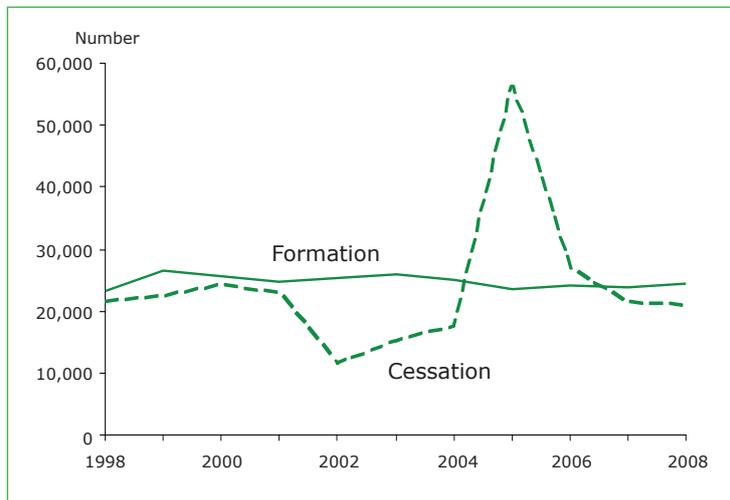


entertainment, recreation & other service activities (4.0 per cent).

The number of business cessations declined by 1.5 per cent, from 21,310 in 2007 to 20,980 in 2008. Most major industries recorded lower business cessation,

with the largest decline recorded in real estate, rental & leasing activities (11 per cent). Other industries registered smaller declines in business cessation, for example, construction (5.6 per cent), wholesale & retail trade (4.1 per cent), and transport & storage (3.7 per cent).

CHART 2 FORMATION AND CESSATION OF BUSINESSES



## Popular Months for Marriage in Singapore

*Do you know . . .*

that December was the most popular month for marriage in 2008? A total of 24,596 marriages were registered in 2008, of which 2,867 (or 12 per cent) occurred in December (Chart 1). November was the next popular month for marriage, followed by September. December was also the most popular month for marriage in 2006 and 2007.

For Chinese couples, September was the most popular month to tie the knot in 2008 (Chart 2). The eighth month of the Chinese lunar calendar, which has traditionally been regarded by the Chinese as an auspicious month to get married, coincided with September in 2008. Of the 15,738 Chinese couples who were married in 2008, about 12 per cent registered

their marriage in September.

In 2008, the largest number of Muslim marriages was registered in August, and the least in September (Chart 3).

The low number of Muslim marriages registered in September could be due to the Ramadan month of fasting, which coincided with September in 2008.

CHART 1 TOTAL NUMBER OF MARRIAGES BY MONTH, 2008

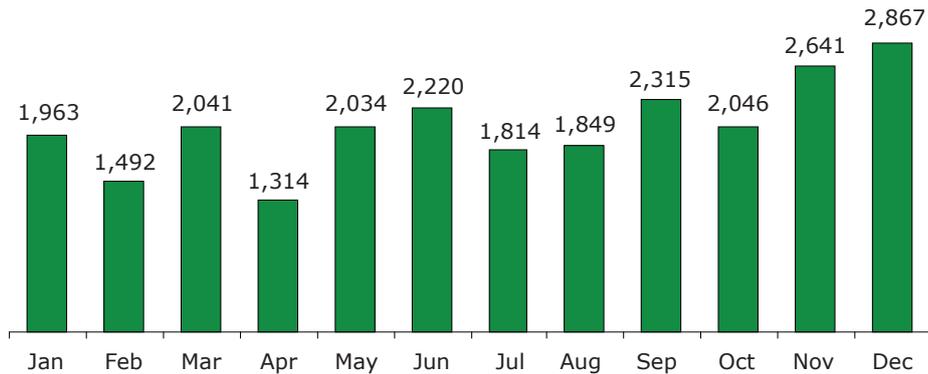


CHART 2 TOTAL NUMBER OF MARRIAGES AMONG CHINESE COUPLES BY MONTH, 2008

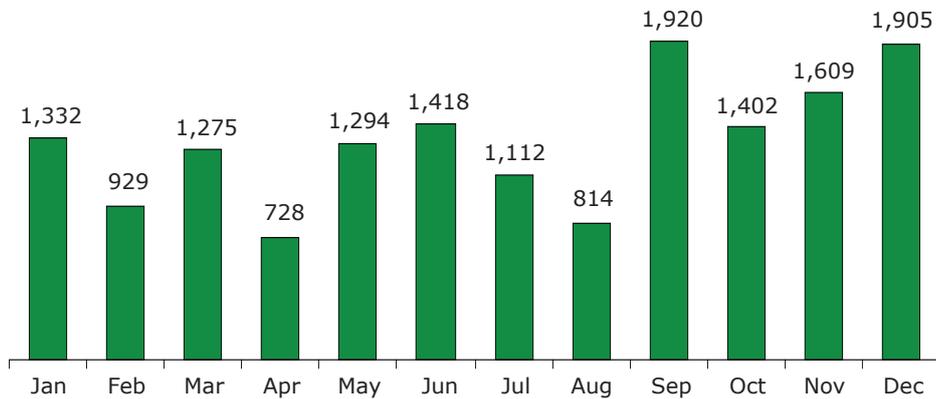
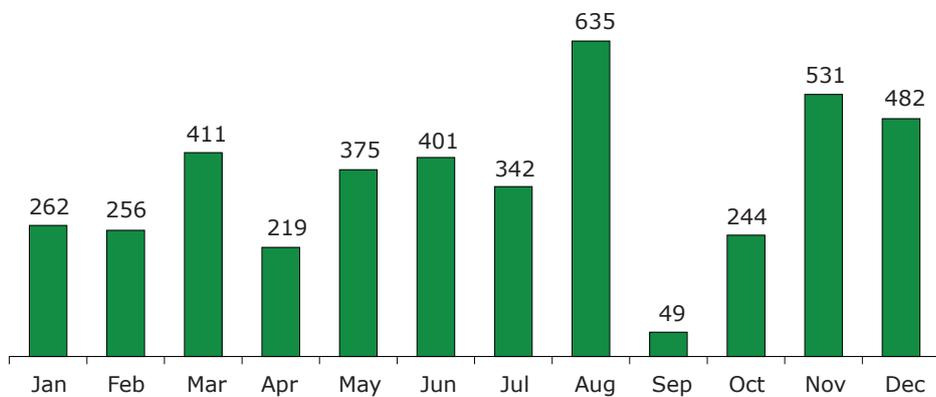


CHART 3 TOTAL NUMBER OF MUSLIM MARRIAGES BY MONTH, 2008



Note : Data are preliminary.