

2004 ASLA Graduating Students Study

Tabulated by
Lewis & Clark Research

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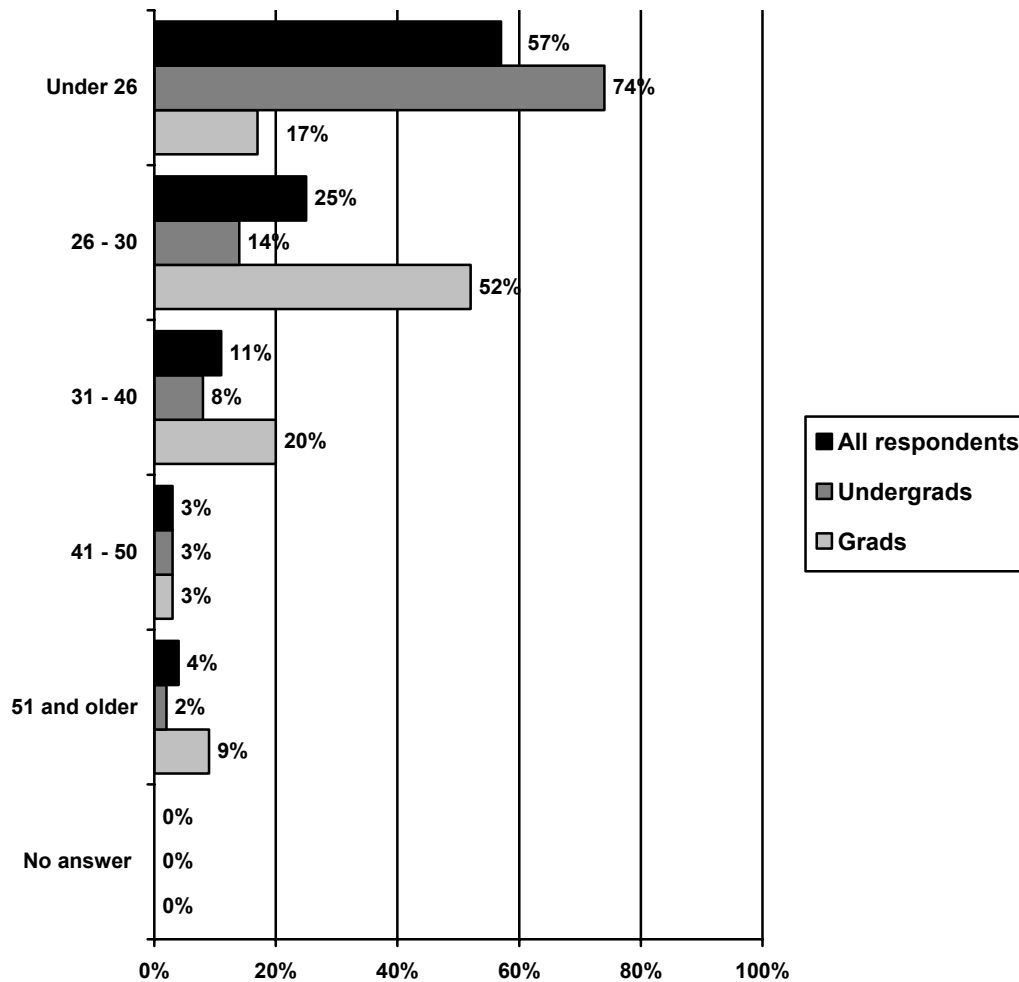
September 2004

- Introduction

An online survey was completed by graduating students in accredited undergraduate and graduate landscape architecture programs. The purpose of this survey was to gather information on post-graduation plans. The survey was similar to ones done annually since 1997, although this is the first year it was conducted online. The results are summarized in the following report.

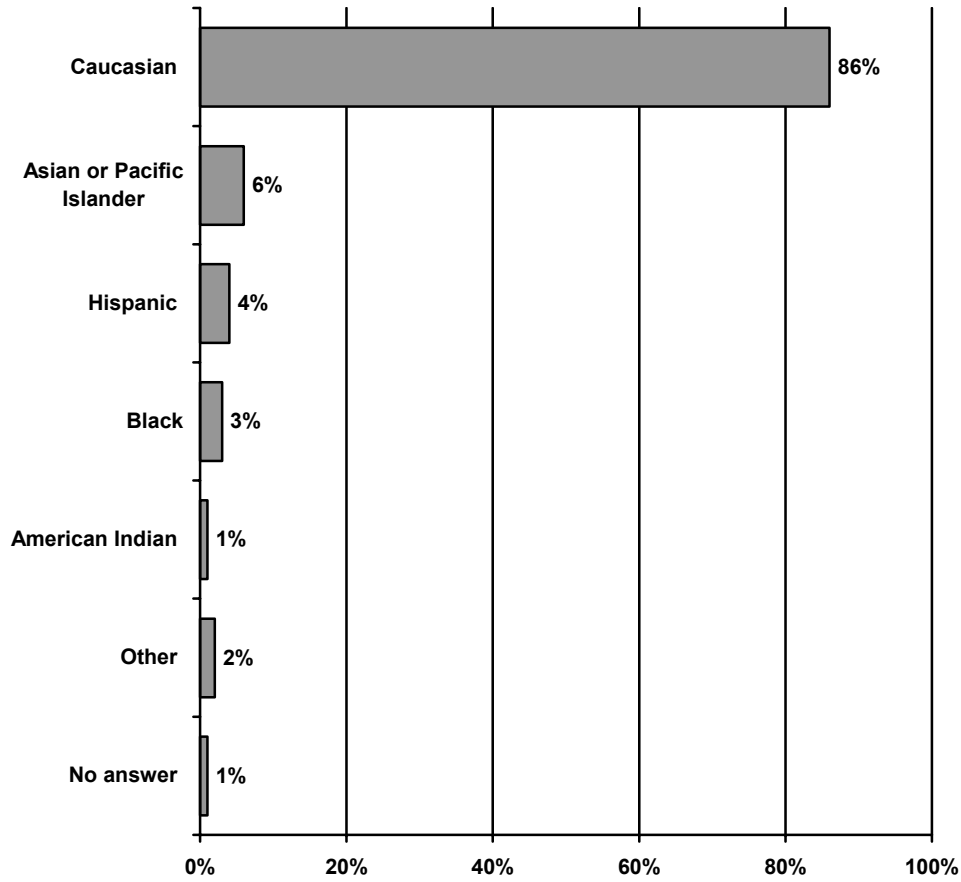
- Age

The average age of respondents is 26 for undergraduates, 31 for graduate students, and 27 overall. This is similar to previous years.



- Race

The majority of respondents (86%) indicate that they are Caucasian.

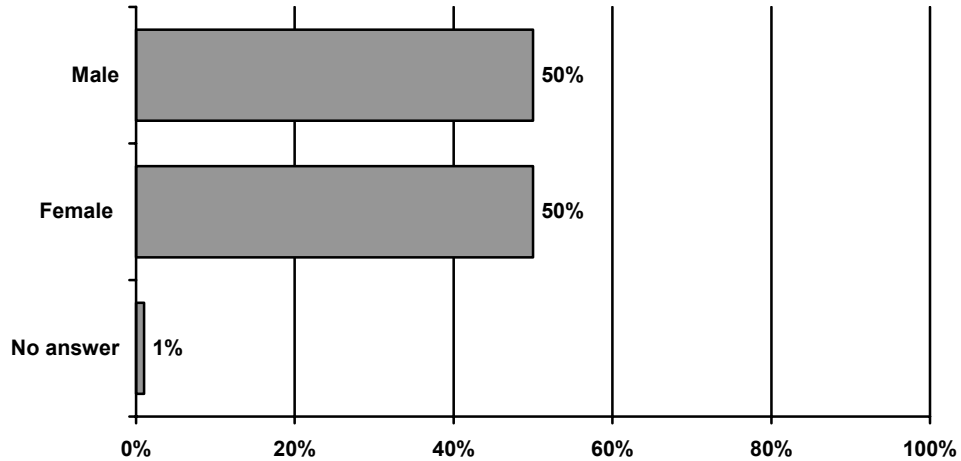


Comparison with previous years:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Caucasian	86%	87%	88%	89%	83%	79%	83%	86%
Asian/Pacific Islander	6%	4%	6%	4%	9%	5%	9%	2%
Hispanic	4%	2%	2%	3%	2%	1%	4%	2%
Black	3%	1%	1%	<1%	2%	0%	1%	1%
American Indian	<1%	<1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	2%
Other	2%	3%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	3%

- Gender

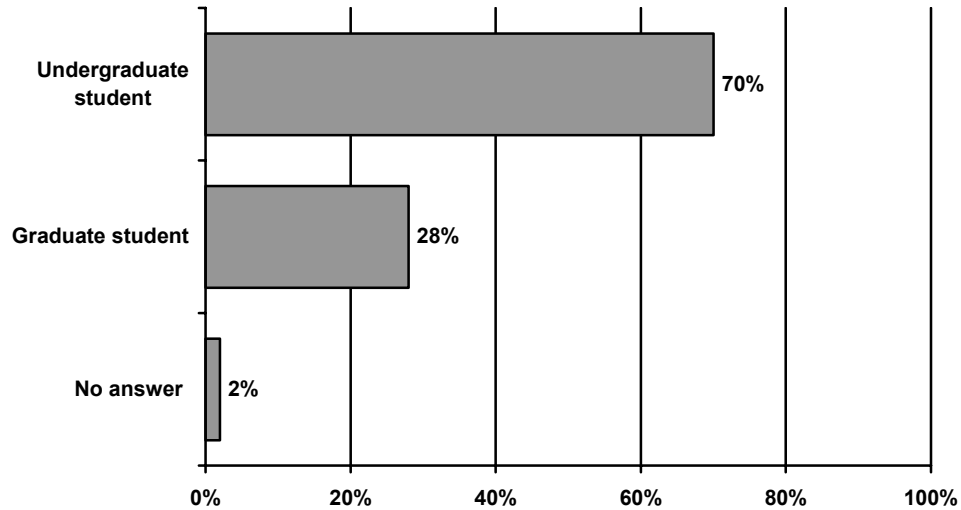
Respondents were divided down the middle, with one-half (50%) male and one-half (50%) female.



The proportion of male respondents decreased slightly from last year (51%). Among graduate students, female students accounted for close to two-thirds of respondents in this year's study.

- **Current Educational Status**

Out of 454 respondents, 319 (70%) indicate that they are undergraduate students, and 127 (28%) indicate that they are graduate students. This represents a similar proportion of undergraduate students in this year’s survey responses as in last year’s responses.

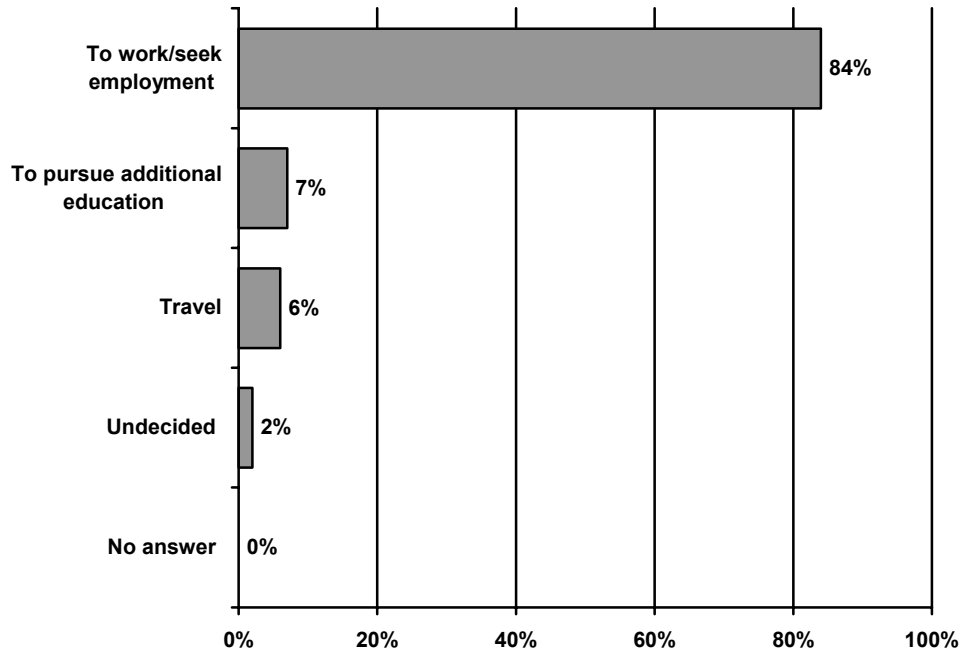


Schools represented by ten or more undergraduate students were as follows:

<u># of Students</u>	<u>School</u>
19	Ohio State University
19	University of Georgia
17	Mississippi State University
13	Louisiana State University
13	University of Idaho
12	Cal Polytechnic, San Luis Obispo
11	University of California, Davis
11	University of Maryland
10	Ball State University
10	Iowa State University
10	Utah State University

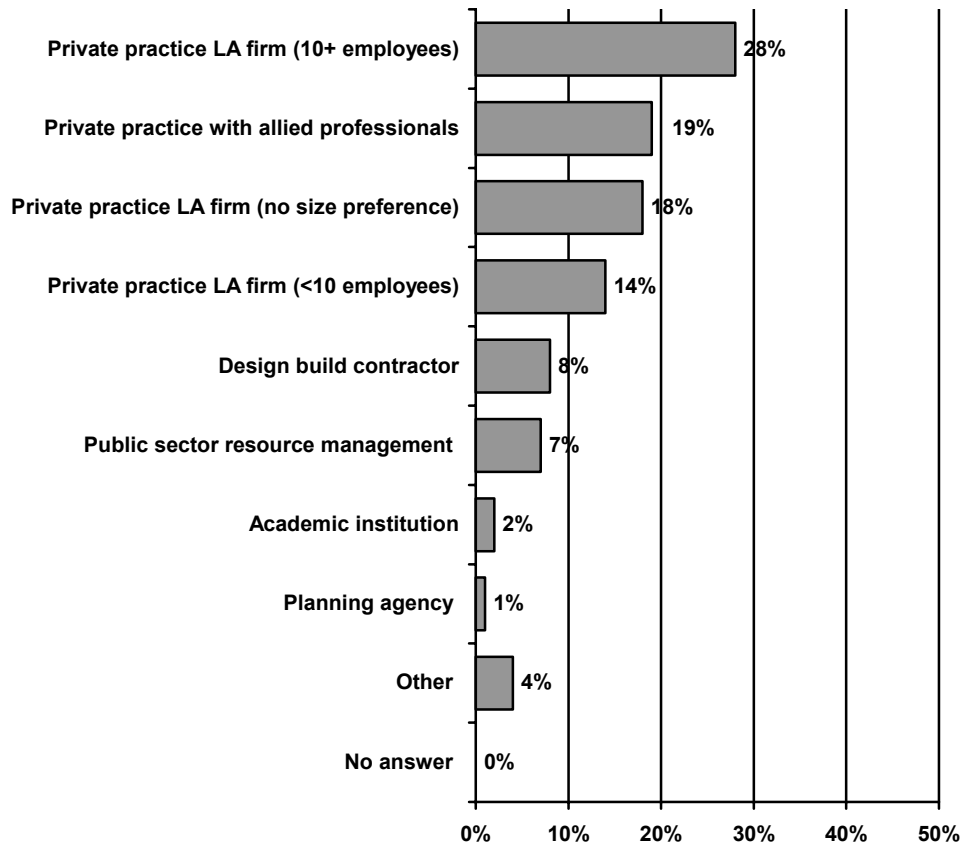
- Plans for Immediate Future

A majority of respondents (84%) indicate that their plans for the immediate future involve either working or seeking employment, while 7% plan to pursue additional education, 6% plan to travel and 2% are undecided. This is similar to previous years.



- Desired Type of Employer

More than one-quarter of respondents (28%) indicate that they are primarily interested in seeking employment in a private practice LA firm with 10 or more employees, followed by a private practice with allied professionals (19%), and a private practice LA firm (no size preference) (18%).

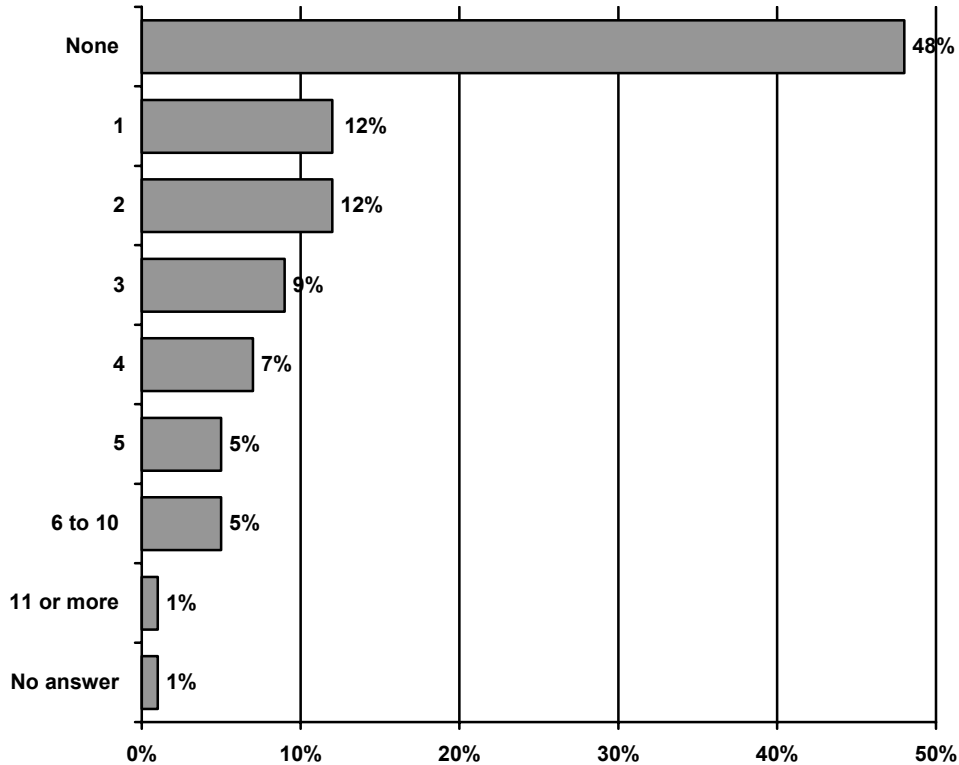


Comparison with previous years:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Private Practice LA firm (<10 employees)	14%	17%	15%	15%	16%	22%	16%	23%
Private Practice LA firm (10+ employees)	28%	22%	24%	30%	23%	20%	22%	27%
Private Practice LA firm (no size preference)	18%	18%	19%	14%	18%	21%	13%	23%
TOTAL Private Practice LA firm	60%	57%	58%	59%	57%	63%	51%	73%
Private Practice with Allied Professionals	19%	17%	19%	21%	22%	21%	24%	13%
Design/build Contract	8%	10%	10%	10%	8%	2%	5%	3%
Public Sector Resource Management	7%	9%	8%	6%	4%	7%	10%	7%
Planning Agency	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	2%	2%
Academic Institution	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Other	4%	4%	3%	2%	6%	3%	4%	3%

- Job Interviews

Respondents indicate that, on average, they have had 2 job interviews during their final semester in school, the same as in last year's study.

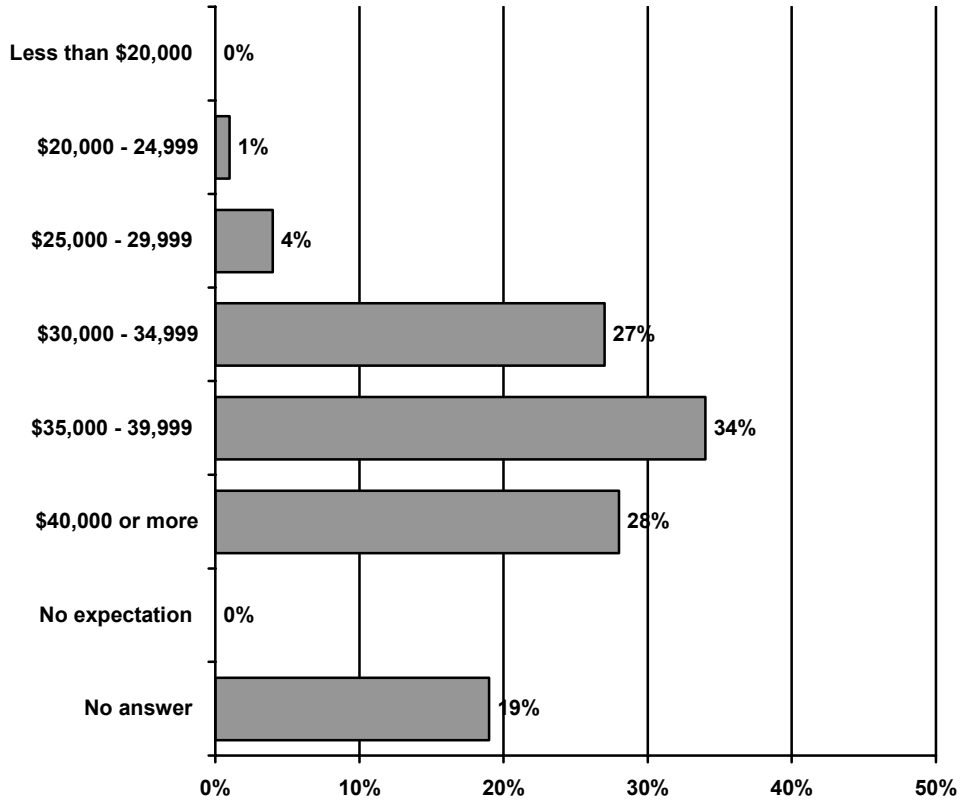


Respondents who have had one or more interviews were asked to comment on how the interview process went, if it was what they had expected, and anything noteworthy they encountered. A complete list of their comments may be found starting on page 34.

A majority of respondents (83%) indicate that the interview(s) went as expected, while 15% said it didn't (and 2% didn't indicate an answer). Their explanations can be found starting on page 42.

- Salary Expectations

Respondents who are looking for a job (or have already found one) expect(ed) an average salary of approximately \$36,100. Undergraduate students expect(ed) \$35,100 and graduate students expect(ed) \$38,400.



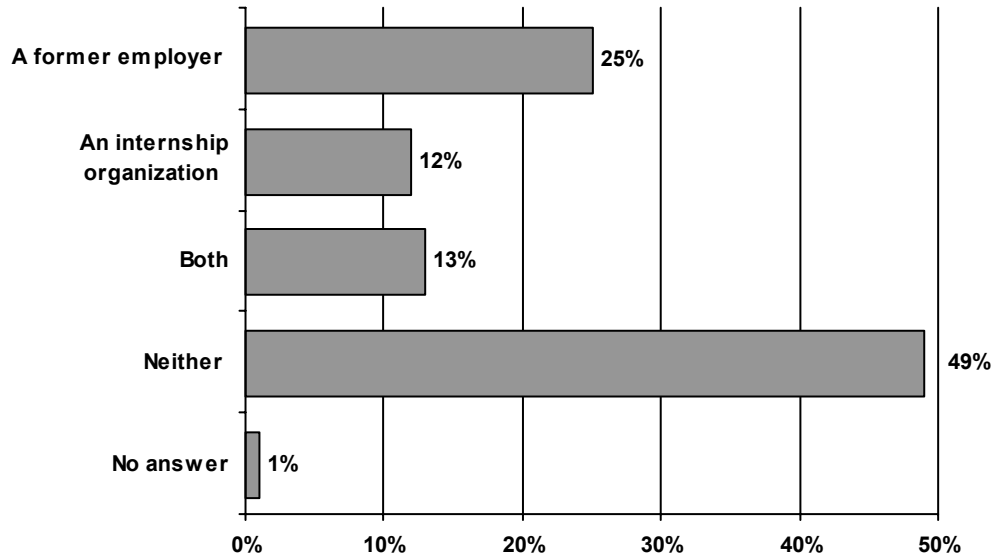
Comparison with previous years:

(AVERAGE SALARY – '000's)

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
All Respondents	\$ 36	\$ 34	\$ 29	\$ 31	\$ 31	\$ 30	\$ 29	28
Undergraduates	35	33	28	31	31	28	27	28
Graduates	38	38	35	35	34	33	32	29

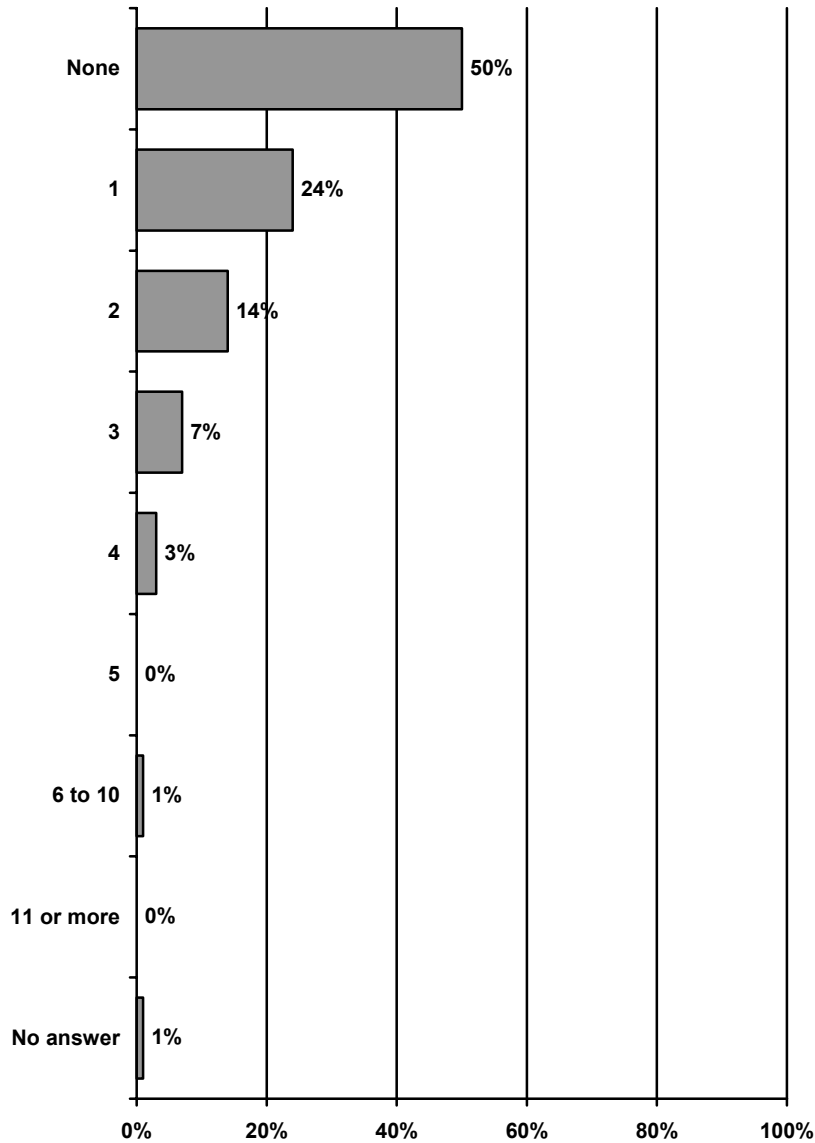
- **Employment Prospects**

One-quarter of respondents (25%) indicate that they have or have had reasonable employment prospects with a former employer, while 12% have/had prospects with an internship organization. These numbers are slightly less than last year's.



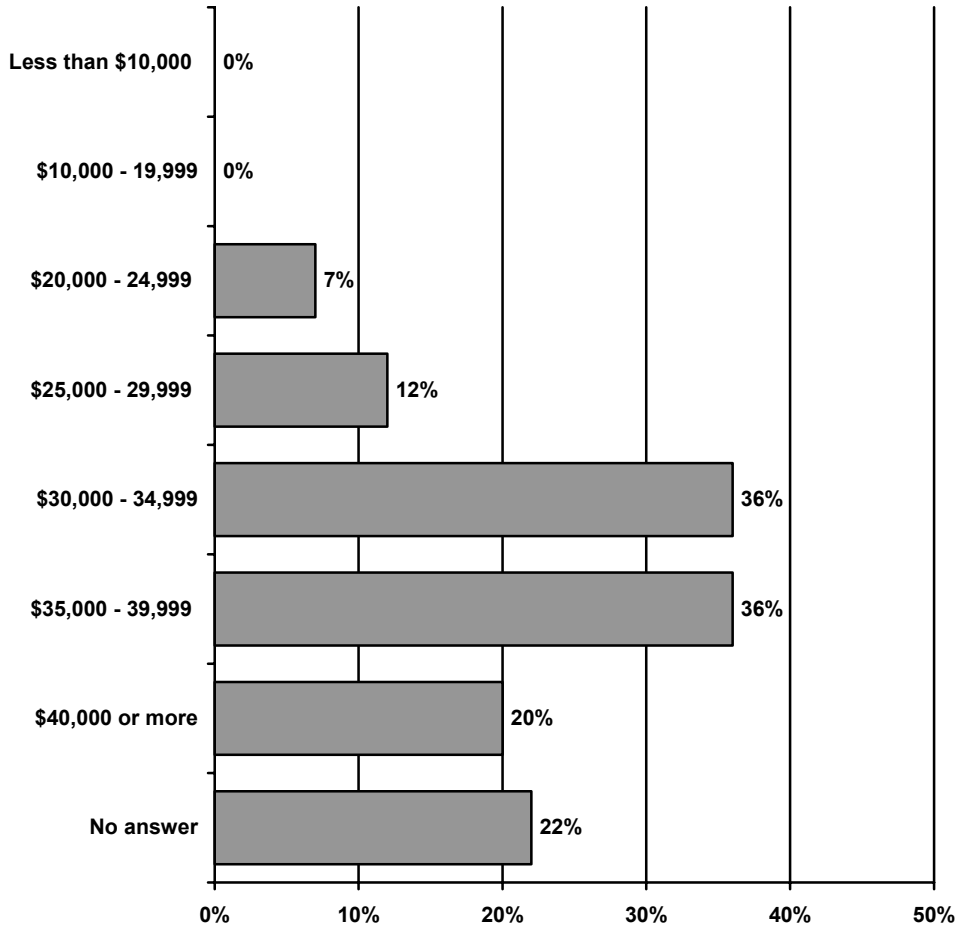
- Number of Job Offers

Respondents indicate that they had received an average of approximately 1 job offer at the time they completed the questionnaire. This is the same as last year, as well as two and three years ago, while four years ago the average was 2 job offers. In addition, the percentage of respondents receiving *at least* one job offer was slightly less than last year – 49% compared to 56%.



- Starting Salary Offered

Respondents who have had one or more job offers indicate that the average starting salary offered to them was approximately \$34,400.



As has been the case for past several years, the starting salary offered increased only slightly in this year's study:

1997:	\$23,000
1998:	26,300
1999:	28,200
2000:	31,800
2001:	32,400
2002:	32,500
2003:	32,700
2004:	34,400

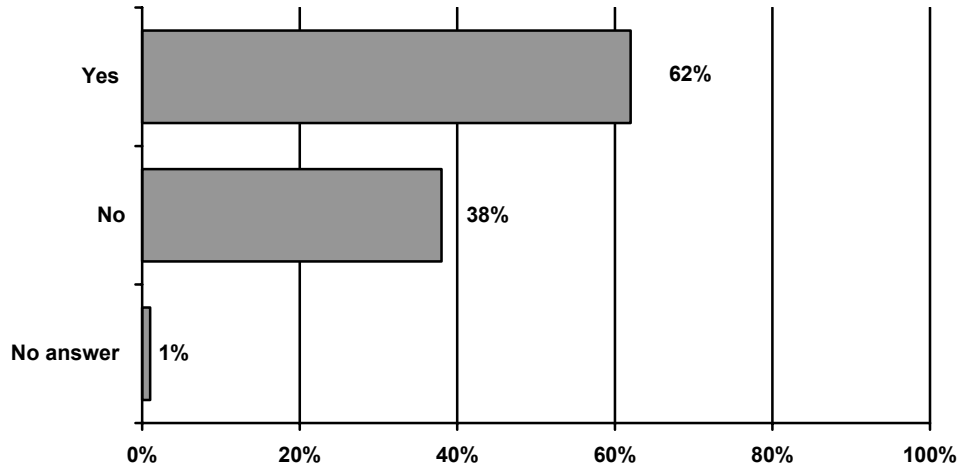
- Important Factors in Job Selection

Respondents were asked to rank a variety of attributes in order from 1 to 6 based on their importance to them in selecting a job. The following chart shows the percentage of respondents ranking a specific attribute number one.



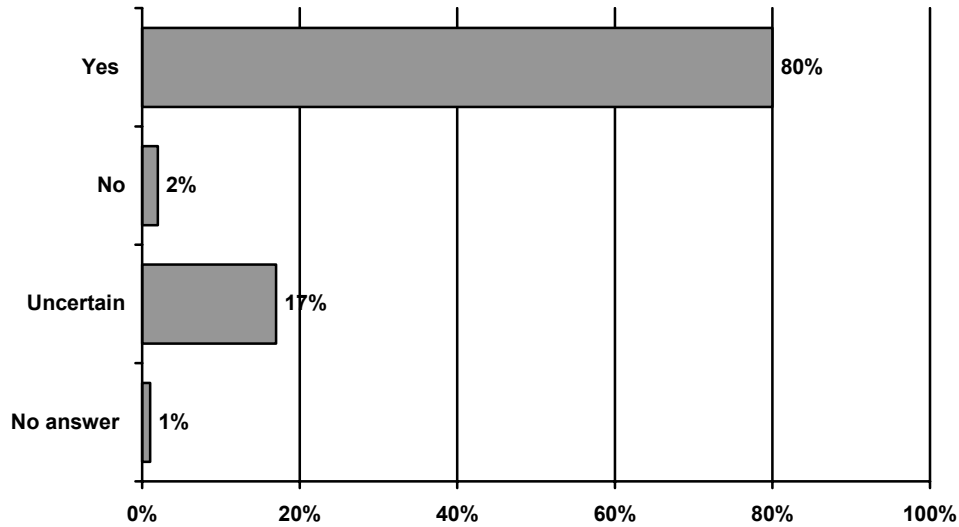
- **Geographical Restrictions**

Close to two-thirds of respondents (62%) indicate that, in their job search, they feel restricted to one geographical area for reasons of necessity or strong personal preference, while 38% do not feel restricted. In the last study, a slightly higher percentage of respondents (66%) indicated that they felt confined to a geographical area.



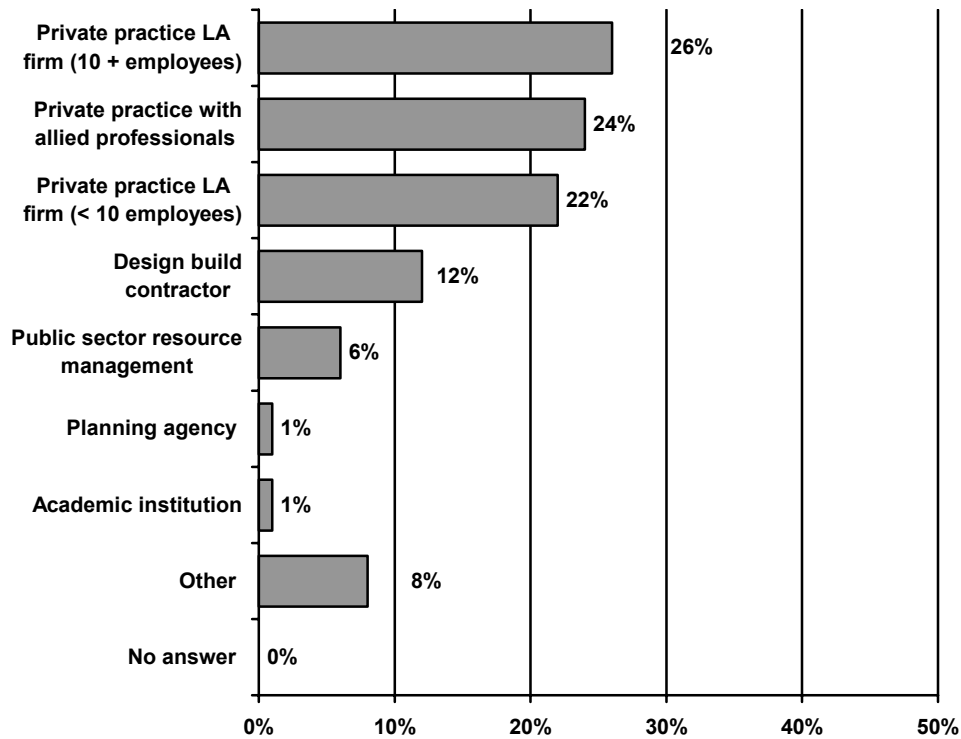
- **State Registration**

A majority of respondents (80%) indicate that they intend to seek state registration as a Landscape Architect. This represents a small decrease from last year, when 83% indicated that they intended to seek state registration.



• Type of Employer [RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE STARTED OR ACCEPTED A JOB]

One hundred and sixty respondents have started or accepted a job. More than one-quarter of these respondents (26%) describe their new employer as a private practice LA firm with 10 or more employees, while 24% describe their employer as a private practice LA firm with allied professionals, and 22% describe their employer as a private practice with less than 10 employees.



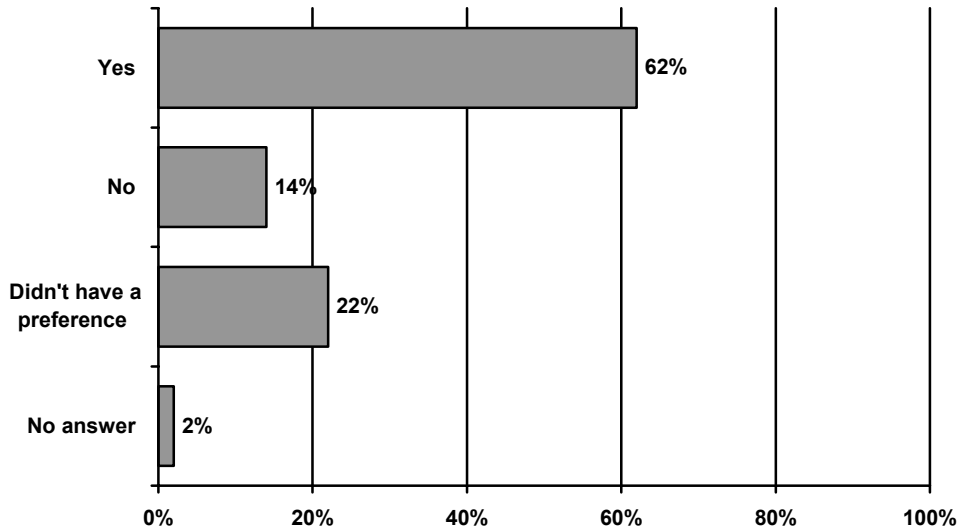
Comparison with previous years:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Private Practice LA firm (<10 employees)	22%	21%	24%	22%	27%	*	*	*
Private Practice LA firm (10+ employees)	26%	29%	30%	28%	26%	*	*	*
TOTAL Private Practice LA firm	48%	50%	54%	50%	53%	46%	60%	50%
Private Practice with Allied Professionals	24%	23%	20%	26%	21%	36%	26%	16%
Design/build Contract	12%	9%	12%	18%	12%	8%	6%	16%
Planning Agency	1%	3%	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%	0%
Public Sector Resource Management	7%	7%	5%	2%	4%	1%	4%	5%
Academic Institution	1%	2%	3%	1%	3%	1%	0%	2%
Other	8%	6%	5%	4%	8%	7%	5%	13%

* (Data not available broken down by size)

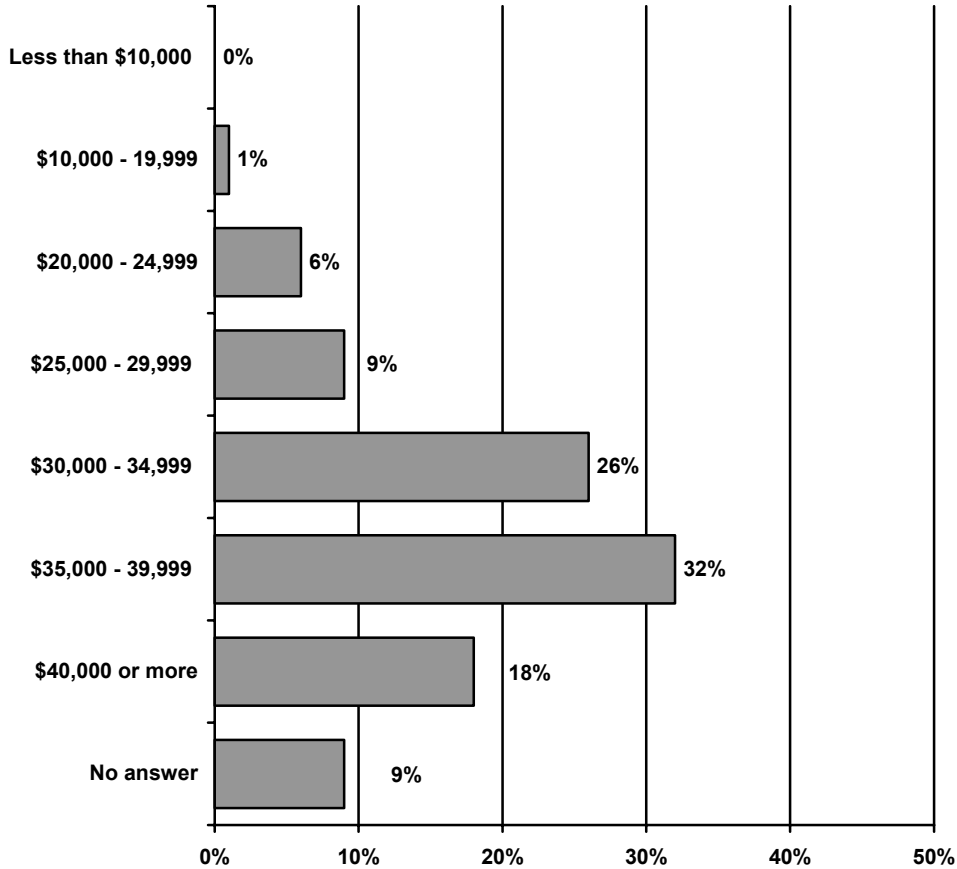
- Preferred Employer Type [RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE STARTED OR ACCEPTED A JOB]

Close to two-thirds of respondents (62%) who have accepted a job indicate that it is with their preferred type of employer, slightly less than last year's 66% of respondents who accepted a job with their preferred type of employer.



- **Starting Salary** [RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE STARTED OR ACCEPTED A JOB]

Among the respondents who report that they have accepted a job offer, the average starting salary was approximately \$34,700. Undergraduate students report an average starting salary of approximately \$34,000 and graduate students report an average starting salary of approximately \$36,800.



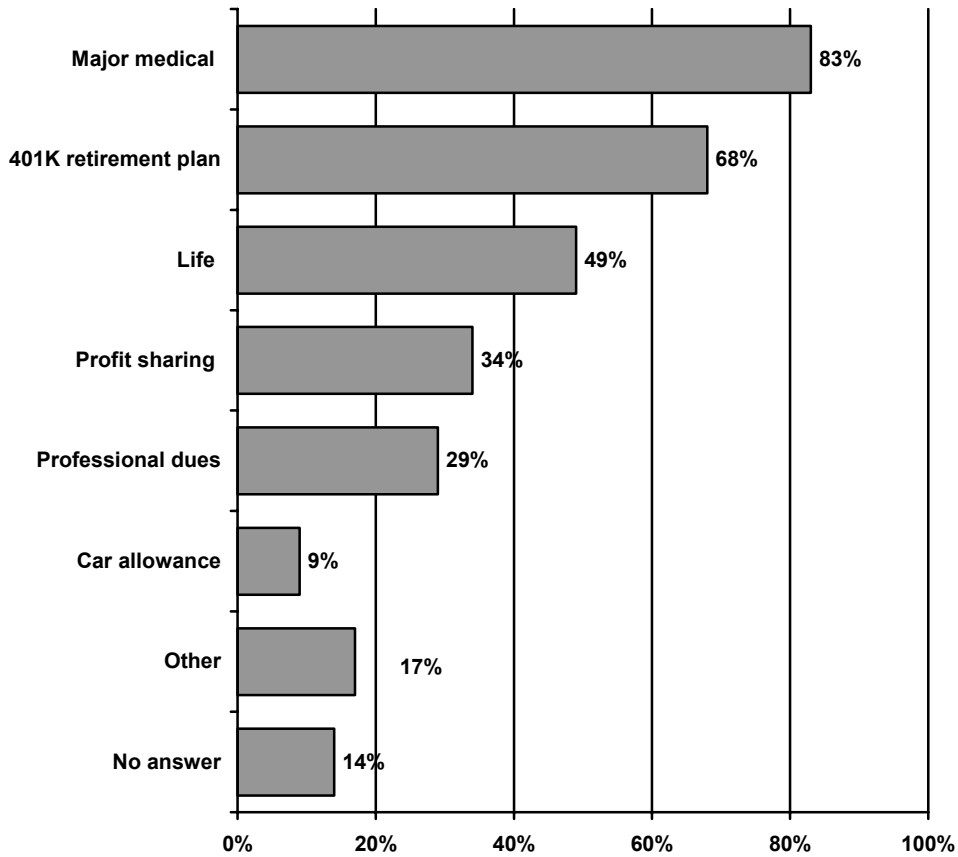
Comparison with previous years:

(AVERAGE SALARY – '000's)

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
All Respondents	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 33	\$ 33	\$ 33	\$ 29	\$ 27	26
Undergraduates	34	34	32	32	31	28	26	25
Graduates	37	41	38	36	39	33	30	29

- **Benefits** [RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE STARTED OR ACCEPTED A JOB]

Respondents indicate that they have a variety of benefits included in their current job. At the top of the list are major medical (83%) and 401K retirement plan (68%).



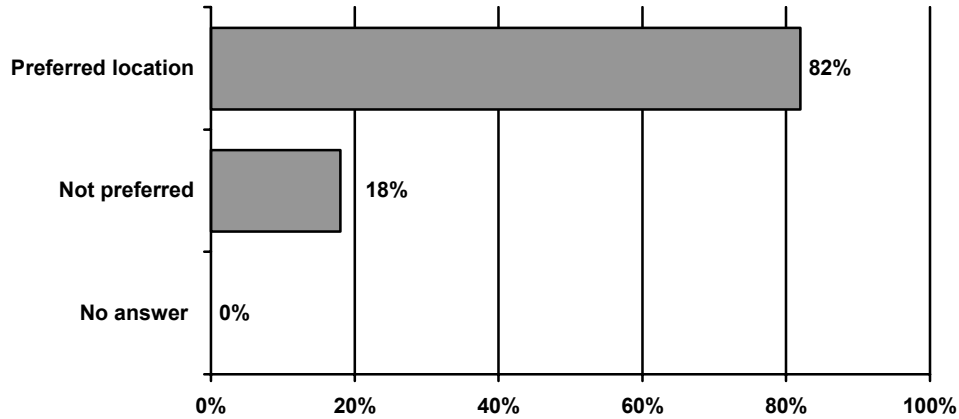
Comparison with previous years:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Major Medical	83%	81%	79%	87%	79%	88%	86%	83%
Life Insurance	49%	38%	36%	44%	38%	54%	35%	34%
Profit Sharing	34%	31%	41%	44%	37%	46%	41%	36%
Car Allowance	9%	9%	11%	12%	15%	16%	14%	28%
Professional Dues	29%	25%	24%	31%	24%	36%	32%	33%
401K Retirement Plan	68%	64%	70%	75%	63%	70%	61%	52%
Other	17%	23%	19%	16%	20%	28%	20%	33%

- **Location** [RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE STARTED OR ACCEPTED A JOB]

Respondents indicate that they will be working in a number of different states, with the largest groups in California (14%), and Florida (13%).

Most respondents (82%) indicate that this is their preferred region. This is a slight decrease from last year – 85% in 2003, but still around the same numbers from previous years--79% in 2002, 81% in 2001, 85% in 2000, 93% in 1999, and 86% in 1998 and 1997.



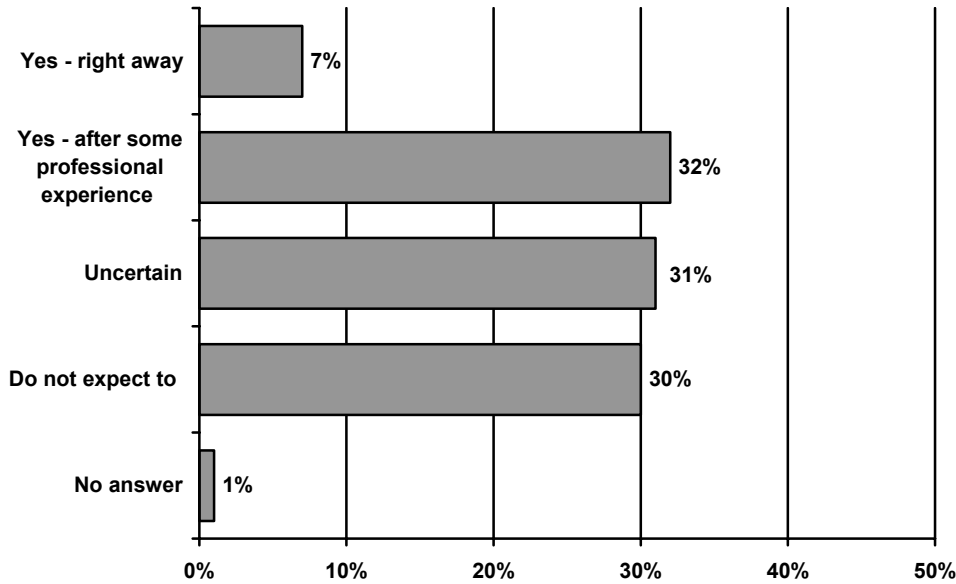
- Summary Comparison of Job-Expectations with Recently Hired Respondents

The following table compares the expectations of respondents during their job search (both those who are still in the job market and those who have accepted jobs) against the job 'realities' of those who have accepted jobs.

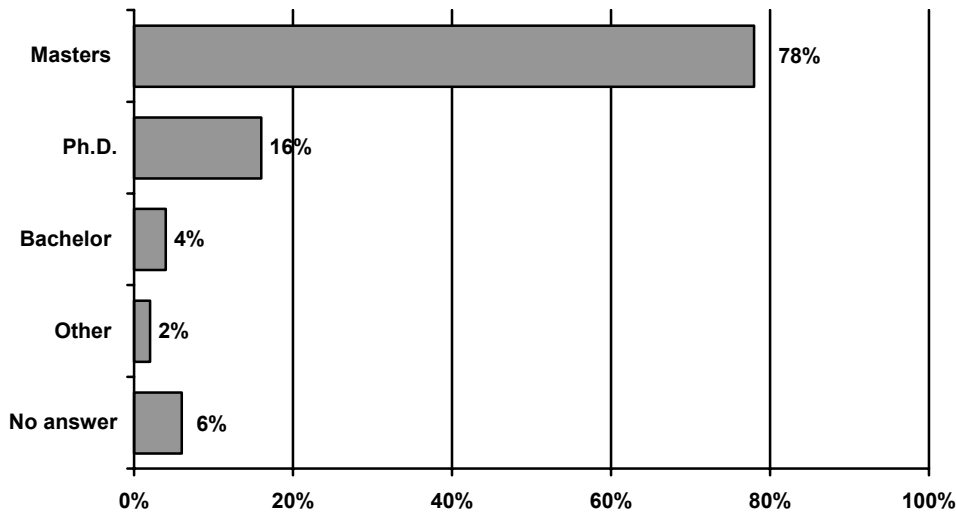
	<u>'expectations'</u> <u>(job search)</u>	<u>'reality'</u> <u>(job accepted)</u>
EMPLOYMENT SECTOR:		
Private practice LA firm (<10 employees)	14 %	22 %
Private practice LA firm (10 or more employees)	28 %	26 %
Private practice LA firm (no pref/not indicated)	18 %	-
	-----	-----
Private practice LA firm TOTAL	60 %	48 %
Private practice with allied professionals	19 %	24 %
Design build contractor	8 %	12 %
Planning agency	1 %	1 %
Public sector resource management	7 %	6 %
Academic institution	2 %	1 %
Other	4 %	8 %
AVERAGE SALARY:		
All respondents	\$ 36,100	\$ 34,700
Undergraduate students	\$ 35,100	\$ 34,000
Graduate students	\$ 38,400	\$ 36,800

- **Additional Schooling**

Close to one-third of respondents (32%) indicate that they anticipate pursuing another degree or additional education after some professional experience, while 31% may do so at some later point (uncertain), and 7% intend to do so right away.



Of the respondents who are planning to pursue another degree, more than three-quarters (78%) indicate that it will be a Masters, while 16% will pursue a Ph.D., and 4% will pursue an additional Bachelor's Degree. This is similar to last year's responses. Most respondents plan to pursue advanced degrees in Landscape Architecture or related areas.



- **After Completing Additional Degree**

More than two-thirds of respondents (69%) who plan to pursue another degree anticipate seeking practice employment once they have completed this degree, while 26% expect to teach in landscape architecture. These numbers have increased since last year.

