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Manpower Employment Outlook Survey

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The New Zealand Manpower Employment Outlook Survey indicates a moderately improved labour market in the third quarter of 2009.

The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey released today reveals the pace of hiring is set to increase slightly into the third quarter of 2009.

The Manpower survey of 868 employers throughout New Zealand, indicates hiring intentions for the next three months have improved slightly quarter-over-quarter, with a three percentage point increase in the Outlook. However, the year-over-year comparison indicates that employer hiring plans are considerably weaker: the Outlook has declined by 18 percentage points.

“Hiring intentions in New Zealand continues to be sluggish and all three regions have continued to fall in the last three months; however, there is some good news with the majority of employers – 69 percent – indicating they will make no reductions to their current headcount,” said Lincoln Crawley, Managing Director, Manpower Australia and New Zealand.

Employers in each of the three regions forecast a struggling labour market for the upcoming quarter. The weakest Net Employment Outlook of -9% is reported by Wellington employers, but employer sentiment is similarly weak in Christchurch, where the Outlook is -8%. In Auckland, too, the Outlook is a disappointing -6%.

From an industry perspective, employers in the Transportation & Utilities (+4%) industry sector report the most optimistic hiring expectations. The Outlook is relatively stable quarter-over-quarter and year-over-year. Conversely, job seekers can expect the least optimistic hiring activity in the Manufacturing (-10%) industry sector. However, although the forecast is a considerable 24 percentage points weaker year-over-year, sector employers are considerably more optimistic than in the second quarter and report a quarter-over-quarter improvement of 10 percentage points.

“There is a marginal improvement in the Net Employment Outlook as we head into the third quarter of 2009 with the Transportation & Utilities industry as the stand-out with the most positive hiring activity. These results seem to be indicative of a stabilising labour market as employers continue to be surgical in their approach to hiring and retaining key staff members to prepare for the upswing in the economy,” Crawley said.

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For further information or to arrange an interview:

Vern Narayan, Marketing Manager, Manpower Australia & New Zealand
Phone – +61 2 9263 8570, Mobile – +61 427 254 416, E: vnarayan@manpower.com.au

Download the New Zealand Manpower Employment Outlook Survey at
www.manpower.co.nz/meos

Manpower Fact Sheet

The next Manpower Employment Outlook Survey will be released on the 8th of September 2009 to report hiring expectations for the fourth quarter of 2009. The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey is available free of charge to the public through their local Manpower representative in participating countries. You can download a copy of the Australian report in full, at www.manpower.co.nz/meos.

Note to Editors

Commentary is based on seasonally adjusted data where available. Full survey results for each of the 34 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>.

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 45 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 70,000 public and private employers worldwide and is considered a highly respected economic indicator.

The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey is currently available for 34 countries and territories: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, 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, and Hungary joined the survey in 2009. For more information, visit the Manpower Inc. Web site at www.manpower.com and enter the Research Center, or contact Bruce Bock, Sr. Global Communications Manager at bruce.bock@manpower.com

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. Celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2008, the \$22 billion company 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 4,200 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.