Govt pay review: Grad data being studied

RECENT graduate employment data is being looked at for the Government's review of civil service salaries, said Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean, who is also minister in charge of the civil service.

He had mentioned earlier in Parliament that the Government was reviewing civil service pay and would announce the changes next month.

Speaking at the Republic Polytechnic's graduation ceremony yesterday, Mr Teo said: “You can see that the job market has indeed become very competitive. So we're looking at some of these data as well to see what kind of adjustments we need to make.”

Overall, he said, the job market has been tightening, citing the Singapore Management University’s just-released employment survey.

The survey had shown that SMU’s latest graduates enjoyed an average starting pay that is 13 per cent higher than the previous cohort.

“I understand as well from the polytechnics, their graduates have been finding good employment. So that’s at the entry level,” Mr Teo added.

“Certainly, at the mid-career level, we’ve seen the job market become much more competitive. So we’re looking at the data from various sources, and looking at how that impacts upon the civil service.”