

The Graduate Employment Survey (GES) is conducted annually to survey the employment conditions of the graduates, 6 months after their graduation. Starting from GES 2008, the Ministry of Education will be publishing the results of the key employment indicators of the survey every year to provide prospective students with timely and comparable data to assist them in making informed course decisions. MOE has taken all reasonable steps to ensure the accuracy of the data but will not be liable for any inaccuracies. Students should make use of the data below at their own discretion.

SMU: Employment Rate¹ and Gross Monthly Salary of Graduates By Bachelors Degree, 2009

Degree	Overall Employment ² rate (%)	Full-Time Permanent Employment ³ rate (%)	Gross Monthly Salary ⁴ (\$)			
			Mean	Median	25th Percentile	75th Percentile
School of Accountancy						
Accountancy (4-yr programme)	99.2	95.3	3,073	2,500	2,400	2,950
- Cum Laude and above ⁵	100	96.8	3,586	2,600	2,400	4,000
School of Business						
Business Management (4-yr programme)	95.8	82.8	3,048	2,800	2,400	3,325
- Cum Laude and above ⁵	96.1	86.7	3,336	3,000	2,500	3,500
School of Economics						
Economics (4-yr programme)	100	88.9	3,288	3,000	2,500	3,763
- Cum Laude and above ⁵	100	92.6	3,606	3,200	2,800	4,000
School of Information Systems						
Information Systems Management (4-yr programme)	96.9	85.9	3,445	2,750	2,400	3,850
- Cum Laude and above ⁵	88.9	72.2	3,754	4,000	2,800	4,600
School of Social Sciences						
Social Sciences (4-yr programme)	92.0	72.0	2,613	2,500	2,275	2,850
- Cum Laude and above ⁵	80.0	73.3	2,673	2,850	2,350	2,950

Source: Graduate Employment Survey conducted by SMU

Additional Notes:

1. The employment rates refer to the number of graduates employed as a proportion of economically active graduates (i.e. graduates who have entered the labour market) as at 1 Nov 2009 (i.e. approximately 6 months after completing their final examinations).
2. Overall employment includes all types of full-time and part-time/temporary employment.
3. Full-time permanent employment refers to employment of at least 35 hours a week and where the employment is not temporary. It includes those on contracts of one year or more.
4. Gross monthly salary pertains only to full-time permanently employed graduates. It comprises the basic salary, fixed allowances, over-time pay and commissions. Bonuses are excluded.
5. SMU's courses are direct 4-yr programmes and graduates could be awarded Cum Laude and above, or no awards. The data for SMU's courses above is displayed in 2 categories: (i) overall results for all graduates within the course regardless of the award they attained, and (ii) results for the graduates awarded Cum Laude and above. Should the graduates undertake more than 1 Major/Degree (e.g. Dual Degree programme), they have been classified based on the first Major/Degree.
6. The above table reflects the preliminary results of the employment survey.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1) What is the difference between mean and median salaries?

The Mean Gross Monthly Salary is an average of the salaries of the full-time permanently employed graduates. The Median Gross Monthly Salary is the salary of the 'central' (i.e. 50th Percentile) graduate in the set of full-time permanently employed graduates when they are arranged in a sequential order by salary. It is useful to refer to these 2 indicators together. The median is a useful reference when the salary data is not evenly distributed (e.g. when the group contains graduates with exceptionally low or high salaries, especially when the number of respondents is relatively small).

For example, although the median gross monthly salary for the Business Management course offered by SMU shows that shows 50% of the graduates are earning \$2,800 or less, the mean gross monthly salary is about \$3,048. This indicates that there are some high earners who have raised the mean salary.

In contrast, the mean gross monthly salary of graduates of Social Science (Honours) is similar to the median gross monthly salary. This indicates that salaries are more evenly distributed on both sides of the median for this group of graduates.

2) What do the 25th and 75th percentile Gross Monthly Salaries indicate?

If there are 100 students from that course who responded, then the 25th percentile (i.e. the lower quartile) Gross Monthly Salary indicates that 75 graduates earn more than that salary and 25 graduates earn more than the 75th percentile (i.e. the upper quartile) Gross Monthly Salary indicated.