

TRENDS IN EMPLOYMENT

FACT SHEET

December 2010

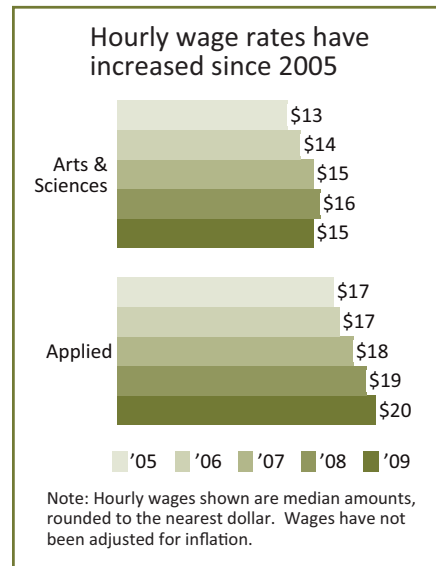
From the 1999 to 2009 surveys

Every year, respondents to the Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey are asked a series of questions about their current employment. This paper looks at trends in employment characteristics between 1999 and 2009. As employment outcomes of former students can vary significantly by program type, the survey results for respondents from Applied programs, which were intended to lead to employment in a specific field, are shown separately from the results of former Arts and Sciences students, whose programs were intended to lead to further study. To reduce the influence of transitional employment to support education, **respondents who reported studying at the time of the survey have been excluded from the analysis.** The analysis uses data from approximately 6,100 to 8,200 employed former students from Applied programs per year and 750 to 1,600 employed former Arts and Sciences students per year.

Hourly Wage Rates

Hourly wage data were available beginning in 2005. Reported wages are based on respondents' main job, if they had more than one. Over the past four years, nominal (i.e., unadjusted for inflation) hourly wage rates have increased among survey respondents from both Arts and Sciences and Applied programs. The median wage among former students from Arts and Sciences programs increased by \$2 per hour between 2005 and 2009.

Students from Applied programs experienced an even larger increase, with the median wage increasing by \$3 per hour between 2005 and 2009.

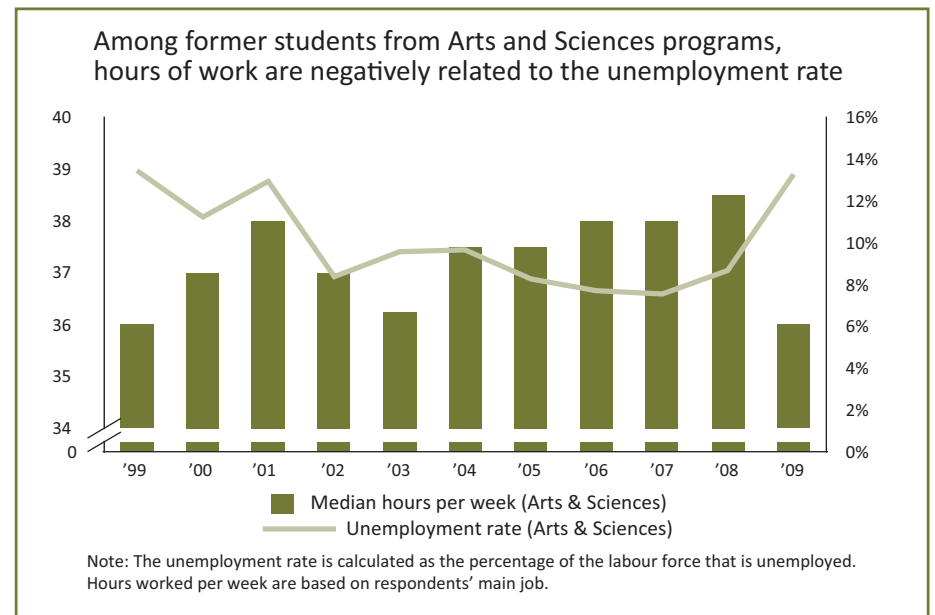


Hours of Work

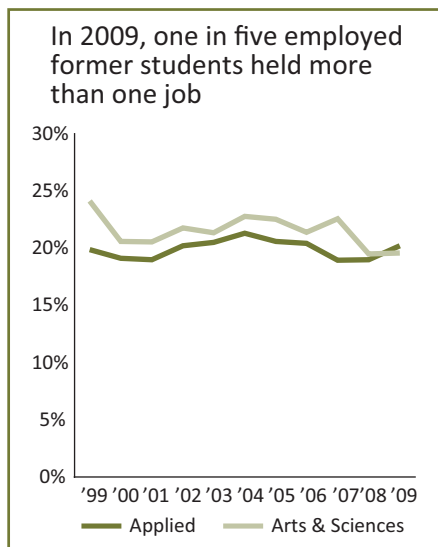
Over the past 10 years, the median number of hours worked by respondents from Applied programs has remained constant, at 40 hours per week. Among respondents from Arts and Sciences programs, however, the median has fluctuated between 36 and 39 hours per week. The hours worked by former Arts and Sciences students appear to follow the overall labour market conditions: years in which the hours per week are lower correspond with higher unemployment rates, and vice versa.

Multiple Job Holders

There has been little variation over time in the proportion of employed students from Applied programs holding multiple jobs (20% in both 1999 and



2009). Among respondents from Arts and Sciences programs, the proportion of those holding more than one job has declined, with significantly fewer employed respondents (20%) holding more than one job in 2009, compared with 1999 (24%). Unlike hours worked, however, there is no clear relationship between number of jobs held and overall labour market conditions.

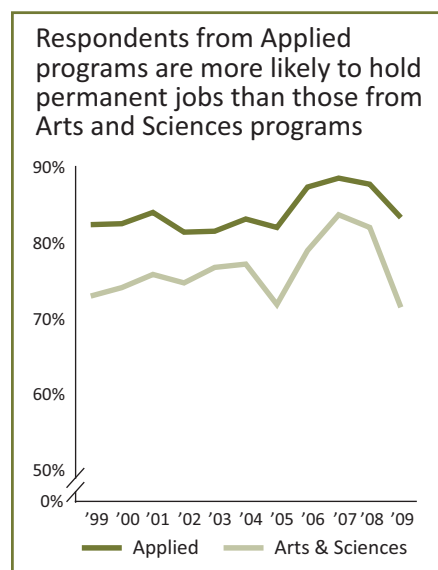
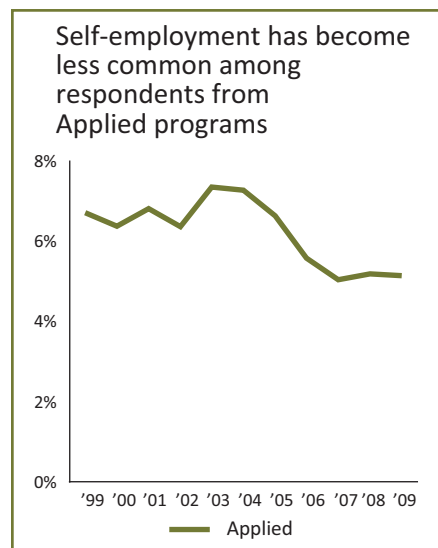


Job Type

Overall, self-employment is declining among respondents from Applied programs, from 7% of those employed in 1999 to 5% in 2009. The incidence of self-employment among respondents from Arts and Sciences programs has been somewhat volatile over the past decade, although there was no significant change between 1999 (7%) and 2009 (6%).

In the DACSO survey, employed respondents (excluding self-employed) are asked to indicate whether their job is permanent or temporary (e.g., short-term contract, less than six months). Over the past decade, the proportion of employed respondents working in permanent jobs has been consistently higher among former students from

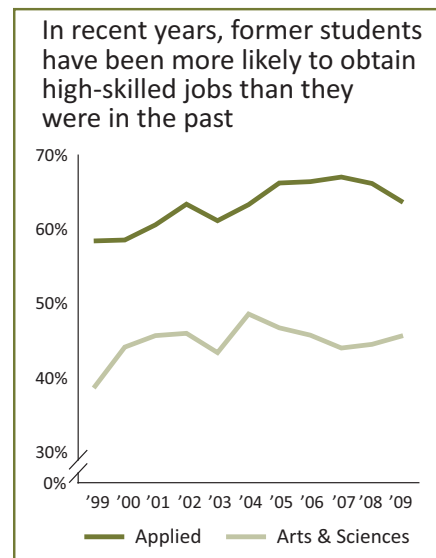
Applied programs than among those from Arts and Sciences programs. Rates of job permanence for each program type exhibit similar patterns over time, with rates peaking during the economic boom years of 2007 and 2008.



Job Skill Level

Since 1999, there has been a general positive trend towards an increasing proportion of employed respondents who are working in high-skilled occupations.* Over the past decade, the proportion of respondents from Applied

programs working in high-skilled jobs has increased from 58% (1999) to 64% (2009); among respondents from Arts and Sciences programs, the proportion has increased from 39% to 46%.



End Notes

*Occupations are classified into skill levels according to the National Occupational Classification (NOC). For the purposes of this paper, high-skilled occupations include management occupations and occupations that usually require post-secondary training (skill levels A and B).

For more information on student outcomes and the Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey, please see <http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Default/Home.aspx>.

