



Manpower Employment Outlook Survey
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Employer hiring optimism continues to improve in Australia, with opportunities for job seekers likely to return to pre-downturn levels: Manpower

Overall employment optimism across the country continues to gain ground in Australia, providing job seekers with much greater prospects this quarter than this time last year, according to the results of Manpower's Employment Outlook Survey released today.

The survey of over 2,200 Australian employers indicates hiring intentions for the next three months continue to grow, but at a more modest pace following notable increases in the past two quarters. The seasonally adjusted Net Employment Outlook is at +22%, up from +20% in the last quarter. This is due to an increase in the proportion of employers planning to hire (30%, up from 26% in Q.1) and a slight fall in the number planning to reduce headcount (6%, compared to 7% in Q.1).

"This time last year, job seekers faced a pretty cheerless job market, with national hiring optimism at its weakest point of the downturn, sitting at -1%," said Mr. Lincoln Crawley, Managing Director, Manpower Australia & New Zealand.

"One year on, the story is very different for job seekers. The figures for this quarter show that the Australian employment market has come full circle, returning to employment levels seen before the economic downturn," said Mr. Crawley.

"While the overall Outlook is certainly a positive one, we are seeing some industry sectors that are yet to find solid ground," said Mr Crawley. "After a surge in employment optimism across every sector at the start of this year, this quarter may see a correction in some. As we get further into the year, employers have a better understanding of their road to recovery and just how long that road is going to be. They are adjusting their hiring strategies accordingly."

The Transport & Utilities, Wholesale & Retail Trade and Public Administration/Education sectors have all seen slight reductions in employment optimism this quarter, with the greatest decrease seen in the Transport and Utilities sector (down to +14%, compared to +17% last quarter).

On the other side of the spectrum, employment optimism is on the rise in Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (+22%, up from +14% last quarter), Manufacturing (+22%, up from +17%) and Mining & Construction (+27%, up from +20%), following an increase in business confidence levels reported earlier this month in those sectors.

"It is going to be a balancing act for many of these industry sectors – they don't want to peak too early and hire before the demand is there but they don't want to be left behind in the renewed race for talent.

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“In the meantime, building a flexible workforce is the key to finding that balance - providing capacity but reducing the risks of permanent hiring. It’s also a great way to ‘road test’ candidates – giving both the company and the individual a chance to see if they fit with each other,” said Mr Crawley.

According to Mr Crawley, businesses have been constantly reminded throughout the downturn that the talent shortage is set to return and now it’s upon them - particularly in the Mining & Construction sector.

“Businesses can’t afford to wait too long before they make a decision on talent growth plans. Those who act decisively will reap the benefits and snatch up the best talent in the market,” said Mr Crawley.

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For further information and to arrange an interview please contact:

Kaley Payne, Buchan Consulting, +61 2 9237 2807, 0405 368 617 or kpayne@bcg.com.au
Belinda Thomson, Buchan Consulting, +61 2 9237 2800, 0421 193 668 or
bthomson@bcg.com.au

Note to Editors

Commentary is based on seasonally adjusted data where available. Full survey results for each of the 36 countries and territories included in this quarter’s survey, plus regional and global comparisons, can be found in the Manpower Press Room at www.manpower.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 Manpower Web site at <http://www.manpower.com/library>.

A copy of the Q2 2010 Manpower Employment Outlook Survey, Australian report can be downloaded from <http://www.manpower.com.au/research/studies.aspx>.

About the Survey

The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey is conducted quarterly to measure employers’ intentions to increase or decrease the number of employees in their workforce during the next quarter. It is the most extensive forward-looking survey of its kind, unparalleled in its size, scope, longevity and area of focus. The Survey has been running for more than 47 years and is one of the most trusted surveys of employment activity in the world. The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey is based on interviews with over 61,000 public and private employers worldwide and is considered a highly respected economic indicator.

The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey is currently available for 36 countries and territories: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Romania, Singapore, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and the United States. The program began in the United States and Canada in 1962, and the United Kingdom was added in 1966. Mexico and Ireland launched the survey in 2002, and 13 additional countries were added to the program in 2003. New Zealand joined the program in 2004, China, India, Switzerland and Taiwan were added in 2005, and Argentina, Peru, Costa Rica and South Africa joined in 2006. Colombia, the Czech Republic, Greece, Guatemala, Poland and Romania joined in 2008, Hungary and Brazil were added in 2009, and Panama joined in 2010. For more information, visit the Manpower Inc. Web site at www.manpower.com and enter the Research Centre, or contact Bruce Bock, Sr. Global Communications Manager at bruce.bock@manpower.com

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About Manpower Inc.

Manpower Inc. (NYSE: MAN) is a world leader in the employment services industry, creating and delivering services that enable its clients to win in the changing world of work. With over 60 years' experience, Manpower offers employers a range of services for the entire employment and business cycle including permanent, temporary and contract recruitment; employee assessment and selection; training; outplacement; outsourcing and consulting. Manpower's worldwide network of nearly 4,000 offices in 82 countries and territories enables the company to meet the needs of its 400,000 clients per year, including small and medium size enterprises in all industry sectors, as well as the world's largest multinational corporations. The focus of Manpower's work is on raising productivity through improved quality, efficiency and cost-reduction across their total workforce, enabling clients to concentrate on their core business activities. Manpower Inc. operates under five brands: Manpower, Manpower Professional, Elan, Jefferson Wells and Right Management. More information on Manpower Inc. is available at www.manpower.com or www.manpower.com.au.