



NORTH EAST HIRING PLANS STALL AS BREXIT UNCERTAINTY CONTINUES

- **Key skills gaps and Brexit uncertainty continue to hamper businesses' hiring intentions**
- **North East employers report some of the lowest hiring confidence in the country, below the national average**
- **Employment Outlook in the region remains at just +2%**

11 JUNE 2019: Employers in the North East plan to rein in their hiring plans over the summer months with uncertainty over Brexit continuing to rumble on. This is according to the latest Employment Outlook Survey from ManpowerGroup. The region has some of the weakest job prospects in the country, with the Outlook below the national average of +4%. But despite the widely stagnant jobs market, there are some key sectors – engineering, manufacturing and logistics – where candidates still hold all the cards.

The ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey is based on responses from 2,101 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 summer, employers in the North East remain anxious about their future plans – much the result of Brexit – and are nervous about whether or not to take on more staff. This is resulting in a largely stagnant jobs market for much of the region and the area is one characterised by a ‘wait-and-see’ attitude from employers, as they look ahead to what could happen in the autumn.”

“It is not all doom and gloom – we are still seeing a high demand for qualified candidates in engineering, manufacturing and logistics. This is particularly strong in major cities such as Newcastle and Sunderland, where there are simply not enough candidates to fill the roles and the best candidates are very much in demand. This is increasingly leading to counter-offers being made to candidates and employers raising salaries as employers seek to attract and hold onto the best people. It’s very much a candidates’ market and employers need to be prepared to go above and beyond to bring top talent in.”

Elsewhere in the country, hiring confidence in the North West has dropped from +8% to just +1% since this time last year. The south also saw a fall in confidence with the South East dipping into negative figures and the South West dropping from +9% to +5%. The gloom has lifted from London, as it recovered to hold at the national average of +4%, buoyed by a

stronger performance in the Finance and Business Services sector. The Midlands meanwhile, continues to be a beacon of positivity: both the East and West Midlands are at +8%.

-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, 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), the leading global workforce solutions company, helps organisations 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 hundreds of thousands of organisations every year, providing them with skilled talent while finding meaningful, sustainable employment for millions of people 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 over 70 years. In 2019, ManpowerGroup was named one of the World's Most Ethical Companies for the tenth year and one of Fortune's Most Admired Companies for the seventeenth year, 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