
Today's News

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Job Prospects Improve for the Class of 2006, Study Finds

By [ERIC HOOVER](#)

Employers expect to hire 14 percent more new college graduates in 2005-6 than they did in the previous year, according to a report issued this week by the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

The report, which is based on a survey of employers, said that more than 60 percent of them plan to hire more new college graduates this year than last year, with 22.5 percent planning to hire at last year's level.

Service-industry employers reported the most ambitious hiring goals, expecting to hire 16.4 percent more new graduates than they did last year. Manufacturers plan to hire 11 percent more, and government and nonprofit agencies predicted a 9-percent increase.

Twenty percent of employers surveyed said they had raised or planned to raise starting salaries, with 90 percent reporting increased competition for new graduates. That reflects the nation's relatively low unemployment rate, which in March fell to 4.7 percent, according to the U.S. Labor Department.

Employers in the Northeast projected a 24.8-percent increase in hiring new college graduates, leading all other regions.

Information about the report, "Job Outlook 2006 Spring Update," is available on the association's [Web site](#).

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