ABSTRACT

Since the formation of the Department of Building in National University of Singapore (NUS) in 1968, the number of graduates had increased substantially to meet the demands required by the construction industry.

This study investigates the mobility of Building graduates as well as the factors that influence them to leave the industry. Labour mobility is considered in terms of occupational mobility and job change.

A survey was carried out on graduates from 1972 – 1999 from information available in BEMA Professionals 2000. 197 completed and 126 partially completed questionnaires were received through telephone interview and e-mail.

The highest number of jobs changed was seven by a graduate who worked for more than 20 years. The result displayed no extreme difference in the individual cases. In addition, job satisfaction and environment were the main reasons behind mobility.

Logistic regression was used to identify the factors affecting graduates’ decision in staying in the construction industry. Five factors were found to significantly affect their choices. They are: number of working hours, interest, reputation of company, prospects of industry and family commitment. The results implied the graduates were concerned with these factors for their career movements.