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Dutch hiring pace expected to remain subdued and change little in next three months

Manpower Employment Outlook Survey is relatively stable in comparison to prior quarter and last year at this time

Diemen, 14th June 2016 – Dutch employers expect the country's hiring pace to remain conservative in the July-September time frame with little change in momentum expected in comparison to the prior quarter or last year at this time. The Net Employment Outlook for Q3 of 2016 is +3%. It is a single percentage point weaker than in Q2 and a single percentage point stronger than last year at this time. The survey is conducted among nearly 59.000 employers worldwide, 750 of which are in The Netherlands. The Dutch outlook has been positive for six consecutive quarters.

Employers in seven out of nine sectors report positive third-quarter hiring intentions. However, employers in five out of nine sectors expect the hiring pace to slow in comparison to the prior quarter. Employers in one sector, Electricity, Gas & Water, forecast no change.

Growing confidence

Employers in the Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services sector report the most optimistic outlook at +8%. This is, however, a 1% decrease compared to last quarter. José Brenninkmeijer, commercial and operational director of ManpowerGroup in the Netherlands: "The sector's forecast has now declined slightly for two consecutive quarters, from +13% reported at the start of the year to the current forecast. However, the results indicate that while hiring may be a bit more subdued, none of the employers we interviewed in the Finance and Business Services sector indicated they would trim payrolls in the next three months. Similarly, according to employers in the Manufacturing sector, we are not likely to see a surge in hiring, but none of the employers we interviewed plan to eliminate current staff in the third quarter."

Nationwide average

Due to weak forecasts in the North of the Netherlands (-3%), the national average drops significantly. The North continues to struggle with negative outlook figures for the third consecutive quarter. Meanwhile, employers in the South, the West and the East forecast some job growth, reporting outlooks of +7%, +4% and +5%, respectively. "In spite of positive numbers in the East, we should note that their forecast has dropped from +9% to +5% compared to the previous quarter. The South and the West indicate an upward trend, when we compare the quarter on quarter changes."

Upwards in Europe

All over Europe, employers expect payrolls to increase. Even France, who reported -1% for the previous quarter, now forecasts growth and reports an outlook of +2%. Germany's outlook showed a slight drop last quarter, but has now reversed that and the outlook climbs slightly to +4%. "We're glad to see that the confidence in these countries continues to remain positive. This affects the economy in all of Europe. Additionally, for the first time in eight years, not a single country across Europe is reporting a negative outlook. We hope that these figures will have some effect on the Dutch employment as well," says Brenninkmeijer. Outside of Europe, the US remain unabatedly optimistic at +15%.



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Note to the editor, not for print:

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