



ManpowerGroup™

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## **Panamanian employers expect to moderately increase their staffing levels during the third quarter 2019**

*Opportunities for job seekers are expected to be strongest in the Construction industry sector*

- The seasonally adjusted Net Employment Outlook for Panama is +3%.
- Employers in four industry sectors and in two of the four regions expect to add to their payrolls during the next three months.
- From a global perspective, the survey reveals that, employers expect workforce gains in 43 of 44 countries and territories surveyed in the period up to the end of September.

**PANAMA, June 11, 2019** – According to the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey announced today, Panamanian employers report conservative hiring plans for the coming quarter. With 10% of employers forecasting an increase in staffing levels, 76% expecting no change and 6% don't know, the resulting Net Employment Outlook is +3% once the data is adjusted to allow for seasonal variation.

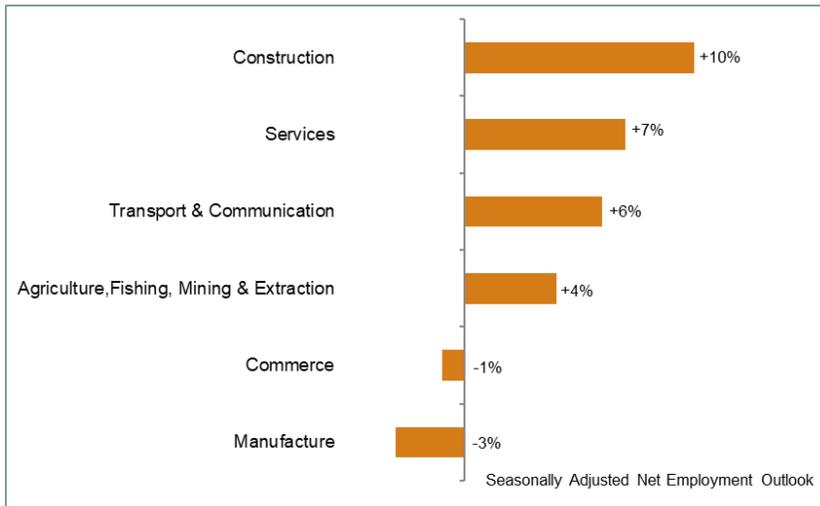
The strongest hiring prospects are reported in the Metro South region, with a Net Employment Outlook of +7%, followed by the West region with a forecast of +2%. Employers in the Metro North region expected no change on their staffing levels for the next quarter.

“Employers showed more confidence in the Construction sector with +10%. This sector recovered by 9 and 8 percentage points when compared quarterly and annually, respectively, due to the start of the construction of the fourth bridge over the Panama Canal, a megaproject that will help improve vehicular traffic. This is followed by Services and Transport & Communications with trends of +7% and +6%, respectively; sectors that have presented stable activity so far this year. The strongest regional trend is +7% in Metro South due to the construction project mentioned, followed by the West region with a +2% trend due to some small construction projects planned in the future,” said Ignacio Casillas, ManpowerGroup Regional Director for Caribbean and Central America.

Employers expect to grow staffing levels in Large, Medium and Small sized organizations while they expect no change in Micro-sized organizations during the coming quarter. Large employers lead the hiring pace with a forecast of +10%. Medium sized employers' Outlook stands at +6%, with a slight increase of 4 percentage points when compared with the previous quarter and 3 percentage point year-on-year.

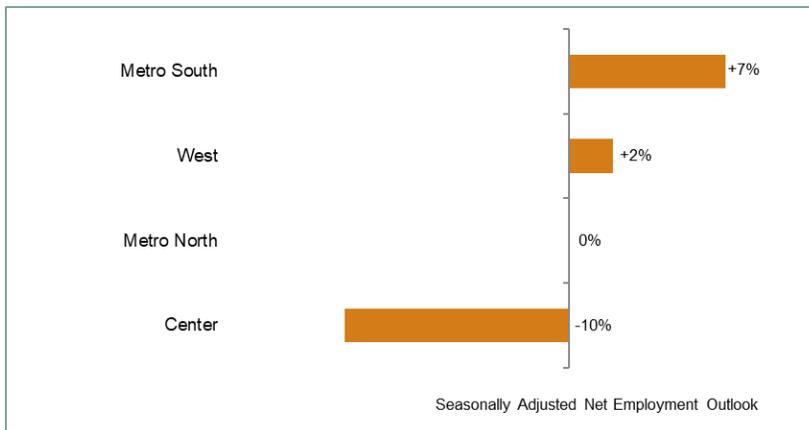
Elsewhere across the globe, 3Q 2019 results indicate that, when compared with the previous quarter, employers in 18 of 44 countries and territories report stronger hiring prospects, while employers in 18 report weaker hiring plans and no change is anticipated in eight. In a comparison with the same period last year, hiring intentions strengthen in 12 countries and territories, but weaken in 26 and are unchanged in six. The strongest hiring sentiment is reported in Japan, Croatia, Taiwan, the U.S., Greece and Slovenia, while the weakest hiring prospects are reported for Hungary, Argentina, Italy and Spain.

### Sector Comparisons



Construction industry sector employers lead the hiring intentions for the quarter ahead with a Net Employment Outlook of +10%.

### Regional Comparisons



Employers in the Metro South region anticipate the most positive hiring pace for the third quarter with Net Employment Outlooks of +7%.

### 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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