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Manpower Employment Outlook Survey for Q2 2016:

More jobs expected this spring

Employers throughout Sweden are now increasing payrolls and more than one in every ten employers surveyed expect to add jobs – and the strongest demand is coming from employers in large enterprises. The Net Employment Outlook for the country is +7% and employers from all regions and all but one industry sector expect workforce gains. The report from the Stockholm-Uppsala region is strongest with a Net Employment Outlook of +14%, a substantial upswing year-on-year. Norrland also appears to be heading for an optimistic quarter with hiring gains. The sector survey shows that job seekers still have the greatest chance of finding work in the Finance, Real Estate and Consultancy sectors, while hiring plans in the Restaurants & Hotels sector tumbled once again, this time by 21 percentage points compared with the second quarter last year.

Sweden's Net Employment Outlook (*see footnote*) now stands at +7%, which is an improvement of 2 percentage points quarter-over-quarter and 3 percentage points compared with this time last year.

“Clearly the Stockholm-Uppsala region and the largest companies are once again serving as the locomotive in the Swedish labor market, and it is also extremely encouraging that employers in all regions anticipate job growth. At the same time the continued decline in the Restaurants & Hotels sector is worrisome, while internationally, China's inability to get a handle on its employment situation is beginning to feel truly worrisome,” says **Lars Forseth**, CEO of ManpowerGroup Sweden.

Stockholm-Uppsala region strongest

Employers in all six regions report positive hiring intentions for the second quarter of 2016. Demand for labor is strongest in the Stockholm-Uppsala region, with a Net Employment Outlook of +14%, an impressive increase of 15 percentage points year-on-year. Employers in Norrland also report clearly optimistic hiring plans, with a Net Employment Outlook of +10%. Skåne employers are somewhat less confident, though demand for labor remains stable, while their counterparts in Västra Götaland and Halland report cautiously optimistic hiring plans. Hiring intentions improved among Östra Götaland employers both quarter-over-quarter and year-on-year, while hiring plans in Central Sweden are weaker year-on-year.

Continued strong demand in Finance, Real Estate and Consultancy sector

Of all industries in the survey, employers in nine of ten report an upbeat hiring pace, though zero growth is expected in the Transport and Communications sector. Just as in the past three surveys, employers in the Finance, Real Estate and Consultancy sector report the strongest demand, which despite a decline of seven percentage points is still an optimistic +18%. Utilities sector employers continue to report strong hiring prospects and Mining and Quarrying has finally experienced a long-awaited upswing, with both ending up at a Net Employment Outlook of +13%. The Restaurants & Hotels sector apparently continues to have problems and despite an upswing to positive figures, the Net Employment Outlook plummeted 21 percentage points year-on-year. Employers in Construction expect somewhat slower job growth and report modest +4%.

Mixed results globally

Globally, once again employers in 39 of 42 surveyed countries report positive hiring intentions, though no clear signs of an upswing can be found and many employers all over

the world appear to be hiring only when urgent needs arise. The strongest forecasts globally come from employers in India, Japan, Taiwan and Colombia. Employers in Brazil, France and Italy report the weakest hiring climate.

The slowdown in China continues and employers once again report a cautious hiring environment. In Europe, Bulgaria passed Turkey as the country with the greatest need for labor, while the weakest – and only negative – forecast in the EMEA region comes from France.

Footnote: The Net Employment Outlook is defined as the percentage of employers who anticipate an increase in hiring activities, minus the percentage who project a decrease. During the second quarter of 2016, 11% of Swedish employers expect to increase hiring, 2% expect to reduce staff, while most (84%) expect employment to remain unchanged. The employment outlook for Sweden is therefore +9%, but after adjustment for seasonal variations, the Net Employment Outlook is +7%.

Diagram 1: Net Employment Outlook for Sweden 2005–2015.

Diagram 2: The Net Employment Outlook by region for Q2 2016.

Diagram 3: The Net Employment Outlook by sector for Q2 2016.

For more information, please contact:

Hélène Belin, communications manager, ManpowerGroup Sweden, tel. +46 (0)70-377 45 43, helene.belin@manpowergroup.se

The following can be downloaded at www.manpowergroup.se/Pressrum1/#:

- The report in its entirety
- Video in which the CEO describes the results
- Diagrams
- Photo of CEO Lars Forseth and photos of surveyed sectors

The Q3 2016 Manpower Employment Outlook Survey will be published on June 14, 2016.