

EMBARGOED UNTIL TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2017 AT 00.01 GMT

Almost One in Three Romanian Employers Reports Hiring Intentions in the April – June 2017 interval

For the first time in the history of the Romanian edition of the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey, hiring perspectives are positive across all regions and industry sectors

Bucharest, March 14th, 2017 ■ 32% of Romanian employers plan to add to their payrolls in the April – June 2017 interval, according to the Q2 edition of the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey. With only 7% of employers foreseeing a decrease in staffing levels and 60% anticipating no change, the seasonally adjusted Net Employment Outlook stands at +16%, relatively stable in comparison to last quarter, but improving by 5 percentage points over Q2/2016.

“For the first time since the launch of the Romanian edition of the ManpowerGroup research, in Q2/2008, Outlooks are positive in all eight regions and all of the 10 industry sectors in the country, although employee confidence stills varies widely from one region or one sector to the next. Bright and stable overall perspectives, matching the strongest levels reported since the economic crisis, mean a favorable and diverse labor market that candidates will benefit from, if they have the in-demand skills, both hard and soft,” says Corina-Bianca Gonteanu, Strategic Director of Marketing Europe, ManpowerGroup.

Job opportunities are likely to be brightest in Wholesale and Retail Trade sector, where the +30% Net Employment Outlook is the strongest reported since Q3/2008, improving by a considerable 13 percentage points year-over-year and strengthening by 3 percentage points quarter-over-quarter. The strongest industry forecast is once again reported by employers in the Manufacturing sector, where the Outlook stands at +31%, weakening over Q1/2017 by 1 percentage point, but strengthening over Q2/2016 by 2 percentage points. The most significant year-on-year improvement, however, is reported by employers in the Finance and Business Services sector, who forecast a Net Employment Outlook of +26%, 19 percentage points stronger than in Q2/2016 and 11 percentage points stronger than in Q1/2017. The forecast in the Electricity, Gas and Water Supply sector is also markedly stronger than in both Q1/2017 (by 11 percentage points) and Q2/2016 (by 16 percentage points). The +8% Net Employment Outlook is the first positive one reported in the sector in the past four years (since Q2/2013) and the strongest in the history of the Romanian survey.

Outlooks are also positive in all of the country's regions, and improve by various degrees over both Q2/2016 and Q1/2017 in six of the eight regions. The greatest quarter-over-quarter improvement is reported in the Center region, where the +29% Net Employment Outlook, the strongest in the country and the most optimistic since the study began in Romania, strengthens by 14 percentage points both over April – June 2016, and over Q1/2017. The strongest year-over-year improvement, of 17 percentage points, is reported in the South region, where the Net Employment Outlook now stands at an optimistic +23%, a level unmatched since Q4/2012. Healthy levels of optimism are also reported in the North-West region, with a Net Employment Outlook of +24%, also the strongest since Q2/2012, and in the Bucharest and Ilfov region where the +22% Outlook is the strongest since Q1/2009.

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Employers are optimistic regardless of their organization size, with employers in large organizations reporting a Net Employment Outlook of +28%, the strongest since Q3/2008. Employers in micro organizations are more cautious, reporting a Net Employment Outlook of +7%, 3 percentage points weaker than last quarter, and improved over Q2/2016 by 2 percentage points.

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**Note: The Net Employment Outlook is derived by taking the percentage of employers anticipating an increase in hiring activity and subtracting from it the percentage of employers expecting to see a decrease. Net Employment Outlooks for countries and territories that have accumulated at least 17 quarters of data, including Romania, are reported in a seasonally adjusted format unless otherwise stated.*

About the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey:

The ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey is the longest-running, most extensive, forward-looking employment survey in the world, commencing in 1962 and now polling nearly 58,000 employers in 43 countries and territories to measure their intentions to increase or decrease the number of employees in their workforce during the next quarter. The survey serves as a bellwether of labor market trends and activities and is regularly used to inform the Bank of England's Inflation Reports, as well as a regular data source for the European Commission, informing its EU Employment Situation and Social Outlook report the *Monthly Monitor*. ManpowerGroup's independent survey data is also sourced by financial analysts and economists around the world to help determine the health of labor markets.

In Romania, the Q2/2017 survey was conducted by InfoCorp Ltd. between January 18th – 31st 2017 on a representative sample of 625 employers. The margin of error for all national, regional and global data is not greater than +/- 3.9%.

Results for all 43 countries can be viewed in the interactive ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey Explorer tool at www.manpowergroup.com/meos.

About Manpower

ManpowerGroup Romania

ManpowerGroup Romania, the national leader in innovative workforce solutions, creates and delivers services that help clients meet their business and workforce objectives while enhancing their competitiveness. The company specializes in permanent, temporary and contract recruitment; payroll; contract administration; outsourcing, consulting, project solutions and end-user services through its brands Manpower, Experis, Proservia and ManpowerGroup Solutions. We operate nationally with 13 points of presence in: Bucharest, Timisoara, Cluj-Napoca, Brasov, Iasi, Craiova, Ploiesti, Pitesti and Sibiu. More information on ManpowerGroup Romania is available at www.manpower.ro.

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THE NEXT MANPOWER EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK SURVEY (Q3/2017) WILL BE RELEASED ON
JUNE 13th, 2017.