

Fewer fresh graduates get jobs within first six months: Survey

In addition to the 88.9 per cent of graduates who found jobs within six months of their final exams, three per cent had accepted job offers but had yet to start work at the time of the survey, compared to two per cent last year.



Students walk by the Singapore Management University. (Photo: Singapore Management University)

SINGAPORE: While the overall employment rate of graduates from the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), National University of Singapore (NUS) and Singapore Management University (SMU) remained high, a smaller percentage of them found jobs within six months of completing their final examinations last year, according to a survey conducted by the three institutions.

The survey results, which were released on Monday (Feb 26), showed that 88.9 per cent of those who were actively looking for jobs found employment in that period, compared to 89.5 per cent in 2016.

Table 1: Employment Indicators of Full-Time Graduates

Employment Indicators (Definitions in Appendix)	2016 ⁸	2017
Overall employment rate	89.5%	88.9%
Full-time permanent employment rate	79.9%	78.4%
Freelance employment	1.7%	2.4%
Part-time/Temporary employment rate	8.0%	8.2%
<i>Voluntary</i>	3.9%	4.4%
<i>Involuntary</i>	4.1%	3.7%
Median Gross Monthly Salary	\$3,300	\$3,400

Note: Employment rate figures may not add up due to rounding off.

The number of graduates that secured full-time permanent employment also fell last year, with 78.4 per cent of them landing such jobs - a drop of 1.5 percentage points from the previous year.

Freelance employment, however, increased - 2.4 per cent of successful job hunters secured freelance gigs, compared to only 1.7 per cent in 2016.

According to the survey, fresh graduates with full-time permanent jobs drew a mean gross monthly salary of S\$3,613 in 2017 - higher than the S\$3,509 the previous year. The median gross monthly salary was S\$3,400, compared to S\$3,300 in 2016.

Source: CNA/hs