

Grads: Jobs Flat But Satisfaction High

Three new reports from Graduate Careers Australia (GCA) suggest that the graduate employment market has remained flat into 2011 but that graduates remain highly satisfied with their university experience.

The reports are *Graduate Destinations 2011* (which generally looks at recent graduates' labour market and further study outcomes), *Graduate Salaries 2011* (which looks at graduates' earnings) and *Graduate Course Experience 2011* (which looks at graduates' experience of higher education).

Graduate Employment

In 2011, 76.3 per cent of bachelor degree graduates who entered the full-time labour market (that is, who were either in or seeking full-time employment) had found a full-time position within four months of course completion. An additional 14.9 per cent were working part-time and seeking a full-time job and 8.7 per cent not working and seeking a full-time position.

- The figure of 76.3 per cent was essentially unchanged from the comparable result of 76.2 per cent in 2010, down notably from 85.2 per cent in 2008 and, with the 2010 figure, the lowest since 1994 {see Figure 3 on page 7 of *Graduate Destinations*}.
 - Employment figures for new graduates were initially affected by the global financial crisis, and continuing labour market uncertainty amongst graduate recruiters has seen graduate intakes remain conservative.
- Graduates from a non-English speaking background were notably less likely to have been in full-time employment than the total group (67.0 per cent compared with 76.3 per cent) {see Table 4c on page 15 of *Graduate Destinations*}.
- Indigenous graduates were more likely to have been in full-time employment than the total group (86.8 per cent compared with 76.3 per cent) {see Table 4c on page 15 of *Graduate Destinations*}.
- Graduates of NT (85.5 per cent) ACT (79.6 per cent) and Queensland institutions (79.5 per cent) had better employment prospects than those from other states {see Table 7a reproduced below from *Graduate Destinations*}.

The *Graduate Destinations* employment figures quoted above are for new graduates who have recently completed their higher education awards. In the population as a whole, the most recently available Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data (May 2011) show that just 3.0 per cent of those with bachelor degrees were unemployed compared with 7.1 per cent of those who had not completed post-secondary education and 5.1 per cent of all persons.

Media Release: **New Graduate Outcomes Data**

Embargoed until 10:30 pm, Friday, August 3, 2012

Graduate Earnings

The median annual starting salary for new Australian resident bachelor degree graduates aged less than 25 and in their first full-time employment in Australia increased to \$50,000 from \$49,000 in 2010. This was 78.1 per cent of the annual rate of average weekly earnings (\$64,000 at the time of the survey), down from 79.8 per cent in 2010.

- Males started full-time work on a median salary of \$52,000 (up from \$50,000 in 2010) while females in full-time employment earned \$50,000 (up from \$48,000 in 2010).
- Dentistry remained the highest-paid field of education at \$80,000, followed by optometry (\$70,000), earth sciences (\$65,000), engineering (\$60,000) and medicine (\$58,500).
- When examining differences in median graduate starting salary by sex, notable differences were observed in nine of the 23 fields of education under examination, all of which showed a male pay advantage {see page 2 in *Graduate Salaries*}.
 - Earth sciences graduates exhibited the largest (statistically significant) difference between males and females, with male earth science graduates earning a median starting salary \$10,000 greater than their female counterparts.
 - This was followed by architecture and building graduates (\$7,000 difference between males and females), and economics and business graduates (\$5,000).
- Graduates employed in the Northern Territory earned the highest median starting salary of all the Australian States and Territories in 2011 (\$55,000). This was followed by Western Australia (\$52,000) and the Australian Capital Territory (\$51,100) {see Table 4 in *Graduate Salaries*}.
 - Graduates employed in Victoria earned the lowest median starting salary (\$49,000).

Graduate Satisfaction

Overall satisfaction with courses as measured by the Course Experience Questionnaire (CEQ) remains at a high level, with 93.7 per cent of bachelor degree graduates expressing broad satisfaction with their higher education experience.

The Australian Graduate Survey

The Australian Graduate Survey (AGS) is conducted annually with all Australian universities, along with a number of smaller private institutions, participating. In the 2011 AGS, over 168,000 new domestic graduates were invited to respond to the survey four months after they had completed requirements for their awards and over 104,000 did so, giving a response rate of 61.9 per cent.

Copies of the three recently released reports can be downloaded from the GCA website at

<http://www.graduatecareers.com.au/research/researchreports/>

For comment please call Graduate Careers Australia on (03) 9605 3700.

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T 7a: Bachelor degree graduates available for full-time employment, and percentage in full-time study, by State or Territory of institution in which award was completed, 2011 (%)*.

<i>Available for full-time employment and ...</i>	ACT	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	All
... in full-time employment	79.6	74.8	75.8	79.5	76.1	75.9	71.9	85.5	76.3
... seeking full-time employment, not working	7.9	9.4	8.9	7.8	8.0	8.6	11.3	6.2	8.7
... seeking full-time employment, working part-time or casual	12.6	15.8	15.3	12.7	15.8	15.5	16.9	8.4	14.9
<i>Total seeking full-time employment</i>	<i>20.4</i>	<i>25.2</i>	<i>24.2</i>	<i>20.5</i>	<i>23.9</i>	<i>24.1</i>	<i>28.1</i>	<i>14.5</i>	<i>23.7</i>
Number available for full-time employment	1,067	14,496	11,129	8,732	3,630	4,207	640	275	44,176
In full-time study (%)	20.6	18.8	23.4	15.0	19.4	18.3	22.8	6.6	19.4
Number in full-time study	337	4,149	4,284	1,874	1,119	1,171	243	25	13,202
* Table based on Australian citizens and permanent residents only.									