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Slovak employers report respectable hiring plans for 2Q 2019

Strongest hiring opportunities expected in the Manufacturing sector and Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services sector

Bratislava, 12th March – Slovakian employers report respectable hiring intentions for the coming quarter. Considerable hiring opportunities in the Manufacturing sector and Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services sector have offset a considerable year-over-year decline within the Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry & Fishing sector.

These are the key findings from the *ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey* for the upcoming quarter, which reports a national Net Employment Outlook (NEO)¹ of +10% for Slovakia. This signals that more employers expect to increase staffing levels than not in the second quarter 2019. Hiring plans are unchanged when compared with the previous quarter and remain relatively stable in comparison with this time one year ago. The survey collects data from over 59,000 employers in 44 countries, including 750 in Slovakia.

“Unemployment in the Slovak Republic continues to decline very rapidly, and we observe a number of new foreign investments opening thousands of new vacancies. This is very good news for people looking for a job, but companies increasingly complain that they cannot find enough suitable candidates. In-demand profiles increasingly specify only specialized skills in IT, engineering or skill trades, but companies also report a lack of candidates for non-specialized jobs in manufacturing and logistics. According to the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey for the 2nd quarter of 2019, 23% of employers in large companies with over 250 employees plan to add to their payrolls over the next three months. Specifically, we are seeing the most inquiries from our clients in automotive-related sectors like mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and logistics,” said Jaroslava Rezlerová, Managing Director of ManpowerGroup Czech and Slovak Republic.

Industry sector comparisons

Employers in all 10 industry sectors expect to add to payrolls during the coming quarter. The strongest labour market is anticipated in the Manufacturing sector, where the Net Employment Outlook stands at +20%. Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services sector employers report favourable hiring prospects, with an Outlook of +17%, and Outlooks of +14% and +12% are reported in the Transport, Storage & Communications sector and the Wholesale & Retail Trade sector, respectively. Meanwhile, employers in both the Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry & Fishing sector and the Electricity, Gas & Water sector report subdued hiring intentions, with Outlooks of +1%.

¹ The Net Employment Outlook is calculated by subtracting the percentage of employers anticipating a decrease in hiring activity from the percentage of employers anticipating an increase in employment. Seasonal adjustment is then applied to the data.



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Hiring prospects strengthen in six of the 10 industry sectors when compared with the previous quarter, most notably in the Construction sector where employers report an increase of 6 percentage points. However, Outlooks weaken in four sectors, most notably by 3 percentage points in the Electricity, Gas & Water sector.

When compared with this time one year ago, hiring plans improve in five of the 10 industry sectors. Construction sector employers report an increase of 5 percentage points, and Outlooks are 4 percentage points stronger in both the Electricity, Gas & Water sector and the Transport, Storage & Communications sector. Elsewhere, hiring intentions weaken in four sectors, with Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry & Fishing sector employers reporting a considerable decline of 16 percentage points.

Regional comparisons

Workforce gains are forecast for all four regions during the next three months. Western Slovakia employers report the strongest hiring prospects, with an Outlook of +14%. Elsewhere, employers in both Bratislava and the Central region anticipate a fair hiring pace, reporting Outlooks of +10%, while the Outlook for Eastern Slovakia stands at +7%.

When compared with the first quarter of 2019, Central Slovakia employers report an improvement of 5 percentage points, but the Bratislava Outlook declines by 2 percentage points. Hiring plans remain relatively stable for both Eastern and Western regions. Bratislava employers report a decline of 5 percentage points when compared with this time one year ago, while Outlooks remain relatively stable in Central, Eastern and Western Slovakia.

Organization-Size Comparisons

The strongest hiring pace is anticipated by Large employers, with an Outlook of +22%. Elsewhere, Medium employers forecast steady job gains, with an Outlook of +12%, while Outlooks of +6% and +5% are reported by Micro- and Small-size employers, respectively. In a quarter-over-quarter comparison, Small employers report an improvement of 4 percentage points, while Outlooks remain relatively stable for Micro-, Medium- and Large-size employers. Large employers report a decline of 5 percentage points when compared with this time one year ago, but the Micro employer Outlook is 2 percentage points stronger. Elsewhere, hiring plans remain relatively stable for Small- and Medium-size employers.

Global overview

Second-quarter hiring confidence is strongest in Croatia (34%), Japan (27%), Greece (21%), the U.S. (19%), Hong Kong (19%) and Taiwan (18%), while the weakest labor markets are expected in Argentina (0%), Hungary (0%), Spain (0%) and Turkey (0%).

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