



PRESS RELEASE

Census of Population 2020

Statistical Release 2 on Households, Geographic Distribution, Transport and Difficulty in Basic Activities

1 In 2020, there were 1.37 million resident households in Singapore, up from 1.15 million in 2010. Additional characteristics of resident households as well as data on geographic distribution, transport characteristics and difficulty in performing basic activities among the resident population are now available in the Census of Population 2020 Statistical Release 2.

Housing Type and Tenancy

2 The proportion of owner-occupied households remained consistently high. Close to 9 in 10 resident households (or 87.9 per cent) were owner-occupied in 2020, a slight increase from the 87.2 per cent in 2010.

3 In 2020, about 4 in 5 resident households (or 78.7 per cent) stayed in Housing Development Board (HDB) flats. Nearly 1 in 3 resident households (or 31.6 per cent) lived in HDB 4-room flats, which remained the most common house type over the last decade. Resident households staying in condominiums and other apartments increased from 11.5 per cent in 2010 to 16.0 per cent in 2020 while those staying in landed properties remained relatively unchanged at 5.0 per cent in 2020.

Household Size

4 Between 2010 and 2020, the average household size of resident households decreased from 3.5 persons to 3.2 persons as households with fewer members became more prevalent. Malay households continued to be larger on average (3.7 persons) compared to Chinese (3.1 persons) and Indian (3.4 persons) households.

Household Living Arrangement

5 Households comprising at least one family nucleus¹ accounted for 78.0 per cent of resident households in 2020, lower than the 82.9 per cent in 2010. This was mainly due to a decrease in the proportion of couple-based households with children, from 56.0 per cent in 2010 to 47.7 per cent in 2020.

6 With the ageing population, the proportion of resident households with at least 1 member aged 65 years and over rose from 24.1 per cent in 2010 to 34.5

¹ For statistical purposes, a family nucleus in a household can be formed by (a) a married couple, or (b) one parent with never-married child(ren). Households with no family nucleus include households formed by a person living alone or living with others but do not constitute any family nucleus.

per cent in 2020. Households with all members aged 65 years and over also grew in share, from 4.6 per cent in 2010 to 9.3 per cent in 2020.

Household Income from Work

7 Both the average and median monthly household income from work of resident households increased between 2010 and 2020. All the three major ethnic groups experienced growth in household income from work. Median household income from work rose by 3.3 per cent per annum (or 1.9 per cent in real terms)², from \$5,600 in 2010 to \$7,744 in 2020. Taking into account household size, the median monthly household income from work per household member increased, from \$1,638 in 2010 to \$2,463 in 2020, i.e. a growth of 4.2 per cent per annum (or 2.8 per cent in real terms)².

Married Couples

8 In tandem with the increase in female labour force participation rate, the proportion of married couples with an employed wife increased from 52.9 per cent in 2010 to 60.0 per cent in 2020. Dual-career couples³ constituted 52.5 per cent of married couples in 2020.

Geographic Distribution of Residence

9 Bedok was the most populated planning area of residence in 2020, with 276,990 residents. This was followed by Jurong West, Tampines and Woodlands, which had more than 250,000 residents each. Outram had the highest proportion of residents aged 65 years and over at 25.5 per cent, while Punggol had the highest proportion of residents aged below 5 years at 9.3 per cent.

Geographic Distribution of Workplace

10 In 2020, some 284,000 employed residents (or 12.9 per cent of the resident workforce) had usual workplace location in the planning area of Downtown Core. This was followed by Queenstown, Geylang and Bukit Merah, each of which had more than 100,000 employed residents who usually worked in the planning area.

Usual Mode of Transport and Travelling Time to Work

11 Public bus and Mass Rapid Transit (MRT)/Light Rail Transit (LRT) continued to be the key modes of transport to work among employed residents. In 2020, 57.7 per cent took public bus, MRT/LRT or combinations of MRT/LRT and/or public bus to work, up from 54.6 per cent in 2010. Those who travelled to work only by car accounted for 21.1 per cent of employed residents in 2020, down from 24.8 per cent in 2010.

² The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Items is used as the deflator to compute real income changes.

³ Refers to married couples with both husband and wife employed.

12 In 2020, the median travelling time to work was 37 minutes for employed residents who commuted to work by public bus only and 45 minutes for those who travelled by MRT/LRT only. Those who travelled by MRT/LRT with a transfer to/from public bus had a median travelling time of 60 minutes. For those who travelled by car only, the median duration was shorter at 30 minutes.

Difficulty in Performing Basic Activities

13 In 2020, 97,600 residents aged 5 years and over (or 2.5 per cent) were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity. Of these, 62,500 were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing activities relating to mobility (i.e. walking or climbing steps), followed by 32,100 in self-care activities (i.e. washing all over or dressing).

14 Of the 69,400 residents aged 65 years and over who were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity, 93.6 per cent were living with other persons. Of those who were aged 15-64 years, 31.2 per cent were in the labour force.

About the Release

15 The Census of Population 2020 “Statistical Release 2 – Households, Geographic Distribution, Transport and Difficulty in Basic Activities” is the second and final statistical publication on the Census 2020 findings. This release provides the broad trends and changes relating to household and housing characteristics, married couples, geographic distribution of residence and transport characteristics of the resident population since 2010. New data on the geographic distribution of workplace and difficulty in performing basic activities among the resident population are made available for the first time in the Census. The report also includes detailed statistical tables to enable more comprehensive analyses of the Census results.

16 The report is available for download from the Department of Statistics’ website at www.singstat.gov.sg.

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18 June 2021

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