

Jobs are hot across country, sectors

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Saskatoon and Red Deer, Alta., are seeing a booming job climate, Ms. Rogers said, with at least half of employers planning to increase their hiring. Closely behind are Calgary and Regina, with 40 per cent or more of the employers planning more hiring.

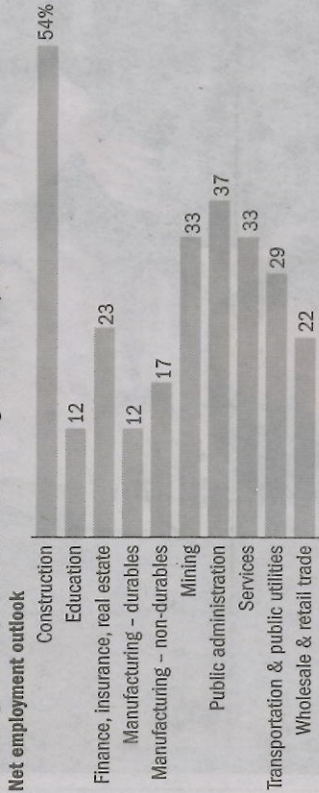
Edmonton and Winnipeg are strong markets as well, with at least 34 per cent of employees on the hunt for talent. And, although Vancouver and Victoria lag, they can still expect hiring increases in at least 26 per cent of companies.

Meanwhile, the Atlantic provinces have become another region of shining job prospects, the survey found. This is a region where in the past employment lagged much of the rest of the country, but 30 per cent of employers in Atlantic Canada expect to expand hiring.

Construction is leading the way on the East Coast, Ms. Rogers said, with 77 per cent of employers expecting to increase their hiring and just 3 per cent planning cuts. "There is a lot of new building, particularly in Moncton, which is one of the fastest growing metro markets in Atlantic Canada." Part of the construction boom is seasonal, because there was a dip in employment in that sector over the winter.

Hiring intentions

Percentage of companies that will be hiring in the next quarter.



SOURCE: MANPOWER EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK SURVEY, CANADA

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education will grow in Ontario, but weakly, the survey found.

With all the growth planned, where are the candidates for these jobs?

That's a question every employer is asking, Ms. Rogers said. Related surveys by Manpower last fall found that 26 per cent of employers would have hired more permanent professional staff if they could have found the right candidates. And 24 per cent of employers said the shortages mean they are having to pay more in compensation to attract professionals than they did a year earlier.

A separate Manpower "talent crunch" survey last year found skilled tradespeople, engineers, nurses and sales people are in extremely short supply.

These are the types of skills that will be needed for many of the positions that employers intend to fill in the next few months, Ms. Rogers said. "Employers are having to hunt for people from all over to fill their needs."

Manpower has found that many of the positions it has filled in the west have come from other regions of the country. It's possible the exodus from the Atlantic provinces to western Canada will slow as demand for skills in Atlantic Canada rises, she said.

However, finance, manufacturing and transportation are all areas

where close to 40 per cent of Atlantic region companies will be hiring. And services will be strong, because of call centre expansion and support businesses needed for all the new development.

Moncton is the most bullish market. Over all, 50 per cent of employers say they plan to hire. Halifax is also robust, with 37 per cent forecasting an increase in hiring. And the percentage is about 30 per cent in Charlottetown and Saint John.

By contrast, Quebec will be the slowest province in terms of job growth, with just 16 per cent of employers planning payroll increases

and 4 per cent seeing cutbacks.

"The slowdown in manufacturing is hitting Quebec hard," Ms. Rogers said. Just 5 per cent of manufacturers of durable goods expect to increase staff and there will be no growth at all in mining. The strongest growth areas in Quebec will be construction, transportation and public utilities.

Ontario fares somewhat better, with 28 per cent of employers projecting an increase and 5 per cent anticipating cutbacks. Construction is king there as well, with 57 per cent of companies hiring; there will also be a big need for public administrators. Hiring demand in manufacturing, finance, insurance and