

---

# **Glossary of Terms and Definitions**

---



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

### DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

#### Age

Age refers to the number of completed years between a person's date of birth and the Census reference date of 30 June 2020.

#### Ethnic / Detailed Ethnic Group

Ethnic group is obtained from administrative sources and as declared by the person. The population is classified into the following four categories:

<i>Chinese</i>	This refers to persons of Chinese origin such as Hokkiens, Teochews, Cantonese, Hakkas, Hainanese, Foochows, Henghuas, Shanghainese, Hockchias, etc.
<i>Malays</i>	This includes persons of Malay or Indonesian origin, such as Javanese, Boyanese, etc.
<i>Indians</i>	This includes persons of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi or Sri Lankan origin such as Tamils, Malayalees, Hindis, Sikhs, etc.
<i>Other Ethnic Groups</i>	This comprises all persons other than Chinese, Malays and Indians. They include Eurasians, Caucasians, Fillipinos, Burmese, Arabs, Thais etc.

#### Residential Status

Singapore citizens and permanent residents are classified as Singapore residents or the resident population. Singapore permanent residents refer to non-citizens who have been granted permanent residence in Singapore. The non-resident population comprised foreigners who were working, studying or living in Singapore but not granted permanent residence, excluding tourists and short-term visitors.

#### Place of Birth

Place of birth refers to the geographical area in which the person was born.

## Sex Ratio

Sex ratio refers to the number of males per 1,000 females in the population.

## Age Dependency Ratio

The old-age dependency ratio is defined as the number of elderly person aged 65 years and over for every 100 persons aged 20-64 years.

The child dependency ratio is defined as the number of persons aged below 20 years for every 100 persons aged 20-64 years.

## Marital Status

Marital status refers to a person's conjugal status in relation to the marriage laws or customs in Singapore.

<i>Single</i>	This refers to persons who have never been married.
<i>Married</i>	This refers to persons who are legally married or married according to customary rites.
<i>Widowed</i>	This refers to persons whose spouses are deceased and have not remarried.
<i>Divorced/Separated</i>	This refers to persons whose marriages have been legally dissolved, or persons who have been legally separated or estranged from their spouses and who have not remarried.

## Ever-Married Females

Ever-married females refer to females who have been married before and are currently married, widowed, or divorced/separated.

## Number of Children Born

Number of children born refers to all the live-born children each woman has ever given birth to. It includes those children who are currently staying with her, those who have set up their own homes and those who are no longer living.

## Religion

Religion refers to the religious faith or spiritual belief of a person regardless of whether he/she regularly attends religious ceremonies in a temple, mosque, church or other religious building. He/she may or may not practise his/her faith or belief. It is as declared by the person.

## EDUCATION, LITERACY AND LANGUAGE

### Literacy (Language Literate In)

This refers to a person's ability to read with understanding, e.g. a newspaper, in the language(s) specified.

### Language Most / Second Most Frequently Spoken at Home

Language most / second most frequently spoken at home refers to the language or dialect that a person uses most / second most frequently at home when speaking to other household member(s). For persons who are staying alone, it refers to the language(s)/dialect(s) he/she uses most / second most frequently.

### Level of Education Attending

Level of education attending refers to the grade or standard of formal education which a student aged 5 years and over is attending. The classification of level of education attending into the following main categories is based on the Singapore Standard Educational Classification 2020 :

<i>Pre-Primary</i>	This refers to students attending nurseries, kindergartens or pre-primary classes.
<i>Primary</i>	This refers to students attending Primary 1 to 6 and special classes for the educationally sub-normal.
<i>Secondary</i>	This refers to students attending Secondary 1 to 5 or courses of secondary level offered in the vocational, technical and commercial education institutions, including Institute of Technical Education (ITE) Skills Certificate courses.

<b>Post Secondary (Non-Tertiary)</b>	This refers to students attending Pre-university classes and junior colleges or other courses at post-secondary level, including fifth or sixth year of the Integrated Programme, National ITE Certificate (Nitec), Higher Nitec and Master Nitec.
<b><i>Polytechnic Diploma</i></b>	This refers to students attending polytechnic diploma or polytechnic post/advanced/specialist/management/graduate diploma courses offered by the local Polytechnics such as the Singapore Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Temasek Polytechnic, Nanyang Polytechnic and Republic Polytechnic.
<b><i>Professional Qualification and Other Diploma</i></b>	This refers to students attending courses leading to the award of professional qualification and other diploma, including ITE diploma, National Institute of Education (NIE) diploma, Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) diploma, LASALLE diploma, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) diploma, Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).
<b><i>University</i></b>	This refers to students attending degree or post-graduate courses in universities.

### **Highest Qualification Attained**

Highest qualification attained refers to the highest grade or standard a person has passed or the highest level where a vocational/skill certificate, diploma, or degree is awarded. The classification of highest qualification attained into the following main categories is based on the Singapore Standard Educational Classification 2020:

<b><i>No Qualification</i></b>	This refers to persons who have never attended school, have primary education but without Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) certificate or their equivalent, or have Certificate in Basic Education for Skills Training (BEST) 1 – 3.
--------------------------------	---

<i>Primary</i>	This refers to persons who have PSLE or other certificate of equivalent standard, or have Certificate in BEST 4 or at least 3 achievements <sup>1</sup> for different Workplace Literacy or Numeracy (WPLN) skills at Level 1 or 2.
<i>Lower Secondary</i>	This refers to persons who have secondary education without any subject pass at General Certificate of Education (GCE) Normal ('N')/Ordinary ('O') Level or equivalent, or have Certificate in Worker Improvement through Secondary Education (WISE) 1-3, or basic vocational certificates (including ITE Basic Vocational Training), or at least 3 achievements for different WPLN skills at Level 3 or 4.
<i>Secondary</i>	This refers to persons who have at least 1 subject pass at GCE 'N' / 'O' Level, or have National ITE Certificate (Nitec) (Intermediate) or equivalent (including National Technical Certificate (NTC) Grade 3, Certificate of Vocational Training, BCA Builder Certificate), or have ITE Skills Certificate (ISC) or equivalent (including Certificate of Competency, Certificate in Service Skills) or at least 3 achievements for different WPLN skills at Level 5 and above.
<i>Post-Secondary (Non-Tertiary)</i>	This refers to persons who have at least 1 subject pass at GCE 'A'/'H2' Level or other certificates/ qualifications of equivalent standard. It also includes those who have Nitec (including Post Nitec Certificate, Specialist Nitec, Certificate in Office Skills, NTC Grade 2, National Certificate in Nursing, BCA Advanced Builder Certificate), or have Higher Nitec (including Certificate in Business Skills, Industrial Technician Certificate and other polytechnic certificates), or Master Nitec (including NTC Grade 1). This group also includes Workforce Skills Qualification (WSQ) Certificate/Higher Certificate/Advanced Certificate or equivalent,

---

<sup>1</sup> These refer to both WSQ Statement of Attainment and/or certification issued by SkillsFuture Singapore's appointed WPLN assessment partner.

International Baccalaureate/NUS High School diploma or other post-secondary certificates/qualifications (including SIM certificates).

*Polytechnic Diploma*

This refers to persons who have Polytechnic diploma or Polytechnic post diploma (including polytechnic advanced/specialist/management/graduate diploma, diploma (conversion)).

*Professional Qualification and Other Diploma*

This refers to persons who have qualifications awarded by professional bodies (including ACCA, CFA), and other diploma qualifications (including ITE Diploma, NIE diploma, SIM diploma, LASALLE diploma, NAFA diploma, WSQ diploma, WSQ specialist diploma etc).

*University*

This refers to persons who have bachelor's degree or postgraduate diploma (including NIE postgraduate diploma), or master's degree, or doctorate.). It also includes persons with WSQ graduate certificate and WSQ graduate diploma.

**Field of Study**

Field of study refers to the principal discipline, branch or subject matter of study that leads to the award of the qualification attained at polytechnics or university levels. The classification of field of study is based on the Singapore Standard Educational Classification 2020.

**ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS**

**Labour Force Status**

**Labour Force**

Refers to persons who are either employed or unemployed during the reference period.

**Employed**

Refers to persons who during the reference period:  
(i) work for one hour or more either for pay or profit; or



- (ii) have a job or business to return to but are temporarily absent because of illness, injury, breakdown of machinery at workplace, labour management dispute or other reasons.

Members of the Singapore Armed Forces including full-time National Servicemen are included, unless stated otherwise.

Unemployed

Refers to persons who are not working but are actively looking for a job and available for work during the reference period. They include persons who are not working but are taking steps to start their own business or taking up a new job after the reference period.

Outside the Labour Force

Refers to persons who are neither employed nor unemployed during the reference period.

### **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(s) 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.

The dwellings covered are broadly classified into these three housing unit categories: Housing and Development Board (HDB) properties, condominiums and other apartments, and landed properties.

The Singapore Standard Classification of Type of Dwelling (Jan 2012) is used to classify the population and households by type of dwelling.