

3. ACTIVITIES AT TIME OF SURVEY

3.1 ACTIVITIES AT THE TIME OF THE 2000-2001 SURVEY

Overall, 86% of the post-secondary graduates of 1995 were employed, 7% were unemployed and 3% were in school during the latest survey period. As shown in Figure 3.1, the percentage of employed graduates increased 18 percentage points since the initial 1996 survey, while at the same time the percentage of unemployed graduates decreased by 10 percentage points. There were also fewer graduates (3% compared to 9%) enrolled in further post-secondary studies in 2000-2001 than in 1996 indicating that most graduates who chose to further their educational attainment did so soon after graduation. The remaining 4% of the respondents grouped into the “Other” category had made a conscious decision to stay at home, are disabled and not working, or are retired.

A slightly higher percentage of males (70%) were employed compared to females (67%) while a similar percentage of males and females reported being unemployed or in school pursuing further education.

The 1995 graduates from public college two- and three-year programs and Memorial University’s master’s program enjoyed the greatest employment rates (full-time and part-time employment) in 2000-2001 at 94% and 92%, respectively. For the public college two- and three-year program cohort, this was a substantial improvement over their employment performance in 1996. In fact, as shown in Figure 3.1, all sectors showed improvement over the five to six years since they had last been surveyed with the employment rate for one-year private college program graduates showing the greatest increase, 23 percentage points. It should be noted that 23.7% of graduates indicated that they had engaged in further studies since completing their initial training in 1995 (see Chapter 7). There was a notable disparity between the employment rates between male and female graduates for public and private one-year programs (see Table 3.1).

As would be expected with improvements in the employment rate among all sectors, there was also a decrease in the rate of unemployment for 1995 graduates in 2000-2001. Graduates of the one-year private college programs showed the greatest reduction in unemployment (16 percentage points) followed closely by the public college one-year (-14) and public college two- and three-year (-13) program graduates.

There were considerably fewer graduates who had returned to school to pursue further studies particularly in the Memorial University undergraduate cohort where only 5% reported being in school in 2000-2001 compared to 16% in 1996. This is to be expected in the natural progression of learning in a university setting where many undergraduates choose to enter master’s or advanced diploma programs after receiving their baccalaureate degree.

Of the 2000-2001 survey respondents, a smaller percentage (4%) reported being engaged in “other” activities than the 1996 survey respondents (6%).

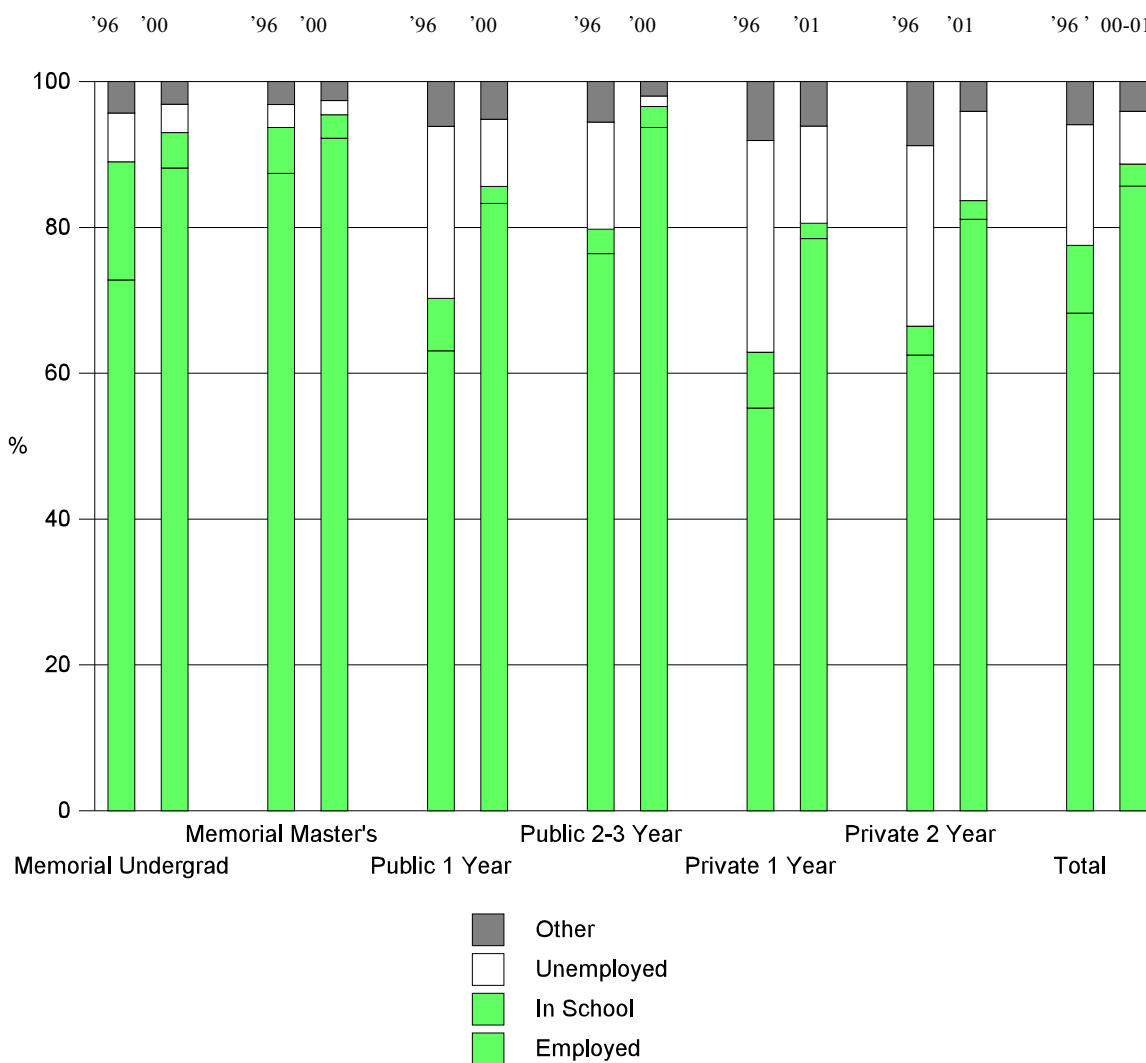


Figure 3.1 Activities of 1995 Post-Secondary Graduates at Time of Survey in 1996 and 2000-2001 by Sector (n=4351 and n=2230, respectively)

FAST-FORWARD: 5-YEAR POST-SECONDARY GRADUATE FOLLOW-UP STUDY

**Table 3.1 Activities at Time of Surveys (June 1996 and 2000-2001)
of 1995 Post-Secondary Respondents by Sector and Gender (n=4351 in 1996 and n=2230 in 2000-2001)**

		Employed			Unemployed			In School			Other		
		Female %	Male %	Total %	Female %	Male %	Total %	Female %	Male %	Total %	Female %	Male %	Total %
Memorial Undergraduate	1996	72.0	74.0	72.8	7.8	5.0	6.7	15.7	16.9	16.2	4.5	4.0	4.3
	2000	87.7	88.8	88.1	4.3	3.3	3.9	4.3	5.6	4.9	3.7	2.3	3.1
Memorial Master's	1996	86.7	88.4	87.4	2.2	4.4	3.1	5.6	7.3	6.3	5.6	0.0	3.1
	2000	93.3	90.8	92.2	2.3	1.5	2.0	2.3	4.6	3.3	2.3	3.1	2.6
Public College 1 Year	1996	58.5	65.8	63.1	25.5	22.4	23.6	5.8	8.0	7.2	10.2	3.7	6.2
	2000	76.8	88.6	83.3	12.1	6.8	9.2	2.4	2.3	2.3	8.7	2.3	5.2
Public College 2-3 Year	1996	72.3	80.4	76.4	17.7	11.8	14.7	2.4	4.2	3.3	7.5	3.7	5.6
	2000	93.1	94.3	93.7	1.2	1.7	1.4	2.3	3.4	2.9	3.5	0.6	2.0
Private College 1 Year	1996	56.0	53.7	55.2	29.0	29.2	29.1	5.8	11.6	7.7	9.3	5.6	8.1
	2001	74.9	85.3	78.5	15.0	10.1	13.3	1.6	3.1	2.1	8.5	1.6	6.1
Private College 2 Year	1996	64.8	55.9	62.5	21.6	33.9	24.8	3.0	6.8	4.0	10.7	3.4	8.8
	2001	81.3	80.4	81.1	13.3	8.7	12.2	2.7	2.2	2.6	2.7	8.7	4.1
Total	1996	66.8	70.1	68.2	17.3	15.6	16.6	8.4	10.4	9.3	7.5	3.9	5.9
	2000-2001	83.0	89.0	85.7	8.7	5.3	7.2	2.7	3.5	3.1	5.5	2.2	4.1

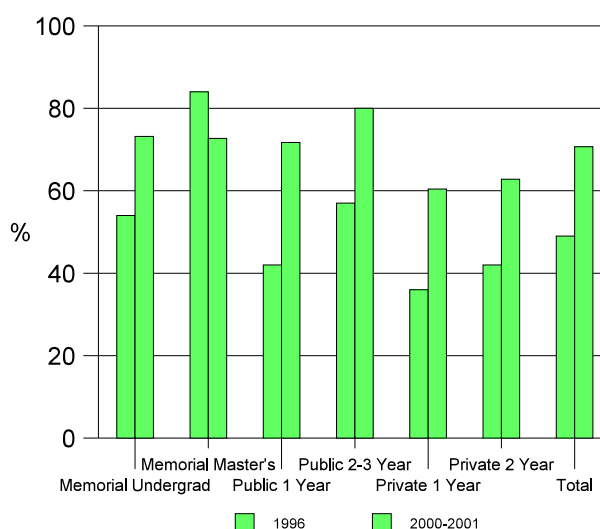
The employed category includes those employed full-time or part-time and those on temporary lay off or on leave.

3.2 FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

The expectation of most post-secondary graduates is that they will find full-time employment (more than 30 hours/week) after graduation. Unfortunately, this is not always the case as illustrated in Figure 3.2 where only 49% of 1995 graduate respondents reported being in full-time jobs when surveyed in 1996, approximately 18 months after graduation.

In 2000-2001, five to six years after graduation, the percentage of graduates in full-time positions had increased to 71%, a 22 percentage point increase. While the percentage of graduates in full-time employment had increased across all sectors, the greatest percentage increase was in the attainment of full-time jobs by graduates of public and private college programs where, on average, performance improved by 26 and 22 percentage points, respectively. Memorial University undergraduates also showed increased full-time employment with the level rising from 54% in 1996 to 73% in 2000-2001. Only the Memorial master's cohort showed a decrease in full-time employment.

Figure 3.2 Percentage of Respondents Who Are Working Full-Time at Time of Survey in 1996 and 2000-2001
(n=2959 and n=1903, respectively)

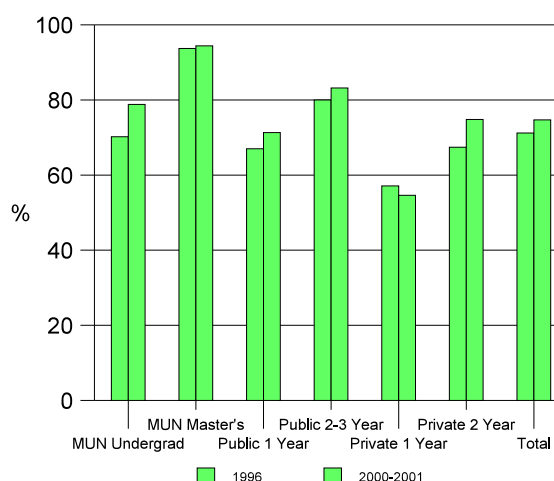


3.2.1 RELATIONSHIP OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT TO TRAINING

Most graduates expect to find full-time jobs that are related to their field of study especially having attained accreditation in specific educational areas (e.g. engineering, information technology, teaching). In 1996, 71% of survey respondents who were in full-time jobs indicated that the positions they held were directly or indirectly related to their educational training (Figure 3.2.1). Graduates from Memorial's master's program had the greatest success with 94% reporting that they were in training-related positions while only 57% of graduates from private

college one-year programs stated this was the case. By 2001, three-quarters (75%) of respondents reported that they were in training-related positions with graduates from Memorial University undergraduate programs (+9) and private college two-year programs (+7) showing the greatest percentage point change. This increase may be due, in part, to graduates engaging in further programs since graduation (see Chapter 7). However, full-time, training-related employment decreased slightly to 55% for graduates of private college one-year programs; it is noteworthy that the private college cohort also reported being less mobile (see Chapter 2) than other cohorts and may have taken jobs unrelated to their training to remain in the Province.

Figure 3.2.1 Percentage of Respondents Who Reported Their Full-Time Job Was Related to Their Education
(n=2133 in 1996 and n=1511 in 2000-2001)



3.2.2 LOCATION OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Where post-secondary graduates choose to work after graduation is largely a measure of their ability to find full-time employment in their location of choice and the wages associated with that employment (see Chapter 4.8). Overall, a higher percentage of 1995 graduates who left the Province (88%) had full-time employment than their counterparts who chose to remain in the Province (73%). As shown in Table 3.2.2a, public college two- and three-year program graduates were the one exception with higher full-time employment for those working in the Province (85%) compared to those working out of the Province (83%).

However, with the exception of private college one-year program graduates, those who chose to remain in the Province had slightly more success in finding full-time employment related to their educational training (Table 3.2.2b). Of note are the public college two- and three-year programs where four out of five graduates working in the province found full-time training-related employment.

FAST-FORWARD: 5-YEAR POST-SECONDARY GRADUATE FOLLOW-UP STUDY

Pursuing further education or training was a factor for 1995 graduates currently working out-of-province in finding full-time, training-related employment. This is especially true of private college one-year program graduates - 69% of those working out-of-province who found full-time training-related employment had taken further training since graduating in 1995.

**Table 3.2.2a Respondents with Full-Time Employment
in 2000-2001 By Sector and Location**

	Employed Respondents in Newfoundland & Labrador			Employed Respondents Outside Newfoundland and Labrador		
	Total Employed #	Full-Time Employed #	Full-Time as a % of Total Employed	Total Employed #	Full-Time Employed #	Full-Time as a % of Total Employed
Memorial Undergraduate	276	215	77.9	180	161	89.4
Memorial Master's	119	90	75.6	25	22	88.0
Public College 1 Year	365	303	83.0	171	156	91.2
Public College 2-3 Year	206	176	85.4	125	104	83.2
Private College 1 Year	322	181	56.2	49	43	87.8
Private College 2 Year	167	99	59.3	28	23	82.1
Total	1455	1064	73.1	578	509	88.1

FAST-FORWARD: 5-YEAR POST-SECONDARY GRADUATE FOLLOW-UP STUDY

Table 3.2.2b Graduates of 1995 with Full-Time, Training-Related Employment in 2000-2001 Having Taken Further Training or Retrained Since 1995 by Sector and Location of Employment (n=1573)

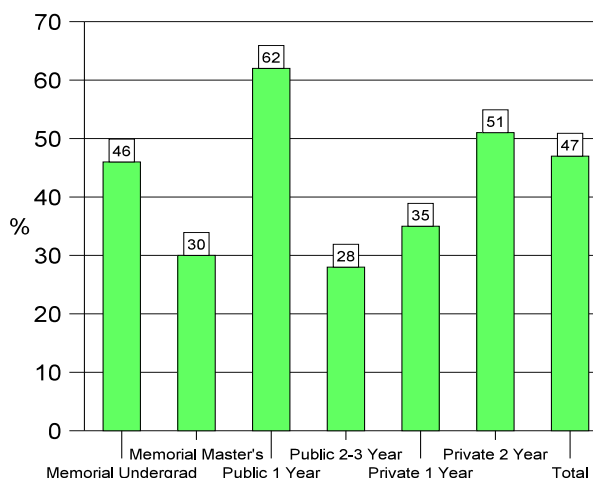
Initial Sector of Study	Respondents with Employment In Newfoundland and Labrador			Respondents with Employment Outside of Newfoundland and Labrador		
	FT As a % of Total Employed	FT Training-Related as a % of Full-Time Employed	Further Training or Retrained as a % of FT Training-Related	FT As a % of Total Employed	FT Training-Related as a % of Full-Time Employed	Further Training or Retrained as a % of FT Training-Related
Memorial Undergraduate	77.9	75.3	30.2	89.4	75.2	33.9
Memorial Master's	75.6	93.3	7.1	88.0	77.3	29.4
Public College 1 Year	83.0	66.7	14.4	91.2	63.5	24.2
Public College 2-3 Year	85.4	83.0	19.2	83.2	77.9	12.3
Private College 1 Year	56.2	53.0	39.6	87.8	60.5	69.2
Private College 2 Year	59.3	74.7	35.1	82.1	73.9	41.2
Total	73.1	71.8	23.0	88.1	70.9	29.1

3.3 UNEMPLOYED AND CURRENTLY SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

Less than half (47%) of the respondents who reported they were unemployed at the time of survey also reported they were actively seeking work (Figure 3.3). The public college one-year program graduates were the most active of this group with 62% looking for a job while only 30% of Memorial University master's respondents and 28% of public college two- and three-year program respondents reported they were actively seeking work in 2000-2001.

Generally, a higher percentage of unemployed males (56%) than females (43%) from all sectors were actively looking for work. Two-thirds of those seeking employment were aged 25 to 40 with the largest segment (36%) in the 25 to 29 year age cohort.

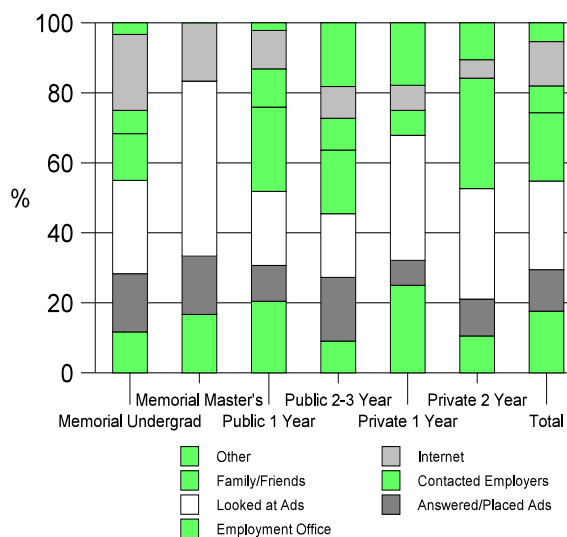
Figure 3.3 Unemployed Graduates Actively Looking for Work by Sector (n=308)



3.3.1 METHOD USED TO FIND EMPLOYMENT

As shown in Figure 3.3.1, the main methods used by unemployed graduates to find employment were reviewing job ads (25%), direct contact with employers (20%), and frequenting employment offices (18%).

Figure 3.3.1 Methods Used by Unemployed Respondents Seeking Work (n=261)

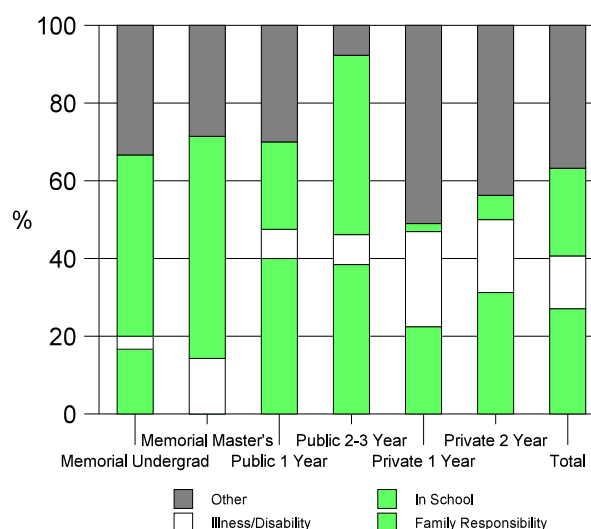


Memorial University master's respondents (50%) reviewed job ads to find employment, which is the highest reported percentage of all sectors. A large percentage of this cohort (17%) and Memorial University undergraduates (22%) also used the Internet to find employment while public and private one-year program graduates made greater use of employment offices.

3.3.2 WHY RESPONDENTS WERE NOT CURRENTLY SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

The main reason for unemployed respondents not actively looking for work was family responsibilities (27%). As shown in Figure 3.3.2, 23% of respondents indicated they were attending school on a full-time or part-time basis while 14% indicated health problems or disability did not permit them to look for work. “Other” reasons cited by 37% of respondents were: awaiting recall to previous job, waiting for new job to start, awaiting replies to applications, discouragement, lack of interest, or near retirement/retired.

Figure 3.3.2 Reasons for Not Actively Looking for Work by Sector (n=155)



A high percentage of graduates from Memorial University’s undergraduate (47%) and master’s (57%) programs, and public college two- and three-year (46%) programs were in school at the time of survey pursuing further studies (see Chapter 6).

In contrast, graduates of public and private college programs most frequently stated that family responsibilities did not permit them to actively look for work. Additionally a large proportion of respondents who reported “Other” reasons for not actively looking for work were from private college one-year (51%) and two-year (44%) programs. It is interesting to note that the greatest percentage of respondents with health problems or a disability were also from private college one-year (24%) and two-year (19%) programs.

There were notable differences in the responses provided by the male and female respondents. Thirty-six percent (36%) of females indicated family responsibilities as their main reason for not actively looking for work compared to only 2% of males. A much higher percentage of males (40%) than females (16%) reported they were attending school either full-time or part-time.