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Manpower: Phoenix hiring to pick up in first quarter

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Phoenix-area businesses should post some job gains in first-quarter 2010, according to a new **Manpower** Employment Outlook Survey.

The Milwaukee-based employment services company says 16 percent of the local companies have hiring plans early next year, while 11 percent expect to cut back jobs and 71 percent expect to maintain existing staff levels.

“Compared with the previous quarter when 14 percent of companies interviewed intended to add employees, and 18 percent planned to reduce staff levels, area hiring levels appear to be stronger,” said Manpower spokesman Joseph Tuerff. Employers also are more optimistic compared to those surveyed in late 2008, when an equal number — 17 percent — planned to increase and decrease staff levels, he said in a statement accompanying the report.

Manpower says the best job prospects will be in the nondurable good manufacturing, wholesale, retail, information, financial and hospitality sectors. Government stands out as the place for job cuts.

The prospects of job growth follow a negative assessment of the local financial picture by analysts at an economic forecast last week. **[Click here to see that story.](#)**

Nationally, of the 28,000-plus employers surveyed by Manpower, 12 percent expect to increase their staff levels during the January - March period, while another 12 percent expect to reduce payrolls and 73 percent expect no change.

Columbus, Ga., showed the most promising job prospects out of the 201 metro areas surveyed by Manpower. San Juan, Puerto Rico, was at the bottom of the list.

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