



NORTHERN IRELAND JOBS MARKET UPBEAT THIS SUMMER

- **Northern Ireland jobs market one of the strongest in the UK**
- **Employment Outlook in the region climbs to +7%**
- **Strong demand amongst services, hospitality and engineering sectors**

11 JUNE 2019: Employers in Northern Ireland will increase their hiring activity this summer, according to the latest Employment Outlook Survey from ManpowerGroup. Employer hiring confidence in the region will be +7% - nearly twice the UK average (+4%) and will increase significantly from this time last year when it was -2%.

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, “Employers are looking to increase their workforce this summer. This is great news for those looking for a first or a new job. We’re seeing demand amongst professional and business services and engineering employers in particular. Interestingly, employers are focusing more on taking on permanent employees as opposed to temporary workers - this helps lock in talent in advance of Brexit later this year. A number of businesses have also opened new offices or are looking to do so in Northern Ireland and the Belfast area in particular – as a way to maintain access to the mainland market after Brexit happens.

“Hospitality is another winner at the moment. The number of hotel beds is increasing sharply this year and many cafes and restaurants are buoyant. This is partly led by Tourism NI campaigns to promote the region as well as support from the European Development Fund. There is much to be positive and upbeat about living and work in Northern Ireland.

“Not everything is positive, however. Skills shortages are really starting to bite some employers – the transport sector has struggled for some time to find talent and some employers just aren’t able to find the people they need. Professional services and IT firms have also struggled to find the staff they need – as they open new offices here they are finding that many skilled people have moved away. To address talent shortages, many employers are focusing more on training programmes as well as increasing salaries. Employers in the services sector are also more likely to offer flexible working opportunities as well as targeting groups such as parents looking to return to work.”

Elsewhere, hiring confidence has stalled in the North, with the North East at just +2% and the North West plummeting to just +1%. The South also saw a fall in confidence with the South East dipping into negative figures and the South West dropping to +5%. The gloom

has lifted slightly 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.

-ENDS-

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