

# **Glossary of Terms and Definitions**



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### **Household and Housing Characteristics**

#### ***Household***

A household refers to a group of two or more persons living together in the same house and sharing common food or other arrangements for essential living. It also includes a person living alone or a person living with others but having his own food arrangements. Although persons may be living in the same house, they may not be members of the same household. A resident household refers to a household headed by a Singapore citizen or permanent resident.

#### ***Main Income Earner (MIE)***

The main income earner in the household is the household member, excluding maids, who receives the highest income from all sources. When there is a tie between two members, the MIE refers to the older of the two. For a household with no income recipient, the MIE refers to the head of household.

#### ***Head of Household***

The head of household is the person generally acknowledged as such by other members of the household. The head is normally the oldest member, the main income earner, the owner-occupier of the house or the person who manages the affairs of the household. Where the household comprises a group of unrelated persons, the head of household refers to the person who manages the affairs of the household or any responsible person who supplied the information pertaining to the other household members.

### ***Household Size***

Household size refers to the total number of members in the household, including maids.

### ***Number of Working Persons in Household***

The number of working persons in the household includes members of the same household who were working during the survey reference period. Maids in the household are excluded.

### ***Type of Dwelling***

A dwelling refers to a building or part of a building used or intended to be used by one or more persons as living quarters. Each dwelling has its own separate entrance with direct access to a public road or pathway. A dwelling may be a residential building by itself, or a unit in a residential building, or part of a non-residential building such as a shop or factory with space used as living quarters.

Dwellings are classified into the following categories:

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <i>HDB Flats:</i>         | This refers to all flats built by and managed by the Housing Development Board (HDB), as well as flats which are built by the private developer but maintained by HDB. |
| <i>Private Flats:</i>     | This refers to flats and condominiums built and managed by the private sector.   |
| <i>Landed Properties:</i> | This refers to detached bungalows, semi-detached bungalows and terrace houses.   |

## **Demographic and Socio-Economic Characteristics**

### ***Highest Qualification Attained***

This refers to the highest grade or standard a person has passed or the highest level where a certificate, diploma, or degree is awarded. The Singapore Standard Educational Classification (SSEC) 2000 is used to classify data on highest qualification attained.

### ***Occupation***

Occupation of a working person refers to the kind of work he was doing during the survey reference period. The Singapore Standard Occupational Classification (SSOC) 2005 is used to classify working persons by occupation.

### ***Income***

In the HES, household income from all sources refers to regular income from employment, business, as well as income from investment, rental and other sources such as pension and cash contributions from relatives/friends who are not members of the household. Irregular receipts or one-off payments such as insurance payouts and lump sum CPF withdrawals were not included.

Income received is classified according to the following main sources:

*Employment Income:* This refers to the gross amount received during the month preceding the survey month before deduction for the Central Provident Fund (CPF) contributions, tax or loan repayment. It includes the basic wage or salary, leave allowance and overtime pay, commissions, tips, wage supplements, as well as income in kind provided by the employer, e.g., food, clothing and lodging. It also includes one-twelfth of the annual bonus as well as regular income received from secondary employment.

*Business Income:*

This refers to the average monthly receipts or profits a person earns from business, trade or profession, **after** deducting all operating expenses incurred such as purchases of materials and services, rent for premises or machineries, cost of repair of machineries and fixtures. When a person's income is derived from a partnership, his income refers to his share of the net profit. Also included are the regular incomes received from any secondary business engagements, estimated value of goods (at current retail price) taken from shop or farm for household's own consumption, as well as royalties received.

*Others:*

Rental Income

This refers to the gross monthly rentals received from renting out houses (including subletting of rooms), shops or other fixed assets (e.g. equipment, machinery, etc).

Investment Income

- Interest

This refers to monthly interests received or credited for saving/fixed deposits with banks, finance companies, as well as interest received from Government registered stocks and bonds. Interests on loans extended to any persons who are **not** members of the same household are also included. Interests earned from the balances in CPF accounts are excluded.

- Dividends

This refers to the average monthly amount of dividends received from stocks and shares, growth funds and unit trusts in the twelve months preceding the survey period.

Other Sources

- Cash Contributions

This refers to the average monthly cash contributions given by any persons who are **not** members of the same household. It includes alimony or regular money allowance received by the divorcee.

- Pension

This refers to the **monthly** payment received by the retired person under the Pensions Act. Withdrawals from CPF on reaching 55 years as well as gratuity received on retirement are excluded as they are received in lump sum.

- Social Welfare Grants

This refers to the **regular** allowances received by the household or person from the ComCare and Social Support Division of the Ministry of Community, Youth & Sports (MCYS) or other charitable organisations.

- Bursary, Scholarship and Fellowship      This refers to the average monthly grants from such awards received by students or persons for studying, training or research in educational institutions, training or research centres.
- Payouts from CPF Minimum Sum Scheme (MSS) and Annuities      This refers to the **regular** payouts from CPF MSS and annuities purchased from banks and insurance companies.

### ***Expenditure***

Expenditure data refers to consumption expenditure incurred by households. Household consumption expenditure is the value of consumer goods and services acquired, used or paid for by a household for the satisfaction of the needs and wants of its members. Non-consumption expenditure such as loan repayments, income taxes, purchase of houses, etc were excluded.

The consumption expenditure on owner-occupied accommodation is estimated using the rental equivalence method, which measures the shelter cost in terms of the expected rental the owner would have to pay if he were a tenant of the premise. It is estimated based on the Annual Assessed Values (AAVs) provided by the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS).

The imputed rental of owner-occupied accommodation would be included only when analysing the detailed share of household expenditure by goods and services.