

**EMBARGOED UNTIL TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2018 AT 00.01 GMT**

## **Romanian Employers Forecast the Most Subdued Hiring Pace since Q1/2016**

**The Q2/2018 hiring perspectives are positive, but trend moderately weaker both quarter-over-quarter and year-over-year**

**Bucharest, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018** ■ Almost 1 in 4 Romanian employers intend to increase the size of their workforce in the April – June 2018 interval, and 7% expect to decrease their payrolls in the same interval, according to the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey. However, the seasonally adjusted Net Employment Outlook for Q2/2018 stands at +10%, the weakest in over two years. Perspectives weaken both over Q1/2018, by 5 percentage points, and over Q2/2017, by 8 percentage points.

From a regional standpoint, the strongest hiring perspectives are reported in the Center region, where the Outlook stands at a respectable +17%, weakening however both over the first three months of 2018, and over Q2/2017 by 2, and 7 percentage points, respectively. Hiring intentions weaken in seven of eight regions over the April – June 2017 interval, most notably in the North-West region, where perspectives are 25 percentage points weaker than in Q1/2018, and the Net Employment Outlook stands at a modest +8%. By comparison with Q2/2017, the sharpest drop in confidence is reported by employers in the South-East region, where the Outlook is -1%, 21 percentage points weaker than last year, and 8 percentage points weaker than in Q1/2018. Employers in the South-East region are in fact the country's least optimistic, reporting the only negative regional Outlook for the quarter. On the other hand, employers in the South-West region report the country's second strongest quarterly Outlook, +11%, and expect hiring activity to improve both over Q1/2018 and over Q2/2017. This is the only region nationally in which perspectives are expected to be brighter than in the previous quarter and than last year at this time.

Workforce gains are forecast in eight of the 10 industry sectors analyzed, but perspectives trend weaker than in Q1/2018 in all sectors. The most significant quarter-on-quarter drop is reported in the Transport, Storage and Communications sector, where hiring intentions have weakened by 14 percentage points over the January – March 2018 interval, and the Outlook has slipped into negative territory, at -5%. Also negative, and also weaker than both in Q1/2018 and Q2/2017, are perspectives in the Mining and Quarrying sector, the -6% Outlook reported by employers being the least optimistic nationwide. Employers in the Manufacturing sector are once again the most optimistic, posting a +25% Net Employment Outlook. However, the Q2/2018 hiring plans in Manufacturing are 11 percentage points weaker than those reported in Q1/2018 and 7 percentage points weaker than those reported in Q2/2017. The most abrupt year-on-year shift in optimism is reported by employers in the Wholesale and Retail trade sector, where the +6% quarterly Net Employment Outlook is 24 percentage points weaker than last year's, and weakens by considerable 10 percentage points also over Q1/2018.

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ManpowerGroup Romania

Str. Izvor, nr. 80  
Izvor Business Center, etaj 6,  
Bucuresti, 050561, Romania  
T:+ 40 21 312 18 98  
F:+ 40 21 312 18 87  
[www.manpower.ro](http://www.manpower.ro)

*\*Note: The Net Employment Outlook is derived by taking the percentage of employers anticipating an increase in hiring activity and subtracting from it the percentage of employers expecting to see a decrease. Net Employment Outlooks for countries and territories that have accumulated at least 17 quarters of data, including Romania, are reported in a seasonally adjusted format unless otherwise stated.*

### **About the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey:**

The ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey is the longest-running, most extensive, forward-looking employment survey in the world, commencing in 1962 and now polling over 59,000 employers in 44 countries and territories to measure their intentions to increase or decrease the number of employees in their workforce during the next quarter. The survey serves as a bellwether of labor market trends and activities and is regularly used to inform the Bank of England's Inflation Reports, as well as a regular data source for the European Commission, informing its EU Employment Situation and Social Outlook report the *Monthly Monitor*. ManpowerGroup's independent survey data is also sourced by financial analysts and economists around the world to help determine the health of labor markets.

In Romania, the Q2/2018 survey was conducted by InfoCorp Ltd. between January 8<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2018 on a representative sample of 625 employers. The margin of error for all national, regional and global data is not greater than +/- 3.9%.

Results for all 44 countries can be viewed in the interactive ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey Explorer tool at [www.manpowergroup.com/meos](http://www.manpowergroup.com/meos).

### **About Manpower**

#### ***ManpowerGroup Romania***

ManpowerGroup Romania, the national leader in innovative workforce solutions, creates and delivers services that help clients meet their business and workforce objectives while enhancing their competitiveness. The company specializes in permanent, temporary and contract recruitment; payroll; contract administration; outsourcing, consulting, project solutions and end-user services through its brands Manpower, Experis, Proservia and ManpowerGroup Solutions. We operate nationally with 14 points of presence in: Bucharest, Arad, Brasov, Cluj-Napoca, Craiova, Iasi, Oradea, Ploiesti, Pitesti, Sibiu and Timisoara. More information on ManpowerGroup Romania is available at [www.manpower.ro](http://www.manpower.ro).

### **About ManpowerGroup**

ManpowerGroup (NYSE: MAN), the leading global workforce solutions company, helps organizations transform in a fast-changing world of work by sourcing, assessing, developing and managing the talent that enables them to win. We develop innovative solutions for over 400,000 clients and connect 3+ million people to meaningful, sustainable work across a wide range of industries and skills. Our expert family of brands – Manpower®, Experis®, Right Management® and ManpowerGroup® Solutions – creates substantially more value for candidates and clients across 80 countries and territories and has done so for 70 years. In 2018, ManpowerGroup was named one of the World's Most Ethical Companies for the eighth consecutive year and one of Fortune's Most Admired Companies, confirming our position as the most trusted and admired

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Str. Izvor, nr. 80  
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F:+ 40 21 312 18 87  
[www.manpower.ro](http://www.manpower.ro)

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[www.manpowergroup.com](http://www.manpowergroup.com)

**For additional information, alternative graphical formats and illustration please contact:**

**Gabriela Oancea**

Marketing Coordinator

ManpowerGroup Romania

Mobile: +40 729 800 336

Email: [gabriela.oancea@manpowergroup.ro](mailto:gabriela.oancea@manpowergroup.ro)

THE NEXT MANPOWERGROUP EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK SURVEY (Q3/2018)

WILL BE RELEASED ON

**JUNE 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**