



Job Outlook For Mid-Managers and Professionals Dips Slightly

(Cleveland, Ohio) – After a slight surge in hiring in the mid-to-upper level managerial and professional sector of the workforce during the first half of the year, projected new hires for the remainder of the year have leveled off. These findings come from a recent survey conducted by Management Recruiters International, Inc. (MRI), the world’s largest search and recruitment organization. MRI is a subsidiary CDI Corp. (NYSE:CDI), a leading professional services and outsourcing firm.

Of the 536 executives surveyed, 37.2 percent indicated plans to make additions to their staffs during the second half of 2003, down by 8 points from first half of 2003. Another 55.1 percent plan to maintain their current staff sizes, up by 6.2 points, and 7.9 percent plan to decrease their staff, up by 2 points.

MRI President and CEO Allen Salikof commented, "Even though there’s been a dip in the number of employers planning on new hires over the next six months, the number of those who are planning to increase their staffs is still relatively strong. We’re hearing, for example, that in spite of the still struggling economy, some of our clients are expanding their businesses by going after new markets and launching new products – activities that suggest optimism and stimulate hiring."

Another finding from the survey also supports this optimism. Asked when they anticipated a sustainable economic recovery, 65.2 percent responded that they believe this will occur within six months to a year. Their responses were based upon their observations of current conditions in their industries. "It is our belief that an upsurge in the economy will unleash pent-up demand for new hires," said Salikof. "The hiring freezes and prolonged hiring cycles that have been features of the employment landscape for the past two years will most likely give way to renewed hiring activity."

NEED FOR NEW HIRES VARIES BY INDUSTRY

Although plans to hire vary greatly among key industry sectors, a number of industries indicate plans to hire above the national average:

Industry	Increase
Consumer goods	55.6%
Pharmaceuticals	50.0%
Engineering	40.5%
Finance	40.0%
Healthcare	36.6%
Manufacturing	36.6%

"Companies within certain industries are betting that the much-delayed economic recovery is real and that they will benefit by augmenting and top-grading their workforce in advance of the rush," said Salikof. "Others are still cautious and not yet ready to abandon their wait-and-see attitude."

Ongoing National Survey

This is the 52nd in an ongoing series of polls conducted by Management Recruiters International, Inc. (MRI). The survey was conducted in accordance with the professional and ethical standards of the American Marketing Association and the Marketing Research Association.

Management Recruiters International, Inc. (www.BrilliantPeople.com), is the world’s largest search and recruitment organization with nearly 1,000 offices worldwide. Based in Cleveland, MRI has systemwide billings of \$600 million and places 45,000 people in jobs annually. MRI is a subsidiary of staffing and outsourcing leader CDI Corp. (NYSE: CDI), a global provider of engineering and information technology project delivery and specialized staffing for Fortune 1000 companies (www.cdicorp.com).

Karen Bloomfield
200 Public Square, 31st Floor
Cleveland, OH 44114
Karen.Bloomfield@BrilliantPeople.com

Contact:
David Norman
Laura Levine
Phone: (212) 687-8999
Fax: (212) 687-6272