Recent government acceleration of Vision 2021 results in 14 percent increase in online hiring across the UAE

Dubai, 31 July 2018 – According to the latest **Monster Employment Index (MEI)**, the UAE has registered a healthy 14 percent increase in the first half of 2018, in line with recent government initiatives aiming to accelerate progress on National Agenda goals.

In 2017, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai, pledged to accelerate the progress made on the objectives of the National Agenda. The Government accelerator program was designed to meet the ambitious goals of UAE Vision 2021, focusing on several industries and sectors including infrastructure, smart services and energy. The 'Dubai Pulse' initiative, announced late last year, will host a virtual platform which will allow residents to access country data and pay-bills online. The initiative is the first step towards creating a smart and sustainable UAE, who has pledged to process its last paper transaction by 2021. To date, 120 key initiatives have been implemented for 30 national pillars.

Commenting on the most recent **MEI**, **Abhijeet Mukherjee, Chief Executive Officer, Monster.com, APAC & Middle East, said:** "The latest findings of our **MEI** is a reflection of the strong first half performance of the UAE market since the launch of key government initiatives. The National Agenda aims to diversify the country's economy and position the UAE as a preferred hub for global business and trade. As a result, we are seeing a demand for more skilled talent across sectors. This demand is for both expatriate and local talent in the private sector as companies embrace Emiratization efforts and strive to keep up with the nation's progress rate."

Occupations within Software, Hardware and Telecom registered an impressive surge of 14 percent in the first half of 2018, signifying the growing nature of demand for jobs within the sector.

"It is not surprising to see that the Telecom industry is spear-heading the recent transformation of the UAE. Technology is an integral part of Vision 2021, and the smart initiatives launched by the UAE continue to fuel hiring in the sector. Initiatives like Dubai Future Foundation's 'One Million Arab Coders' programme, which helps Arab youth acquire the skills needed for jobs in the IT sector, will shape the future of the industry. It will be interesting to see how jobs in this sector will transform in the coming years," **added Mukherjee.**

Other industries to contribute to the continued first half growth of the UAE market include Consumer Goods (including FMCG, Food and Packaging, Home Appliances, Garments, Textiles, Leather, Gems and Jewellery), Production and Manufacturing Business Financial Services, registering increases of 14, 12 and 9 percent respectively.

From the industries evaluated by the MEI, the UAE's performance closely follows Bahrain at 16 percent growth in the first half of 2018, while Egypt was the only other country to register growth

during this period at six percent. On the other hand, Qatar registered the highest decline at seven percent from the same period last year.

UAE Top Growth Industries

Year-over-year Growth	Dec 17	Jun 18	% Growth Y-o-Y
Consumer Goods/ FMCG, Food & Packaged Food , Home Appliance, Garments/ Textiles/ Leather, Gems & Jewellery	146	167	14%
Production/Manufacturing, Automotive and Ancillary	81	91	12%
BFSI	86	94	9%

UAE Lowest Growth Industries

Year-over-year Growth	Dec 17	Jun 18	% Growth Y-o-Y
Chemicals/ Plastic/ Rubber, Paints, Fertilizer/ Pesticides	119	116	-3%
Engineering, Construction and Real Estate	96	93	-3%
Health Care	136	131	-4%

UAE Top Growth Occupations

Year-over-year Growth	Dec 17	Jun 18	% Growth Y-o-Y
Finance and Account	39	46	18%
HR & Admin.	39	46	18%
Software, Hardware, Telecom	113	129	14%

UAE Lowest Growth Occupations

Year-over-year Growth	Dec 17	Jun 18	% Growth Y-o-Y
Health Care	78	73	-6%
Sales and BD	64	57	-11%
Engineering and Production	113	91	-19%

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About Monster APAC & Gulf

Monster, for more than 20 years, is a leading online career and recruitment resource and with its cutting-edge technology provides relevant profiles to employers and relevant jobs to jobseekers across industry verticals, experience levels and geographies. Monster today has more than 200 million people registered on the Monster Worldwide network, and with operations in more than 40 countries, provides the widest and most sophisticated job seeking, career management, recruitment and talent management capabilities.

Monster in APAC & Gulf started its operations with India, in 2001 and has operations across India, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, UAE and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In India it is headquartered in Hyderabad, and has presence in 10 other cities of India viz., Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Pune, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Baroda, Chandigarh, and Cochin. Monster Mobile App in India was voted Product of the Year in 2016 under the 'Mobile App Job' category in a survey of over 18000 people by Nielsen. Monster.com in India was also voted Product of the Year in 2015 and back in 2014, mPower Search was voted Product of the Year as well. The Indian Air Force Placement Cell (IAFPC) selected Monster India for a collaboration to provide a robust platform to assist retired and shortly retiring Air Warriors seek suitable second career opportunities in the corporate world. Monster also initiated 'Rozgarduniya.com' - a job portal exclusively for jobseekers in rural India to enable employers in corporate India to connect with rural talent, thus removing the traditional barriers they face in this process.

Monster continues its pioneering work of transforming the recruiting industry with advanced technology using intelligent digital, social and mobile solutions, and a vast array of products and services.

To learn more about Monster in APAC & Gulf, visit: www.monsterindia.com | www.monstergulf.com | www.monster.com.sg | www.monster.com.my | www.monster.com.ph | www.monster.com.hk

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IT and Telecom sector records 29% growth in online hiring amid ambition to launch 'City of the Future'

Riyadh, 31 July 2018 – According to the latest **Monster Employment Index (MEI)**, e-recruitment in the Kingdom's IT and Telecom sector recorded a substantial increase of 29 percent from June 2017, while overall hiring in the Kingdom has risen 10 percent in the same period.

The increase in demand for talent in the IT and Telecom sector follows Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's announcement of 'Project Neom' at The Future Investment Initiative in 2017. The $500 billion ultra-high-tech future megacity is part of Saudi Arabia's national strategy to drive a digital evolution in the country, a key enabler in achieving the milestones and objectives of Vision 2030.

Commenting on the most recent **MEI**, **Abhijeet Mukherjee, Chief Executive Officer, Monster.com, APAC & Middle East, said:** "The latest **MEI** findings come as no surprise given Saudi Arabia's plans to drive a digital transformation. Recent initiatives like the 'Neom' project is a testament to the country's ambitious desire to become one of the world's leading players in the technology industry. The technology industry is set to play a central role in the economic diversification efforts of Saudi Arabia and requires a strong skilled workforce to accelerate the Kingdom's progress."

As Saudi Arabia goes through a rapid transformative digital evolution, cybersecurity and regulatory challenges related to technology become critical. In late 2017, Saudi Arabia set up a new authority for tasked with boosting cyber security of the state and protecting national security and sensitive infrastructure.

"While technological innovation is supporting the growth of Saudi Arabia, measures must be implemented to protect confidentiality and integrity. The recent creation of a Cyber Security Authority in Saudi Arabia is the first step towards safe-guarding information and data, as well as, meeting international regulatory requirements. Skilled professionals will play a pivotal role as cyber security becomes more important, and I look forward to seeing what that will mean for IT professionals in Saudi Arabia," **Mukherjee added.**

Consumer Goods (including FMCG, Food and Packaged Food, Home Appliances, Garments and Textiles) Advertising (including Market Research, Public Relations, Media and Entertainment), and Healthcare have also contributed to the overall growth in e-recruitment across the Kingdom, registering healthy increases of 28, 22 and 17 percent from June 2017.

From the industries evaluated by the MEI, Kuwait registered the most growth in online hiring at 18 percent from June 2017, closely followed by Egypt and Bahrain at 17 percent and 16 percent respectively. Qatar recorded the highest decline at four percent during the same period.

KSA Top Growth Industries

Year-over-year Growth	Jun 17	Jun 18	% Growth Y-o-Y
IT and Telecom/ISP	114	147	29%
Consumer Goods/ FMCG, Food & Packaged Food , Home Appliance, Garments/ Textiles/ Leather, Gems & Jewellery	116	148	28%
Advertising, Market Research, Public Relations, Media and Entertainment	104	127	22%

KSA Lowest Growth Industries

Year-over-year Growth	Jun 17	Jun 18	% Growth Y-o-Y
Chemicals/ Plastic/ Rubber, Paints, Fertilizer/ Pesticides	94	100	6%
Hospitality	78	82	5%
Education	104	107	3%

KSA Top Growth Occupations

Year-over-year Growth	Jun 17	Jun 18	% Growth Y-o-Y
Software, Hardware, Telecom	148	175	18%
Engineering and Production	86	99	15%
Purchase / Logistics / Supply Chain	84	96	14%

KSA Lowest Growth Occupations

Year-over-year Growth	Jun 17	Jun 18	% Growth Y-o-Y
Finance and Account	110	113	3%
Health Care	118	117	-1%
Hospitality and Travel	78	76	-3%

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