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National Key Messages

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1. The national Net Employment Outlook of six per cent indicates a moderate hiring climate for the first quarter of 2012. This quarter's Outlook indicates a minor improvement from the hiring pace reported during the same time last year, when the Net Employment Outlook was five per cent. With seasonal variations taken into account, this quarter's Net Employment Outlook increased to 15 per cent which is a two percentage point improvement from the seasonally adjusted outlook reported in the previous quarter.
2. The survey of more than 1,900 Canadian employers reveals that 16 per cent plan to increase their payrolls, while 10 per cent anticipate cutbacks leading to a first quarter Net Employment Outlook of six per cent. Of those polled, 71 per cent expect to maintain their current staffing levels and three per cent are unsure of their hiring intentions for the upcoming quarter.
3. Across the country, employers in Western Canada report the most upbeat hiring intentions with a seasonally adjusted Net Employment Outlook of 16 per cent. In Quebec, employers expect a positive hiring pace with an outlook of 14 per cent, while employers in Ontario and Atlantic Canada anticipate a steady climate for job seekers with an outlook of 13 and 12 per cent respectively.
4. Of the 10 surveyed industry sectors, employers in the Manufacturing – Durables sector report the most favourable results for the first quarter of 2012, projecting a seasonally adjusted Net

Employment Outlook of 19 per cent. This is followed by the Mining industry sector where a hopeful seasonally adjusted outlook of 16 per cent was reported.