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## Dutch employers in Utilities sector report strongest employment forecast

*Employer hiring plans are strongest reported since 2009*

Diemen, September 12, 2017 – **Dutch employers maintain their optimism about the national labor market, as they are expecting employment to grow further in the fourth quarter of 2017, according to the latest edition of the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey (MEOS Q4). The Dutch fourth-quarter forecast is unchanged from last quarter's +6% and remains the strongest forecast reported since the beginning of 2009. The Utilities sector has improved to +20%, the strongest forecast reported since the Dutch survey was launched in 2003. The survey was conducted among more than 59,000 employers, of whom 750 are based in the Netherlands.**

"Confidence in the labor market remains, which is obviously good news", says José Brenninkmeijer, Managing Director of ManpowerGroup. Nevertheless, the demand for employees exceeds the supply, therefore we slowly come to the end of this upward trend." At the same time Brenninkmeijer notices growing pressure on the European labor market: "In a number of sectors you can see the fight for specific talent rapidly increase. And this challenge -for those who want to hire- is reflected in our fourth-quarter forecast."

### **Hiring confidence in Utilities sector shows rapid growth**

Employment rates show the fastest growth in the Utilities sector (electricity, gas and water). For the past three quarters, forecasts stood at +5%, +8% and +10% respectively. For this quarter, the outlook has jumped to +20%. Brenninkmeijer: "The big jump possibly coincides with the growth of the construction sector we witnessed in the past couple of months. The increasing number of construction projects obviously affects the requested number of energy facilities. However, the Utilities sector is one of the sectors that profits the most from a persistent confidence in the economy, which enables it to innovate and grow. Look at the importance of renewable energy, and the demand for innovation in this area nowadays."

### **Growth of Construction and the Financial sectors slows down**

The Outlook in the Construction sector remains positive, and improves slightly to +5% after +4% last quarter. "The demand for construction workers is high, but the supply of workers stays limited. That can possibly limit the overall confidence of employers in construction," says Brenninkmeijer. "The intention to hire employees is one thing, but they need to be available too." The forecast in the Transportation, Storage & Communications sector is also growing stronger as the Outlook improves from +5% to +10% quarter-over-quarter. The Financial sector on the other hand, shows a notable decline in positivity, as the Outlook weakens from +16% to +8% quarter-over-quarter. "This sector has been extremely positive for the last two years, and this forecast indicates employers may simply be expecting a slower hiring pace after the more upbeat forecasts earlier in the year."



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### **European forecast**

Meanwhile, employers in all European countries except Switzerland are reporting positive forecasts. In the prior quarter employers in Italy still reported negative growth (-2%), which improved to +3% this quarter. Employment rates for the United Kingdom remain stable, and even grow from +5% to +6%. Another country that is reporting positive figures is France, with an Outlook of +4% (+3% last quarter). Expectations for Germany decreased slightly from +6% to +5%. Whereas expectations for the United States remained positive at +17%, similar to last quarter.

### **About ManpowerGroup**

ManpowerGroup® (NYSE: MAN), the leading global workforce solutions company, helps organizations transform in a fast-changing world of work by sourcing, assessing, developing and managing the talent that enables them to win. We develop innovative solutions for over 400,000 clients and connect 3+ million people to meaningful, sustainable work across a wide range of industries and skills. Our expert family of brands – Manpower®, Experis®, Right Management® and ManpowerGroup® Solutions – creates substantially more value for candidates and clients across 80 countries and territories and has done so for nearly 70 years. In 2017, ManpowerGroup was named one of the World's Most Ethical Companies for the seventh consecutive year and one of Fortune's Most Admired Companies, confirming our position as the most trusted and admired brand in the industry. See how ManpowerGroup is powering the future of work: [www.manpowergroup.com](http://www.manpowergroup.com)

### **Notes to the editor, not for publication**

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