

## Crisis strikes: increasing number of unemployed recent graduates

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Graduates from Varese are disadvantaged because of the crisis. The persistent economic difficulties do not benefit the recent graduates who, at the end of their academic careers, do not have great job prospects.

This is the quite worrying picture reported in "*Specula Lombardia 2014*", the study carried out by Formaper, who analysed the trend in the labour market for students who graduated in the past three years. However, the picture is incomplete because it does not take into account self-employed labour and internships, moreover it registers only the employment in Lombardy and those who work outside of the Region or abroad are unaccounted for.

Having said that, the percentage of employed graduates is 46% and, many of them have been recruited in the personal care services sector. Most of the graduate employed are engineers (66,5% found an occupation within a year from the graduation), those who chose a career in economics have good prospects (55%), whereas the demand for graduates in any branches of law is lower (27%). Recent graduate architects and structural engineers are in difficulties (31%), but also the recent graduates in psychology (30.6%).

Considering the various sectors, the data show a lower investment on high-qualified young graduates by the local manufacturing factories (-4.1% in the employment of graduates last year), with the exception of plastics, chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

However, in this context of employment shortage the personal care services is still a strong sector, especially thanks to social care and services for business, which increased the employment of recent graduates (11%).

The uncertainty of the local labour market has thus discouraged the demand for new employment especially of youngsters. The picture is also worrisome because it reflects a lower employment of highly specialized youngsters by local manufacturing plants. The employment rate has decreased also in transports and logistics, especially because of the downsizing of the airport hub of Malpensa.

In addition to lower job opportunities, the lower use of indefinite contracts not even partially offset by apprenticeship worsened the employment context. The use of fixed-term contracts has lowered as well, but on the other hand there has been an increase in internships, which sometimes lead to abuse.

The crisis of the different sectors, therefore, did not spare even the advanced training, usually more protected with a progressive loss of jobs that, in Varese, came close to 16% against 10.4% in Lombardy.

Redazione VareseNews  
redazione@varesenews.it