

Graduate Employment Survey 2017 Bachelor's Degrees

I. Summary

1. Full employment for the twelfth consecutive year.
2. Employment industry distribution in 2017 stayed similar to that of 2016.
3. Both average monthly gross salary and median monthly gross salary had increased by 8.0%.
4. Within commerce & industry, the greatest increases in salary were found in agriculture & fishery (+18.3%), transport, storage & communication (+15.5%) and hospitality & tourism services (+13.2%) industries.
5. Across the salary ranges, more graduates entered high-paying jobs with gross monthly salary of \$30,000 or more (+5.4 p.p.), while fewer graduates fell into the range of \$10,000-\$14,999 (-4.8 p.p.).

II. Survey methodology

The survey was conducted in the form of questionnaires to all 3,447 full-time graduates. A total of 2,990 graduates replied, representing a response rate of 86.7%.

III. Key findings

1. Employment rate of 99.5% was recorded among respondents, representing full employment for the twelfth year in a row. Unemployment rate remains steady over the years.
2. 79.5% (+0.4 p.p.) of graduates were employed and 17.6% (-0.3 p.p.) chose to pursue further studies in 2017. The proportion of employment and further studies stays at approximately 80% and 20% respectively over the years.
3. The employment industry distribution in 2017 was similar to that in 2016. As key industries of a service economy, business services and financial institutions combined accounted for 24.5% of all the employment industries, decreased slightly by 0.8 p.p. comparing to 2016.

4. Healthy salary increases were observed among graduates. The average monthly gross salary had increased from \$23,115 in 2016 to \$24,965 in 2017, and the median monthly gross salary had increased from \$18,500 to \$19,979, both recording a rise of 8%.
5. Within the commercial sector, the three industries that experienced the highest salary hikes were agriculture & fishery (+18.3%), transport, storage & communication (+15.5%) and hospitality & tourism services (+13.2%).
6. The gross monthly income group of \$15,000 to \$19,999 accounted for 32.7% of the employed graduates (+0.1 p.p.), representing the largest income group. More graduates fell into the group of \$30,000 or more (+5.4 p.p.), while fewer were in the group of \$10,000 to \$14,999 (-4.8 p.p.).
7. More than one-third (34.6%) of graduates received their first job offer before graduation, and 81.1% secured their job offer within 3 months after graduation.
8. Similar to 2016, 81.7% of graduates were either satisfied or very satisfied with their jobs. The percentage of graduates changing jobs within the first 6 months of graduation was similar to that in 2016 (10.7% in 2017 vs 9.7% in 2016). In general, the vast majority of graduates were stable with their jobs.
9. About one-third (32.8%) of non-local graduates went for further studies after obtaining their Bachelor's degree. Among them, the majority took the USA or Hong Kong as their destinations (38.9% in the USA and 33.3% in HK). Compared to 2016, fewer non-local graduates chose to stay in Hong Kong for further studies (-4.0 p.p.) while an increasing percentage (+2.4 p.p.) chose to go to the USA.
10. 59.5% of non-local graduates took up employment in 2017. A large majority of them (82.7%) worked in Hong Kong despite a drop of 3.9 p.p. comparing to 2016. The percentage of those choosing Mainland China as their employment destination had increased by 3.1 p.p.

Appendix

Table 1. Employment Situation of 2017 Full-time Undergraduates

Table 2: Employment Industry of 2017 Full-time Undergraduates

Table 3: Monthly Income of 2017 Full-time Undergraduates

Table 4: Employment industry with highest increase in average monthly gross income of 2017 Full-time Undergraduates

Table 5: Distribution of Gross Monthly Income of 2017 Full-time Undergraduates

Table 6. Time taken to receive first job offer for 2017 Full-time Undergraduates

Table 7: Job Satisfaction of 2017 Full-time Undergraduates

Table 8: Job Change of 2017 Full-time Undergraduates

Table 9: Employment Situation of 2017 Full-time Non-Local Graduates

Table 10: Further Studies Destination of 2017 Full-Time Non-Local Graduates

Table 11: Employment Destination of 2017 Full-Time Non-Local Graduates

Table 1: Employment Situation of 2017 Full-time Undergraduates

Employment Situation	2017	2016	Difference
Employed	79.5%	79.1%	+0.4%
Further Studies	17.6%	17.9%	-0.3%
Unemployed	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%
Others ¹	2.4%	2.4%	0.0%

¹ Others included those returning to home countries or those not seeking employment in Hong Kong.

Table 2: Employment Industry of 2017 Full-time Undergraduates

Employment Industry	2017	2016	Difference
Civil Service	15.4%	15.2%	+0.2%
Education	10.7%	9.8%	+0.9%
Community, Social & Personal Services	18.9%	18.8%	+0.1%
Commerce & Industry	54.9%	56.2%	-1.3%
Business Services	13.9%	15.1%	-1.2%
Financial Institutions	10.6%	10.2%	+0.4%
Engineering, Architectural & Technical Services	8.9%	8.1%	+0.8%
Others	21.5%	22.8%	-1.3%

Table 3: Monthly Income of 2017 Full-time Undergraduates

Monthly Income	2017	2016	Difference
Average Monthly Gross	\$24,965	\$23,115	+8.0%
Average Monthly Gross (excluding MBBS and BDS)	\$21,062	\$20,269	+3.9%
Median Monthly Gross	\$19,979	\$18,500	+8.0%
Median Monthly Gross (excluding MBBS and BDS)	\$18,500	\$18,000	+2.8%

Table 4: Employment industry with highest increase in average monthly gross income of 2017 Full-time Undergraduates

Employment Industry	2017	2016	Difference
Agriculture & Fishery	\$15,375	\$13,000	+18.3%
Transport, Storage & Communication	\$19,304	\$16,714	+15.5%
Hospitality & Tourism Services	\$17,087	\$15,094	+13.2%

Table 5: Distribution of Gross Monthly Income of 2017 Full-time Undergraduates

Gross Income Group	2017	2016	Difference
Less Than \$10,000	0.4%	0.7%	-0.3%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	17.0%	21.8%	-4.8%
\$15,000 to \$19,999	32.7%	32.6%	+0.1%
\$20,000 to \$24,999	16.0%	15.4%	+0.6%
\$25,000 to \$29,999	9.5%	10.5%	-1.0%
\$30,000 or more	24.5%	19.1%	+5.4%

Table 6: Time taken to receive first job offer for 2017 Full-time Undergraduates

Time to receive first job offer	2017	2016	Difference
Before Graduation (May)	34.6%	37.1%	-2.5%
Before August	81.1%	79.4%	+1.7%
Before November	94.9%	92.4%	+2.5%
Before February 2018	100.0%	100.0%	-

Table 7: Job Satisfaction of 2017 Full-time Undergraduates

Job Satisfaction	2017	2016	Difference
Very satisfied	24.0%	23.2%	+0.8%
Satisfied	57.7%	58.4%	-0.7%
Average	15.6%	15.7%	-0.1%
Not Much Satisfied	2.7%	2.7%	0.0%

Table 8: Job Change of 2017 Full-time Undergraduates

Job change	2017	2016	Difference
Changed job since graduation	10.7%	9.7%	+1.0%
No job change since graduation	89.3%	90.3%	-1.0%

Table 9: Employment Situation of 2017 Full-time Non-Local Graduates

Employment Situation	2017	2016	Difference
Employed	59.5%	59.3%	+0.2%
Further Studies	32.8%	35.4%	-2.6%
Unemployed	0.9%	0.8%	+0.1%
Others	6.8%	4.4%	+2.4%

Table 10: Further Studies Destination of 2017 Full-time Non-Local Graduates

Studies Destination	2017	2016	Difference
USA	38.9%	36.5%	+2.4%
Hong Kong	33.3%	37.3%	-4.0%
United Kingdom	11.1%	10.3%	+0.8%
Australia	3.7%	1.6%	+2.1%
Canada	2.8%	4.0%	-1.2%
Mainland China	1.9%	2.4%	-0.5%
Others	8.3%	7.9%	+0.4%

Table 11: Employment Destination of 2017 Full-Time Non-Local Graduates

Employment Destination	2017	2016	Difference
Hong Kong	82.7%	86.6%	-3.9%
Mainland China	8.6%	5.5%	+3.1%
Taiwan	1.2%	1.2%	0.0%
United Kingdom	-	1.2%	-1.2%
Other Asian Countries	6.8%	5.5%	+1.3%
Other European Countries	0.6%	-	+0.6%