

PRESS RELEASE

21st October 2010

BPIF Manpower Survey report 2010 gives essential insight into the impact of the economic downturn

The BPIF has released the findings of its Manpower Survey report, provided with support from RSM Tenon and Meridan Financial LLP, which reveals important insights into the earnings of key production staff throughout the print industry.

Providing essential reading for small to large print businesses, the report shows a detailed view of wages paid across the board to a variety of skill levels as well as focusing on working hours and shift patterns throughout the industry.

The report gives a summary of earnings by class, shift, location, company sizes and product sector and also gives individual occupation earnings by shift, with differentials to enable users to calculate estimates for location, company size and product sector. The findings are also a great source of information on wages for small print companies who do not have personnel departments.

The BPIF's Research and Information Manager Kyle Jardine commented on the importance of the report, stating: "The findings help companies when benchmarking wages and can help to ensure they are not paying too much or too little, this can help towards the prevention of losing essential staff to other companies."

One key finding of the report was that average earnings decreased by 11.5% - a decrease that, according to the report has been influenced by dramatic reduction in over time hours and decrease in shift payments.

The findings in the report also highlighted that average basic wages in companies with less than 25 people are greater than those in companies with 25 or more. According to the survey this suggests that smaller companies need to pay a higher basic rate as they often don't offer as much overtime.

The survey also plays an instrumental role in showing the true picture of the current state of the industry after the economic downturn, and highlights the true scale of the recession and how it has driven many companies to manage their businesses in a variety of different ways.

As no official National Agreement with trade unions has been reached for sometime the Manpower Survey also plays an essential part in allowing companies to get a true picture of the national industry wage structure.

Kyle concludes: "The Manpower Survey is the only wage benchmark we have at the moment because there has been no National Agreement. It is a document that can assist companies in assessing their wage costs and making the decisions about the recruitment and deployment of people. It also enables guidance and assistance to be given to member companies on wages' structures and earnings' levels and is an essential too for negotiations at all levels."

The Manpower Survey is available free-of-charge to BPIF responding members, or £250 to non-participating members and is also available to non-members for £500. The full report is available to purchase on the BPIF's Printdata website: www.printdata.org.uk

The BPIF is also looking for willing participants to take part and contribute to the next Manpower Survey.

-Ends-

Contact: Kyle Jardine at the BPIF Tel:028 9002 0135

For more information contact:

Andy Scott (Mob: 07770 520484), email: andy@collinsscott.com or Vince Collins (Mob: 07977 178772), email: vince@collinsscott.com at Collins Scott Marketing

Notes to Editors:

Survey Sponsors

RSM Tenon is one of the most progressive professional services firms in the UK, with leadership in accountancy, business advisory and risk management services.

Meridan Financial LLP are independent financial advisers and together with RSM Tenon are appointed joint advisers for the Printing Industry Pension Scheme (PIPS).

The British Printing Industries Federation (BPIF)

The BPIF is the principal business support organisation representing the UK print, printed packaging and graphic communication industry. It is one of the country's leading trade associations. The federation strive to ensure their members' requirements come first. Through listening to their needs they have developed an unrivalled range of products and services that go well beyond those provided by a traditional trade association.

They provide the highest standard of support for printers to grow and develop healthy, sustainable and profitable businesses, aiming to provide an environment geared towards their businesses success. The BPIF offer practical, value-adding solutions for all areas of a print organisation, ranging from Health, Safety, Environmental and Quality issues; with the implementation of HR requirements; provide resolutions of technical or legal issues; as well as advice and support on marketing, sales and finance. This is all delivered by individuals and teams of highly skilled and experienced print industry specialists.

New services recently launched include BPIF Insurance Service and the BPIF Financial Alliance to add to a wide range of business support services including healthcare and pensions. They also offer a wide range of opportunities for networking both regionally and nationally, including prestigious events, special interest groups and popular short courses on a wide range of topics.

For more information on the BPIF, visit: www.britishprint.com.