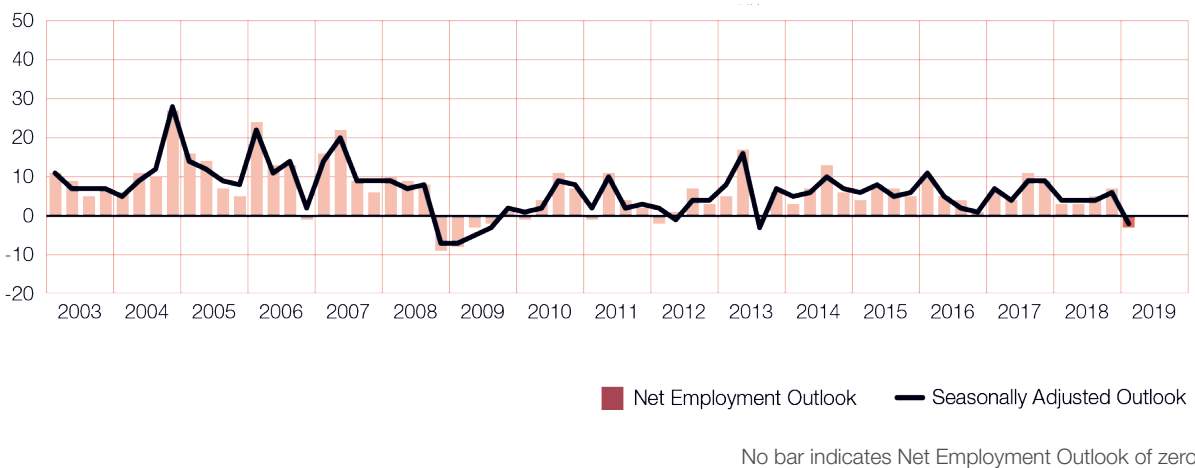




Weak hiring plans reported in the South East

Employers in the South East are downbeat about their hiring plans for the beginning of 2019. With a balance of **-2%**, the region has the least optimistic hiring intentions in the UK for the first quarter of the year. This is the weakest and first negative labour market in more than five years. Declining by eight and six percentage points quarter-over-quarter and year-over-year.



2019 Q1

MARKET OVERVIEW

While employers in the South East are subdued in their hiring forecasts for early 2019, there are bright spots to be found in the region's jobs market. We're seeing strong demand for Class 1, Class 2, 7.5t and Category B driving roles, while requirements for skilled manufacturing, contact centre, warehousing and production roles is also high.

Nonetheless, talent shortages mean that employers are tapping into a limited pool of talent. Many job seekers have more than one job opportunity on the table at one time, so they are able to demand a higher rate of pay. With this in mind, it's increasingly important that organisations ensure their offering is competitive and position themselves as an employer of choice, in order to secure the in-demand talent that their business needs to thrive.