Companies delighted by quality of students

(Continued from page 1) where previously they were looking for 100. Now they have the money and are hiring again."

However, despite the fluctuations in the economy, engineering students are generally well off, according to Weatherall. The main burden of economic dislocation falls on workers in mid-career, who are unable to change. "The companies are interested in bright young fellows," he said.

Among students, there is a "renewed interest in the business world and industry as opposed to the academic world," Weatherall says. "More graduates with bachelor's degrees are going into industry."

However, many students are suspicious of the biggest firms. "They aren't sure they want to work for the top of the Fortune 500. Students would like to be with companies and students." Weatherall believes that the current attitude of students toward military-related work seems to be: "I don't want to work on a defense program if I can help it." Weatherall thinks that this hesitancy seems to "not only stem from moral grounds, but from the instability of the defense sector, where previous thousands of people have been laid off by defense contractors." The Placement Office is considering putting out a resume book in the fall for the School of Engineering, similar to the one put out each year by the Sloan School of Management and the Harvard Business School for their graduates. The book would contain resumes of all the senior and graduate students seeking jobs in industry. "An MIT alumnus in industry has told me such a book would be of benefit to both the company and students."

Since the Placement Office moved to its present location, 10-140, from E19, in December, a much larger number of students are using the office. "The number of resumes, for example, is much fuller than last year," notes Weatherall. But he would like to see more student feedback. "I'd like to see more students drop in and talk not only with companies but with me - students are a good source of ideas."