



Monster Employment Index Belgium Shows Renewed Confidence amongst Belgian Employers

— Online Job Opportunities Increase for the Second Consecutive Month after Downshift in the Fourth Quarter of 2007 —

Brussels, April 8, 2008 – The Monster Employment Index Belgium shows that the online job availability in Belgium remains quite stable year-on-year. The Index rose 1 point to a level of 134 in March for the second consecutive month, reversing the downward trend of end 2007. The growth was largely due to increased opportunities for Clerks and Professionals and a remarkable rise in demand in the Education & Training sector and the Administrative sector in March. Across regions, online demand grew mainly in the Flemish region, which is actually up year-on-year.

The Monster Employment Index in Belgium is based on a real-time representative review of thousands of employer job postings culled from Web sites, including Monster®. The Index will be published on a monthly basis as of this month.

“The negative economic news particularly about low quotation of the dollar, increasing raw material prices, inflation and the decrease of spending power did not impede a strong and stable employment market in Belgium”, comments Bernard Hensmans, Country Manager Monster Belgium. “The Index shows that business confidence remains stable and that Belgian employers are continuing to seek workers following a downshift in the fourth quarter of 2007 and a seasonal dip in January.”

Monster Employment Index Belgium results over the past 13 months are as follows:

Mar 08	Feb 08	Jan 08	Dec 07	Nov 07	Oct 07	Sep 07	Aug 07	Jul 07	Jun 07	May 07	Apr 07	Mar 07
134	133	118	127	125	127	136	133	133	135	135	140	139

Increase in Demand for Employees in Education & Training; HR and Accounting, Audit & Taxes Sector

The greatest rise in online job availability in March was seen in the Education & Training sector with an increase of 12 points, following three months of continued growth. Job availability showed significant increases among Professionals, for the fourth consecutive month; and Technicians and associate professionals, following a slight decline in February.

Online hiring in the sector increased in the Flemish Region for the second consecutive month. The year-on-year figures are even stronger and show a 33-point increase in demand.

“The higher demand in the Education & Training Sector suggests an optimistic employee policy characterized by investments in strengthening peoples’ skills and retaining employees,” says Bernard Hensmans. “The year-on-year figures of the HR sector also follow this trend with an increase of 24 points.”

Accounting, Audit & Taxes; Public Sector, Defence & Community Services and the Entertainment & Leisure Sector also show remarkable year-on-year numbers with a growth of respectively 48 points, 26 points and 21 points.

The Healthcare & Social Work sector shows a slowdown (-9) in March, following an increase in February. The major decline was seen among Professionals, while demand for Technicians and associate professionals registered growth for the second consecutive month. Regionally, a downturn was seen across the three monitored regions in Belgium, with the Walloon Region registering the deepest decline.

Sectors to show a serious year-on-year decline were IT, Management & Consulting and Construction, although the numbers of March compared to February remain stable.

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

Industry	Mar 08	Feb 08	Jan 08	Dec 07	Nov 07	Oct 07	Sep 07	Aug 07	Jul 07	Jun 07	May 07	Apr 07	Mar 07
Accounting, audit, taxes	182	182	151	162	162	173	181	178	174	166	153	141	134
Administrative, organisation	129	123	107	114	113	113	136	136	139	143	137	138	140
Agriculture, fishing and forestry	133	132	129	123	129	137	114	121	122	127	128	125	122
Arts, entertainment, sports, leisure	152	154	137	157	138	144	136	130	124	131	129	126	131
Automotive	137	137	136	138	136	138	117	123	131	130	130	139	140
Banking, finance, insurance	131	127	94	117	122	119	123	114	126	125	130	154	141
Construction and extraction	115	115	109	114	113	115	132	126	130	134	133	137	136
Education, training and library	171	159	155	151	144	152	137	133	134	139	132	131	138
Engineering	145	145	123	143	137	140	148	136	136	135	134	141	143
Environment, architecture, urbanism	119	117	110	119	112	113	115	115	115	117	124	143	130
Healthcare, social work	135	144	131	136	134	136	136	134	138	131	132	137	132
Hospitality and tourism	120	122	118	120	118	123	128	125	127	128	124	130	130
HR	154	151	133	150	148	141	156	149	145	139	134	137	130
IT	121	120	112	115	116	119	124	123	120	126	130	136	136
Legal	147	155	127	149	146	149	154	147	160	157	151	148	137
Management and consulting	123	124	115	132	119	120	147	145	139	143	145	145	142
Marketing, PR and media	143	146	116	129	136	128	143	140	140	135	134	140	135

Production, manufacturing, maintenance, repair	136	138	117	129	128	127	129	122	128	129	130	131	138
Public Sector, defence, community	163	171	143	145	154	158	129	124	132	137	128	141	137
Research and development	133	131	119	127	128	131	134	131	131	130	130	135	135
Sales	151	150	131	141	138	139	144	138	139	138	139	142	138
Transport, post and logistics	144	142	121	127	128	124	130	129	131	130	132	130	133

Strong demand for Clerks, but decline in Service workers, Shop & Market sales workers

Clerks was the occupation most in demand last month with a growth of 5 points. This rise in demand for clerks was also reflected in the Administrative & Organisation industry sector which showed a similar steady increase in March. Growth was also seen in the Sales, and Transport, Post & Logistics sectors. Meanwhile, there was a decline in the Legal and HR sectors. Online demand increased for this occupational group in all the monitored regions for the second consecutive month, with the Walloon Region showing the highest rate of increase. Year-on-year, the category declined 6 points.

After a strong performance in February, the online hiring investments declined by 4 points for Service workers and Shop & Market sales workers in March. Similar downturns were seen in the Sales, Healthcare & Social and Hospitality & Tourism sectors. Regionally, decline was seen in all the monitored locations, with Brussels Capital showing the sharpest decline.

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

Occupation Group	Mar 08	Feb 08	Jan 08	Dec 07	Nov 07	Oct 07	Sep 07	Aug 07	Jul 07	Jun 07	May 07	Apr 07	Mar 07
Legislators, senior officials and managers	128	130	121	139	125	125	152	150	143	145	145	142	139
Professionals	135	133	118	126	127	130	135	132	130	133	134	140	138
Technicians and associate professionals	139	139	119	128	127	128	135	129	131	132	133	143	140
Clerks	134	129	111	119	117	118	135	135	139	142	137	138	140
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	126	130	116	125	123	125	132	129	129	130	131	132	133
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	133	133	129	123	129	137	114	121	122	127	128	125	122
Craft and related workers	112	110	101	106	107	107	107	108	108	123	123	122	130
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	159	159	142	150	150	149	151	148	152	133	132	134	138
Elementary occupations	124	123	117	122	121	123	136	130	134	136	136	135	135

Belgium, a country of 2 speeds

The online offerings continued to increase in the Flemish Region and the Walloon Region for the second consecutive month in March with respectively 3 points and 2 points.

In the Flemish Region, the major increases were seen in Administrative & Organization for the second consecutive month; and in Environment, Architecture & Urbanism also for the second consecutive month. By contrast, the major decline was seen in Public sector, Defence & Community. Online job availability grew considerably for Craft & Related workers and Clerks for the second month in a row. Meanwhile, opportunities for Service workers, Shop & Market Sales workers dipped, after a strong increase in February.

Brussels-Capital showed a slight decline of 3 points in March, following a strong performance in February. Major declines were seen in the Hospitality & Tourism; Education, Training & Library; Sales and Healthcare & Social work. Though, online availability showed growth in the Administrative & Organization; Public sector, Defence & Community and IT. Among occupational categories, the only group which registered growth was Clerks, for the second month in a row.

Year-on-year the Index remains down. The Flemish Region shows a rise of 4 points, by contrast both the Walloon Region and Brussels-Capital show a decline of respectively 4 points and 2 points. "Looking at the year-on-year numbers, we must admit that the Belgian employment market is still characterized by two different speeds," comments Bernard Hensmans.

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

Region	Mar 08	Feb 08	Jan 08	Dec 07	Nov 07	Oct 07	Sep 07	Aug 07	Jul 07	Jun 07	May 07	Apr 07	Mar 07
Brussels-Capital	141	144	105	126	129	131	152	131	132	130	138	144	143
Flemish Region	142	139	119	133	129	129	136	131	132	133	132	139	138
Walloon Region	130	128	116	122	123	126	128	130	127	128	132	137	135

Monster Employment Index Belgium for April will be released on May 13, 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.

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