Most new grads found jobs within 6 months last year

DESPITE the bleak economic conditions, most university graduates last year secured full-time permanent jobs within six months of leaving school, results from the Ministry of Education's Graduate Employment Survey (GES) 2009 show.

Most also appeared to earn a decent salary – with the median pay for graduates from a majority of programmes at Singapore's three publicly funded universities amounting to at least $2,500.

In particular, graduates from popular programmes such as business, accountancy, economics and arts in each of the three universities saw at least seven in 10 graduates finding full-time permanent positions within half a year out of school.

Median pay for these school leavers stood between $2,300 and $3,200.

At the National University of Singapore, more than nine in 10, or 92.1 per cent of graduates from its Business School’s bachelor of business administration honours programme, found jobs within six months. The median salary for these graduates was $3,000.

Similarly, Singapore Management University’s economics graduates reported a median income of $3,000, while those awarded cum laude and above earned a median salary of $3,200. Those under its accountancy and business management classes were paid a median $2,500 and $2,800, respectively.

Full-time permanent employment rate for its accountancy programme stood at 95.3 per cent, while its business management and economics programmes recorded an employment rate of 82.8 per cent and 88.9 per cent respectively.

Over at Nanyang Technological University, accountancy and business graduates saw a median pay of $2,400 and $2,700, and about 90 per cent found a full-time permanent post within half a year.