

Overall employment rate among local uni grads 'remains high': survey

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OVERALL employment rates among the graduates of Nanyang Technological University (NTU), National University of Singapore (NUS) and Singapore Management University (SMU) remain high, the latest Joint Graduate Employment Survey conducted by the three universities has found.

They had surveyed 10,126 out of their 13,656 fresh graduates, and found that as at last Nov 1, the overall employment rate was 89.1 per cent among those who were "economically active", the universities said in a statement.

The phrase refers to those who are working, and those who are not working, but actively looking and available for work.

And among the graduates, 82.7 per cent were employed in full-time permanent jobs within six months of the end of their final examinations.

The overall and full-time permanent-employment rates for 2014 have stayed largely stable, compared to those in 2013, when this joint survey was also done.

The annual survey also found that for individuals in full-time permanent employment, those who graduated in 2014 drew higher salaries than those who graduated in 2013.

The mean gross monthly salary among last year's fresh graduates in full-time permanent em-

ployment was S\$3,333, up from S\$3,229 in 2013; the median gross monthly salary among them was S\$3,200, up from S\$3,050 in 2013.

The NTU, NUS and SMU joint survey also included "follow-up graduates", that is, those who have completed their practical training – the one-year practical law course, pupillage or doctors' housemanship, for example – after their studies. About 640 out of 883 follow-up graduates took part; they included 2011's architecture graduates who had completed their practical training, and 2013's graduates in pharmacy, law, medicine and biomedical science.

Of the economically-active follow-up graduates, overall employment rate was 98.9 per cent last year; 97.7 per cent had full-time permanent jobs. The mean gross monthly salary for follow-up graduates in full-time permanent jobs was S\$4,751, up from S\$4,575 in 2013; the median was S\$4,800, compared to S\$4,500 in 2013.