



## Monster Employment Index Belgium Halts Seven-Month Declining Trend, Showing Moderate Rise as Opportunities in Healthcare, Sales and Consulting Increase

### February 2009 Index Highlights:

- The Monster Employment Index Belgium rose three points, or three percent as online job availability showed a moderate increase, following seven months of decline
- Year-on-year, the Index was down 31 points, or 23 percent. The Index has shown a negative annual growth for the last twelve months
- The healthcare and social work; sales; and management and consulting sectors reported the largest monthly gains, yet all reported negative annual growth. The HR; banking, finance and insurance sectors noted the largest decreases, dropping to record lows
- Year-on-year, skilled and agricultural workers were the only group to register any growth
- Online opportunities rebounded across all monitored regions, with Brussels-Capital showing the strongest growth
- The Monster Employment Index Europe showed an upturn of 13 points after seven consecutive months of decline. Year-on-year the overall European online job market dropped 50 points or 30 percent

### Summary Overview

The Monster Employment Index Belgium bucked the declining trend seen for the last seven months and noted a three point, three percent increase. Year-on-year, the overall Belgium online job market contracted 23 percent. The annual contraction in the Belgian job market is less than the 30 percent decline experienced throughout Europe.

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 Europe, including Monster.be.

Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08
102	99	102	107	114	116	118	123	127	127	129	134	133

“The increase in online job availability across Belgium is a sign that some seasonal hiring cycles are still intact despite the economic downturn. In particular, the public sector is showing more opportunities than at the same time last year,” commented Bernard Hensmans, country manager, Belgium. “Despite this upturn in job offers, forecasts from the National Bank of Belgium suggest unemployment is still likely to rise.”

**Healthcare and social work sector shows strong increases especially for professionals**

After starting the year on a flat note, healthcare and social workers surged by 12 points or ten percent in the February Index. The rise was due to an increase in opportunities for professionals; and technicians and associate professionals. Despite the monthly rise the sector fell back 11 points, or eight percent year-on-year.

Sales; and management and consulting both increased by ten points, or ten percent in February after falling for seven and twelve consecutive months respectively. From an annual perspective both sectors noted a decline; sales saw a 23 percent decline, whilst management and consulting recorded at 10 percent contraction.

Despite the overall uptick in the Index, the HR sector noted a sixth consecutive month of decline. Within the sector, online opportunities for managers showed some recovery following four months of lowered demand. Regionally, the Flemish region saw the steepest decrease. Year-on-year the sector was down 62 points, or 41 percent.

Banking, finance and insurance declined seven points or seven percent in February, weighed down by a major fall for professionals. Demand eased across all regions, but especially in the Walloon region. Year-on-year the sector declined 40 points, or 31 percent.

**After three months of decline, craft and related workers show solid increase**

Craft and related workers saw a 17 point, 18 percent increase in February, after a three month downturn. The growth was due to stronger demand in the construction and extraction; and production, manufacturing, maintenance and repair sectors. The Walloon region reported the largest gains. Year-on-year craft and related reported the mildest reduction in opportunities among occupations, falling five points, or five percent.

Clerical support workers dipped two points in February. Major declines were seen within HR; banking, finance and insurance; and transport, post and logistics. In contrast, increased opportunities were seen in the sales sector. The Flemish region was the only region to note lower demand, while Brussels-Capital registered the largest increase. Annually the category retracted 39 points, or 30 percent,

**All regions experience a recovery, especially Brussels-Capital**

Brussels capital showed the largest monthly increase, edging up 12 points or 15 percent to stem a six month downtrend. Major increases within the region were noted in the environment, architecture and urbanism; healthcare and social work; IT; management and consulting and the marketing, PR and media sectors. Among occupational groups technicians and associate professionals; and clerical support workers saw the strongest

rate of growth. Year-on-year, demand was down 60 points, or 42 percent, representing the steepest drop among all regions.

The Flemish region showed a four point upturn or four percent in February after seven consecutive months of decline. The largest gains were seen in the environment, architecture and urbanism sector. Contrasting this, online job opportunities fell for workers within the transport, post and logistics; administrative and organisation; banking, finance and insurance; and HR sectors. Year-on-year the region experienced a 31 percent slide.

The Walloon region exhibited moderate increased opportunities in February, with an increase of two points or two percent, following two months of decline.

**Top Industries Looking for Employees**

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

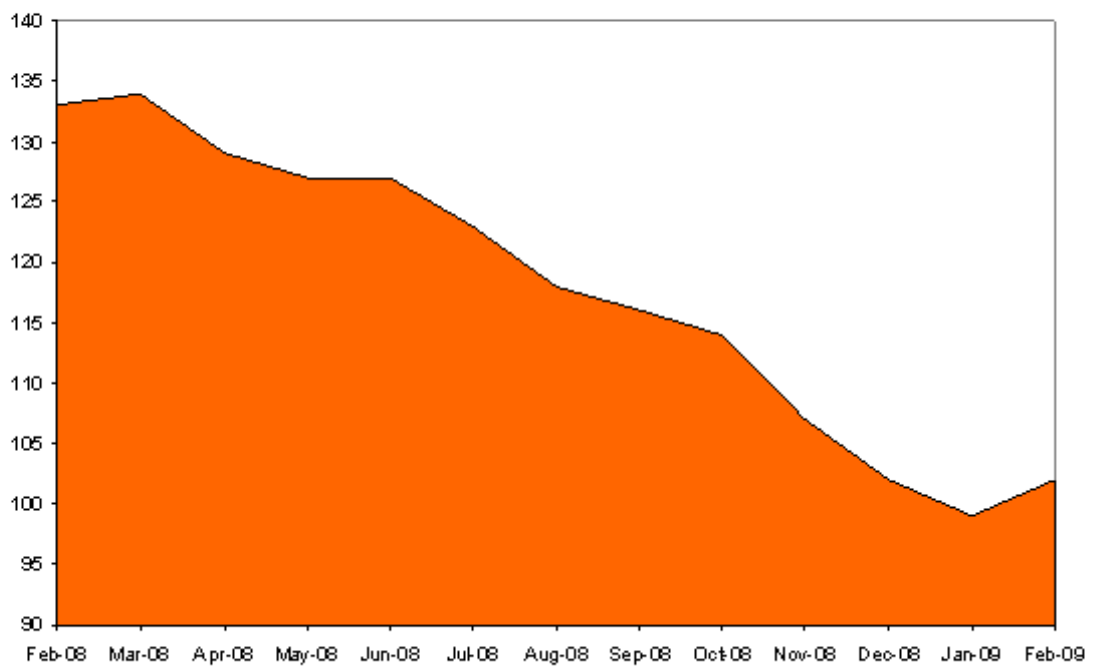
Industry	Feb 09	Jan 09	Feb 08
Healthcare, social work	133	121	144
Sales	115	105	150
Management and consulting	112	102	124
Environment, architecture, urbanism	106	96	117
Production, manufacturing, maintenance, repair	104	95	138

**Most Wanted Occupational Experience**

Occupational groups showing the greatest rate of increase in online job availability month-to-month included:

Industry	Feb 09	Jan 09	Feb 08
Craft and related workers	105	88	110
Service and sales workers	81	73	130
Managers	115	109	130
Technicians and associate professionals	99	93	139

### Monster Employment Index Belgium



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

Industry	Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08
Accounting, audit, taxes	135	130	142	148	150	144	152	164	178	176	175	182	182
Administrative, organisation	85	87	86	89	101	105	106	118	119	119	123	129	123
Agriculture, fishing and forestry	147	141	141	142	146	148	147	147	149	141	138	133	132
Arts, entertainment, sports, leisure	89	80	81	90	118	134	145	161	159	152	156	152	154
Banking, finance, insurance	87	94	90	94	102	107	108	114	114	123	123	131	127
Construction and extraction	111	104	106	109	115	116	111	117	115	114	115	115	115
Education, training and library	150	154	155	153	150	164	169	161	165	169	165	171	159
Engineering	110	102	111	115	127	119	121	135	137	131	140	145	145
Environment, architecture, urbanism	106	96	98	105	107	106	105	113	111	113	123	119	117
Healthcare, social work	133	121	121	114	112	118	125	129	131	131	133	135	144
Hospitality and tourism	77	72	71	77	92	113	108	108	121	119	120	120	122
HR	89	97	102	113	122	123	132	132	143	152	143	154	151
IT	105	105	110	112	113	113	114	115	117	118	119	121	120
Legal	108	109	114	111	119	122	121	128	133	129	125	147	155
Management and consulting	112	102	104	108	109	110	111	115	116	118	119	123	124
Marketing, PR and media	90	85	96	100	113	116	114	133	135	128	134	143	146
Production, manufacturing, maintenance, repair	104	95	95	106	113	112	113	118	121	120	125	136	138
Public sector, defence, community	175	166	173	175	182	178	173	182	181	155	171	163	171
Research and development	115	114	115	120	120	120	121	125	124	126	130	133	131
Sales	115	105	109	112	119	123	125	133	142	141	144	151	150
Transport, post and logistics	51	55	62	77	107	120	119	129	128	129	136	144	142

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

Occupation	Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08
Managers	115	109	110	112	115	114	115	120	122	123	125	128	130
Professionals	108	107	111	115	117	118	120	124	127	128	130	135	133
Technicians and associate professionals	99	93	98	103	112	116	118	127	129	128	133	139	139
Clerical support workers	90	92	90	94	106	110	111	123	124	125	128	134	129
Service and sales workers	81	73	75	75	94	111	111	110	124	126	126	126	130
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	147	141	141	142	146	148	147	147	149	141	138	133	133
Craft and related workers	105	88	89	94	98	96	95	100	103	102	105	112	110
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	119	118	123	131	145	147	145	151	154	151	156	159	159
Elementary occupations	97	98	97	106	116	120	119	119	119	119	120	124	123

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

Region	Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08
Brussels-Capital	84	73	85	89	104	116	120	130	128	128	133	141	144
Flemish Region	96	92	94	98	108	112	113	122	129	129	133	142	139
Walloon Region	110	108	111	116	119	116	118	122	124	125	127	130	128

Monster Employment Index Belgium for March will be released on April 14, 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://corporate.monster.com/Press\\_Room/MEI\\_EU.asp](http://corporate.monster.com/Press_Room/MEI_EU.asp).

**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](http://www.monster.com). More information about Monster Worldwide is available at <http://corporate.monster.com>.

**Special Note:** Safe Harbor Statement Under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995: Except for historical information contained herein, the statements made in this release constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Such forward-looking statements involve certain risks and uncertainties, including statements regarding Monster Worldwide, Inc.'s strategic direction, prospects and future results. Certain factors, including factors outside of Monster Worldwide's control, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in the forward- looking statements, including economic and other conditions in the markets in which Monster Worldwide operates, risks associated with acquisitions, competition, seasonality and the other risks discussed in Monster Worldwide's Form 10-K/A and other filings made with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which discussions are incorporated in this release by reference.

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