



## Slight Fall in UK Online Recruitment in May, According to Monster Employment Index UK

### May 2009 Index Highlights:

- The Monster Employment Index UK fell by 2% in May, offsetting growth seen in April. Overall, the Index is down 40% year-on-year
- Online job opportunities dipped most in the healthcare; marketing; engineering; and R&D sectors while offerings rose in hospitality; and management
- Regionally, demand fell furthest in North England and Scotland. Job availability rose in both East Anglia and Wales

### Summary Overview

The Monster Employment Index UK fell by three points or two percent in May, following a slight uptick in online hiring in April. Despite the fall, the past months' relatively flat Index readings suggest that online recruitment activity has stabilised in the UK after a sharp contraction in 2008. In addition, the Index's year-on-year rate of decline of 72 points, or 40 percent, has remained largely unchanged over the past three months.

The dip in May was largely driven by a fall in demand for workers in the healthcare, social work; marketing, PR, media; engineering; and research and development sectors. By contrast, there was an upturn in advertised opportunities in the hospitality and tourism; and management and consulting sectors. The overall European Index contracted by 37 percent year-on-year.

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:

May 09	Apr 09	Mar 09	Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08
109	112	110	117	111	141	152	161	159	167	174	177	181

“The latest reading from the Monster Employment Index shows that UK online recruitment activity has levelled off so far in 2009, but employer demand for workers still falls way short of recent years’ levels,” commented Hugo Sellert, head of economic research, at Monster Worldwide. “Most indicators suggest that the UK economy remains stuck in a deep recession. However, a recent pick-up in demand for production workers suggests that jobs prospects in the battered manufacturing sector may be improving somewhat.”

**Demand for healthcare workers declines, while hospitality & tourism rises**

Online job demand in the healthcare, social work sector fell by 54 points, or 16%, in May. This was the steepest decline among all industry sectors and was largely driven by weakened demand for professionals. All regions showed fewer opportunities, with North England seeing the biggest decline. However, healthcare, social work still remains the top growth sector on a year-on-year basis.

Job availability in the marketing, PR and media sector also fell in May, dropping by 16 points, or 13%, to reach its lowest level since August 2005. The sector has recorded the sharpest downturn in demand over the past three months of all industry sectors, as companies across the UK cut back on spending to cope with the economic hardship. Offerings fell furthest in Scotland. Year-on-year decline was 56%.

By contrast, hiring in hospitality and tourism jumped by 15 points, or 12%, due to robust seasonal hiring for service and sales workers in London, the South East and Wales. Although online job availability in the sector is now at a five-month high, the category was down by 19% year-on-year.

Opportunities in production, manufacturing, maintenance and repair saw an 11 point, or 12%, rise in the Index. Hiring in the sector slowed significantly between June 2008 and February 2009 but has since shown signs of re-acceleration. There was also an 11 point upturn in the management and consulting sector in May, led by increased hiring in the Midlands. Year-on-year, however, the sector was still down 49 points, or 21%.

**Demand for plant and machine operators, and assemblers; and clerical support workers increases; opportunities for agricultural workers reduce**

Online job demand for plant and machine operators, and assemblers surged by seven points, or 14%, indicating demand for factory workers and skilled tradesmen may be stabilising following a plunge in hiring between mid-2008 and February 2009. Despite this growth, the category is down by 54% year-on-year – the second worst hit of all occupational groups.

Job availability for clerical support workers rose by seven points in May, or 8%, to reach a five-month high in the Index. This growth was driven by increased hiring in the administrative and organisation sector; and the public sector.

In contrast, there was a marked reduction in online job opportunities in May for skilled agricultural and fishery workers. Demand for this category fell by 24 points, or 13% - the third straight monthly drop. Despite a 29% decline year-on-year, the category is holding up the best on an annual basis.

**North England hit hardest**

Online hiring fell by 8% in North England in May. This was the biggest regional downturn, principally caused by reduced demand in engineering, R&D and telecommunications. There were also steep declines in Scotland and the South East with both regions registering a 5% drop.

Online job availability grew most in East Anglia in May. Demand increased by five points, or 5%, fully offsetting the dip seen in April. This growth was largely due to increased hiring for administrative and organisation workers. Job offerings also edged higher in the Midlands, Northern Ireland and Wales. Year-on-year, Wales has seen the most resilience to the overall slowdown among the major regions while the Midlands continues to show the steepest annual decline.

**Best Performing Sectors**

Industries showing the best performance included:

**Month-on-month**

Industry	May 09	Apr 09	%
Hospitality and tourism	139	124	12%
Production, manufacturing, maintenance, repair	106	95	12%
Management and consulting	187	176	6%
Transport, post and logistics	96	93	3%
Sales	88	86	2%

**Year-on-year**

Industry	May 09	May 08	%
Healthcare, social work	276	168	64%
Education, training and library	283	188	51%
Public sector, defence, community	106	104	2%
Production, manufacturing, maintenance, repair	106	117	-9%
Research and development	133	156	-15%

**Best Performing Occupational Groups**

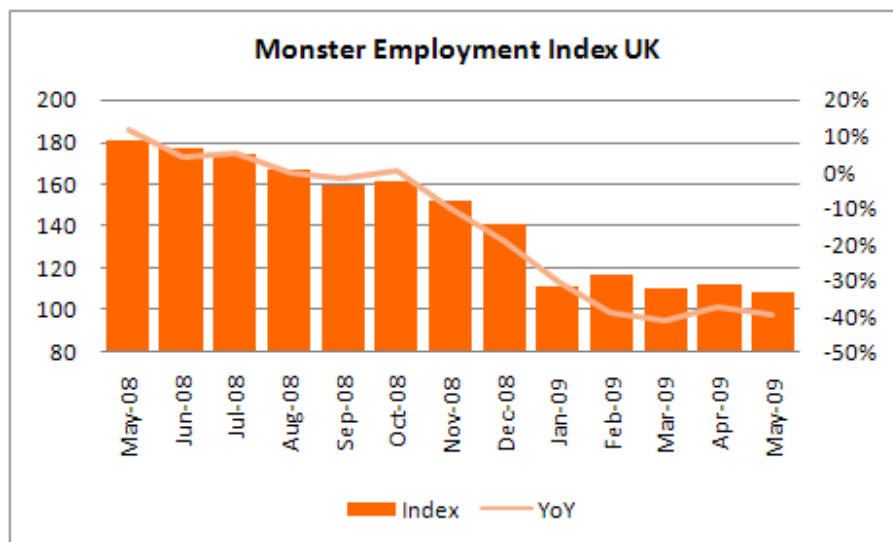
Occupational categories showing the best performance included:

**Month-on-month**

Occupation	May 09	Apr 09	%
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	56	49	14%
Clerical support workers	90	83	8%
Technicians and associate professionals	111	108	3%

**Year-on-year**

Occupation	May 09	May 08	%
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishing workers	157	220	-29%
Elementary occupations	69	100	-31%
Technicians and associate professionals	111	167	-34%



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

Industry	May 09	Apr 09	Mar 09	Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08
Accounting, audit, taxes	83	85	84	91	90	108	119	121	123	123	132	145	137
Administrative, organisation	90	88	89	98	87	132	160	178	173	184	182	203	204
Arts, entertainment, sports, leisure	103	108	108	120	113	144	151	178	175	185	180	197	198
Banking, finance, insurance	107	115	116	123	117	148	167	173	158	168	165	162	166
Construction and extraction	74	79	83	81	81	108	114	125	134	156	152	157	167
Education, training and library	283	290	267	253	215	256	224	217	167	185	220	204	188
Engineering	125	136	138	149	143	188	196	202	197	203	205	197	211
Environment, architecture and urbanism	63	68	68	74	74	124	134	146	180	219	196	219	232
Healthcare, social work	276	330	291	305	321	263	314	255	201	226	213	182	168
Hospitality and tourism	139	124	123	129	115	150	159	165	162	178	223	200	172
HR	56	56	59	72	52	74	111	127	131	162	173	193	188
IT	81	80	82	85	82	96	103	108	110	108	116	120	126
Legal	125	130	120	139	127	163	162	183	186	179	176	221	232
Management and consulting	187	176	156	162	135	169	193	196	207	204	219	240	236
Marketing, PR and media	103	119	121	138	128	163	196	204	199	207	208	204	232
Production, manufacturing, maintenance, Repair	106	95	97	86	91	103	108	109	110	111	119	124	117
Public sector, defence, community	106	105	104	104	103	108	112	108	113	105	97	101	104
Research and development	133	146	149	146	130	151	150	146	143	147	152	160	156
Sales	88	86	85	86	82	110	121	133	133	137	147	142	149
Telecommunications	66	71	74	80	80	89	102	92	92	99	96	98	106
Transport, post and logistics	96	93	89	97	94	110	126	136	140	146	160	180	172

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

Occupation	May 09	Apr 09	Mar 09	Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08
Managers	101	105	103	107	101	130	140	151	145	158	162	157	164
Professionals	107	113	111	122	118	152	169	172	164	173	180	182	191
Technicians and associate professionals	111	108	107	109	110	134	147	153	158	160	162	168	167
Clerical support workers	90	83	84	87	83	105	119	135	135	141	147	165	166
Service and sales workers	80	78	79	86	72	90	105	102	119	126	165	161	139
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	157	181	197	214	195	209	205	191	167	196	202	230	220
Craft and related workers	139	140	148	158	133	171	194	204	176	205	246	275	307
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	56	49	48	44	51	72	82	88	95	107	121	127	122
Elementary occupations	69	69	71	60	60	76	90	98	104	106	124	101	100

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

Region	May 09	Apr 09	Mar 09	Feb 09	Jan 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Oct 08	Sep 08	Aug 08	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08
Midlands	103	101	102	110	110	133	154	165	163	162	182	189	186
North England	127	138	133	136	126	155	171	177	179	181	190	194	202
London	96	95	96	100	98	113	124	128	131	135	141	145	146
South East	98	103	104	107	104	120	124	128	126	132	132	133	135
South West	194	198	189	190	176	223	250	276	260	265	273	287	290
Wales	195	192	192	174	179	211	235	257	217	238	237	234	245
Scotland	108	114	100	114	108	133	139	149	149	154	172	167	175
East Anglia	110	105	111	112	101	119	136	148	131	150	155	153	155
Northern Ireland	108	106	93	96	96	143	151	147	185	160	184	164	147

Monster Employment Index UK for June will be released on July 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>.

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