



## Job Opportunities Continue to Fall in Belgium, According to Monster Employment Index

### November 2008 Index Highlights:

- The Monster Employment Index Belgium dipped seven points in November, extending the downward trend seen since March.
- Year-on-year, the Index was down 18 points, or 14 percent, having shown negative annual growth for the last nine months.
- Demand fell most in the transport, post and logistics sector, along with arts, entertainment, sports and leisure; and hospitality and tourism
- Service, shop and market sales workers saw the steepest decline, as all occupational groups recorded fewer opportunities
- All regions saw online availability fall back in November. The decrease was the most significant in Brussels-Capital

### Summary Overview

The Monster Employment Index Belgium dropped an additional seven points in November as online job availability fell for the fifth consecutive month. The decrease is in line with other European countries as a slowdown was also reported in the UK, France and the Netherlands. The overall European job market dropped six points in November

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.

Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08	Jan 08	Dec 07	Nov 07
107	114	116	118	123	127	127	129	134	133	118	127	125

“The Monster Employment Index reflects the declining economic activity in Belgium as employers kept scaling back hiring activity,” commented Bernard Hensmans, country manager, Belgium. “However, the stable trend in the national unemployment rate indicates that the Belgian labour market has so far weathered the slowdown fairly well. The only sectors not reducing their offerings in November were healthcare and education, indicating areas of solid employment prospects.”

**Transport, post and logistics experience steep decline and reaches a 13-month low**

The transport, post and logistics industry experienced a sharp decline of 30 points in November, following a drop in the previous month, as the slowing economy continued to weigh on shipping and distribution activity. On an annual basis the sector dropped 51 points, or 40% - the steepest decline amongst all industry sectors.

Other sectors to show reduced demand include arts, entertainment, sports and leisure; and the hospitality and tourism, which dropped 28 points and 15 point respectively. The downturn in the art, entertainment, sports and leisure represented the fourth successive month of decline. Both sectors fell on an annual basis by 48 points and 41 points respectively.

Despite numerous sectors registering a downturn, education, training and library; and healthcare and social work experienced an upturn. The three point increase in education training and library followed two months of decline; the sector grew nine points on an annual basis. The healthcare and social work sector grew two points after four months of reduced offerings. However the sector was down 20 points year-on-year.

**Service, shop and market sales workers continue to register decline in November**

All occupational groups experienced a downturn in November, with service workers and shop and market sales workers registering the sharpest drop of 19 points. This group also reported the sharpest annual downturn, falling back 48 points, or 39 percent.

Plant and machine operators and assemblers continued to see reduced offerings for the second month, dropping 14 points. The category experienced negative growth of 19 points year-on-year. Clerks also experienced reduced demand, registering the eighth month of continued decline, to reach the lowest level on record in November.

**All regions experienced reduced offerings, especially Brussels-Capital**

Online hiring in the Brussels-Capital region continued the declining trend in job availability started in July, dipping 15 points. The region has now reached its lowest point on record. Within the region major declines were registered in environment, architecture and urbanism; banking finance and insurance; marketing and PR; and transport and logistics. The region also experienced the sharpest downturn on an annual basis, dropping 40 points, or 31%.

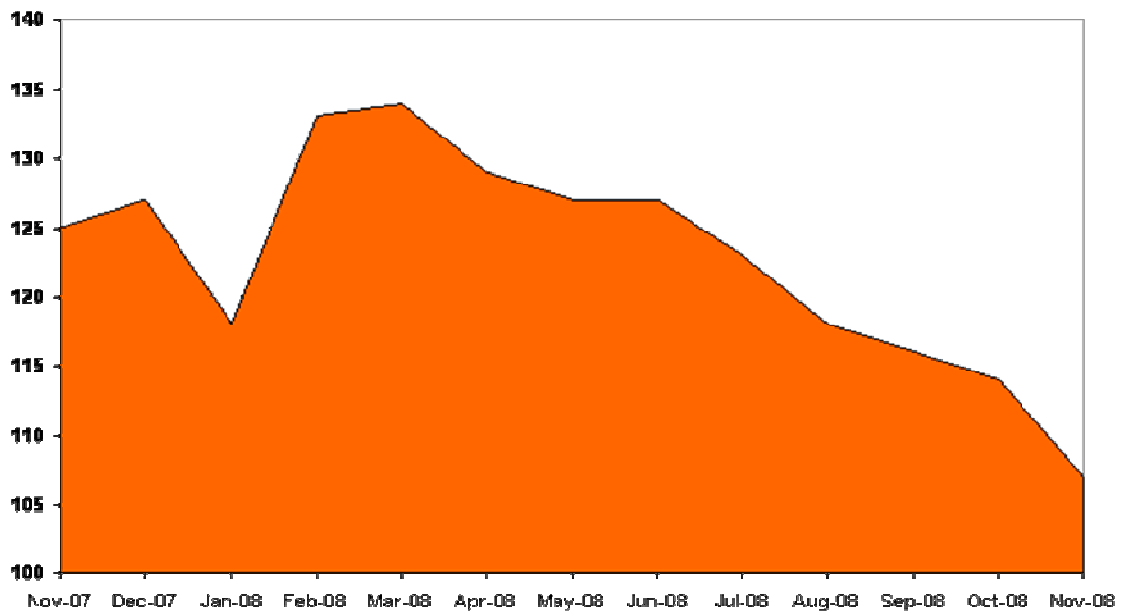
The Flemish Region extended its downturn for the fifth month, dropping 10 points. Despite the downturn increased opportunities were experienced within the education, training and library sector, after two months of decline. Year-on-year the region was down 31 points or 24 percent.

**Top Industries Looking for Employees**

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

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Nov 08</b>	<b>Oct 08</b>	<b>Sep 08</b>
Education, training and library	153	150	164
Healthcare, social work	114	112	118
Research and development	120	120	120

### Monster Employment Index Belgium



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

Industry	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08	Jan 08	Dec 07	Nov 07
Accounting, audit, taxes	148	150	144	152	164	178	176	175	182	182	151	162	162
Administrative, organisation	89	101	105	106	118	119	119	123	129	123	107	114	113
Agriculture, fishing and forestry	142	146	148	147	147	149	141	138	133	132	129	123	129
Arts, entertainment, sports, leisure	90	118	134	145	161	159	152	156	152	154	137	157	138
Banking, finance, insurance	94	102	107	108	114	114	123	123	131	127	94	117	122
Construction and extraction	109	115	116	111	117	115	114	115	115	115	109	114	113
Education, training and library	153	150	164	169	161	165	169	165	171	159	155	151	144
Engineering	115	127	119	121	135	137	131	140	145	145	123	143	137
Environment, architecture, urbanism	105	107	106	105	113	111	113	123	119	117	110	119	112
Healthcare, social work	114	112	118	125	129	131	131	133	135	144	131	136	134
Hospitality and tourism	77	92	113	108	108	121	119	120	120	122	118	120	118
HR	113	122	123	132	132	143	152	143	154	151	133	150	148
IT	112	113	113	114	115	117	118	119	121	120	112	115	116
Legal	111	119	122	121	128	133	129	125	147	155	127	149	146
Management and consulting	108	109	110	111	115	116	118	119	123	124	115	132	119
Marketing, PR and media	100	113	116	114	133	135	128	134	143	146	116	129	136
Production, manufacturing, maintenance, repair	106	113	112	113	118	121	120	125	136	138	117	129	128
Public sector, defence, community	175	182	178	173	182	181	155	171	163	171	143	145	154
Research and development	120	120	120	121	125	124	126	130	133	131	119	127	128
Sales	112	119	123	125	133	142	141	144	151	150	131	141	138
Transport, post and logistics	77	107	120	119	129	128	129	136	144	142	121	127	128

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

Occupation	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08	Jan 08	Dec 07	Nov 07
Legislators, senior officials and managers	112	115	114	115	120	122	123	125	128	130	121	139	125
Professionals	115	117	118	120	124	127	128	130	135	133	118	126	127
Technicians and associate professionals	103	112	116	118	127	129	128	133	139	139	119	128	127
Clerks	94	106	110	111	123	124	125	128	134	129	111	119	117
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	75	94	111	111	110	124	126	126	126	130	116	125	123
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	142	146	148	147	147	149	141	138	133	133	129	123	129
Craft and related workers	94	98	96	95	100	103	102	105	112	110	101	106	107
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	131	145	147	145	151	154	151	156	159	159	142	150	150
Elementary occupations	106	116	120	119	119	119	119	120	124	123	117	122	121

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

Region	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08	Jan 08	Dec 07	Nov 07
Brussels-Capital	89	104	116	120	130	128	128	133	141	144	105	126	129
Flemish Region	98	108	112	113	122	129	129	133	142	139	119	133	129
Walloon Region	116	119	116	118	122	124	125	127	130	128	116	122	123

Monster Employment Index Belgium for December will be released on January 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://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 and the NYSE. 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/>

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### **CONTACTS:**

Ann Van Den Begin  
Monster Worldwide Belgium  
+32 2 753 11 40  
[Ann.vandenBegin@monster.be](mailto:Ann.vandenBegin@monster.be)