

Under strict embargo until 8:00 a.m. on 12 June, 2018



Press Release June 12, 2018

ManpowerGroup™

## Manpower Employment Outlook Survey

# New job outlook: Modest job gains expected this summer

Swedish employers anticipate a slight rise in demand for labor in the third quarter of 2018 with a Net Employment Outlook of +4%, according to the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey. However, the job outlook is seven percentage points weaker compared with the same period in 2017. Employers in Skåne and Blekinge are most optimistic and the strongest demand for labor is expected in the Restaurants & Hotels sector.

“It is encouraging that the economic boom and demand for labor is expected to be lasting through the summer, though we realize there is a skills shortage in Sweden. Politicians and us employers need to prioritize the supply of skills in order to meet labor market needs, both now and in the long term,” says Lars Forseth, CEO of ManpowerGroup Sweden.

### Strongest hiring intentions in urban regions

The Net Employment Outlook for Sweden as a whole is up slightly from the previous quarter to +4%, which means that Swedish employers expect demand for labor to increase somewhat during the third quarter of the year. However, the outlook represents a reduction of seven percentage points compared with the same period in 2017, [when Swedish employers reported the strongest Net Employment Outlook in five years](#).

Employers in five of six regions report positive hiring forecasts and the jobs are mainly expected to be centered in the urban regions. Employers in Skåne and Blekinge report the country's strongest Net Employment Outlook at +8%, the highest job outlook from the region to date this year. Employers in West Sweden and in the Stockholm-Uppsala region anticipate an increase in demand for labor with a Net Employment Outlook of +6% and +5%, respectively. However, the job outlook is substantially lower compared with the same period in 2017. Östra Götaland is the only region with a negative job forecast of -2%, a sharp drop compared with the same period in 2017 when the job outlook for the region was an impressive +14%.

### Upswing for Construction

Eight of the ten surveyed sectors in the Employment Outlook Survey start the year with plans to increase staffing levels. Just as in the previous quarter, the most optimistic employers can be found in the Restaurants & Hotels sector, who report a Net Employment Outlook of +13%. Employers in the Construction sector also report strong hiring intentions at +12%, a sharp upswing from the previous quarter when the outlook was -9%. Employers in the Electricity, Gas & Water sector as well as in Finance, Real Estate & Business Services and in Wholesale and Retail Trade also anticipate increasing demand for labor during the upcoming quarter.

“The Employment Outlook Survey shows a strong demand for labor in key sectors that provide many foreign-born workers with an entry into the labor market, such as the Restaurants & Hotels sector. We also see that the reports of a construction crisis in Sweden are not reflected in the job outlook of employers in the Construction sector,” says Lars Forseth.

### Positive forecasts across most of the global labor market

In the global labor market, employers report only minor changes in hiring intentions compared with the previous quarter. Of the 44 surveyed countries in the Employment Outlook Survey, employers in an impressive 43 countries report optimistic hiring intentions, with Italy the only country to report a negative Net Employment Outlook.

“The global economic boom is contributing to the skills shortage in Sweden by making it more difficult to attract international talent. It is therefore important for Swedish businesses to plan for helping their employees develop the skills that will be needed in the future,” says Lars Forseth.

### **Leaderboards**

Job forecasts in Swedish regions  
Sectors with strongest job forecasts

### **Appendices**

Fact sheet: ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey Q3 2018  
Report: ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey Q3 2018 (in English)

### **For more information, please contact:**

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The ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey for the fourth quarter of 2018 will be presented on 11 September.

### **Job forecasts in Swedish regions**

1. Skåne and Blekinge, +8%
2. West Sweden (Västra Götaland and Halland), +6%
3. Stockholm-Uppsala region, +5%
4. Central Sweden (Södermanland, Västmanland, Värmland and Örebro), +4%
5. Norrland, +1%
6. Östra Götaland, -2%

### **Sectors with strongest job forecasts**

1. Restaurants & Hotels, +13%
2. Construction, +12 %
2. Electricity, Gas & Water, +12%
4. Finance, Real Estate & Business Services, +10%
5. Wholesale and retail trade, +9%

### **About the Net Employment Outlook**

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 third quarter of 2018, 9% of Swedish employers expect job gains, 4% expect to reduce staff, while most (87%) expect employment to remain unchanged.

The employment outlook for Sweden is therefore +5% and after adjustment for seasonal variations, the Net Employment Outlook is +4%.