MEDIA RELEASE

Polytechnic graduates' employment outcomes in 2025 largely held steady and graduates commanded higher salary

SINGAPORE, 15 January 2026 – The 2025 Polytechnic Graduate Employment Survey (GES)[1] found that among graduates in the labour force[2], 90.0% secured employment (i.e. they were employed, had accepted a job offer, or were starting a business venture) within six months of completing their final examinations or after completing full-time National Service (NS). (see **Table 1**)

The median gross monthly salary among graduates in Full-Time Permanent (FTP) employment increased from $2,900 in 2024 to $3,000 in 2025. (see Annex B **Table B-1**)

Table 1: Employment Indicators from 2023 to 2025

Proportion of Respondents in the Labour Force who have:	Fresh Graduates			Post-NS (PNS) Graduates			Combined (Fresh and PNS graduates)		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Secured Employment	**95.3%**	**88.7%**	**88.5%**	**97.0%**	**93.8%**	**93.1%**	**95.8%**	**90.4%**	**90.0%**
Currently employed^	91.7%	85.6%	85.4%	95.1%	91.4%	90.7%	92.7%	87.5%	87.2%
In Full-Time Permanent Employment	55.5%	49.2%	48.3%	69.2%	65.2%	66.2%	59.8%	54.6%	54.2%
Freelancing	3.9%	4.7%	4.3%	7.3%	8.3%	5.8%	5.0%	5.9%	4.8%
In Part-Time/Temporary Employment	32.3%	31.6%	32.9%	18.5%	17.8%	18.7%	28.0%	27.0%	28.2%
Voluntary#	30.9%	29.6%	30.6%	17.7%	16.8%	16.3%	26.7%	25.3%	25.9%
Involuntary	1.5%	1.9%	2.3%	0.8%	1.0%	2.3%	1.3%	1.6%	2.3%
Accepted a Job Offer and Starting Later	2.9%	2.6%	2.7%	1.3%	1.3%	1.6%	2.4%	2.2%	2.3%
Taking Active Steps to Start a Business Venture	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%	0.6%	1.0%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%
Not Secured Employment	**4.7%**	**11.3%**	**11.5%**	**3.0%**	**6.2%**	**6.9%**	**4.2%**	**9.6%**	**10.0%**
Received but Rejected FTP Job Offers	0.8%	1.2%	1.5%	0.6%	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%	1.1%	1.3%
Applied but Had Not Received any FTP Job Offer	2.9%	8.4%	8.2%	1.9%	4.7%	5.0%	2.6%	7.2%	7.1%
Did Not Search for any FTP Job	1.0%	1.6%	1.8%	0.5%	0.7%	1.1%	0.8%	1.3%	1.6%

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

[2] 43.9% of recent graduates were in the labour force (i.e. working or looking for a job). The remaining 56.1% who were not in the labour force were either pursuing further studies/preparing to commence further studies (55.4%-pts) or not looking for a job for various reasons (0.7%-pts), including taking a break after graduation.

Notes:
1. Starting this year, to provide a fuller picture of graduates' employment status, graduates who secured employment (i.e. they were employed, accepted a job offer and were starting later, or were taking active steps to start a business venture) are reported as one category. Further breakdown of unemployed graduates is also reported to provide further context as to their reasons for their unemployment.
*2. The percentages may not add up due to rounding. The list of definitions for the employment indicators can be found at **Annex A**.*
^ This term corresponds to the "overall employment rate" in previous Polytechnic GES press releases.
 # 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.

Better graduate employment outcomes by the one-year mark

The GES is based on a snapshot of graduate employment outcomes about six months after graduation, i.e. as at 1 October 2025. Graduate employment outcomes generally continue to improve beyond the 6-months mark, as more graduates subsequently secure jobs. For instance, the GES employment rate for the 2024 cohort[3] was 5%-pts lower than the 2023 cohort[4], at 88% in 2024 vs 93% in 2023. By the 12-month mark, the proportion of the 2024 cohort who were in further studies locally or had wage records was broadly comparable to that of the 2023 cohort (93% in 2024 vs 94% in 2023). The remaining 7% includes graduates who could be unemployed, pursuing further studies overseas, as well as self-employed or freelance workers whose income are not reflected in wage records.

Likewise, graduate employment outcomes for the 2025 cohort are expected to improve beyond the 6-month mark. Based on MOM's labour market data, total employment continued to grow in 2025, with varying impact across different sectors. As of 3Q 2025, growth in resident employment was led by Financial & Insurance Services and Health & Social Services sectors. Meanwhile, some outward-oriented sectors, such as Information and Communications, saw subdued economic and resident employment growth due to the uncertain global economic environment.

Fresh graduates continue to be in demand, with an increase in the number of entry-level vacancies to 39,000 in September 2025, up from 26,000 in September 2024. About four in ten entry-level vacancies are in growth sectors such as Information & Communications, Financial & Insurance Services, and Professional Services.

Support is available for graduates looking for jobs

Graduates who require support in their job search process may approach their Polytechnics for dedicated career counselling and participate in career fairs and events organised by their Polytechnics. The Polytechnics have stepped up their efforts to support fresh graduates, including proactively engaging those who may require additional support and regularly disseminating available job opportunities to them.

Graduates may also tap on career resources, guidance, and job search services from Workforce Singapore (WSG) and NTUC's Employment and Employability Institute (e2i). These can help them better understand the range of jobs available, and make more informed choices that are aligned with their strengths and interests.

Additionally, the GRaduate Industry Traineeships (GRIT) and GRIT@Gov Programmes earlier launched by the Ministry of Manpower (MOM), WSG, and the Public Service Division in October 2025, support fresh graduates with no prior working experience to gain hands-on industry-relevant experience and skills, and strengthen their employability by preparing them for successful transition into full-time employment.

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[3] 2024 cohort comprises of fresh graduates of 2024 and post-NS graduates of 2021.
[4] 2023 cohort comprises of fresh graduates of 2023 and post-NS graduates of 2020.

Speaking on behalf of the Polytechnic GES Committee on the outcome of the survey findings, Mr Lim Kok Kiang, Principal & CEO, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, said, "Our polytechnic graduates have continued to demonstrate resilience, securing opportunities in growth sectors including finance, healthcare and social services amid economic uncertainty. We will continue to strengthen our industry-focused curriculum, expand workplace immersion opportunities and enhance career guidance, to equip our learners with the skills, confidence and agility to build meaningful and sustainable careers."

Online Resources
1. Workforce Singapore Career Centres: Visit WSG Career Centres - Career Counselling, Guidance & Planning
2. Employment and Employability Institute (e2i) Career Coaching: Career Coaching
3. GRaduate Industry Traineeships (GRIT) Programme: WSG | Graduate Industry Traineeships (GRIT) Programme

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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).*
- ***Secured Employment*** *refers to graduates who are in employment, have accepted a job offer and will start later, or taking active steps to start a business venture.*
- ***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 contributions, bonuses, stock options, other lump sum payments and payments-in-kind are excluded.*

Table B-1: Median Gross Monthly Salary by Course Cluster (Full-Time Permanent Employed Graduates only), GES 2023 to 2025

Course Cluster	Fresh Graduates			Post-NS (PNS) Graduates			Combined (Fresh and PNS Graduates)		
	2023	**2024**	**2025**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Overall	**$2,700**	**$2,800**	**$2,900**	**$2,963**	**$3,000**	**$3,137**	**$2,800**	**$2,900**	**$3,000**
Arts, Design & Media	$2,500	$2,500	$2,600	$2,800	$2,900	$3,000	$2,600	$2,625	$2,700
Built Environment	$2,500	$2,675	$2,700	$2,800	$2,900	$3,225	$2,640	$2,800	$3,000
Business	$2,600	$2,700	$2,700	$3,000	$3,000	$3,200	$2,700	$2,800	$2,830
Engineering	$2,629	$2,775	$2,900	$2,900	$3,000	$3,100	$2,800	$2,900	$3,000
Health Sciences	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,069	$3,273	$3,400	$3,000	$3,000	$3,011
Humanities & Social Sciences	$2,900	$3,100	$3,200	$2,970	$3,000	$3,100	$2,913	$3,038	$3,200
Information & Digital Technologies	$2,700	$2,900	$2,950	$3,000	$3,000	$3,150	$2,900	$3,000	$3,000
Sciences	$2,340	$2,500	$2,600	$2,980	$2,940	$3,200	$2,500	$2,600	$2,700

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

Table B-2: Further breakdown of Gross Monthly Salaries by Course Cluster (Full-Time Permanent Employed Graduates only), GES 2025

Course Cluster	Fresh Graduates			Post-NS (PNS) Graduates			Combined (Fresh and PNS Graduates)		
	25th Percentile	Median	75th Percentile	25th Percentile	Median	75th Percentile	25th Percentile	Median	75th Percentile
Overall	**$2,600**	**$2,900**	**$3,253**	**$2,800**	**$3,137**	**$3,650**	**$2,630**	**$3,000**	**$3,400**
Arts, Design and Media	$2,300	$2,600	$2,900	$2,600	$3,000	$3,575	$2,400	$2,700	$3,100
Built Environment	$2,500	$2,700	$3,000	$2,910	$3,225	$3,688	$2,605	$3,000	$3,491
Business	$2,500	$2,700	$3,000	$2,750	$3,200	$3,800	$2,580	$2,830	$3,278
Engineering	$2,580	$2,900	$3,250	$2,800	$3,100	$3,600	$2,700	$3,000	$3,500
Health Sciences	$2,700	$3,000	$3,382	$3,000	$3,400	$3,774	$2,700	$3,011	$3,400
Humanities & Social Sciences	$2,949	$3,200	$3,450	$2,800	$3,100	$3,600	$2,869	$3,200	$3,450
Information & Digital Technologies	$2,558	$2,950	$3,200	$2,800	$3,150	$3,500	$2,700	$3,000	$3,364
Sciences	$2,400	$2,600	$2,843	$2,995	$3,200	$3,700	$2,474	$2,700	$3,200

Note: Percentiles indicate an individual's relative position within a distribution. For example, for a course with 100 graduates who responded to the survey, a gross monthly salary at the 25th percentile means that 25 graduates earn less than or equal to that salary, while a gross monthly salary at the 75th percentile means that 75 graduates earn less than or equal to that salary. The median (or the 50th percentile) gross monthly salary represents the middle of the distribution, where half of the respondents earn less than or equal to that amount and half earn more.

List Of Diploma Courses Surveyed

ARTS, DESIGN & MEDIA

Diploma in Animation
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 Experience & Communication 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 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 Effects
Diploma in Visual Effects & Motion Graphics

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 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 Engineering Design with Business
Diploma in Engineering Science
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

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 Events & Project 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 Aviation Management
Diploma in Banking & Finance
Diploma in Business
Diploma in Business & Social Enterprise
Diploma in Business Administration
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 Management
Diploma in International Trade & Business
Diploma in International Trade & Logistics
Diploma in Law & Management
Diploma in Logistics & Operations Management
Diploma in Maritime Business
Diploma in Marketing
Diploma in Restaurant & Culinary Operations
Diploma in Tourism & Resort Management
Diploma in Wellness & Hospitality Business

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Diploma in Applied Drama & Psychology
Diploma in Chinese Studies
Diploma in Community Development
Diploma in Early Childhood Development & Education
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 Sport Management
Diploma in Sports & Leisure Management
Diploma in Sports Coaching
Diploma in Tamil Studies with Early Education

INFORMATION & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Diploma in AI & Data Engineering
Diploma in Applied AI & Analytics
Diploma in Applied Artificial Intelligence
Diploma in Big Data & Analytics
Diploma in Business & Financial Technology
Diploma in Business Applications
Diploma in Business Information Systems
Diploma in Business Intelligence & Analytics
Diploma in Cybersecurity & Digital Forensics

Diploma in Marine & Offshore Technology Diploma in Marine Engineering Diploma in Mechanical Engineering Diploma in Mechatronics Diploma in Mechatronics & Robotics Diploma in Multimedia & Infocomm Technology Diploma in Nanotechnology & Materials Science Diploma in Nautical Studies Diploma in Robotics & Mechatronics Diploma in Supply Chain Management **HEALTH SCIENCES** Diploma in Nursing Diploma in Optometry Diploma in Oral Health Therapy Diploma in Pharmaceutical Science **SCIENCES** Diploma in Applied Chemistry Diploma in Biologics & Process Technology Diploma in Biomedical Science Diploma in Biotechnology 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	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 Technology Diploma in Mobile Software Development Diploma in Network Systems & Security