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Employers in Panama forecast modest payroll gains for the First Quarter 2019.

Opportunities for job seekers are expected to be strongest in the Services industry sector according to latest ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey.

- According to the 620 Panamanian employers surveyed, the seasonally adjusted Net Employment Outlook for Panama is +3%.
- Employers in three industry sectors and in three regions expect to add to their payrolls during the next three months.
- Across the globe, first-quarter hiring confidence is strongest in Japan, Taiwan, the U.S., Slovenia, Greece and Hong Kong.

PANAMA, (December 11, 2018) – According to the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey announced today, Panamanian employers report moderate hiring plans for the coming quarter. With 11% of employers forecasting an increase in staffing levels, 78% expecting no change and 4% don't know, the resulting Net Employment Outlook is +3% once the data is adjusted to allow for seasonal variation.

Job seekers may benefit from an especially active forecast in the Services industry sector (+14%). Manufacture sector, report a Net Employment Outlook of +4% once the data is adjusted for seasonal variation, increased by 6 percentage points from last quarter and by 5 percentage points year-over-year. Construction employers report a fair forecast of +2%.

The strongest hiring prospects are reported in the Metro South region, with a Net Employment Outlook of +6%, relatively stable when compared with the previous quarter. Employers in the West region expected some gains for the next quarter with a forecast of 1% and in the Center they expected no change.

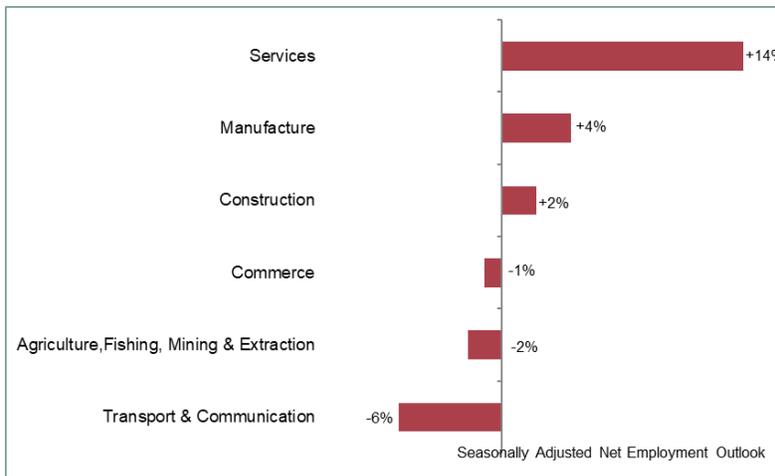
“Employers in Panama continue to report cautious first-quarter hiring plans. The Outlook of +3%, remains relatively stable when compared to the previous quarter. This environment may be caused by the uncertainty of investors due to the beginning of the election year which always exerts some influence on business and labor markets,” said Alberto Alesi, ManpowerGroup Regional Director for Caribbean and Central America.

“Services is the main sector and engine of the Panamanian economy and the same one that continues to report a positive Outlook at the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey with +14%. This sector drives and raises interest in investors, encouraging employer’s confidence,” concluded Alberto Alesi.

Employers expect to grow staffing levels in Large and Medium organization-size categories during the coming quarter. Large employers lead the hiring pace with a forecast of +21%. Elsewhere, Medium category’s Outlook stands at +3%.

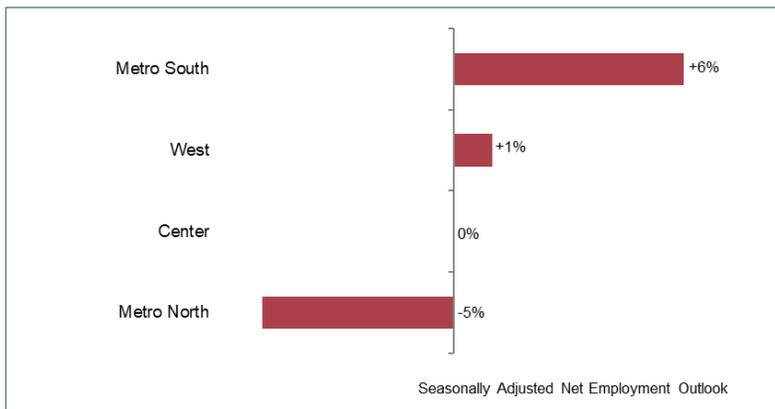
Elsewhere across the globe, the ManpowerGroup research for the first quarter of 2019 reveals that payroll gains are expected in 43 of 44 countries and territories in the period up to the end of March. Hiring intentions for the coming quarter are stronger in 16 of 44 countries and territories when compared with the prior quarter, weakened in 23 and are unchanged in five. In a comparison with this time one year ago, Outlooks improve in 21 countries and territories, decline in 20, and are unchanged in two.

Sector Comparisons



Employers in the Services industry sector report the most optimistic hiring intentions for the quarter ahead.

Regional Comparisons



Employers in the Metro South region report the most active hiring pace, anticipating a Net Employment Outlook of +6%.

Net Employment Outlook

Throughout this report, we use the term “Net Employment Outlook.” This figure is derived by taking the percentage of employers anticipating an increase in hiring activity and subtracting from this the percentage of employers expecting to see a decrease in employment at their location in the next quarter. The result of this calculation is the Net Employment Outlook. Net Employment Outlooks for countries and territories that have accumulated at least 17 quarters of data are reported in a seasonally adjusted format unless otherwise stated.

Seasonal adjustments have been applied to the data for all participating countries except Croatia and Portugal. ManpowerGroup intends to add seasonal adjustments to the data for other countries in the future, as more historical data is compiled. Note that in Quarter 2 2008, ManpowerGroup adopted the TRAMO-SEATS method of seasonal adjustment for data.

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ManpowerGroup Mexico, Caribbean and Central America

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