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WANTED: WORK

College student with bachelors
degree desires to work
anywhere. MUST have job,
graduating in June and can't
remain in school any longer.
Minimum salary: \$4,500. Will do
almost anything. Must get a job.

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**THE
JOB
GAP**

Stories by Carol Goetschius, Marsha Kahm and Bill Smitherman

**Nationwide
job picture
looks tight
for grads**

Although the name of the campus changes, the story remains the same across the country: this year's graduates face a tight job market and, for many, unemployment is a very real possibility.

The word from placement officials in other parts of the country is that there will be one or perhaps two job offers for individuals where once there were eight or ten. Many students won't get their first choice, and some students won't have even one choice.

"A fair number of students aren't going to get jobs by graduation. Most students got something last year if they were serious. This year it's going to be different," said Norman Frisbey, Pen State University placement director.

WHILE THE NUMBER of job-hunting seniors isn't getting any smaller, the number of campus-recruiting employers has shrunk.

Compared with 1969-70 figures, placement officials at several Big Eight schools estimate a 30 per cent drop in employers recruiting on campus this year.

Iowa University expects 200 less than its 474 recruiting firms of a year ago, and 90 out of 307 companies have canceled visits to Kansas State University this semester. By the end of February last year, Oklahoma university had hosted 371 companies. The record this year is 219 company visits by February.

OUTSIDE THE Midwest, the job opportunities picture is similar. Visits from recruiting companies are down 30-35

per cent at the University of Southern California, according to Mrs. William Aldacushion, assistant placement director.

The University of Michigan has lost 300 of the 3,000 companies and school districts recruiting on campus last year, said Evert W. Ardis, placement director.

A College Placement Council survey of 140 colleges and universities reports that, as of February, job offers for young persons with bachelor's degrees were down 61 per cent. Offers for graduate with a masters degree were down 12 per cent while those for Ph. D's were down 78 per cent.

Whether calling it tight money, business caution or a recession, many placement directors have credited the economy for the drop in job opportunities.

"COMPANIES ARE taking a cautious look at the way they're spending their money," said Bruce Laughlin, Kansas State University placement director. Companies believe they can get an immediate return on their investment by hiring experienced personnel instead of young persons fresh out of college, he said.

Other officials cite the drop off of retail sales this year for many companies, who are then cautious about hiring new personnel. Michigan's placement director said many companies recruiting on campus have no jobs to offer but are trying to keep the lines of communication open.

Paradoxically, during this business slowdown, it's the business majors, especially accountants, who seem to be faring best in the job market, according to the placement directors across the United States placement directors seem to agree that the Ph.D. in engineering and science and the liberal arts graduate are having the most difficult time finding jobs with companies.

The nation's schools, along with businesses, are suffering from a shortage of funds, said Jerry R. Gibson, assistant director in education placement at USC.

"MANY school districts are broke or are hanging on by the skin of their teeth," he said. "If the schools had adequate funds, then class sizes could be smaller and schools would need more teachers".

According to some directors, the slump in job opportunities is due to a labor market saturated with educated people. Cut-backs in federal and private funding for research projects have thrown college graduates back into the job market.

"There are so many experienced people available that the inexperienced are having a hard time," said Helen M. Barnes, placement director at Iowa State. These experienced people are going to the companies, so businesses don't have to recruit as much on campus, she said.

Adding to the job market is a greater number of men returning from the armed forces this year, Barnes said.

And several directors mentioned that companies that do recruit on campus are offering fewer jobs because the rate of acceptance is so high. Companies could normally count on a certain number of rejections, but this isn't the case anymore.

FOR A LONG time there was a shortage of teachers, but "those days are gone," said Laughlin. "Overall teaching opportunities are less promising than for many years".

Leslie P. Evans, Texas Christian University placement director, attributes part of the drop in teaching opportunities to the wide acceptance and use of birth control.

Referring to Ft. Worth schools, Evans said that there are fewer maternity leaves and the time a new mother would remain out of teaching has dropped from about five years to a ninety-day leave, he said.

There's still a need in rural areas, but urban schools are tough market to crack. Consensus is that social science and English majors in teaching are having the roughest time finding jobs while the demand is still good for special education, math, science and most business teachers.

On the brighter side, Laughlin said: "I still think the most outstanding candidates academically and in outside activities--the real All-American types--will continue to receive as many offers as previously".



The University Placement Office bulletin board reflects bleak job outlook for 1971 graduates.