



Belgian Online Hiring Falls again in May, According to the Monster Employment Index

May 2009 Index Highlights:

- The Monster Employment Index Belgium dropped six points or six percent in May, as online advertised vacancies hit a four month low
- All major Belgian regions registered a decrease in online job opportunities with Brussels-Capital showing a steeper rate of decline than the other major regions
- The Index's 20 percent fall year-on-year indicates renewed deceleration in Belgian recruiting activity after signs of improvement in the previous two months
- From an industry perspective travel and tourism is the highest climber, reaching a seven-month high. The largest monthly dip is in banking, finance and insurance. Online job availability for this industry is at its lowest level since the Index's inception in April 2006. For the first time this year, opportunities in the public sector slipped as well

Summary Overview

The Monster Employment Index Belgium noted a six point, or six percent drop in May, marking the second consecutive month of decline. Year-on-year, the Index was down 26 points, or 20 percent. The fall in online job availability seen in Belgium during May mirrors the six percent decline experienced across the European Union. However, on an annual basis, Belgium has seen slower contraction in online recruiting than Europe as a whole.

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.

May 09	Apr 09	Mar 09	Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08
101	107	110	102	99	102	107	114	116	118	123	127	127

Bernard Hensmans, country manager for Monster, explained, "Despite the fall in job availability in May the Belgian job market is still showing some signs of stabilisation and continues to have a slower rate of annual contraction than Europe as a whole. Bright spots are present within healthcare and public sectors, with both experiencing positive year-on-year growth. Businesses in Belgium are signalling that they are currently preparing their HR and recruitment approaches for an uptick, but this will only be reflected in the actual postings once the global and EU market shows actual proof of a recovery."

Banking, finance and insurance sector shows most notable decline; hospitality/ tourism and healthcare edge up

The banking, finance and insurance sector fell 12 points or 14 percent in May, representing the largest monthly dip among all industry sectors. The current level is the sector's lowest since the Index's inception in April 2006. The 48 point or 29 percent annual decline shows continued caution in hiring due to uncertainty in the health of the Belgian banking sector.

After three months of increased opportunities, public sector, defence and community slipped 23 Index points, or 12 percent which should be attributed to the upcoming elections in Belgium. Despite the monthly drop this sector exhibited a nine percent, or 14 point increase year-on-year.

Hospitality and tourism edged up in the Index in May, reaching a seven month high, as increased hiring in both the Flemish and Walloon regions offset a moderate decline in Brussels-Capital. Despite the uptick, the category dropped 27 points, or 23 percent in the Index compared to a year ago.

The healthcare and social work sector showed a four point, or two percent increase. Education, training and library noted a two point, or one percent uptick. Mirroring overall European trends, healthcare is also the top growth sector on an annual basis, with a 27 percent increase in job opportunities.

Professionals report largest dip amongst occupational groups; service and sales inch higher

Professionals reported the steepest fall among occupation groups falling 10 points or nine percent on a monthly basis and noted a sharp 22 point, or 25 percent decline year-on-year.

By contrast, service and sales workers job offerings inched higher for a fourth consecutive month due to increased hiring in the retail and hospitality and tourism industries. The Flemish region contributed towards the uptick while opportunities in the Brussels-Capital region fell slightly.

Year-on-year, demand increased the most for skilled agricultural, forestry and fishing workers, which experienced an 11 percent increase year-on-year.

All major regions note monthly and annual decline

All major regions noted a fall in online recruitment activity this month. Brussels-Capital noted the sharpest decline both on a monthly and yearly basis, falling eight points, or 10 percent in May and falling 56 points or 44 percent compared with May 2008 levels.

The Walloon region fell eight points or seven percent on a monthly basis and the regions job market contracted 26 points or 21 percent from an annual perspective. The Flemish region noted the slowest rate of decline, falling three points or three percent on a monthly basis. Year-on-year the region dropped 22 points or 17 percent.

Best Performing Sectors

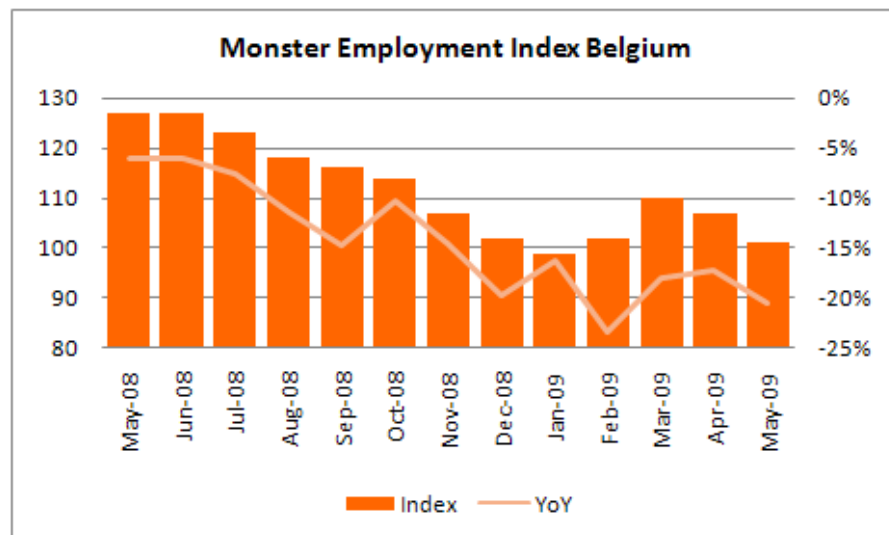
Industry sectors showing the best performance included:

Month-on-month

Industry	May 09	Apr 09	%
Hospitality and tourism	92	89	3%
Healthcare, social work	166	162	2%
Education, training and library	161	159	1%
Agriculture, fishing and forestry	156	155	1%

Year-on-year

Industry	May 09	May 08	%
Healthcare, social work	166	131	27%
Agriculture, fishing and forestry	156	141	11%
Public sector, defence, community	169	155	9%
Construction and extraction	124	115	9%



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

Industry	May 09	Apr 09	Mar 09	Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08
Accounting, audit, taxes	113	123	134	135	130	142	148	150	144	152	164	178	176
Administrative, organisation	81	88	91	85	87	86	89	101	105	106	118	119	119
Agriculture, fishing and forestry	156	155	151	147	141	141	142	146	148	147	147	149	141
Arts, entertainment, sports, leisure	94	94	96	89	80	81	90	118	134	145	161	159	152
Banking, finance, insurance	75	87	96	87	94	90	94	102	107	108	114	114	123
Construction and extraction	124	125	125	111	104	106	109	115	116	111	117	115	114
Education, training and library	161	159	166	150	154	155	153	150	164	169	161	165	169
Engineering	110	120	130	110	102	111	115	127	119	121	135	137	131
Environment, architecture, urbanism	112	118	108	106	96	98	105	107	106	105	113	111	113
Healthcare, social work	166	162	155	133	121	121	114	112	118	125	129	131	131
Hospitality and tourism	92	89	83	77	72	71	77	92	113	108	108	121	119
HR	82	87	88	89	97	102	113	122	123	132	132	143	152
IT	90	104	108	105	105	110	112	113	113	114	115	117	118
Legal	100	107	107	108	109	114	111	119	122	121	128	133	129
Management and consulting	115	118	122	112	102	104	108	109	110	111	115	116	118
Marketing, PR and media	84	88	90	90	85	96	100	113	116	114	133	135	128
Production, manufacturing, maintenance, repair	113	117	124	104	95	95	106	113	112	113	118	121	120
Public sector, defence, community	169	192	190	175	166	173	175	182	178	173	182	181	155
Research and development	109	115	117	115	114	115	120	120	120	121	125	124	126
Sales	117	121	125	115	105	109	112	119	123	125	133	142	141
Transport, post and logistics	50	51	53	51	55	62	77	107	120	119	129	128	129

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

Occupation	May 09	Apr 09	Mar 09	Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08
Managers	123	129	131	115	109	110	112	115	114	115	120	122	123
Professionals	96	106	111	108	107	111	115	117	118	120	124	127	128
Technicians and associate professionals	101	106	111	99	93	98	103	112	116	118	127	129	128
Clerical support workers	85	92	95	90	92	90	94	106	110	111	123	124	125
Service and sales workers	104	101	94	81	73	75	75	94	111	111	110	124	126
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	156	155	151	147	141	141	142	146	148	147	147	149	141
Craft and related workers	106	110	119	105	88	89	94	98	96	95	100	103	102
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	116	124	120	119	118	123	131	145	147	145	151	154	151
Elementary occupations	107	106	105	97	98	97	106	116	120	119	119	119	119

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

Region	May 09	Apr 09	Mar 09	Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08
Brussels-Capital	72	80	87	84	73	85	89	104	116	120	130	128	128
Flemish Region	107	110	114	96	92	94	98	108	112	113	122	129	129
Walloon Region	99	107	110	110	108	111	116	119	116	118	122	124	125

Monster Employment Index Belgium for June will be released on July 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.

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://corporate.monster.com>.

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