



## Online Recruitment in the UK Shows Signs of Recovery in February, According to Monster Employment Index UK

### February 2009 Index Highlights:

- The UK Index rose by six points in February as online recruitment activity showed a degree of expansion following three months of contraction
- Year-on-year, the Index fell by 39%, or 75 points. This is the steepest annual decline on record and the fourth straight month that the Index has fallen on a yearly basis
- In February, growth was driven by significant increases in job opportunities in the education, training and library; and management and consulting sectors
- Online recruitment activity eased the most for healthcare workers, although the sector showed the largest annual gain
- Among occupational groups, craft and related workers noted the strongest increase, while Plant and machine operators and assemblers saw the sharpest decline
- The majority of UK regions rebounded from January lows. The South West grew most and only Wales saw a downturn in hiring

### Summary Overview

The Monster Employment Index UK increased by six points in February as online recruitment showed some bounce following three consecutive months of decline. Year-on-year, the Index was down 75 points, or 39 percent – the steepest annual downturn on record. This rebound was driven by markedly higher demand for workers in the education, training and library; and management and consulting sectors. The healthcare and social work sector exhibited a considerable retraction in demand after January's steep rise. 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 UK, including Monster.co.uk.

Monster Employment Index UK results for the past 13 months are as follows:

Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08
117	111	141	152	161	159	167	174	177	181	179	187	192

“The UK online recruitment market expanded for the first time in four months, lifted by seasonal hiring in a number of sectors. The longer-term recruitment trends remain down, however, as the shaky economy and uncertain outlook for 2009 continue to prompt businesses to exercise caution when it comes to new payroll commitments,” commented Hugo Sellert, head of economic research, at Monster Worldwide. “Nonetheless, there are pockets of opportunity, as demand has increased significantly for workers in education, management and consultancy in February, whilst hiring in the healthcare sector has risen by more than 50% year-on-year.”

**Demand surges for education, training and library workers**

Online job demand in the education, training and library sector rose considerably in February, following a sharp decrease in January. Online offerings grew for both professionals; and technicians and associate professionals. Regionally, there were major increases in London and South East. By contrast, job availability in the sector fell in Northern Ireland and Scotland. Year-on-year, demand was down 58 points, or 30%.

Job availability for management and consulting workers rebounded in February after four straight months of decline. This growth was led by increased demand for managers, while opportunities for professionals; and technicians and associate professionals also grew. Job availability grew most in East Anglia, while moderate increases were seen in London, the South East and the South West. Year-on-year, demand was down 80 points, or 33%.

Opportunities in the HR sector also increased notably in February, reversing a seven month downturn. This rise was driven by higher demand among professionals. Regionally, hiring grew most in Wales. Year-on-year, demand was down 161 points, or 69%, one of the sharpest among industry sectors.

The healthcare, social work sector extended its streak of turbulent monthly swings, falling by 16 Index points in February. This decline was principally driven by fewer opportunities for technicians and associate professionals. Regionally, London saw the sharpest fall. Other declines were seen in the Midlands, North England and the South West. Year-on-year, the category was up 103 points, or 51%, the strongest among industry sectors.

**Job availability surges for craft and related workers**

Hiring of craft and related workers rose sharply in February, following three months of decline, largely due to higher demand from the construction and extraction sector. Regionally, major increases were seen in East Anglia and South West. By contrast, job availability in London and South East fell slightly. Year-on-year, the category was down 164 points, or 51%.

By contrast, demand for plant and machine operators and assemblers fell for the eighth month in a row. Opportunities slid most in the production, manufacturing, maintenance, repair sector. The construction and extraction sector reduced demand for these workers for the sixth consecutive month. As in January, the South East noted the sharpest decrease. Year-on-year, the region was down 85 points, or 66%, the sharpest among occupational groups.

**South West and East Anglia lead regional growth**

The South West rose by 14 Index points in February, following three months of reduced opportunities. There were major increases in the legal; administrative, organisation; engineering; and hospitality and tourism sectors; demand dropped considerably for telecommunications workers. Among occupational groups, service and sales workers noted the highest rate of increase, while more moderate growth was seen among managers; and craft and related workers. Year-on-year demand in the region was down 118 points, or 38%.

Online job opportunities in East Anglia also grew markedly, reflecting the first uptick in regional demand in four months. Among industries, the highest rate of increase was in hospitality and tourism. Higher demand was also noted in administrative, organisation; management and consulting; marketing, PR and media. Among occupations, service and sales workers saw the most remarkable increase, while some growth was also registered among craft and related workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers; and clerical support workers. Year-on-year, demand in the region was down 81 points, or 42%.

Wales saw a decrease in recruitment activity for a fourth straight month. The steepest drops were in the agriculture, fishing and forestry; and arts, entertainment, sports, leisure sectors. Online opportunities in the environment, architecture and urbanism sector dropped for the sixth month in a row. Despite this regional downturn, there was growth in the education, training and library; hospitality and tourism; HR; and legal sectors. Of the occupational groups, demand dipped most for skilled agricultural and fishery workers. Year-on-year, the region was down 99 points, or 36%.

**Top Industries Looking for Employees**

Industries showing the greatest monthly rate of increase in online job availability included:

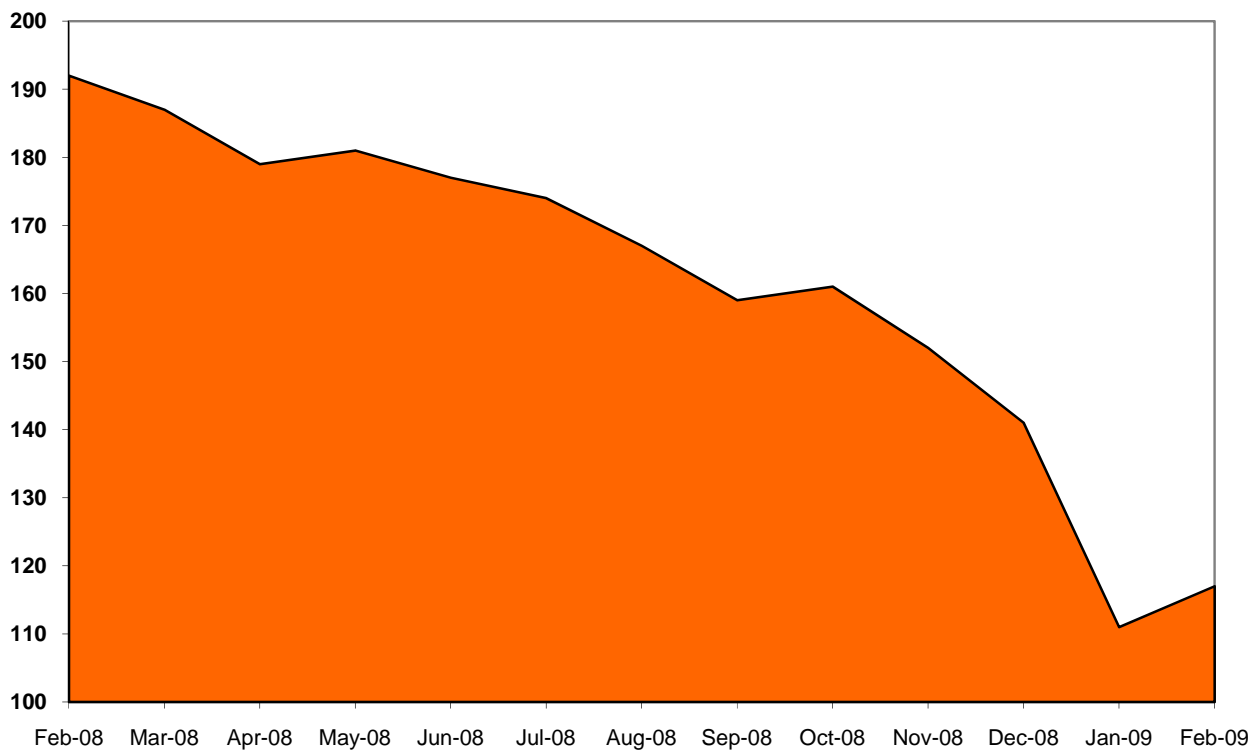
<b>Industry</b>	<b>Feb 09</b>	<b>Jan 09</b>	<b>Feb 08</b>
Education, training and library	253	215	195
Management and consulting	162	135	242
HR	72	52	233
Research and development	146	130	181
Hospitality and tourism	129	115	148

**Most Wanted Occupational Category**

The occupational category registering most significant monthly increase in online job demand:

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Feb 09</b>	<b>Jan 09</b>	<b>Feb 08</b>
Craft and related workers	158	133	322
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	214	195	197
Service and sales workers	86	72	155
Managers	107	101	161

### Monster Employment Index UK



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

Industry	Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08
Accounting, audit, taxes	91	90	108	119	121	123	123	132	145	137	128	131	142
Administrative, organisation	98	87	132	160	178	173	184	182	203	204	220	212	220
Arts, entertainment, sports, leisure	120	113	144	151	178	175	185	180	197	198	194	201	191
Banking, finance, insurance	123	117	148	167	173	158	168	165	162	166	189	178	168
Construction and extraction	81	81	108	114	125	134	156	152	157	167	155	179	174
Education, training and library	253	215	256	224	217	167	185	220	204	188	162	180	195
Engineering	149	143	188	196	202	197	203	205	197	211	199	218	206
Environment, architecture and urbanism	74	74	124	134	146	180	219	196	219	232	217	252	235
Healthcare, social work	305	321	263	314	255	201	226	213	182	168	140	185	202
Hospitality and tourism	129	115	150	159	165	162	178	223	200	172	158	141	148
HR	72	52	74	111	127	131	162	173	193	188	175	198	233
IT	85	82	96	103	108	110	108	116	120	126	130	138	150
Legal	139	127	163	162	183	186	179	176	221	232	220	234	196
Management and consulting	162	135	169	193	196	207	204	219	240	236	215	235	242
Marketing, PR and media	138	128	163	196	204	199	207	208	204	232	223	238	241
Production, manufacturing, maintenance, Repair	86	91	103	108	109	110	111	119	124	117	110	115	121
Public sector, defence, community	104	103	108	112	108	113	105	97	101	104	97	108	109
Research and development	146	130	151	150	146	143	147	152	160	156	154	171	181
Sales	86	82	110	121	133	133	137	147	142	149	153	156	158
Telecommunications	80	80	89	102	92	92	99	96	98	106	115	122	112
Transport, post and logistics	97	94	110	126	136	140	146	160	180	172	160	158	159

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

Occupation	Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08
Managers	107	101	130	140	151	145	158	162	157	164	161	167	161
Professionals	122	118	152	169	172	164	173	180	182	191	188	201	202
Technicians and associate professionals	109	110	134	147	153	158	160	162	168	167	170	173	175
Clerical support workers	87	83	105	119	135	135	141	147	165	166	159	164	172
Service and sales workers	86	72	90	105	102	119	126	165	161	139	142	162	155
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	214	195	209	205	191	167	196	202	230	220	195	208	197
Craft and related workers	158	133	171	194	204	176	205	246	275	307	273	307	322
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	44	51	72	82	88	95	107	121	127	122	109	123	129
Elementary occupations	60	60	76	90	98	104	106	124	101	100	100	100	94

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

Region	Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08
Midlands	110	110	133	154	165	163	162	182	189	186	180	197	209
North England	136	126	155	171	177	179	181	190	194	202	196	199	210
London	100	98	113	124	128	131	135	141	145	146	147	152	155
South East	107	104	120	124	128	126	132	132	133	135	134	137	137
South West	190	176	223	250	276	260	265	273	287	290	291	301	308
Wales	174	179	211	235	257	217	238	237	234	245	241	266	273
Scotland	114	108	133	139	149	149	154	172	167	175	177	197	187
East Anglia	112	101	119	136	148	131	150	155	153	155	147	185	193
Northern Ireland	96	96	143	151	147	185	160	184	164	147	163	173	175

Monster Employment Index UK for March will be released on April 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](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](http://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/A and other filings made with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which discussions are incorporated in this release by reference.

**CONTACTS:**

Charlie Meredith-Hardy

Weber Shandwick

+44 (0)20 7067 0647

[cmeredith-hardy@webershandwick.com](mailto:cmeredith-hardy@webershandwick.com)