

Press Release

Job Seekers in German-Speaking Region Most Confident: Gap Widening with the Swiss Romande

Zurich/Geneva, 20 July 2017. According to the PageGroup Confidence Index (Q2 2017), job seekers in the German-speaking region are significantly more confident about their career prospects and the Swiss job market than their counterparts in the Swiss Romande. The gap has widened significantly over the last 12 months. Job seekers in the German-speaking region were almost twice as confident about the job market than their counterparts in the Swiss Romande. 64% of job seekers in the German-speaking region expected conditions to improve over the next 6 months – a year-on-year increase (June 2016 – June 2017) of +23%. In comparison, 38% of candidates in the Swiss Romande expected job market conditions to improve – a year-on-year (YOY) decrease of -11%. Overall confidence in the German-speaking region was 58% - a YOY increase of +9%. This compares with a 46% confidence level in the Swiss Romande which is a YOY decrease of -7%.

Realistic Views on Compensation

Across Switzerland the majority (61%) of job seekers did not expect to increase their compensation levels or achieve a better work-life balance (67%). The drop in confidence on these measures was most pronounced in the Swiss Romande.

- 44% of candidates in the German-speaking region expected increased compensation levels – a YOY decline of -2%. In comparison, 37% of candidates in the Swiss Romande expected increased compensation levels – a YOY decrease of -12%.
- 41% of candidates in the German-speaking region expected better work-life balance – a YOY increase of +26%. In comparison, 31% of candidates in the Swiss Romande expected an improved work-life balance – a YOY decrease of -17%.

According to Jérôme Bouin, Managing Director, PageGroup Switzerland, “Candidates understand that salary levels are often capped. The majority take a pragmatic, longer term view and look for career advancement opportunities when they change jobs. This includes, for example, increased responsibilities, professional training and on-the-job development opportunities. Employers that demonstrate such development opportunities are more likely to attract top candidates”.

PageGroup Confidence Index (Q2 2017): German Speaking Region vs. Swiss Romande

Confidence Measure	German-Speaking Region		Swiss Romande	
	% of Candidates with a Positive Response	Year-on-Year Change (June 2016 – June 2017)	% of Candidates with a Positive Response	Year-on-Year Change (June 2016 – June 2017)
Overall confidence about their professional future	58%	+9%	46%	-7%
Job market outlook – next 6 months	64%	+23%	38%	-11%

Press Release

Finding a job - next 3 months	43%	+7%	52%	-6%
Professional skills development - next 12 months	76%	+10%	63%	-12%
Increased scope of functions	57%	+7%	43%	-11%
Improved career development	48%	-3%	49%	-9%

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PageGroup is a worldwide leader in specialist recruitment which is listed on the London Stock Exchange (Stock Symbol: PAGE). Founded in 1976, it has been active in Switzerland since 2001 and operates through three key brands: Page Executive (executive search), Michael Page (middle to senior management) and Page Personnel (graduate and skilled employees). PageGroup has 152 offices worldwide including its' three Swiss offices in Zurich, Geneva and Lausanne.

PageGroup Confidence Index

The PageGroup Confidence Index polls job applicants to identify their outlook regarding the labor market. This index covers only those candidates who actively applied for a job through Michael Page and Page Personnel websites. Initiated in Switzerland in July 2014, the now global study is conducted online and investigates the motivations of job applicants for changing jobs, their confidence in finding a new job and their expectations about the length of their job search. The survey covers approximately 18,000 questionnaires per quarter worldwide, more than 650 in Switzerland. An interactive infographic and more details can be found under <http://www.pagepersonnel.ch/news-and-research-centre/confidence-index>.

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