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## **Dutch employer expectations for Q4 remain cautiously optimistic**

*Employers in all labor sectors expect to hire more staff*

Diemen, 11 September 2018 – **Employer expectations for the Dutch labor market continue to be positive for Q4 2018. The fourth quarter forecast matches that of last quarter and stands at +6%, according to the latest edition of the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey (MEOS Q4). Dutch employers in all labor sectors expect to hire more future staff, reflecting current nationwide economic optimism. The survey was conducted among 750 Dutch employers, part of a panel of over 59,000 employers worldwide.**

“Despite a current shortage of essential skills in the Dutch labor market, Dutch employer expectations remain very positive,” says José Brenninkmeijer, Managing Director of ManpowerGroup the Netherlands. “It seems that Dutch employers are accepting the fact that it takes more effort than before to find the right candidate. This is also true for retaining talent; that’s why we see employers increasingly investing in training and education and offering long-term opportunities.”

### **Optimism reigns**

For the second quarter this year, employers in all Dutch labor sectors report positive labor expectations. Employers in the utility sector are the most optimistic (+13%), followed by favorable forecasts in the financial sector (+11%) and mining (+11%). Despite positive forecasts, optimism among employers in construction and transport, storage and communication decline from the prior quarter by 4 and 6 percentage points, respectively. Brenninkmeijer: “The slight decline in both of these sectors indicates that hiring is only expected to slow down slightly as we head into the winter months but we expect it to continue at a modest pace. We also expect this slowdown to be only temporary. The increase in e-commerce will continue to boost demand for skilled distribution and transportation staff, and the red-hot housing market will improve opportunities for job seekers in construction.”

### **European forecast**

Employers in all European countries, except for Switzerland (-2%), continue to report positive labor market forecasts. Italy’s Outlook recovers from -1% to +2%, Belgium comes in at +6%, France at +2%, Germany at +10%, Spain at +5% and the United Kingdom remains stable at +4%. Employer optimism in the United States remains upbeat at +19%.

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

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