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ManpowerGroup™

Manpower Employment Outlook Survey

New forecast: Springtime for job growth

Swedish employers are optimistic and believe in growing demand for labor in the second quarter of 2019, according to the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey. The Net Employment Outlook is +9%, which is the strongest figure in nearly two years.

Employers in northern Sweden report a record-breaking forecast of +27%, with both Construction and Restaurants & Hotels expecting a surge in demand for labor.

“It really is the employee’s market now, with a large talent shortage and a bright outlook for more job opportunities this spring. When job seekers have many jobs to choose from, businesses need to rethink their hiring strategies to ensure they have a reliable supply of the skills they need, both now and in the future,” says Mikael Jansson, CEO of ManpowerGroup Sweden.

Swedish employers anticipate growing demand for labor in the upcoming quarter, with a Net Employment Outlook of +9%. This is the strongest figure in nearly two years, with employers in five of six regions reporting optimistic hiring intentions. Compared with the corresponding period last year, the forecast is an impressive seven percentage points stronger. Back then, Swedish employers expected hardly any job growth, with a weak Net Employment Outlook of +2%.

Record-breaking forecast from northern Sweden

Employers in northern Sweden report a record-breaking forecast of +27% and anticipate a strong surge in demand for labor during the upcoming quarter. This forecast is the strongest that the region has reported since 2010, when it was included in the Employment Outlook Survey. The forecast is an impressive 26 percentage points stronger than the corresponding period last year, when the Net Employment Outlook was a weak +1%.

Employers in Östra Götaland and Central Sweden, which includes the counties of Södermanland, Västmanland, Värmland and Örebro, continue to report optimistic forecasts. In the urban regions, employers in Västra Götaland anticipate steady job growth, while their counterparts in the Stockholm-Uppsala Region expect limited demand for labor. In Skåne and Blekinge the Net Employment Outlook is -7%, the third consecutive quarter with a negative job forecast.

Hotels & Restaurants and Construction charge ahead

Staffing levels are forecast to grow in the second quarter of the year in eight of the ten surveyed sectors in the Employment Outlook Survey. Employers in the Restaurants & Hotels report a very strong forecast of +23%, while their counterparts in the Construction Industry also report a strong increase in demand for labor with a Net Employment Outlook of +17% – an impressive upswing of +29 percentage points compared with the same period last year. Employers in Transportation, Manufacturing and the Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services sector all expect a strong demand for talent.

“The Employment Outlook Survey shows that employers in many industries believe in an expanding workforce during the second quarter of the year. The Restaurants & Hotels sector is expected to be particularly hot, which is especially encouraging in a sector that helps many young people and immigrants to get a foot in the door in the labor market,” says Mikael Jansson.

Optimistic forecasts – though slightly weaker than in 2018

Compared with forecasts for the corresponding period last year, only 13 countries have stronger forecasts for the second quarter of 2019. Although the figures are somewhat weaker, employers in an impressive 40 of the 44 surveyed countries report optimistic hiring intentions. Croatia, Japan, Hong Kong and the U.S. top the list of countries with the largest predicted job growth. The forecast for the U.S. is stable at a strong +19%, on a par with the previous quarter.

“Because of the Swedish talent shortage, many businesses are searching for highly educated employees abroad. Although the quarterly forecasts are generally somewhat lower than last year, prospects for the global labor market are bright right now, which intensifies the struggle for talent. That’s why we need to strengthen Sweden’s competitive edge and outstanding reputation worldwide, to secure a steady supply of know-how here at home,” says Mikael Jansson.

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 Q2 2019

Report: ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey Q2 2019 (in English)

For more information, please contact:

Hélène Belin, Communications Manager, ManpowerGroup Sweden, tel. +46 (0)70 377 45 43

helene.belin@manpowergroup.se

The ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey for the third quarter of 2019 will be presented June 11.

Job forecasts in Swedish regions

- Norrland, +27%
- West Sweden (Västra Götaland and Halland), +13%
- Östra Götaland, +9%
- Central Sweden (Södermanland, Västmanland, Värmland and Örebro), +7%
- Stockholm-Uppsala region, +4%
- Skåne and Blekinge, -7%

Sectors with the strongest job forecasts

- Restaurants & Hotels, +23%
- Construction, +17%
- Transportation, +15%
- Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services, +14%
- Manufacturing, +9%

Countries with the strongest job forecasts in Europe

- Croatia, +34% (not seasonally adjusted)
- Greece, +21%
- Romania, +13%
- Portugal, +13% (not seasonally adjusted)
- Ireland, +11%
- Slovakia, +10%
- Slovenia, +10%
- Poland, +9%
- Sweden, +9%
- Germany, +9%

Countries with the strongest job forecasts in globally

- Croatia, +34% (not seasonally adjusted)
- Japan, +27%
- Hong Kong, +19%
- U.S., +19%