**School-To-Work Transition for University Graduates in Mauritius:
A Duration Model Approach**

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June 2006

Abstract

The time students take to obtain a job having completed their studies is a crucial indicator of the degree of efficiency of the labour market as well as of the overall state of an economy. This paper examines school-to-work transition (STWT) for University of Mauritius (UoM) graduates who completed their degree during the period 1995-2000. To date STWT studies have focused on developed countries given the scarcity of relevant data in the non-developed world. This study constitutes the first attempt to model the duration of job search in Mauritius based on data gathered by the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC). We determine the direction of the duration dependence and uncover those observable characteristics which affect the duration of job search. We employ a variety of survival frameworks and also control for unobserved heterogeneity. The gamma frailty log-normal model is found to fit the data best. An inverted U-shaped baseline hazard prevails in the graduate labour market. A higher age at graduation and a higher father education increase the job search time for graduates. While a higher mother education and postgraduate training lead to a lower job search time. Management and engineering graduates experience a smaller job search period than science and social science graduates. In addition graduates from urban areas have a lower job search time than their rural counterparts. Male graduates and female graduates on average experience the same job search duration.

Keywords: School-To-Work Transition, Duration Models, Mauritius

JEL Classification: C41, J64