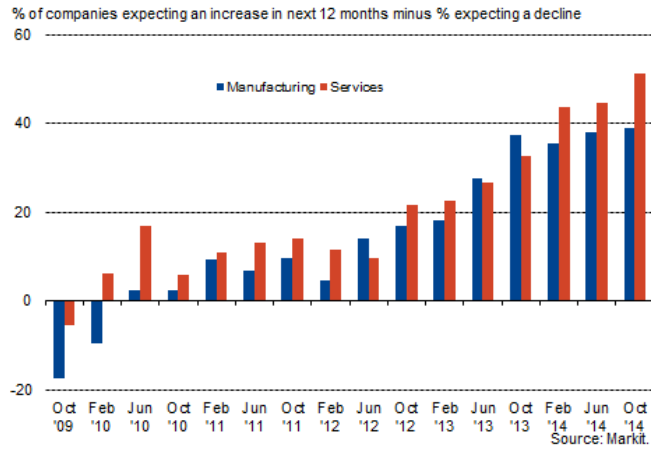


Employment outlook



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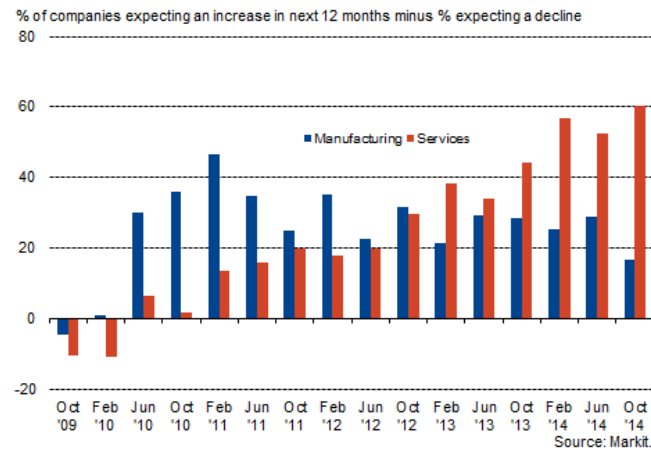
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Another area where the outlook in Ireland has diverged from the rest of the eurozone has been prices. Both the input prices and output prices net balances in Ireland are much higher than those seen in other eurozone nations, the former due to a record-high net balance at services companies.

Looking specifically at the service sector shows that staff costs are likely to be the main driver of overall inflation, and a number of firms report that higher wage costs are a threat to growth going forward. Expectations of difficulties in finding skilled staff are also mentioned.

Input Prices outlook



On balance, companies in Ireland appear confident that growth can continue in spite of any deteriorations in the rest of the eurozone, with signs of improvement in the domestic market and alternative sources of export demand set to support expansions in activity over the coming year.