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 WIND CHILL: °
 WIND 0.0 North HUMIDITY 93%



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Sat		78°
Sun		72°

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Survey: Local Job Market Looks Optimistic

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Reported by: Allison Woods, awoods@knwa.com
 Tuesday, Sep 8, 2009 @07:15pm CST

According to a recent survey, Northwest Arkansas employers are starting to hire. Meaning the job market could start to improve during this recession.

Employers in Northwest Arkansas say they are optimistic when it comes to growth in their company.

"It's not terribly surprising our economy held up a little better through-out this entire recession, so it's nice that we might be on the edge of coming out of this," says Kathy Deck, University of Arkansas Director of the Center for Business and Economic Research.

According to the Manpower Employment Outlook Survey 16 percent of Fayetteville companies plan to hire more employees for the upcoming quarter.

"It looks like our employers are a little more optimistic when it comes to hiring in the near future than those across the country at large are," says Deck.

Jobs in transportation, education, health services, and government appear to be the best prospects. "What we do see is a shift away from industries and into others and in particular a shift away from manufacturing and construction employment and into service sector jobs," explains Deck.

So why is Northwest Arkansas predicted to have a good outlook? Deck says it's the variety of jobs in our area. From education to major companies, like Walmart and JB Hunt, which have remained stable during these tough times.

"When you look at our job mix, when you look at our infrastructure, when you look at our plans for the future, it's not surprising that we are doing well," adds Deck.


And even though the economy has taken a toll on some, Deck says employers are finding this is an opportune time to get people on the payroll.

"This is a great time to hire because the talent pool is large and you're able to get a lot better qualified applicants than you would have a year or two ago," says Deck.

About six months ago a survey from Manpower Employment Outlook showed employers in this area were hiring at an unsteady pace, this latest survey says they are now hiring at a moderate pace.

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