



Census of Population 2000

Demographic Characteristics



**Statistical
Release 1**

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SUPERINTENDENT OF CENSUS



SINGAPORE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

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FOREWORD

The Population Census 2000 has achieved several milestones in Singapore's history of census-taking. It was the first census in Singapore to adopt a register-based approach in the compilation of basic demographic information. Singapore was the pioneer in the world in using the Internet for submission of census returns among the 20 per cent sample of households selected for a detailed enumeration.

With the adoption of IT advances and new measures in census-taking, data timeliness improved markedly. The quick count and top-line data of the population from the register-based Census were released as a special issue within two months of the Census Day, 30 June 2000. The first Advance Data Release was disseminated to the public in November 2000. Altogether, nine Advance Data Releases on the profile and progress of the population and households were released within a short span between November 2000 and February 2001.

The Census Statistical Release 1 – Demographic Characteristics is the first of a series of statistical publications on detailed census results. The other statistical releases are Education, Language and Religion; Economic Characteristics; Geographic Distribution and Travel; and Households and Housing.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all who have contributed in one way or another to the Population Census 2000. I am grateful to the Chairman and members of the Census Planning Committee for their guidance during the planning of the Census. My deep appreciation also goes to the Superintendent of Census, all the census officers and the staff of the Department of Statistics for their support and good work in making the Census 2000 a success.

Paul Cheung
Chief Statistician
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May 2001

PREFACE

Population Census 2000 was the fourth census carried out in Singapore since independence and the thirteenth in the series of census taking in Singapore. The population census is the most comprehensive source of information on population and households. It provides benchmark data for all demographic, social and labour force statistics.

Population Census 2000 adopted a register-based approach, which was a first in Singapore's census taking history. The total population was not required to file any census return as basic information was available from the Department of Statistics' Household Registration Database. A 20 per cent sample of households was surveyed to obtain detailed information on demographic, education, economic, transport, household and housing characteristics.

A tri-modal collection strategy comprising Internet, Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) and fieldwork was adopted for this census. Singapore was among the first few countries in the world to collect census information from households via the Internet. This innovation in data collection methodology brought about savings in labour effort as well as improvements in quality and timeliness of data.

The Census Statistical Release 1 – Demographic Characteristics is the first of a series of statistical publications on detailed census results. Highlights of the key findings provide a quick assessment of broad trends and changes in the last decade. Detailed statistical tables in the publication facilitate in-depth studies by users.

I would like to thank all who have, in one way or another, contributed to the success of this project. My deep appreciation is extended to all participating households who had given their full support to Population Census 2000. The contributions of government ministries and statutory boards, which provided pertinent information for the Population Census 2000, are gratefully acknowledged.

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Superintendent of Census

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