

## **Lafayette top 10 city for new jobs in 4Q 2009**

**Lafayette, LA**— Forbes.com has ranked Lafayette as the 8<sup>th</sup> best city in the nation for new jobs in the fourth quarter 2009. The rank is based on the Manpower Employment Outlook Survey that was released earlier this month.

Manpower surveyed thousands of employers across the nation's 201 metropolitan statistical areas to determine what percentage expect to be hiring between October and December of this year, what percentage expect to be firing, and then tallied the difference as "net employment outlook."

In the Lafayette MSA, from October to December, 16% of the companies interviewed plan to hire more employees, while 7% expect to reduce their payrolls— a 9% net employment outlook. Another 66% expect to maintain their current staff levels and 11% are not certain of their hiring plans. This hiring activity is higher than the previous quarter when the net employment outlook was 0% (15% of companies surveyed planned to increase staff levels and 15% expected to cut payrolls).

"It is always good news to be recognized in any top 10 'good' list. This recognition is shared with all of Acadiana as our citizenry crosses parish lines to work throughout the region." says city-parish president Joey Durel. "While there is room for improvement, it is good to know that our economy is better than much of the country as a result of steps this community has taken to diversify."

According to the Manpower report, for the coming quarter, job prospects appear best in Construction, Transportation and Utilities, Wholesale/Retail Trade, Leisure/Hospitality, Other Services and Government. Employers in Financial Activities and Education and Health Services plan to reduce staffing levels, while hiring in Durable Goods Manufacturing and Professional/Business Services is expected to remain unchanged.

"This ranking is another indication that Lafayette has fared well despite the national recession and energy industry slowdown of the past year," says LEDA president and CEO Gregg Gothreaux. "Most local businesses never stopped hiring completely, though hiring may have slowed in recent months. Now, businesses are hiring in preparation for the economic upswing that we should see locally in the next six to nine months."

Nationally, of the 28,000-plus employers surveyed, 12% expect to increase their staff levels during the October – December period, while 14% expect to reduce their payrolls. Sixty-nine percent expect no change in hiring, and 5% are undecided about their hiring plans.

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