport and communications planning to hire at previous levels. The employment rate is at its highest level since records began in 1971, but if you lift the bonnet to look at the engine of the economy, job creation has slowed and employers are becoming more cautious. The companies which have powered Britain’s economy through the immediate post-referendum period are easing off the gas.”

All but five regions report falling Outlooks for the coming three months compared to the previous quarter. The biggest fallers are the two strongest Remain-supporting areas of the UK: Scotland, down 11 points to -3% and London, down five points to +3%. The West Midlands, the South West and Yorkshire & the Humber all fell three points to +5%. While the North East and South East are both down one point to +5% and +4%, respectively. Northern Ireland and the North West are the only risers, both up three points to +7% and +6%, respectively. Two other regions report unchanged Outlooks: the East Midlands (+8%) and Wales (+2%).

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NOTES TO EDITORS

A ‘Net Employment Outlook’ is calculated by subtracting those employers who plan to reduce staffing levels from those who plan to hire staff. A positive result indicates that more employers plan to increase rather than decrease staffing levels; a negative result reflects the opposite. [% increase - % decrease]

Commentary and full details on every sector and region can be found in the survey report at manpowergroup.co.uk/meos, or by calling the Press Office on 0207 404 5959/ manpower@brunswickgroup.com

For international comparisons and visual library with graphs, visit manpowergroup.com

Commentary is based on seasonally adjusted data where available. Full survey results for each of the 43 countries and territories included in this quarter’s survey, plus regional and global comparisons, can be found in the ManpowerGroup Press Room at www.manpowergroup.com/meos. In addition, all tables and graphs from the full report are available to be downloaded for use in publication or broadcast from the ManpowerGroup Web site at: <http://www.manpowergroup.com/press/meos.cfm>

Note that in Quarter 2 2008, the Survey adopted the TRAMO-SEATS model for seasonal adjustment of data. As a result, you may notice some seasonally adjusted data points change slightly from previous reports. This model is recommended by the Eurostat department of the European Union and the European Central Bank, and is widely used internationally.

About the Survey

The world leader in innovative workforce solutions, ManpowerGroup releases the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey quarterly to measure employers’ intentions to increase or decrease the number of employees in their workforce during the next quarter. It is the longest running, most extensive, forward-looking employment survey in the world, polling over 58,000 employers in 43 countries and territories. The survey serves as a bellwether of labour market trends and activities and is regularly used to inform the Bank of England’s Inflation Reports, as well as a regular data source for the European Commission, informing its EU Employment Situation and Social Outlook report the *Monthly Monitor*. ManpowerGroup’s independent survey data is also sourced by financial analysts and economists around the world to help determine where labour markets are headed.

About ManpowerGroup

ManpowerGroup® (NYSE: MAN) is the world’s workforce expert, creating innovative workforce solutions for nearly 70 years. As workforce experts, we connect more than 600,000 people to meaningful work across a wide range of skills and industries every day. Through our ManpowerGroup family of brands – Manpower®, Experis®, Right Management® and ManpowerGroup®

Solutions – we help more than 400,000 clients in 80 countries and territories address their critical talent needs, providing comprehensive solutions to resource, manage and develop talent. In 2016, ManpowerGroup was named one of the World's Most Ethical Companies for the sixth consecutive year and one of Fortune's Most Admired Companies, confirming our position as the most trusted and admired brand in the industry. See how ManpowerGroup makes powering the world of work humanly possible: www.manpowergroup.com.