

**MEDIA RELEASE****EMBARGOED TILL 2PM, 13 JANUARY 2025**

## Polytechnic Graduates Command Higher Salary Amidst Evolving Job Landscape

### *Close to 9 In 10 Employed Within 6 Months Post-Graduation*

**Singapore, 13 January 2025** – The 2024 Polytechnic Graduate Employment Survey (GES)<sup>1</sup> found that the median gross monthly salary among graduates in full-time permanent employment increased from \$2,800 in 2023 to \$2,900 in 2024. It also found that 87.5% of polytechnic graduates in the labour force were employed within six months of graduation or after completing full-time National Service, against the backdrop of slower employment growth in 2024 as compared to 2023. (see **Table 1**).

Among the 5,769 polytechnic graduate survey respondents in the labour force, 54.6% were in full-time permanent employment, 27.0% were in part-time/temporary employment, and 2.9% had either accepted a job offer or were actively starting a business venture. 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.

**Table 1:** Employment Indicators from 2022 to 2024

| Proportion of Respondents in the Labour Force who were:                          | Fresh Graduates |       |       | Post-NS (PNS) Graduates |       |       | Combined (Fresh and PNS Graduates) |       |       |
|--|-----------------|-------|-------|-------------------------|-------|-------|------------------------------------|-------|-------|
|  | 2022            | 2023  | 2024  | 2022                    | 2023  | 2024  | 2022                               | 2023  | 2024  |
| Employed   | 91.4%           | 91.7% | 85.6% | 92.7%                   | 95.1% | 91.4% | 91.8%                              | 92.7% | 87.5% |
| In Full-Time Permanent Employment  | 56.1%           | 55.5% | 49.2% | 65.4%                   | 69.2% | 65.2% | 59.0%                              | 59.8% | 54.6% |
| Freelancing  | 4.0%            | 3.9%  | 4.7%  | 10.1%                   | 7.3%  | 8.3%  | 5.9%                               | 5.0%  | 5.9%  |
| In Part-Time/Temporary Employment  | 31.3%           | 32.3% | 31.6% | 17.2%                   | 18.5% | 17.8% | 26.9%                              | 28.0% | 27.0% |
| <i>Voluntary</i>   | 30.2%           | 30.8% | 29.6% | 16.2%                   | 17.7% | 16.8% | 25.8%                              | 26.7% | 25.3% |
| <i>Involuntary</i>   | 1.1%            | 1.5%  | 1.9%  | 1.0%                    | 0.8%  | 1.0%  | 1.1%                               | 1.3%  | 1.6%  |
| Unemployed   | 8.6%            | 8.3%  | 14.4% | 7.3%                    | 4.9%  | 8.6%  | 8.2%                               | 7.3%  | 12.5% |
| <i>Unemployed but starting work soon or actively starting a business venture</i> | 2.3%            | 3.6%  | 3.2%  | 2.2%                    | 1.9%  | 2.4%  | 2.2%                               | 3.1%  | 2.9%  |
| <i>Unemployed and still looking for a job</i>                                    | 6.3%            | 4.7%  | 11.3% | 5.1%                    | 3.0%  | 6.2%  | 5.9%                               | 4.2%  | 9.6%  |

**Note:** The percentages may not add up due to rounding off. The list of definitions for the employment indicators is in Annex A.

<sup>1</sup> The GES is jointly conducted by Nanyang Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic, Singapore Polytechnic, and Temasek Polytechnic.

Across course clusters, graduates' median gross monthly salaries **continue to increase** compared to the previous year's graduating class. The median gross monthly salary of graduates from **Health Sciences, Humanities & Social Sciences, and Information & Digital Technologies** were higher than the overall median for all graduates (see **Table 2**).

**Table 2:** Median Gross Monthly Salary by Course Clusters (Full-Time Permanent Employed Graduates only) from 2022 to 2024

| Course Cluster                     | Fresh Graduates |                |                | Post-NS (PNS) Graduates |                |                | Combined (Fresh and PNS Graduates) |                |                |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                    | 2022            | 2023           | 2024           | 2022                    | 2023           | 2024           | 2022                               | 2023           | 2024           |
| <b>Overall</b>                     | <b>\$2,550</b>  | <b>\$2,700</b> | <b>\$2,800</b> | <b>\$2,800</b>          | <b>\$2,963</b> | <b>\$3,000</b> | <b>\$2,600</b>                     | <b>\$2,800</b> | <b>\$2,900</b> |
| Arts, Design & Media               | \$2,300         | \$2,500        | \$2,500        | \$2,625                 | \$2,800        | \$2,900        | \$2,500                            | \$2,600        | \$2,625        |
| Built Environment                  | \$2,500         | \$2,500        | \$2,675        | \$2,800                 | \$2,800        | \$2,900        | \$2,535                            | \$2,640        | \$2,800        |
| Business                           | \$2,500         | \$2,600        | \$2,700        | \$2,890                 | \$3,000        | \$3,000        | \$2,500                            | \$2,700        | \$2,800        |
| Engineering                        | \$2,550         | \$2,629        | \$2,775        | \$2,850                 | \$2,900        | \$3,000        | \$2,700                            | \$2,800        | \$2,900        |
| Health Sciences                    | \$2,852         | \$3,000        | \$3,000        | \$2,860                 | \$3,069        | \$3,273        | \$2,854                            | \$3,000        | \$3,000        |
| Humanities & Social Sciences       | \$2,600         | \$2,900        | \$3,100        | \$2,800                 | \$2,970        | \$3,000        | \$2,600                            | \$2,913        | \$3,038        |
| Information & Digital Technologies | \$2,700         | \$2,700        | \$2,900        | \$2,880                 | \$3,000        | \$3,000        | \$2,747                            | \$2,900        | \$3,000        |
| Sciences                           | \$2,250         | \$2,340        | \$2,500        | \$2,570                 | \$2,980        | \$2,940        | \$2,300                            | \$2,500        | \$2,600        |

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

### **Fresh Graduates**

7,614 out of 10,045 fresh graduates in 2024 responded to the survey. As of 1 October 2024, around six months after graduation, 50.4% of the respondents were in the labour force. 48.9% were pursuing or preparing to begin further studies and were not actively looking for jobs. A majority of the remaining 0.8% said they were taking a break and were not seeking employment.

### **Post-National Service Graduates**

5,290 out of 8,939 graduates from 2021 who completed their full-time National Service (NS) between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024 responded to the survey. 36.5% of respondents were in the labour force. 63.1% were pursuing or preparing to begin further studies and were not actively looking for jobs. Similar to the fresh graduates, most of the remaining 0.4% of the respondents said they were taking a break and were not seeking employment.

### **Nurturing Future Talent for the Industry**

The five polytechnics are committed to preparing their graduates for the workforce, as well as providing timely career guidance and support, including job matching and personalised career coaching and planning. Tapping on their strong industry networks, the polytechnics also organise regular career fairs to curate suitable job placement and apprenticeship opportunities, including the SkillsFuture Work-Study Programme.

Speaking on behalf of the Polytechnic GES Committee on the outcome of the survey findings, Mr Soh Wai Wah, Principal & CEO, Singapore Polytechnic said, "Given the evolving job landscape, we are actively working to equip our students with the necessary skills and adaptability to navigate this well. This includes strengthening industry partnerships to provide real-world experience, integrating

AI literacy into our curriculum, and enhancing career guidance and support services. Our commitment is to ensure that our graduates are well-prepared for the future of work and can successfully launch fulfilling careers.”

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## ANNEX A

### 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).

**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 tax. Employer's CPF contributions, bonuses, stock options, other lump sum payments and payments-in-kind are excluded.

**ARTS, DESIGN & MEDIA**

Diploma in 3D Interactive Media Technology  
 Diploma in Advertising & Public Relations  
 Diploma in Animation  
 Diploma in Animation & 3D Arts  
 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 Environment Design  
 Diploma in Experience & Communication Design  
 Diploma in Experience & Product 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 Interactive & Digital Media  
 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 Communication & Media Design  
 Diploma in Visual Effects  
 Diploma in Visual Effects & Motion Graphics

**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 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 Accounting & Finance  
 Diploma in Aviation Management  
 Diploma in Aviation Management & Services  
 Diploma in Banking & Finance  
 Diploma in Banking & Financial Services  
 Diploma in Business  
 Diploma in Business & Social Enterprise  
 Diploma in Business Administration

**BUSINESS (CONT.)**

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 & Project Management  
 Diploma in Integrated Events Management  
 Diploma in International Logistics & Supply Chain Management  
 Diploma in International Trade & Business  
 Diploma in Law & Management  
 Diploma in Leisure & Events Management  
 Diploma in Logistics & Operations Management  
 Diploma in Maritime Business  
 Diploma in Marketing  
 Diploma in Restaurant & Culinary Operations  
 Diploma in Retail Management  
 Diploma in Social Enterprise Management  
 Diploma in Tourism & Resort Management  
 Diploma in Wellness & Hospitality Business

**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 Aerospace Technology  
 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 Energy Systems & Management  
 Diploma in Engineering Design with Business  
 Diploma in Engineering Science  
 Diploma in Engineering Systems  
 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  
 Diploma in Marine & Offshore Technology  
 Diploma in Marine Engineering  
 Diploma in Mechanical Engineering  
 Diploma in Mechatronics  
 Diploma in Mechatronics & Robotics  
 Diploma in Mechatronics Engineering  
 Diploma in Microelectronics  
 Diploma in Multimedia & Infocomm Technology  
 Diploma in Nanotechnology & Materials Science  
 Diploma in Nautical Studies  
 Diploma in Robotics & Mechatronics  
 Diploma in Supply Chain Management

**LIST OF DIPLOMA COURSES SURVEYED (CONT.)**

**HEALTH SCIENCES**

Diploma in Health Sciences (Nursing)  
 Diploma in Nursing  
 Diploma in Optometry  
 Diploma in Oral Health Therapy  
 Diploma in Pharmaceutical Science  
 Diploma in Pharmaceutical Sciences  
 Diploma in Pharmacy Science

**HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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

**INFORMATION & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES**

Diploma in Applied AI & Analytics  
 Diploma in Applied Artificial Intelligence  
 Diploma in Big Data & Analytics  
 Diploma in Big Data Management & Governance  
 Diploma in Business & Financial Technology  
 Diploma in Business Applications  
 Diploma in Business Informatics  
 Diploma in Business Information Systems  
 Diploma in Business Information Technology  
 Diploma in Business Intelligence & Analytics

**INFORMATION & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES (CONT.)**

Diploma in Cyber Security & Forensics  
 Diploma in Cybersecurity & Digital Forensics  
 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 Security & Forensics  
 Diploma in Information Technology  
 Diploma in Mobile Software Development  
 Diploma in Multimedia & Animation  
 Diploma in Network Systems & Security

**SCIENCES**

Diploma in Applied Chemistry  
 Diploma in Applied Food Science & Nutrition  
 Diploma in Baking & Culinary Science  
 Diploma in Biologics & Process Technology  
 Diploma in Biomedical Science  
 Diploma in Biotechnology  
 Diploma in Chemical & Green Technology  
 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