

Forty Percent of Employers Plan to Hire Full-Time, Permanent Employees in 2017, CareerBuilder's Annual Job Forecast Finds

- Companies report a mixed prediction for how the Trump administration will impact hiring in the coming year

- Survey reveals five surprising trends to watch in 2017

CHICAGO and ATLANTA, Jan. 6, 2017 /PRNewswire/ -- The hiring outlook for 2017 is the best the U.S. has seen in a decade with 2 in 5 employers (40 percent) planning to hire full-time, permanent employees over the next 12 months, according to CareerBuilder's annual job forecast. Three in 10 expect to hire part-time, permanent staff while half of all employers anticipate adding temporary or contract workers.

INFOGRAPHIC: <https://cb.com/JobForecast2017>

The national survey, conducted online by Harris Poll on behalf of CareerBuilder from November 16 to December 6, 2016, also indicates that employers will offer better wages, place emphasis on candidates' soft skills and reach out to candidates via texts to invite them for job interviews. It included a representative sample of 2,391 hiring managers and human resources professionals across industries and company sizes.

"Three in four employers reported that they are in a better financial position than they were a year ago, which is instilling more confidence in adding people to their payrolls," said Matt Ferguson, CEO of CareerBuilder and co-author of *The Talent Equation*. "Following a divisive election season, employers are entering the New Year with a watchful, yet optimistic approach. One of the key challenges for employers will be bridging the talent gaps within their own organizations by either offering better wages or by helping to reskill and upskill workers."

Trump Administration's Impact on Jobs

When asked for their opinion on how the Trump administration will impact hiring in 2017, 23 percent of employers said the new administration would increase jobs while 27 anticipated no impact. Seven percent said they expect jobs to decrease while 43 percent were undecided.

Full-time and Part-time, Permanent Hiring

The amount of employers planning to hire full-time, permanent staff in the New Year increased four percentage points from 36 percent in 2016 to 40 percent in 2017. Employers in information technology were the most likely to say they were adding new employees at 56 percent, a notable 12 percentage point gain over the prior year.

Eight percent of employers across industries expect a decline in staff levels in 2017, an improvement from 10 percent last year. Forty-four percent anticipated no change while 9 percent were unsure.

In terms of part-time employment, 30 percent of employers expect to increase their number of part-time, permanent employees in 2017, up from 26 percent last year.

Temporary and Contract Hiring

The demand for temporary labor will continue to be strong as employers strive to have more flexibility in their staff levels. Fifty-one percent of employers plan to hire temporary or contract workers in 2017, an increase from 47 percent last year. Sixty-three percent of employers plan to transition some temporary or contract workers into permanent roles in 2017, up from 58 percent last year.

Five Trends to Watch in the New Year

Among key trends shaping the job seeker experience in the coming year are:

1. **Companies will be under pressure to offer higher pay** - Two-thirds of employers (66 percent) plan to increase salaries on initial job offers; 30 percent of all employers will increase it by 5 percent or more. Nearly half (47 percent) of employers expect to increase the minimum wage at their organizations and, of these employers, 44 percent will increase it by \$3 or more; 20 percent will increase it by \$5 or more.
2. **Job seekers will need to emphasize their soft skills** - When evaluating who they will hire in 2017, 62 percent of employers rated the candidate's soft skills as very important (ie, skills associated with one's personality such as positive attitude, team-oriented or dependable).
3. **Employers will communicate with candidates via text** - 41 percent of employers said they will follow a recent trend and reach out to candidates via text messages to schedule interviews.
4. **Workers in general will need to become more savvy on social media** - 63 percent of employers said they expect employees across job functions to have some experience with social media.
5. **More companies will be open to hiring workers who are short on experience** - 55 percent of employers said they will train workers who don't have experience in their field and hire them in 2017.

Hot Areas for Hiring

Of employers who plan to increase their number of full-time, permanent employees in the New Year, the top five areas they will be recruiting for include:

- Information Technology - 28 percent
- Customer Service - 27 percent
- Production - 26 percent
- Sales - 25 percent
- Administrative - 24 percent

Hiring by Region

Employers in the West expressed the most confidence in their hiring outlook for the next 12 months with 44 percent planning to hire full-time, permanent employees and 60 percent planning to hire temporary or contract workers. The Northeast experienced the largest year-over-year gains with 42 percent hiring full-time, permanent staff - up from 30 percent last year - and 55 percent hiring temporary or contract workers - up from 42 percent last year. The South is showing a 3 percentage point increase over 2016 for both permanent and temporary hiring while the Midwest is showing little change.

Region	Full-time, Permanent Hiring in 2017	Full-time, Permanent Hiring in 2016	Temporary or Contract Hiring in 2017	Temporary or Contract Hiring in 2016
West	44%	42%	60%	56%
Northeast	42%	30%	55%	42%
South	39%	36%	50%	47%
Midwest	35%	34%	40%	41%

**Totals may not equal 100 percent due to rounding and the ability to choose more than one response.*

Survey Methodology

This survey was conducted online within the U.S. by Harris Poll on behalf of CareerBuilder among 2,392 hiring and human resource managers ages 18 and over (employed full-time, not self-employed, non-government) between November 16 and December 6, 2016. Percentages for some questions are based on a subset, based on their responses to certain questions. With a pure probability sample of 2,392, one could say with a 95 percent probability that the overall results have a sampling error of +/- 2.0 percentage points. Sampling error for data from sub-samples is higher and varies.

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