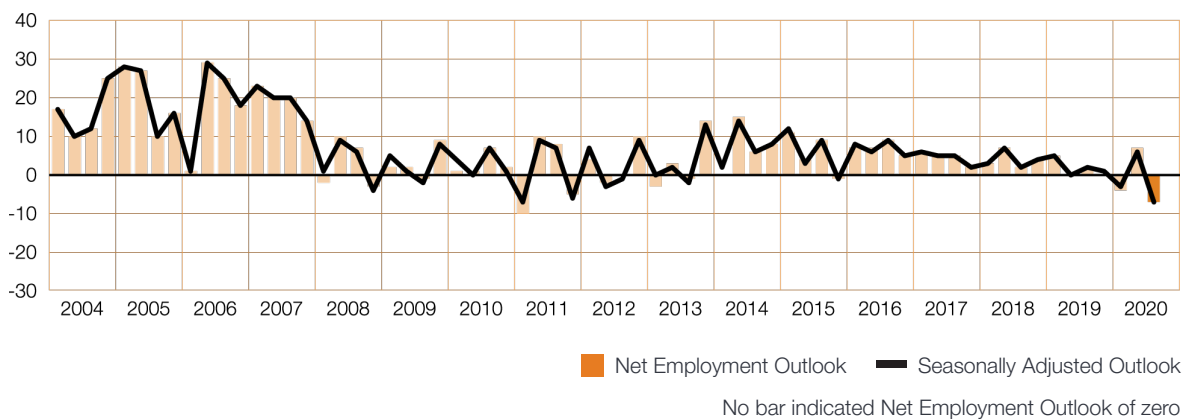




ManpowerGroup®

Hiring down but swift bounce-back expected in North East

The weakest labour market in nine years is forecast for the upcoming quarter, with employers reporting a Net Employment Outlook of -7%. Hiring prospects decrease by 13 and nine percentage points when compared with the prior quarter and this time one year ago, respectively.



Q3 2020

MARKET OVERVIEW

A hiring slowdown is forecast for the upcoming three months in the North-East, with some of the region’s standout manufacturing sites having undergone temporary closures during the lockdown. Where factories have remained open, social distancing protocols are delaying further hiring rather than falling demand in many instances, with many employers unable to accommodate new staff in their plants whilst adhering to the guidelines.

Driving and logistics skills are still highly sought after across the region as the dependence on e-commerce grows. Cleaning and maintenance roles are also increasing as employers shape up to re-enter the workplace in the safest manner possible. However, employers are still cautious of how to onboard new staff whilst adhering to social distancing measures.

Many employers anticipate a swift bounce-back to COVID-19 levels, with 64% indicating they expect hiring levels to return to normal within 12 months. What’s more, 40% believe that normal hiring levels with resume within just three months, the highest optimism for this timeframe of any UK region. In total, 59% indicate that their business activity has been halted over the course of the COVID-19 outbreak.

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The ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey is a forward-looking measure, forecasting hiring intentions for Quarter 3 2020.