

## YORKSHIRE JOBS CONFIDENCE MORE THAN HALVES IN SIX MONTHS

- Employment outlook in the region drops from +12% to just +5% heading into Spring
- Employers in the region scale back their hiring plans for the second consecutive quarter
- HGV drivers and engineers remain key priorities for hiring

**12 MARCH 2019:** Employers in Yorkshire and the Humber have continued to rein in their hiring plans, with the threat of Brexit on the horizon. This is according to the latest Employment Outlook Survey from ManpowerGroup, which is released today. Job prospects in the region will be slim from April to June this year, as employers' hiring confidence has more than halved in the last six months, from +12% to +5%.

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, "As we head into Spring, the jobs market in Yorkshire & the Humber is far from in full bloom. Six months of falling confidence shows the nervousness of employers in the region as we edge closer to leaving the EU.

"But it's not all doom and gloom for job seekers. We're still seeing strong demand for HGV drivers and engineers in the region, so much so that employers are struggling to find qualified candidates and increasing pay rates to compensate. Some employers are boosting their export activity in anticipation of Brexit delays and costs – and this has seen an increase in temporary staff particularly for those in manufacturing sector. The finance sector has been quiet – reflecting the wider national picture. We're seeing demand for sales staff in the automotive sector and there is a steady demand for the support services in the public sector. There are always roles for good candidates but at the moment these are more often temporary as opposed to permanent."

Pressure from a downbeat Finance and Business Services sector falling five points to -1%, only the second time in the last decade it has been in negative territory, is adding to the sense of caution in Yorkshire & the Humber. The sector has now recorded its least optimistic year since the depths of the financial crisis in 2009, with an average Outlook of just +2%. 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 are dips in confidence 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 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-

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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](http://www.manpowergroup.co.uk/meos), or by calling the Press Office on 020 7592 1200 / [manpowergrouppr@brands2life.com](mailto:manpowergrouppr@brands2life.com)

For international comparisons and visual library with graphs, visit [manpowergroup.com](http://www.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](http://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](http://www.manpowergroup.com)