



MONTHLY HR TRENDS REPORT

**JULY 2026
MANATAL.COM**



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About Manatal

Manatal AI recruitment software is a next-generation Applicant Tracking System (ATS) designed to simplify and accelerate the entire hiring process. Established with the vision of democratizing access to advanced recruiting technology, Manatal has transformed the recruiting industry by making enterprise-grade AI accessible to teams of all sizes.

At its core is a proprietary AI engine, trained on millions of data points, which delivers industry-leading accuracy in resume parsing, candidate analysis, and profile enrichment. This intelligence empowers recruiters to engage talent more effectively and ensures frictionless collaboration among hiring managers and agencies, from initial sourcing to final onboarding.

Today, Manatal continues to pioneer the market with cutting-edge AI innovations, including the first MCP server integrations with ChatGPT and other AI chatbots, an autonomous AI interviewer, and advanced recommendation algorithms.

Since its launch in 2019, the platform has been adopted by over 10,000 organizations across 140 countries.

LOVED BY 10,000+ TEAMS WORLDWIDE



Executive Summary

Global recruitment in July 2026 is being shaped by diverging labor market conditions and major investment trends. South Korea's \$576 billion semiconductor expansion is intensifying competition for specialized technology talent, while U.S. hiring is slowing as labor force participation declines. The U.K.'s labor market has stabilized despite the long-term effects of Brexit, while Japan's weak yen has increased SME bankruptcies, expanding the pool of available skilled workers.

These developments highlight the need for employers to adapt recruitment strategies to local market conditions by strengthening skills-based hiring, expanding talent pipelines, and using AI-powered recruitment tools to identify qualified candidates more efficiently.

The Core Shifts

\$576 B



South Korea expands AI and semiconductor investments for buildouts.

57K



U.S. hiring slows, concentrating in healthcare, professional services, and construction.

45



Yen-related bankruptcies in Japan reach the highest first-half total since 2022

4.9%



UK unemployment holds steady despite ongoing Brexit-related trade challenges

South Korea's \$576B Tech Expansion

DATA

In June 2026, the South Korean government, together with Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix, combined more than \$576 billion to expand a large-scale semiconductor manufacturing cluster as part of the country's long-term strategy to strengthen its global leadership in the technology sector. The project will build 16 new semiconductor fabrication facilities by 2047, expanding South Korea's existing network of 21 operational fabs. Through this investment, the government aims to increase the country's share of the global non-memory chip market from 3% to 10%. The expansion is expected to intensify global competition for semiconductor talent, particularly silicon architects, hardware engineers, and AI specialists.

16



New Semiconductor Fabs
by 2047

10%



Target global share
for Global Non-Memory Chips

\$576B



Investment to Expand
South Korea's Chip Industry

South Korea's \$576B Tech Expansion

WHAT LEADERS SHOULD DO

Founders, CEOs, and hiring managers recruiting semiconductor engineers, AI specialists, and data center professionals should prepare for a surge in demand for technical talent as South Korea's large-scale semiconductor investment intensifies global competition. They should strengthen compensation, retention, and workforce planning strategies to attract and retain critical talent while capitalizing on faster AI innovation advancements.

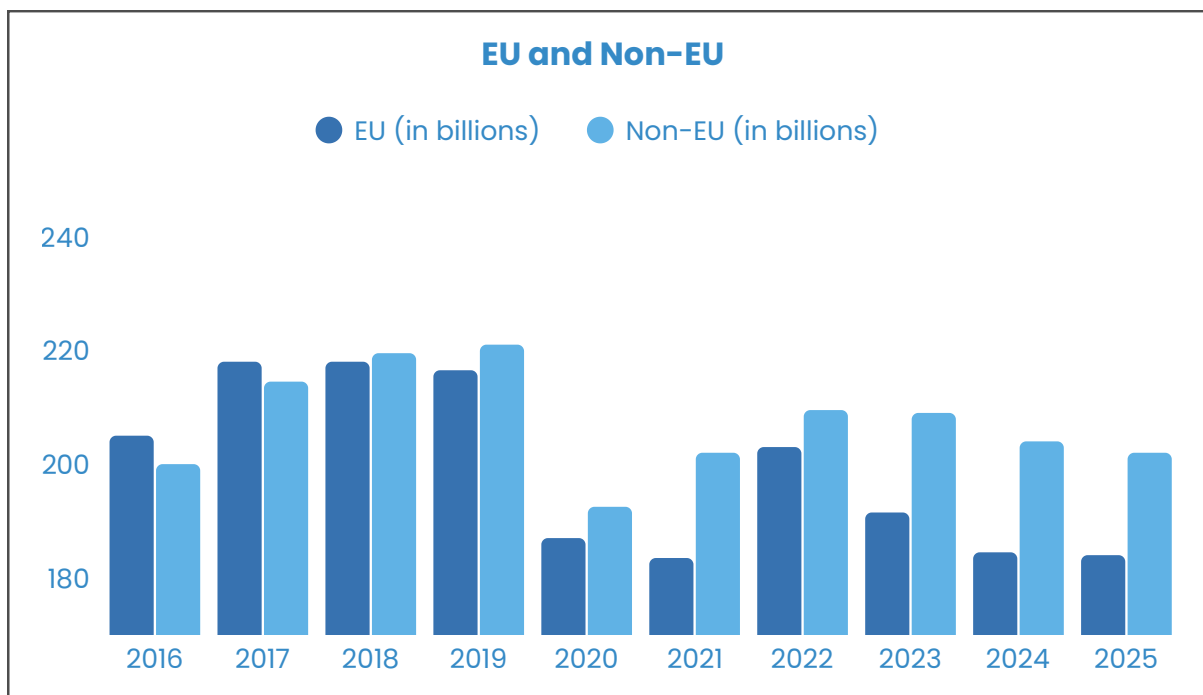
HOW MANATAL HELPS

Manatal's AI Candidate Sourcing and Recommendation Engine analyzes skills, competencies, and core requirements rather than relying on exact job titles. The system evaluates the actual capabilities behind a candidate's profile, allowing hiring teams to expand their talent search and rapidly surface qualified professionals with valuable transferable skills.

U.K. Labor Market Stabilizes Despite Brexit

DATA

Ten years after Brexit, trade and investment indicators continue to reflect deep structural changes in the U.K. economy despite signs of labor market stabilization. Research from Aston University Business School reveals a 53.8% reduction in the range of products exported to the EU and a 31.5% decline in import varieties, while official data shows that U.K. goods exports to the EU in 2025 were 14% lower than in 2019. Combined with business investment remaining an estimated 12% to 13% below expected levels, these persistent drag factors highlight the ongoing long-term economic shifts reshaping British trade.

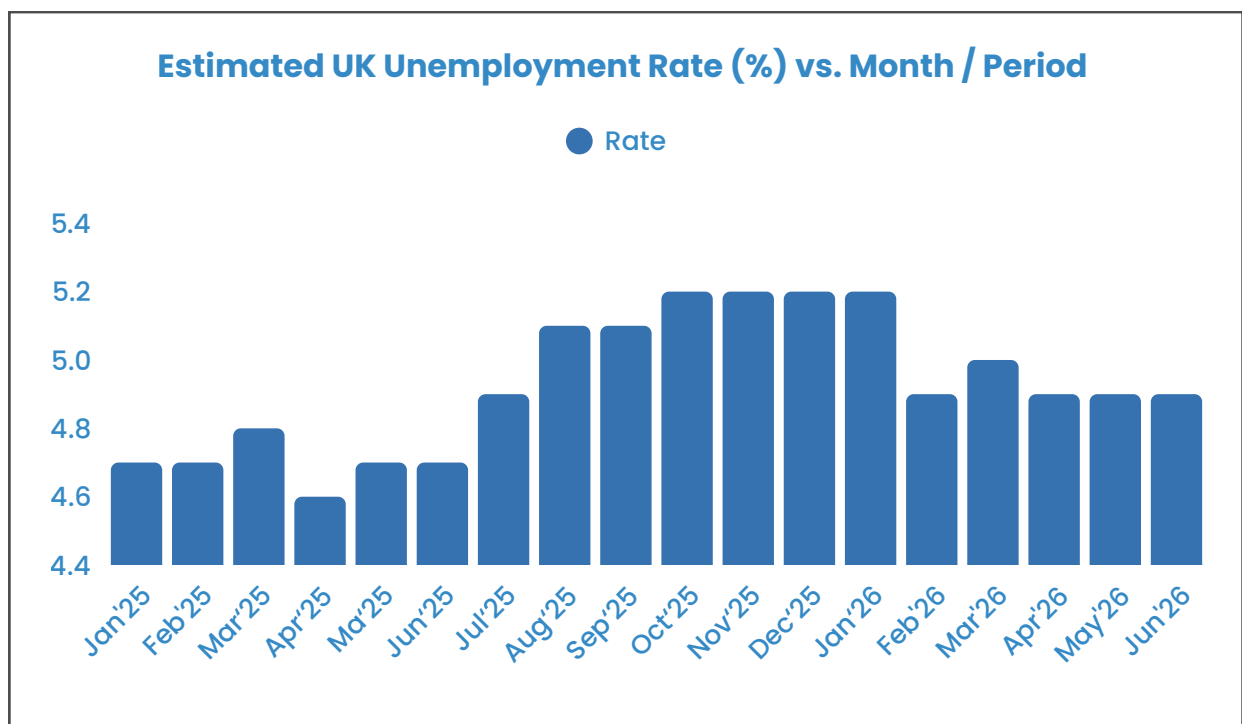


Source: [Brexit's economic impact](#)

U.K. Labor Market Stabilizes Despite Brexit

DATA

The U.K. economy and labor market remain under pressure, but recently the economic data offers cautious signs of improvement. The data below shows the unemployment rate is now at 4.9%, inflation also came in below expectations and wage growth continued to moderate, allowing the Bank of England to keep interest rates unchanged. Despite these encouraging indicators, vacancies remain at their lowest levels outside the pandemic, highlighting weak labor demand and limited job mobility.



Source: [UK labor market](#)

U.K. Labor Market Stabilizes Despite Brexit

WHAT LEADERS SHOULD DO

Business leaders in supply chain, customs, and trade compliance should continue strengthening recruitment and retention strategies for specialist roles, as post-Brexit trade requirements have increased the need for expertise in customs procedures, regulatory compliance, and cross-border operations despite weaker overall hiring activity.

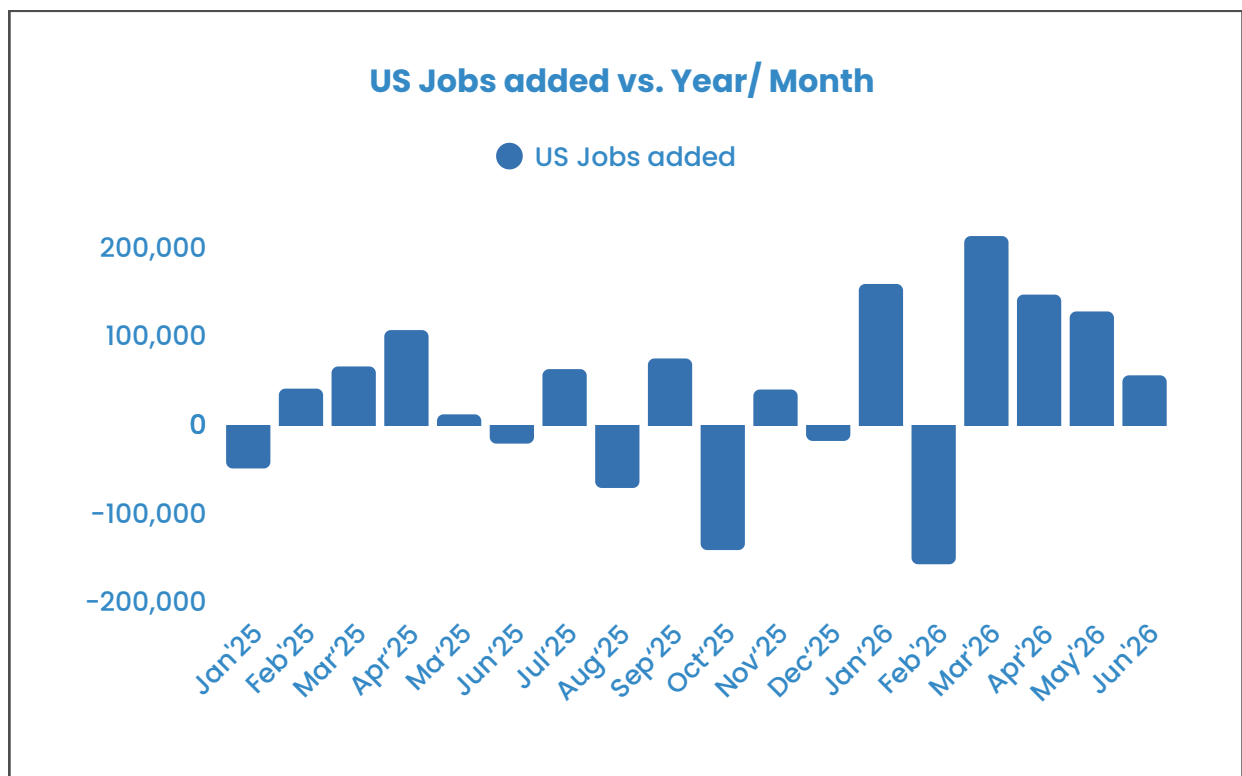
HOW MANATAL HELPS

Manatal deploys a global Sourcing Hub to grant recruitment teams instant access to over 700 million candidate profiles. By pairing this massive talent ecosystem with AI-powered skills matching and a centralized database, the platform eliminates talent shortages and enables teams to instantly surface and engage qualified talent across any industry or region.

US Hiring Momentum Losing Steam

DATA

The U.S. labor market weakened significantly in June 2026, as total nonfarm payroll employment reached 158.98 million workers while job growth slowed sharply. The economy added just 57,000 jobs during the month falling well short of the Dow Jones forecast of 115,000 and marking a steep decline from previous gains of 148,000 in April and 129,000 in May. Compounding this slowdown, figures for those preceding months were also revised lower from initial estimates of 179,000 and 172,000, underscoring a clear loss of hiring momentum across the country.

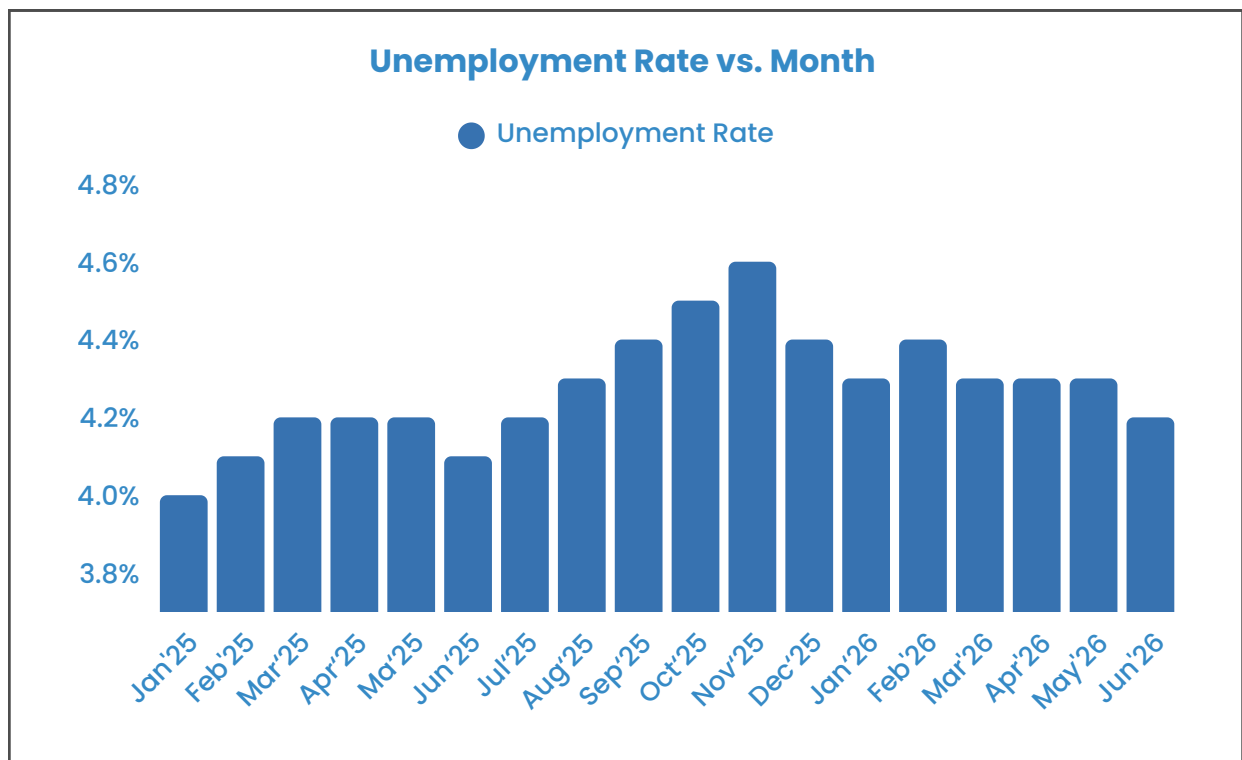


Source: [US labor market](#)

US Hiring Momentum Losing Steam

DATA

While the U.S. unemployment rate declined to 4.2% in June 2026 down from its late 2025 peak of around 4.6% this apparent improvement does not signify underlying strength in the labor market, as overall hiring momentum continues to lose steam. Rather than being driven by strong job creation, the decline was primarily caused by roughly 720,000 individuals exiting the workforce entirely, meaning fewer people were counted as unemployed simply because they were no longer actively seeking work. Consequently, the lower rate masks a cooling job market rather than reflecting genuine economic expansion.



[Source: US labor market](#)

US Hiring Momentum Losing Steam

WHAT LEADERS SHOULD DO

HR leaders, talent acquisition leaders, and business executives should adapt workforce strategies to address a smaller labor pool and a slower hiring environment. Rather than relying primarily on external hiring, they should prioritize internal mobility by upskilling, cross-training, and redeploying existing employees to fill business-critical roles.

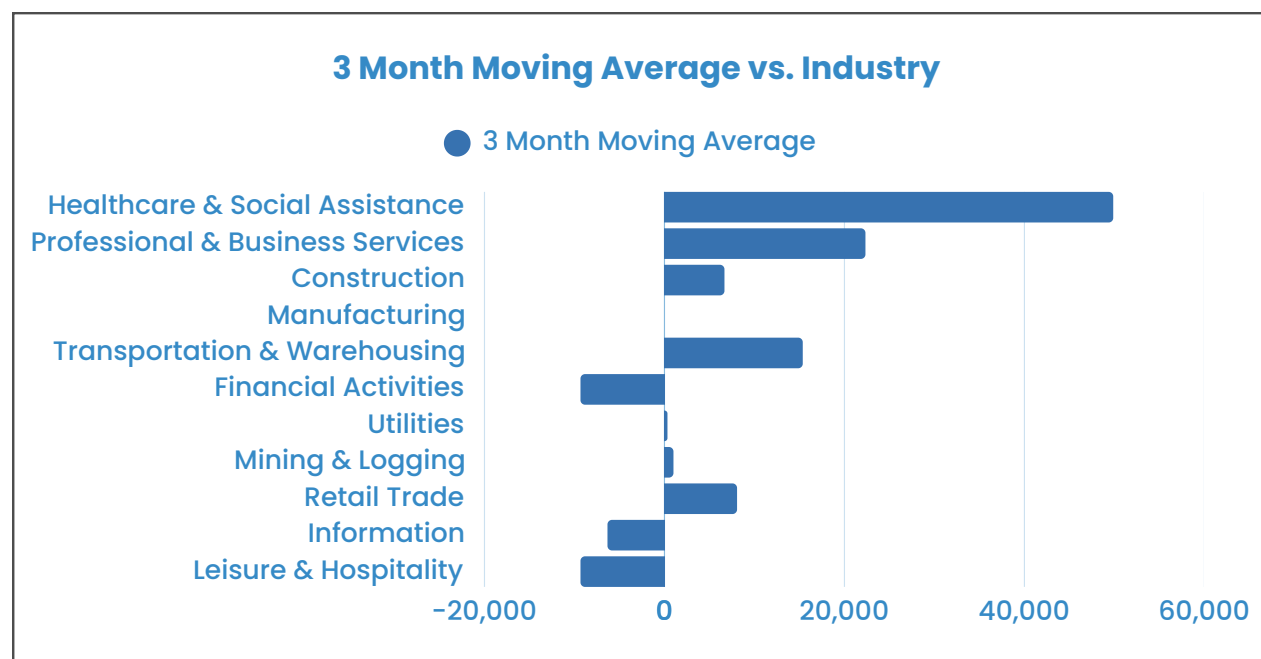
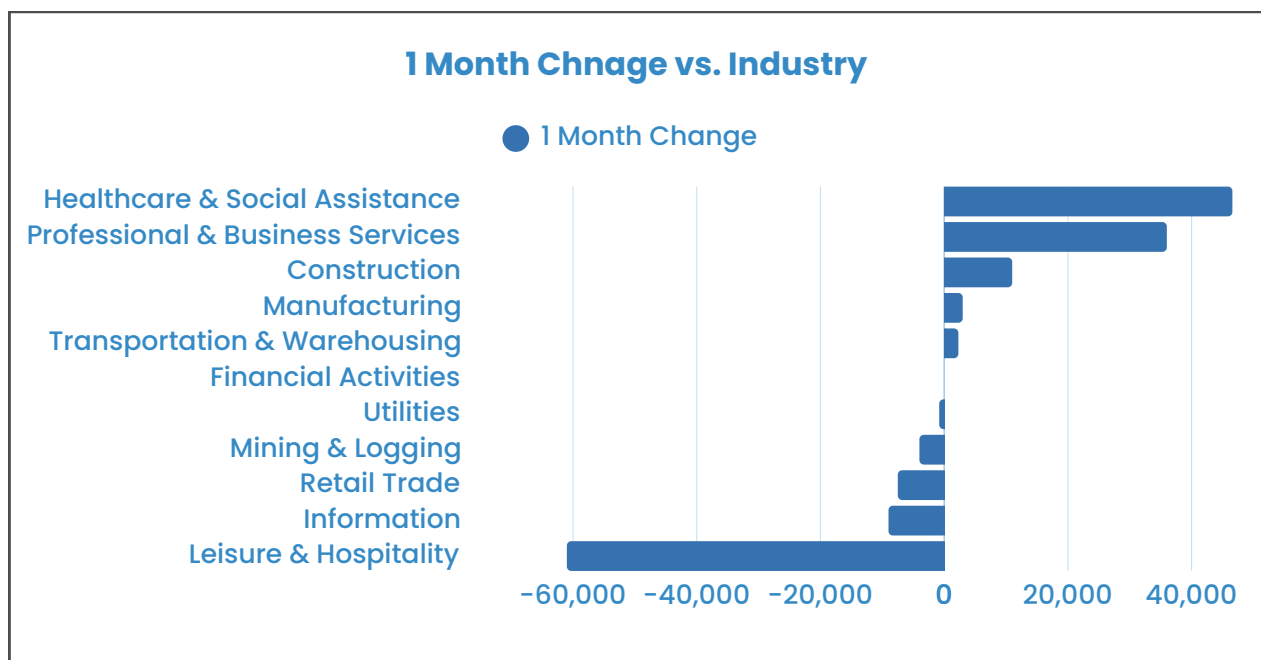
HOW MANATAL HELPS

Manatal combines AI-powered resume parsing, duplicate detection, and a centralized candidate database to help recruiters organize candidate information during slower, more selective hiring cycles. AI-powered candidate recommendations rank applicants against job requirements, while the Candidate Portal allows candidates to maintain up-to-date profiles throughout the recruitment process.

Hiring Trends by Industry: Winners & Losers

DATA

While U.S. hiring slowed in June, job growth varied widely by industry.



Source: [US monthly job gains](#)

Hiring Trends by Industry: Winners & Losers

DATA

Healthcare and social assistance led gains with 47K new jobs, followed by professional and business services with 36K and construction with 11K, supported by continued data center investment.

Hiring weakened in consumer-facing sectors, with leisure and hospitality losing 61K jobs after adding 70K in May. Information and retail trade also declined by 7.5K, while most other industries saw little change, creating an increasingly uneven recruitment landscape.

Hiring Trends by Industry: Winners & Losers

WHAT LEADERS SHOULD DO

Recruitment agencies should leverage on this opportunity to **take advantage of the demand in high-growth sectors** such as healthcare, professional and business services, and construction, while matching candidates from contracting industries like leisure, hospitality, retail, and information to roles requiring transferable skills. Agencies should also streamline screening and maintain active talent pools to fill vacancies more efficiently.

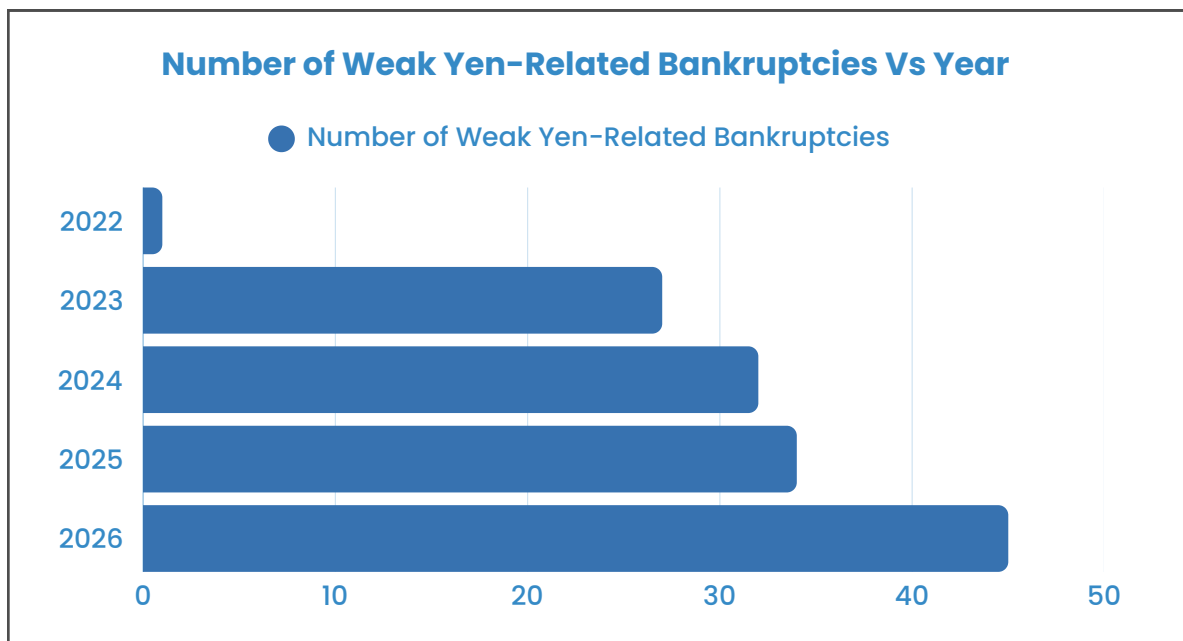
HOW MANATAL HELPS

Manatal's Recruitment CRM centralizes client contacts, sales pipelines, and communication history in one platform, giving recruitment agencies better visibility into client demand across industries. This helps recruiters prioritize business development efforts and respond more efficiently as hiring activity shifts toward sectors with stronger labor demand.

Weak Yen Drives Japanese Bankruptcies

DATA

Japan's prolonged yen depreciation is placing significant financial pressure on import-dependent small and medium-sized enterprises. According to Tokyo Shoko Research, 45 companies went bankrupt due to weak-yen-related pressures during the first half of 2026, a 32.3% increase year over year and the highest first-half total since tracking began in 2022. More than half 23 cases occurred in the wholesale sector, followed by retailers, manufacturers, service providers, and transport firms. Rising import costs, limited pricing power, labor shortages, and inflation continue to strain smaller businesses, while large exporters benefit from the weaker currency.



Source: [Japan sees leap in bankruptcies triggered by weak yen](#)

Weak Yen Drives Japanese Bankruptcies

WHAT LEADERS SHOULD DO

HR leaders, recruitment agencies, and employers hiring in Japan should **capitalize on the growing pool of skilled talent** looking for new jobs, particularly in regions where import-dependent SMEs have been hit hardest. As economic uncertainty persists, they should maintain workforce flexibility by using contract, temporary, or project-based staffing where appropriate to control costs and respond to changing hiring needs.

HOW MANATAL HELPS

Manatal's AI Interviewer automates first-round candidate screening and scoring based on predefined job criteria. This helps recruiters process larger volumes of applications more efficiently when labor market conditions increase applicant numbers or hiring teams need to evaluate candidates more consistently.

Sources

- [United States Non Farm Payrolls](#)
- [U.S. job creation cools in June with payrolls growth of just 57,000; unemployment rate at 4.2%](#)
- [Ten years on, Brexit's economic impact is becoming clearer](#)
- [Korea taps Samsung, SK Hynix in \\$576 billion AI-chip drive to cement global leadership](#)
- [Job Growth Momentum Hits a Wall](#)
- [Japan sees leap in bankruptcies triggered by weak yen](#)
- [UK: June 2026 – BoE Keeps Rates Steady Following a Decent Jobs Report](#)

Acknowledgements

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