



## UK PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYERS SET TO HIRE AT TWICE THE RATE OF PRIVATE SECTOR

- **Biggest public sector lead over the private sector in hiring intentions for 8 years**
- **Private sector shows weakest hiring Outlook since 2012**
- **The South East is the only English region not looking to hire this coming quarter**

**LONDON, 11 JUNE 2019:** ManpowerGroup's latest Employment Outlook Survey suggests that public sector employers are twice as likely to be looking to hire in the next quarter as their private sector counterparts, with big gaps in public services like the NHS driving much of the demand, while businesses adopt a more cautious approach.

The ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey is based on responses from 2,101 UK employers. It asks whether employers intend to hire additional workers or reduce the size of their workforce in the coming quarter. It is the most comprehensive, forward-looking employment survey of its kind and is used as a key economic statistic by both the Bank of England and the UK Government.

With a Net Employment Outlook of +6%, public sector hiring intentions are three points above private sector employers who report a Net Employment Outlook of +3% and two points above the national Outlook of +4%. This represents the weakest private sector Outlook in seven years and the biggest public sector lead over the private sector in terms of hiring intentions since ManpowerGroup began tracking the data eight years ago.

Much of this public sector demand has been led by the NHS which continues to struggle to fill the gap left by departing EU workers, while private sector intentions have cooled with prolonged Brexit uncertainty. The NHS is Europe's largest employer with a workforce of 1.1 million workers, yet 100,000 posts still remain unfilled.<sup>1</sup>

Mark Cahill, ManpowerGroup UK Managing Director, commented: "Looking at the public sector, it's not just the NHS that is facing huge shortages. We have seen the Government launch a campaign to fill 110,000 vacancies in the adult social care sector while the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is now the largest it has been in the last decade as it has recruited to prepare for Brexit, and we forecast that civil service hiring is set to continue apace through the summer."<sup>2</sup>

Meanwhile, private companies are exercising more caution as they wait and see what happens with Brexit after the summer. For many of these companies, this was part of a deliberate strategy to frontload activity in the first half of the year in anticipation of choppy market conditions later on. This is illustrated by the Outlook for the Manufacturing sector, which has

---

<sup>1</sup> Performance of the NHS provider sector for the quarter ended 31 December 2018, NHS Improvement (NHSI), March 2019. [Link](#)

<sup>2</sup> The Brexit Effect: How government has changed since the EU referendum, Institute for Government, March 2019. [Link](#)

fallen five points from the last quarter to just +3%, and the Transport, Storage and Communications sector, which has fallen to -6%, its lowest since 2010.

In this context it is perhaps not surprising that hiring intentions in the South East, home to ports such as Dover and Folkestone, have fallen into negative territory, making it the only English region not looking to hire in the next quarter.

Cahill continues: “At the start of the year, in the run up to 29<sup>th</sup> March, companies were taking on staff as manufacturers increased production and ports dealt with high volumes of goods. Back then, ports ramped up their capability, bringing in staff to build new bridges, investing in new tractor units and trailer parking facilities to minimise the likely disruption caused by Brexit. With that infrastructure now in place, it is inevitable that this hiring pace could not be sustained, and businesses in the South East of England are now planning to cut back on taking on new employees.”

In contrast to the South East, the Midlands continues to be a beacon of positivity. Both the East and West Midlands are at +8%, up two and one points respectively on the last quarter. The gloom has also lifted somewhat in London, where hiring intentions are up two points to +4%, in line with the national Outlook.

**For further information, please contact:**

Brunswick – Anita Scott / Rosheeka Field      020 7404 5959

Email: [manpower@brunswickgroup.com](mailto:manpower@brunswickgroup.com)

Twitter: [#MEOSUK](https://twitter.com/MEOSUK)

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

A 'Net Employment Outlook' is calculated by subtracting those employers who plan to reduce staffing levels from those who plan to hire staff. A positive result indicates that more employers plan to increase rather than decrease staffing levels; a negative result reflects the opposite. [% increase - % decrease]

Commentary and full details on every sector and region can be found in the survey report at [manpowergroup.co.uk/meos](http://manpowergroup.co.uk/meos), or by calling the Press Office on 0207 404 5959/ [manpower@brunswickgroup.com](mailto:manpower@brunswickgroup.com)

For international comparisons and visual library with graphs, visit [manpowergroup.com](http://manpowergroup.com)

Commentary is based on seasonally adjusted data where available. Full survey results for each of the 43 countries and territories included in this quarter's survey, plus regional and global comparisons, can be found in the ManpowerGroup Press Room at [www.manpowergroup.com/meos](http://www.manpowergroup.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 ManpowerGroup Web site at: <http://www.manpowergroup.com/press/meos.cfm>

Note that in Quarter 2 2008, the Survey adopted the TRAMO-SEATS model for seasonal adjustment of data. As a result, you may notice some seasonally adjusted data points change slightly from previous reports. This model is recommended by the Eurostat department of the European Union and the European Central Bank, and is widely used internationally.

**About the Survey**

The world leader in innovative workforce solutions, ManpowerGroup releases the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey quarterly to measure employers' intentions to increase or decrease the number of employees in their workforce during the next quarter. It is the longest running, most extensive, forward-looking employment survey in the world, polling over 58,000 employers in 43 countries and territories. The survey serves as a bellwether of labour market trends and activities and is regularly used to inform the Bank of England's Inflation Reports, as well as a regular data source for the European Commission, informing its EU Employment Situation and Social Outlook report the *Monthly Monitor*. ManpowerGroup's independent survey data is also sourced by financial analysts and economists around the world to help determine where labour markets are headed.

**About ManpowerGroup**

ManpowerGroup® (NYSE: MAN), the leading global workforce solutions company, helps organisations transform in a fast-changing world of work by sourcing, assessing, developing and managing the talent that enables them to win. We develop innovative solutions for hundreds of thousands of organisations every year, providing them with skilled talent while finding meaningful, sustainable employment for millions of people across a wide range of industries and skills. Our expert family of brands – Manpower®, Experis®, Right Management® and ManpowerGroup® Solutions – creates substantially more value for candidates and clients across 80 countries and territories and has done so for over 70 years. In 2019, ManpowerGroup was named one of the World's Most Ethical Companies for the tenth year and one of Fortune's Most Admired Companies for the seventeenth year, confirming our position as the most trusted and admired brand in the industry. See how ManpowerGroup is powering the future of work: [www.manpowergroup.com](http://www.manpowergroup.com)