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EMBARGOED UNTIL TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 AT 00.01 EST

Panamanian employers expect a slight increase in staffing levels during the next quarter

- The seasonally adjusted Net Employment Outlook for Panama is +4%.
- Opportunities for job seekers are expected to be strongest in the West region.
- Employers in four industry sectors and in two of the four regions expect to add to their payrolls during the next three months.
- From a global perspective, the survey reveals that, employers expect workforce gains in 43 of 44 countries and territories surveyed in the period up to the end of December 2019.

PANAMA, September 10, 2019 – According to the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey released today, Panamanian employers report modest hiring gains for the coming quarter. With 11% of employers forecasting an increase in staffing levels, 6% expecting a decrease, 81% expecting no change and 2% unsure, the resulting Net Employment Outlook is +4% once the data is adjusted to allow for seasonal variation.

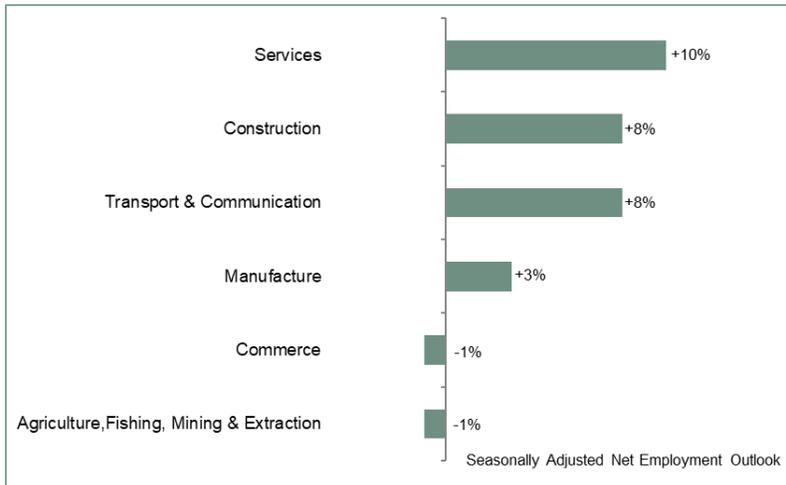
The strongest hiring prospects are reported in the West region, with a Net Employment Outlook of +9% with an increase of 7 percentage points compared with the previous quarter and an increase of 3 percentage points in an annual comparison, followed by the Metro South region with a forecast of +6%.

“The Net Employment Outlook for Panama stands at +4%, slightly increased in quarterly and annual comparison. The region with the strongest trend is the West with +9%, probably due to an aquaculture construction project. Followed by Metro South with an Outlook of +6%, the activities of this region are mainly related to Services sector, apart from that there was a slight increase in tourism and there is a new flight between Cuba and Panama City,” said Ignacio Casillas, ManpowerGroup Regional Director for Caribbean and Central America.

Employers expect to grow staffing levels in Large, Medium and Small sized organizations in the coming quarter. Large employers lead the hiring pace with an upbeat forecast of +16%. Medium sized employers’ Outlook stands at +4%, followed by Small companies with +2%.

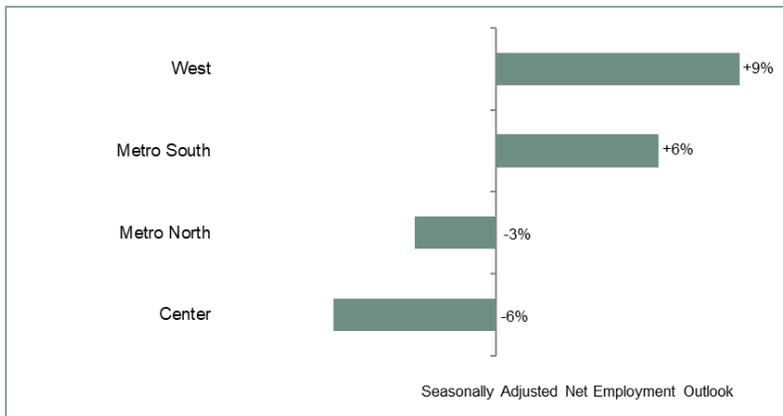
Elsewhere across the globe, 4Q 2019 results indicate that, when compared with the previous quarter, employers in 15 of 44 countries and territories report stronger hiring intentions, while employers in 23 expect a weaker hiring pace, with no reported change in six. When compared with the fourth quarter of 2018, hiring plans also strengthen in 15 countries and territories, decline in 23 and are unchanged in six.

Sector Comparisons



Services industry sector employers lead the hiring intentions for the quarter ahead with a Net Employment Outlook of +10%.

Regional Comparisons



Employers in the West region anticipate the most positive hiring pace for the fourth quarter with Net Employment Outlooks of +9%.

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.

ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey Fourth Quarter 2019

The complete results for the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey are available for download at:
[https://www.manpowergroup.com.mx/estudios-e-investigaciones/encuesta-de-expectativas-de-
empleo/2019-4to-trimestre](https://www.manpowergroup.com.mx/estudios-e-investigaciones/encuesta-de-expectativas-de-empleo/2019-4to-trimestre)

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ManpowerGroup Mexico, Caribbean and Central America

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