

**Bad news for the young workforce**

## **Lower salary for graduates**

**scs. University graduates currently face tough times when finding a job as their starting salary dropped to nearly one third compared to last year.**

In 2003, the average monthly salary for Chinese university graduates was 1.550 Renminbi, according to a survey of Beijing University. China Newsweek reports that the drop in salary even made some graduates in Chongqing and Sichuan issue an online call for a 'salary alliance'. They suggested all former students to refuse any offer with a starting monthly salary lower than RMB 2.500 (about SFr. 400), China Daily wrote.

According to a ChinaHR.com survey, most university graduates hoped to get a monthly salary between RMB 2.000 and 3.000 in 2003. This year, most graduates lowered their expectations to a starting salary between 1.000 and 2.000 Renminbi.

Even the now white-collar job-holders saw their salary drop by 14.7 percent last year, especially those in the IT industry, reported China Newsweek recently, referring to another survey by ChinaHR.com.

With the falling salary trend, China is witnessing a growing number of university graduates, hence a tougher employment situation. According to the Ministry of Education, the country will see 2.8 Million college graduates hit the job market during this summer, which is an increase of 680.000 over the same time last year; and by 2005 the number is expected to reach 3.4 million.