



ManpowerGroup™

SOUTH WEST EMPLOYERS NERVOUS ABOUT HIRING IN MONTHS AHEAD

- **Employment Outlook in the region drops seven points to +1%**
- **Caution among manufacturing and hospitality businesses about their ability to attract talent post-Brexit**
- **Utilities sector is one bright spot, with strong demand for talent in the South West**

12 MARCH 2019: Employers in the South West are concerned about increasing their headcount in the months ahead, with Brexit fears to blame. This is according to the latest Employment Outlook Survey from ManpowerGroup, being released today. The new survey suggests hiring plans in the region have slowed as we head into Spring, with employers reporting an Outlook of +1% - a decrease of seven percentage points since last quarter.

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.

Chris Gray, director at ManpowerGroup, comments: "Job seekers in the South West are contending with a pretty tough jobs market right now. With the Brexit deadline looming, employers in the region are nervous about their ability to attract talent in the months ahead. While there is a need to fill more industrial roles in the South West, manufacturing organisations have already started stock piling materials to ensure no disruption in production. Elsewhere, the hospitality sector remains concerned about how Brexit will impact tourism in the region, with lots of these businesses employing a high percentage of EU workers."

"Businesses have also become increasingly selective in their candidate search and are investing more time into finding individuals with multiple skillsets. For instance, there is currently a lot of demand for van drivers who also have softer skills, including strong customer service experience and communication. However, for those individuals with the right skills and experience, there are more promising prospects. The most in-demand candidates will often have a minimum of two to three different opportunities on the table and are using this position to negotiate higher salaries or alternative contracts. Employers must be agile enough to flex with this if they don't want to miss out on the best talent."

One sector that continues to be strong across the board is utilities, which has reported strong growth going into Q2. On a national level, it has powered to +11% from +8% last quarter and remains the most hungry-for-talent sector.

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%. There have been marked decreases in the East (down nine points to +3%), Wales (down nine points to 0%), and the North East (down five points to 0%). In fact, there were dips almost across the board, including the East Midlands (down four points), West Midlands (down three points), North West (down two points), Yorkshire & Humberside (down three points), and Northern Ireland (down two points). The

only regions bucking this trend are the South East, which rebounded from a negative outlook of -2% in Q1 2019 to +5%, and Scotland, which is sluggish but unchanged at +2%.

-ENDS-

For further information, please contact:

Brands2Life – Rachael Myers / Tom Dockar-Drysdale

020 7592 1200

Email: manpowergrouppr@brands2life.com

Twitter: [#MEOSUK](https://twitter.com/MEOSUK)

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