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**Slovenian employers report the most optimistic hiring plans in EMEA region and third strongest across the globe:
ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey for second quarter reveals strongest hiring plans since survey began in 2011**

This quarter's survey reveals:

- **With seasonal variations removed from the data, the Outlook stands at +22%.**
- **In Q2 of 2017 employers in all 10 industry sectors, all four regions and all four company sizes anticipate payroll gains.**
- **Six of ten industry sectors report the strongest Outlooks since the survey began six years ago: Manufacturing; Construction; Restaurants & Hotels; Mining & Quarrying; Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services; Transport, Storage & Communication.**
- **Electricity, Gas & Water supply sector forecast matches prior strongest forecast.**
- **All but Central (which matches prior strongest forecast) region and all sizes of organizations report the strongest forecast since country's survey began.**

Ljubljana, 14 March 2017 – According to the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey released today by ManpowerGroup, Slovenian employers report healthy hiring intentions for the April-June time frame. Once the data is adjusted to allow for seasonal variation, the Outlook stands at +22% and the hiring prospects are the strongest since the survey began more than six years ago, improving by 4 percentage points quarter-over-quarter and by 14 percentage points when compared with 2Q 2016. The upbeat second-quarter forecast follows the prior quarter's survey results that to that point were the most optimistic reported by Slovenian employers. According to the survey, 28% of employers are forecasting an increase in staffing levels, 1% anticipating a decrease and 68% of the 621 Slovenian employers are expecting no change. Employers in all 10 industry sectors expect workforce gains during the upcoming quarter. Hiring intentions are the strongest since the survey began in 1Q 2011 for all but four sectors, all but Central region and in all four organization sizes.

"We are seeing unprecedented employer confidence for the third consecutive quarter and 2017 seems to be a promising year for Slovenian labour market. Despite the somehow cautious cultural background Slovenian employers anticipate strong hiring plans, confidence and solid labour market activity. We are again facing talent gaps, but remain positive as we are seeing many companies adapting and embracing the digital transformation and other future trends, such as building workplaces with key future elements, such as promoting learnability of all employees. Overall, employer hiring plans are the strongest we have yet seen in terms of the national, regional, sectoral and company-sized outlooks. Furthermore, Slovenia's Outlook ranks the third among strongest outlooks across the globe and takes the leading position in EMEA region," stated **Robert Vovk, Director in Manpower Slovenia.**

Employers in six of 10 industry sectors forecast the strongest hiring plans ever reported

Looking at the **industry-specific data**, employers expect to **grow staffing levels in all 10 industry sectors** during the April-June time frame, with employers in six sectors reporting the strongest hiring intentions since the survey began in 1Q 2011. Manufacturing sector employers forecast the strongest labor market, reporting a robust Net Employment Outlook of +33%. Elsewhere, Construction sector employers anticipate an active labor market, reporting an Outlook of +30%, while Outlooks stand at +24% and +23% in the Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services sector and the Restaurants & Hotels sector, respectively. Steady hiring activity is anticipated in both the Electricity, Gas & Water Supply sector and the Transport, Storage & Communication sector, where employers report Outlooks of +16%. Meanwhile, the weakest hiring prospects are reported in the Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry & Fishing sector and the Public & Social sector, with Outlooks of +6% and +8%, respectively.

When **compared with the previous quarter**, hiring intentions strengthen in seven of the 10 industry sectors. The most noteworthy increase of 8 percentage points is reported in the Manufacturing sector, while the Outlook for the Restaurants & Hotels sector is 6 percentage points stronger. Elsewhere, employers in four sectors report increases of 5 percentage points – the Construction sector, the Electricity, Gas & Water Supply sector, the Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services sector and the Mining & Quarrying sector. However, hiring prospects weaken in two sectors, most notably by 8 percentage points in the Public & Social sector.

Hiring plans strengthen in all 10 industry sectors when **compared with the second quarter of 2016**. Sharp increases of 28 and 23 percentage points are reported by employers in the Manufacturing sector and the Construction sector, respectively, while the Restaurants & Hotels sector Outlook is 19 percentage points stronger. Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services sector employers report an improvement of 16 percentage points and the Outlook for the Wholesale & Retail Trade sector increases by 10 percentage points. Meanwhile, hiring prospects are only slightly stronger in the Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry & Fishing sector and the Public & Social sector, with increases of 4 percentage points.

Employers in all but Central region report the strongest hiring intentions since the survey launch

In terms of **regional hiring** employers in all four regions expect to increase payrolls in 2Q 2017, reporting the strongest hiring prospects since the survey began in 1Q 2011. South-East region employers anticipate the strongest labor market with a robust Net Employment Outlook of +32%. Elsewhere, employers in the South West forecast solid job gains with an Outlook of +21%, while Outlooks stand at +18% in both the Central and North East regions.

When compared with 1Q 2017, hiring intentions are 15 percentage points stronger in the South East, and improve by 3 and 2 percentage points in the North East and the South West, respectively. Meanwhile, employers in Central Slovenia report no change.

Hiring plans improve in all four regions when **compared with the second quarter of 2016**. The Outlook for the South East increases by a steep margin of 26 percentage points, while South West employers report an improvement of 14 percentage points. Elsewhere, hiring intentions are 9 and 8 percentage points stronger in the North East and the Central region, respectively.

Positive prospects in all organization sizes with all outlooks strongest ever reported

Participating employers are categorized into one of four **organization sizes**: **Micro** (less than 10 employees), **Small** (10-49 employees), **Medium** (50-249) and **Large** Businesses (250 or more). Staffing levels are expected to **grow in all four organization size** categories during the second quarter of 2017. Large employers anticipate a labor market boom, reporting a Net Employment Outlook of +45%. Elsewhere, Outlooks stand at +24% and +17% for Medium- and Small-size employers, respectively, while Micro employers report respectable hiring plans with an Outlook of +11%.

When **compared with the previous quarter**, large employers report a considerable improvement of 12 percentage points, while Outlooks are 4 and 2 percentage points stronger for Medium- and Micro-size employers, respectively. Meanwhile, Small employers report relatively stable hiring plans.

Year-over-year, large employers report a steep increase of 33 percentage points while the Outlook for Medium employers is 17 percentage points stronger. Elsewhere, Outlooks improve by 11 and 6 percentage points for Small- and Micro-size employers, respectively.

Global and EMEA results

Over **58,000 employers across 43 countries and territories were surveyed to forecast labor market activity in Quarter 2 2017**. ManpowerGroup's second-quarter research reveals that **employers in 39 of 43 countries and territories intend to add to their payrolls by varying degrees** in the April-June time frame. Overall, opportunities for job seekers are expected to remain similar to those available in the first three months of 2017, with employers in most countries and territories signaling that they are content to either maintain current staffing levels or engage in modest levels of payroll growth while they monitor ongoing developments in the marketplace.

Second-quarter **hiring confidence is strongest in Taiwan, Japan, Slovenia and India**. The **weakest forecasts are reported in Brazil, Italy, Belgium and Switzerland**. Hiring plans improve in 17 of 43 countries and territories when compared quarter-over-quarter, decline in 15, and are unchanged in 11. The year-over-year trend reveals a more pronounced uptick with Outlooks strengthening in 25 countries and territories, weakening in 14, and remaining unchanged in three.

Staffing levels are expected to **grow in 22 of 25 countries in the Europe, Middle East & Africa (EMEA) region**. Outlooks improve in 12 countries quarter-over-quarter, weaken in six and are unchanged in seven. In a year-over-year comparison, Outlooks improve in 18 countries and decline in only six. Job seekers in **Slovenia, Hungary and Romania stand to benefit from the strongest employer hiring plans** in the EMEA region. Additionally, employers in Slovenia, as well as their counterparts in Bulgaria, report their most optimistic hiring plans since their surveys were launched. The **weakest forecasts are reported in Italy, Belgium and Switzerland**.

Payrolls are expected to **increase in all eight Asia Pacific countries** and territories. When compared to the prior quarter, Net Employment Outlooks decline in three countries and territories, are unchanged in four, and improve in only one. In a year-over-year comparison the hiring pace is expected to improve by varying margins in four countries and territories and decline in the remaining four. For the second consecutive quarter, employers in **Taiwan report the most optimistic forecast** in the region—as well as across the globe—while for the fourth consecutive quarter employers in **China report the region's weakest forecast**.

Positive Outlooks are reported in nine of the 10 countries surveyed in the Americas. Hiring confidence strengthens in four countries and declines in six when compared to the first three months of 2017. Year-over-year, hiring prospects improve in three countries, weaken in four and are unchanged in three. For the third consecutive quarter employers in **the United States report the strongest hiring plans** in the Americas, and for the ninth consecutive quarter employers in **Brazil report the weakest**.

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Full survey results for each of the 43 countries and territories included in this quarter's survey, plus regional and global comparisons, can be found at www.manpowergroup.com/press/meos. The next Manpower Employment Outlook Survey will be released on 13 June 2017 and will detail expected labor market activity for the third quarter of 2017.

* Commentary is based on seasonally adjusted data where available. Data is not seasonally adjusted for Portugal.

** Portugal joined the survey in Quarter 3 2016 and has no year-over-year trend data to compare at this point.

About the Manpower Employment Outlook Survey

The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey is conducted quarterly to measure employers' intentions to increase or decrease the number of employees in their workforces during the next quarter. ManpowerGroup's

comprehensive forecast of employer hiring plans has been running for more than 50 years and is one of the most trusted surveys of employment activity in the world.

About ManpowerGroup

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