

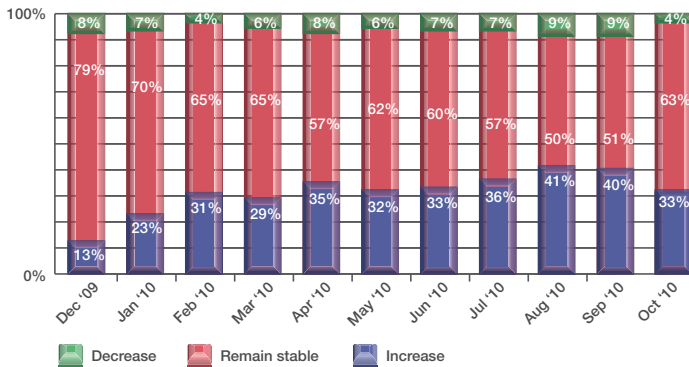
Michael Page Employment Index

White-collar employment market forecast for Australia, October 2010

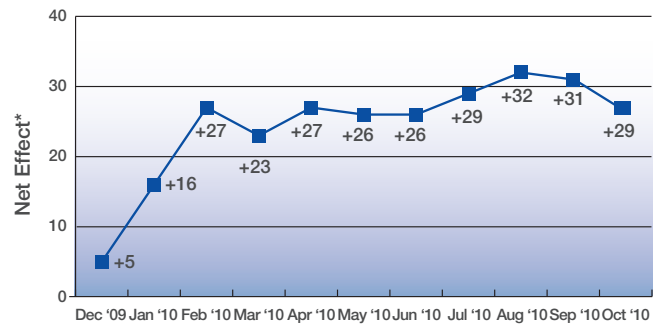
Summary of key findings

- 33% of companies surveyed are increasing their staff numbers in October, mostly on a permanent basis. A further 63% of companies plan to maintain existing staff levels, with only 4% anticipating a decrease.
- For October, 57% of those companies recruiting new staff are focusing on front line positions in areas such as sales and account management. Some 15% are hiring for back office functions like accounting and marketing, whilst 14% are increasing their operational capabilities.
- The majority of companies plan to hire mid-level professionals (39%), followed by juniors (33%). The demand for junior professionals has risen by 10% since September 2010.
- Most survey respondents are satisfied with their company's performance in 2010. 70% reported that company performance YTD matched expectations, with a further 19% reporting that their expectations were exceeded.
- Some 72% of respondents believe that business conditions will remain stable in the fourth quarter, with a further 9% expecting an improvement. The remaining 19% anticipate a decline in trading conditions.

Monthly Staffing Level



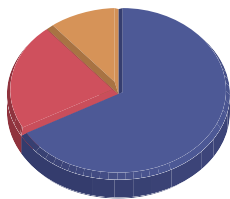
Monthly Employment Index



* Net effect calculated by subtracting the percentage of companies decreasing staff numbers from the percentage of companies increasing staff numbers

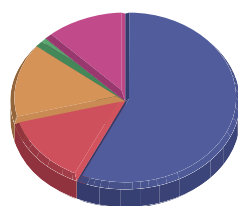
Companies planning to increase headcount in October

Hiring focus by job type.



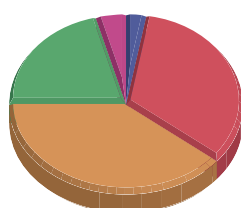
- 67% Permanent
- 22% Contract
- 11% Part-time

Hiring focus by business function.



- 57% Front Line (sales, account management, customer service, etc.)
- 14% Operational (purchasing, supply chain, engineering, construction, etc.)
- 15% Back Office (accounting, HR, marketing, legal, etc.)
- 2% Administration (secretarial, office management, etc.)
- 12% Management (strategic)

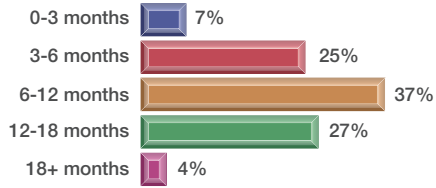
Hiring focus by level of experience.



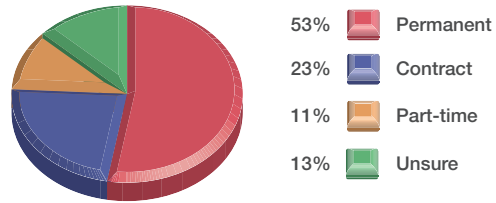
- 3% Graduate
- 33% Junior
- 39% Mid-level
- 21% Senior
- 4% Executive

Companies maintaining current staffing levels in October

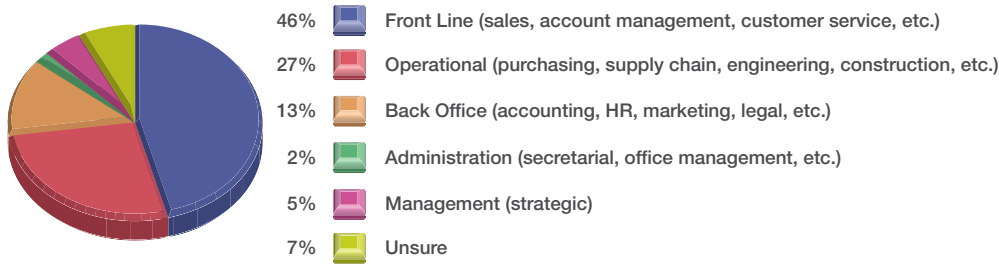
When do you anticipate increasing headcount again?



Anticipated hiring focus by job type.

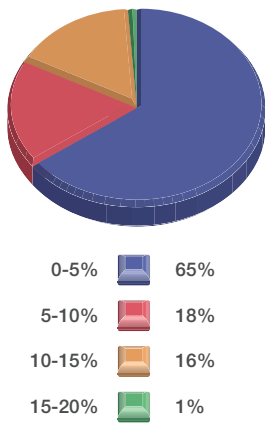


Anticipated hiring focus by business function.

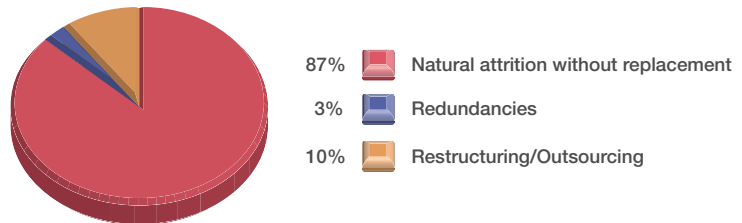


Companies decreasing headcount in October

Anticipated headcount decrease.

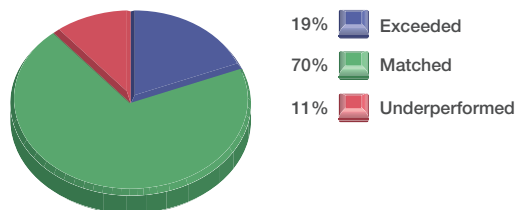


Main reason for headcount reduction.

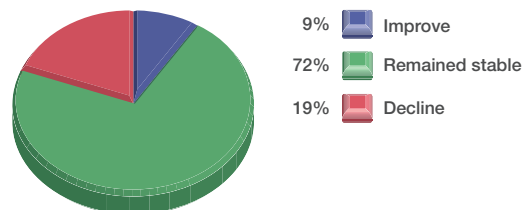


Topical Questions

Company performance in 2010 versus expectations.



Predicted business conditions in fourth quarter.



About the Michael Page Employment Index

The Michael Page Employment Index provides a snapshot of hiring and business confidence trends for the white-collar employment market in Australia. The report is predictive and focuses on anticipated trends for the month ahead, rather than an analysis of historical employment data such as job advertisement numbers. The online survey is distributed monthly to a group of more than 200 executive level human resources professionals and hiring managers who have agreed to participate in the research.

About Michael Page International

Michael Page International is a leading professional recruitment consultancy specialising in the recruitment of permanent, contract and temporary positions on behalf of the world's top employers. The Group operates through 142 offices in 28 countries and has 3,702 employees worldwide. First established in London in 1976, we've been bringing job seekers and employers together for more than 30 years. We opened our first office in Australia in 1985 and currently have offices in Sydney, Chatswood, Parramatta, Brisbane, Melbourne, Wheelers Hill and Perth.

Feedback welcome

If you have any feedback on the Michael Page Employment Index or suggested questions for future surveys, please contact us via email at employmentindex@michaelpage.com.au