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Media Contact: Sheena Karami (405) 717-5966
sheena.karami@expresspros.com

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New Survey: Industrial Hiring Strong in Q2

Businesses Expect Job Markets to Remain Strong

More Job Training Needed to Support Increased Hiring

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 27, 2019 – Job openings in America hit a new record high in this month's [Bureau of Labor Statistics report](#), and a new survey from Express Employment Professionals shows that they should remain high through the second quarter, with hiring particularly strong in the industrial sector.

In an Express survey of businesses, 80 percent of respondents said they planned to hire in the second quarter. Thirty-nine percent said they plan to hire general industrial labor and 33 percent said they plan to hire skilled industrial labor, while 18 percent plan to fill administrative or clerical jobs.

Taking a broader view, 41 percent say the employment market is "trending up," indicating hiring may still pick up further in some parts of the country. Almost half, 49 percent, say the employment market is "staying the same." Just 11 percent say their market is "trending down." In a previous Express survey, 53 percent said "staying the same," 38 percent said "trending up," and 9 percent said "trending down."

Express experts across the country see similar trends. Express franchise owner Bernie Inbody in Omaha, Nebraska, says he's seeing more hiring.

"As the year gets going, many companies are ramping up staff," he said.

In upstate New York, the picture is a little different. While hiring continues, Express franchise owner John Calabrese says hiring isn't as robust.

"We are seeing less hiring than we did three months ago," he said. "Several factors are driving this in our region, such as full employment after several months of strong hiring and another minimum wage increase in New York. We also have multiple companies that are seeing a business slowdown. Severe weather has also played a factor in our region."

And while Janis Petrini in Grand Rapids, Michigan, sees "a bit of a slowdown" with companies not hiring "as aggressively" and things "leveling off," Jill Loveless in Tigard, Oregon, says she is seeing "more" hiring compared to three months ago.

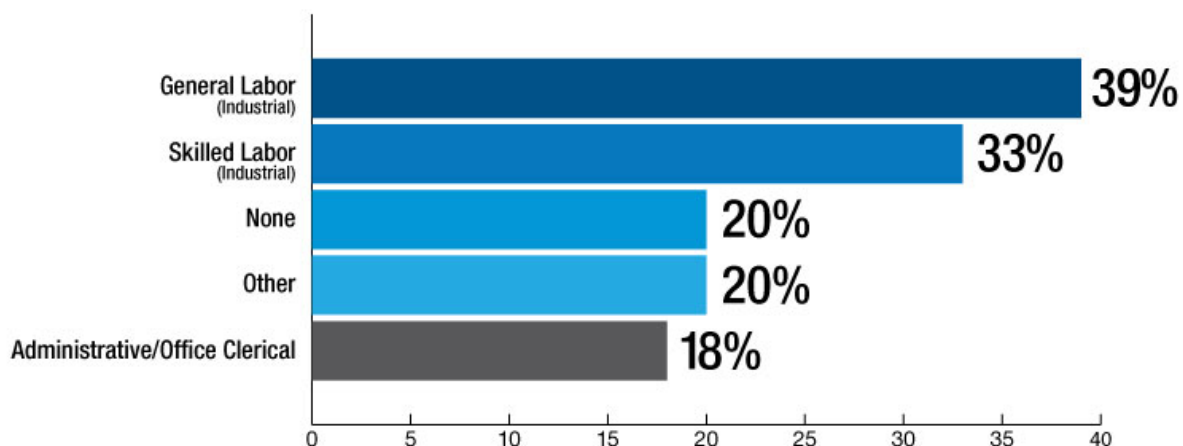
Petrini says that, even though hiring isn't as aggressive, she wouldn't expect to see our unemployment rate go up anytime soon.

The demand for workers is high in all regions, and Calabrese reports that as a result he is seeing more on-site job fairs at employer locations, increased signing bonuses and innovative mentorship programs. Petrini says she's seeing more "collaborations around transportation" to get workers to locations not served by bus lines.

As Bernie Inbody puts it, America seems to have plenty of jobs. The country needs more qualified workers—and the latest BLS report is just further proof.

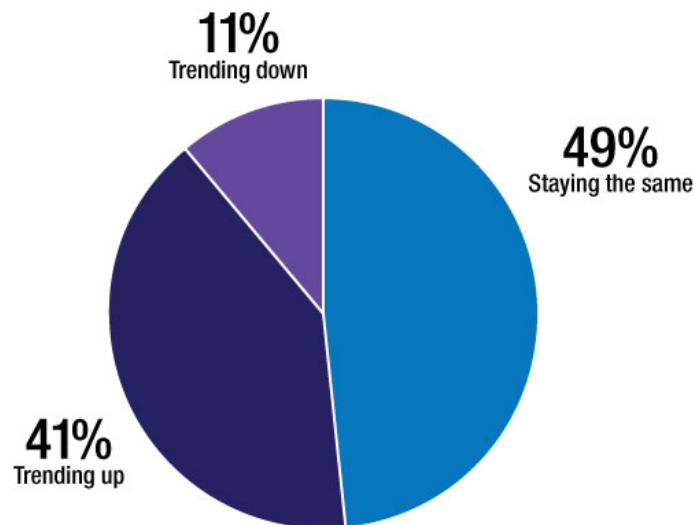
"We don't necessarily need job creation," he said. "We need job training and societal resources to make our workforce more marketable."

Do you plan to hire any positions in the following segments in the 2nd quarter?



Source: Job Insights Survey
A survey of 491 businesses, which are current and former clients of Express Employment Professionals, was conducted in February 2019.

Is your current employment market:



Source: Job Insights Survey
A survey of 491 businesses, which are current and former clients of Express Employment Professionals, was conducted in February 2019.

“The pace of hiring varies significantly by region, but the fact that hiring continues and so few businesses say their markets are ‘trending down’ is more encouraging news for the economy,” said Bill Stoller, CEO of Express. “It’s worth asking, how much stronger would our economy be if we could fill the 7.6 million jobs that were open at last count?”

The survey of 491 businesses, which are current and former clients of Express Employment Professionals, was conducted in February 2019 to gauge respondents' expectations for the second quarter of 2019.

If you would like to arrange for an interview with Bill Stoller to discuss this topic, please contact Sheena Karami, Director of Corporate Communications and PR, at (405) 717-5966.

About Bill Stoller

William H. "Bill" Stoller is chairman and chief executive officer of Express Employment Professionals. Headquartered in Oklahoma City, the international staffing company has more than 800 franchises in the U.S., Canada and South Africa. Since its inception, Express has put more than 6 million people to work worldwide.

About Express Employment Professionals

Express Employment Professionals puts people to work. It generated \$3.56 billion in sales and employed

a record 566,000 people in 2018. Its long-term goal is to put a million people to work annually. For more information, visit ExpressPros.com.