

2 OVERSEAS TRAVEL

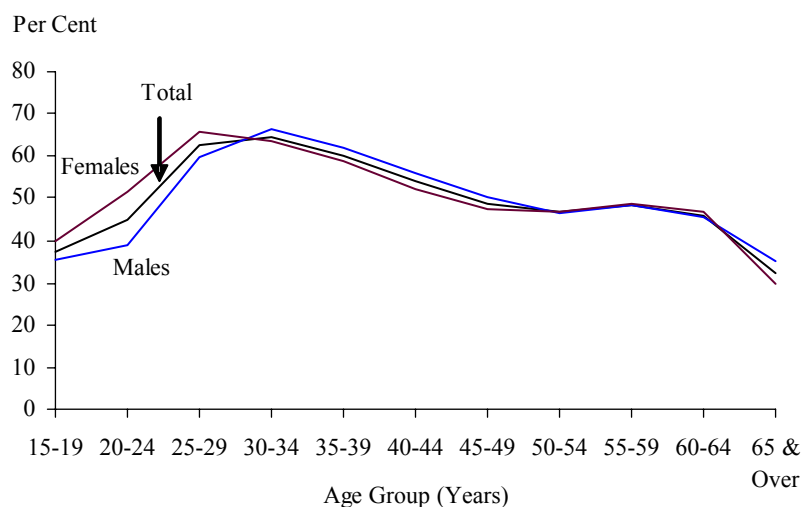
Propensity to Travel

High Proportion Travelled Overseas

Among the 2.8 million residents aged 15 years and over in Singapore, 50 per cent made at least 1 trip overseas¹. Young adults in their late twenties and early thirties had the highest propensity to travel overseas (Chart 1). The proportion that travelled overseas declined with increasing age. There was a sharp drop in the proportion among elderly residents aged 65 years and over.

Among residents aged 15-29 years, proportionately more females than males travelled overseas. In contrast, among those aged 30-49 years, proportionately more males than females travelled overseas. Among both males and females, relatively fewer youths aged 15-19 years travelled overseas, possibly because of study priorities and limited budgets.

**Chart 1 Proportion of Resident Population Who Travelled Overseas
by Age Group and Sex, 2005**

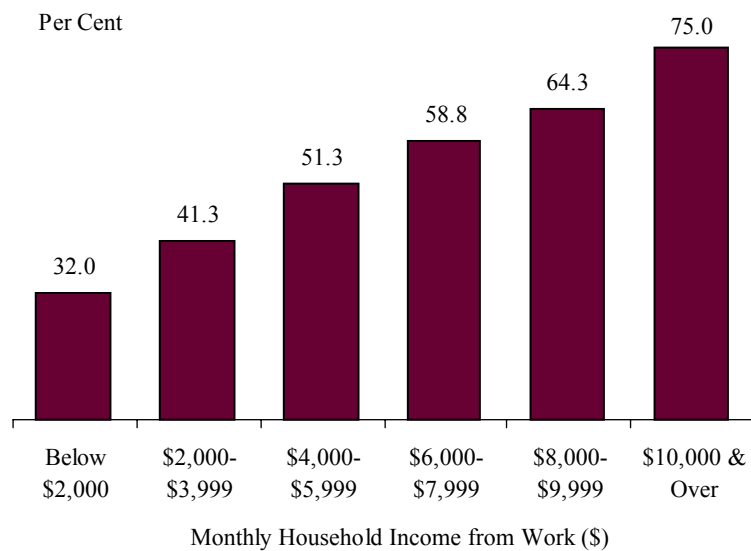


¹ Overseas trips in the General Household Survey 2005 refer to trips that were longer than 24 hours and were made during the last 12 months prior to enumeration.

Propensity to Travel Overseas Increased with Income

Singapore residents in higher-income households had higher propensity to travel overseas. Among Singapore residents with monthly household income from work of at least \$10,000 in 2005, three quarters had travelled overseas (Chart 2). The corresponding proportion was a lower 32 per cent among Singapore residents with monthly household income from work below \$2,000.

**Chart 2 Proportion of Residents Aged 15 Years and Over Who Travelled Overseas
by Monthly Household Income from Work, 2005**

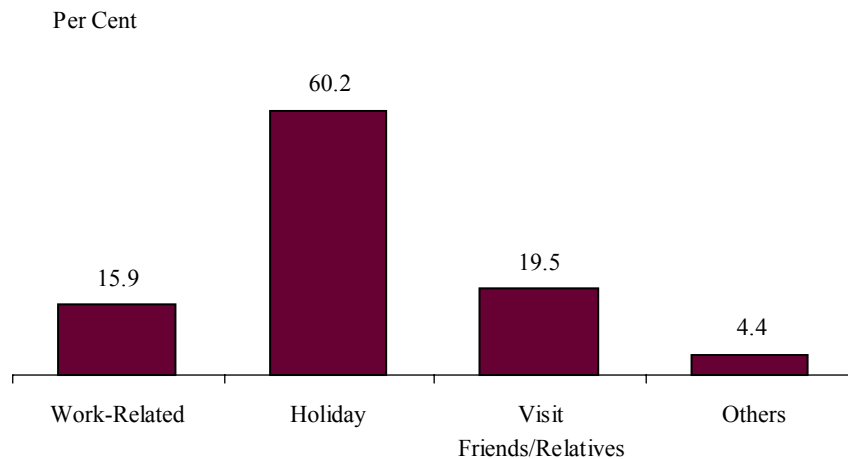


Main Purpose of Overseas Travel

High Proportion Travelled Overseas for Holiday

The majority of Singapore residents travelled overseas for holiday. Based on the longest overseas trip, six in ten Singapore residents aged 15 years and over who travelled overseas went on a holiday in 2005² (Chart 3). Some 20 per cent travelled overseas to visit friends and relatives while another 16 per cent went on work-related trips.

Chart 3 Residents Aged 15 Years and Over by Main Purpose of Overseas Travel, 2005



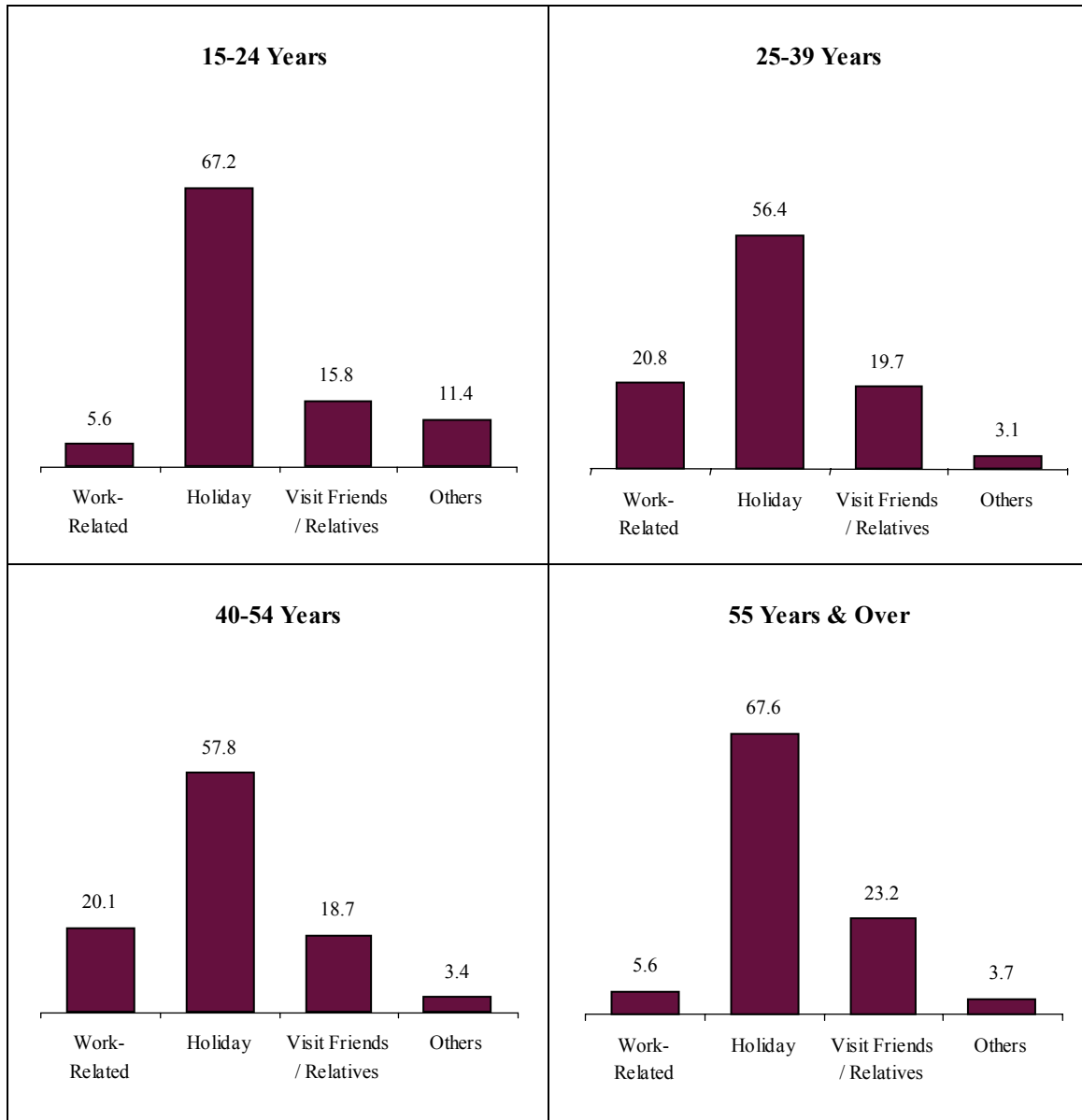
Higher Proportion of Holidaymakers Among Young and Old

The proportion of holidaymakers was highest at 67-68 per cent among younger residents aged 15-24 years and older residents aged 55 years and over in 2005 (Chart 4). Among residents aged 55 years and over, travelling overseas to visit friends and relatives was also relatively common, with 23 per cent making such trips. With more opportunities for business travel, the proportion of work-related trips was relatively high among residents aged 25-54 years, at about 20-21 per cent.

² Main purpose of travel in the General Household Survey 2005 is based on the longest overseas trip.

Chart 4 Residents by Age Group and Main Purpose of Overseas Travel, 2005

Per Cent

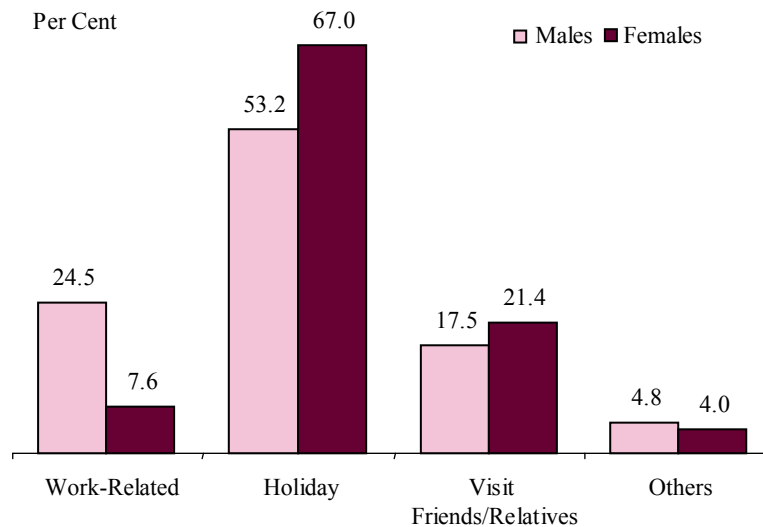


Higher Proportion of Holidaymakers Among Females

Females were more likely than males to travel overseas for non-work related purposes. Holidaymakers accounted for 67 per cent of resident females aged 15 years and over who travelled overseas in 2005, compared with 53 per cent of males (Chart 5). Females were also more likely to travel overseas to visit friends and relatives.

In contrast, males were more likely than females to make work-related overseas trips. Based on the longest overseas trip, business travellers accounted for one quarter of resident males aged 15 years and over who travelled overseas in 2005. This was triple the 7.6 per cent among females.

Chart 5 Residents Aged 15 Years and Over by Sex and Main Purpose of Overseas Travel, 2005



Destination of Overseas Travel

Malaysia Was Most Popular Destination

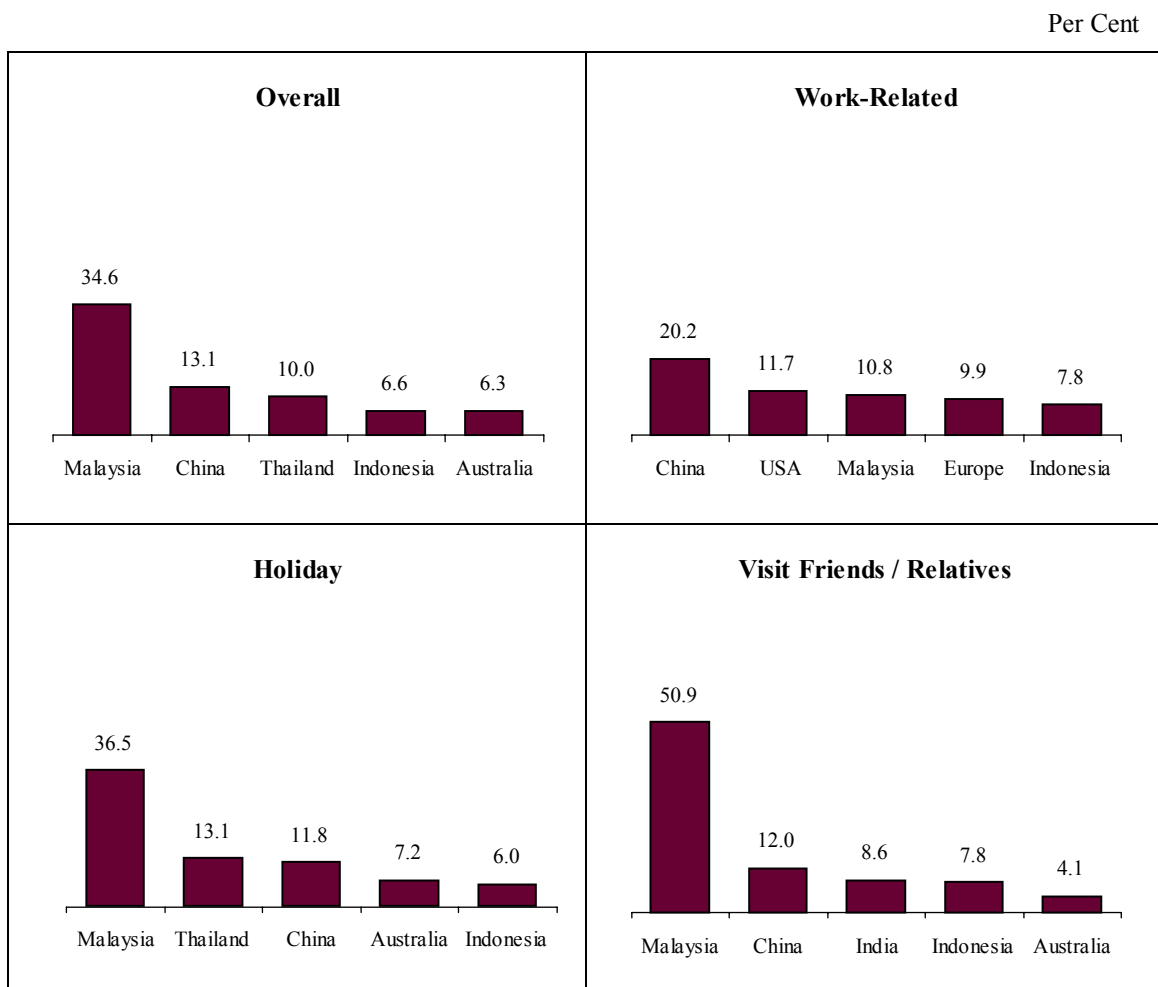
Neighbouring destinations tended to be more popular for overseas travel. Based on the longest overseas trip, Malaysia was the most popular destination in 2005, attracting 35 per cent of Singapore residents aged 15 years and over who travelled overseas³ (Chart 6). The next four popular destinations in 2005 were China (13 per cent), Thailand (10 per cent), Indonesia (6.6 per cent) and Australia (6.3 per cent).

³ Travel destination in the General Household Survey 2005 is based on the longest overseas trip.

Among holidaymakers, Malaysia was the most popular destination (37 per cent), followed by Thailand (13 per cent) and China (12 per cent). In comparison, China accounted for the largest share of Singapore residents travelling on work-related trips (20 per cent), followed by USA (12 per cent) and Malaysia (11 per cent).

Reflecting the historical ties between Singapore and Malaysia, 51 per cent of Singapore residents making visits to friends and relatives went to Malaysia. China was the next most common destination for those visiting friends and relatives (12 per cent), followed by India (8.6 per cent).

**Chart 6 Top Five Destinations of Overseas Travel
Among Residents Aged 15 Years and Over by Main Purpose of Travel, 2005**

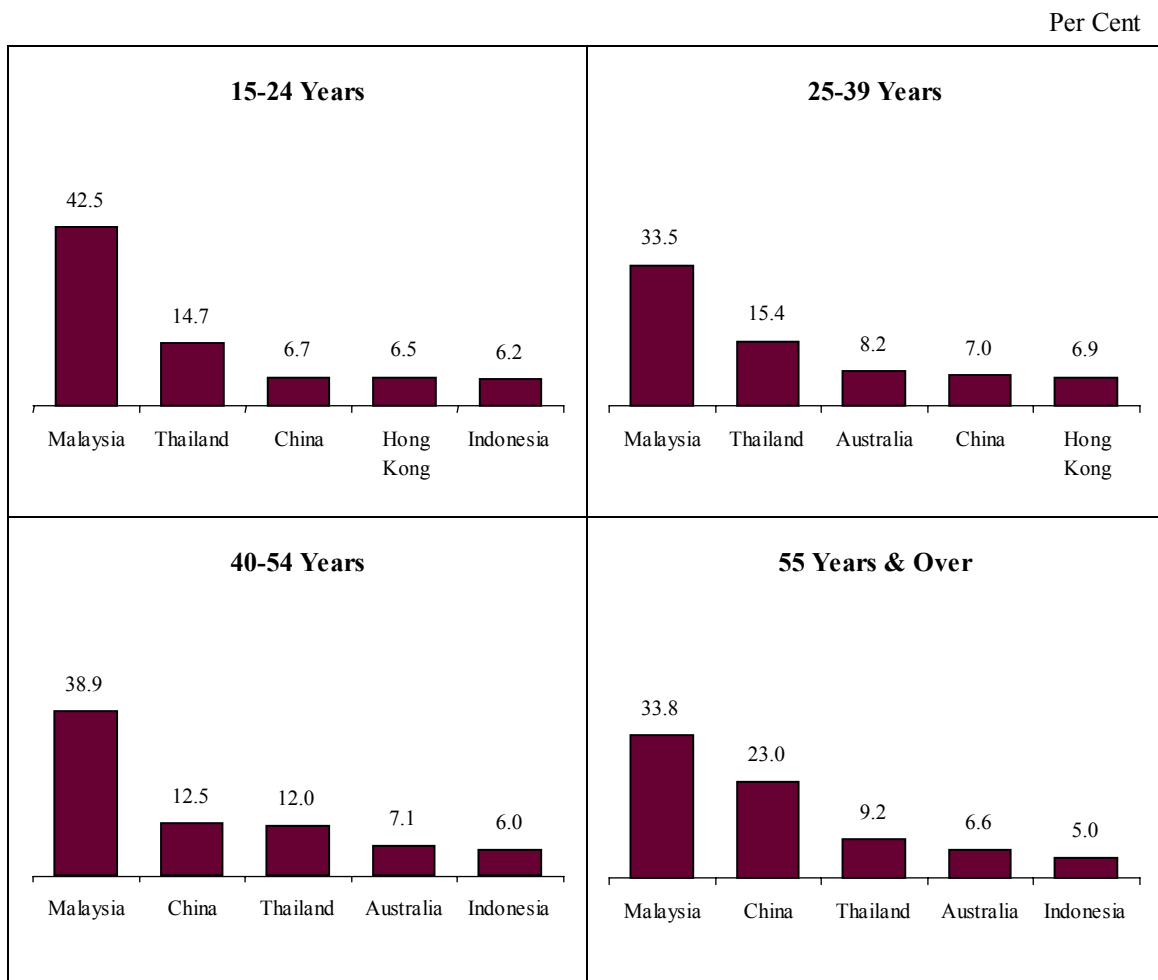


Proportionately More Older Residents Travelled to China for Holiday

China was a more popular holiday destination among older than younger Singapore residents. Among Singapore residents aged 55 years and over who travelled overseas for holiday, 23 per cent had their vacation in China (Chart 7). The corresponding proportion was a lower 13 per cent among holidaymakers aged 40-54 years and less than 10 per cent among those below 40 years old.

In contrast, Thailand was more popular among younger holidaymakers than the older ones. Malaysia was also more popular among holidaymakers aged 15-24 years.

**Chart 7 Top Five Destinations Among Residents
Who Travelled Overseas for Holiday by Age Group, 2005**



Holiday Destinations and Household Income

As monthly household income from work increased, there was an increasing proportion of residents who had their holiday in more distant destinations such as Europe, Australia, Japan and South Korea (Table 1). The proportion of residents who had their holiday in Malaysia was higher among residents with lower household income.

**Table 1 Residents Aged 15 Years and Over Who Travelled Overseas for Holiday
by Destination and Monthly Household Income from Work, 2005**

Destination	Per Cent					
	Below \$2,000	\$2,000 - \$3,999	\$4,000 - \$5,999	\$6,000 - \$7,999	\$8,000 - \$9,999	\$10,000 & Over
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Malaysia	43.4	46.1	41.8	36.0	31.3	21.1
Thailand	11.9	13.9	14.0	15.1	13.0	10.8
China	14.3	10.0	9.6	11.2	12.6	13.9
Indonesia	7.0	6.9	6.5	5.8	5.3	4.6
Australia	4.8	4.6	5.6	6.4	8.2	12.8
Hong Kong	4.4	5.0	5.5	6.9	6.7	6.0
Europe	2.3	1.5	2.0	2.7	3.7	6.0
Taiwan	2.4	2.6	3.2	3.1	3.2	2.6
Japan	1.3	1.7	2.2	2.9	3.6	4.9
South Korea	1.4	1.7	2.6	2.6	3.4	3.4
Others	6.7	5.9	6.9	7.2	9.1	13.9

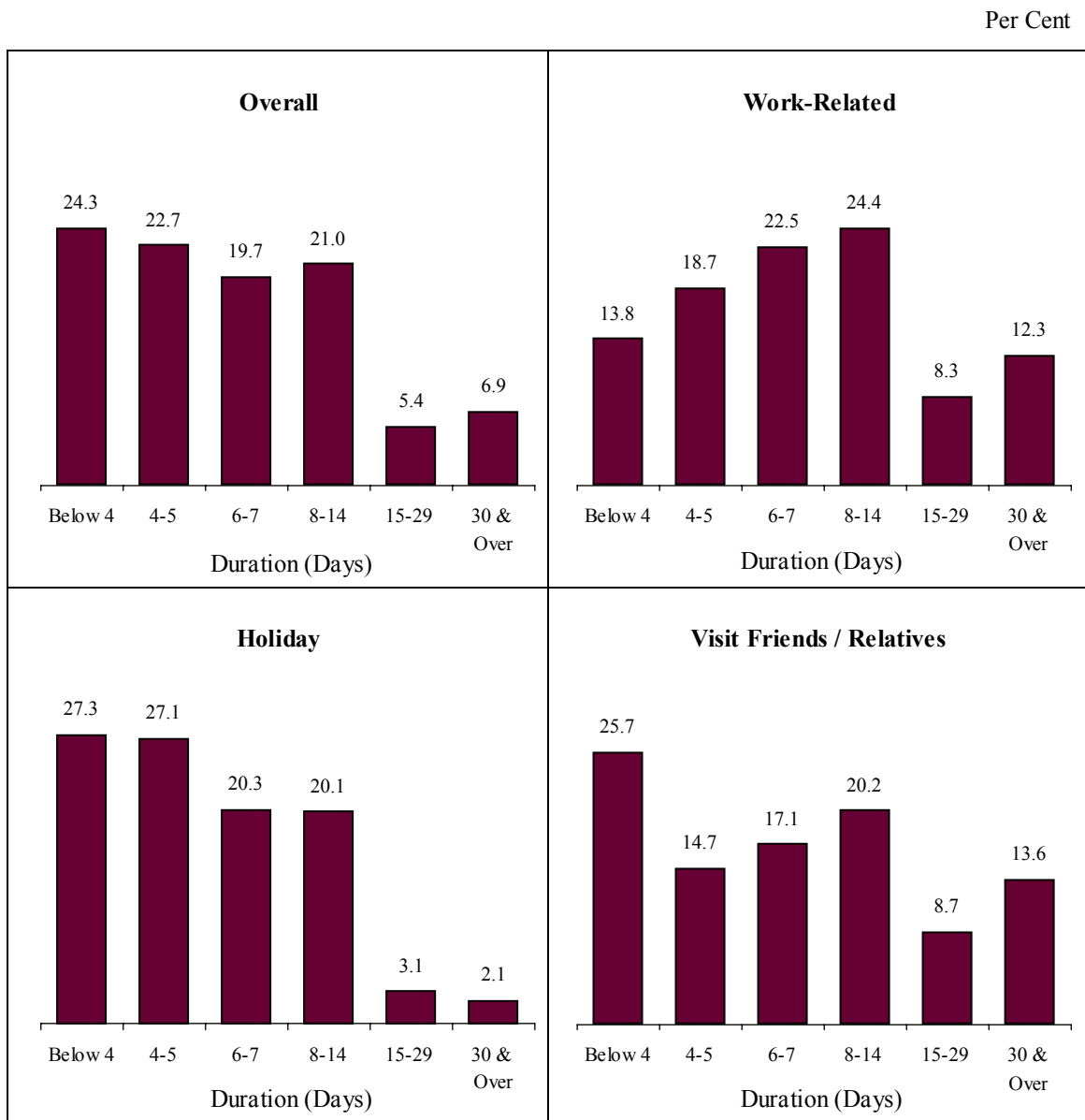
Duration of Overseas Travel

In 2005, the median duration of overseas travel was 7 days⁴. Some 24 per cent of Singapore residents travelled overseas for less than 4 days (Chart 8). Another 42 per cent were away for 4 to 7 days and 21 per cent were away for 8 to 14 days. Only 12 per cent travelled overseas for more than 14 days.

⁴ Travel duration in the General Household Survey 2005 is based on the longest overseas trip.

Singapore residents on work-related trips tended to have longer duration of travel than those on holiday trips. In 2005, about 45 per cent of those on work-related trips were away for more than 7 days. In comparison, only 25 per cent of holidaymakers went on trips for more than 7 days.

Chart 8 Residents Aged 15 Years and Over by Main Purpose and Duration of Overseas Travel, 2005



Shorter Visits to Neighbouring Destinations

Visits made by Singapore residents to neighbouring destinations were generally shorter than visits to further destinations. The median duration of the longest overseas trip was 3 days in Malaysia, 4 days in Indonesia and 5 days in Thailand (Chart 9). In comparison, the median duration of stay of the longest overseas trip was 8 days in China and 9 days in Australia.

The duration of travel to the same destination varied by purpose of travel. For example, the median duration of stay in China was 7 days for work-related trips, 8 days for holidays and 14 days for visiting friends and relatives.

Chart 9 Median Duration of Travel to Top Five Destinations Among Residents Aged 15 Years and Over by Main Purpose of Overseas Travel, 2005

