

**Manpower Employment Outlook Survey**  
**Under embargo until 11:01, 10 March 2009 (00:01 GMT)**

## **Manpower Employment Outlook Survey reveals hiring confidence in the Wholesale & Retail Trade sectors declines to lowest levels since 2003.**

The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey released today, indicates the employment prospects for job seekers in the Wholesale and Retail Trade sector has continued to decline as business leaders intend to hire less new employees.

The survey of 2,779 employers across Australia revealed that the majority of employers in this sector intend to hold onto their headcount for the next quarter. The levels of demand are at its lowest since the survey began in 2003.

The Wholesale & Retail sector's employment market shows a continued decrease in hiring intention in the April – June quarter of 2009, with a Net Employment Outlook of -5%, a decline of 11 percentage points quarter-over-quarter and 26 percentage points year-over-year.

“The continuation of the current economic challenges is reflected in a downward trend in hiring intentions since the second quarter of 2008. However the majority of employers will make no reductions to their current headcount, supporting our prediction of a ‘wait and see’ approach from last quarter,” said Lincoln Crawley, Managing Director, Manpower Australia and New Zealand.

The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey also revealed there has been a widespread decrease in hiring intentions in all States, except the Northern Territory where employers are predicting a steady level of growth in the coming quarter with a Net Employment Outlook of +14%. In fact four of the seven industry sectors in the Northern Territory expect to increase staffing levels during the next quarter. The Finance, Insurance & Real Estate employers leading the way with a reported Net Employment Outlook of +9%.

“The Net Employment Outlook is the weakest it has been since the survey began in the third quarter of 2003, in Australia. However, an increasing number of employers are holding steady with their current headcount as they attempt to ride out the global economic downturn.

There seems to be an increased awareness that even though times are tough, employers should not act hastily but rather balance short and, long-term by preparing themselves for when the economy recovers. To achieve this they need to have retained talent or, through a flexible workforce approach, have access to the right skills at the right time,” said Crawley.

**-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/documents/Q2-09AUS-MEOS.pdf](http://www.manpower.com.au/documents/Q2-09AUS-MEOS.pdf)

## 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, Élan, Jefferson Wells and Right Management. More information on Manpower Inc. is available at [www.manpower.com](http://www.manpower.com).