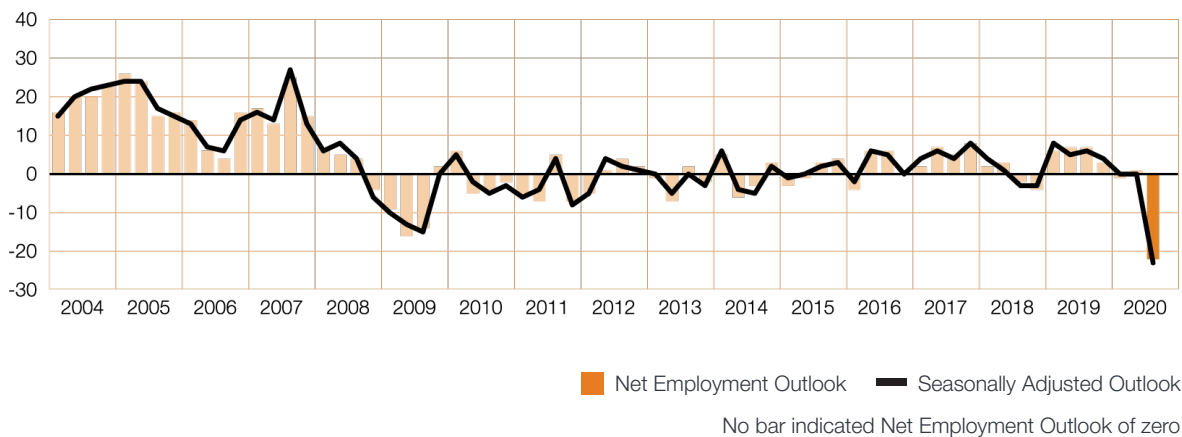




ManpowerGroup®

Hiring plans drop across Northern Ireland

Employers anticipate a gloomy labour market in Quarter 3 2020, reporting a Net Employment Outlook of -23%. Hiring intentions weaken sharply both quarter-over-quarter and year-over-year, declining by 23 and 29 percentage points, respectively.



Q3 2020

MARKET OVERVIEW

Employers in Northern Ireland indicate the highest rate of activity shutdown over the lockdown, with 87% stating their business activity has reduced over the course of the COVID-19 outbreak. Moreover, just 46% of employers in Northern Ireland anticipate a return to regular hiring patterns within the next 12 months, indicating a slower hiring recovery than other regions in the UK. In neighbouring Republic of Ireland, 56% of employers anticipate a return to pre-crisis levels within the next 12 months, highlighting the increased reliance of cross border trade from organisations in Northern Ireland, both of which stand before the UK average of 57%.

Temporary roles have been increasing in some areas as a result the efforts against COVID-19, with driving & logistics, social care and cleaning & maintenance roles notably high in demand. As restrictions ease, the country's prominent manufacturing industry is also beginning to look ahead on permanent hiring for the future. There remains caution on how best to reopen offices and other workspaces however to ensure a safe return to work for staff.