

# GRADUATES AND WORK

## 2011 survey on 2007 graduates

During the year 2011, the eighth edition of the Survey on the vocational integration of university graduates was carried out, on a sample of those who graduated in 2007. The sample was selected to provide analyses related to: a) three-years bachelor's courses graduates; b) "single-cycle" courses graduates (including the new and the old system "long" courses); c) two-years masters courses graduates.

In 2011, 71.5% of 2007 university graduates were employed, while 15.2% were looking for a job. Considering the previous survey (on 2004 graduates), the employment rate is lower (73.2% in 2007) and the rate referring to job-seekers is higher (13.5%). The comparison nevertheless is influenced by the altered distribution of university degrees: in the 2007 population, three-years bachelors degrees were prevalent, while in 2004 the prevalent degree was the 4-6-years "single cycle" one.

It is to be highlighted that in the 2011 survey the employment situation is significantly different from one type of university degree to another. In 2011, 69.3% of 2007 3-year bachelors degrees graduates were employed: almost 4% less than the figure observed in 2007 among those who obtained in 2004 a 3-years bachelors degree (Table 1); furthermore, always for this group, unemployment in 2011 was more than 5% higher (19.5% opposed to 14.2% in 2007).

**TABLE 1. EMPLOYMENT STATUS IN 2011 OF 2007 GRADUATES (a) AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS IN 2007 OF 2004 GRADUATES (b), BY UNIVERSITY DEGREE**

Percentages

% of university course	Degree course	Working	Not working		Total (a.v. =100,0)	Unemployment rate
			Looking for work	Not looking for work		
<b>EMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN 2011 OF 2007 GRADUATES</b>						
58.3	Three-years bachelors	69.3	16.8	13.8	171,193	19.5
24.9	Single-cycle masters	69.4	15.5	15.1	73,238	18.2
16.7	Two-years masters	82.1	9.0	8.9	49,146	9.9
<b>100.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>71.5</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>293,577</b>	<b>17.5</b>
<b>EMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN 2007 OF 2004 GRADUATES</b>						
35.2	Three-years bachelors	73.2	12.1	14.7	89,725	14.2
64.8	Single-cycle masters	73.2	14.2	12.6	165,114	16.2
<b>100.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>73.2</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>254,839</b>	<b>15.6</b>

(a) Those who obtained another single-cycle degree (including degrees under the old system) or a two-year master before 2007 are excluded from the analysis.

(b) Those who obtained another single-cycle degree (including degrees under the old system) before 2004 are excluded from the analysis.

A further comparison between the two survey figures can be drawn grouping together, in the 2011 survey, the single-cycle degrees and the two-years masters. In 2011, although four years had passed since the qualification – a longer period respect to the previous survey – employment levels related to 2007 single-cycle courses and two-years masters graduates were not much higher than those recorded in 2007 for 2004 "single-cycle" courses graduates (74.5% opposed to 73.2%). Furthermore, the rate referred to continuous employment began after the degree was higher in 2007 (56.1%) than in 2011 (54.6%).

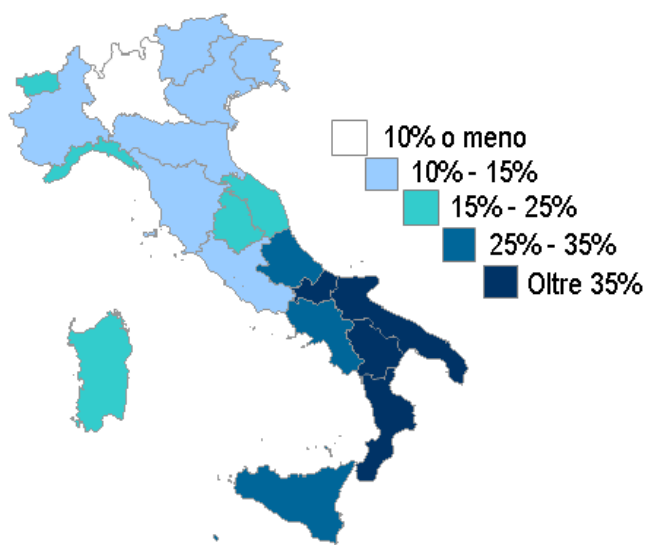
The three sub-populations, which make up the group of 2007 graduates, entered the job market by various paths. One year after qualifying, 47.5% of three-years bachelors courses graduates were employed, opposed to 58% of single-cycle courses graduates and 67.5% of those who obtained a two-year master. The lower figures related to three-years bachelors degrees graduates are attributable to, among other factors, the widespread continuation of studies into the two-year masters courses. In 2011 the employment rate of three-years bachelors degrees graduates was equal to the rate recorded for single-cycle courses (approximately 69%), as graduates who obtained a two-year masters after a "three-year" bachelors entered the job market. One year after obtaining a two-year master in 2007, 67.5% of graduates were employed, and four years after graduation (i.e. in 2011) their employment rate had risen to 82.1%. It is noteworthy that the situation is worse among those who obtained their bachelors in 2007 and then completed their two-year masters in 2010: 58.2% of these were employed in 2011. In fact, in 2011, the information related to those who obtained in 2007 a bachelors degree and subsequently a master has more to do with the second qualification: in 86% of cases, continuous work began after attaining the bachelors in fact began after the two-year master degree.

The employment results of 2011 also vary according to the subject of the qualification. Among the three-year bachelors degrees, the highest level of employment (90%) was among those who qualified in the fields of medicine or defence and security (graduates who already worked before obtaining the qualification in approximately one out of three cases). In particular, 95% of graduates in the fields of Health, nursing and obstetrics present were employed. Among the single-cycle courses, the best employment results were among graduates in engineering, particularly Management engineering (93.5% employed) and Computer engineering (91.8%). Rates of employment were high among graduates of two-year masters courses in the fields of medicine or defence and security (with work commencing after qualifying in less than 40% of cases), and in the fields of economics and statistics and of engineering. In particular, employment rates are around 95% for Mechanical engineering, Management engineering and Electronic engineering. At the other end of the scale, the situation was most critical among graduates of three-year bachelors in Biological sciences, Earth sciences, Literature and Philosophy (with an unemployment rate of over 40%). The difficulty of entering the job market for graduates in the fields of geo-biological studies and literature are noted also among those who did single-cycle masters or two-year masters.

Work opportunities within the various socio-economic contexts play a decisive role in the integration of graduates into the job market. Particular difficulties are highlighted for graduates who lived in the South of Italy at the time of interview (in particular, in this group, the percentage of job-seekers is 27.4% among graduates of “three-year” bachelors courses).

In comparing the place of residence of individuals before registering at university and the residence of graduates who were employed in 2011, it is clear that the North and the Centre of the country are attractive. Graduates who lived in the South before registering at university are those who are most likely to work in another place (approximately one third of cases), while Northerners remain in the North in more than 95% of cases, and those from the Centre live in that area in more than 88% of cases. At a regional level (Fig. 1), Lombardy is the most successful region in terms of “keeping” its “natives” (more than 90% of those who work) while many southern regions – Molise, Calabria, Puglia and Basilicata – lose more than 35% of “natives” (those who are resident there before registering at university) who are employed in 2011, as graduates leave to work in other regions of the country or abroad.

**FIG. 1. GRADUATES OF 2007 (a) WHO WORK IN 2011 IN A REGION OTHER THAN THE ONE WHERE THEY RESIDED BEFORE REGISTERING AT UNIVERSITY (per 100 people in employment who resided in the region before registering at university)**



(a) who had obtained another single-cycle degree (4-6 years) or two-year masters before 2007 are excluded.

The disadvantage faced by women to access the working environment is evident among graduates of both the three-year bachelors degrees and the two-year masters or single-cycle courses, with a difference of approximately 8% in the unemployment rate: 23% as opposed to 14.8% among men for three-year bachelors, and 18% as opposed to 10.2% for single-cycle degrees and two-year masters. The gap between men and women is particularly disadvantageous for women with degrees in the legal sector. Among graduates of single-cycle courses and two-year masters, it is in psychology that there is the greatest distance between the two sexes.

The disadvantageous position of women is also evident in the type of contract that graduates have. Women less frequently have independent or “permanent” contracts than men, and are therefore more often given occasional or “fixed-term” contracts.

Approximately four years after obtaining a three-year bachelors degree, young people in full-time continuous work commencing after qualifying earn approximately € 1,320 on average; the net monthly salary of graduates of single-cycle masters courses and two-year masters courses is higher (just over € 1,400). For all degree types, the highest salaries are earned by graduates in the fields of medicine and defence and security, while young people who study teaching always earn the least. Female graduates always earn less than male graduates.

The most satisfying aspects of work were the degree of autonomy at work and the duties assigned: over 85% of graduates, of all types of degree courses, claimed to be “very or fairly satisfied” with these aspects. Career prospects and remuneration were the least satisfying, with satisfaction rates of around 60%. The level of satisfaction among women is lower than among men, with particularly noticeable differences regarding career prospects. Satisfaction with the main aspects of their jobs also reflect graduates’ professional status; in fact, with the three aspects (career prospects, remuneration and job stability) for which satisfaction rates are lowest, it is project workers who express the most dissatisfaction.