Press Release December 18, 2018

Manpower Employment Outlook Survey

2019 begins with more job opportunities – record strong projection from northern Sweden

Swedish employers anticipate continued growing demand for labor in the first quarter of 2019 with a Net Employment Outlook of +5%, according to the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey. Employers in Norrland report the region's strongest projection since 2010 and the construction industry reports a strong job forecast at +12%.

"The Employment Outlook Survey shows that employers across the board are optimistic about the start of the year, even as the talent shortage places growing demand for an innovative approach to recruitment. The main reasons for this labor shortage are that employers are receiving too few applications, and job-seekers lack specific vocational knowledge and sufficient experience," says Lars Forseth.

Swedish employers anticipate a stable pace for job growth with a Net Employment Outlook of +5%, and five of six regions report upbeat hiring intentions. The Net Employment Outlook has declined compared with the previous quarter's forecast, which was +8%, though it is relatively stable in comparison to the corresponding period last year.

Historic forecast from northern Sweden
Employers in Norrland report a job forecast of +15%, which is the strongest figure for the region in the last eight years. Among the metropolitan regions, more jobs are expected in both the Stockholm-Uppsala region and in West Sweden, while employers in Skåne report a negative job outlook of -6%.

Favorable for Construction – tough for Retail Trade
Staffing levels are forecast to grow during the first quarter of the year in all ten surveyed sectors in the Employment Outlook Survey. Employers in Restaurants & Hotels, Mining and the Finance Real Estate and Business Services sector all expect strong demand for talent. Even employers in the Construction Industry report a strong job forecast at +12%, an impressive upswing of +11 percentage points compared with same period last year. Some industries, however, expect to see a lull in the labor market. Employers in Retail Trade, Transportation, Electricity, Gas & Water and the green industries expect their labor needs to remain essentially unchanged.

"It is encouraging that so many Swedish employers plan to begin the new year with more jobs, especially in the Construction industry. During the autumn the media reported concerns that the construction boom would soon decline, but this is not reflected in the employers' job forecasts for the upcoming quarter," says Lars Forseth, CEO of ManpowerGroup Sweden.

Strongest US job outlook since 2006
Of the 44 surveyed countries in the Employment Outlook Survey, employers in an impressive 43 countries report optimistic hiring intentions, with Argentina the only country to report a weakly negative Net Employment Outlook. Japan, Taiwan and the US are the countries that expect the strongest demand for labor and the job outlook for the US is at an extremely strong +20%, a level that has not been seen since 2006. Payrolls are expected to grow by varying levels across all European labor markets surveyed.

"Despite some global concerns about the political situation, the new year will begin with generally upbeat job forecasts, which makes it more difficult for Swedish businesses to appeal

to international talent. It is therefore important for them to systematically develop and train their employees in order to avoid a skills shortage," says Lars Forseth.

Leaderboards
Job forecasts in Swedish regions
Sectors with the strongest job forecasts
Countries with the strongest job forecasts in Europe
Countries with the strongest job forecasts in globally

Appendices
Fact sheet: ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey Q1 2019
Report: ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey Q1 2019 (in English)

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The ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey for the second quarter of 2019 will be presented on March 12.

Job forecasts in Swedish regions
- Norrland, +15%
- Stockholm-Uppsala region, +8%
- Västra Götaland and Halland, +6%
- Central Sweden (Södermanland, Västmanland, Värmland and Örebro län), +5%
- Östra Götaland, +5%
- Skåne and Blekinge, -6%

Sectors with strongest job forecasts
- Restaurants & Hotels, +12%
- Finance, Real Estate & Business Services, +12%
- Mining, +12%
- Construction, +12%
- Manufacturing, +7%

Countries with the strongest job forecasts in Europe
- Slovenia, +19%
- Greece, +18%
- Romania, +15%
- Hungary, +15%
- Poland, + 12%

Countries with the strongest job forecasts in globally
- Japan, +27%
- Taiwan, +21%
- USA, +20%