



Stockholm June 13, 2017

## Manpower Employment Outlook Survey for Q3 2017:

### Upbeat forecast for Swedish labor market

The ongoing economic boom is now clearly visible in the hiring plans of Swedish employers and the Net Employment Outlook at +11 percent is the most optimistic reported in five years. The strongest demand for labor by far comes from employers in Västra Götaland and Halland, while Norrland is the only regional forecast that remains negative. Of all industries in the survey, Retail Trade is at the top with an impressive +23 percent, while employers in the Restaurants & Hotels and the Finance, Real Estate and Consulting sectors also report strong demand for talent.

The Net Employment Outlook (see *footnote*) for Sweden as a whole is +11%, up nine percentage points quarter-over-quarter, and five percentage points compared with the same quarter one year ago.

“The results indicate that we are expecting a hiring boom that is likely to cause further problems with skills shortages all over Sweden, at the same time that it is becoming increasingly important for all regions to increase their attractiveness in order to appeal to the right talent. We recommend that employers carefully plan for skills transfer, which we can see is exactly what more and more employers are actively pursuing,” says Lars Forseth, CEO of ManpowerGroup Sweden.

“Globally, we continue to see minor changes compared with the first half of 2017. However, the forecasts in Japan and Taiwan are now the strongest worldwide, while India and China have reported more modest job forecasts,” says Lars Forseth.

#### West Sweden ranks highest and Norrland continues at minus

Employers in four of the five regions expect to add to their payrolls in the third quarter of the year. The most upbeat report comes from Västra Götaland and Halland with a Net Employment Outlook of +20 percent – the strongest in over 13 years for the region – followed by Östra Götaland with +13 percent and the Stockholm-Uppsala region with +12 percent. Although employer confidence in Norrland has improved compared with the last quarter, the job forecast remains negative. The labor market in Skåne has improved considerably compared with the last quarter, but the forecast of +4 percent indicates the hiring pace will be less active than the other urban regions. Job seekers in Central Sweden can also look forward to relatively strong demand for labor.

#### Retail Trade is sizzling

Employers in all surveyed sectors report positive job forecasts. The most optimistic forecast comes from employers in Wholesale and Retail Trade, which surged to an impressive +23 percent, up 17 percentage points quarter-on-quarter. Job prospects in Finance, Real Estate and Consulting remain strong and the Net Employment Outlook is +21 percent for the upcoming quarter. Employers in Restaurants & Hotels also report optimistic hiring plans. Meanwhile, work forces are expected to grow in both Manufacturing and the Public Sector, but at a more modest pace than in most other sectors.

### **Variation in global labor markets**

Globally, employers from 41 of the 43 surveyed countries report optimistic job forecasts and demand for labor remains at about the same levels as they were ahead of the second quarter of 2017. Job prospects in India have weakened substantially and employers in Japan and Taiwan are now reporting the strongest demand for labor worldwide. Employers in Hungary and the US also report upbeat hiring plans. The Outlook in Brazil has turned positive following nine quarters of negative forecasts. The weakest third-quarter reports are reported by employers in Italy, the Czech Republic and Finland.

*Footnote:* The Net Employment Outlook is defined as the percentage of employers who anticipate an increase in hiring activities, minus the percentage who project a decrease. During the third quarter of 2017, 14 percent of Swedish employers expect to increase hiring, 2 percent expect to reduce staff, while most (82 percent) expect employment to remain unchanged. The employment outlook for Sweden is therefore +12%, but after adjustment for seasonal variations, the Net Employment Outlook is +11%.

For more information, please contact:

Hélène Belin, communications manager, ManpowerGroup Sweden, tel. +46 (0)70 377 45 43, [helene.belin@manpowergroup.se](mailto:helene.belin@manpowergroup.se)

The Q4 2017 Manpower Employment Outlook Survey will be published on September 12, 2017.