

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Singapore's resident population was 3.90 million as at end-June 2015<sup>1</sup>. Additional characteristics of the resident population and households, which were collected from a sample survey, are now available in the General Household Survey 2015 report. The key findings are as follows:

### *The Proportion of Singles Among the Younger Age Groups Increased*

The proportion of singles among younger age groups has increased. Between 2010 and 2015, the proportion of singles among residents aged 25-29 years rose from 74.6 per cent to 80.2 per cent for males, and from 54.0 per cent to 63.0 per cent for females. The proportion of singles among those aged 30 years and above remained stable.

### *Majority of Ever-Married Females Still Having Two or More Children, although the Average Number of Children has Declined*

Two-thirds of resident ever-married females aged 40-49<sup>2</sup> years had two or more children. The proportion who was childless or had one child increased slightly. Among resident ever-married females aged 40-49 years, the average number of children born declined from 2.02 in 2010 to 1.85 in 2015.

### *The Education Profile of Residents Improved*

The education profile of the resident population improved between 2010 and 2015. Among the resident non-student population aged 25 years and over, 52.0 per cent possessed post-secondary qualifications in 2015, up from 46.5 per cent in 2010.

### *Multi-Language Literacy Rose*

The literacy rate among the resident population was high, at close to 97.0 per cent in 2015. The proportion of residents literate in two or more languages increased. Among literate residents aged 15 and over, 73.2 per cent were able to read in two or more languages in 2015, an increase from the 70.5 per cent in 2010.

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<sup>1</sup> This data comes from the register-based General Household Survey and was previously released in the Population Trends 2015 report published in September 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Females in this age group were more likely to have completed child-bearing.

### ***Use of English as the Main Language at Home Rose***

English was the most frequently spoken language at home for 36.9 per cent of residents in 2015, up from 32.3 per cent in 2010.

### ***More Residents Had No Religious Affiliation***

The resident population remained diverse in terms of religious affiliation. Among residents aged 15 years and over in 2015, 43.2 per cent identified themselves as Buddhists or Taoists, 18.8 per cent as Christians, 14.0 per cent as Muslims and 5.0 per cent as Hindus. Another 18.5 per cent of residents had no religious affiliation in 2015, an increase from the 17.0 per cent in 2010.

### ***More Resident Households Lived in Condominiums and Other Apartments***

HDB 4-room flat remained the most common house type in 2015, with 32.0 per cent of resident households living in them. The next most common house type was HDB 5-room and executive flats, with 24.1 per cent of resident households living in such flats, followed by HDB 3-room flats with 18.2 per cent. The proportion of resident households living in condominiums and other apartments increased from 11.5 per cent in 2010 to 13.9 per cent in 2015.

Most households owned the houses they lived in. Home ownership among resident households stood at 90.8 per cent in 2015, up from 87.2 per cent in 2010.

### ***More Households Had At Least One Member aged 65 years and over***

With an ageing population, the proportion of resident households with at least one member aged 65 years and over rose from 24.1 per cent in 2010 to 29.1 per cent in 2015. Among residents aged 65 years and over in resident households, 61.3 per cent lived with their children in 2015, down from 66.7 per cent in 2010.

### *More Residents Relied on Public Bus and the MRT to Travel to Work or School*

In 2015, more than half of Singapore's resident working persons commuted to work by public bus or the MRT. In particular, the proportion commuting to work by MRT with a transfer to/from public bus increased from 17.6 per cent in 2010 to 24.8 per cent in 2015. Conversely, those who used cars as the only mode of transport to work decreased from 24.8 per cent to 21.9 per cent over the same 5-year period.

The shift towards the use of MRT with a transfer to/from public bus was also observed among resident students attending higher education institutions. Reflecting the close proximity of the schools to their homes, 44.7 per cent of pre-primary and primary school students did not need to take any transport to school in 2015, although this was lower than the 46.2 per cent in 2010.