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## NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT

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## Huntsville Job Market Expected to be Among Best in Nation

**September 13, 2005** – Huntsville area employers expect to hire at a vigorous pace during the fourth quarter of 2005, according to the Manpower Employment Outlook Survey. Among survey participants, the Huntsville employment outlook is the ninth best in the nation.

From October to December, 43% of the companies interviewed plan to hire more employees, while none expect to reduce their payrolls, according to Manpower spokesperson Cheron Pitts-White. Another 27% expect to maintain their current staff levels and 30% are not certain of their hiring plans.

"Employers in the Huntsville area expect more favorable hiring conditions than in the third quarter when 37% of the companies interviewed intended to add staff, and 3% planned to reduce headcount," said Pitts-White. "Employers are showing considerably more confidence about hiring than they were a year ago when 23% of companies surveyed thought employment increases were likely and 20% intended to cut back."

For the coming quarter, job prospects appear best in Construction, Durable and Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing, Wholesale/Retail Trade, Services and Public Administration. Hiring in other sectors is expected to remain unchanged.

**Please note that fourth quarter survey data was collected prior to Hurricane Katrina. Manpower is prepared to discuss how the hurricane has thus far changed the employment landscape in the areas where we do business and how we have responded to those changes in our job placement and recruitment efforts.**

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The national results of the Manpower Employment Outlook Survey reveal that U.S. employers are unwavering in their hiring confidence for the fourth quarter of 2005. For seven straight quarters, the job picture in the U.S. has been virtually unchanged.

Of the 16,000 employers that were surveyed, 29% expect to add to their payrolls during the fourth quarter, while 8% plan to reduce staff levels. In addition, 57% of the employers polled report no change in hiring intentions, and 6% are unsure of their staffing plans. The seasonally adjusted Net Employment Outlook for the October to December period is 20%, which is similar to the third quarter and identical to survey findings from a year ago.

#### **Note to Editors**

The complete results of the national Manpower Employment Outlook Survey can be found in the Press Room of our Web site at [www.manpower.com](http://www.manpower.com). There you will also see the survey findings from 23 other countries and territories around the world.

#### **About the Survey**

The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey is conducted quarterly to measure employers' intentions to increase or decrease the number of employees in their workforce during the next quarter. It is the only forward-looking survey of its kind, unparalleled in size, scope, longevity and area of focus. The survey has been running for more than 40 years and is one of the most trusted surveys of employment activity in the world. The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey in the U.S. is based on interviews with nearly 16,000 public and private employers in 470 markets across the country and is considered a highly respected economic indicator.

#### **About Manpower Inc.**

Manpower Inc. is a world leader in the employment services industry, offering customers a continuum of services to meet their needs throughout the employment and business cycle. The company specializes in permanent, temporary and contract recruitment; employee assessment; training; career transition; organizational consulting services and professional financial services. Manpower's worldwide network of 4,300 offices in 68 countries and territories enables the company to meet the needs of its 400,000 customers per year, including small and medium size enterprises in all industry sectors, as well as the world's largest multinational corporations. In North America, Manpower staffing services include administrative, industrial and contact center personnel as well as the assignment of contract professionals in information technology, scientific, finance, engineering, telecommunications and other professional areas under the Manpower Professional brand. More information on the company can be found at <http://www.manpower.com/>.

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**EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK SURVEY  
SUMMARY OF RESULTS FOR THE STATE OF ALABAMA  
4TH QUARTER - 2005  
(OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER)**

The following table shows the percentage of employers in the state of ALABAMA who plan to change or maintain the size of their workforce during the indicated time period.

	<u>INCREASE</u>	<u>NO CHANGE</u>	<u>DECREASE</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>	<u>NET (INC-DEC)</u>
<b>BIRMINGHAM</b>	23%	67%	10%	0%	13%
<b>DECATUR</b>	17%	83%	0%	0%	17%
<b>HUNTSVILLE</b>	43%	27%	0%	30%	43%
<b>MOBILE</b>	3%	94%	3%	0%	0%
<b>WIREGRASS AREA</b>	50%	30%	20%	0%	30%
<b>STATE AVERAGE: ALABAMA</b>	28%	59%	7%	6%	21%