

LABOUR MARKET PERSPECTIVES OF STUDENTS GRADUATED IN 2007 AND 2009 FROM KAPOSVÁR UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

Career follow-up systems examine how graduated students find employment and adapt to a new workplace. This survey is useful feedback for Kaposvár University, as it was carried out among pupils graduated in 2007 and 2009. More than seventy-five percent of the students who graduated in 2007 have found a job by now. Fifty percent of career starters who graduated in 2009 have also found employment. More than half of the examined graduates work at their first workplaces and three-quarters of the questioned persons are full-time employees. Main employers of students graduated in 2007 are institutes run by the state or municipalities, while pupils graduated in 2009 were mostly hired by economic companies. Sixteen percent of students graduated in 2007 and ten percent of pupils who took their degree in 2009 work in management posts. Less than twenty percent of the employees work at a second job. The monthly net income of graduates' households is relatively high, because after starting their professional life many have moved to a separate residence from their parents, though they do not yet have their own children.

Keywords: career follow-up system, graduated, students, career starter, employee, employer

INTRODUCTION

In Hungary the direct recruitment form universities has started in 1993. At this time the domestic labor was adsorbed and the main sources of eligible employment, especially the foreign owners were the new graduates (Rédei, 1995). Surveys of labor market perspectives of students graduated at Kaposvár University had been carried out from 2006 to 2008 by Szabó (2011). Since 2009 motivation and career follow-up researches have been started within a project supported by the European Union. Nowadays, it is an obligation for colleges and universities to follow up their career starters in Hungary. The article focus on the requirement of education namely to follow up bridge from education to world of work.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In April 2010 after methodical preparation e-mails and letters containing research information were sent to the graduated students asking them to answer an online questionnaire. The survey was anonymous and representative, with the help of individual passwords and a data-matrix. The questionnaire was edited by the

Ministry of Education and Culture and Educatio Nonprofit Ltd. and was completed by the researchers of Kaposvár University. Most of the graduated students sent back their answers in a week after receiving the e-mails and letters. Thirty-five percent of students graduated in 2009 and only sixteen percent of students graduated in 2007 have answered the questions. Students graduated in 2009 were the first Bologna classes, which gives more importance to their answers, although the loose of enrollment was high that time in Hungary, so each fourth student was able to finish their studies in time.

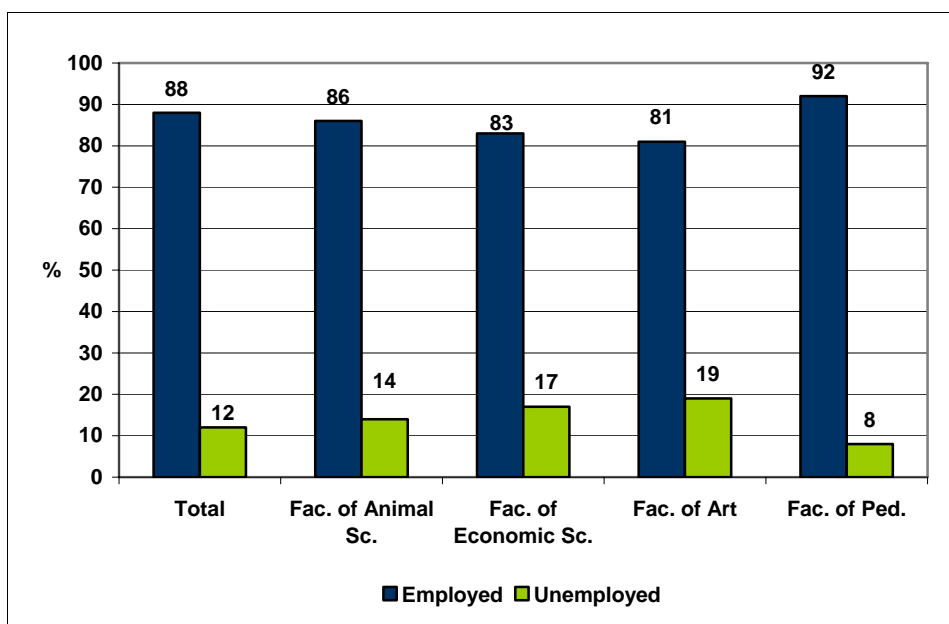
DISCUSSION

Seventy five percent of students graduated in 2007 and more than fifty percent of students graduated in 2009 have found a job up to now (*Figure 1* and *Figure 2*).

In 2007 students of Faculty of Pedagogy were the most successful in finding employment. Most students of Faculty of Animal Science possessed a job in 2009, however only half of the students of Faculty of Economic Science found a job. As one can see on *Figure 2* unemployment rate was relatively high (38%) in 2009, because of economical financial crisis and also because students have started to look for a new job only after having their diploma.

Figure 1

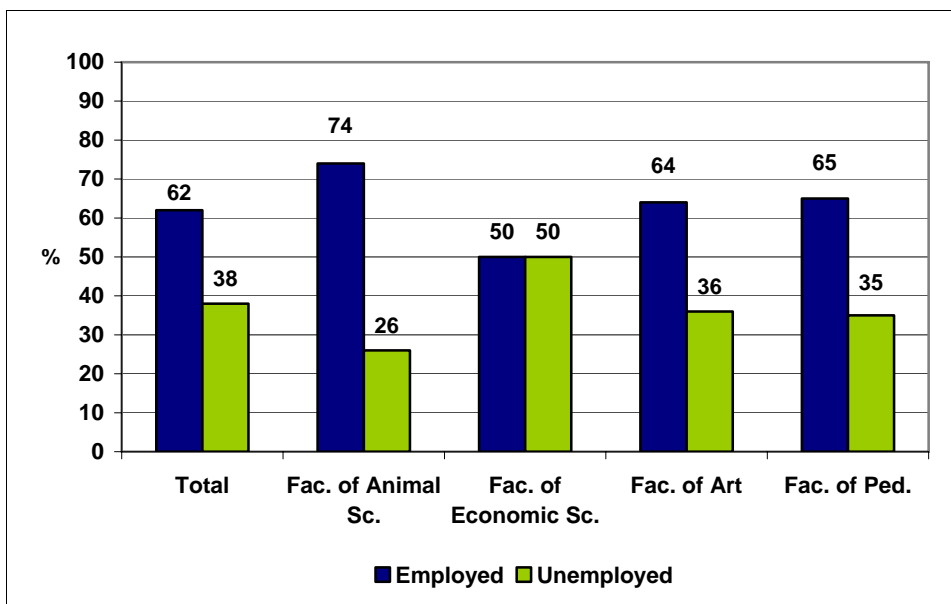
Have you found a job after receiving your degree in 2007?



Source: Career follow-up research of Kaposvár University (n=123)

Figure 2

Have you found a job after receiving your degree in 2009?



Source: Career follow-up research of Kaposvár University (n=287)

During their studies men living in smaller towns and villages often found and take a job. Probably, because of the less income of their family, they had to work to finance their studies. Students graduated in colleges have been employed earlier, than students with a degree from a university. Women started their professional career earlier after getting their diploma.

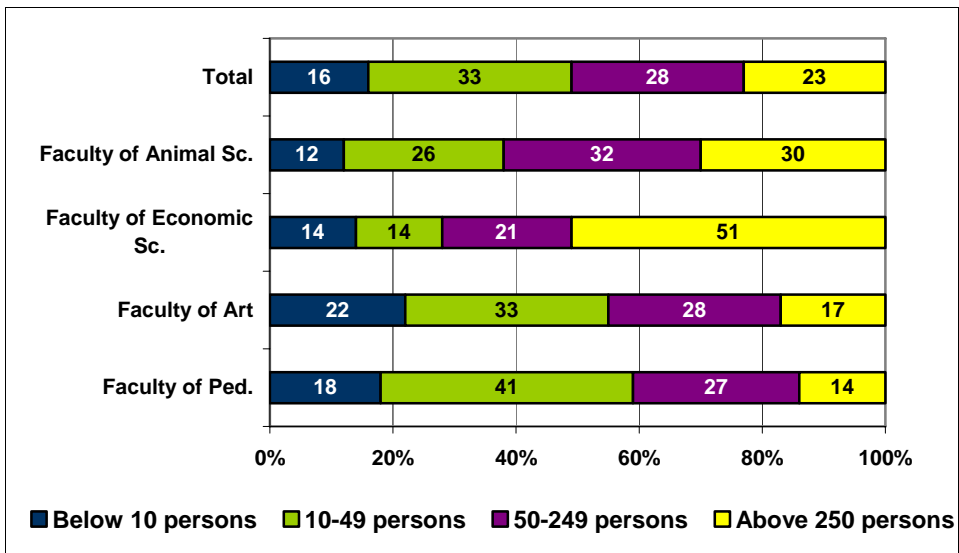
More than seventy five percent of employed persons work at their first workplace a year after having their qualification. In two years time this rate goes down to fifty eight percent. The shorter professional career they have, the harder to change workplace more times. Students of Faculty of Economic Science alternate the least among employers.

Three-quarters of questioned persons are employed full time. Graduated students of the Faculty of Arts become most often entrepreneurs. This type of activity comes from their nature of profession. Students of the Faculty of Pedagogy and Animal Science could stay on their professional line the longest. At the beginning of their career most graduated persons have been employed at municipalities and institutions run by the state, except students graduated in 2009, which were hired by private companies at first place.

Most of the students graduated at Kaposvár University are employed by Hungarian and mostly local employers, which is also caused by the lack of foreign language knowledge among graduates. Students of Faculty of Arts work mostly in the capital. *Figure 3* and *Figure 4* shows the size of the employers.

Figure 3

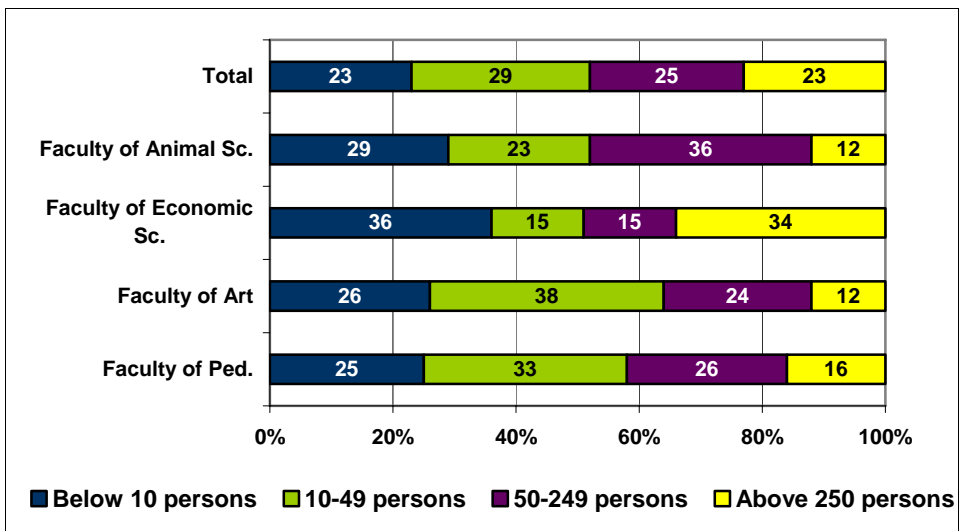
Size of employers of graduated students in 2007



Source: Career follow-up research of Kaposvár University (n=122)

Figure 4

Size of employers of graduated students in 2009



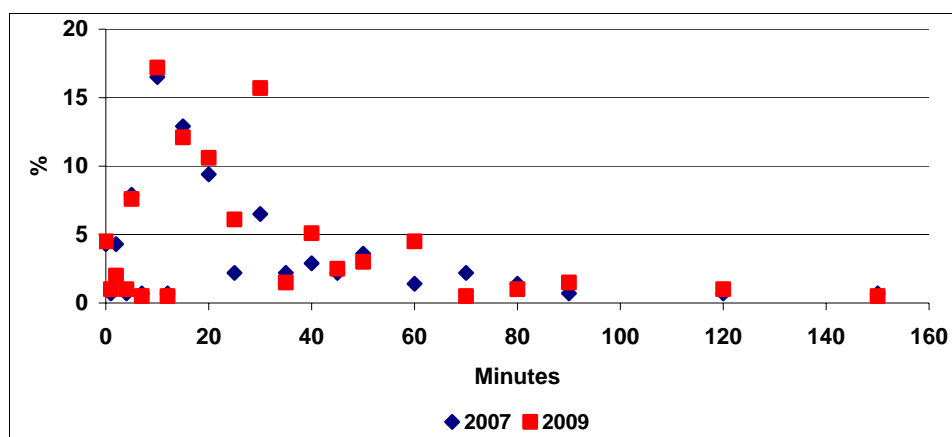
Source: Career follow-up research of Kaposvár University (n=201)

Women are employed mainly at small enterprises, while men found a job more often at medium size enterprises or large companies. During their studies students prefer bigger size of employers while after graduating they find a job easier at smaller enterprises. Sixteen percent of students graduated in 2007 and ten percent of students having their degree in 2009 work on management posts. Career starters of Faculty of Animal Science and Economic Science were promoted earlier.

Questioned persons travel twenty minutes in average to reach their workplace. Longer distances are realized near Budapest and among those, who are employed as advisors (Figure 5).

Figure 5

Average time to reach the workplace



Source: Career follow-up research of Kaposvár University (n=118, 198)

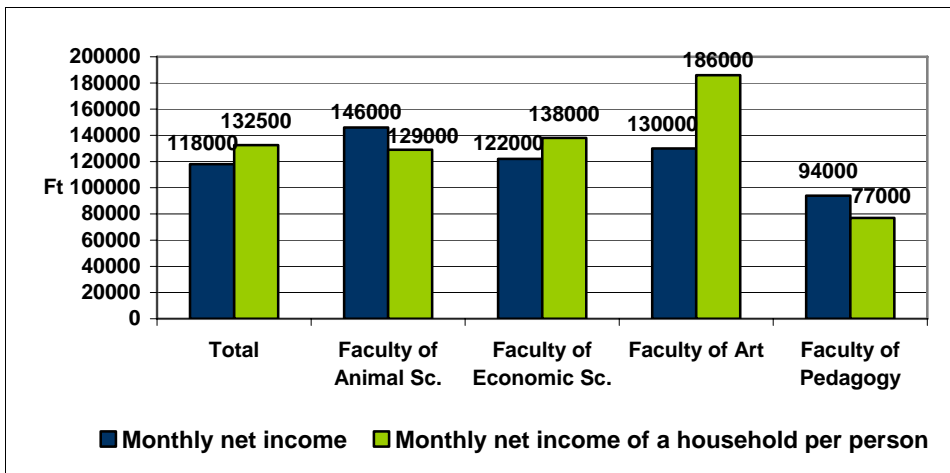
More than sixty percent of the jobs of graduated students connect with their qualifications completely or nearly completely. Faculty of Pedagogy and Animal Science reach higher percentages in this field than other faculties. Less than twenty percent of the employees work at a second job.

The monthly net income of graduates' household is relatively high, because after starting their professional life, they move to a separate residence from their parents and do not bear any child yet (Figure 6 and Figure 7).

Households of students graduated in 2007 have higher amount of monthly net income than households of students graduated in 2009. This difference is more than 40,000 forints which can be explained by the longer professional career and the higher personal monthly incomes. Career starters of Faculty of Animal Science earn the highest monthly salary. In 2007 Faculty of Arts possessed the second place, while in 2009 Faculty of Economic Science was on the second place. Average net income of students graduated in 2007 is 118,000 forints, but this amount is 97,000 forints among persons graduated in 2009. The maximum net income is 300,000 forints, which is earned abroad. Income of men is still higher in 2007 and also in 2009 than income of women.

Figure 6

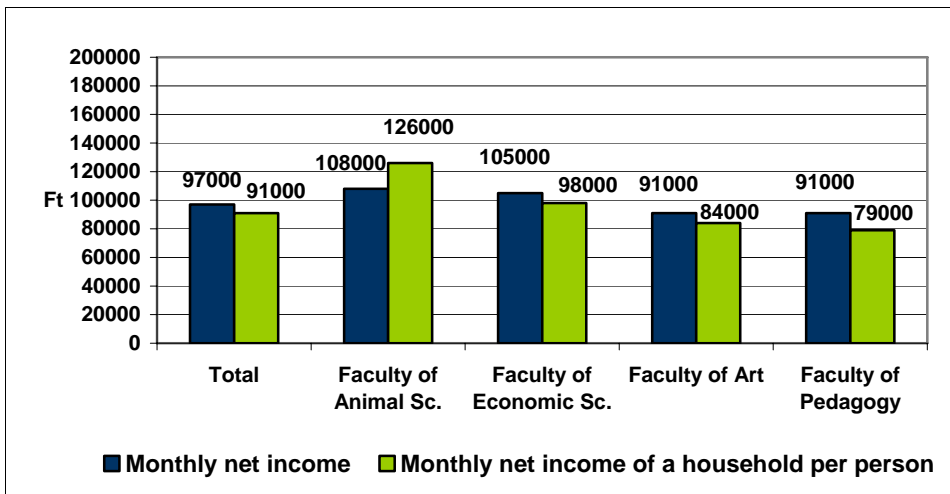
How much is the monthly net income of your household (2007)



Source: Career follow-up research of Kaposvár University (n=139)

Figure 7

How much is the monthly net income of your household (2009)



Source: Career follow-up research of Kaposvár University (n=312)

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