

RELANCE SURVEY OF UNIVERSITY GRADUATES - 2010



EMPLOYMENT SITUATION OF GRADUATES OF DOCTORAL PROGRAMS:

2005 and 2010 Surveys



Québec 

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INTRODUCTION

This brochure presents in table form the main results of the *Relance of university graduates* survey conducted in 2005 and 2010 of doctoral degree holders who graduated from Québec universities in 2003 and 2008 respectively.

The purpose of this survey, carried out by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, is to provide an accurate picture of the situation of university graduates—during the reference week—approximately 20 months after they earn their degree. It meets a need for accurate and up-to-date information on how well recent university graduates are faring on the labour market, as do surveys for other levels of education.

For further information on the disciplines listed in this brochure or on other groupings, please refer to the various documents related to the *Relance surveys* available on the MELS Web site (www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/Relance).

HIGHLIGHTS

- During the week of January 17 to 23, 2010, approximately 20 months after they received their diplomas, 70% of doctoral graduates had found full-time or part-time employment. That percentage is slightly higher than the result for the 2005 survey (68.4%).
- In 2005 and 2010, respectively, 20.6% and 16.9% of doctoral graduates declared that they were pursuing a postdoctoral fellowship during the reference week.
- Doctoral graduates who declared that they were unemployed, were not seeking employment and were not studying are said to be inactive. The portion of inactive graduates increased between the two surveys, rising from 2.9% in 2005 to 4.4% in 2010.
- In January 2010, twice as many men as women with a doctorate were seeking employment (that is, 5.2% of men versus 2.4% of women). In the 2005 survey, the gap between men and women was narrower (5.9% of men versus 5% of women).
- The results of the last two surveys showed that 4.9% of doctoral graduates were enrolled in university in 2010, while 2.6% were enrolled in 2005.
- Doctoral graduates experienced unemployment rates below that of the general labour force of Québec, namely, 5.2% versus 8%. In terms of gender, the unemployment rate for men was more than twice that for women (7.1% versus 3.2%).

- Among doctoral graduates who were employed, 86.1% and 89.6% were working on a full-time basis in 2005 and 2010, respectively. Among those with full-time employment, 91.7% occupied a job related to their field of study in 2010, which compares closely with the percentage observed in 2005 (91%).
- In 2010, the difference between the salaries of women with a doctorate and those of their male counterparts was not significant. The average gross weekly salary of these women was \$1 271, while that of the men was \$1 294, representing a gap of 1.8%. The same observation was made in 2005, with women averaging a gross weekly salary of \$1 118 and men, \$1 152.

GLOSSARY OF THE MAIN TERMS USED IN THE TABLES

TARGET GRADUATES

“Target graduates” refers to all holders of a doctoral degree who received their degree during the calendar year two years prior to the survey year.

EMPLOYED

“Employed” refers to target graduates who stated they were self-employed or working for an employer, and not studying full-time or pursuing a postdoctoral fellowship.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

“Postdoctoral fellows” refers to target graduates who were registered in a postdoctoral program during the week of January 17 to 23, 2010.

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

“Seeking employment” refers to target graduates who stated they were actively looking for a job and were neither studying nor working.

STUDYING

“Studying” refers to target graduates who stated they were studying either full-time or part-time, and not working.

INACTIVE

“Inactive” refers to target graduates who stated they were not employed, were not seeking employment, and were not studying.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

“Unemployment rate” refers to the number of graduates seeking employment compared with the number of people in the labour force (which includes people who are employed and people who are seeking employment). The unemployment rate is expressed as a percentage.

WORKING FULL-TIME

“Working full-time” refers to employed graduates working generally 30 hours or more per week.

WORKING PART-TIME

“Working part-time” refers to employed graduates working generally less than 30 hours per week. The proportion of graduates working part-time is obtained by subtracting the proportion of graduates working full-time from 100%.

AVERAGE GROSS WEEKLY SALARY

“Average gross weekly salary” represents the average gross income earned by workers for one week of full-time work. The data reflect only graduates working for an employer.

WORKING IN RELATED FIELD

“Working in related field” refers to graduates working full-time who consider their job to be connected to their field of study.

STUDYING IN RELATED FIELD

“Studying in related field” refers to graduates who feel that their studies are connected to the diploma obtained.

REFERENCE WEEKS

The data are grouped according to the reference weeks of January 17 to 23, 2010, and January 16 to 22, 2005.

HOW INDICATORS ARE CALCULATED

The calculation table below uses data from the 2010 *Relance* survey of university graduates to illustrate the application of the definitions of the main terms used in the tables.

Calculation example: Results of the 2010 survey of graduates with a doctoral degree

	Number	%	Calculation
Number of graduates targeted by the survey (size of the population)	1 215		
Total number of graduates who completed the questionnaire	678	100.0	
Postdoctoral fellows	115	16.9	115/678
Employed	474	70.0	474/ 678
• full-time	409	86.1	409 / 475
- in related field	375	91.7	375 / 409
Seeking employment	26	3.8	26 / 678
Studying	33	4.9	33 / 678
Inactive	30	4.4	30 / 678
Unemployment rate		5.2	26 / (474 + 26)

OVERALL RESULTS BY GENDER

Employment situation of graduates with a doctoral degree in January of the survey year

<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #4F81BD; margin-right: 5px;"></div> SITUATION IN 2010 <div style="width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #F0E68C; margin-left: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> SITUATION IN 2005 </div>	TARGET GRADUATES	SITUATION IN JANUARY						FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT AND ASPECTS		
		EMPLOYED	POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS	SEEKING EMPLOYMENT	STUDYING	INACTIVE	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	WORKING FULL-TIME	AVERAGE GROSS WEEKLY SALARY	WORKING IN RELATED FIELD
		N	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(\$)
WOMEN	570	76.1	14.9	2.4	4.2	6.9	3.2	83.8	1 271	91.0
	403	72.4	16.5	5.0	1.9	4.2	6.4	86.8	1 118	90.9
MEN	645	68.3	18.9	5.2	5.5	2.0	7.1	88.5	1 294	92.3
	578	65.5	23.5	5.9	3.1	2.0	8.2	91.9	1 152	91.2
TOTAL	1 215	70.0	16.9	3.8	4.9	4.4	5.2	86.1	1 283	91.7
	981	68.4	20.6	5.5	2.6	2.9	7.4	89.6	1 137	91.0

RESULTS BY FIELD AND DISCIPLINE

Employment situation of graduates with a doctoral degree in January of the survey year

	SITUATION IN 2010 SITUATION IN 2005	SITUATION IN JANUARY						FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT AND ASPECTS			
		TARGET GRADUATES	EMPLOYED	POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS	SEEKING EMPLOYMENT	STUDYING	INACTIVE	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	WORKING FULL-TIME	AVERAGE GROSS WEEKLY SALARY	WORKING IN RELATED FIELD
		N	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(\$)	(%)
HEALTH SCIENCES		193	54.0	31.9	0.9	8.0	5.3	1.6	98.4	1 296	95.0
		171	54.2	29.0	3.7	7.5	5.6	6.5	98.3	1 109	91.2
5102 Basic or applied health sciences		86	54.0	30.0	0.0	8.0	8.0	0.0	96.3	1 217	88.5
		76	39.5	39.5	2.3	11.6	7.0	5.6	100.0	922	88.2
5108 Experimental medicine and experimental surgery		31	29.4	52.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	16.7	100.0	1 534	100.0
		23	52.9	23.5	0.0	11.8	11.8	0.0	100.0	1 018	88.9
5112 Pharmacology or pharmaceutical science		28	76.5	11.8	0.0	11.8	0.0	0.0	100.0	1 106	100.0
		31	66.7	22.2	5.6	5.6	0.0	7.7	100.0	1 270	91.7
5115 Dietetics and nutrition		8	66.7	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	75.0	968	66.7
5140 Community health and epidemiology		24	68.4	21.1	0.0	5.3	5.3	0.0	100.0	1 503	100.0
		22	75.0	12.5	12.5	0.0	0.0	14.3	100.0	1 236	100.0
PURE SCIENCES		174	58.6	34.2	5.4	1.8	0.0	8.5	98.5	1 031	89.1
5200 Biological sciences		57	55.2	24.1	6.9	10.3	3.4	11.1	100.0	1 169	93.8
		33	45.0	50.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	968	100.0
5211 Microbiology		18	50.0	33.3	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	66.7	1 827	100.0
		22	50.0	42.9	7.1	0.0	0.0	12.5	100.0	1 288	71.4
5214 Biochemistry		21	69.2	30.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	936	100.0
5240 Physical sciences		19	58.3	16.7	8.3	16.7	0.0	12.5	100.0	1 163	85.7
		19	53.8	38.5	7.7	0.0	0.0	12.5	85.7	894	66.7
5245 Chemistry		36	53.8	38.5	3.8	3.8	0.0	6.7	100.0	1 346	85.7
5249 Oceanography		6	75.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	1 353	100.0
5270 Energy		6	80.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	713	100.0

APPLIED SCIENCES		195	64.0	22.8	8.8	1.8	2.6	12.0	95.9	1 221	88.6
5350	Engineering	20	69.2	15.4	0.0	15.4	0.0	0.0	100.0	1 200	100.0
5358	Civil, building or transportation engineering	20	64.3	7.1	21.4	0.0	7.1	25.0	100.0	1 312	66.7
5359	Electrical, electronic and communications engineering	36	78.9	15.8	5.3	0.0	0.0	6.3	100.0	1 748	86.7
5363	Industrial and business engineering	5	80.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	100.0	1 859	100.0
5368	Mining engineering	10	28.6	57.1	0.0	14.3	0.0	0.0	100.0	x	50.0
5375	Forest engineering, forestry and wood science (silviculture)	7	50.0	33.3	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	871	100.0
SOCIAL SCIENCES		324	79.6	8.0	3.5	2.0	7.0	4.2	74.4	1 197	91.6
		248	75.0	15.0	5.0	1.3	3.8	6.3	81.7	1 114	89.8
5420	Psychology	161	82.1	5.7	0.9	3.8	7.5	1.1	69.0	1 220	93.3
		93	76.6	17.2	1.6	1.6	3.1	2.0	83.7	1 045	100.0
5435	History	23	71.4	7.1	7.1	0.0	14.3	9.1	60.0	1 140	66.7
		21	81.3	0.0	12.5	0.0	6.3	13.3	69.2	1 063	88.9
5436	Geography										
		17	61.5	30.8	0.0	7.7	0.0	0.0	87.5	937	71.4
5437	Political science										
		15	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	77.8	969	85.7
5438	Sociology										
		16	36.4	27.3	9.1	0.0	27.3	20.0	50.0	x	50.0
5444	Urban studies										
		7	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	1 093	100.0
5494	Social sciences and humanities	9	50.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	x	50.0
5495	Philosophy	20	80.0	6.7	6.7	0.0	6.7	7.7	83.3	1 073	100.0
5498	Religious studies or theology	23	77.8	0.0	11.1	0.0	11.1	12.5	57.1	677	87.5

Employment situation of graduates with a doctoral degree in January of the survey year

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		TARGET GRADUATES	EMPLOYED	POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS	SEEKING EMPLOYMENT	STUDYING	INACTIVE	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	WORKING FULL-TIME	AVERAGE GROSS WEEKLY SALARY	WORKING IN RELATED FIELD
		N	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(\$)	(%)
LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE		52	84.2	7.9	2.6	0.0	5.3	3.0	84.4	1 261	88.9
		67	77.8	8.9	8.9	2.2	2.2	10.3	74.3	1 071	100.0
5585	Linguistics (phonetics, semantics, philology)	13	75.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	100.0	1 431	100.0
5590	French literature or French, language of instruction	26	81.8	13.6	4.5	0.0	0.0	5.3	83.3	1 175	86.7
		27	76.2	9.5	9.5	4.8	0.0	11.1	75.0	1 053	100.0
5594	English literature or English, language of instruction	9	83.3	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	16.7	60.0	1 250	100.0
EDUCATION		46	90.9	6.1	3.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	96.7	1 447	100.0
		46	90.6	6.3	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.0	86.2	1 159	92.0
5700	Multidisciplinary studies in education	32	91.3	8.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	1 468	100.0
		32	92.3	3.8	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	87.5	1 091	90.5
5702	Didactics (teaching)	11	88.9	0.0	11.1	0.0	0.0	11.1	87.5	1 430	100.0
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION		50	84.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.5	90.5	1 578	84.2
		42	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	92.6	1 450	100.0
5800	Business administration	36	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	91.3	1 487	100.0
ARTS		30	75.0	10.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	6.3	46.7	1 050	85.7
5900	Fine arts or applied arts	8	83.3	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	16.7	60.0	1 731	100.0
5903	Art history	6	80.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	75.0	1 163	66.7
5905	Music	20	66.7	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	11.1	37.5	974	100.0
MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES		16	63.6	27.3	9.1	0.0	0.0	12.5	85.7	1 075	100.0
8076	Environment (quality of the environment and pollution)	12	70.0	20.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	12.5	85.7	1 075	100.0

NOTES

1. Given the confidential nature of the data and a concern for ensuring the anonymity of respondents, results for disciplines for which the number of graduates is less than five are not presented here. A list of these disciplines may be consulted in the survey report.
2. The results for which the response rate does not meet publication requirements are not presented here. A list of these disciplines may be consulted in the survey report.
3. Due to the small number of graduates in certain disciplines, results in such cases should be interpreted with caution.
4. Results regarding the disciplines are presented according to the discipline codes established by MELS.
5. The abbreviation “na” indicates that the data are not available.
6. An “x” indicates that the data must remain confidential.

www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/Relance