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What are the job prospects for the approximately 1,500 students who will receive degrees May 6 at University of Dayton Arena?

Greg Hayes, executive director of career services for the University of Dayton, said there is a 4 to 6 percent increase in the number of jobs available for the nation’s college graduates this spring. Hayes said that is down compared to 2006 when hiring was up nearly 14 percent, the best job market for college graduates since 2000.

Hayes evaluates this year’s job market as a five on a scale from one to 10. Nationwide, large companies in the manufacturing, utilities, transportation, finance and insurance sectors are hiring more than others, according to Hayes. Compared to last year, hiring has slowed in the retail, real estate and construction industries, although demand for civil engineers remains strong.

Overall, graduates with master’s in business administration degrees, along with sales and marketing and accounting majors are in the greatest demand. Nationwide demand for engineering and computer science degrees also are strong, he added.

UD's top undergraduate majors this year are marketing, public relations, accounting and early childhood education.

Companies turned increasingly to career fairs to meet students. “UD saw a rise in the number of companies participating in spring and fall career fairs, with a 43 percent increase in the fall event and a 65 percent jump in the spring event,” Hayes said. “However, the number of on-campus recruiters remained the same.” Hayes said starting salaries vary by major, but in general, graduates can expect a rise of 2 to 3 percent over last year.