Employers plan to hire an average of 18% more MBA's this year than in 2005, according to the latest GMAC® Corporate Recruiters Survey. And while the number of GMAT® tests taken declined in the U.S. from 2001 to 2004, recent trends suggest that this may be changing.

When we look specifically at the numbers by ethnicity, these recent declines have been largely due to a 2% decline in the number of Caucasian testers. As a result, Caucasian testers accounted for 69% of all U.S. testers in 2004/05 compared to 71% in 1997/98.

And although the number of African American testers was down 4%, the numbers of Asian and Hispanic testers were up by 7% and 5% respectively.

In 2004/05, the numbers of testers were still above the figures for 1997/98, with Asian and Hispanic numbers up 69% and 72% respectively, and the number of African American testers up 42%.

What are the reasons minority students give for attending graduate business school? On average, the top reason for Asian students related to skills acquisition, for African American students it was marketability, and for Hispanic students it was personal satisfaction and achievement. For Caucasian students, it was financial stability. These 4 reasons were in the top 5 for all student groups.