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GCC job market records strong recovery: study

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1 October 2011

The GCC job market experienced a strong recovery in the first half of 2011, industry experts and recruiters said.

A survey conducted by MyHiringClubGulf.com, said the regional job market is most bullish for hiring in finance, sales, human resources and marketing segment.

The first-half of current fiscal year saw 22 per cent increase in recruitments as compared to 2010 first-half. There is also a jump in pay packages during this year's first half compared to the same 2010 period.



Across the GCC, recruiters are optimistic about the hiring scenario in the second half of 2011 with most predicting an upswing in the creation of new jobs and slowdown in layoffs over the next six months.

A recent survey conducted by Naukrigulf.com — a recruitment platform for the corporate world, placement agencies and job seekers — among over 80 recruiters in the region shows that almost 76 per cent sounding bullish with a forecast of a rise in new jobs while just seven per cent warning of more layoffs. Only two per cent said that there would be no hiring.

MyHiringClubGulf.com is an enterprise application for employers and recruitment agencies to efficiently manage job transactions through innovative candidate and vendor management modules at absolutely no additional cost. The survey was conducted among

689 employers and 387 recruitment consultants of GCC countries.

Based on MyHiringClubGulf.com's survey of professionals working in the GCC, salaries in the region increased at an average rate of 11 per cent during 2011 first-half compared with 2010 first-half. Qatar and Saudi Arabia enjoyed above average increases, given their more buoyant job markets. The UAE and Bahrain had the lowest rises in salary of four per cent.

Compared with 2010 first-half hiring, sectors like retail led the increase, with 14 per cent, while education had the lowest increase at just 2.9 per cent. Among job categories, human resource professionals enjoyed by far the highest increases at 12 per cent followed by sales and marketing (10 per cent), lowest average increase seen only three per cent in lawyers hiring.

Among nationalities, Asian and Arab expatriates enjoyed higher pay rises and Western professionals received much lower raises.

During 2011 first-half, Qatar and Saudi Arabia were the biggest contributors in hiring activity in the Gulf. Abu Dhabi also saw employment growth, though less than in 2010 first-half. Dubai, Kuwait and Bahrain saw lower rates of growth.

Rajesh Kumar, chief executive officer of MyHiringClub.com said the need for talented workers is again on the rise. "Economic recovery and rising oil prices should help accelerate business and employment demand in the GCC. While in survey we had seen expatriates are willing to relocate from UAE to other parts of the Middle East like Saudi Arabia and Qatar forced by market dynamics."

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