



For Immediate Release

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HONG KONG EMPLOYERS ANTICIPATE STEADY HEADCOUNT GAINS IN 2010 Q2 Construction employers most optimistic about adding to payrolls

HONG KONG (March 9th, 2010) - Manpower Employment Outlook Survey released today indicates that Hong Kong employers anticipate improved job prospects in the second quarter of 2010. When seasonal variations are removed from the data, Hong Kong's Net Employment Outlook¹ stands at a respectable +15%², remaining relatively stable quarter-over-quarter, with employers reporting a considerable improvement of 18 percentage points year-over-year.

While 17 percent of respondents interviewed expect to add employees over the next three months – similar to Quarter 1 2010 – only two percent of surveyed employers predict reducing staffing levels compared to four percent in the previous quarter. Seventy-seven percent of the survey respondents expect to keep their current staff intact over the next quarter.

The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey was conducted by interviewing 817 employers in Hong Kong and over 61,000 public and private employers worldwide to anticipate global hiring plans for the quarter ahead (April to June 2010).

“The survey results indicate that employment prospects have steadily improved. The gradual revival of the local economy has helped to improve the labor market as the latest unemployment rate came down for five consecutive months to 4.9%,” commented Ms. Lancy Chui, General Manager of Manpower Hong Kong and Macau Operations.

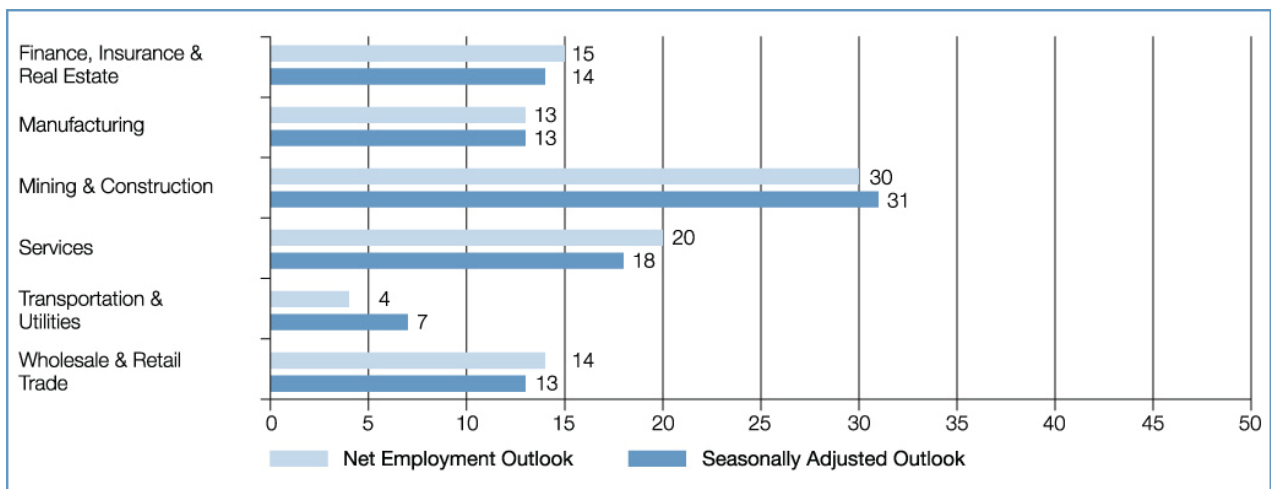
Ms. Chui stressed that “A sustained and solid recovery will hinge on a fundamental improvement from a global perspective, and the local labor market outlook is still subject to uncertainties. Both employers and job seekers should remain vigilant at all times.”

Ms. Chui continued, “As hiring confidence in the long term would still hinge on the external business conditions, employers remain cautious when it comes to increasing permanent positions. It is high time for employers to consider mastering the art of managing a mix of permanent and contingent

¹ A “Net Employment Outlook” is calculated by subtracting those employers who plan to reduce staffing levels from those who plan to hire staff.
A positive result indicates that more employers plan to increase rather than decrease staffing levels; a negative result reflects the opposite.
² Adjusted for seasonal variation

workers to optimize their business performance, building talent capabilities, keeping fixed costs low and balancing out.”

Employers in all six industry sectors surveyed expect to grow headcount during Quarter 2 2010. The most robust hiring intentions are reported by employers in the Mining & Construction sector, with a healthy Outlook of +31%. The Outlook improves by 11 and 39 percentage points quarter-over-quarter and year-over-year, respectively, and is the most optimistic forecast reported by the sector’s employers since the survey began in Quarter 4 of 2003.



Note: Employers in the Public Administration/Education sector have not been included in this survey

Ms. Chui expressed, “It is encouraging to see that job prospects within the Construction sector are likely to further improve upon commencement of major infrastructure projects.”

Employers in the Services and Finance, Insurance & Real Estate sectors report upbeat hiring plans, anticipating respectable Outlooks of +18% and +14%, respectively. Meanwhile, employers forecast only modest growth in staffing levels in the Transport & Utilities sector, with a mild Outlook of +7%.

Quarter-over-quarter, hiring expectations have strengthened in Mining & Construction (up 11 percentage points), Wholesale & Retail Trade (up six percentage points) and Manufacturing (up four percentage points) industry sectors.

Meanwhile, prospects for job seekers in the Wholesale & Retail Trade and Manufacturing sectors still remain favorable, with Outlooks in both sectors standing at +13%. However, Ms. Chui pointed out that some factors continue to temper greater employer optimism.

“The sluggish external trading environment and the global market remains difficult. This exerts pressure on the Wholesale and Manufacturing sectors which weakens employment prospects. As for the Retail



Trade sector, despite the market downturn, Hong Kong retail rents are expected to trend further up in the months ahead as retailers benefit from an influx of shoppers from Mainland China that tempted landlords to increase rents. The scarcity of prime units continues to push rental increases remarkably, creating an ongoing cost consideration that impacts employers' ability to hire," explained Ms. Chui.

The upbeat Outlook (+14%) of the Finance, Insurance & Real Estate industry sectors shows a steady improvement of 14 percentage points year-over-year despite a moderate decrease of 6 percentage points quarter-over-quarter.

"We continue to observe a growing demand for talent with capabilities and refined skill sets of risk management and compliance. The demand is driven by banks and financial institutions that must exercise more caution in their attempts to maintain and strengthen internal controls. Employers in the sector are also active in expanding frontline sales roles," said Ms. Chui.

Hong Kong is one of 36 countries and territories that take part in Manpower's Employment Outlook Survey. In the Asia Pacific region, employment prospects are strongest in India, Taiwan, Australia and Singapore, and with the weakest and only negative Outlook again reported in Japan.

Globally, employers in 27 of the 36 countries and territories surveyed expect to add to their workforces in the second quarter of 2010. Hiring activities are strongest in India, Brazil, Taiwan, Costa Rica, Peru and Australia. Conversely, employer hiring expectations are weakest in Italy, Spain and Ireland.

The next Manpower Employment Outlook Survey reporting employer hiring intentions for the third quarter of 2010 will be released on the June 8th 2010. A complimentary copy of the Manpower Employment Outlook Survey is available to the public through their local Manpower representative in participating countries. To receive e-mail notification when the survey is available each quarter, interested individuals are invited to complete an online subscription form at <http://investor.manpower.com/investors/alerts.cfm>

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Note to Editors

Full survey results for each of the 36 countries and territories included in this quarter's survey, plus regional and global comparisons, can be found in the Manpower Press Room at www.manpower.com/meos. In addition, all tables and graphs from the full report are available to be downloaded for use in publication or broadcast from the Manpower Web site at <http://www.manpower.com/library>.

Note that in Quarter 2 of 2008, the survey adopted the TRAMO-SEATS model for seasonal adjustment of data. As a result, you may notice some seasonally adjusted data points change slightly from previous reports. This model is recommended by the Eurostat department of the European Union and the European Central Bank and is widely used internationally.

About the Survey



The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey is conducted quarterly to measure employers' intentions to increase or decrease the number of employees in their workforce during the next quarter. It is the only forward-looking survey of its kind, unparalleled in its size, scope, longevity and area of focus. The Survey has been running for more than 47 years and is one of the most trusted surveys of employment activity in the world. The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey is based on interviews over 61,000 public and private employers worldwide and is considered a highly respected economic indicator.

The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey is currently available for 36 countries and territories: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Romania, Singapore, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and the United States. The program began in the United States and Canada in 1962, and the United Kingdom was added in 1966. Mexico and Ireland launched the survey in 2002, and 13 additional countries were added to the program in 2003. New Zealand joined the program in 2004, China, India, Switzerland and Taiwan were added in 2005, and Argentina, Peru, Costa Rica and South Africa joined in 2006. Colombia, the Czech Republic, Greece, Guatemala, Poland and Romania joined in 2008. Hungary and Brazil joined in 2009. Panama joined in 2010. For more information, visit the Manpower Inc. Web site at www.manpower.com and enter the Research Center, or contact Bruce Bock, Global Thought Leadership, at bruce.bock@manpower.com

About Manpower Inc.

Manpower Inc. (NYSE: MAN) is a world leader in the employment services industry; creating and delivering services that enable its clients to win in the changing world of work. With over 60 years' experience, Manpower offers employers a range of services for the entire employment and business cycle including permanent, temporary and contract recruitment; employee assessment and selection; training; outplacement; outsourcing and consulting. Manpower's worldwide network of 4,000 offices in 82 countries and territories enables the company to meet the needs of its 400,000 clients per year, including small and medium size enterprises in all industry sectors, as well as the world's largest multinational corporations. The focus of Manpower's work is on raising productivity through improved quality, efficiency and cost-reduction across their total workforce, enabling clients to concentrate on their core business activities. Manpower Inc. operates under five brands: Manpower, Manpower Professional, Elan, Jefferson Wells and Right Management. More information on Manpower Inc. is available at www.manpower.com.

About Manpower Hong Kong

Manpower Hong Kong was established in 1964 as a franchise operation. In April 1997, Manpower Inc. achieved wholly owned subsidiary status of the Hong Kong operation and the franchise was purchased outright. With over 40 years experience locally, Manpower Hong Kong provides employers a range of services for the entire employment and business cycle including permanent, temporary and contract recruitment; employee assessment and selection; training; outsourcing and consulting. Manpower helps both companies and individuals navigate the ever-changing world of work, helping employers and candidates to make sense of the forces shaping tomorrow's workplace. In Hong Kong, Manpower Inc. operates under four brands: Manpower, Manpower Professional, Jefferson Wells and Right Management. More information on Manpower Hong Kong is available at www.manpower.com.hk.