

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 in March 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 Rate<sup>1</sup> and Gross Monthly Salary of Graduates By Bachelors Degree, 2008 (preliminary results)**

Degree	Overall Employment <sup>2</sup> rate (%)	Full-Time Permanent Employment <sup>3</sup> rate (%)	Gross Monthly Salary <sup>4</sup> (\$)			
			Mean	Median	25th Percentile	75th Percentile
<b>School of Accountancy</b>						
Accountancy (4-year programme)	97.7	93.9	2,961	2,400	2,400	2,975
- Cum Laude and above <sup>5</sup>	96.7	93.4	3,346	2,500	2,400	3,700
<b>School of Business</b>						
Business Management (4-year programme)	94.2	86.1	3,112	2,800	2,500	3,500
- Cum Laude and above <sup>5</sup>	95.2	89.7	3,540	3,000	2,625	3,975
<b>School of Economics</b>						
Economics	100	97.5	3,866	3,300	3,000	4,150
- Cum Laude and above <sup>5</sup>	100	98.3	4,164	3,750	3,000	4,500
<b>School of Information Systems</b>						
Information Systems Management	96.5	91.9	3,217	3,000	2,625	3,738
- Cum Laude and above <sup>5</sup>	100	100	3,654	3,500	3,000	4,500
<b>School of Social Sciences</b>						
Social Sciences (Honours)	93.8	85.4	2,856	2,800	2,500	3,000
- Cum Laude and above <sup>5</sup>	95.0	80.0	3,070	3,000	2,800	3,144

Source: Graduate Employment Surveys 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 2008 (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 30 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 uses the cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) criteria to identify degree candidates with academic excellence in the following award categories: Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Cum Laude. These are Latin awards adopted from the American system, and can be translated as with Highest Distinction, with High Distinction and with Distinction, respectively. A graduate needs a GPA of at least 3.40 out of 4.00 to be awarded Cum Laude. SMU's course is a direct 4-yr programme 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.

#### **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 Accountancy course offered by SMU shows that shows 50% of the graduates are earning \$2,400 or less, the mean gross monthly salary is about \$2,900. 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 Gross Monthly Salary indicates that 75 graduates earn more than that salary; 25 graduates earn more than the 75th percentile Gross Monthly Salary indicated.