

Student debt rose 5 percent for class of 2010

Associated Press

Members of the college class of 2010 who took out student loans owed on average \$25,250 upon graduation, a 5 percent increase from the year before, according to a new analysis released Thursday.

The figures, compiled using college survey data by The Project on Student Debt, indicate average indebtedness increasing at about the same annual rate as in the last five years, but still give a fresh snapshot of what many advocates and experts call an alarming reliance on borrowed money to pay for college.

Roughly two-thirds of the class of 2010 borrowed for college, and they were hit especially hard because the unemployment rate for new college graduates stood at 9.1 percent the year they graduated — though that's less than half the rate for counterparts who only have a high school degree.

Another cause for concern: because of data limitations, the figures do not include students at for-profit college, where other recent data show 96 percent of graduates have loans and they borrow nearly 50 percent more than those who graduate from other four-year schools.