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Manpower survey predicts moderate hiring in Charlotte

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Charlotte-area employers expect to hire at a moderate pace during the first quarter, according to a **Manpower Inc.** survey.

Some 10 percent of the companies interviewed plan to add employees from January to March, while 6 percent expect to reduce their payrolls. And 78 percent expect to maintain their current staff levels, while 6 percent are uncertain of their hiring plans.

In the same period last year, 13 percent of the companies interviewed planned to add employees, while 12 percent expected to reduce their payrolls. Some 69 percent expected maintain their staff levels, and 6 percent weren't certain of their hiring plans.

In the coming quarter, job prospects appear best in nondurable-goods manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, information, professional and business services, other services and government.

Employers in construction, transportation and utilities plan reduce staffing levels.

On a national basis, 12 percent of companies surveyed expect to add employees in the first quarter. Twelve percent expect to cut jobs. Seventy-three percent predict no change, and 3 percent are undecided.

A year ago, 16 percent of companies surveyed expected to add employees in the following quarter. Thirteen percent expected to cut jobs. Sixty-seven percent predicted no change, and 5 percent were undecided.

Manpower surveyed 28,000 employers around the country for the quarterly outlook.

Wisconsin-based Manpower (NYSE:MAN) specializes in permanent, temporary and contract recruitment, employee assessment, training, consulting and professional-financial services.

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