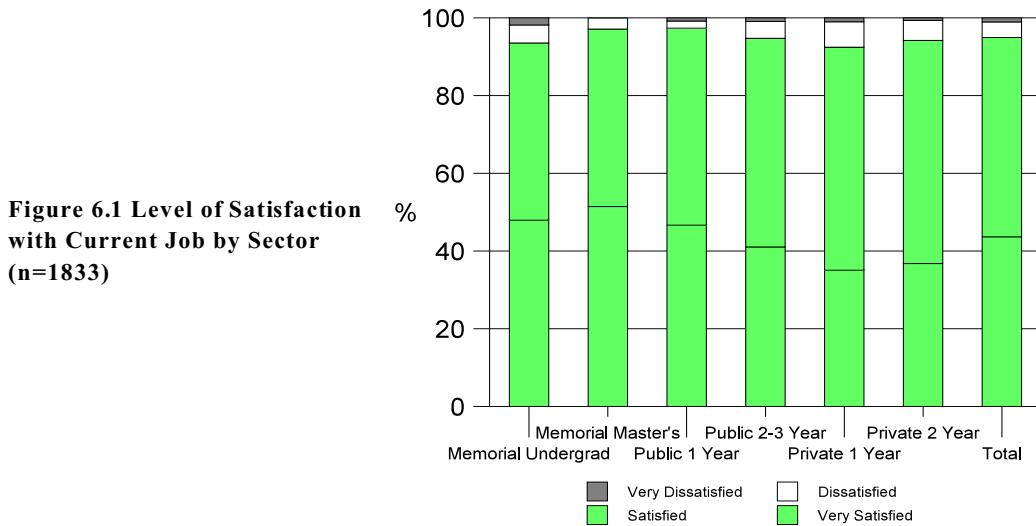


6. GRADUATE SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT JOB

6.1 OVERALL SATISFACTION

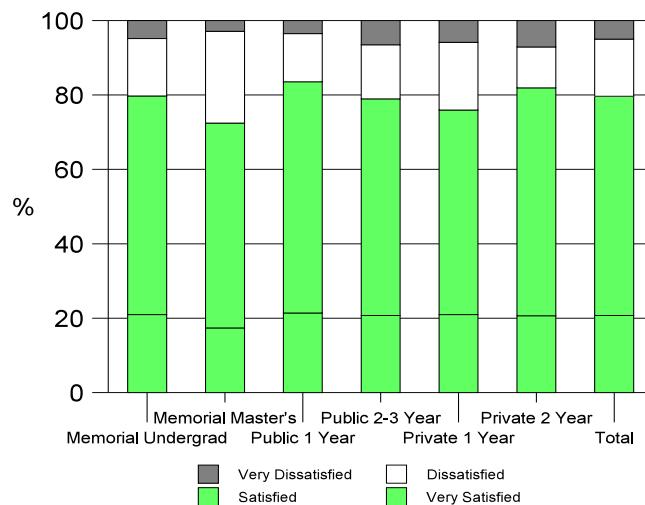
Post-secondary graduates invest a great deal of time, energy and money in acquiring their education with the goal of finding a rewarding and satisfying job at the completion of their studies. Figure 6.1 shows that while there was some variation among educational sectors, 95% of all respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with their current job. Memorial University master's graduates were the most satisfied in their current position while private college one-year program graduates reported the greatest dissatisfaction. Seven percent (7%) of Memorial University undergraduate respondents reported being dissatisfied with their current job and this may be a reflection of these undergraduates' credentials surpassing the level of education required for their job (see Section 4.7). This might also explain why almost 25% of this cohort had looked for other work during the four weeks prior to the 2000-2001 survey (see Section 6.5).



6.2 SATISFACTION WITH EARNINGS

Figure 6.2 shows 80% of respondents overall were satisfied or very satisfied with their earnings from their current job. Graduates of public college one-year programs were the most satisfied (84%) with their current wages. Although high percentages of master's graduates reported high earnings, a high number (28%) also reported dissatisfaction with their wages.

Figure 6.2 Level of Satisfaction with Current Wages by Sector (n=1827)



As shown in Table 6.2, graduates reporting the highest weekly wages also reported the greatest satisfaction with their jobs. However, the personal satisfaction that graduates take from their jobs can sometimes outweigh the wages. A small portion of graduates from Memorials' master's programs reported earning less than \$320 per week yet all of these graduates indicated that they were satisfied with their current wages. At the other end of the wage spectrum, 25% of Memorial's master's respondents earning the highest weekly income of more than \$800 indicated they were dissatisfied with their wages.

A high percentage of private college one-year (88%) and two-year program (89%) graduates in the lowest wage category reported satisfaction with their wages despite the fact that these graduates earn less than \$17,000 a year. In contrast, approximately 28% of respondents from Memorial undergraduate and public college two- and three-year programs reported dissatisfaction with their wages despite making between \$29,172 and \$41,600 yearly.

FAST-FORWARD: 5-YEAR POST-SECONDARY GRADUATE FOLLOW-UP STUDY

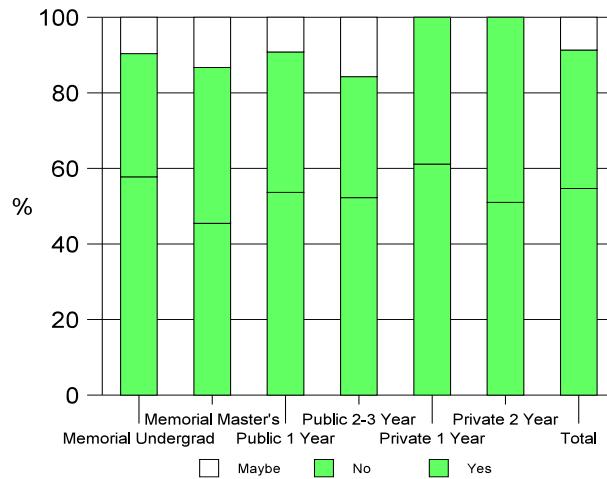
**Table 6.2 Level of Satisfaction with Current Wages by Wage Category and Sector
(n=1625)**

		Weekly Wages				
		<\$320	\$321-\$560	\$561-\$800	>\$800	Total
Memorial Undergraduate	Satisfied	69.6	69.5	72.5	90.7	80.0
	Dissatisfied	30.4	30.5	27.5	9.3	20.0
Memorial Master's	Satisfied	100.0	83.4	52.2	75.0	72.1
	Dissatisfied	0.0	16.6	47.8	25.0	27.9
Public College 1 Year	Satisfied	69.0	78.6	88.0	98.0	83.2
	Dissatisfied	31.0	21.4	12.0	2.0	16.8
Public College 2-3 Year	Satisfied	76.0	77.8	71.5	91.2	79.2
	Dissatisfied	24.0	22.2	28.5	8.8	20.8
Private College 1 Year	Satisfied	88.0	93.5	91.5	100.0	91.5
	Dissatisfied	12.0	6.5	8.5	0.0	8.5
Private College 2 Year	Satisfied	89.2	93.4	100.0	90.9	93.4
	Dissatisfied	10.8	6.6	0.0	9.1	6.6
Total	Satisfied	79.1	81.6	77.8	89.4	82.6
	Dissatisfied	20.9	18.4	22.2	10.6	17.4

6.3 GRADUATES' WILLINGNESS TO MOVE TO IMPROVE THEIR JOB PROSPECTS

Overall, over half (55%) of respondents indicated they would be willing to move to improve their job prospects (Figure 6.3). Graduates of private college one-year programs (61%) and Memorial University undergraduates (58%) would be most willing to move while 45% of graduates from Memorial's master's cohort, perhaps the most mature and settled segment of the 1995 graduate population, stated they would be unwilling to move to improve their job prospects.

Figure 6.3 Percentage of Respondents Willing to Move to Improve their Job Prospects by Sector (n=1894)



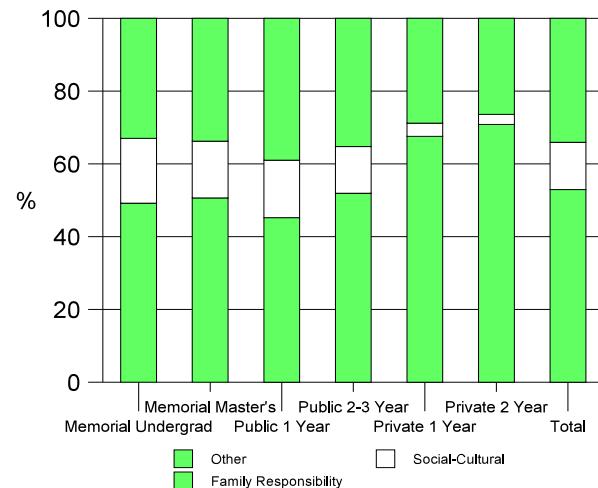
There were some differences noticed between the genders based on their willingness to move. Overall, 48% of female respondents indicated they would be willing to move to improve their job prospects compared to 62% of male respondents.

6.3.1 WHY GRADUATES WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO MOVE

As shown in Figure 6.3.1, the majority (53%) of respondents indicated family responsibilities as the main reason they would be unwilling to move to improve their job prospects. Graduates of private college one-year and two-year programs more frequently indicated they had family responsibilities which prevented their mobility. Additionally, more female respondents (62%) than males (53%), and married respondents (56%) than single (43%), cited family responsibilities as the reason. The age of graduates was also a deciding factor with the willingness of graduates decreasing with age. In fact, 60% of graduates in the 25-29 year age group indicated a willingness to move compared to just 43% in the 40-44 year age group and 38% in the 45-49 age group.

While a small minority of respondents (13%) indicated that social or cultural reasons prevented them from moving, the remaining respondents (34%) indicated cost of living in other locations, prohibitive moving expenses, lack of guaranteed employment in a new location, educational or professional recognition issues, being established in home and community, and satisfaction with current job as reasons for not moving.

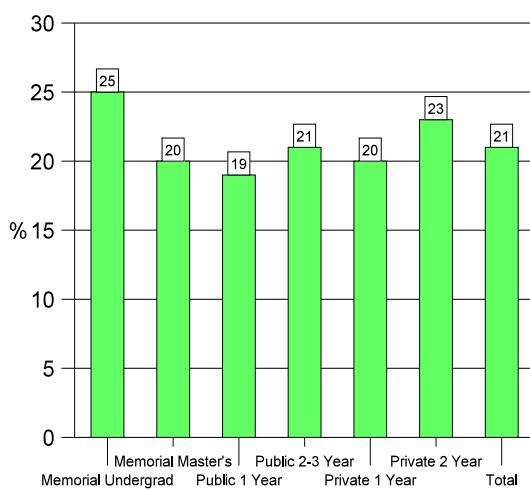
Figure 6.3.1 Reasons for Not Moving to Improve Job Prospects by Sector (n=848)



6.4 EMPLOYED GRADUATES WHO ARE LOOKING FOR OTHER EMPLOYMENT

A substantial minority (21%) of respondents employed at the time of survey had looked for other employment in the four weeks prior to the survey (Figure 6.4). Generally, graduates are looking for employment to replace (82%) or supplement (9%) their current job. Memorial University undergraduates had the highest reported percentage (25%) of employed respondents who were actively seeking other employment.

Figure 6.4 Employed Graduates Actively Seeking Other Employment in 2000-2001 by Sector (n=1839)



6.4.1 REASONS RESPONDENTS SOUGHT OTHER EMPLOYMENT

As shown in Figure 6.4.1, the main reason (38%) employed respondents were seeking other employment was to improve their pay or working conditions. Surprisingly, the lowest percentage of respondents citing this reason were private college one-year and two-year program graduates who also reported earning the lowest wages of all sectors. Twenty-two percent (22%) of respondents overall, and 37% and 31%, respectively, of Memorial master's and undergraduate respondents, cited "Other" reasons including seasonal jobs, job security, or a change of work as reasons for seeking other employment. It is interesting to note that 9% of respondents were looking for another job with a different location, either closer to their home or in another region.

