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Educational Profile of Singapore Resident Non-Students, 2002 - 2012

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Introduction

This article looks at the distribution of the Singapore resident non-student population in terms of the highest qualification attained. It examines the trends in educational profile in 2012 and over the past decade for males and females as well as across different age groups. It also looks at educational attainment in terms of mean years of schooling.

The data for 2005 and 2010 used in this paper are from the General Household Survey 2005 and Census of Population 2010 conducted by the Singapore Department of Statistics.

Data for other years are based on the Comprehensive Labour Force Survey conducted by the Ministry of Manpower.

The data cover the Singapore resident population aged 25 years and over who are

not attending educational institutions as full-time students. Singapore residents who are upgrading their qualifications through part-time courses while working are included in the data. The Singapore resident population refers to Singapore citizens and permanent residents.

The Singapore Standard Educational Classification (SSEC)¹ is used to classify persons by their highest qualification attained. Highest qualification attained refers to the highest grade or standard of formal education a person has passed or the highest level of education where a certificate, diploma, or degree is awarded.

The educational qualification may be attained through full-time or part-time study in a structured educational programme.

¹ SSEC 2010 is used to classify the data from 2010 onwards. For data prior to 2010, the SSEC 2000 is used. More information on the SSEC is available on the SingStat website at: http://www.singstat.gov.sg/methodologies_and_standards/standards_and_classifications/SSEC.html

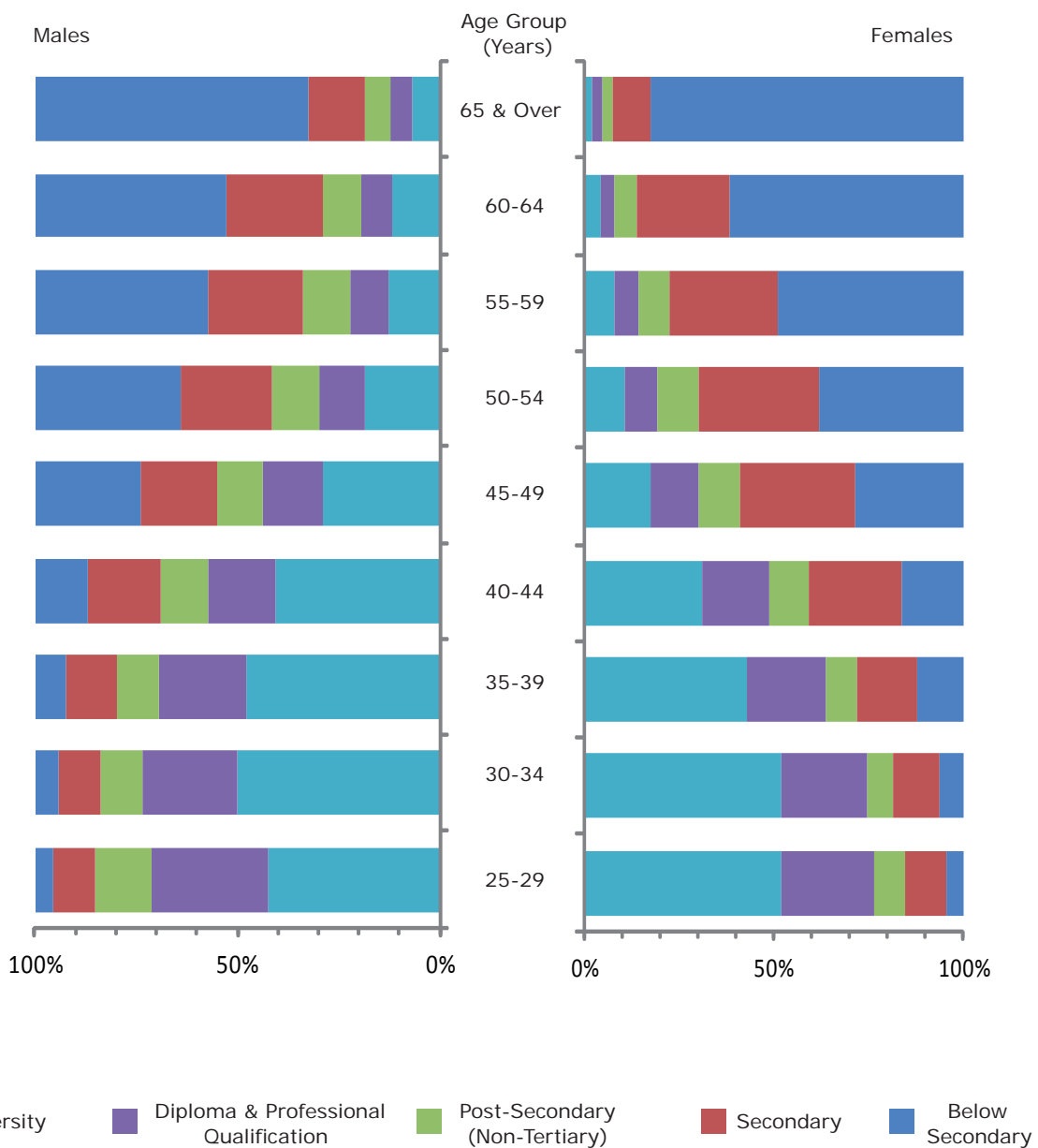
The educational qualifications exclude skill certifications, certificates of course attendance and honorary qualifications which are not the result of formal learning and examination by a formal educational institution or professional body.

Educational Profile

Younger Population Are Better Educated

The increased schooling opportunities over the years are reflected in the distribution of educational attainment by age.

CHART 1 HIGHEST QUALIFICATION ATTAINED OF RESIDENT NON-STUDENT POPULATION BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 2012



Note: For the age group of 25-29 years, some males could be still pursuing higher education after performing national service at an earlier age.

In 2012, the proportions of Singapore resident non-students with tertiary education² were generally higher for younger males and females than for the older cohorts (Chart 1).

For example, more than 70 per cent of Singapore resident non-students aged 25-29 years and 30-34 years were tertiary educated. In contrast, less than 20 per cent among those aged 60-64 years, and 65 years and over had tertiary qualifications.

Growth in Tertiary Educated Population

At the same time, the educational profile of the Singapore resident non-student population has improved over the last decade.

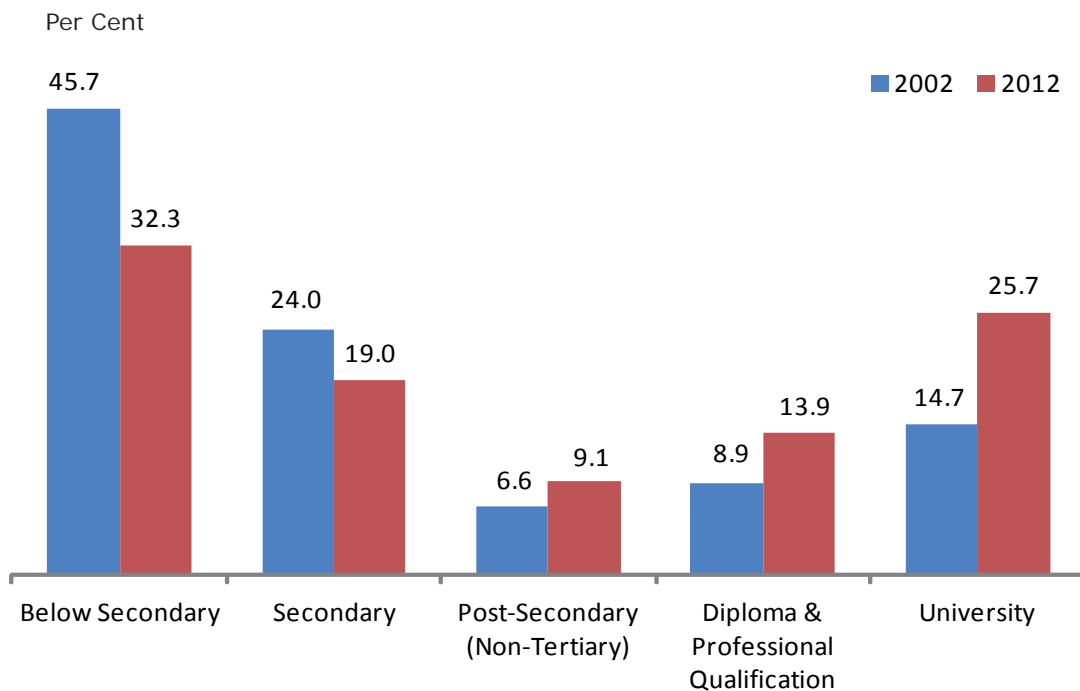
Between 2002 and 2012, there was a marked increase in the proportion of the population with tertiary qualifications.

University graduates constituted 26 per cent of the resident non-student population aged 25 years and over in 2012, up from 15 per cent a decade ago (Chart 2).

Persons with diploma and professional qualifications also accounted for a larger share of the resident non-student population at 14 per cent in 2012, up from 8.9 per cent in 2002.

Overall, the tertiary educated accounted for 40 per cent of the resident non-student population aged 25 years and over in 2012, up from 24 per cent in 2002.

CHART 2 HIGHEST QUALIFICATION ATTAINED OF RESIDENT NON-STUDENT POPULATION AGED 25 YEARS & OVER, 2002 AND 2012



2 In this article, the tertiary educated refer to persons with diploma and professional qualifications, or university qualifications.

Improved Educational Profile across All Age Groups

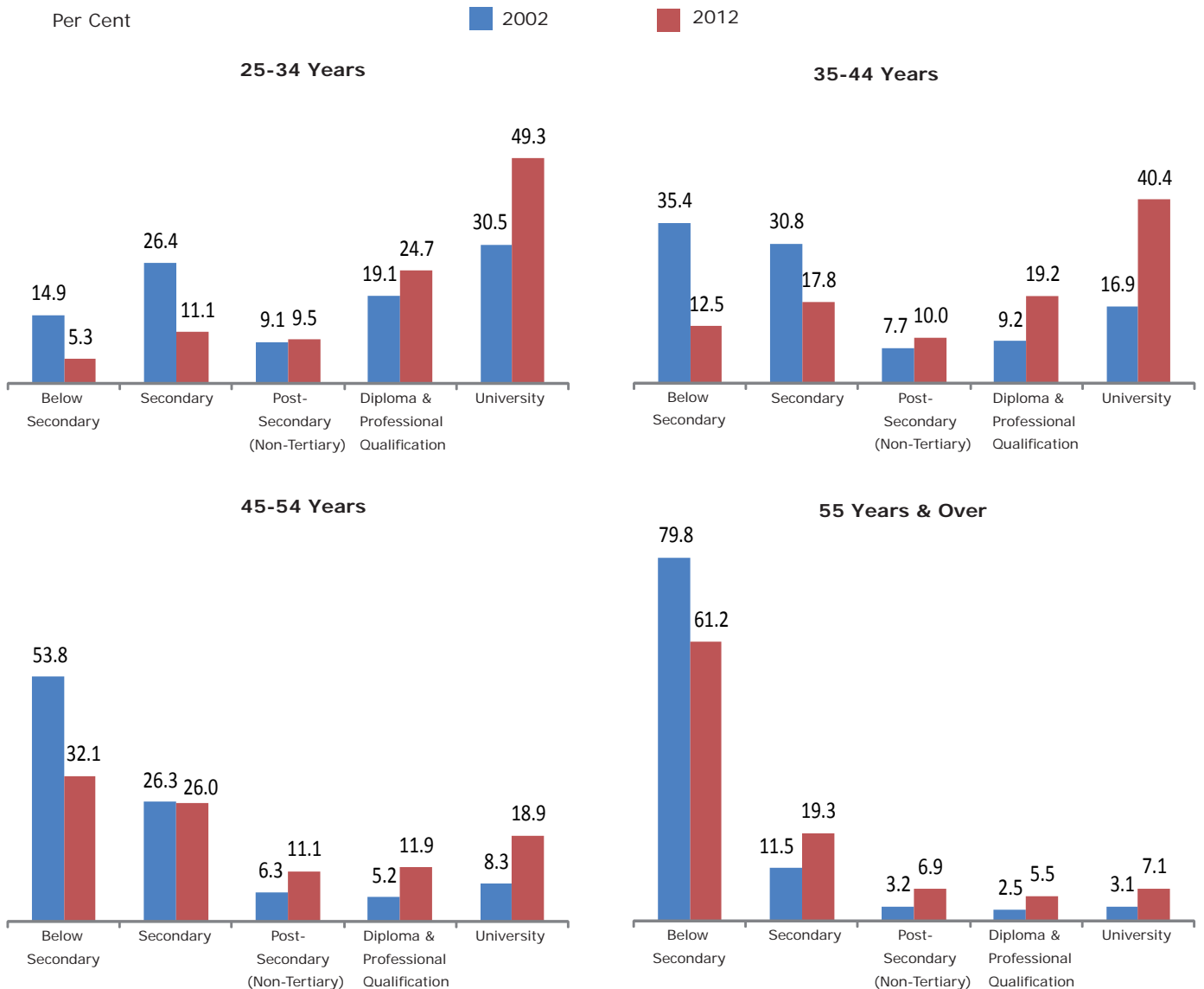
Compared with 2002, all age groups saw an increase in the proportion with tertiary qualifications in 2012. The tertiary educated made up 74 per cent of Singapore resident non-students aged 25-34 years in 2012, up from 50 per cent in 2002 (Chart 3).

The increase was largely due to the rise in the proportion of university graduates from 30 per cent to 49 per cent.

The proportion with diploma and professional qualifications rose by a smaller extent, from 19 per cent to 25 per cent.

Among the resident non-student population aged 35-44 years, the proportion with tertiary qualifications also increased significantly from 26 per cent in 2002 to 60 per cent in 2012. About 40 per cent held university qualifications and 19 per cent held diploma and professional qualifications in 2012, an increase from the corresponding proportions of 17 per cent and 9.2 per cent respectively a decade ago.

CHART 3 HIGHEST QUALIFICATION ATTAINED OF RESIDENT NON-STUDENT POPULATION BY AGE GROUP, 2002 AND 2012



For the older age groups, the increase in the proportion with tertiary qualifications was comparatively smaller.

Between 2002 and 2012, the proportion with tertiary qualifications rose from 14 per cent to 31 per cent for those aged 45-54 years, and from 5.6 per cent to 13 per cent for those aged 55 years and over.

Improved Educational Profile for Males and Females

The educational profiles of both males and females improved. Among male resident non-students aged 25 years and over, the proportion with tertiary qualifications rose from 28 per cent in 2002 to 43 per cent

in 2012 (Table 1). Among females, the corresponding proportion rose from 20 per cent to 36 per cent.

While the proportion with tertiary qualifications was higher for males than females among resident non-students aged 25 years and over, it was the reverse among younger residents within the group.

Among those aged 25-34 years in 2012, 76 per cent of females held tertiary qualifications, compared to 72 per cent of males (Table 2).

However, for those aged 35 years and over, the proportion of males in each age group with tertiary qualifications was larger than that of the females.

TABLE 1 RESIDENT NON-STUDENT POPULATION AGED 25 YEARS & OVER BY HIGHEST QUALIFICATION ATTAINED AND SEX, 2002 AND 2012

	Per Cent			
	Males		Females	
	2002	2012	2002	2012
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Below Secondary	42.9	29.2	48.4	35.1
Secondary	22.6	17.3	25.4	20.6
Post-Secondary (Non-Tertiary)	7.0	10.5	6.2	7.8
Diploma & Professional Qualification	10.4	14.9	7.6	13.0
University	17.2	28.1	12.4	23.5

TABLE 2 RESIDENT NON-STUDENT POPULATION BY HIGHEST QUALIFICATION ATTAINED AND AGE GROUP, 2012

	Per Cent							
	25-34 Years		35-44 Years		45-54 Years		55 Years & Over	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Below Secondary	5.2	5.4	10.5	14.3	30.9	33.2	54.2	67.6
Secondary	10.5	11.7	15.3	20.1	20.9	30.9	19.7	18.9
Post-Secondary (Non-Tertiary)	11.9	7.4	11.0	9.2	11.3	10.8	8.8	5.1
Diploma & Professional Qualification	26.0	23.6	19.0	19.4	13.2	10.7	7.1	4.0
University	46.4	51.9	44.2	37.0	23.7	14.3	10.1	4.4

Note: For the age group of 25-34 years, some males could be still pursuing higher education after performing national service at an earlier age.

Mean Years of Schooling

Mean Years of Schooling Rose over Time and across All Age Groups

With more Singapore residents attaining higher levels of educational qualifications,

the mean years of schooling of the population has also risen over time.

Among resident non-students aged 25 years and over, the mean years of schooling rose from 8.7 years in 2002 to 10.3 years in 2012 (Chart 4).

CHART 4 MEAN YEARS OF SCHOOLING AMONG RESIDENT NON-STUDENT POPULATION AGED 25 YEARS & OVER, 2002-2012

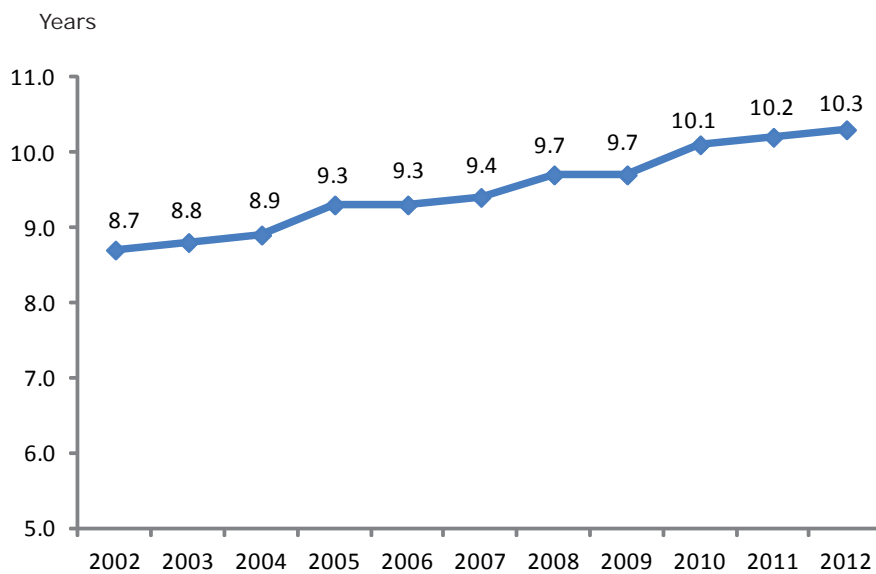
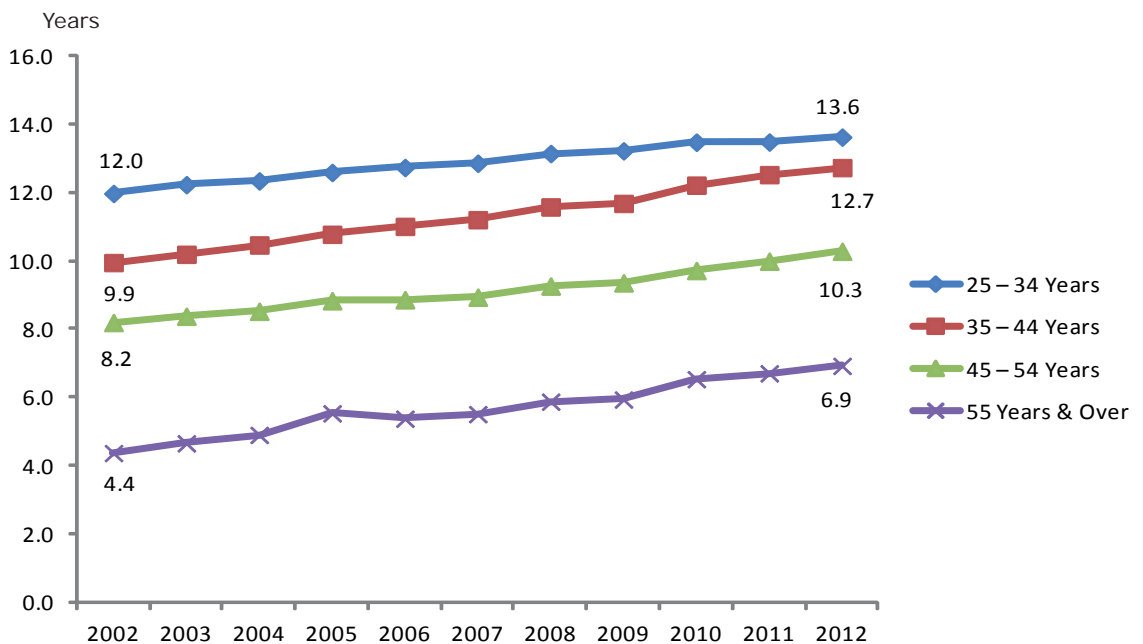


CHART 5 MEAN YEARS OF SCHOOLING AMONG RESIDENT NON-STUDENT POPULATION BY AGE GROUP, 2002-2012



Over the last decade, the mean years of schooling rose for every age group, reaching 13.6 years for the age group of 25-34 years, 12.7 years for the age group of 35-44 years, 10.3 years for the age group of 45-54 years and 6.9 years for the age group of 55 years and over in 2012 (Chart 5).

Narrower Difference between Males and Females in Mean Years of Schooling

Females are catching up with their male counterparts in the attainment of higher educational qualifications, especially among the younger age groups.

The difference between male and female non-students in mean years of schooling was narrower in 2012 compared to 2002 (Table 3).

In particular, for the younger cohort aged 25-34 years, the mean years of schooling for females (13.7 years) was marginally higher than that of their male counterparts (13.5 years) in 2012.

Concluding Remarks

In tandem with increasing schooling opportunities, the educational attainment of the resident non-student population aged 25 years and over improved over the last decade.

Between 2002 and 2012, there was a significant increase in the proportion of the population with tertiary qualifications. The improvement was reflected across all age groups, with the younger age groups showing a comparatively larger increase. The educational profiles of both males and females also improved over the last decade, with females catching up with their male counterparts in the attainment of higher educational qualifications.

During the same period, the mean years of schooling of the resident non-student population rose at the overall level as well as across all age groups. At the same time, the difference between males' and females' mean years of schooling also narrowed over the past decade.

TABLE 3 MEAN YEARS OF SCHOOLING AMONG RESIDENT NON-STUDENT POPULATION BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 2002 AND 2012

Age Group (Years)	Years					
	2002			2012		
	Males	Females	Difference	Males	Females	Difference
Total	9.3	8.1	1.2	10.9	9.9	1.0
25-34	12.1	11.8	0.3	13.5	13.7	-0.2
35-44	10.3	9.6	0.7	13.1	12.4	0.7
45-54	8.9	7.5	1.4	10.7	9.8	0.9
55 & Over	5.6	3.3	2.3	7.9	6.0	1.9

Note: For the age group of 25-34 years, some males could be still pursuing higher education after performing national service at an earlier age.

Singapore's Merchandise Trade Performance, 2003 - 2012

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Overview

Singapore's trade grew significantly over the last decade

Over the past decade, Singapore's trade rose significantly from S\$516 billion in 2003 to reach S\$985 billion in 2012 in nominal terms, achieving a compound average growth rate (CAGR) of 7.4 per cent.

Today, the value of Singapore's merchandise trade is 2.85 times its gross domestic product

(GDP). This reflects the importance of trade to Singapore's economy (Chart 1). Trade growth appears to be more volatile than GDP growth, which is not surprising given the openness of the Singapore economy.

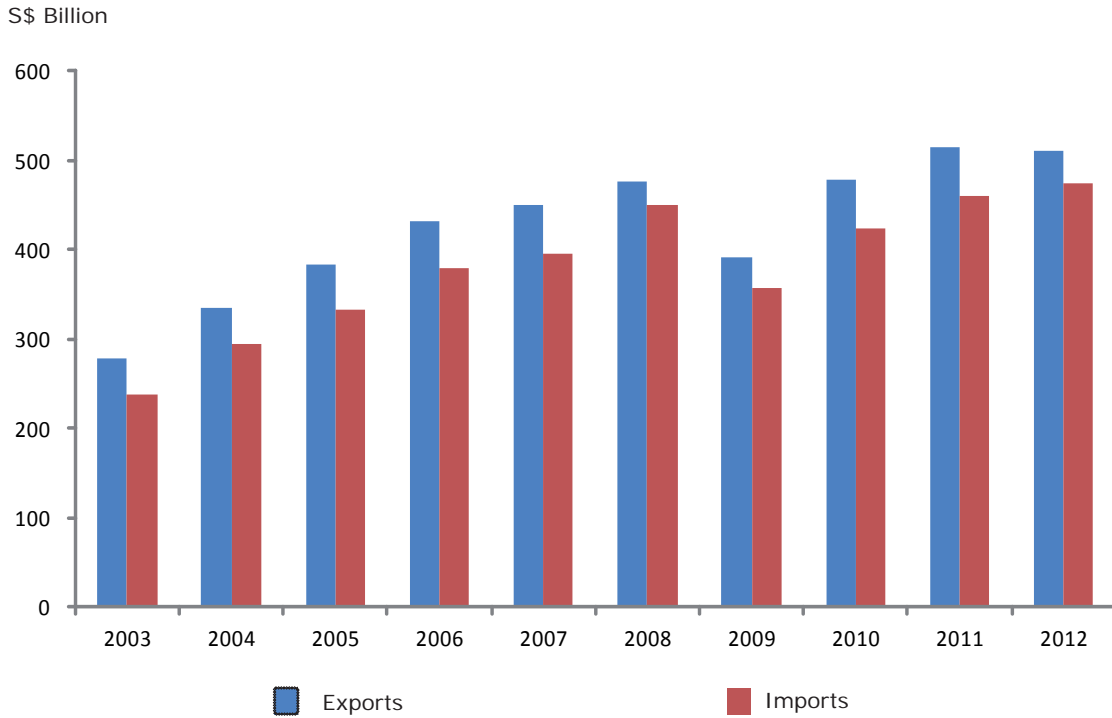
In the same period, Singapore's import growth achieved a CAGR of 8.0 per cent, outpacing its export growth which attained a CAGR of 7.0 per cent. Despite this, the percentage contribution of exports to Singapore's total trade has been consistently higher than that of imports¹ (Chart 2).

CHART 1 SINGAPORE'S MERCHANDISE TRADE AND GDP IN NOMINAL TERMS, 2003 - 2012



1 Percentage contribution of exports to total trade declined from 54 per cent in 2003 to 52 per cent in 2012.

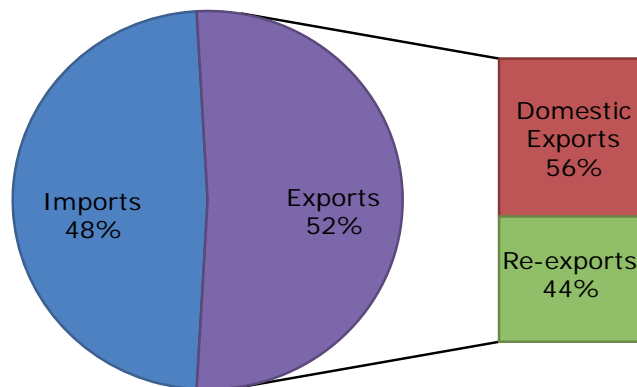
CHART 2 SINGAPORE'S MERCHANDISE EXPORTS AND IMPORTS, 2003 - 2012



Singapore's merchandise trade includes a large volume of entrepot trade with 56 per cent of exports consisting of domestic exports² while the remaining comprise re-exports³ (Chart 3). Both domestic exports and re-exports expanded significantly between 2003 and 2012. Over the last decade, domestic exports grew by a CAGR

of 7.4 per cent from S\$151 billion in 2003 to S\$285 billion in 2012. Over the same period, re-exports rose by a CAGR of 6.5 per cent from S\$128 billion to S\$225 billion. A shift in focus among the local industries to manufacturing higher value-added products contributed to the faster expansion of domestic exports.

CHART 3 COMPOSITION OF SINGAPORE'S MERCHANDISE TRADE, 2012



2 Domestic exports refer to exports of Singapore origin and comprise primary commodities grown or produced in Singapore. It also takes into account goods which have been manufactured, assembled or processed in Singapore, including those with imported materials or parts.

3 Re-exports comprise all goods which are exported from Singapore in the same form as they have been imported without any transformation. Re-packing, splitting into lots, sorting or grading, marking and the like are not considered as undergoing the process of transformation.

Product Mix

Petroleum oils and pharmaceutical products contributed to the rise in Singapore's trade

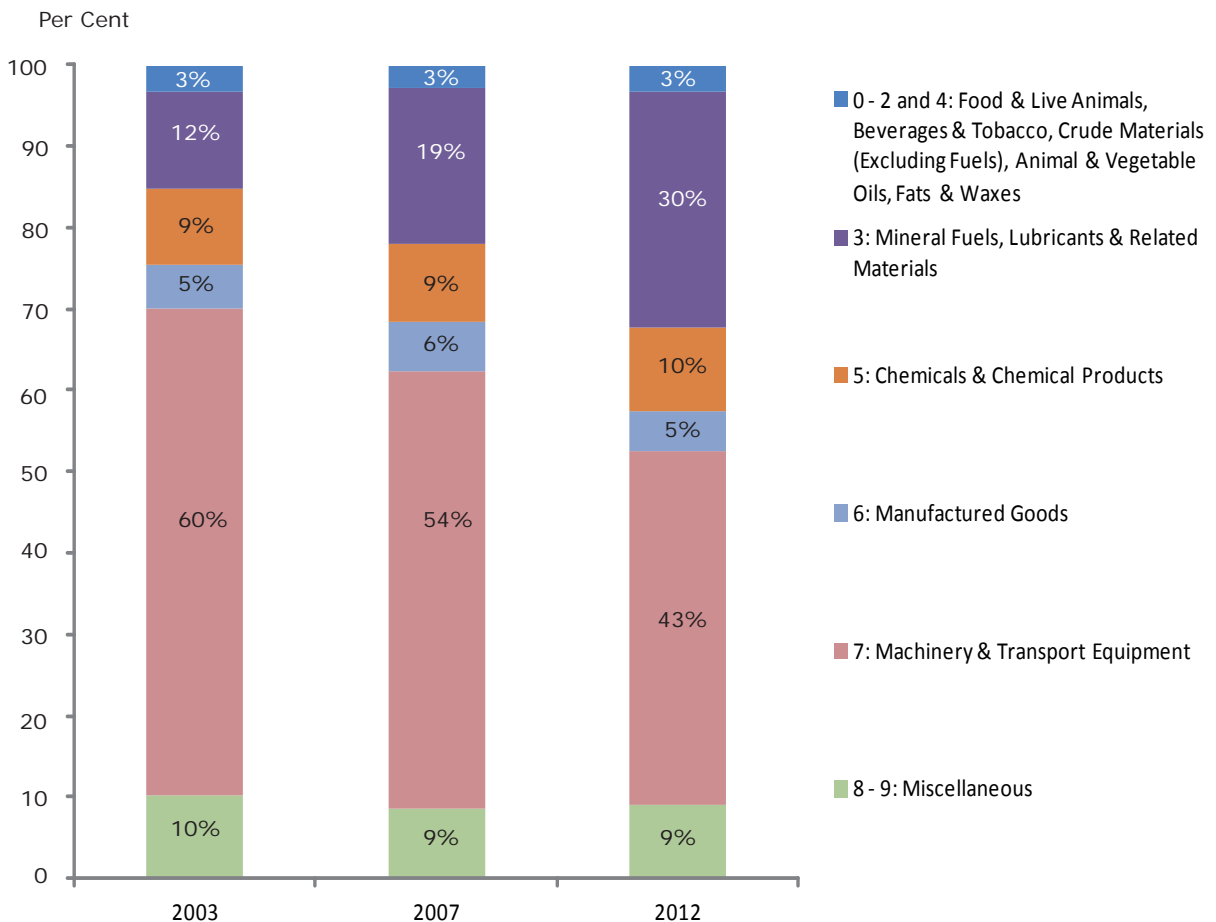
The shift in focus for the manufacturing sector is also reflected in the changing composition of Singapore's traded products at the 1-digit level of the Standard Industrial Trade Classification (SITC).

Machinery & Transport Equipment dominated Singapore's merchandise trade in 2003 with a share of 60 per cent (Chart 4).

In 2012, the share decreased to 43 per cent. In comparison, the shares of Mineral Fuels, Lubricants & Related Materials and Chemical & Chemical Products grew.

An increase in trade in petroleum oils (SITC 333 & 334) led the expansion in the share of Mineral Fuels, Lubricants & Related Materials which grew from S\$61 billion in 2003 to reach S\$274 billion in 2012. The main contributor to the increase in the share of Chemical & Chemical Products was a rise in trade in pharmaceutical products which grew from S\$16 billion in 2003 to S\$33 billion in 2012.

CHART 4 PRODUCT MIX OF SINGAPORE'S MERCHANDISE TRADE (AT SITC 1-DIGIT LEVEL), 2003 - 2012



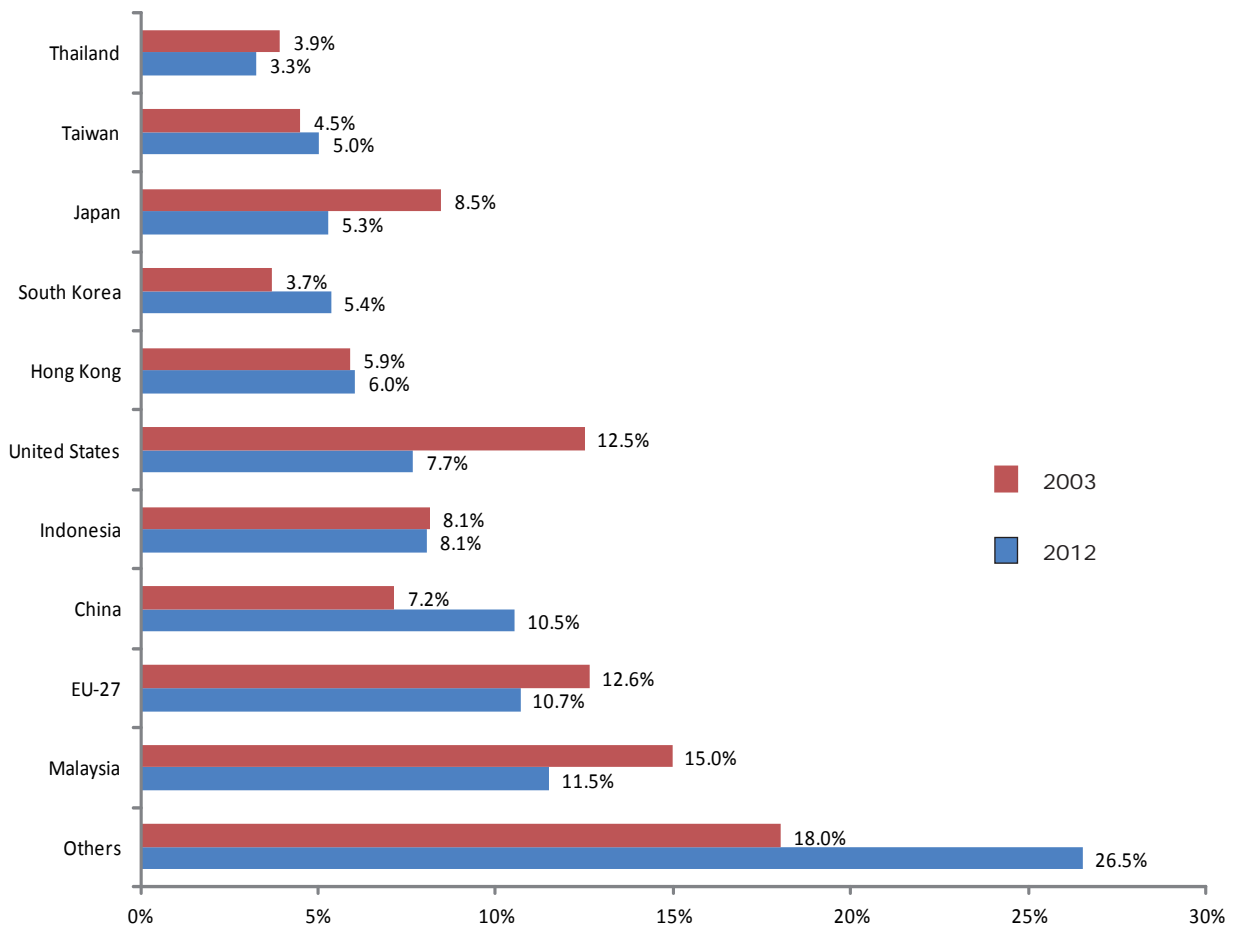
Trading Partner Profile

Emerging markets, especially China, were the largest drivers of Singapore's trade

The profile of Singapore's top 10 trading partners has seen some significant changes over the past decade. The shares of the EU-27 and the US in Singapore's merchandise trade declined from 25 per cent

in 2003 to 18 per cent in 2012 (Chart 5). This was unsurprising as the weak performance of the EU and US economies in recent years contributed towards the decline of Singapore's merchandise trade with them. Over the same period, Malaysia's share of trade with Singapore contracted by 3.5 percentage points while China's share of trade with Singapore rose 3.4 percentage points.

CHART 5 PERCENTAGE SHARE CONTRIBUTION OF TOP 10 TRADING PARTNERS, 2003 & 2012



The percentage share contribution of Singapore’s top 10 trading partners to total trade shrunk from 82 per cent in 2003 to 73 per cent in 2012, whereas the percentage share contribution of other countries expanded from 18 per cent to 27 per cent over the same period.

Due to globalisation, trade with both our regional trading partners and non-traditional markets such as the United Arab

Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Panama, has increased steadily over the years.

Singapore’s merchandise trade with Asian countries grew two-fold from S\$349 billion in 2003 to S\$694 billion in 2012, underscoring the importance of regional trade (Chart 6). This was boosted particularly by the rise in Singapore’s trade with China. Asian trade dominated Singapore’s total trade with a market share of 70 per cent.

CHART 6 SINGAPORE’S MERCHANDISE TRADE WITH ASIA, 2003 - 2012



Similarly, Singapore’s trade with other ASEAN countries expanded from S\$159 billion in 2003 to S\$262 billion in 2012 (Chart 7).

Trade with ASEAN countries represented 27 per cent of Singapore’s total trade in 2012, reflecting the close-knit relationship between Singapore and other ASEAN member countries.

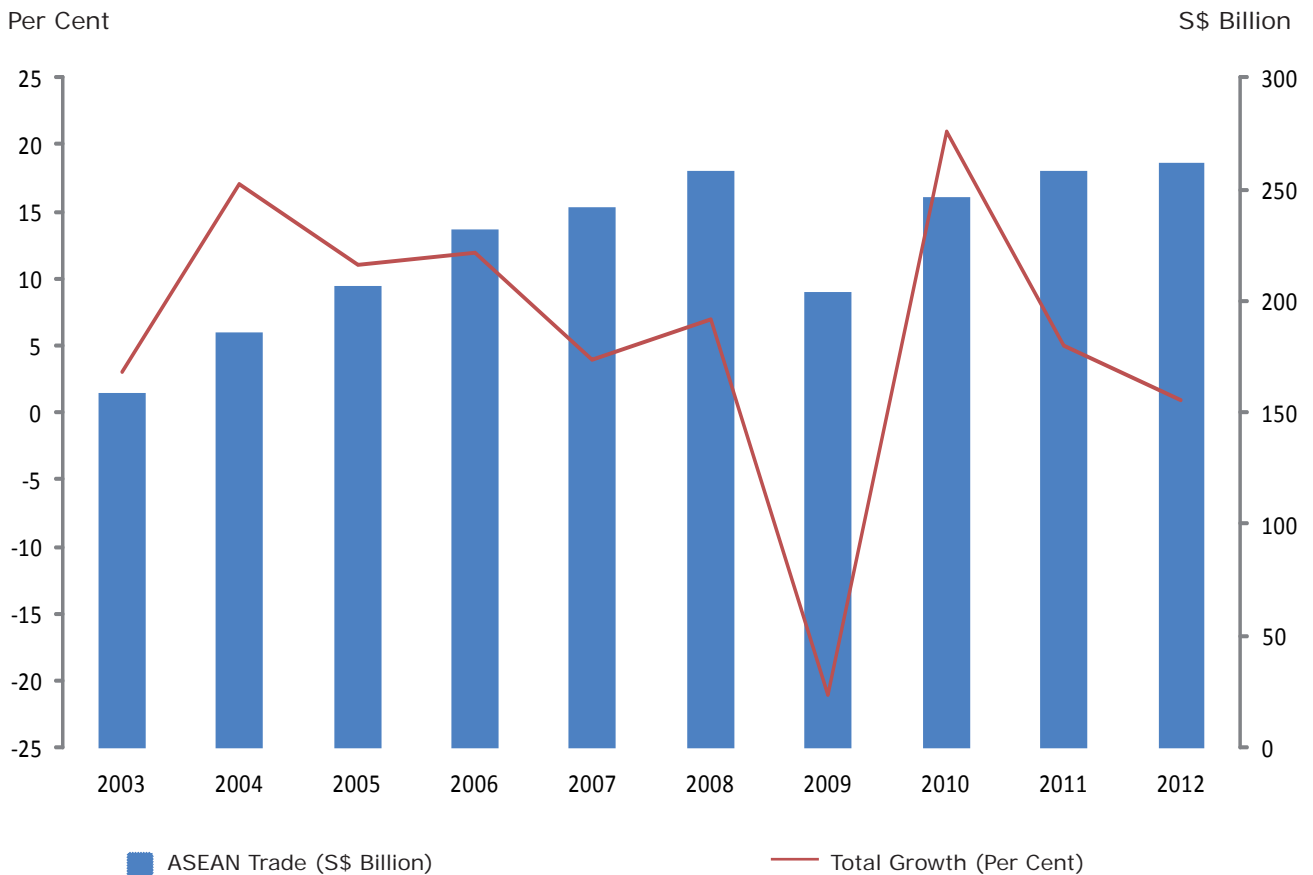
In particular, the increase in trade with Indonesia and Vietnam contributed to the

growth in Singapore’s trade with other ASEAN countries over the past decade.

Concluding Remarks

The last decade saw a surge in the growth of Singapore’s merchandise trade, especially with its regional trading partners. With the increased economic activities of the emerging markets, Singapore’s merchandise trade will likely witness even more changes in the composition of product mix and trading partner profile over the next few years.

CHART 7 SINGAPORE’S MERCHANDISE TRADE WITH ASEAN, 2003 - 2012





New SingStat Website Unveiled

Launched on 13 March 2013, the revamped SingStat website features an enhanced user interface, improved navigation, a new mobile-friendly version and dynamic charts

The SingStat website was launched in 1995 as the gateway to official statistics on Singapore's economy and population. Since then, it has undergone several revamps to continually enhance the experience of visitors to the website. The revamp is also part of the Singapore Department of Statistics' efforts to serve the growing needs of its global data users seeking statistical information on Singapore.

As part of the website revamp exercise, a survey was conducted to gather information on users' experience and expectations of the website. The users' feedback was reviewed to identify the enhancements to be incorporated in the new website. The result is a more vibrant and visually appealing website that helps visitors to obtain data more easily as well as offers a more unique take on the presentation of statistics, as seen in the use of dynamic graphs.

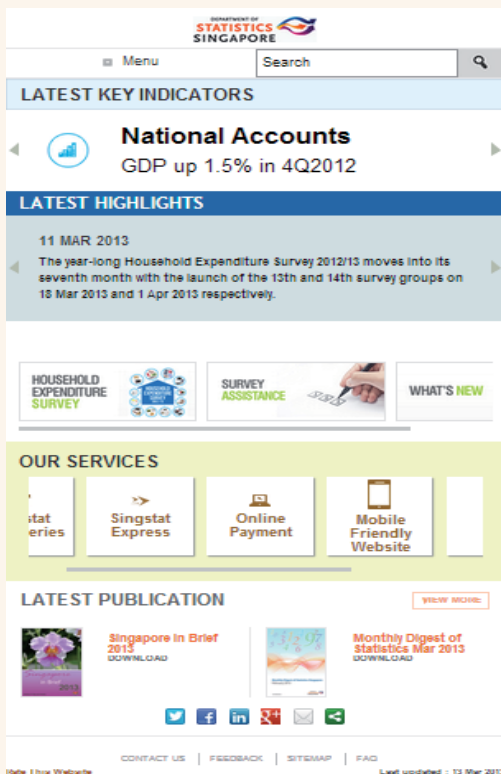
What's New



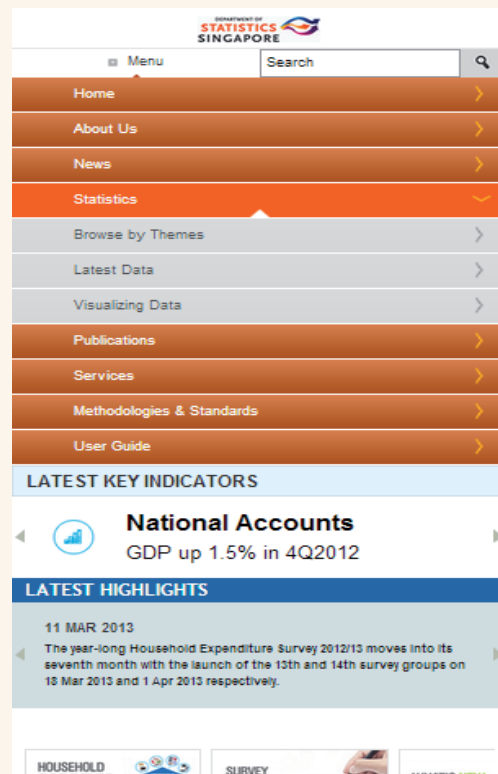
Mobile-Friendly Website

Reaching out to the growing number of users accessing the website through mobile devices, the SingStat website offers a mobile interface that is optimised for viewing on mobile devices.

The mobile website layout is simplified with essential information displayed on the homepage. For a drop-down menu, simply touch the menu button on the top left-hand corner of the homepage.



View of homepage from mobile



Drop-down menu



'Like' Feature

Visitors to the SingStat website who are users of Facebook may simply click on the 'Like' button on our new website to share their interest in the site with their contacts on Facebook.



Dynamic Graphs

The revamped website offers dynamic graphs and charts for a range of statistical domains. The presentation of data is more stimulating and engaging.

What's Enhanced



Key Indicators

The homepage now prominently features the latest key indicators, along with the highlights of recent statistical releases. Users may click on any of the latest key indicators to access the corresponding Themes pages where more statistical information are available.



Advance Release Calendar

The advance release calendar now provides the planned release dates of key statistical indicators six months ahead instead of three months ahead.



Latest Data

The sections on 'Key Annual Indicators' and 'Latest Data' have been combined so that users may access all the latest data in one section.



Publications and Papers

The sections on 'Publications' and 'Papers and Analyses' have been merged. Users may access the full list of reports, papers and articles for any statistical domain at one glance.

We welcome your comments on the new website. Please send us your feedback through the Feedback Form at <http://app.singstat.gov.sg/asp/feedback/feedback.asp> or via the link 'Rate This Website' on the SingStat homepage.

Overseas Visitors

The Singapore Department of Statistics (DOS) welcomed the following visitors over the past six months.

Topics discussed included monitoring activities for field surveys in producing statistical data and exchange of experiences.

Korea

Statistics Korea

- Mr Ko Haeng-Joon
Director, Inspection and Audit Division
- Mr Jeon Kwang-Woo
Deputy Director, Inspection and Audit Division

2012 in Brief

Singapore's population

... reached 5.31 million in June 2012.

Singapore's economy

... grew 1.3 per cent.

Mean years of schooling

... was 10.9 years for male resident non-students aged 25 years and over and 9.9 years for female resident non-students aged 25 years and over.

Home ownership rate

... was 91.0 per cent.

Gross national saving

... was S\$157.6 billion.

Official foreign reserves

... increased to S\$316.7 billion.

Labour force participation rate

... reached 76.0 per cent among males and 57.7 per cent among females.

Resident unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)

... was 2.8 per cent.

Inflation rate

... was 4.6 per cent.

Value added for the manufacturing sector

... amounted to S\$60.2 billion.

Investment commitments in manufacturing and services

... reached S\$16.0 billion in fixed asset investments.

Total trade

... reached S\$984.9 billion.

International visitor arrivals

... was 14,369 thousand.

Air cargo handled

... was 1,811 thousand tonnes.

Mobile phone subscriptions

... reached 1,518 per 1,000 population.

Residential wired broadband household penetration rate

... was 107.3 per cent.

Wireless broadband population penetration rate

... was 166.1 per cent.

Crime rate

... declined to 581 per 100,000 population.

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The *Statistics Singapore Newsletter* is issued half-yearly by the Singapore Department of Statistics.

It aims to provide readers with news of recent research and survey findings. It also serves as a vehicle to inform readers of the latest statistical activities in the Singapore statistical service.

Contributions and comments from readers are welcomed.

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