PREFACE

The Census of Population 2020 was the sixth census carried out in Singapore since Independence and the fifteenth in the series of census taking from 1871. The census is the most comprehensive source of information on population and households and provides benchmark data for demographic and social statistics.

Similar to Census 2000 and 2010, Census 2020 adopted a register-based approach with a large-scale sample survey. Basic population count and characteristics were compiled from administrative records. More detailed information on language, economic characteristics, transport, religion, difficulty in performing basic activities as well as housing and household characteristics were obtained from a sample enumeration of about 150,000 households.

For Census 2020, a tri-modal data collection strategy comprising Internet enumeration, Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) and face-to-face interviews using mobile devices was adopted to facilitate data collection for the households in the census sample. Leveraging technological advances, machine learning was also applied to improve the data processing processes.

The Census of Population 2020 Statistical Release 1 - Demographic Characteristics, Education, Language and Religion is the first of the two statistical publications on detailed census results. This release provides the broad trends and changes in the demographic characteristics, marriage and fertility, education, literacy and home language and religion of the resident population since 2010. The report comprises detailed statistical tables to facilitate users carrying out more comprehensive studies and analysis.

I would like to thank all who have, in one way or another, contributed to the success of Census 2020, which was conducted under challenging conditions with the evolving COVID-19 situation in 2020. My deep appreciation is extended to all participating households who had given their full support and co-operation to the Census. The contributions of government ministries and statutory boards, which provided pertinent information for Census 2020, are also gratefully acknowledged.

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