



Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science
Société canadienne de science de laboratoire médical

Research Department

CSMLS has investigated employment trends in the medical laboratory field for many years and values providing this information to its members and stakeholders. One of the research methods used is the New Graduate Employment survey, which collected information on the educational and work experiences of successful CSMLS certification exam candidates. The data is used to examine labour market experiences as well as perceptions and attitudes towards the job search of certified members within the field of medical laboratory science.

In December 2012, the New Graduate Employment survey was sent to 1212 individuals who successfully passed a CSMLS national certification examination in February, June and October of 2012. Due to the statistical significance of individual discipline response rates, the research report will outline and describe statistics for General Medical Laboratory Technologists and Medical Laboratory Assistants only. The response rates for General Medical Laboratory Technologists and Medical Laboratory Assistants were 15% and 14%, respectively.

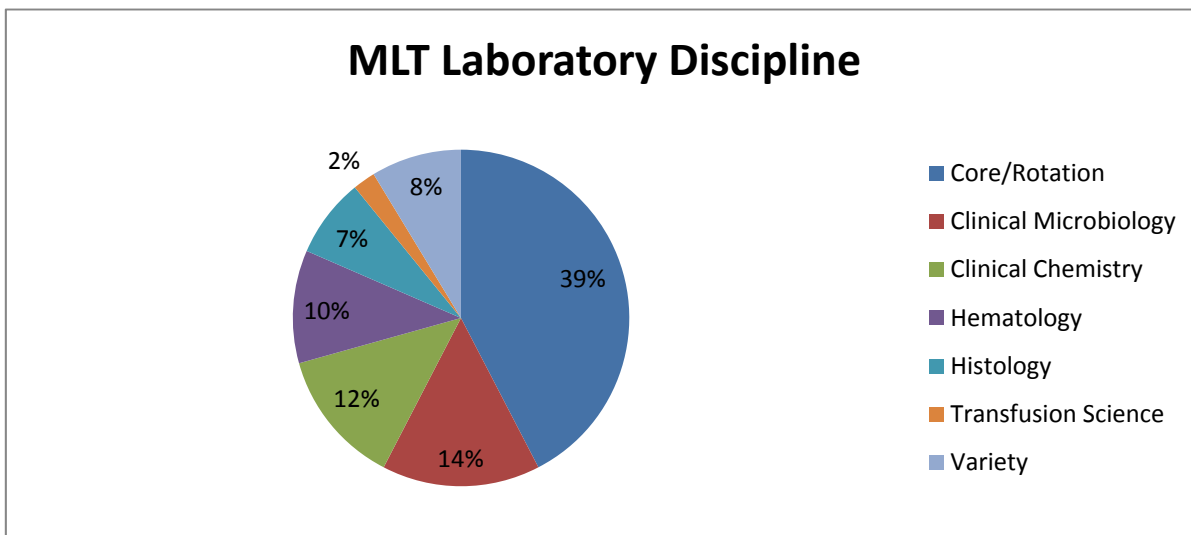
General Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLT)

The sample population consisted of 90% Canadian-trained graduates and 10% of internationally trained medical laboratory technologists (IEMLT). 90% of the participants were employed on the survey date. Within the population, 85% are employed in a position at their certification level and over 50% have permanent employment. Furthermore, 86% are employed in one position and 12% current hold two jobs. The majority of General MLTs secured employment in a hospital setting (83%); the next highest percentage works in a private lab or clinic (6%).

Of those employed...

- 33% answered a job ad on the internet, whereas 25% contacted the potential employer directly about a job; 23% were approached as a student by an employer with a job offer
- To secure employment, 31% moved to another area of the province in which they lived and 14% moved to a new province
- 48% are employed where they completed their clinical training and 50% are working in a discipline they prefer.

The following pie chart outlines the laboratory disciplines in which the General MLT graduates currently work. For the category “Variety,” participants chose to detail a combination of disciplines, for example Core/Rotation and Histology.



Of those unemployed:

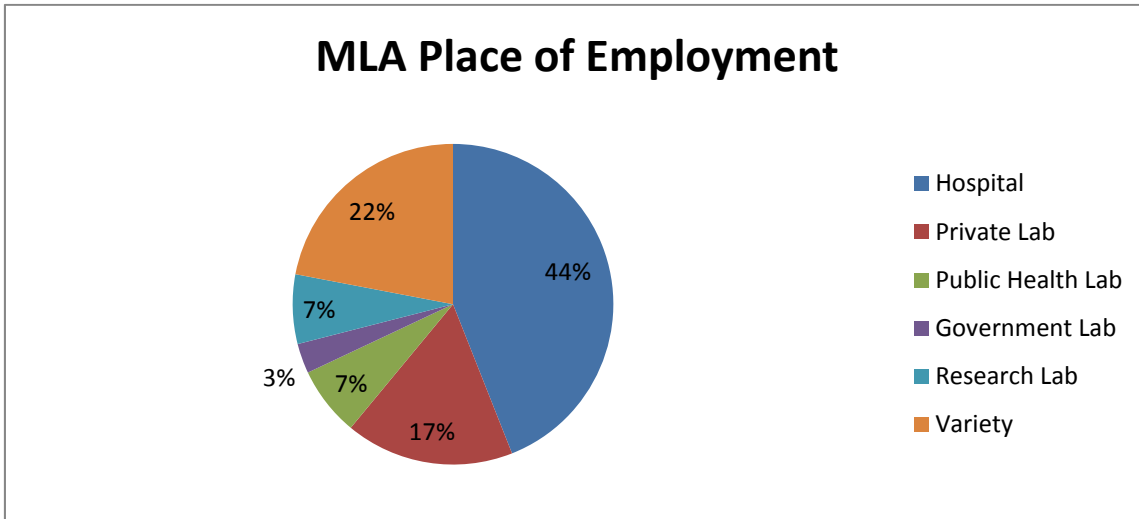
- The sample is split – half are IEMLTs and half are Canadian-educated
- 64% maintain that they cannot find a job and that no jobs are available at their certification level
- 40% would not move to secure a job due to familial responsibilities

Overall opinions:

- Over half (57%) of General Medical Laboratory Technologists surveyed would choose this career again and 58% agree that the job meets their expectations

Medical Laboratory Assistants

The sample population included 97% of students who completed a Canadian education program, and 3% who were internationally trained. At the time of survey, 70% were employed and 54% were employed at their certification level. 92% of participants have one job, 8% have two jobs and 33% of the population works in the discipline they prefer. Further employment trends are outlined graphically in the following pie chart. The category entitled “Variety” includes a number of different employment settings such as physician offices, educational settings and Canadian Blood Services.



Of those employed:

- for the 46% working in a position that is not within their certification level, 75% cite the lack of jobs available and issues securing employment as the main reasons.
- 40% answered a job ad on the internet, whereas 17% contacted the potential employer directly about a job and 17% were referred by family or friends about a job.
- 54% are employed where they completed their clinical training

Of those unemployed:

- 63% maintain that they cannot find a job and that no jobs are available at their certification level
- 63% would move to secure a job. However 42% cite family responsibilities as their main reason for not moving.

Overall opinions:

- Over a third (36%) of Medical Laboratory Assistants surveyed would choose this career again and 44% agree that their job meets their expectations

To conclude, the CSMLS would like to thank the recent graduates who completed the New Graduate Employment Survey. Your participation in our research is essential to inform CSMLS members, stakeholders and regulators of trends in medical laboratory science employment. CSMLS notes that discrepancies in statistical data may be attributed to variety of factors including but not limited to: response rate, labour market conditions across Canada and differences in MLT and MLA regulation.