



ManpowerGroup®

SOUTH EAST

# South East Jobs Market Set for Challenging Quarter

Employers anticipate the weakest labour market since the survey began in 1992 during the upcoming quarter. The Net Employment Outlook stands at -15%, declining by four percentage points in comparison with the prior quarter and by 21 percentage points when compared with last year at this time.



## MARKET OVERVIEW

Employers in the South East are less confident of a return to pre-crisis hiring activity than UK average, with 47% expecting pre-COVID-19 hiring levels to return within 12 months, and 22% expecting these levels to resume within three months.

Almost half of employers are looking to offer more upskilling opportunities following the impact of COVID-19, with 47% intending to offer more learning and development opportunities post-pandemic, a considerable 11 percentage points above UK average. Employers in the region also signal the joint highest intent on letting their staff work entirely remotely – matched only by London – with 19% of employers intending to let employees do so following the pandemic. Elsewhere, 29% of employers will offer staff the opportunity to work remotely some of the time, whereas 37% will offer more flexi or condensed hours. Finally, 37% of employers intend to offer staff more health and wellbeing benefits as a result of COVID-19.

Q4 2020