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EMPLOYMENT INDEX

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Belgian Online Worker Demand Weakens at the Onset of the Fourth Quarter, According to Monster Employment Index

October 2009 Index Highlights:

- The Monster Employment Index Belgium dipped eight percent in October. Year-on-year online opportunities were down 14 percent, marking an interruption to the slowly developing labour demand recovery
- Construction and extraction was one of the few industry sectors to show more opportunities in October
- All regions registered declines, Brussels exhibited the steepest drop in online job availability

Summary Overview

October saw online recruitment activity decrease, halting the upward trend seen since May 2009. According to Eurostat the unemployment rate has remained largely unchanged since March, suggesting that companies are holding on to workers rather than making significant layoffs. The easing in Belgian employer demand for workers in October underscores the cautious nature of the current job market.

Longer term trends shown by the Index suggest that online job availability remained favourable in the healthcare and management sectors, while demand decreased notably year-on-year in transport, post and logistics, accounting, audit taxes and IT.

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 the European Union, including Monster.be.

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

Oct 09	Sep 09	Aug 09	Jul 09	Jun 09	May 09	Apr 09	Mar 09	Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08
98	106	104	106	102	101	107	110	102	99	102	107	114

“Online recruitment activity held up favourably in Belgium during the summer months, however the latest move downward illustrates the hesitant attitude of employers as the economy remains uncertain,” commented Bernard Hensmans, country manager, Monster Belgium. “The sharp annual slowdown in the transportation, post and logistics sector is an effect of the steep reduction in trade.”

Majority of industry sectors report declining job opportunities

The majority of industry sectors noted fewer job opportunities in October, with banking, finance and insurance decreasing 16 points (17 percent) month-on-month, although last month the sector seemed to be picking up again. Whilst in the month of September growth figures could still be shown on an annual basis for Production, manufacturing, maintenance and repair and public sector, defence and community, these indexes showed decreases on an annual basis in October, reflecting an ease of labour demand conditions in the respective sectors.

In contrast, online recruitment activity showed the highest rate of increase in construction and extraction, adding three points (three percent) month-on-month.

Although transport, post and logistics edged up by one point (two percent) in October, year-on-year there was a significant fall in online recruitment activity, with job opportunities in this sector decreasing by 52 points (49 percent). Year-on-year, healthcare, social work remained the top growth sector, adding 42 percent.

Clerical workers see the largest decline monthly

Opportunities for clerical support workers showed the steepest decline, dropping 11 points (12 percent). The occupational group also showed a steep decrease of 26 points (25 percent) on an annual basis. A minor decrease was seen with elementary occupations, dropping three points (two percent), with recruitment activity retracting to the same level seen in July and August 2009.

Plant and machine operators and assemblers was the only occupational group to report an increase in online job activity in October, increasing one point (one percent). Hiring in this group has remained stable for the past six months. Year-on-year, plant and machine operators and assemblers remains down, decreasing 27 points (19 percent).

All regions see job availability fall in October

Job opportunities fell across all three main regions in October with the Walloon region registering the smallest decline in hiring among regions, declining three points (three percent). Hiring stayed stable in some sectors, including HR, engineering, and sales.

Offerings fell steeply in the Brussels region dropping eight points (ten percent). Job availability was most stable in the Flemish region, decreasing seven points (six percent) according to the index.

Year-on-year, online job demand has held up best in the Flemish region, decreasing just six points, (six percent) compared to October 2008.

Best performing sectors

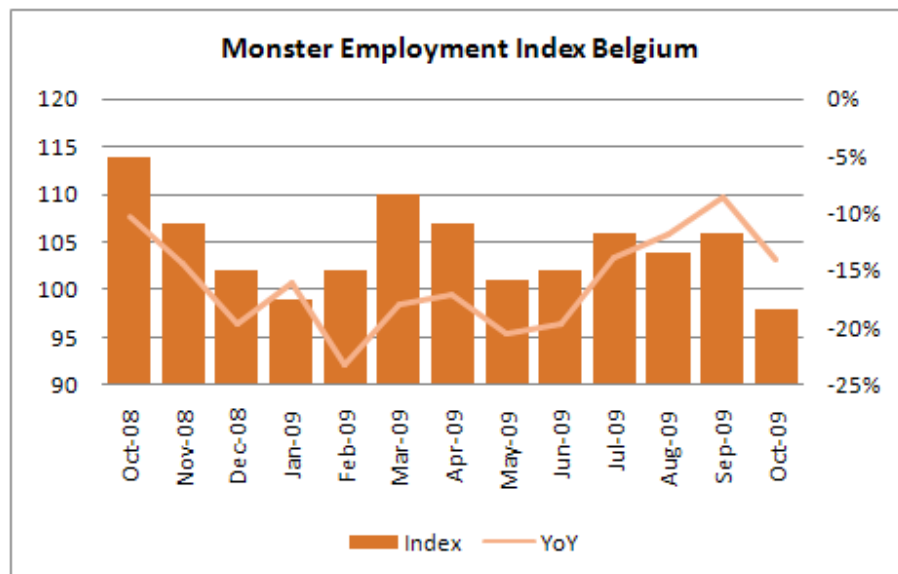
Industry sectors showing the greatest rate of increase in online job availability included:

Month-on-month

Industry	Oct 09	Sep 09	%
Construction and extraction	115	112	3%
Transport, post and logistics	55	54	2%
Accounting, audit, taxes	111	111	0%
Arts, entertainment, sport, leisure	79	81	-2%
Environment, architecture, urbanism	94	99	-5%

Year-on-year

Industry	Oct 09	Oct 08	%
Healthcare, social work	159	112	42%
Management and consulting	111	109	2%
Construction and extraction	115	115	0%
Sales	119	119	0%
Production, manufacturing, maintenance, repair	106	113	-6%



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

Industry	Oct 09	Sep 09	Aug 09	Jul 09	Jun 09	May 09	Apr 09	Mar 09	Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08
Accounting, audit, taxes	111	111	109	116	117	113	123	134	135	130	142	148	150
Administrative, organisation	76	87	86	86	79	81	88	91	85	87	86	89	101
Agriculture, fishing and forestry	134	145	150	140	149	156	155	151	147	141	141	142	146
Arts, entertainment, sports, leisure	79	81	85	88	87	94	94	96	89	80	81	90	118
Banking, finance, insurance	77	93	87	83	75	75	87	96	87	94	90	94	102
Construction and extraction	115	112	111	118	120	124	125	125	111	104	106	109	115
Education, training and library	128	159	180	165	165	161	159	166	150	154	155	153	150
Engineering	100	111	116	123	111	110	120	130	110	102	111	115	127
Environment, architecture, urbanism	94	99	95	117	111	112	118	108	106	96	98	105	107
Healthcare, social work	159	178	172	175	170	166	162	155	133	121	121	114	112
Hospitality and tourism	71	82	85	86	94	92	89	83	77	72	71	77	92
HR	87	92	92	92	84	82	87	88	89	97	102	113	122
IT	74	86	89	93	92	90	104	108	105	105	110	112	113
Legal	99	110	108	109	104	100	107	107	108	109	114	111	119
Management and consulting	111	120	120	120	116	115	118	122	112	102	104	108	109
Marketing, PR and media	83	92	92	86	85	84	88	90	90	85	96	100	113
Production, manufacturing, maintenance, repair	106	120	115	124	116	113	117	124	104	95	95	106	113
Public sector, defence, community	168	186	193	186	163	169	192	190	175	166	173	175	182
Research and development	98	109	108	113	115	109	115	117	115	114	115	120	120
Sales	119	129	125	124	118	117	121	125	115	105	109	112	119
Transport, post and logistics	55	54	54	53	51	50	51	53	51	55	62	77	107

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

Occupation	Oct 09	Sep 09	Aug 09	Jul 09	Jun 09	May 09	Apr 09	Mar 09	Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08
Managers	118	133	134	134	125	123	129	131	115	109	110	112	115
Professionals	86	96	96	100	97	96	106	111	108	107	111	115	117
Technicians and associate professionals	101	111	110	109	102	101	106	111	99	93	98	103	112
Clerical support workers	80	91	91	90	83	85	92	95	90	92	90	94	106
Service and sales workers	96	105	108	102	105	104	101	94	81	73	75	75	94
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	130	143	149	138	148	156	155	151	147	141	141	142	146
Craft and related workers	96	107	101	105	106	106	110	119	105	88	89	94	98
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	118	117	118	126	118	116	124	120	119	118	123	131	145
Elementary occupations	119	122	119	119	112	107	106	105	97	98	97	106	116

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

Region	Oct 09	Sep 09	Aug 09	Jul 09	Jun 09	May 09	Apr 09	Mar 09	Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08
Brussels-Capital	73	81	79	76	73	72	80	87	84	73	85	89	104
Flemish Region	104	111	110	113	108	107	110	114	96	92	94	98	108
Walloon Region	102	105	101	105	101	99	107	110	110	108	111	116	119

Monster Employment Index Belgium for November will be released on December 8, 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://about-monster.com/employment/index/17>.

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://about-monster.com>.

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