

Online Recruitment Extends Its Long-Term Growth Trend in January, According to Monster Employment Index Belgium

January 2011 Index Highlights

- The Monster Employment Index Belgium increased 16 percent compared to January 2010 and declined nine points month-on-month
- HR was the highest performing industry sector with annual growth of 55 percent, followed closely by the public sector at 42 percent
- The Flemish region continued an upward annual growth trend and rose 16 percent year-on-year; Brussels-capital declined sharply in January

Summary Overview

The Monster Employment Index Belgium demonstrated annual growth of 16 percent in January, indicating continued long-term momentum in the Belgian labour market. However, online recruitment activity in January was down from December aligning with the seasonal precedent for the start of each year.

In January, 15 of the 21 sectors reported annual growth. The HR industry was the star performer for the second month in a row with a 55 percent year-on-year rise in job opportunities. Online job opportunities were also significantly higher than the same time last year in public sector, defence, community (42 percent); and marketing, PR and media (37 percent).

In comparison, European year-on-year online job demand was up 25 percent but down by five points (five percent) month-on-month.

The Monster Employment Index Europe is a monthly analysis of millions of online job opportunities culled from a large, representative selection of corporate career sites and job boards across the European Union, including Monster.be.

Monster Employment Index Belgium findings for the past 13 months are as follows:

Jan 11	Dec 10	Nov 10	Oct 10	Sep 10	Aug 10	Jul 10	Jun 10	May 10	Apr 10	Mar 10	Feb 10	Jan 10
101	110	110	108	106	105	108	106	113	108	102	94	87

“While there was a sequential decline in January’s Index, the accelerated annual growth in online job opportunities of 16 percent indicates economic optimism,” commented Bernard Hensmans, country manager of Monster Belgium. “Business activity appears to

be on a steady rise year-on-year, with sectors such as HR and marketing exhibiting heightened growth in job availability.”

HR continues to be highest performer year-on-year of all sectors with a 55 percent annual increase

Despite a minor dip in January, HR remained in the lead of all sectors in long-term expansion in the Index, maintaining its high annual growth rate of 55 percent from December. Elsewhere in the business support services segment, the administrative and organisation sector registered annual growth of 16 percent, matching the national average.

All but one of the industry sectors saw a decline month-on-month. Education, training and library increased by two points (two percent) in January. The arts, entertainment, sports, leisure sector fell sharply by seven points (eight percent) from December to January.

Annually, 15 of the 21 sectors registered an increase in online recruitment activity. Year-on-year the arts, entertainment, sports, leisure sector was up by 14 percent, accelerating from the nearly flat trend measured in the previous month. Sales also reported a steeper long-term trend in January than in December, which demonstrated generally positive expectations for consumer spending at the start of the new year.

Manufacturing and related activity saw further easing in online recruitment trends. Production, manufacturing, maintenance, repair showed 27 percent annual growth in January which marked a slowdown from the prior month's 39 percent annual rise. Transport, post and logistics was also up on the year, to the same degree as seen in December. In addition, engineering saw a solid rise of 28 percent compared to January 2010.

Plant and machine operators and assemblers reported highest occupational growth year-on-year

Online job opportunities eased in each of the nine occupational groups monitored by the Index month-on-month between December and January, although eight groups continued to show annual growth.

Plant and machine operators and assemblers was the top growth occupation annually, but its current 33 percent rise indicated a slight decline from the online job activity registered in November and December. This aligns with the easing of online job recruitment noted in the production and transportation sectors.

Positions available for managers rose by five percent year-on-year, demonstrating more opportunities for upper level professionals in a variety of sectors, including HR.

Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers was the only occupational group to register a year-on-year decline of one percent. Craft and related trades workers saw the biggest month-on-month decline of all occupational groups falling by four points (three percent).

Online job demand year-on-year continues to be strongest in Flemish region

From December to January, online job opportunities declined sharply by six points (eight percent) in the Brussels-Capital region due to a decline in available positions in education and healthcare sectors.

The Flemish region remained the strongest performer year-on-year with an increase of 16 percent, this was reported due to growth in the production, manufacturing, maintenance, and repair; and transport, post and logistics sectors. By contrast, online job availability in the Walloon region plummeted ten points (ten percent) month-on-month.

Best performing sectors

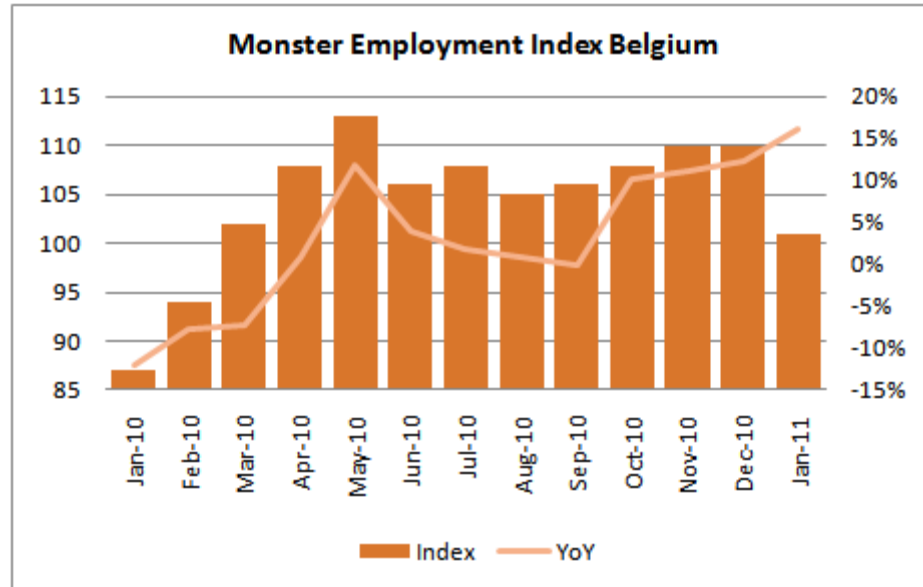
Industry sectors showing the greatest rate of increase in online job availability included:

Month-on-month

Industry	Jan 11	Dec 10	%
Education, training and library	125	123	2%
HR	133	134	-1%
Public sector, defence, community	208	212	-2%
Agriculture, fishing and forestry	113	116	-3%
Administrative, organisation	79	83	-5%

Year-on-year

Industry	Jan 11	Jan 10	%
HR	133	86	55%
Public sector, defence, community	208	146	42%
Marketing, PR and media	97	71	37%
Engineering	119	93	28%
Production, manufacturing, maintenance, repair	131	103	27%



Monster Employment Index Belgium findings across industry sectors for the past 13 months are as follows:

Industry	Jan 11	Dec 10	Nov 10	Oct 10	Sep 10	Aug 10	Jul 10	Jun 10	May 10	Apr 10	Mar 10	Feb 10	Jan 10
Accounting, audit, taxes	117	126	127	120	112	121	115	112	122	124	125	118	98
Administrative, organisation	79	83	81	80	79	83	86	84	89	86	80	73	68
Agriculture, fishing and forestry	113	116	121	124	133	132	129	133	144	143	129	112	116
Arts, entertainment, sports, leisure	79	86	82	85	88	89	92	84	91	86	81	72	69
Banking, finance, insurance	77	82	81	81	78	79	83	78	86	83	81	79	75
Construction and extraction	110	117	121	121	116	108	111	113	116	116	112	97	99
Education, training and library	125	123	115	115	122	141	137	138	133	132	136	135	130
Engineering	119	134	137	130	122	118	115	124	137	135	119	99	93
Environment, architecture, urbanism	73	84	89	83	86	99	114	111	127	118	114	106	98
Healthcare, social work	120	133	132	125	138	147	155	154	159	149	137	135	128
Hospitality and tourism	72	81	81	82	82	82	83	93	110	98	83	70	66
HR	133	134	131	132	129	135	130	121	130	117	107	94	86
IT	84	92	92	91	88	84	84	82	86	82	79	72	67
Legal	96	104	109	112	107	107	115	112	118	118	112	104	98
Management and consulting	108	123	125	123	119	122	125	122	130	126	120	112	108
Marketing, PR and media	97	109	113	102	100	96	82	95	104	96	92	85	71

Production, manufacturing, maintenance, repair	131	154	157	148	136	134	136	137	153	145	133	123	103
Public sector, defence, community	208	212	207	223	210	194	189	169	201	188	174	171	146
Research and development	98	115	115	110	110	105	113	101	109	101	95	94	82
Sales	113	128	126	124	123	123	129	121	131	125	119	114	103
Transport, post and logistics	63	68	69	69	66	66	69	67	68	63	59	56	51

Monster Employment Index Belgium findings across occupational categories for the past 13 months are as follows:

Occupation	Jan 11	Dec 10	Nov 10	Oct 10	Sep 10	Aug 10	Jul 10	Jun 10	May 10	Apr 10	Mar 10	Feb 10	Jan 10
Managers	104	120	119	118	114	111	117	120	128	122	117	105	99
Professionals	92	106	107	102	100	99	98	96	107	102	95	89	79
Technicians and associate professionals	102	113	113	111	109	110	111	108	115	112	108	99	92
Clerical support workers	85	90	88	86	85	89	92	90	95	93	85	78	74
Service and sales workers	108	109	112	112	109	107	104	101	110	104	95	90	85
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	106	108	115	118	129	127	124	129	141	141	124	104	109
Craft and related workers	113	117	120	122	108	100	107	106	113	109	107	101	87
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	142	166	169	162	155	148	141	148	162	150	128	119	107
Elementary occupations	127	135	134	133	128	125	126	126	123	119	112	109	111

Monster Employment Index Belgium findings across the regions for the past 13 months are as follows:

Region	Jan 11	Dec 10	Nov 10	Oct 10	Sep 10	Aug 10	Jul 10	Jun 10	May 10	Apr 10	Mar 10	Feb 10	Jan 10
Brussels-Capital	68	74	76	74	73	74	74	71	76	77	74	69	69
Flemish Region	109	119	118	117	114	112	116	115	121	115	109	101	94
Walloon Region	94	104	106	102	106	100	101	94	100	94	94	94	85

Monster Employment Index Belgium for February will be released on March 8, 2011.

About The Monster Employment Index Europe

The Monster Employment Index Europe provides monthly insight into online recruitment trends across the European Union. Launched in June 2005 with data from December 2004, the Index is based on a review of millions of employer job opportunities culled from a large, representative selection of corporate career sites and job boards, including Monster. The Monster Employment Index's underlying data is validated for accuracy by Research America, Inc. – an independent, third-party auditing firm – to ensure that measured online job recruitment activity is within a margin of error of +/- 1.05%.

The Index monitors online job opportunities across all European Union member countries.

The monthly reports for Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Europe are available at: <http://about-monster.com/employment/index/17>.

About Monster Worldwide

Monster Worldwide, Inc. (NYSE: MWW), parent company of Monster, the premier global online employment solution for more than a decade, strives to inspire people to improve their lives. With a local presence in key markets in North America, Europe, and Asia, Monster works for everyone by connecting employers with quality job seekers at all levels and by providing personalized career advice to consumers globally. Through online media sites and services, Monster delivers vast, highly targeted audiences to advertisers. Monster Worldwide is a member of the S&P 500 index. To learn more about Monster's industry-leading products and services, visit www.monster.com. More information about Monster Worldwide is available at <http://about-monster.com>.

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