

PRESS RELEASE

Report on the Household Expenditure Survey 2023

Both Average Monthly Household Expenditure and Average Monthly Household Income Increased, with Income Growth Outpacing Expenditure Growth

1 Between 2017/ 18 and 2023, average monthly household expenditure increased from \$5,163 to \$5,931, or 2.8% per annum. Over the same period, average monthly household income **from all sources**¹ grew at a faster rate of 4.1% per annum from \$12,661 to \$15,473. Average monthly household income per household member grew faster than average monthly expenditure per household member for all income groups.

2 Households in the 1st to 60th percentile income groups saw their average monthly household expenditure increase between 2.8% and 3.6% per annum from 2017/ 18 to 2023, faster than the 2.3% to 2.5% per annum increases experienced by households in the 61st to 100th percentile income groups.

Government Transfers (including Rebates and Subsidies) Supplemented Household Income and Helped Households Cope with their Expenditure

3 In 2023, households received an annual average of \$6,317 in government transfers² per household member. Households in the 1st to 60th percentile income groups received more government transfers per household member than those in the 61st to 100th percentile income groups. Households in the lowest 20% income group received an annual average of \$10,412 in government transfers per household member in 2023, \$3,096 more than what they received in 2017/ 18. Those in the 21st to 60th percentile income groups received an average of \$5,957 to \$7,711 per household member, compared to an average of \$3,970 to \$5,311 in 2017/ 18.

¹ Household income from all sources refers to recurrent and regular income from employment, as well as income from investment, rental, other sources such as cash and in-kind contributions from relatives/ friends who are not members of the household, pension and regular government transfers. Interest from Central Provident Fund (CPF) balances is also included in income for the first time, with historical data updated to ensure comparability. Irregular receipts or one-off payments such as proceeds from sale of properties, capital gains from trading of stocks and shares, windfalls, non-recurring insurance payouts and lump-sum CPF withdrawals are excluded.

² Refer to regular and ad-hoc transfers as well as rebates/ subsidies that directly offset expenditure.

Changes in Household Expenditure Patterns Reflect Shifts in Households' Lifestyle Preferences

4 Housing (29.8%), food (20.0%) and transport (13.4%) were the top three expenditure categories, collectively accounting for 63.2% of monthly household expenditure in 2023, compared to 64.0% in 2017/ 18.

5 Some key observations by expenditure categories are as follows:

- a. Food and beverage serving services, comprising meals bought from restaurants, cafes, hawker centres, food courts, coffee shops and food kiosks, accounted for 67.9% of households' spending on food in 2023, slightly higher than the 67.3% in 2017/ 18. On average, households spent \$966 a month on food and beverage serving services in 2023, up from \$810 per month in 2017/ 18, mainly due to higher spending in restaurants, cafes and pubs. Nevertheless, meals at hawker centres, coffee shops and food courts continued to constitute the largest share of expenses on food and beverage serving services, at 50.8% in 2023.
- b. Average monthly expenditure on transport declined from \$1,038 in 2017/ 18 to \$951 in 2023, mainly due to a fall in spending on private road transport from \$763 in 2017/ 18 to \$678 in 2023. Average expenditure on bus and MRT/ LRT fares, as well as taxi and private hire car services, remained relatively stable between 2017/ 18 and 2023, partly due to changes in travel patterns.
- c. Online expenditure increased with the rise in popularity of e-commerce. In 2023, about 82.0% of households made online purchases, up from 60.0% in 2017/ 18. On average, 11.9% of monthly household expenditure was spent on online purchases in 2023, much higher than the 4.7% in 2017/ 18.

Home Ownership³ Rates Remained High, while Ownership of Consumer Durables Continued to Evolve, Reflecting Technological and Lifestyle Changes

6 87.9% of households owned their homes in 2023, slightly lower than the 89.1% in 2017/ 18. The proportion of households with cars⁴ was 36.3% in 2023, slightly higher than the 35.3% in 2017/ 18. Among households in the lowest 20% income group, 83.3% were homeowners and 17.0% had cars.

7 In 2023, the proportion of households with television sets, washing machines and mobile phones remained high at 94.6%, 96.4% and 99.1% respectively. Ownership of these durables was also relatively high among those in the lower income groups and smaller HDB flat types. Meanwhile, households in the lowest 20% income group and those residing in HDB 1- and 2-room flats saw significant increases in their ownership of air-conditioners, personal computers and access to the Internet.

³ Refers to the proportion of owner-occupied households, where the household reference person and/ or any other member(s) in the household owned the dwelling unit.

⁴ Includes cars owned, leased on a long-term basis or obtained from other sources (e.g. provided by company/ friends).

8 On the other hand, the proportion of households with residential telephone lines and Pay TV fell across all income groups and dwelling types due to the emergence of substitutes such as mobile/ smart phones and online video streaming platforms. Reflecting this shift, subscription for online video streaming services surged in the last five years, from 6.9% in 2017/ 18 to 41.1% in 2023.

The Household Expenditure Survey 2023 report is available for download at (<https://www.singstat.gov.sg/publications/households/household-expenditure-survey>).

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For enquiries, please contact:

Miss Wong Wei Lin **T** (+65) 63327164 **E** wong_wei_lin@singstat.gov.sg

Mr Cheng Wan Hsien **T** (+65) 63327078 **E** cheng_wan_hsien@singstat.gov.sg

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