



ManpowerGroup™

NORTH EAST EMPLOYERS PUT STOP TO HIRING PLANS

- **Employment Outlook in the region drops to flat 0 for the first time in over three years**
- **North East employers report lowest hiring confidence in the country**
- **Brexit uncertainty hit the region's major industries and supply chains**

12 MARCH 2019: Employers in the North East are putting the brake on their hiring plans as the threat of Brexit makes them think twice about adding to their headcount, according to the latest Employment Outlook Survey from ManpowerGroup. In the three months to the end of June, jobs confidence has dropped by five points to 0 – the lowest level for the North East since the end of 2015.

The ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey is based on responses from 2,142 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.

Jason Greaves, director at ManpowerGroup, comments, “The prospects for North East job seekers look tough as we head into Spring, showing all the hallmarks of a jobs market in stagnation. The threat of Brexit is undoubtedly weighing heavily on the minds of many employers delaying their investment and hiring plans. Manufacturing, construction and engineering in particular are vital to the health of the regional economy. But with Nissan recently announcing plans to move its X-Trail manufacturing from Sunderland to Japan, questions around Brexit have resulted in a slowdown in many key supply chains and projects in the North East.”

“While hiring confidence is low, employers are also struggling to fill any current vacancies due to a lack of candidates. The key industries of construction and manufacturing are in the midst of a national skills crisis and the North East is no exception to this. The uncertainty in the market has also made candidates hugely risk-averse. Those that choose to stay in the region are reluctant to move, favouring the relative certainty of their current position. For good candidates looking for a new role there are opportunities. Businesses are going to have to work even harder if they are to attract and hold on to the talent they need this year.”

Ten out of the UK's 12 regions reported a fall in confidence since last quarter, causing the national average to slip from +5% to +4%. While the regional employment outlook outside the North East remains conservative, there are dips moving into Q2 2019 almost across the board, including the East (down nine points to +3%), the South West (down seven points to +1%) and London (down two points to +1%). The only regions bucking this trend of a fall in confidence are the South East, which rebounded from a negative outlook of -2% in Q1 2019 to a cautiously optimistic +5%, and Scotland, which is sluggish but unchanged at +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 020 7592 1200 / manpowergrouppr@brands2life.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 59,000 employers in 44 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), the leading global workforce solutions company, helps organizations transform in a fast-changing world of work by sourcing, assessing, developing and managing the talent that enables them to win. We develop innovative solutions for over 400,000 clients and connect 3+ million people to meaningful, sustainable work across a wide range of industries and skills. Our expert family of brands – Manpower®, Experis®, Right Management® and ManpowerGroup® Solutions – creates substantially more value for candidates and clients across 80 countries and territories and has done so for nearly 70 years. In 2019, ManpowerGroup was named one of Fortune's Most Admired Companies for the seventeenth year and one of the World's Most Ethical Companies for the ninth year in 2018, confirming our position as the most trusted and admired brand in the industry. See how ManpowerGroup is powering the future of work: www.manpowergroup.com