

MEDIA RELEASE

Polytechnic Graduates Command Higher Salary Amidst Evolving Job Landscape

Close to 9 In 10 Employed Within 6 Months Post-Graduation

Singapore, 13 January 2025 – The 2024 Polytechnic Graduate Employment Survey (GES)¹ found that the median gross monthly salary among graduates in full-time permanent employment increased from \$2,800 in 2023 to \$2,900 in 2024. It also found that 87.5% of polytechnic graduates in the labour force were employed within six months of graduation or after completing full-time National Service, against the backdrop of slower employment growth in 2024 as compared to 2023. (see **Table 1**).

Among the 5,769 polytechnic graduate survey respondents in the labour force, 54.6% were in full-time permanent employment, 27.0% were in part-time/temporary employment, and 2.9% had either accepted a job offer or were actively starting a business venture. Consistent with previous years, a significant majority of the polytechnic graduates in part-time/temporary employment did so voluntarily, with about half of them concurrently pursuing or preparing to begin further studies.

Table 1: Employment Indicators from 2022 to 2024

Proportion of Respondents in the Labour Force who were:	Fresh Graduates			Post-NS (PNS) Graduates			Combined (Fresh and PNS Graduates)		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Employed	91.4%	91.7%	85.6%	92.7%	95.1%	91.4%	91.8%	92.7%	87.5%
In Full-Time Permanent Employment	56.1%	55.5%	49.2%	65.4%	69.2%	65.2%	59.0%	59.8%	54.6%
Freelancing	4.0%	3.9%	4.7%	10.1%	7.3%	8.3%	5.9%	5.0%	5.9%
In Part-Time/Temporary Employment	31.3%	32.3%	31.6%	17.2%	18.5%	17.8%	26.9%	28.0%	27.0%
<i>Voluntary</i>	30.2%	30.8%	29.6%	16.2%	17.7%	16.8%	25.8%	26.7%	25.3%
<i>Involuntary</i>	1.1%	1.5%	1.9%	1.0%	0.8%	1.0%	1.1%	1.3%	1.6%
Unemployed	8.6%	8.3%	14.4%	7.3%	4.9%	8.6%	8.2%	7.3%	12.5%
<i>Unemployed but starting work soon or actively starting a business venture</i>	2.3%	3.6%	3.2%	2.2%	1.9%	2.4%	2.2%	3.1%	2.9%
<i>Unemployed and still looking for a job</i>	6.3%	4.7%	11.3%	5.1%	3.0%	6.2%	5.9%	4.2%	9.6%

Note: The percentages may not add up due to rounding off. The list of definitions for the employment indicators is in Annex A.

¹ The GES is jointly conducted by Nanyang Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic, Singapore Polytechnic, and Temasek Polytechnic.

Across course clusters, graduates' median gross monthly salaries **continue to increase** compared to the previous year's graduating class. The median gross monthly salary of graduates from **Health Sciences, Humanities & Social Sciences, and Information & Digital Technologies** were higher than the overall median for all graduates (see **Table 2**).

Table 2: Median Gross Monthly Salary by Course Clusters (Full-Time Permanent Employed Graduates only) from 2022 to 2024

Course Cluster	Fresh Graduates			Post-NS (PNS) Graduates			Combined (Fresh and PNS Graduates)		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Overall	\$2,550	\$2,700	\$2,800	\$2,800	\$2,963	\$3,000	\$2,600	\$2,800	\$2,900
Arts, Design & Media	\$2,300	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,625	\$2,800	\$2,900	\$2,500	\$2,600	\$2,625
Built Environment	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,675	\$2,800	\$2,800	\$2,900	\$2,535	\$2,640	\$2,800
Business	\$2,500	\$2,600	\$2,700	\$2,890	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$2,500	\$2,700	\$2,800
Engineering	\$2,550	\$2,629	\$2,775	\$2,850	\$2,900	\$3,000	\$2,700	\$2,800	\$2,900
Health Sciences	\$2,852	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$2,860	\$3,069	\$3,273	\$2,854	\$3,000	\$3,000
Humanities & Social Sciences	\$2,600	\$2,900	\$3,100	\$2,800	\$2,970	\$3,000	\$2,600	\$2,913	\$3,038
Information & Digital Technologies	\$2,700	\$2,700	\$2,900	\$2,880	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$2,747	\$2,900	\$3,000
Sciences	\$2,250	\$2,340	\$2,500	\$2,570	\$2,980	\$2,940	\$2,300	\$2,500	\$2,600

Note: The list of diploma courses under each course cluster is available in Annex B.

Fresh Graduates

7,614 out of 10,045 fresh graduates in 2024 responded to the survey. As of 1 October 2024, around six months after graduation, 50.4% of the respondents were in the labour force. 48.9% were pursuing or preparing to begin further studies and were not actively looking for jobs. A majority of the remaining 0.8% said they were taking a break and were not seeking employment.

Post-National Service Graduates

5,290 out of 8,939 graduates from 2021 who completed their full-time National Service (NS) between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024 responded to the survey. 36.5% of respondents were in the labour force. 63.1% were pursuing or preparing to begin further studies and were not actively looking for jobs. Similar to the fresh graduates, most of the remaining 0.4% of the respondents said they were taking a break and were not seeking employment.

Nurturing Future Talent for the Industry

The five polytechnics are committed to preparing their graduates for the workforce, as well as providing timely career guidance and support, including job matching and personalised career coaching and planning. Tapping on their strong industry networks, the polytechnics also organise regular career fairs to curate suitable job placement and apprenticeship opportunities, including the SkillsFuture Work-Study Programme.

Speaking on behalf of the Polytechnic GES Committee on the outcome of the survey findings, Mr Soh Wai Wah, Principal & CEO, Singapore Polytechnic said, "Given the evolving job landscape, we are actively working to equip our students with the necessary skills and adaptability to navigate this well. This includes strengthening industry partnerships to provide real-world experience, integrating

AI literacy into our curriculum, and enhancing career guidance and support services. Our commitment is to ensure that our graduates are well-prepared for the future of work and can successfully launch fulfilling careers.”

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DEFINITION OF EMPLOYMENT INDICATORS

Employment refers to graduates working in full-time permanent, part-time, temporary employment and freelancing. The employment rate is the number of employed graduates, as a proportion of graduates in the labour force (i.e. those who were working or not working but actively looking and available for work).

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.

Freelancing refers to those who operate their own business without employing any paid worker in the conduct of their business or trade.

Part-time Employment refers to employment of less than 35 hours a week.

Temporary Employment refers to casual, interim or seasonal employment, including those on contracts of less than one year.

Involuntary part-time/temporary employment refers to those who indicated that they were in part-time/temporary employment after they were unable to obtain a full-time permanent job offer.

Voluntary part-time/temporary employment refers to those who indicated that they were in part-time/temporary employment as they were pursuing/preparing to commence further studies or taking active steps to start a business venture, due to personal choice and other reasons.

Gross Monthly Salary comprises basic salary, fixed allowances, overtime pay, commissions and other regular cash payments, before deduction of the employee's CPF contributions and personal income tax. Employer's CPF contributions, bonuses, stock options, other lump sum payments and payments-in-kind are excluded.

ARTS, DESIGN & MEDIA

Diploma in 3D Interactive Media Technology
 Diploma in Advertising & Public Relations
 Diploma in Animation
 Diploma in Animation & 3D Arts
 Diploma in Animation & Visual Effects
 Diploma in Apparel Design & Merchandising
 Diploma in Arts & Theatre Management
 Diploma in Arts Business Management
 Diploma in Chinese Media & Communication
 Diploma in Communication Design
 Diploma in Communications & Media Management
 Diploma in Creative Writing For TV & New Media
 Diploma in Design
 Diploma in Design For Games & Gamification
 Diploma in Design For User Experience
 Diploma in Digital Animation
 Diploma in Digital Film & Television
 Diploma in Digital Game Art & Design
 Diploma in Digital Visual Effects
 Diploma in Environment Design
 Diploma in Experience & Communication Design
 Diploma in Experience & Product Design
 Diploma in Experiential Product & Interior Design
 Diploma in Film, Sound & Video
 Diploma in Game Design
 Diploma in Games Design & Development
 Diploma in Immersive Media & Game Design
 Diploma in Industrial Design
 Diploma in Interaction Design
 Diploma in Interactive & Digital Media
 Diploma in Interior Architecture & Design
 Diploma in Interior Design
 Diploma in Mass Communication
 Diploma in Mass Media Management
 Diploma in Media & Communication
 Diploma in Media Post-Production
 Diploma in Media Production & Design
 Diploma in Media, Arts & Design
 Diploma in Motion Graphics & Broadcast Design
 Diploma in Motion Graphics Design
 Diploma in Music & Audio Technology
 Diploma in Product & Industrial Design
 Diploma in Product Design & Innovation
 Diploma in Sonic Arts
 Diploma in Spatial Design
 Diploma in Visual Communication
 Diploma in Visual Communication & Media Design
 Diploma in Visual Effects
 Diploma in Visual Effects & Motion Graphics

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Diploma in Architectural Technology & Building Services
 Diploma in Architecture
 Diploma in Civil Engineering
 Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business
 Diploma in Facilities Management
 Diploma in Green Building & Sustainability
 Diploma in Green Building Energy Management
 Diploma in Hotel & Leisure Facilities Management
 Diploma in Integrated Facility Management
 Diploma in Landscape Architecture
 Diploma in Real Estate Business
 Diploma in Sustainable Built Environment
 Diploma in Sustainable Urban Design & Engineering

BUSINESS

Diploma in Accountancy
 Diploma in Accountancy & Finance
 Diploma in Accounting & Finance
 Diploma in Aviation Management
 Diploma in Aviation Management & Services
 Diploma in Banking & Finance
 Diploma in Banking & Financial Services
 Diploma in Business
 Diploma in Business & Social Enterprise
 Diploma in Business Administration

BUSINESS (CONT.)

Diploma in Business Management
 Diploma in Business Studies
 Diploma in Consumer Behaviour & Research
 Diploma in Culinary & Catering Management
 Diploma in Customer Experience Management with Business
 Diploma in Food & Beverage Business
 Diploma in Hospitality & Tourism Management
 Diploma in Hotel & Hospitality Management
 Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology
 Diploma in Integrated Events & Project Management
 Diploma in Integrated Events Management
 Diploma in International Logistics & Supply Chain Management
 Diploma in International Trade & Business
 Diploma in Law & Management
 Diploma in Leisure & Events Management
 Diploma in Logistics & Operations Management
 Diploma in Maritime Business
 Diploma in Marketing
 Diploma in Restaurant & Culinary Operations
 Diploma in Retail Management
 Diploma in Social Enterprise Management
 Diploma in Tourism & Resort Management
 Diploma in Wellness & Hospitality Business

ENGINEERING

Diploma in Advanced & Digital Manufacturing
 Diploma in Aeronautical & Aerospace Technology
 Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering
 Diploma in Aerospace Avionics
 Diploma in Aerospace Electronics
 Diploma in Aerospace Engineering
 Diploma in Aerospace Systems & Management
 Diploma in Aerospace Technology
 Diploma in Audio-Visual Technology
 Diploma in Automation & Mechatronic Systems
 Diploma in Aviation Management
 Diploma in Bioengineering
 Diploma in Biomedical Engineering
 Diploma in Business Process & Systems Engineering
 Diploma in Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering
 Diploma in Chemical Engineering
 Diploma in Clean Energy
 Diploma in Clean Energy Management
 Diploma in Computer Engineering
 Diploma in Digital & Precision Engineering
 Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering
 Diploma in Electrical Engineering
 Diploma in Electrical Engineering with Eco-Design
 Diploma in Electronic & Computer Engineering
 Diploma in Electronic Systems
 Diploma in Electronics
 Diploma in Energy Systems & Management
 Diploma in Engineering Design with Business
 Diploma in Engineering Science
 Diploma in Engineering Systems
 Diploma in Engineering Systems & Management
 Diploma in Engineering with Business
 Diploma in Environmental & Water Technology
 Diploma in Industrial & Operations Management
 Diploma in Infocomm & Media Engineering
 Diploma in Marine & Offshore Technology
 Diploma in Marine Engineering
 Diploma in Mechanical Engineering
 Diploma in Mechatronics
 Diploma in Mechatronics & Robotics
 Diploma in Mechatronics Engineering
 Diploma in Microelectronics
 Diploma in Multimedia & Infocomm Technology
 Diploma in Nanotechnology & Materials Science
 Diploma in Nautical Studies
 Diploma in Robotics & Mechatronics
 Diploma in Supply Chain Management

LIST OF DIPLOMA COURSES SURVEYED (CONT.)

HEALTH SCIENCES

Diploma in Health Sciences (Nursing)
 Diploma in Nursing
 Diploma in Optometry
 Diploma in Oral Health Therapy
 Diploma in Pharmaceutical Science
 Diploma in Pharmaceutical Sciences
 Diploma in Pharmacy Science

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Diploma in Applied Drama & Psychology
 Diploma in Child Psychology & Early Education
 Diploma in Chinese Studies
 Diploma in Community Development
 Diploma in Early Childhood Development & Education
 Diploma in Early Childhood Education
 Diploma in Early Childhood Studies
 Diploma in Gerontological Management Studies
 Diploma in Health Management & Promotion
 Diploma in Health Services Management
 Diploma in Outdoor & Adventure Learning
 Diploma in Psychology Studies
 Diploma in Social Sciences (Social Work)
 Diploma in Social Sciences in Gerontology
 Diploma in Social Work
 Diploma in Sport & Exercise Science
 Diploma in Sport & Wellness Management
 Diploma in Sports & Leisure Management
 Diploma in Sports Coaching
 Diploma in Tamil Studies with Early Education

INFORMATION & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Diploma in Applied AI & Analytics
 Diploma in Applied Artificial Intelligence
 Diploma in Big Data & Analytics
 Diploma in Big Data Management & Governance
 Diploma in Business & Financial Technology
 Diploma in Business Applications
 Diploma in Business Informatics
 Diploma in Business Information Systems
 Diploma in Business Information Technology
 Diploma in Business Intelligence & Analytics

INFORMATION & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES (CONT.)

Diploma in Cyber Security & Forensics
 Diploma in Cybersecurity & Digital Forensics
 Diploma in Data Science
 Diploma in Digital Design & Development
 Diploma in Financial Business Informatics
 Diploma in Financial Informatics
 Diploma in Financial Technology
 Diploma in Game Design & Development
 Diploma in Game Development & Technology
 Diploma in Immersive Media
 Diploma in Infocomm & Security
 Diploma in Infocomm Security Management
 Diploma in Information Security & Forensics
 Diploma in Information Technology
 Diploma in Mobile Software Development
 Diploma in Multimedia & Animation
 Diploma in Network Systems & Security

SCIENCES

Diploma in Applied Chemistry
 Diploma in Applied Food Science & Nutrition
 Diploma in Baking & Culinary Science
 Diploma in Biologics & Process Technology
 Diploma in Biomedical Science
 Diploma in Biotechnology
 Diploma in Chemical & Green Technology
 Diploma in Chemical & Pharmaceutical Technology
 Diploma in Environmental & Marine Science
 Diploma in Environmental Science
 Diploma in Food Science & Nutrition
 Diploma in Food Science & Technology
 Diploma in Food, Nutrition & Culinary Science
 Diploma in Landscape Design & Horticulture
 Diploma in Marine Science & Aquaculture
 Diploma in Materials Science
 Diploma in Medical Biotechnology
 Diploma in Medicinal Chemistry
 Diploma in Molecular Biotechnology
 Diploma in Nutrition, Health & Wellness
 Diploma in Perfumery & Cosmetic Science
 Diploma in Veterinary Bioscience
 Diploma in Veterinary Technology