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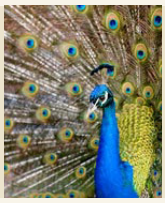
UWA Graduate Destinations

Outcomes of the 2011 Australian Graduate Survey



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Commencing in October 2010 and April 2011 two rounds of the Australian Graduate Survey (AGS) were undertaken. The Careers Centre sent a survey to all UWA graduates who had completed the requirements for a qualification during the calendar year 2010.

Graduates provided details of their work and further study activities as at the survey reference dates of either 31st October 2010 or 30th April 2011, within 5 months of course completion.

The data collection phase of the AGS was completed by the end of July 2011 with a final response rate of 51% for Australian graduates.

The following represents information extracted from the final data file prepared by the University for Graduate Careers Australia (GCA) and the resulting summary tables returned to UWA.

Further information about UWA graduate destinations is available from the Careers Centre to more fully inform staff and students of graduate career outcomes.

National data on graduate destinations can be sourced from "Gradsonline", "Grad Files" and "Grad Stats" available from the GCA web site at www.graduatecareers.com.au

Graduate Employment Outcomes — Main Points

- Australian graduates entered an improving job market in 2011 compared to that observed in the previous year
- Compared to 2010, in 2011 the proportion of UWA graduates in full-time work increased by 4.1%; those in part-time work decreased by 1.9%; and not working decreased by 2.2%
- 79.8 per cent of Australian first bachelor degree graduates from UWA seeking full-time employment in 2011 had secured a full-time job within five months of completing their degrees.
- The full-time employment rate of 78.9% for UWA graduates was better than the rate for all West Australian university graduates (75.9%)
- 12.7 per cent of UWA graduates were working on a part-time or casual basis while continuing to seek full-time employment.
- 7.5 per cent of UWA graduates were not working and still looking for full-time employment at the time of the survey.
- UWA graduates in 16 fields of study experienced improved full-time work outcomes in 2011 – Architecture, Languages, Visual / Performing Arts, Psychology, Social Work, Business Studies, Engineering (Electrical, Environmental, Mechanical, Mining), Dentistry, Health, Rehabilitation, Computer Science, Life Sciences & Geology
- UWA graduates in 11 fields of study experienced higher levels of part-time work in 2011 compared to 2010
- Graduates in Agriculture, Humanities, Accounting, Economics, Education, Chemical Engineering, Law and Physical Science experienced poorer full-time work outcomes in 2011 compared to the previous year.

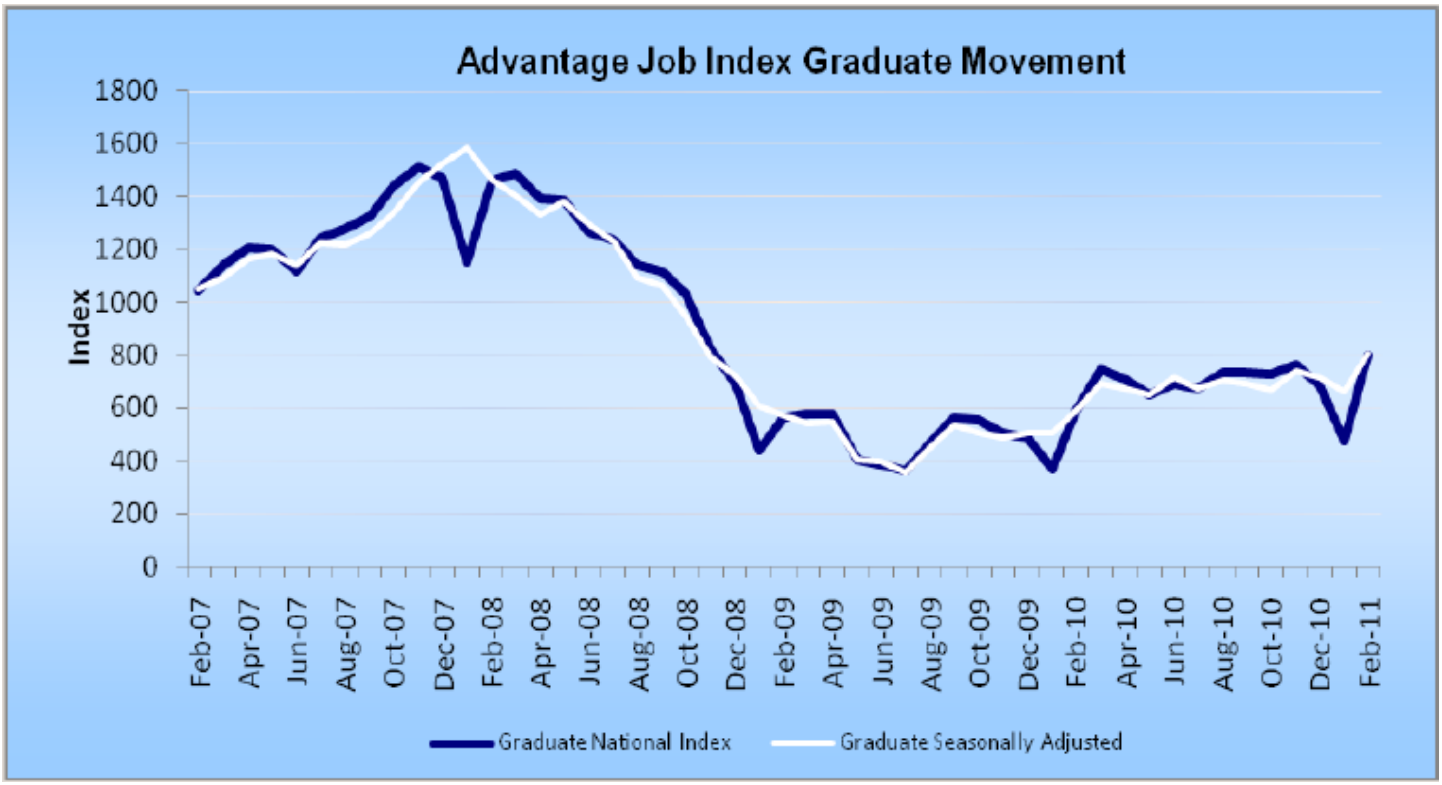
Overall, the outcomes of the 2011 AGS confirm the employability of UWA bachelor degree graduates in comparison to graduates of other West Australian universities.

Labour Market

One measure of employment conditions is the Advantage Job Index, published by Advantage Professional, which regularly charts movements in the advertising of vacancies on major Australian internet job boards. The design of and methodology behind the Advantage Graduate Index is based on that of that Advantage Job Index. The objectives of the Graduate Index include:

- Analysing the effect of online recruiting on traditional graduate recruitment exercises
- Providing valuable information for graduates and graduate advisors about demand for graduates
- Informing employers about competition in the marketplace for graduate talent

The following graph extracted from the February 2011 Australian Market Report shows clearly that UWA graduates who completed their courses of study in either June 2010 or November 2010 were entering an improved employment market. There was a spike in advertised vacancies in February 2011 which was in all likelihood a reflection of employers returning to recruitment activity after the Christmas / New Year period.



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UWA Graduate Employment 2011

Final figures for first bachelor degree graduates available for full-time employment (see Table 1) show a significant improvement in levels of full-time work compared to the previous year.

The increase in the proportion of graduates working full-time was matched by decreases in the proportions that were working part-time and unemployed.

Of Australian resident bachelor degree graduates available for full-time employment after completing their degree, 79.8 per cent were in full-time jobs at the time of the survey, and a further 12.7 per cent were working on a part-time or casual basis but still seeking full-time employment.

Table 1: Breakdown of Australian first bachelor degree UWA graduates available for full-time employment, 2006-2011 (%).

	In full-time employment	Seeking full-time employment, working part-time or casual	Seeking full-time employment, not working	Total seeking full-time employment	Total number of survey respondents available for full-time work
2006	87.4	8.6	4.0	12.6	847
2007	91.5	4.8	3.7	8.5	670
2008	88.6	7.0	4.4	11.4	685
2009	83.3	9.4	7.3	16.7	647
2010	75.7	14.6	9.7	24.3	683
2011	**79.8**	**12.7**	**7.5**	**20.2**	**707**

Table 2 shows a breakdown of bachelor degree graduates available for full-time employment by field of study, as recorded by GCA.

In 2011 graduates in 16 disciplines experienced improved full-time employment outcomes compared to 2010

Employment statistics for those disciplines with a small number of survey respondents are in faded text and should be interpreted with some caution.

Table 2: Breakdown of first bachelor degree UWA graduates' employment by field of study, 2011 (Aust Citizens & Permanent Residents only)

	In full-time work (%)	Seeking full-time job, working part-time or casual (%)	Seeking full-time job, not working (%)	Number of survey respondents available for full-time work	Variation from % in full-time work 2009
Agriculture	52.9	41.2	5.9	17	-6.4
Architecture & Building	80.9	9.5	9.5	21	+14.2
Humanities	57.1	26.2	16.7	42	-5.9
Languages	64.9	24.3	10.8	37	+2.7
Visual/Performing Arts	72.7	27.3		11	+22.7
Social Sciences	50.0	33.3	16.7	6	-
Psychology	66.7	24.2	9.1	33	+10.4
Social Work	100.0			5	+40.0
Business Studies	80.7	12.8	6.4	109	+12.5
Accounting	84.1	12.7	3.2	63	-5.9
Economics	80.0	20.0		10	- 10.0
Education, Initial	72.7	27.3		11	-27.3
Chemical Engineering	83.3		16.7	12	-4.2
Civil Engineering	87.5	3.1	9.4	32	-0.5
Electrical Eng	100.0			1	+25.0
Mechanical Eng	95.0		5.0	20	+21.7
Mining Eng	100.0			8	+42.9
Environmental Eng	90.0	10.0		10	+13.1
Dentistry	90.0	10.0		20	+10.0
Health, Other	82.6	8.7	8.7	23	+11.8
Medicine	97.3	2.7		74	-1.3
Rehabilitation	100.0			10	+14.3
Law	85.3	2.9	11.8	34	-8.8
Computer Science	88.9	11.1		9	+10.0
Life Sciences	68.1	14.9	17.0	47	+21.9
Mathematics	66.7		33.3	6	-
Physical Science	50.0	16.7	33.3	6	-20.0
Chemistry	71.4	14.3	14.3	7	-
Geology	87.0	8.7	4.3	23	+10.5
Total	**79.8**	**12.7**	**7.5**	**707**	**+4.1**