

Survey finds 70 per cent of Hongkongers in Greater Bay Area job scheme have quit, plan to resign or had no return offers



Most had hoped to earn more than HK\$18,000, according to joint survey by Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce and think tank MWYO

Some respondents feel they lack relevant skills compared with mainland Chinese counterparts, researcher says

About 70 per cent of Hongkongers who took part in a Greater Bay Area employment scheme have either resigned, are planning to quit or have received no return offers, with most saying they had hoped to earn a monthly salary of more than HK\$18,000 (US\$2,290), a survey has found.

The Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce and think tank MWYO on Friday released the results of their joint study, which involved interviews with 70 participants of the government's Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme between November and December last year.

The bay area links the cities of Hong Kong, Macau, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Zhongshan, Dongguan, Huizhou, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing into an integrated economic and business hub.

The survey found that 49 respondents, or 70 per cent, had either left their jobs, were planning to quit or had received no return offers.

Half of the 49 interviewees said they would continue job-hunting in mainland China, but 33 of them admitted they were not confident about finding employment in the bay area in the short term.

MWYO associate researcher City Chu Shing-fung said employees' salary expectations were higher than the average amount offered on the mainland, as 46 respondents had revealed they wanted to earn HK\$18,000 or more.

“Based on our previous research, the salaries provided by mainland companies are only 60 per cent of the same position in Hong Kong,” he said.