



SOUTH EAST JOBSEEKERS FACE TOUGH SUMMER JOBS MARKET

- **ManpowerGroup jobs report shows negative jobs market**
- **South East is the only English region not looking to hire over the summer**
- **Stockpiling ahead of Brexit and ongoing skills shortage have both contributed to the struggling labour market**

11 JUNE 2019: Employers in the South East are putting their hiring efforts on hold in the lead up to the summer, according to the latest Employment Outlook Survey from ManpowerGroup. The region's negative Outlook of -1% is the weakest summer jobs market for six years and is well below the UK average of +4%. Stockpiling at the start of the year ahead of Brexit and an ongoing skills shortage have pushed employers' hiring intentions into negative territory.

The ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey is built on responses from 2,101 UK employers. It asks if employers intend to hire additional workers or reduce the size of their workforce in the coming quarter. The survey is used as a key economic indicator by both the Bank of England and the UK Government, and is the most comprehensive, forward-looking employment survey of its kind.

Chris Gray, director at ManpowerGroup, comments, "Continued Brexit uncertainty has left employers scratching their heads over whether to make more hires, and for the next three months at least, prospects aren't looking great for jobseekers. 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."

"This year hiring plans have been mixed – some of the region benefitted from manufacturers bringing production plans forward in anticipation of Brexit disruption and to capitalise on export opportunities. With Brexit now delayed until much later in the year, many employers are left in limbo – and as demand eases off this is reflected in hiring plans."

In the light of Brexit changes, the manufacturing Outlook has fallen to +3%, whilst Transport, Storage and Comms has slumped to -6%, its lowest since 2010. This offers one reason why hiring confidence in the South East is low, with the region home to major ports such as Dover and Folkestone.

Chris continues: "It might be a tough time for jobseekers in the region generally, but there is still demand for good candidates in the service and driving sectors. In particular, driving demand in Kent, Essex and Sussex has been buoyed by the increased requirement from builders, merchants and construction-based clients for Lorry Loader certifications. With a widely reported skills shortage in this sector however, employers are under pressure to stretch salaries and act quickly if they want to beat their competition and attract the best candidates."

While the region's job prospects may be disappointing, there is better news for jobseekers elsewhere in the country. The Midlands continues to be a beacon of positivity, with both the East and West Midlands at +8%. The gloom has also lifted from London, as the capital recovered to hold at the national average of +4%, buoyed by a stronger performance in the Finance and Business Services sector.

For further information, please contact:

Brands2Life – Rachael Myers / Tom Dockar-Drysdale

Phone: 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 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