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## **DUTCH HIRING FORECAST MOST OPTIMISTIC SINCE 2009**

Surge in confidence among Construction sector employers helps boost positive first-quarter forecast

**Diemen, 13th September 2016 – Dutch employers are expecting a modest increase in the hiring pace during the first quarter of 2017. The Net Employment Outlook for Q1 of 2017 is +5% and is two percentage points stronger than in Q4 of 2016 and last year at this time. These are the results of the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey (MEOS Q1) by ManpowerGroup, a survey conducted among nearly 59.000 employers worldwide, 750 of which are in The Netherlands. This is the most optimistic forecast reported in eight years. This increase can be partly attributed to an increase in employment in the Construction sector.**

### **Positive forecasts in the Construction and Financial sectors**

Some of the improvement in the Dutch first-quarter outlook is the result of upbeat forecasts reported in the Construction sector. In the previous quarter the Net Employment Outlook in the Construction sector was at -4. The forecast has now rebounded sharply to +11. “This is the most optimistic forecast for the Construction sector reported since 2008”, says José Brenninkmeijer, Regional Managing Director for ManpowerGroup Netherland. “We’ve been expecting a recovery in the Construction sector for a while, and we attribute much of this rebound to a strong upturn in the construction of homes. As confidence returns to this key sector of the labor market we are finally beginning to see a sustained return in confidence of Dutch employers.” Employers in the Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services sector are more optimistic as well, reporting a slight increase from +9 to +10. Conversely, employers in the Mining & Quarrying (-2) and Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (-3) sectors are expecting a decrease in hiring. Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries reported a neutral outlook which means they became the only sector in the Netherlands with decreased numbers. However, in general all regions make an upward trend. Employers in the East even forecast a job growth of 5 percentage points, climbing up to +8.

### **Expectations across borders**

With the exception of Italy and Switzerland, employers across Europe are anticipating varying levels of workforce growth through the first three months of 2017. The Swiss outlook again dips into negative territory (-2) while employers in Italy forecast a flat hiring pace in the coming months. Germany’s forecast remains relatively stable with the prior quarter’s forecast and improves slightly as employers from Belgium expect the hiring pace to improve moderately as the outlook strengthens from +1 to +6 and United Kingdom’s forecast climbs from +5% to +7%. “Just like in the Net Employment Outlook of Q416, the Brexit still doesn’t seem to influence employer hiring plans.” The only country outside Europe where employers report a negative employment outlook is Brazil at -9. The United States report an outlook of +16 with some degree of job growth expected in all industry sectors and each of the four regions. “Next quarter is expected to be interesting again for the ManpowerGroup survey as we will see the influence of the aftermath of the US elections.”

### **About ManpowerGroup**

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**Note to the editor, not for print:**

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