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## Dutch hiring confidence improves to strongest level since 2009

Third-quarter ManpowerGroup research forecasts strongest labor market in Finance & Business Services sector.

Diemen, 13 June, 2017 – **Dutch employers are expecting employment to further grow in the third quarter of 2017 according to the latest edition of the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey. The third-quarter forecast stands at +6% and represents the strongest hiring plans reported by Dutch employers since the start of 2009. The survey was conducted among over 58,000 employers, of which 750 are based in the Netherlands.**

“Despite the challenges employers are facing on different levels, employment rates keep growing steadily, and the third-quarter survey results reflect this trend,” says José Brenninkmeijer, Managing Director of ManpowerGroup. “We are dealing with some uncertainties surrounding the formation of a new government in the Netherlands. However, elections in other European countries haven’t had any major consequences for us so far. Employer confidence doesn’t appear to be suffering, and instead seems to be growing.”

### **Employer confidence in finance, transport and retail/wholesale grows**

The survey indicates the strongest third-quarter hiring pace will be in the Finance & Business Services sector (+16%) where the outlook improves in comparison to both the prior quarter and a year ago. Similarly, quarter-over-quarter and year-over-year gains are also reported in the Transport, Storage & Communications (+5%) and the Wholesale & Retail (+5%) sectors. Brenninkmeijer: “The world economy is growing and that appears to be benefitting outlooks associated with our export sectors, and this is forming the basis for the increase in confidence among employers. With a strong euro as a catalyst, the future appears bright.” Also notable is the growth in confidence in the agricultural sector (+3) where employer hiring plans turn positive following two consecutive quarters of negative forecasts.

### **Outlooks soften in construction and raw material extraction**

“It’s interesting to note the forecast in the Construction (+3%) and Extraction (+1) sectors. We are probably seeing employees in both sectors taking a breath, after a phase of investments in the beginning of the year,” added Brenninkmeijer who nevertheless sees an increasing scarcity in the entire labor market. “Regardless of the sector, it’s hard to find the right employees with the right skills. The war of talent intensifies and employers must prepare to maintain and strengthen their position in the market.”

### **European expectations**

The United Kingdom seems to be stable with an outlook of +5%, similar to last quarter. The same goes for France, where employers have reported outlooks of +2% for the last three quarters, and Germany where the outlook stands at a cautiously optimistic +7% for the second consecutive quarter. Belgium is recovering from a score of +1 in the last quarter, and the outlook improves to +4%.



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Italy (-2%) is the only country in Europe where employers report negative hiring intentions, but is stable, with similar numbers in the previous quarters. The US outlook remains positive with employers reporting a rate of +17, just like they did in the previous quarter.

### **About ManpowerGroup**

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### **Notes to the editor, not for publication**

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