

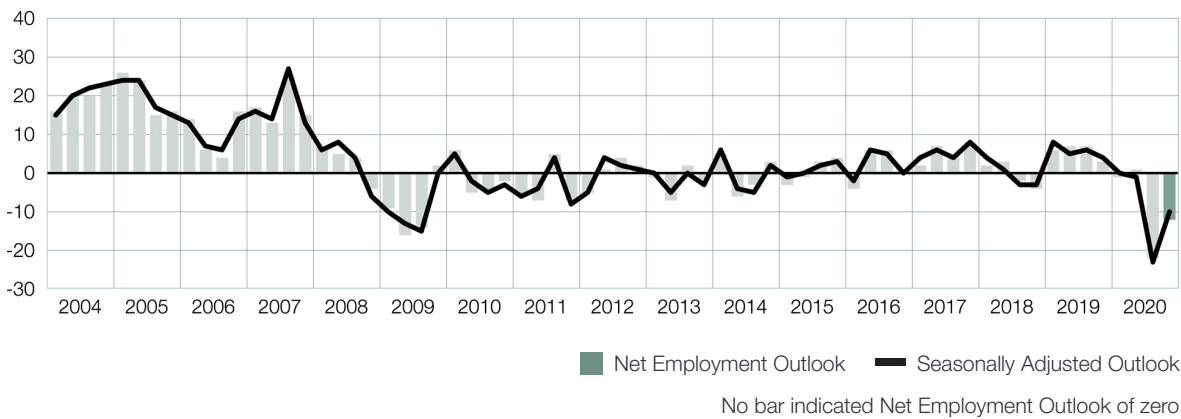


ManpowerGroup®

NORTHERN IRELAND

Hiring Intent Climbs but Still Negative for Northern Ireland

The labour market slump is expected to continue in the October to December period, with employers reporting a Net Employment Outlook of -10%. While hiring sentiment is 13 percentage points stronger quarter-over-quarter, employers report a decrease of 14 percentage points in comparison with the same period last year.



MARKET OVERVIEW

Employers in Northern Ireland are amongst the most confident of a quick return to hiring levels by this time next year, with 59% expecting these pre-COVID-19 levels to resume within 12 months. However, just 14% of employers expect these levels to be realised within the next three months.

Employers in the country are generally more open to introducing more flexibility into the workplace than UK average. Flexi or condensed hours will be increasingly offered by 42% of employers and 36% will offer employees the opportunity to work remotely some of the time – both above respective UK averages. However, only 10% of employers will offer staff the opportunity to work remotely for 100% of the time. More learning and development opportunities will be offered by 30% of employers as a result of the impact of COVID-19, yet only 23% will offer more health and wellbeing benefits.

Q4 2020