

Monster Employment Index Belgium Dips in August as Online Recruiting Activity Slows During Summer

August 2009 Index Highlights:

- The Monster Employment Index Belgium dipped two percent in August and reported 12 percent fewer open positions compared to August 2008
- Reduced offerings were seen in professional service sectors such as engineering and IT. Financial, public sector and education and training sectors noted the sharpest monthly gains. On a yearly basis only sectors such as healthcare, social work, education and training and public sector report yearly gains
- Offerings decreased in both the Flemish and Walloon regions while Brussels – Capital notched its third consecutive month of increased opportunities

Summary Overview

Online job availability across Belgium dipped slightly in August following an uptick in July, largely reflecting seasonal recruitment trends seen at this time of year. However following the economic crisis there are still no structural changes in the Belgian employer market which accounts for the year-on-year decline of 12 percent (12 points). From an annual perspective, however, this is the most moderate annual decline since August 2008. Demand is now higher than a year ago in both consulting and manufacturing in addition to public-driven sectors such as education, healthcare and community services. Among occupations, managers are particularly sought-after.

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:

Aug 09	Jul 09	Jun 09	May 09	Apr 09	Mar 09	Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08
104	106	102	101	107	110	102	99	102	107	114	116	118

“Despite recent improvements in various economic indicators, Belgian businesses remain cautious about hiring, albeit to a lesser degree than in the European Union as a whole,” commented Bernard Hensmans, country manager, Monster Belgium.

“Specifically, demand for workers in the Brussels-Capital region has bounced back over the summer as the demand for managers has recovered.”

Online opportunities fall in engineering, accounting, audit and taxes as well as IT; education registers jump on a monthly basis

The majority of the industry sectors monitored by the Belgium Index registered a slight fall in online job availability. Healthcare and social work dipped for the first time since August 2008, falling three points (two percent). Despite this, from an annual perspective the sector showed the sharpest increase of 47 points (38 percent).

Conversely, opportunities jumped 15 points (nine percent) in education, training and library. Year-on-year, offerings are up seven percent. Public sector offerings climbed seven points (four percent) whilst finance and insurance registered a second month of solid gains adding four points (five percent).

Plant and machine operators and assemblers dip in August

Four of the nine occupational groups monitored by the Belgium Index registered gains in August. The sharpest decline in online worker demand was for plant and machine operators and assemblers; opportunities fell eight points (six percent). Professionals declined four points (four percent) on the month and 20 percent year-on-year, the sharpest annual decline of occupational groups.

Skilled agricultural and forestry workers showed the highest monthly rate of increase rising 11 points (eight percent).

From an annual perspective, managers saw opportunities increase 17 percent, the biggest annual uptick of occupational groups. Meanwhile elementary occupations remained flat, but showed the strongest three month uptrend among occupational groups.

Flemish and Walloon regions see falls in online job demand

Belgium's Walloon Region declined four points (four percent) in August. The region's healthcare, social work and education sector saw large declines in online job opportunities.

Online worker demand in the Flemish region declined three points (three percent) in August. However with this result, the region had the lowest rate of annual contraction in Belgium; offerings were down three points (three percent) compared to August 2008.

Brussels was the only major region to register increases in job availability in August, rising three points (three percent). Despite this, it was the worst affected region by the economic crisis on an annual basis, with opportunities dropping 41 points (34 percent).

Best performing sectors

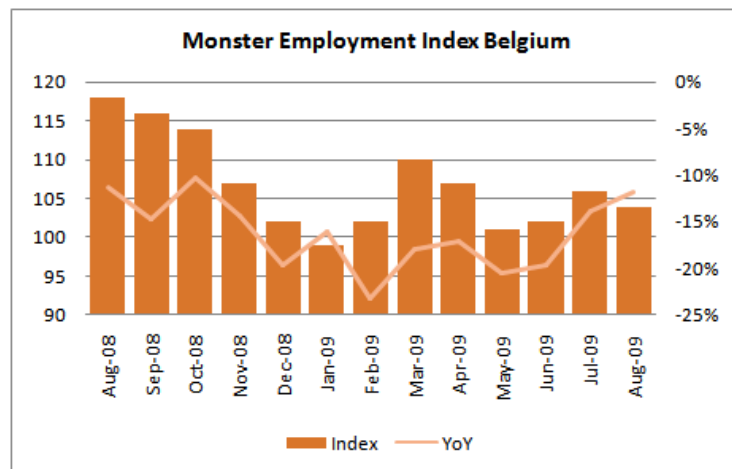
Industry sectors showing the greatest rate of increase in online job availability included:

Month-on-month

Industry	Aug 09	Jul 09	%
Education, training and library	180	165	9%
Agriculture, fishing and forestry	150	140	7%
Marketing, PR and media	92	86	7%
Banking, finance, insurance	87	83	5%
Public sector, defence, community	193	186	4%

Year-on-year

Industry	Aug 09	Aug 08	%
Healthcare, social work	172	125	38%
Public sector, defence, community	193	173	12%
Management and consulting	120	111	8%
Education, training and library	180	169	7%
Agriculture, fishing and forestry	150	147	2%



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

Industry	Aug 09	Jul 09	Jun 09	May 09	Apr 09	Mar 09	Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08
Accounting, audit, taxes	109	116	117	113	123	134	135	130	142	148	150	144	152
Administrative, organisation	86	86	79	81	88	91	85	87	86	89	101	105	106
Agriculture, fishing and forestry	150	140	149	156	155	151	147	141	141	142	146	148	147
Arts, entertainment, sports, leisure	85	88	87	94	94	96	89	80	81	90	118	134	145
Banking, finance, insurance	87	83	75	75	87	96	87	94	90	94	102	107	108
Construction and extraction	111	118	120	124	125	125	111	104	106	109	115	116	111
Education, training and library	180	165	165	161	159	166	150	154	155	153	150	164	169
Engineering	116	123	111	110	120	130	110	102	111	115	127	119	121
Environment, architecture, urbanism	95	117	111	112	118	108	106	96	98	105	107	106	105
Healthcare, social work	172	175	170	166	162	155	133	121	121	114	112	118	125
Hospitality and tourism	85	86	94	92	89	83	77	72	71	77	92	113	108
HR	92	92	84	82	87	88	89	97	102	113	122	123	132
IT	89	93	92	90	104	108	105	105	110	112	113	113	114
Legal	108	109	104	100	107	107	108	109	114	111	119	122	121
Management and consulting	120	120	116	115	118	122	112	102	104	108	109	110	111
Marketing, PR and media	92	86	85	84	88	90	90	85	96	100	113	116	114
Production, manufacturing, maintenance, repair	115	124	116	113	117	124	104	95	95	106	113	112	113
Public sector, defence, community	193	186	163	169	192	190	175	166	173	175	182	178	173
Research and development	108	113	115	109	115	117	115	114	115	120	120	120	121
Sales	125	124	118	117	121	125	115	105	109	112	119	123	125
Transport, post and logistics	54	53	51	50	51	53	51	55	62	77	107	120	119

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

Occupation	Aug 09	Jul 09	Jun 09	May 09	Apr 09	Mar 09	Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08
Managers	134	134	125	123	129	131	115	109	110	112	115	114	115
Professionals	96	100	97	96	106	111	108	107	111	115	117	118	120
Technicians and associate professionals	110	109	102	101	106	111	99	93	98	103	112	116	118
Clerical support workers	91	90	83	85	92	95	90	92	90	94	106	110	111
Service and sales workers	108	102	105	104	101	94	81	73	75	75	94	111	111
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	149	138	148	156	155	151	147	141	141	142	146	148	147
Craft and related workers	101	105	106	106	110	119	105	88	89	94	98	96	95
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	118	126	118	116	124	120	119	118	123	131	145	147	145
Elementary occupations	119	119	112	107	106	105	97	98	97	106	116	120	119

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

Region	Aug 09	Jul 09	Jun 09	May 09	Apr 09	Mar 09	Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08
Brussels-Capital	79	76	73	72	80	87	84	73	85	89	104	116	120
Flemish Region	110	113	108	107	110	114	96	92	94	98	108	112	113
Walloon Region	101	105	101	99	107	110	110	108	111	116	119	116	118

Monster Employment Index Belgium for September will be released on October 13, 2009.

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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