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Media Release

Manpower Employment Outlook Survey

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New Zealand employers continue to indicate rougher road ahead for job seekers in the first quarter of 2009.

The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey of New Zealand hiring trends released today reveals the pace of hiring is set to slow further in the first quarter of 2009.

The Manpower survey interviews over 753 employers throughout New Zealand and indicates their hiring intentions for the next three months. This quarter, the hiring pace has fallen considerably, with the Net Employment Outlook declining from +9% for quarter 4 of 2008 to +0% in the next three months. Significantly, the year-on-year decline of 20 percentage points brings the Net Employment Outlook to its least optimistic level since the survey began in the second quarter of 2004.

“Hiring intentions in New Zealand have continued to fall in the last three months and the majority of employers are telling us that they will take a ‘wait and see’ approach before hiring or further reducing staff, so until then, it will be a rougher road for job seekers,” said Catherine Lo-Giacco, General Manager, Manpower New Zealand.

From the recent survey data, there has been a widespread decrease in hiring intentions in all three regions, with employers in Auckland the most hesitant to take on staff. Across five of the industry sectors, there has also been a decline, with employers in Manufacturing, Wholesale & Retail Trade and the Finance, Insurance & Real Estate industry sectors making the biggest pull back in hiring.

According to Lo-Giacco “The Net Employment Outlook is the weakest it has been since the survey started in New Zealand. Although hiring is expected to slow, employers need to be absolutely sure that they explore alternative employment options and remain flexible.”

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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 10th of March 2009 to report hiring expectations for the second 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 33 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 71,000 public and private employers worldwide and is considered a highly respected economic indicator.

The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey is currently available for 33 countries and territories: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hong Kong, 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. 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 \$21 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 4,500 offices in 80 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.