

**Manpower Employment Outlook Survey**  
**Under embargo until 00:01, 9 (GMT) June 2009**

## **Manpower Employment Outlook Survey reveals slight optimism in hiring confidence in the Transportation & Utilities sector.**

The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey released today, indicates a flattened labour market for job seekers in the Transportation & Utilities sector as employers hold steady in their headcount numbers.

The survey of 2,806 employers across Australia revealed that the majority of employers in this sector are intending to hold the line on their employee hiring levels for the next quarter. It is anticipated that the Transportation & Utilities sector may experience a flat labour market in the July – September quarter of 2009, with a Net Employment Outlook of 0%, a moderate decline of two percentage points from last quarter, however, year-over-year this has declined by a steep 27 percentage points.

“The third quarter of 2009 shows some stability for job seekers in this sector, however, their future still remains uncertain with a Net Employment Outlook of 0%. This supports our prediction of a ‘wait and see’ approach from the last two quarters – employers are playing it safe and holding onto key staff members and waiting till the economy improves before making pertinent headcount decisions,” said Lincoln Crawley, Managing Director, Manpower Australia and New Zealand.

The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey also reveals that employers in the Northern Territory (+21%) are reporting the most optimistic hiring intentions among all regions surveyed, and the region’s Outlook is 7 percentage points stronger and 1 percentage point weaker quarter-over-quarter and year-over-year, respectively. In comparison, the least optimistic regional hiring intentions are reported by employers in the Brisbane/Queensland (-5%) region where the Outlook is 2 and 31 percentage points weaker quarter-over-quarter and year-over-year, respectively. This region’s Outlook, as well as the Outlooks for Melbourne/Victoria (-1%), Hobart/Tasmania (+2%), is the weakest since the Australian survey was launched.

“The stability in hiring plans could be attributed to the recent interest rate cuts, combined with the Australian government’s stimulus package directed at high-spending groups such as pensioners and first-time home buyers, this should limit any additional rise in the jobless rate,” said Crawley. “However, the pace of hiring in all sectors is expected to be weaker than historical patterns. Job seekers in the Manufacturing sector will continue to be frustrated as the Outlook is at a worrying -8%.”

**-End-**

**For further information and to arrange an interview please contact:**  
Vern Narayan, Marketing Manager, Manpower Australia & New Zealand  
Phone – 02 9263 8570, Mobile – 0427 254 416, E: [vnarayan@manpower.com.au](mailto:vnarayan@manpower.com.au)

Or

Aily Lamb, EA to Managing Director, Manpower Australia & New Zealand  
Phone – 07 3407 3114, E: [alamb@manpower.com.au](mailto:alamb@manpower.com.au)

**Download a copy of the Australian Manpower Employment Outlook Survey at**  
[www.manpower.com.au/meos](http://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](http://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](http://www.manpower.com) and enter the Research Centre, or contact Bruce Bock, Sr. Global Communications Manager at [bruce.bock@manpower.com](mailto: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 60<sup>th</sup> 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 4,400 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](http://www.manpower.com).