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Dutch employers remain cautiously optimistic about employment

Employers expect to add more staff for fifth consecutive quarter

Diemen, 8th March 2016 – Dutch employers have been reporting positive employment forecasts for over a year now. This is the fifth consecutive quarter that employers expect to grow their workforce. These are the results of the Manpower Employment Outlook Survey (MEOS Q2) by ManpowerGroup. The survey is conducted among over 58.000 employers worldwide, 750 of which are in The Netherlands. The second quarter forecast is unchanged from the previous quarter with employers reporting a Net Employment Outlook of +4%.

The strongest of the nine sector labor markets is expected by Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services sector employers who report an Outlook of +9%. The Outlook dips by 5 percentage points when compared with the previous quarter but is 7 percentage points stronger year-over-year.

Optimism across most sectors

Further to the positive outlook in the Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services sector, the recovery of the Public & Social sector is another notable development: employers report a Net Employment Outlook of +7%, compared to 0% in the previous quarter. And this is no exception: employers in eight out of nine sectors expect their payrolls to either increase or remain unchanged over the next three months. Wholesale, Retail, Restaurants & Hotels sector employers report the weakest—and only negative—sector Outlook for 2Q 2016. Standing at -3%, the Outlook declines by 4 and 10 percentage points from 1Q 2016 and 2Q 2015, respectively.

Stabilization in the Netherlands

Employers in three out of four regions expect to grow their workforce over the second quarter of 2016. Expected growth is especially positive in the East of the country, where the forecast grows from +6% to +8%. The North is the only region where employers report a negative score, at -2%. This is, however, more optimistic than the score of the previous quarter (-3%). Employers in both the South (+4%) and the West (+2%) forecast job growth.

“In addition to increasing export figures, we’re now seeing growth in consumer spending and company investments. The number of jobs is growing, too. The Netherlands is, therefore, showing a healthy economic recovery, and this appears to be reflected in continuing confidence among Dutch employers,” says Jilko Andringa, Managing Director at ManpowerGroup in the Netherlands.

Positivity across the borders

If we look across the Dutch borders, employers expect payrolls to increase in 39 of the 42 countries and territories during the coming quarter, unchanged when compared with 1Q 2016. The most optimistic Net Employment Outlooks are reported in India, Japan, Taiwan, Colombia and Guatemala, while the weakest hiring prospects are reported in Brazil, France, and Italy. German employers expect slightly slower job growth: the forecast dropped from +5% in Q4 to +3% in Q1 and is now at +2%.



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Note to the editor, not for print:

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