

## 'Upbeat' hiring climate predicted across Vancouver region

BY DARAH HANSEN, VANCOUVER SUN    SEPTEMBER 14, 2011



VANCOUVER, BC.: SEPTEMBER 13, 2011 — Christopher DuBay poses in Vancouver, B.C., September 13, 2011. DuBay was hired as a marketing specialist at Omni Companies in July 2011. A new survey by Manpower Employment shows Vancouver's hiring market is among the hottest in the country, and likely to stay that way until the end of December. (Arlen Redekop photo/PNG) (For story by [Darah Hansen])

**Photograph by:** Arlen Redekop, Vancouver Sun

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METRO VANCOUVER - Job seekers across Metro Vancouver can look forward to an "upbeat" hiring climate in the last three months of the year, according to survey results released Tuesday.

The quarterly poll of staffing agency Manpower shows a net employment outlook of 17 per cent from October through December. This figure is derived by placing the 21 per cent of employers who said they would add staff in the fourth quarter against the four per cent who said they would cut back, and adjusting for seasonal variations.

The survey, which included more than 1,900 employers nationally, found 73 per cent expected to keep staff levels the same, while two per cent were unsure.

The metro region's net outlook is down one point from the survey going into the current third quarter. But, "it's a seven percentage point improvement from the outlook reported during the same time last year, so that's exciting," said Monica Star, Manpower's branch manager in Vancouver.

Sandra Miles, president of the Vancouver-based Miles Employment Group, said demand from B.C. employers has been heating up in recent weeks.

"As soon as September hit, we've had employers calling us ... saying we need to hire and we'll hire tomorrow. We haven't had this since 2007 and 2008," Miles said in a telephone interview.

The majority of permanent job openings are coming from the private sector, with postings spanning various types of employment including property management, insurance, mining, sales, business services, retail and manufacturing.

"Many companies cut their staffing levels to the bone during the recession and are experiencing a combination of employee turnover and sudden growth in their business," Miles said.

Those finding success in the current labour market tend to have experience in the job and require little to no training.

Employers "need people on the ground running," she said.

Marketing specialist Christopher DuBay is among those who recently landed work in his field.

The 38-year-old Portland, Ore., native moved to Vancouver in May, six months after his position with a U.S. firm was eliminated due to a slow economic climate south of the border.

He landed work with Omni Companies two months later.

DuBay said he was "relieved", but not surprised by the speed of his job success.

"I knew the market here was doing better," he said.

Nationwide, the survey projected Canada's hiring pace should "remain steady" for the fourth quarter, with a net employment outlook of 13 per cent.

The survey found 20 per cent of employers surveyed plan to increase their payrolls during the final three months of the year, with eight per cent anticipating cutbacks. (Seventy per cent expect to maintain current staffing levels and two per cent are unsure.)

The national net outlook is down three points from the survey going into the current third quarter and off two points from last year's fourth quarter.

The strongest sectors for hiring, according to the survey, were mining, transportation and public utilities, and manufacturing durable goods.

Quebec, largely because of mining, had the strongest regional outlook at 17 per cent, followed by the West at 16 per cent, and Ontario and the Atlantic region, both at 12 per cent.

Manpower said this survey accurately reflects Canada's employers within 2.2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

The Manpower survey comes days after Statistics Canada reported the country's employment numbers unexpectedly fell 5,500 in August, pushing the unemployment level up to 7.3 per cent from 7.2 per cent.

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