



Manpower®

Media Release

Manpower Employment Outlook Survey

Under embargo until 0:01, 9th December 2008

Manpower Employment Outlook Survey indicates rougher road ahead for job seekers in Quarter 1, 2009.

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

The Manpower survey interviews over 2,672 employers throughout Australia about their hiring intentions for the next three months. According to employers, the upcoming quarter's hiring pace will decline moderately from +17% to +12%. However, the year-on-year comparison reveals a considerable decline of 16 percentage points.

"Hiring intentions in Australia have been on a downward trend since the second quarter of 2008 and have fallen noticeably in the last three months. The majority of employers are telling us that they will take a 'wait and see' approach – with more than six out of 10 indicating they plan no changes to headcount in the quarter ahead. However, many also indicate they will move quickly to reduce over-capacity and support costs," said Lincoln Crawley, Managing Director, Manpower Australia and New Zealand.

From the recent survey data, there has been a widespread decrease in hiring intentions in all States, with employers in the Hobart/Tasmania, Brisbane/Queensland and Melbourne/Victoria regions most hesitant to take on staff. And in five of seven industry sectors, there has also been a decline in employer hiring confidence, with those in the Manufacturing, Wholesale & Retail Trade and Mining & Construction industry sectors reporting the biggest pull-back in hiring plans.

"The Net Employment Outlook is the weakest it has been since the survey started in Australia. This is in stark contrast to a year ago when we were dealing with chronic and widespread talent shortages. Even though times are tough, employers should think creatively about alternative employment options to provide them the agility to remain competitive," said Crawley.

-End-

For further information please contact:

Lincoln Crawley, Managing Director, Manpower Australia & New Zealand
Phone – 07 3407 3147, Mobile – 0409 367 122, E: lcrawley@manpower.com.au

Or to arrange an interview, contact Aily Lamb
Phone – 07 3407 3114, E: alamb@manpower.com.au

Download a copy of the Australian Manpower Employment Outlook Survey at
www.manpower.com.au/meos.

Manpower Fact Sheet

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 Centre, 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.