

Key Household Income Trends – Glossary of Terms and Definitions

Resident households

A household refers to (i) a group of two or more persons living together in the same house and sharing common food or other essential arrangements for living; or (ii) a person living alone or a person living with others but having his own food or other essential arrangements for living. Although persons may be living in the same house, they may not be members of the same household. A resident household refers to a household headed by a resident (i.e. Singapore citizen or permanent resident).

Resident employed households

Resident employed households refer to resident households with at least one working person.

Household income from work

Household income from work refers to the sum of income received by working members of the household from employment and business. However, it does not include the income of maids. Household income from work includes one-twelfth of the annual bonus. Data on household income from work refers to household income from work before accounting for Government transfers and taxes, unless stated otherwise.

Household income from work per household member

Household income from work per household member refers to the household income from work divided by the total number of members in the household. For example, if there is one person in a household of four who is working, his income is divided by four to derive the income per household member. This takes into account the different sizes of households in each group and enables analysis of changes in household income, adjusted for changes in household size over time.

Median household income

Median household income refers to the household income in the middle of the income distribution, i.e. half of the households have higher income than the median household income and half have lower income than the median household income.

Decile (decile group)

A decile group is one tenth of all households arranged by their incomes from minimum to maximum. The first decile group is the first one-tenth (the 10% of all household with lowest incomes). The last decile is the one-tenth of the households with the highest incomes.

Not all households are consistently in the same decile group from one year to the next. For example, an employed household may move down from a higher decile in a particular year due to temporary unemployment of a household member, before moving up the deciles when the member resumes work in the subsequent year. In comparing the performance of any particular decile group over time, it is therefore relevant to note that they may not pertain to the same group of households.

Percentile ratios

Percentile ratios are one measure of the spread of incomes across the population. P90 refers to the income level at the 90th percentile. P10 refers to the income level at the 10th percentile.