

UNDER EMBARGO

For release at 00.01 local time on 11 December 2018

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK MODERATELY WEAKER FOR THE BEGINNING OF 2019 IN ARGENTINA

ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey Quarter 1 2019

- The Net Employment Outlook for the first three months of 2019 is -4%, the weakest reported in 12 years of research implementation.
- Despite the subdued forecast, more than three of every four employers surveyed intend to keep their current workforces intact during the January-March quarter.
- The weakest hiring intentions are reported by the employers in the Construction sector, with an Outlook of -11%, followed by those in the Transportation & Public Services sector who report -10%, while the Manufacturing employers expect a -5%. The only sector with positive intentions is Agriculture & Fishing, with an Outlook of +4%.
- Within regions, employers in four out of six of them report negative hiring intentions, while only employers in Patagonia and Cuyo report the strongest expectations -of +5% and +1%, respectively.

Buenos Aires, December 11st, 2018. – ManpowerGroup revealed today the results of its Employment Outlook Survey for the first quarter of 2019. According to 800 Argentinean employers surveyed, the Net Employment Outlook is -4%, which reflects that hiring intentions are the weakest since the survey began 12 years ago. The Outlook declines by 6 percentage points when compared to the previous quarter, and 12 points less when compared with the same period last year.

The Net Employment Outlook is derived by taking the percentage of employers anticipating total employment to increase and subtracting from this the percentage expecting to see a decrease in their location during the next quarter.

“There’s still a trend in declining staff for the first quarter of the year, an attitude that employers have been showing during the last quarter of 2018. There are no clear recovery signs so far and the labor market is beginning to suffer the impact of the economic context”, explains Fernando Podestá, VP and COO of ManpowerGroup Argentina. “In fact, employer hiring intentions are the least optimistic reported since the survey began in 2007”, added the executive.

Sector Comparisons

During the first quarter of 2019, payrolls of seven out of the nine industrial sectors are expected to decline by varying degrees., Employers in the Construction sector report the weakest hiring plans with an Outlook of -11%, followed by those in Transportation & Utilities sector with -10%,



ManpowerGroup™

followed by Manufacturing sector with -5%. Employers also announce weak hiring intentions in Public Administration & Education and in the Wholesale Trade & Retail Trade, both with prospects of -3%; and in the Services sector, with an Outlook of -2%. However, Agriculture & Fishing reflects a slight increase, with a forecast of + 4%.

When compared with the previous quarter, hiring plans weaken in eight out of nine industry sectors. Employers in the Mining sector report the most notable decline with 10 percentage points, while prospects are 8 points weaker in both the Manufacturing and Transportation & Utilities sectors. There is also a decline of 4 points in the Services sector and of 3 in the Wholesale Trade & Retail Trade sector. Meanwhile, relatively stable hiring prospects are reported by employers from two sectors: Construction and Finance, Insurance & Real Estate.

When compared with the same period of the previous year, prospects weaken in the nine sectors of the industry. Employers in the Construction sector report a sharp decrease of 29 percentage points. Some considerable decreases of 16 and 15 points are reported by employers in the Manufacturing sector and in Finance, Insurance & Real Estate, respectively. The Public Transport & Utilities sector turns out to be 12 points weaker, and prospects decline by 11 points in both Public Administration & Education and the Wholesale Trade & Retail Trade sector.

Regional Comparisons

Employers in four of the six regions expect to cut portions of their payrolls during the next quarter. The weakest employment Outlook is -9% in NOA (North-West). On the other hand, low hiring intentions are anticipated in NEA (North – East) with a perspective of -7%, and in the Pampeana region and AMBA (City of Buenos Aires), with prospects of -5% and -4%, respectively. However, employers in Patagonia and Cuyo predict a slight increase in staffing levels with Outlooks of +5% and +1%.

The Outlook weakens in all six regions when compared to the previous quarter. The employers of NEA report the most notable decrease, with 8 percentage points. In AMBA and the Pampeana region hiring plans decrease by 5 points, while prospects are 4 and 2 point weaker in NOA and Patagonia, respectively.

In the year-over-year comparison, employers in five out of the six regions report weaker intentions. In the Pampeana region a strong decrease of 21 percentage points is expected, while the employers of NEA report a decrease of 15 points. On the other hand, the Outlook is also considerably weaker in NOA and AMBA, decreasing by 13 and 10 points, respectively. Lastly, employers in Patagonia do not report any change in the year over year comparison.

Rest of the world

In 9 out of the 10 countries surveyed in the Americas, the report stays positive, except for Argentina. The United States and Mexico show the strongest hiring Outlooks for the first quarter of 2019, while Argentina and Panama register the weakest.



ManpowerGroup™

Globally, and compared to the previous quarter, hiring intentions for the next three months are stronger in 16 of the 44 countries analyzed, weakened in 23 and remain unchanged in 5. Confidence in hiring for the first quarter is strongest in Japan, Taiwan, the United States, Slovenia, Greece and Hong Kong; while Argentina, Switzerland, Italy, Panama and Spain report the weakest.

###

The next ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey will be released on March 12nd, 2019 to report hiring expectations for the second quarter of the year. The ManpowerGroup report is available free of charge to the public and can be freely downloaded from www.manpowergroup.com.ar.

The results of the 44 countries can be seen in the new interactive tool of the Employment Expectancy Survey of ManpowerGroup in www.manpowergroup.com/meos

About ManpowerGroup Argentina:

ManpowerGroup™ Argentina is the leading workforce solutions company in helping organizations transform in a fast-changing world of work by sourcing, assessing, developing and managing the talent.

Manpower leverages its more than 50 years of local experience to develop innovative solutions for over 1.300 clients across the country and connect people to meaningful, sustainable work 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 nearly 70 years. In 2018, ManpowerGroup was named one of the World's Most Ethical Companies for the eighth consecutive year and one of Fortune's Most Admired Companies, 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.ar.

Follow on Twitter the President and Managing Director of ManpowerGroup Argentina, Luis Guastini: <https://twitter.com/GuastiniLuis>.