



**EMBARGOED UNTIL TUESDAY MARCH 12, 2019 AT 00.01 EST**

**According to the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey,  
Panamanian employers report reserved hiring plans for the April-June period**

*Hiring intentions remain relatively stable when compared with the previous quarter*

- Once the data is adjusted to allow for seasonal variation, the Outlook stands at +2%.
- Employers in two of the four regions forecast payroll gains for the second quarter of 2019, and anticipate an increase in staffing levels in four of the six industry sectors during the next three months.
- From a global perspective, employers expect to add to payrolls in 40 of 44 countries and territories in the period up to the end of June.
- The most positive hiring sentiment is reported in Croatia, Japan, Greece, the U.S., Hong Kong and Taiwan.

**PANAMA (March 12, 2019)** – According to the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey announced today, Panamanian employers report slow-paced hiring pace for 2Q 2019. With 8% of employers forecasting an increase in staffing levels, 85% expecting no change and 1% don't know, the resulting Net Employment Outlook is +2% once the data is adjusted to allow for seasonal variation. Employer confidence is relatively stable quarter-over-quarter.

The strongest forecast is reported in the Center region, with a Net Employment Outlook of +3%. Employers in Metro South report a flat labor market with +2%. Hiring prospects improve by 2 percentage points in both the Center and Metro North when compared with the previous quarter, while the Outlook for the West is unchanged.

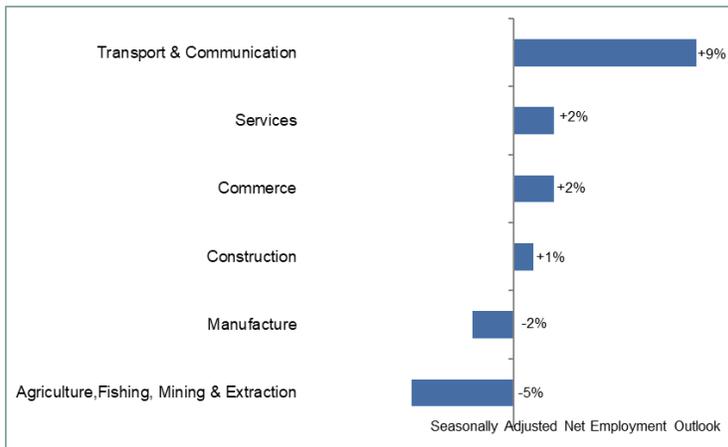
“The Employment Outlook in Panama for the second quarter of 2019 stands at +2%, remaining relatively stable when compared with the previous quarter. Employers showed more confidence in the Transport & Communication sector, where the highest trend of +9% is expected, potentially due to all the activity that is happening at the Panama Canal and also due to the activity in Telecommunications. The Center and Metro South regions showed positive outlooks of +3% and +2%, respectively. The Center region reports some hiring activity in the Transport & Communication, Construction, Agriculture, Fishing, Mining & Extraction, Manufacture, Services and Commerce sectors. Meanwhile Metro South region reports active hiring pace in the Transport & Communication, Construction and Commerce sectors,” said Ignacio Casillas, ManpowerGroup Regional Director for Caribbean and Central America.

Employers anticipate an increase in staffing levels in four of the six industry sectors during the next three months. Transport & Communication sector employers report the strongest hiring plans with a Net Employment Outlook of +9%. Elsewhere, reserved hiring intentions are reflected in Outlooks of +2% for the Commerce sector and the Services sector. Outlooks improve in the Transport & Communication sector and the Commerce sector, increasing by 15 and 2 percentage points, respectively, when compared with the previous quarter.

Employers expect to increase staffing levels in three of the four organization size categories during the upcoming quarter. Large employers report the strongest Net Employment Outlook of +9%, while limited hiring intentions are reflected in Outlooks of +2% and +1% for the Small- and Medium-size categories, respectively.

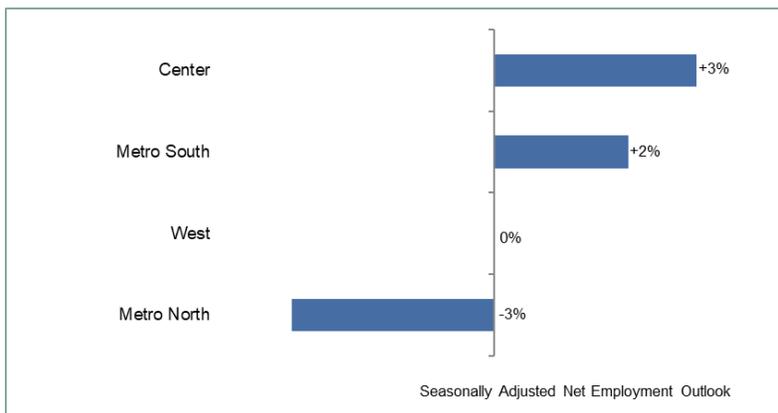
Elsewhere across the globe, employers forecast varying levels of job gains in 40 of 44 countries and territories during the April-June period. Employers in 15 of 44 countries and territories surveyed report stronger hiring plans when compared with the prior quarter, while weaker hiring intentions are reported in 18 and no change is expected in 11. When compared with the second quarter of 2018, Outlooks improve in 13 countries and territories, but decline in 27 and are unchanged in four.

### Sector Comparisons



Transport & Communication industry sector employers lead the hiring intentions for the quarter ahead with a Net Employment Outlook of +19%.

### Regional Comparisons



Employers in the Center region anticipate the most positive hiring pace for the second quarter with a Net Employment Outlook of +3%.

**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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