



PRESS RELEASE

KEY HOUSEHOLD INCOME TRENDS, 2018

Median Household Income from Work Grew in 2018

1. Median household income from work grew in 2018, according to the “Key Household Income Trends, 2018” paper released by the Singapore Department of Statistics today.
2. Among resident employed households¹, median monthly household income from work² grew by 3.0 per cent in nominal terms from \$9,023 in 2017 to \$9,293 in 2018, or 2.6 per cent in real³ terms. From 2013 to 2018, median monthly household income from work of resident employed households increased by 16.6 per cent cumulatively in real terms or 3.1 per cent per annum.
3. After accounting for household size, median monthly household income from work per household member rose by 3.4 per cent in nominal terms from \$2,699 in 2017 to \$2,792 in 2018, or 3.0 per cent in real terms. From 2013 to 2018, median monthly household income per household member recorded real growth of 22.7 per cent cumulatively or 4.2 per cent per annum.

Households in All Income Deciles⁴ Saw Real Growth in Average Household Income from Work Per Household Member

4. In 2018, resident employed households in all income groups registered real growth in average household income from work per household member. Households in the 1st – 70th percentile income groups saw real growth of 2.5 – 3.4 per cent, while those in the 71st – 90th percentile income groups experienced higher real growth of 4.0 per cent. The top 10% households registered real growth of 2.3 per cent.
5. Between 2013 and 2018, resident employed households in all income groups experienced real growth in average household income from work per household member. Households in the 1st – 90th percentile income groups

¹ A resident employed household refers to a household headed by a Singapore citizen or permanent resident and with at least one working person.

² Household income from work includes employer Central Provident Fund (CPF) contributions.

³ The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Items is used as the deflator to compute real income changes.

⁴ Not all households are consistently in the same decile group from one year to the next. For example, a household may move down from a higher decile in a particular year due to the temporary unemployment of a household member, before moving up the deciles when the member resumes work in the subsequent year. In comparing the performance of any particular decile group over time, it is therefore relevant to note that the comparison may not pertain to the same group of households.

enjoyed real growth of 4.1 – 4.7 per cent per annum, while households in the top 10% income group recorded real growth of 3.8 per cent per annum.

Households in HDB 1- & 2-Room Flats Received More Government Transfers than Other Households

6. Resident households (including households with no working person) received \$4,494 per household member on average from various Government schemes in 2018. Resident households in HDB 1- & 2-room flats received \$10,347 per household member on average, more than double the transfers received by resident households staying in other dwelling types.

The Gini Coefficient Remained Relatively Stable in 2018

7. The Gini coefficient⁵ was 0.458 in 2018, similar to the 0.459 in 2017 and 0.458 in 2016, and was among the lowest in a decade.

8. After adjusting for Government transfers and taxes, the Gini coefficient in 2018 fell from 0.458 to 0.404. This reflected the redistributive effect of Government transfers.

9. The report on “Key Household Income Trends, 2018” is available online on the Department of Statistics’ website at <http://www.singstat.gov.sg/>.

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For media enquiries, please contact
Ms Joanne Tan **T** (+65) 6332 9049 **E** Joanne_Tan@singstat.gov.sg

⁵ The Gini coefficient is a summary measure of income inequality. It is equal to zero in the case of total income equality and to one in the case of total inequality.