Postgraduates and the Recession

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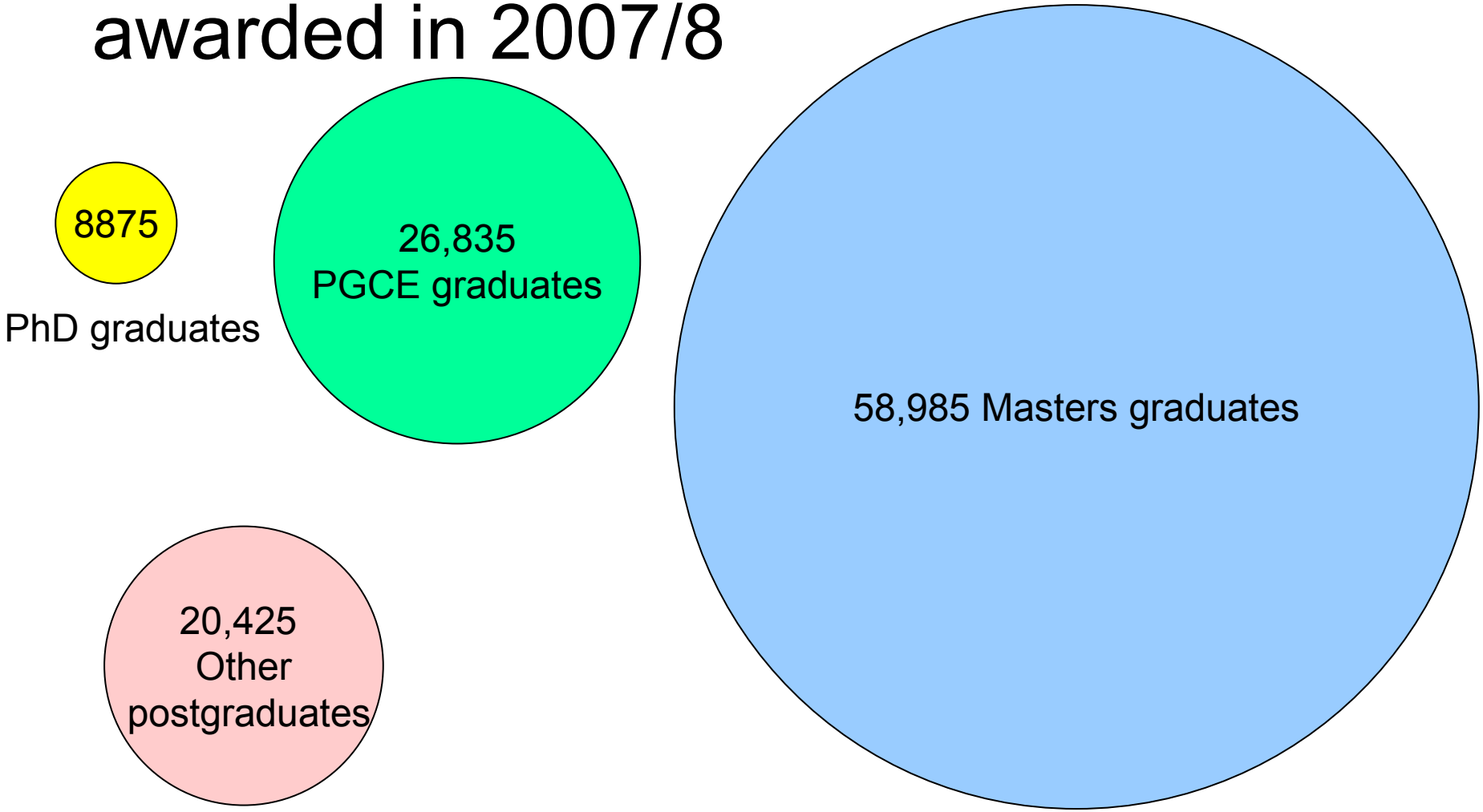
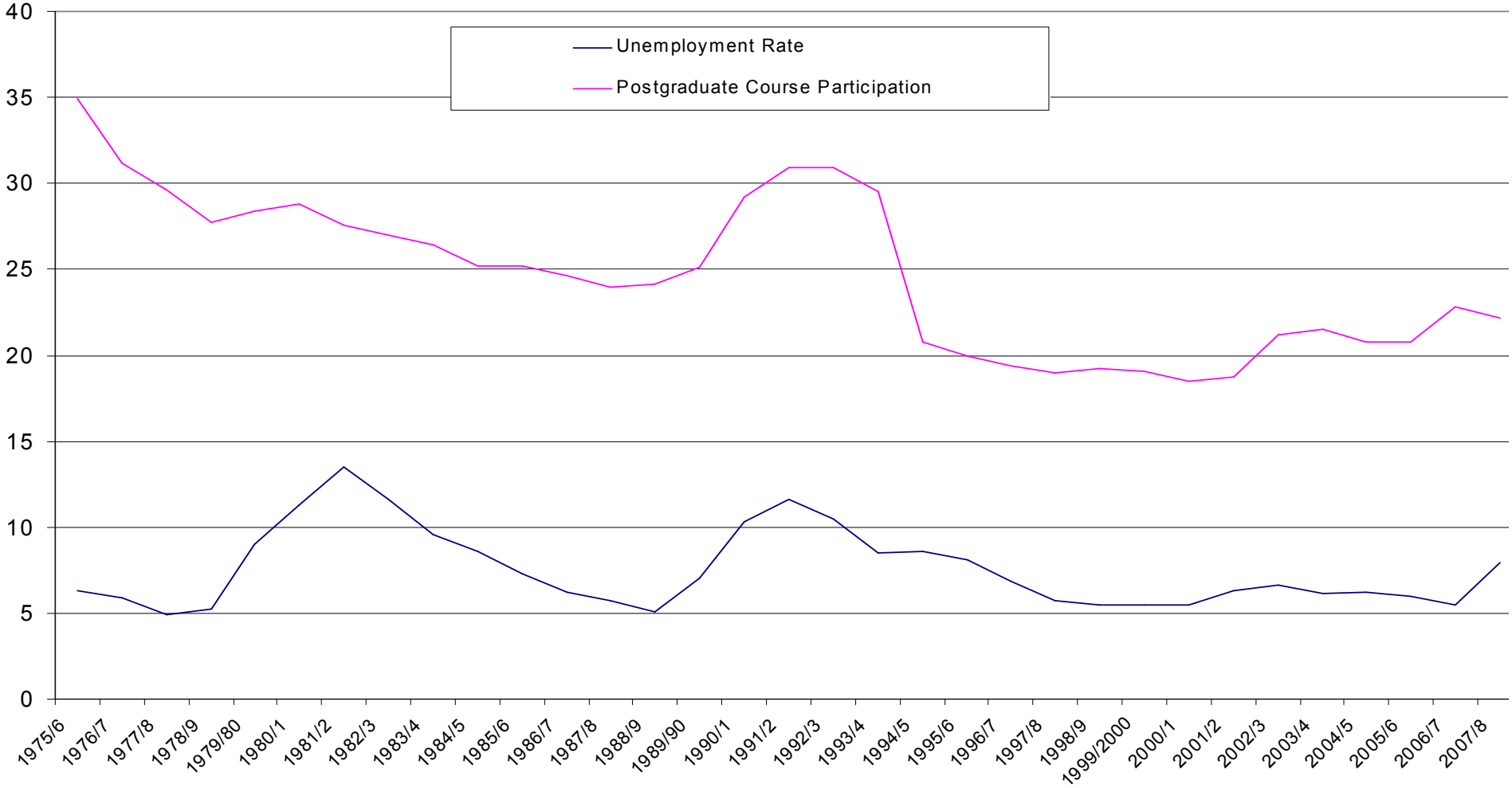
Demographics: Postgraduate degrees awarded in 2007/8



How postgraduate course participation varies with early graduate unemployment



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Postgraduate unemployment in the last recession

	85/86	86/87	87/88	88/89	89/90	90/91	91/92	92/93	93/94	94/95	95/96	96/97	97/98
Unemployment rate	2.7%	2.4%	2.2%	2.4%	2.3%	3.9%	5.4%	5.3%	4.7%	4.6%	5.0%	4.1%	3.9%

Most popular Masters subjects in 2007/8 (UK domiciled only)

Business studies (3760 graduates)
Management studies (3085 graduates)
Academic studies in education (2110 graduates)
Psychology (1930 graduates)
History (1580 graduates)
Politics (1545 graduates)

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On the increase in the last 5 years

Planning (up 222%, 430 to 1380)
Management studies (up 97%, 1565 to 3085)
Civil engineering (up 88%, 285 to 535)
Social policy (up 75%, 455 to 795)
Nursing (up 69%, 445 to 755)
Politics (up 68%, 920 to 1545)
Academic studies in education (up 67%, 1260 to 2110)
Psychology (up 54%, 1255 to 1930)

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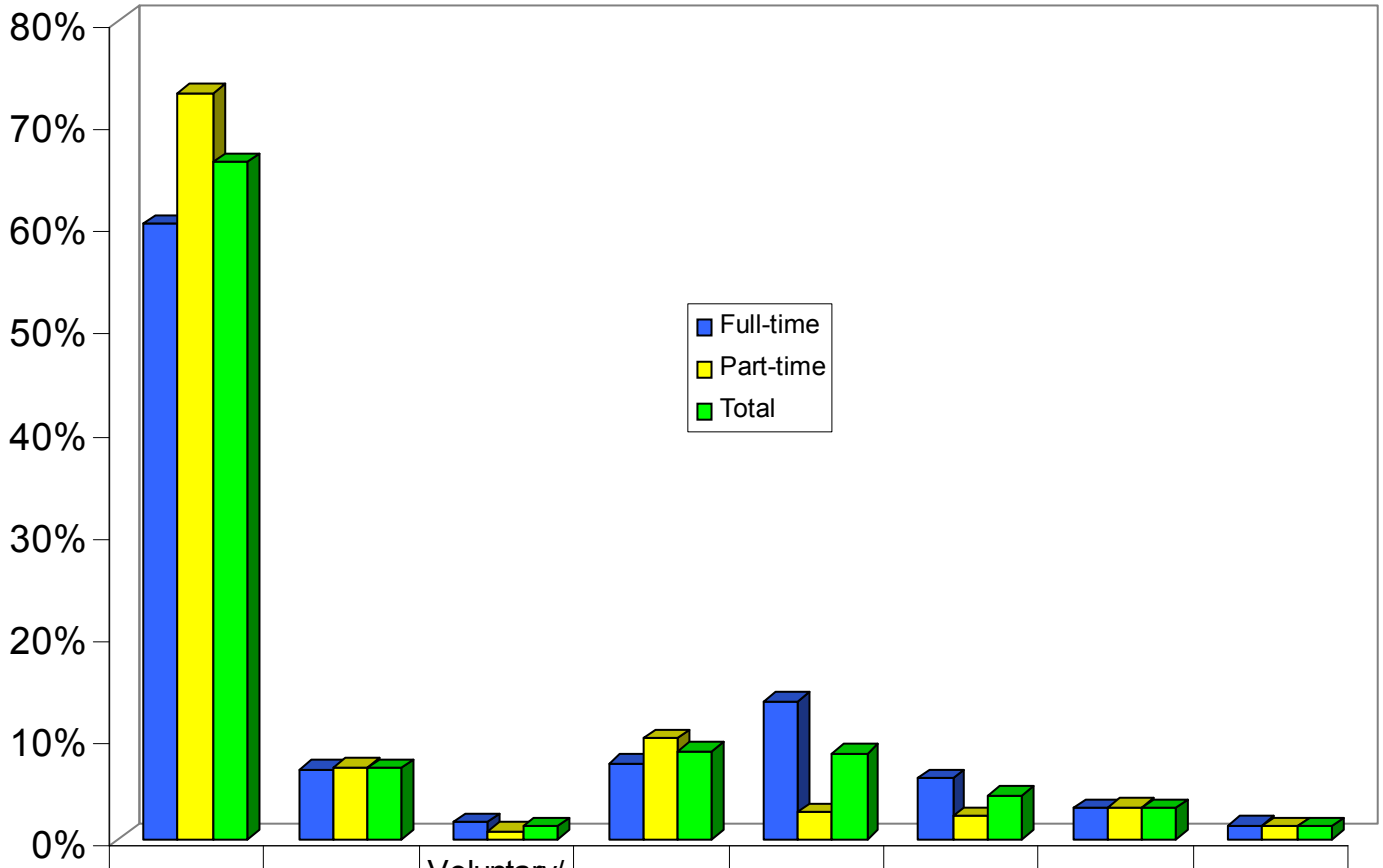
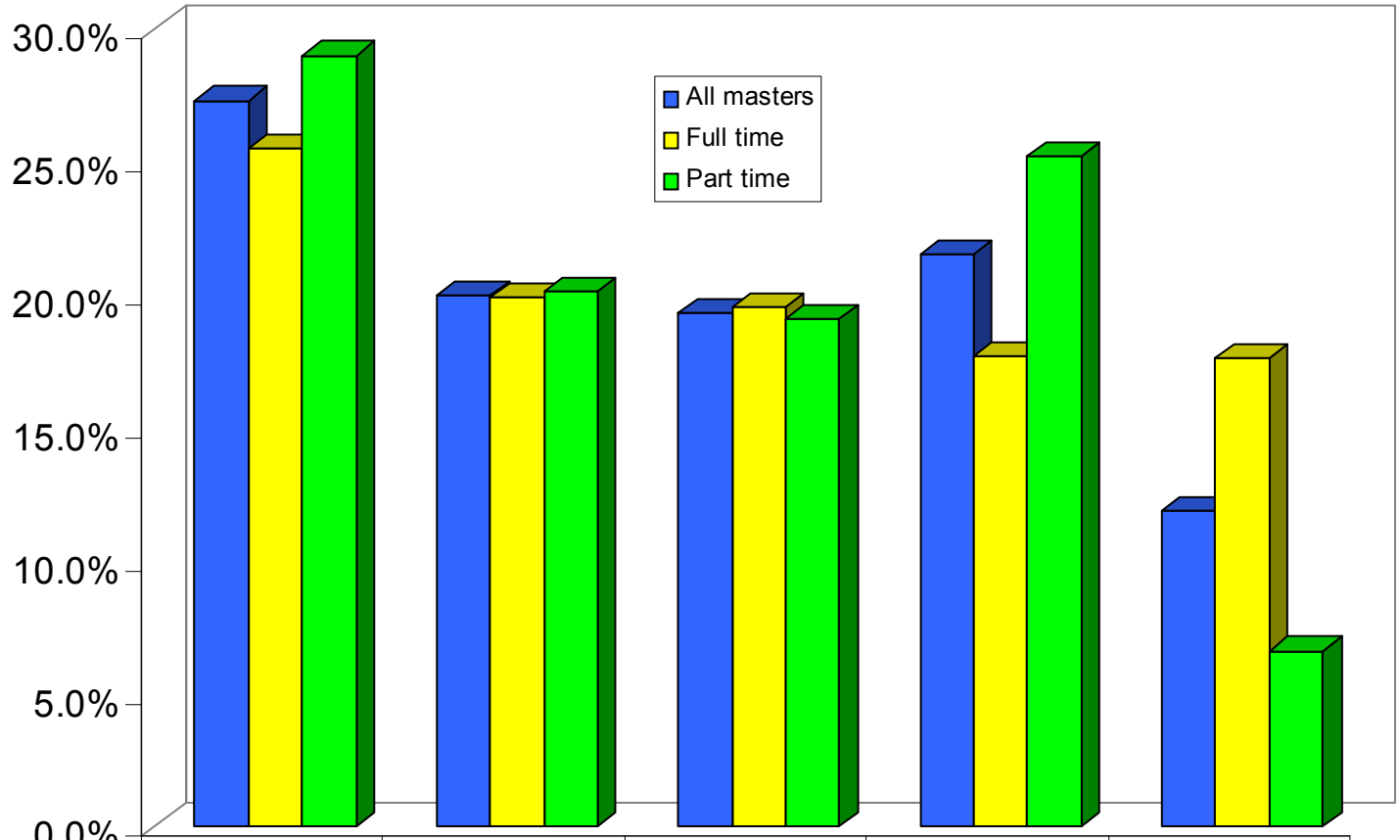
Masters early outcomes – part time and full time



	Full-time work	Part-time work	Voluntary/ unpaid work	Work and study	Further study	Assumed unemp.	Not avail. for emp.	Other
Full-time	60%	7%	2%	7%	13%	6%	3%	1%
Part-time	73%	7%	1%	10%	3%	2%	3%	1%
Total	66%	7%	1%	9%	8%	4%	3%	1%

Graduate employment categories for Masters graduates from 2007/8



	Traditional graduate occupations	Modern graduate occupations	New graduate occupations	Niche graduate occupations	Non-graduate occupations
All masters	27.3%	20.0%	19.3%	21.5%	11.9%
Full time	25.5%	19.9%	19.5%	17.7%	17.6%
Part time	29.0%	20.1%	19.1%	25.2%	6.6%

Labour market likely to remain tight after recession ends

This will drive increased interest in PG study

However, labour market will also be more difficult for PG graduates

More support will be needed by students - and expected

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