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Dutch employer expectations dip for third quarter in a row

Biggest decrease (14% decline) reported in Manufacturing

Diemen, 11 December 2018 – **For the third quarter in a row, employer expectations for the Dutch labor market have dipped. Employment is expected to continue growing but at a slower pace in the first quarter of 2019, according to the latest edition of the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey. The first quarter forecast now stands at +4% and represents a 1% decrease since last quarter. Labor expectations have dropped in five out of nine labor sectors, with the most notable decrease of 14 percentage points in the Manufacturing sector. The survey was conducted among 750 Dutch employers, part of a panel of over 60,000 employers worldwide.**

“The setbacks in employer optimism are a direct result of the growing shortages in the Dutch Labor Market, and the difficulties employers face when trying to find the right talent”, says Danny Spee, Managing Director Experis, part of ManpowerGroup the Netherlands. “These current labor shortages ask for a different approach to employability by Dutch employers in order to fulfill their vacancies.”

Optimism drops

For the first time in two years (Q4, 2016) employer labor expectations have decreased in more than half of all Dutch labor sectors. In the Manufacturing sector employers report their first negative Outlook (-6%) in four years with the forecast dropping 14%. Employers in Transportation, Storage & Communication sector are also reporting their first negative Outlook (-1%) in more than two years. Spee: “The last time Dutch employers in Manufacturing expected to reduce overall headcount was four years ago. This shows the current stress on the Dutch labor market, which is in need of sustainable solutions for the future. With our Manpower Logistics Academies and other initiatives, we try to contribute to a sustainable future by creating an inclusive labor market.”

European forecast

Employers in all European countries continue to report positive labor market forecasts. Switzerland recovers from -2% to +2%, Germany comes in at +8% and Belgium and The United Kingdom both report +6%. Spain and Italy (together with Switzerland) are the only countries to report weaker expectations than the Dutch forecast, with both Outlooks at a modest +3%. The United States remains optimistic with +19%.

About ManpowerGroup

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Notes to the editor, not for publication

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