

NIFU

Nordic Institute for Studies in
Innovation, Research and Education



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The Norwegian Graduate Survey

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NIFUs Graduate survey

- Conducted since 1972
- Addressing mainly graduates with a master's degree, groups of bachelors are included on a less regular basis
- Covers most HEIs and the vast majority of master graduates in Norway
- Sample size: 6 – 8000 graduates
- Financed by the Ministry of Education
- Focusing on national trends rather than results per institution

Main topics covered

- **Transition from higher education to work**

- Employment/unemployment
- Skills mismatch
- Job search strategies
- Wages
- Type of job

- **Former experience**

- Working experience
- Study sojourn abroad

- **Further education**

- **Assesment of study programme and HEI**

- **Background characteristics/sociodemographic variables**

Two types of surveys

● «Regular» surveys

- conducted 6 months after graduation
- conducted bianually
- questionnaire remains more or less the same
- long time series

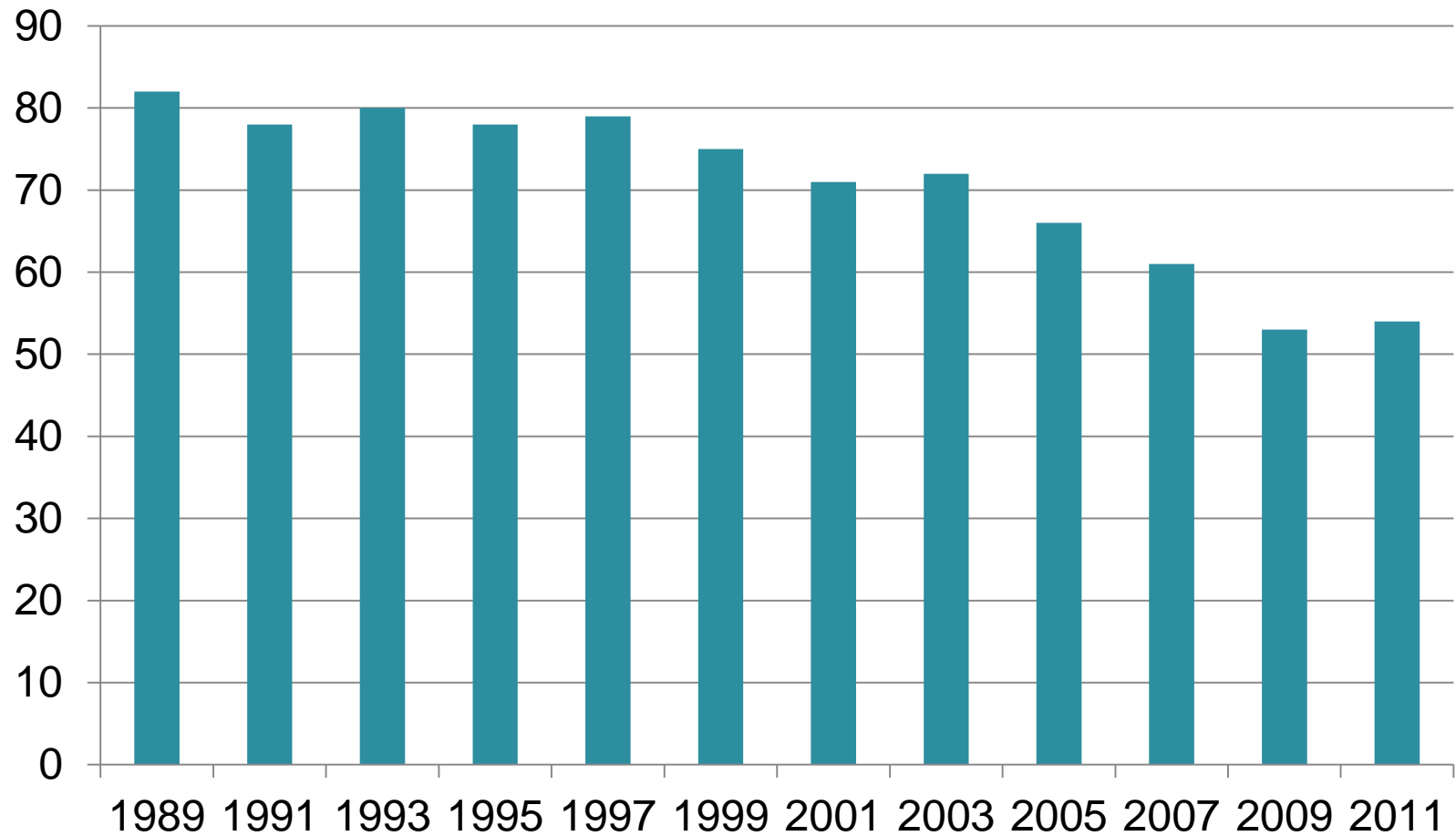
● «Special» surveys

- targeting graduates several years after graduation (e.g. 2,4 or 8 years after graduation)
- targeting particular groups of graduates (e.g. bachelor students, graduates with education from abroad)
- More flexible questionnaire

Examples of «special» graduate surveys

- 1998/1999: CHEERS
- 2002: Graduates who have undertaken HE abroad (mobile students and immigrants)
- 2004 Panel study 4 years after graduation
- 2005: REFLEX
- 2007: Nordic graduate survey (including Finland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands)
- 2008: Panel study 8 years after graduation
- 2011: Study of professions

Response rate, regular surveys 1989 - 2011



Dissemination of results

- NIFU website
- NIFU reports
- Scientific publications (articles, book chapters)
- Presentations in national and international fora
- Analyses on demand
- HEIs get access to data from their own institution

Some strengths of the survey

- Continuity – time series, standardized procedures and definitions
- Flexibility; possible to draw additional samples and include additional topics
- Detailed information on type of job (manual coding)
- Analyzed by a research institute - contextualization
- Fairly high response rate

Challenges

- Decreasing response rate
- HEIs do their own graduate surveys
- Budget cuts / financial insecurity
- Further development of website that gives HEIs access to results
- Open access to results per institution?

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