

Newsletter (July 2003)

**Development of Purchasing Profession in Hong Kong – Job Market Survey**

Initiated by The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply – Hong Kong Branch (HKCIPS), the students of Higher Diploma in Purchasing and Supply Management of IVE (Sha Tin) has done a research on the current development of purchasing profession in Hong Kong. Owing to the limited space in this newsletter, we would focus on the part of job market survey only.

A job market survey has been conducted from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2002 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2002 in which the students counted the number of jobs posted in Jiu Jik, Job Market, Recruit, and Internet (Careertimes.com / Jobsdb.com).

Table 1: Source of information

	<b>Weekdays</b>	<b>Total no. of jobs</b>	<b>Total no. of purchasing jobs</b>
<b>Jiu Jik</b>	Tuesday & Friday	14,835	2,628
<b>Job Market</b>	Friday	13,607	4,382
<b>Recruit</b>	Tuesday & Friday	16,648	3,423
<b>Internet:</b>	Once a month	29,553	1,927
<b>Total</b>		74,643	12,360

Figure 1: Distribution of Job titles

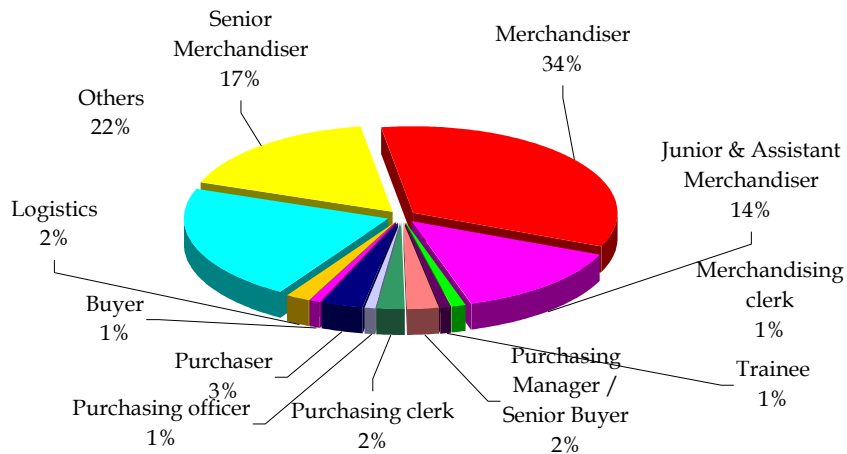


Figure 2: Qualifications required

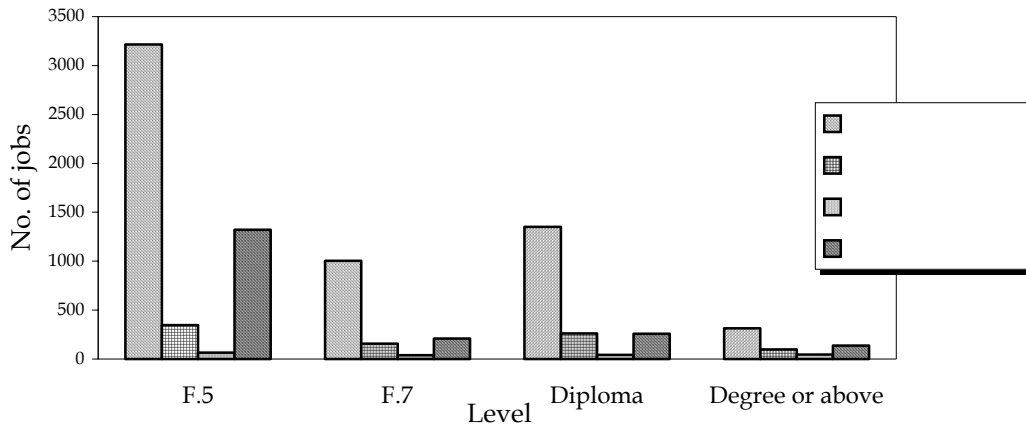
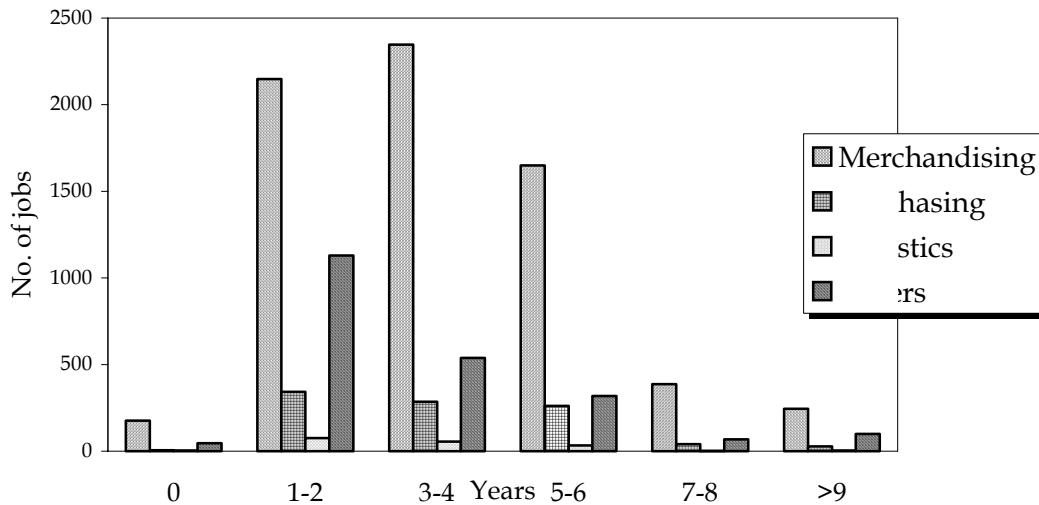


Figure 3: Working experience required



During the economic recession in Hong Kong, the unemployment rate was 7.5% during 1/2003 - 3/2003 (Source: Census and Statistics Department). The total number of jobs is decreasing due to downsizing of firms. However, purchasing jobs increased from 12% to 17% out of the total number of jobs when compared with 2001/2002. It reflected our employment opportunities were optimistic even under economic recession.

The requirements of senior positions and junior positions are different. Normally, senior positions require applicants with 5-7 years of experience in relevant industry plus related academic or professional qualification. Comparatively, junior positions require less experience and qualification. Very few employers (2%) prefer fresh graduates with no working experience at all.

In recruiting a staff, language is an important consideration. Apart from language, other skills are also critical, e.g. interpersonal skill, computer skill and communication skill etc.

Although IVE students are not degree holders, they are competitive with hands on skills that were learnt in IVE, e.g. practical experience in attachment programmes, skill in doing projects, learning ability and computer skill. Due to the changing environment and keen competition, they must improve their competitive advantages.

The job market survey also shows a good prospect in purchasing. Despite the economic recession and high unemployment rate in Hong Kong, the number of purchasing jobs is still increasing, which means the demand of purchasing professionals is relatively higher than that of other professions.

In view of this, IVE (ST) is going to launch a new Higher Diploma course in Supply Chain Management to replace the current one in Purchasing and Supply Management to support the HKSAR government's strategic initiative to make Hong Kong a leading supply chain base and to meet the growing demand for the supply chain professionals.

With the support from professional bodies like The Chartered Institute of Purchasing & supply (CIPS), Institute for Supply Management (ISM) and The Institute of Purchasing & Supply of Hong Kong (IPSHK), we believe that the professional status of purchasing will be widely recognized and the employability of purchasing graduates will be enhanced.