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More than One in Four Romanian Employers Report Positive Hiring Intentions in Q2/2016

According to the Manpower Employment Outlook Survey, employers report upbeat hiring plans across all regions and in nine out of 10 industry sectors

Bucharest, March 8th, 2016 ■ More than one of every four Romanian employers forecast payroll gains during the second quarter of 2016, says the Manpower Employment Outlook Survey. With 26% of employers indicating intentions to increase their payroll, 7% anticipating a decrease and 66% envisioning no change, the seasonally adjusted Net Employment Outlook stands at +10%, relatively stable when compared to the current quarter, as well as year-over-year.

“Even after eliminating the seasonal variations that since 2013 have boosted employer optimism in the second quarter of the year, we are left with the clear picture of 23 consecutive quarters of positive hiring intentions, of which the past 5 have had relatively stable, double digit seasonally adjusted Net Employment Outlooks. The trend toward continuing job growth is by no means irreversible, but the current effects of employer optimism are making themselves felt, both in terms of number of opportunities for job seekers, as in terms of increased competition for talent,” says ManpowerGroup Romania’s Country Manager, Valentin Petrof.

Outlooks are positive across the country, with employers in the Bucharest&Ilfov, Center and South-West regions being the country’s most optimistic, as evidenced by a Net Employment Outlook of +16%. In the Bucharest&Ilfov region, employers report the strongest forecast in almost 5 years, since Q3/2011, and the Net Employment Outlook strengthens by 7 percentage point both quarter-on-quarter and year-on-year. Similarly robust year-over-year improvements are reported by employees in the South-West region, where the Net Employment Outlook has strengthened to pre-recession levels for the first time in 7 years (since Q2/2008). Only 2% of employers in the South-West report intentions to decrease their staff levels, the lowest percentage in the country. Employers in the North-West region continue to forecast an upbeat hiring pace, as shown by +14% Net Employment Outlook reported in the region, while employers in the North-East region are, for the second consecutive quarter, the least optimistic. The +4% Net Employment Outlook is 3 percentage points stronger than in Q1/2016, but decreases by a steep 27 percentage points over Q2/2015.

Payrolls are forecast to grow in nine of the 10 industry sectors during the April – June 2016 interval. 41% of Manufacturing employers have reported intentions to increase their payrolls during Q2, second only to Construction employers, and the seasonally adjusted Net Employment Outlook reported in the sector stands at +26%, strengthening both quarter-over-quarter and year-over-year by 5, respectively 4 percentage points and reaching its strongest level since Q4/2012. Employers in the Wholesale and Retail Trade sector continue to be optimistic, reporting a Net Employment Outlook of +18% that is, however, weaker both year-over-year and quarter-over-quarter by 5, respectively 3 percentage points. The only sector in which employers are forecasting decreases in staffing levels is Electricity, Water & Gas, where the Net Employment Outlook (now at -6%) has only been positive once in the past three years.

Hiring perspectives continue to be positive in organizations of all size, with employers in large organizations one again reporting the most favorable hiring climate, with an Outlook of +22%,

and employers in micro-organizations and medium-sized organizations being the most cautious, with an Outlook of +4%.

“An increased sense of optimism, especially in regions like the South-West, where some of the weakest Outlooks have been reported in the past, but also in Bucharest and Ilfov, where a large percentage of the country’s companies are headquartered, is a positive development that gives job seekers reason to hope for more opportunities to find the job that fits them,” added Valentin Petrof.

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**Note: The Net Employment Outlook is derived by taking the percentage of employers anticipating an increase in hiring activity and subtracting from it the percentage of employers expecting to see a decrease. Net Employment Outlooks for countries and territories that have accumulated at least 17 quarters of data, including Romania, are reported in a seasonally adjusted format unless otherwise stated.*

About the Manpower Employment Outlook Survey:

The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey is the longest-running, most extensive, forward-looking employment survey in the world, commencing in 1962 and now polling almost 59,000 employers in 42 countries and territories to measure their intentions to increase or decrease the number of employees in their workforce during the next quarter. The survey serves as a bellwether of labor 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 the health of labor markets.

In Romania, the Q2/2016 survey was conducted by InfoCorp Ltd. between the 13th and the 26th of January 2016 on a representative sample of 627 employers. The margin of error for all national, regional and global data is not greater than +/- 3.9%.

Results for all 42 countries can be viewed in the interactive Manpower Employment Outlook Survey Explorer tool at www.manpowergroup.com/meos.

About Manpower

ManpowerGroup Romania

ManpowerGroup Romania, one of the national leaders in innovative workforce solutions, creates and delivers services that help clients meet their business and workforce objectives while enhancing their competitiveness. The company specializes in permanent, temporary and contract recruitment; payroll; contract administration; outsourcing and consulting. Manpower Professional, a Manpower brand, delivers a comprehensive range of recruitment, temporary placement, selection, outplacement and consulting services focused on specialists and middle & top managers. Our extensive resources, world-class client list, and reputation attract a diverse group of talented candidates, with every level of education, skills and experience ranging from permanent direct hire to one-day contracts. We are present nationally with 13 branches in:

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About ManpowerGroup

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THE NEXT MANPOWER EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK SURVEY (Q3/2016) WILL BE RELEASED ON
JUNE 14th, 2016.