



Monster Employment Index Belgium Falls, Amid Decline in Online Recruitment Activity

July 2008 Index Highlights:

- The Monster Employment Index Belgium fell four points to a level of 123, extending the downward trend in online recruitment activity into the third quarter of the year. The Index was down 10 points, or eight percent year-on-year
- Accounting, audit, taxes; hospitality and tourism; and HR registered the sharpest monthly declines, while slight gains were seen in construction and extraction; and arts, entertainment, sports, leisure.
- On an annual basis legal; and management and consulting saw the greatest declines, while the public, defence and community sector showed robust year-on-year growth
- All occupational groups saw lower online demand, with service, shop and market sales workers taking the largest hit amid fewer opportunities in the hospitality and tourism sector
- Regionally, the Flemish Region saw the largest decline in online job availability in July while Brussels-Capital registered a slight increase

Summary Overview

The Monster Employment Index Belgium fell four points in July, reaching a new level of 123. Year-on-year the Index was down 10 points or eight percent, representing a seventh straight month of negative annual growth. 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.

Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08	Jan 08	Dec 07	Nov 07	Oct 07	Sep 07	Aug 07	Jul 07
123	127	127	129	134	133	118	127	125	127	136	133	133

“The continued political and economic uncertainty in Belgium seems to be adding to a general state of caution so far as new hiring is concerned,” commented Bernard Hensmans, country manager Monster Belgium. “While the decreasing trend in the Monster Employment Index Belgium suggests faltering employer confidence, more and more positions are available in government functions, counterbalancing the private sector slowdown.”

Accounting, audit and taxes and hospitality and tourism see sharply lower demand

Accounting, audit and taxes saw the most pronounced month-on-month decline, with a reduction of 14 points coming as a result of lower online job availability for professionals. All regions showed decline, with Walloonie registering the steepest decline. Year-on-year, the category was down 10 points, or six percent.

Hospitality tourism also saw a sharp fall in online worker demand, with a 13-point drop bringing the level of offerings for the sector to a two-year low. The decline, partly seasonal in nature, came as demand for service, shop and market sales workers declined rapidly.

Meanwhile, the construction and extraction; and arts, entertainment, sports, leisure sectors both saw online demand increase by two points. Construction and extraction saw opportunities grow in the Flemish Region, with a steep decline in Walloonie. Arts, entertainment, sports and leisure saw higher demand for technicians and associate professionals, mostly in the Brussels-Capital.

Service workers fall on lower demand in hospitality and tourism sector

Service, shop and market sales workers saw the biggest decline in demand among occupational groups, falling 14 points following three months of relative stability. The main cause was a sharp drop in opportunities in the hospitality and tourism sector. Offerings also fell in marketing, PR and media; and sales. Year-on-year, the category was down 19 points, or 15 percent.

Craft-workers fell three points, reflecting lower demand in the production, manufacturing, maintenance and repair sector. By contrast, online offerings rose in the construction and extraction sector. Online hiring fell in all regions, with Walloonie registering the steepest decrease. The Flemish Region saw a milder decrease. Year-on-year, the category was down eight points, or seven percent.

There was a fourth consecutive month of declining demand for professionals, with a three-point fall coming as a result of fewer available positions in the marketing, PR and media sector. Year-on-year, the category was down six points, or five percent.

Flemish region shows sharply lower demand as Brussels-Capital edges higher

The Flemish Region dipped sharply in July, falling seven points and showing a decline of 10 points, or eight percent, year-on-year, the largest annual decline among the three major regions. By contrast, a year ago, the Flemish region was the fastest growing part of Belgium. Major declines were reported in the legal; accounting, audit and taxes; and HR sectors. By contrast, offerings rose in the public, defence and community sector. Lower demand was seen across all occupational groups, with professionals; and service, shop and market sales workers recording the steepest falls.

Brussels-Capital notched two points higher in July, after holding steady in June. Still, the region remained down by two points, or two percent, year-on-year. The highest rate of increase in July was seen in the legal sector, after a month of fewer opportunities. Offerings also bounced back in the research and development sector, after two months

of a declining trend. By contrast, hiring fell in accounting, audit and taxes; and HR. Among occupational groups, clerks registered the highest increase, while the steepest decline was seen for skilled agricultural and fishery workers.

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

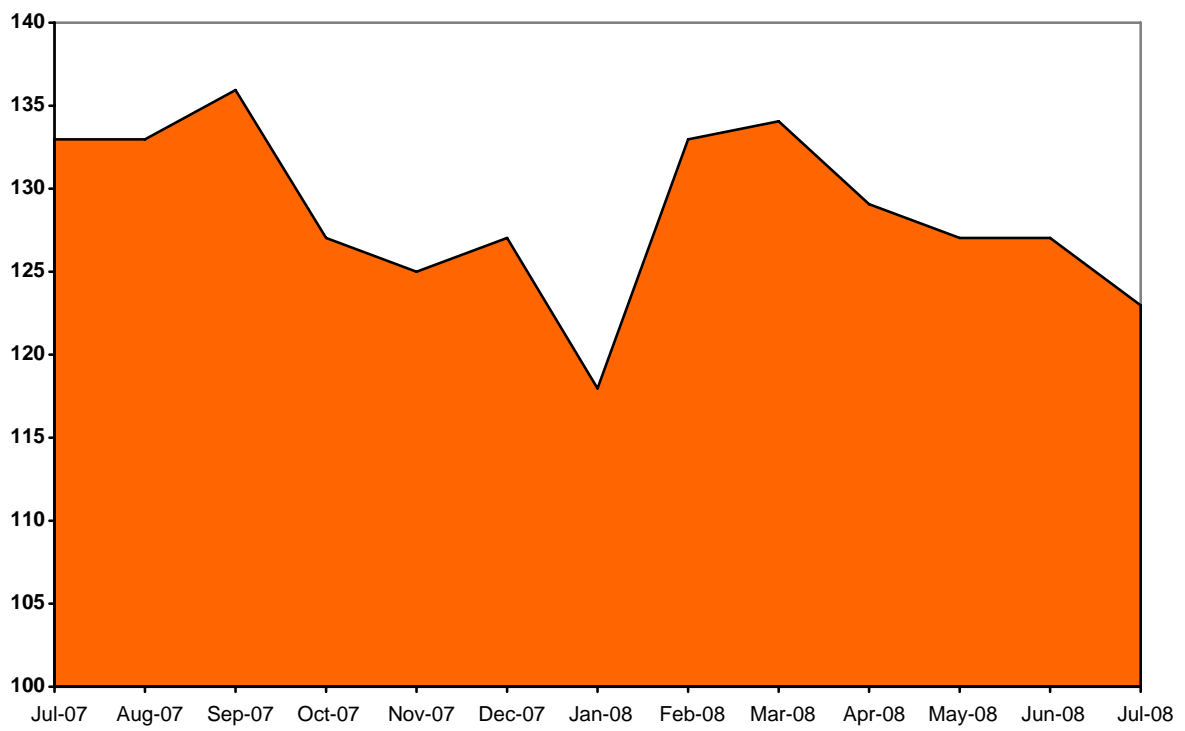
Region	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08	Jan 08	Dec 07	Nov 07	Oct 07	Sep 07	Aug 07	Jul 07
Brussels-Capital	130	128	128	133	141	144	105	126	129	131	152	131	132
Flemish Region	122	129	129	133	142	139	119	133	129	129	136	131	132
Walloon Region	122	124	125	127	130	128	116	122	123	126	128	130	127

Top Industries Looking for Employees

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

Industry	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08
Construction and extraction	117	115	114
Arts, entertainment, sports, leisure	161	159	152
Environment, architecture, urbanism	113	111	113
Public sector, defence, community	182	181	155
Transport, post and logistics	129	128	129

Monster Employment Index Belgium



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

Industry	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08	Jan 08	Dec 07	Nov 07	Oct 07	Sep 07	Aug 07	Jul 07
Accounting, audit, taxes	164	178	176	175	182	182	151	162	162	173	181	178	174
Administrative, organisation	118	119	119	123	129	123	107	114	113	113	136	136	139
Agriculture, fishing and forestry	147	149	141	138	133	132	129	123	129	137	114	121	122
Arts, entertainment, sports, leisure	161	159	152	156	152	154	137	157	138	144	136	130	124
Banking, finance, insurance	114	114	123	123	131	127	94	117	122	119	123	114	126
Construction and extraction	117	115	114	115	115	115	109	114	113	115	132	126	130
Education, training and library	161	165	169	165	171	159	155	151	144	152	137	133	134
Engineering	135	137	131	140	145	145	123	143	137	140	148	136	136
Environment, architecture, urbanism	113	111	113	123	119	117	110	119	112	113	115	115	115
Healthcare, social work	129	131	131	133	135	144	131	136	134	136	136	134	138
Hospitality and tourism	108	121	119	120	120	122	118	120	118	123	128	125	127
HR	132	143	152	143	154	151	133	150	148	141	156	149	145
IT	115	117	118	119	121	120	112	115	116	119	124	123	120
Legal	128	133	129	125	147	155	127	149	146	149	154	147	160
Management and consulting	115	116	118	119	123	124	115	132	119	120	147	145	139
Marketing, PR and media	133	135	128	134	143	146	116	129	136	128	143	140	140
Production, manufacturing, maintenance, repair	118	121	120	125	136	138	117	129	128	127	129	122	128
Public sector, defence, community	182	181	155	171	163	171	143	145	154	158	129	124	132
Research and development	125	124	126	130	133	131	119	127	128	131	134	131	131
Sales	133	142	141	144	151	150	131	141	138	139	144	138	139
Transport, post and logistics	129	128	129	136	144	142	121	127	128	124	130	129	131

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

Occupation Group	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08	Jan 08	Dec 07	Nov 07	Oct 07	Sep 07	Aug 07	Jul 07
Legislators, senior officials and managers	120	122	123	125	128	130	121	139	125	125	152	150	143
Professionals	124	127	128	130	135	133	118	126	127	130	135	132	130
Technicians and associate professionals	127	129	128	133	139	139	119	128	127	128	135	129	131
Clerks	123	124	125	128	134	129	111	119	117	118	135	135	139
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	110	124	126	126	126	130	116	125	123	125	132	129	129
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	147	149	141	138	133	133	129	123	129	137	114	121	122
Craft and related workers	100	103	102	105	112	110	101	106	107	107	107	108	108
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	151	154	151	156	159	159	142	150	150	149	151	148	152
Elementary occupations	119	119	119	120	124	123	117	122	121	123	136	130	134

Monster Employment Index Belgium for August will be released on September 9, 2008.

About The Monster Employment Index Belgium

Providing a broad, comprehensive monthly analysis of online job demand, the Monster Employment Index Belgium is an extension of the Monster Employment Index Europe, which is compiled each month by researchers at Monster Worldwide Europe.

Launched in June 2005, the Monster Employment Index Europe provides monthly insight into recruitment trends across the European Union. The Index report is based on a real-time review of millions of employer job opportunities culled from Web sites across Europe, including Monster®. The Index is audited by Research America, Inc. and provides analyses of online job demand within occupational categories, industry sectors and regions.

Monthly Index 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.

About Monster Worldwide

Monster Worldwide, Inc. (NASDAQ: MNST), 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 and the NASDAQ 100. To learn more about Monster's industry-leading products and services, visit www.monster.com.

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