

Online Opportunities in Italy Decline Sharply in January as Employer Demand Falls for Administrative and Accounting Workers

January 2009 Index Highlights:

- The Monster Employment Index Italy dropped 26 points in January, leaving online job availability 10 percent below its year-ago reading, as the sluggish Italian economy continued to weigh on hiring
- All industries, occupations and regions reported fewer offerings, partly reflecting a seasonal slowdown in recruitment following the year-end holidays
- Sharp declines were noted within the administrative and organisation; accounting, audit and taxes; sales; and hospitality and tourism sectors
- Opportunities for clerical support workers dipped sharply in January, while managers noted the sharpest annual drop
- Lazio saw the most significant fall as a result of fewer hospitality and tourism vacancies

Summary Overview

The Monster Employment Index Italy plummeted 26 points in January for a second consecutive month of decline. The fall was the steepest since the Index's inception, indicating a further contraction in the Italian job market in January. The decline was in line with the European Union as a whole, which also saw a 26 point decline in the Index.

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.it.

Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08	Jan 08
129	155	164	157	150	165	179	175	171	172	172	155	143

“The online job market in Italy has slowed considerably over the past few months as the global recession has made companies more cautious about hiring,” said Nicola Rossi, country manager, Monster Italy. “In addition, the notable decline in public sector offerings indicates also the government has scaled back hiring, possibly due to soaring public debt.”

Administrative and organisation sector reports large declines in January

The administrative and organisation sector reported the largest monthly decline of 51 points, following three months of growth. The decrease was mainly due to reduced opportunities for clerical support works. Year-on-year the sector fell back eight points or five percent.

The accounting, audit and taxes; and sales sectors experienced a slump in January, declining 37 points and 36 points respectively. Public sector, defence, and community fell seven points representing the third consecutive month of decline. The sector has now reached a historical low suggesting sluggish hiring in the government sector.

Opportunities in hospitality and tourism noted a 32 point drop, the second consecutive month of decline in the sector. Job opportunities for service and sales workers dipped after three months of solid growth. Year-on-year the sector noted a 17 point, or eleven percent, decline.

Clerical workers see reduced opportunities, while managers show sharpest annual decline

Among occupational groups, clerical support workers noted the sharpest monthly drop of 47 points, extending to a second consecutive month of decline. The sector is now 99 points below its peak in July 2008. On an annual basis, the group noted a 13-point reduction in online job availability.

Monthly declines were also notable for service and sales workers and craft and related workers, noting a 34 point and 33 point drop respectively. Managers noted the greatest annual fall, dropping 19 percent year-on-year.

Lazio shows the steepest fall in online job offerings

Lazio fell for the second month in January, dropping 34 points. Notable declines were seen in the hospitality and tourism sector. In contrast, a mild increase was seen in the research and development sector. Year-on-year the region showed a significant reduction of 29 points, or 20 percent.

Lombardia also saw a second month of decline, dropping 33 points. Offerings saw the sharpest decrease in the HR sector. Despite the overall decline in the region, increased opportunities were seen in the education, training and library and agriculture, fishery and forestry sectors. On an annual basis the sector dropped 10 points, or seven percent.

Veneto noted a 27 point decline in the Index. The decline was due in part to considerable declines in the sales; banking, finance and insurance; and IT sectors. Compared to last year, the region fell by 19 points, or 12 percent.

Top Industries Looking for Workers in January

Industry sector showing the highest rate of increase in online job availability year-on-year included:

Industry	Jan 09	Dec 08	Jan 08
Healthcare, social work, personal care	173	203	136
Engineering	171	201	166
Accounting, audit, taxes	204	241	199

Most Resilient Regions for Jobs in January

Industry sectors showing the lowest rate of decline in online job availability year-on-year included:

Region	Jan 09	Dec 08	Jan 08
Liguria	124	138	128
Basilicata	111	120	116
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	129	139	135

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

Industry	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08	Jan 08
Accounting, audit, taxes	204	241	263	238	222	253	303	312	295	279	270	242	199
Administrative, organisation	168	219	218	218	206	236	258	238	228	231	227	201	176
Arts, entertainment, sport, leisure	126	139	141	139	135	148	161	158	153	150	164	155	143

Banking, finance, insurance	89	96	103	103	104	107	114	112	113	115	115	105	98
Construction and extraction	136	153	162	161	158	171	176	174	170	171	168	155	152
Education, training and library	125	128	138	126	131	127	135	141	148	148	150	153	158
Engineering	171	201	209	192	185	203	217	227	222	225	215	190	166
Environment, architecture, urbanism	116	133	136	129	113	118	123	118	117	122	119	114	117
Healthcare, social work, personal care	173	203	183	163	156	178	184	175	170	157	155	144	136
Hospitality and tourism	139	171	172	163	156	171	195	190	181	189	178	158	156
HR	100	128	145	146	145	149	160	167	165	166	168	150	133
IT	115	126	129	125	121	128	132	132	133	134	136	129	122
Legal	133	160	167	140	133	167	175	162	163	173	175	142	142
Management and consulting	116	121	124	119	120	124	126	128	127	130	132	130	124
Marketing, PR and media	92	121	140	146	122	136	147	141	134	143	148	127	120
Production, manufacturing, maintenance, repair	162	185	208	200	191	210	226	211	202	205	201	188	170
Public Sector, defence, community	87	94	112	116	97	127	136	118	118	117	118	117	116
Real estate	101	104	106	105	103	106	110	112	114	115	112	109	112
Research and development	109	130	154	149	139	156	173	174	176	177	176	160	137
Sales	120	156	165	155	144	157	181	178	173	176	184	164	152
Telecommunications	83	89	94	92	89	95	102	105	105	103	106	99	100
Transport, post and logistics	133	164	188	183	178	201	215	212	205	209	204	182	171

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

Occupation Group	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08	Jan 08
Managers	144	176	192	173	167	189	202	206	206	218	222	202	177
Professionals	125	143	148	141	136	144	154	154	154	154	155	144	131
Technicians and associate professionals	109	132	140	133	127	138	152	149	145	148	148	135	130
Clerical support workers	160	207	213	213	199	233	259	240	227	230	232	198	173
Service and sales workers	132	166	165	158	148	162	184	187	181	187	178	156	154
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	113	119	124	125	119	128	126	128	132	127	126	121	118
Craft and related workers	150	183	195	195	181	200	210	210	203	203	197	177	171
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	168	198	222	214	210	234	250	243	228	234	230	200	184
Elementary occupations	108	109	111	118	113	112	118	118	120	116	118	113	113

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

Region	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08	Jan 08
Abruzzo	121	133	135	133	128	133	143	140	139	141	139	138	128
Basilicata	111	120	127	128	122	121	134	134	135	139	132	141	116
Calabria	106	113	120	122	116	117	132	134	133	142	137	145	123
Campania	107	127	133	129	121	125	140	141	140	147	147	144	126
Emilia-Romagna	126	149	161	158	150	160	175	173	171	174	176	158	145
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	129	139	149	146	141	146	159	155	149	158	154	151	135
Lazio	114	148	158	153	141	157	175	169	168	171	179	164	143
Liguria	124	138	139	139	134	138	145	145	145	153	152	148	128
Lombardia	130	163	171	164	154	169	183	177	173	172	176	160	140
Marche	117	140	151	144	140	148	163	155	151	160	152	149	132
Molise	110	116	122	122	119	117	126	125	127	135	129	137	118
Piemonte	125	149	160	156	149	166	181	176	173	173	178	159	140
Puglia	109	122	126	127	128	129	144	140	138	145	143	140	124
Sardinia	115	129	145	142	138	139	168	166	161	172	157	170	131
Sicilia	103	127	135	131	127	133	158	150	144	157	151	153	122
Toscana	119	142	149	142	140	152	165	165	158	160	161	156	139
Trentino Alto-Adige	117	129	133	138	132	131	139	141	143	152	150	145	134
Umbria	121	135	138	139	134	135	152	149	145	153	149	152	135
Valle d' Aosta	114	119	125	129	125	122	136	135	139	147	141	153	122
Veneto	136	163	176	172	162	176	190	187	183	188	187	167	155

Monster Employment Index data for February will be released on 10 March, 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>.

Special Note: Safe Harbor Statement Under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995: Except for historical information contained herein, the statements made in this release constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Such forward-looking statements involve certain risks and uncertainties, including statements regarding Monster Worldwide, Inc.'s strategic direction, prospects and future results. Certain factors, including factors outside of Monster Worldwide's control, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in the forward-looking statements, including economic and other conditions in the markets in which Monster Worldwide operates, risks associated with acquisitions, competition, seasonality and the other risks discussed in Monster Worldwide's Form 10-K and other filings made with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which discussions are incorporated in this release by reference.

CONTACT:

Silvia Zanella
Monster Italy
+39 02 5402 0736
Silvia.Zanella@monster.it