

MBA ALUMNI PERSPECTIVES SURVEY
MARCH 2002

BY
Graduate Management Admission Council®

MBA Alumni Perspectives Survey

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Opinion of MBA Job Security Compared to Other Graduates

Of the MBA class of 2000 that are currently working, 58 percent feel their job security is greater than for other graduates, 32 percent feel it is about the same, and 10 percent feel it is less secure. Of those not currently working, 28 percent feel their job security is greater than for other graduates, 50 percent feel it is about the same, and 22 percent feel it is less secure.

Employment Status

Eighty-nine percent of the Class of 2000 survey respondents said they were currently working at a full-time job. Fifty percent of those not working left their last job because it ended due to a weak economy (65%) or company instability (22%). Fourteen percent of those currently working left their last job because it ended due to a weak economy (32%), company instability (24%), or because it was only temporary (24%).

Of those currently working, 23 percent left their last job because they got a better job. The top five factors that made their new job better were:

- Challenging and/or interesting work (84%),
- Competitive salary (66%),
- Opportunity to learn new things (63%),
- Opportunity to use skills to the maximum (57%), and
- Opportunity for advancement (56%).

Job Search Activities

Only seven percent of those *not* currently working are *not* conducting job search activities. The rest have:

- Updated their resume (89%),
- Researched companies/industries (87%),
- Submitted their resume to a job data bank (74%),
- Registered at a job search/career on-line service (70%), and
- Networked with school alumni to get job leads (67%).

Only 20 percent of those currently working are not conducting job search activities. The rest have:

- Updated their resume (72%),
- Researched companies/industries (46%),
- Submitted their resume to a job data bank (35%),
- Registered at a job search/career on-line service (30%), and
- Contacted headhunter/job search firm (30%).

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Overall Satisfaction with Current Employer

Thirty-seven percent of the MBA class of 2000 survey respondents are very satisfied with their current job, 35 percent are somewhat satisfied, and only 17 percent express dissatisfaction with their current employer.

Feelings about Current Employer

- To know that my own work had made a contribution to the good of the organization would please me (73% strongly agree),
- I am quite proud to be able to tell people whom I work for (49% strongly agree),
- I am extremely glad that I chose this organization to work for over others I was considering at the time I joined (43% strongly agree),

Forty-five percent somewhat or strongly disagree that they would take a job with another employer with about the same pay and benefits they now have. Fifty-two percent somewhat or strongly disagree that there is not much to be gained by sticking with their organization indefinitely.

Truthfulness of Statements Regarding Current Employer

Career Opportunities

- **The work is interesting (48% very true)**
- Chances for promotion are good (35% very true)
- **Have had equal opportunity in promotions and salary (33% very true)**
- Problems expected to solve are hard enough (31% very true)
- Given a chance to do the things I do best (31%)
- Employer is concerned with everyone getting ahead (15% very true)

Quality of Supervision

- **My supervisor is competent in doing their job (47% very true)**
- My responsibilities are clearly defined (20% very true)
- I spend too much time in non-productive meetings (10% very true)

Work Environment

- **I have enough time to get the job done (25% very true)**
- I am not asked to do excessive amounts of work (19% very true)
- The job security is good (29% very true)
- The pay is good (26% very true)
- **The physical surroundings are pleasant (32% very true)**

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Preferences for Organizational Culture

The typical preference for organizational culture was one that:

- Is focused on company success (85%),
- Has a cooperative atmosphere (84%),
- Has an informal atmosphere (81%),
- Allows flexible career opportunities (77%),
- Gives individual performance-based rewards (71%),
- Is decentralized decision-making (69%),
- Has a clear, well-communicated vision (69%), and
- Allows for varied/fluid responsibilities (61%).

They were divided on whether to have formalized procedures (52%) or loosely defined procedures (48%).

Change in Responsibility Since Receiving MBA

Respondents were more likely to indicate an increase in project/product responsibility (74%) and number of special assignments (72%) and no change in the number of people managed (56%) and budget responsibility (53%).

Highest Position Achieved with Current Employer

Position levels are about equally split—34 percent indicate they are not a manager/supervisor, 30 percent a first or entry-level manager/supervisor, or 26 percent a middle level manager. Eight percent are a senior level manager and 2 percent are self-employed/small business owner.

Fifty-seven percent have been with their employer for one to two years.

Employer Characteristics

Thirty-two percent are employed at organization with less than 100 employees, 30 percent work at organization with 100 to 999 employees, 21 percent work at organizations with 1,000 to 24,999 employees, and 24 percent work at organization with over 25,000 employees. At their location, 41 percent work with less than 100 employees, 38 percent with 100 to 999 employees, and 21 percent with 1,000 or more employees.

Fifty-three percent of the respondents work in multinational companies, 21 percent in national companies, 9 percent in regional companies, and 18 percent in local companies.

Seventy-four percent are working in their country of citizenship.

The majority of the respondents work in the finance/accounting industry (44%), 18 percent work in products/services, 15 percent in consulting, 9 percent in health care/pharmaceutical, and 3 percent in energy/utilities.

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Respondent Profile

Respondents are graduates of the MBA class of 2000 that participated in the Global MBA Survey and were willing to be a part of a longitudinal study. Eighty-three percent graduated from full-time programs. Sixty-eight percent are male, 60 percent are not married, 86 percent are white, and 89 percent graduated from U.S. schools.