



Monster Employment Index Belgium Confirms Bleak Labour Market Conditions during September

September 2008 Index Highlights:

- The Monster Employment Index Belgium dropped two points to a two-year low of 116 in September, continuing the downward trend started in March
- The downward trend was caused by a sharp drop in HR sector opportunities, which was down by an above-average 21 percent year-on-year
- Demand fell among higher skills segments such as professionals; and technicians and associate professionals while opportunities rose slightly for plant and machine operators and assemblers
- All major regions saw a decline in online opportunities in September with Brussels-Capital registering the steepest decline on both a monthly and annual basis

Summary Overview

The Monster Employment Index Belgium dropped an additional two points in September as online job availability fell to a two-year low amid further deteriorated economic conditions. Year-on-year the Index was down 20 points, or 15 percent, representing the seventh month of annual contraction in Belgian recruiting activity. The overall European Index indicated a further deceleration in online recruitment activity in September with a four-point decline driven by sharp declines in Italy, France and the UK. 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.

Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08	Jan 08	Dec 07	Nov 07	Oct 07	Sep 07
116	118	123	127	127	129	134	133	118	127	125	127	136

“The latest reading on online job demand shows that the Belgian labour market slowed significantly during the third quarter as employers eased back on hiring in the face of the global financial crisis,” commented Bernard Hensmans, country manager Monster Belgium. “Specifically, the marked decline in HR the sector shows that fewer temporary and contract positions are now being offered. However, there is still strong demand for public administrative roles which is a positive note for Belgian job seekers during these harsh times.”

HR sector registers a steep decline

HR fell nine points in September, following a flat reading in August, extending a decreasing trend which started in March. Year-on-year decline was 33 points, or 21 percent, with companies across Belgium cutting back on human resources staff. Demand dipped most for clerks, indicating that particularly lower-level personnel are being affected.

Arts, entertainment, sports and leisure recorded a sharp decline of 11 points in September. The drop reflects lower online job availability for cultural workers which fell across all regions. The sector was down two points year-on-year.

Hospitality and tourism; and public sector, defence and community both edged higher this month rising by five points after neither had shown any growth in August. Despite this, hospitality and tourism saw a 15 point drop year-on-year. Positively, the public defence and community sector saw a 49 point, 38 percent, year-on-year increase, the highest among all sectors. Agriculture, fishing and forestry; and education, training and library also showed robust annual growth, jumping 30 percent and 20 percent, respectively.

Professionals see online job offerings fall in the Index for the sixth consecutive month

Professionals continued a six month downward trend in online job availability in September falling back another two points. Marketing, PR and media saw the greatest decline among sectors. Yet within the public sector, defence and community; and management and consulting industries there was increased demand for professionals. Year-on-year the category registered a steep drop of 19 points or 13 percent.

Technicians and associate professionals also fell again in September. The two point decline was largely due to decreased demand in the accounting, audit and taxes; and banking, finance and insurance sectors. The marketing, PR and media sector, regained some pace. Year-on-year, the category was down 19 points, or 14 percent.

Brussels-capital sees greatest monthly and annual drop

All regions registered a decline in September, with Brussels-Capital showing the greatest fall, dropping four points creating a two month downward trend. The fall was driven by lower demand for HR workers. Job opportunities in accounting, audit, and taxes; IT; and sales sectors registered declines for the third consecutive month. The region was down 36 points, or 24 percent, year-on-year the steepest amongst all regions.

The Walloon Region continued a sixth consecutive month of lowered demand in September, after peaking in March. The greatest drop was seen in the engineering and IT sectors, both of which registered fewer opportunities for the third month. However, construction and extraction noted the greatest increase in the area. Year-on-year the region was down 12 points or nine percent.

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

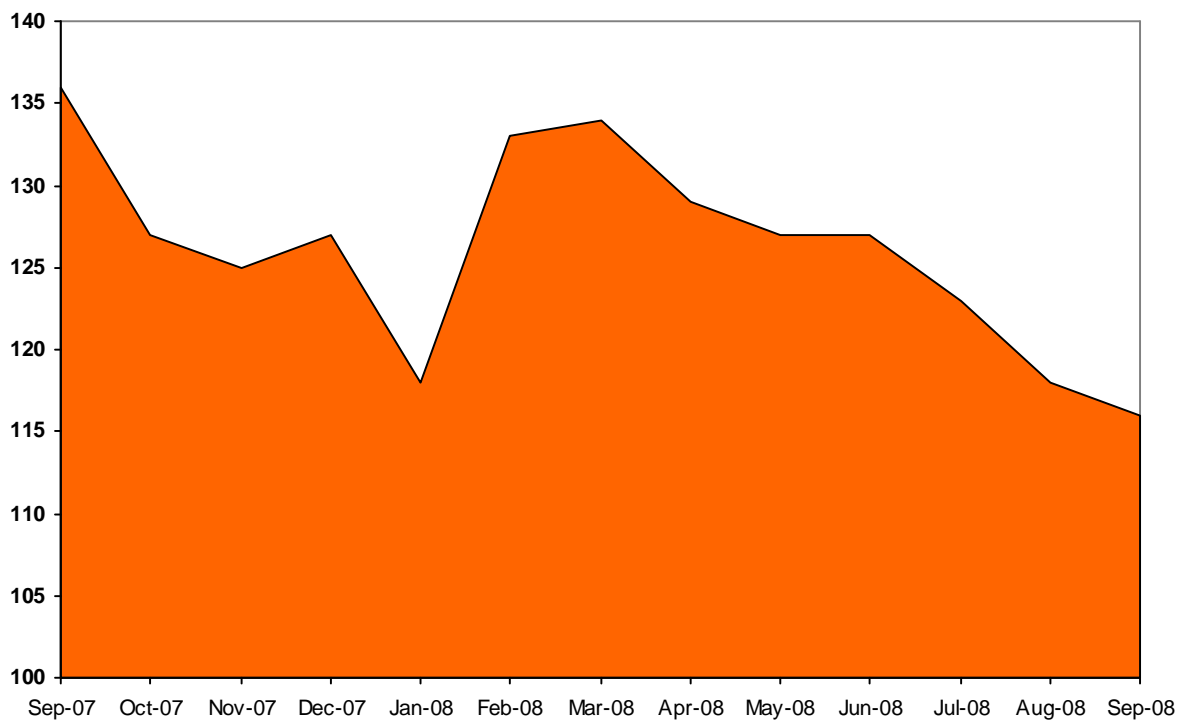
Region	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08	Jan 08	Dec 07	Nov 07	Oct 07	Sep 07
Brussels-Capital	116	120	130	128	128	133	141	144	105	126	129	131	152
Flemish Region	112	113	122	129	129	133	142	139	119	133	129	129	136
Walloon Region	116	118	122	124	125	127	130	128	116	122	123	126	128

Top Industries Looking for Employees

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

Industry	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08
Hospitality and tourism	113	108	108
Construction and extraction	116	111	117
Public sector, defence, community	178	173	182
Marketing, PR and media	116	114	133
Environment, architecture and urbanism	106	105	113

Monster Employment Index Belgium



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

Industry	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08	Jan 08	Dec 07	Nov 07	Oct 07	Sep 07
Accounting, audit, taxes	144	152	164	178	176	175	182	182	151	162	162	173	181
Administrative, organisation	105	106	118	119	119	123	129	123	107	114	113	113	136
Agriculture, fishing and forestry	148	147	147	149	141	138	133	132	129	123	129	137	114
Arts, entertainment, sports, leisure	134	145	161	159	152	156	152	154	137	157	138	144	136
Banking, finance, insurance	107	108	114	114	123	123	131	127	94	117	122	119	123
Construction and extraction	116	111	117	115	114	115	115	115	109	114	113	115	132
Education, training and library	164	169	161	165	169	165	171	159	155	151	144	152	137
Engineering	119	121	135	137	131	140	145	145	123	143	137	140	148
Environment, architecture, urbanism	106	105	113	111	113	123	119	117	110	119	112	113	115
Healthcare, social work	118	125	129	131	131	133	135	144	131	136	134	136	136
Hospitality and tourism	113	108	108	121	119	120	120	122	118	120	118	123	128
HR	123	132	132	143	152	143	154	151	133	150	148	141	156
IT	113	114	115	117	118	119	121	120	112	115	116	119	124
Legal	122	121	128	133	129	125	147	155	127	149	146	149	154
Management and consulting	110	111	115	116	118	119	123	124	115	132	119	120	147
Marketing, PR and media	116	114	133	135	128	134	143	146	116	129	136	128	143
Production, manufacturing, maintenance, repair	112	113	118	121	120	125	136	138	117	129	128	127	129
Public sector, defence, community	178	173	182	181	155	171	163	171	143	145	154	158	129
Research and development	120	121	125	124	126	130	133	131	119	127	128	131	134
Sales	123	125	133	142	141	144	151	150	131	141	138	139	144
Transport, post and logistics	120	119	129	128	129	136	144	142	121	127	128	124	130

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

Occupation	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08	Jan 08	Dec 07	Nov 07	Oct 07	Sep 07
Legislators, senior officials and managers	114	115	120	122	123	125	128	130	121	139	125	125	152
Professionals	118	120	124	127	128	130	135	133	118	126	127	130	135
Technicians and associate professionals	116	118	127	129	128	133	139	139	119	128	127	128	135
Clerks	110	111	123	124	125	128	134	129	111	119	117	118	135
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	111	111	110	124	126	126	126	130	116	125	123	125	132
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	148	147	147	149	141	138	133	133	129	123	129	137	114
Craft and related workers	96	95	100	103	102	105	112	110	101	106	107	107	107
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	147	145	151	154	151	156	159	159	142	150	150	149	151
Elementary occupations	120	119	119	119	119	120	124	123	117	122	121	123	136

Monster Employment Index Belgium for October will be released on November 11, 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. More information about Monster Worldwide is available at <http://corporate.monster.com/>

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