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Monster Employment Index Dips in December

December 2009 Index Highlights:

- Index edges down four points in December, reflecting mild seasonal lull in U.S. online recruitment activity
- Year-on-year, the Index is now down 12 percent, the most modest rate of annual decline in the past 18 months
- Offerings in healthcare and government increase, while hospitality and retail sectors retract
- Online job demand declines across 26 major metro markets with Cincinnati recording the sharpest drop

Summary Overview

The Monster Employment Index edged down four points in December, amid a relatively mild seasonal fall in online recruitment activity. On a year-over-year basis, the Index is now down 12 percent, the mildest rate of annual decline seen during the past 18 months indicating slight stability in underlying employer demand for workers at the end of the year.

The Monster Employment Index is a monthly gauge of U.S. online job demand based on a real-time review of millions of employer job opportunities culled from a large representative selection of corporate career Web sites and job boards, including Monster.com®.

During December, online job availability rose in three of the Index's 20 industry sectors and in six of the 23 occupational categories monitored. Index results for the past 13 months are as follows:

DEC 09	NOV 09	OCT 09	SEP 09	AUG 09	JUL 09	JUN 09	MAY 09	APR 09	MAR 09	FEB 09	JAN 09	DEC 08
115	119	120	119	121	114	117	118	120	118	122	118	131

“The decline in the Index during December is typical due to end-of-year seasonality. However, the improvement in the annual rate of decline lends evidence to a slight firming in underlying employer demand for workers at the end of the year” said Jesse Harriott, senior vice president and chief knowledge officer at Monster Worldwide. “Despite a challenging economic climate, hiring conditions seem to continue to stabilize, if not already slowly improving.”

Public Administration Registers Largest Monthly Gain in Online Job Demand in December; Wholesale Trade Declines

The public administration industry registered the highest increase in online job demand in December recovering from a 26-month low. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting also rose in December, adding 3 points. Healthcare and social assistance edged up while arts, entertainment, and recreation remained flat on the month.

In contrast, wholesale trade saw a four-point drop but was nearly flat year-on-year (-2 percent) in the Index, a state not seen since April 2008. Online recruitment activity also dipped in the utilities; retail trade; and transportation and warehousing industries in December.

Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting is the only industry category showing greater online job availability compared to a year ago, while Arts, entertainment, and recreation saw the largest year-over-year decline.

Healthcare Support Occupations See Greatest Increase in Online Job Availability in December; Management; and Business and Financial Operations Fall

In December, online hiring demand rose in six of the 24 occupational categories monitored by the Index. Healthcare support registered the strongest monthly rise in online job availability in December with a 15-point increase. Demand also strengthened for protective service; military specific; and legal occupations, fuelled by government hiring.

Meanwhile, management; and business and financial operations registered notable falls in December, while sales and related occupations saw a downward correction following three months of elevated seasonal demand.

Farming, fishing and forestry continued to lead all occupational categories in terms of year-over-year growth with a 16 percent annual rise in opportunities. Education, training, and library also reported more online job offerings than a year ago.

Online Job Availability Reduces in All Nine U.S. Census Bureau Regions in December

Online job demand fell in all nine U.S. Census Bureau regions in December, and all nine remain down year-over-year. Mountain experienced the most moderate rate of decline, while New England experienced the steepest fall largely due to a decline in the state of Massachusetts where online worker demand reduced to a 5-year low.

Meanwhile, all regions showed sustained decrease in online job offerings over the fourth quarter as a whole as well on a year-over-year basis, with East South Central and West South Central recording the smallest and largest rates of annual decline, respectively.

Adjusting the number of online help-wanted ads for total working population, the Monster Employment Index found the following states to be the top ten in terms of per-capita online job availability during the month of December:

Rank	State
1	Alaska
2	Delaware
3	Montana
4	Maryland
5	Vermont
6	Virginia
7	Connecticut
8	Rhode Island
9	Massachusetts
10	Wyoming

Twenty Six of the Top 28 Major U.S. Metro Markets Register Decreases in December

During December, online recruitment activity decreased in twenty six markets while Cleveland and Minneapolis remained flat. Minneapolis was the only market to note a net uptick in online recruitment activity over the fourth quarter as a whole, gaining 2 points between September and December. Despite the slight dip in December, online demand in Phoenix has remained steady over a 6-month period largely due to increased demand in business and financial operations and architecture and engineering occupations.

Meanwhile, Sacramento and Washington, D.C. saw the sharpest rate of monthly decline while Boston registered the largest fourth-quarter drop.

Year-over-year, all 28 markets continued to report falls, with Portland showing the most moderate rate of decline, followed by Pittsburgh and Miami.

To obtain a full copy of the Monster Employment Index report for December 2009, and to access current individual data charts for each of the 28 metro markets tracked, please visit <http://about-monster.com/employment-index>. Data for the month of January 2009 will be released on February 4, 2010.

Top Industries Looking for Employees in December

Industries showing the greatest increase in online job availability in December included:

INDUSTRY	DEC 09	NOV 09	OCT 09	SEP 09	AUG 09	DEC 08
Public Administration	169	164	180	172	182	178
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	184	181	183	188	192	181
Health Care and Social Assistance	84	83	96	88	90	104

Most Wanted Occupational Experience in December

Occupational categories registering the largest increases in online job demand in December included:

OCCUPATIONS	DEC 09	NOV 09	OCT 09	SEP 09	AUG 09	DEC 08
Healthcare Support	174	159	169	159	162	195
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	187	181	185	186	187	161
Protective Service	92	90	90	83	84	105
Military Specific	155	153	153	152	169	184
Legal	93	92	91	94	94	123

Online Job Availability Declines across All Major U.S. Regions in December

Online job opportunities dropped by varying degrees in all of the 9 U.S. Census Bureau Divisions in December. The regions are presented here in order of smallest month-to-month rate of decrease:

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU REGIONS	DEC 09	NOV 09	OCT 09	SEP 09	AUG 09	DEC 08
Mountain	118	121	122	121	123	133
Middle Atlantic	107	111	111	108	109	119
East North Central	103	107	107	106	106	115
West North Central	114	118	120	118	122	134
South Atlantic	112	116	118	116	117	123
Pacific	96	100	100	99	101	112
East South Central	121	126	128	126	128	128

West South Central	177	183	184	188	195	214
New England	103	110	111	110	112	121



DEC 08	JAN 09	FEB 09	MAR 09	APR 09	MAY 09	JUN 09	JUL 09	AUG 09	SEP 09	OCT 09	NOV 09	DEC 09
131	118	122	118	120	118	117	114	121	119	120	119	115

By Region

	2009												2008
	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec
New England	103	110	111	110	112	102	106	106	109	106	112	108	121
Mid-Atlantic	107	111	111	108	109	103	106	106	107	105	109	106	119
East North Central	103	107	107	106	106	100	103	103	105	103	108	104	115
West North Central	114	118	120	118	122	113	118	120	124	119	123	119	134
South Atlantic	112	116	118	116	117	113	115	116	118	116	117	113	123
East South Central	121	126	128	126	128	121	124	123	128	124	124	118	128
West South Central	177	183	184	188	195	183	188	188	194	191	199	191	214
Mountain	118	121	122	121	123	118	121	121	123	124	129	125	133
Pacific	96	100	100	99	101	95	97	97	98	96	101	101	112

By Industry

	2009												2008
	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	184	181	183	188	192	200	226	224	247	246	221	205	181
Mining, Quarrying and Oil and Gas Extraction	132	134	129	126	121	119	117	118	121	124	133	145	160
Utilities	106	111	103	102	105	98	102	96	109	110	118	94	131
Construction	163	167	164	167	164	164	166	168	170	170	173	170	177
Manufacturing	79	81	81	80	80	79	80	81	82	82	86	85	93
Wholesale Trade	126	130	124	126	124	123	124	124	125	123	126	123	128
Retail Trade	120	125	128	133	136	123	122	121	118	119	117	121	135
Transportation and Warehousing	131	137	128	128	128	126	125	129	138	127	129	123	146
Information	69	70	71	70	71	67	68	68	71	73	79	77	89
Finance and Insurance	46	48	47	47	47	44	48	55	57	57	64	63	74
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	50	53	53	54	56	57	61	50	53	53	56	47	59
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	50	51	50	49	49	48	51	52	54	56	62	60	72
Management of Companies and Enterprises	104	110	107	107	113	104	106	105	107	106	111	109	116
Administrative, Support, Waste Management, Remediation Services	51	53	53	54	54	49	50	50	51	49	54	51	60
Educational Services	79	83	81	83	87	83	87	84	80	77	78	74	89
Healthcare and Social Assistance	84	83	96	88	90	92	97	96	98	93	97	94	104
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	35	35	36	39	44	37	38	40	42	37	44	47	58
Accommodation and Food Services	96	105	99	102	107	101	102	111	113	104	99	98	108
Public Administration	169	164	180	172	182	182	191	201	197	200	216	207	178
Other Services	151	156	160	163	160	158	175	173	182	182	185	175	190

By Occupation

	2009												2008
	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec
Management	125	131	131	131	137	127	129	129	131	131	137	137	152
Business and Financial Operations	121	128	125	124	124	114	118	122	125	120	126	118	131
Computer and Mathematical	87	89	86	86	86	84	87	87	89	90	96	95	111
Architecture and Engineering	75	77	77	75	75	73	78	83	86	91	97	93	108
Life, Physical, and Social Science	109	113	113	112	116	112	117	118	120	120	123	117	131
Community and Social Services	164	163	163	161	162	168	185	180	179	178	172	151	184
Legal	93	92	91	94	94	86	94	85	91	98	99	96	123
Education, Training, and Library	113	118	113	114	120	113	113	111	107	103	103	99	109
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	74	75	75	80	86	77	77	75	76	77	79	80	87
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	134	136	159	145	149	150	158	156	161	154	161	158	174
Healthcare Support	174	159	169	159	162	171	182	183	189	192	186	185	195
Protective Service	92	90	90	83	84	77	85	77	90	82	83	85	105
Food Preparation and Serving Related	102	109	110	120	122	118	125	127	124	120	119	121	130
Building, Grounds Cleaning, Maintenance	99	104	105	107	108	107	116	113	110	104	105	102	115
Personal Care and Service	43	44	47	49	48	50	68	65	66	67	62	68	73
Sales and Related	82	88	87	86	89	81	81	79	80	77	80	77	85
Office and Administrative Support	94	98	97	99	100	90	93	93	93	90	94	91	105
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	187	181	185	186	187	185	188	187	210	210	188	169	161
Construction and Extraction	95	97	95	96	94	94	95	97	99	97	100	96	103
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	121	124	123	126	122	120	122	122	131	126	123	115	135
Production	100	103	103	102	101	99	100	99	99	98	102	100	108
Transportation and Material Moving	85	87	82	83	83	81	81	77	80	74	75	72	84

Military Specific	155	153	153	152	169	165	162	166	179	185	187	171	184
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By Local Market

	2009												2008
	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec
Atlanta	71	74	72	75	74	69	71	70	70	69	72	72	81
Baltimore	42	45	46	45	46	46	47	46	47	47	53	52	62
Boston	57	61	63	68	65	57	59	58	59	59	66	64	79
Chicago	60	62	61	63	63	57	61	60	60	58	66	62	76
Cincinnati	56	60	61	60	61	54	58	61	66	64	72	67	86
Cleveland	75	75	74	76	73	69	70	71	72	71	80	75	89
Dallas	84	86	87	88	89	86	87	87	91	90	93	89	99
Denver	80	82	83	84	85	81	83	82	81	82	85	82	90
Detroit	63	66	64	63	64	60	62	63	67	63	70	65	80
Houston	98	102	102	105	106	103	105	107	108	110	117	108	124
Indianapolis	70	75	71	72	73	68	69	68	69	65	70	68	81
Kansas City	69	73	73	73	78	68	73	73	68	64	71	71	88
Los Angeles	54	56	56	57	57	54	55	55	55	56	60	58	67
Miami	62	64	64	64	63	61	60	61	62	60	64	62	68
Minneapolis	72	72	70	70	68	63	69	70	71	68	75	75	85
New York City	65	68	68	68	68	64	64	64	65	64	69	67	79
Orlando	39	40	40	40	41	41	43	42	41	38	39	37	48
Philadelphia	41	43	43	44	44	41	43	43	44	43	50	47	55
Phoenix	62	63	62	62	62	59	60	61	60	60	64	63	70
Pittsburgh	112	118	114	115	115	110	115	118	114	112	115	105	122
Portland	69	74	72	71	75	64	62	61	59	58	62	59	74
Sacramento	59	64	65	64	65	63	65	66	65	63	69	68	72

San Diego	62	66	65	66	68	65	66	67	66	65	68	66	74
San Francisco	61	64	63	63	62	60	61	60	59	59	64	63	70
Seattle	89	90	90	91	90	89	89	88	88	88	95	92	104
St. Louis	85	89	90	91	93	89	91	91	93	91	95	89	104
Tampa	63	66	65	65	66	64	66	67	67	65	67	65	74
Washington, D.C.	45	49	49	52	50	49	50	50	52	52	56	54	63

About the Monster Employment Index

Launched in April 2004 with data collected since October 2003, the Monster Employment Index is a broad and comprehensive monthly analysis of U.S. online job demand conducted by Monster Worldwide, Inc. Based on a real-time review of millions of employer job opportunities culled from a large, representative selection of online career outlets, including Monster, the Monster Employment Index presents a snapshot of employer online recruitment activity nationwide. 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%. To obtain a full copy of the Monster Employment Index report for December 2009, including all charts and tables, please visit <http://about-monster.com/employment-index>. Data for the month of January 2010 will be released on February 4, 2010.

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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