Adoption of the Extended Balance of Payments Services Classification

By
Wilson Wong, Hya Ting Yu and Goh Yen Sze
Economic Accounts Division and Business Statistics Division
Singapore Department of Statistics

Introduction

Over the past decade, international trade has grown in importance as economies become more interconnected globally. In particular, the role of international trade in services has become increasingly significant. Between 2007 and 2017, Singapore's international trade in services (TIS) statistics recorded a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.4 per cent, outpacing the 1.4 per cent growth recorded for total trade in goods over the same period.

In recognition of the growing importance of international trade in services, a progressive review was done by the Singapore Department of Statistics (DOS) to enhance Singapore's balance of payments (BOP) and TIS statistics which are in accordance with international statistical standards set out in the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) sixth edition of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6).

Following the implementation of BPM6 in 2012 and methodological improvements made to Singapore's international accounts in 2016, DOS will, with effect from March 2018, adopt the Extended Balance of Payments Services (EBOPS) Classification provided by the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010 (MSITS 2010), which will result in a significant increase in the number of services components presented in Singapore's BOP and TIS statistics.

This article presents an overview of the major improvements arising from the adoption of the EBOPS classification, as well as provides an analysis of the key trends and composition of the EBOPS components in selected major services categories based on the new presentation in Singapore's BOP and TIS statistics.

Methodology and Key Improvements

Quarterly estimates on services trade by standard components based on the BPM6 format compiled by DOS are published in the Economic Survey of Singapore report released by the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Additional breakdown for Singapore's TIS statistics by major services category (consistent with the BPM6 standard components) and trading partners are also made available on an annual basis in the Singapore's International Trade in Services report published by DOS.

The implementation of EBOPS involves the review and further disaggregation of selected major services categories, as well as the study of existing data sources to determine the suitable levels of classification based on the EBOPS framework.

Data items available from the International Trade in Services Survey (henceforth referred to as the TIS survey) conducted by DOS have been further categorised into the relevant detailed components, while new estimates were developed from other administrative and survey sources based on the EBOPS classification set out in MSITS 2010 in line with the BPM6 format.

As a result, the number of services components in the BOP services account and TIS statistics almost doubled and data for 40 major services categories are released.

Among the standard components and major services categories in Singapore's BOP and TIS statistics, further breakdown based on the EBOPS classification are introduced for transport services, financial services, telecommunications, computer & information services, charges for the use of intellectual property, personal, cultural and recreational services as well as other business services.

Modes of Transport

Transport services are disaggregated by modes of transport, namely sea transport, air transport, and other modes of transport, in addition to the current breakdown by type of transport service (i.e. freight and other transport services for all modes of transport).

The further breakdown of transport services into the various modes of transport have been compiled and estimated based on data collected from the TIS survey as well as additional information on freight imports from the Survey of Transportation Cost (STC) for benchmark years.

With the adoption of EBOPS, information on modes of transport will also be collected via the annual STC survey from reference year 2017 to obtain more comprehensive and reliable estimates.

In addition, postal and courier services are released as a new services category under transport services.

FISIM & Explicitly Charged and Other Financial Services

FISIM or financial intermediation services indirectly measured (on loans and deposits) have been classified as an EBOPS sub-component while the rest of financial services are grouped together as explicitly charged and other financial services.

Explicit charges for financial services are compiled from the TIS survey while indirect charges in the form of FISIM along with margins from forex trading and acquisitions and disposals of debt securities are separately derived from administrative sources and investment surveys.

Disaggregation and Classification of Other Services Components

Telecommunications services, computer services and information services are introduced as additional services categories under telecommunications, computer & information services. The new series are compiled based on detailed data collected from the TIS survey which are further classified into the respective EBOPS sub-components.

Charges for the use of intellectual property (IP) are further disaggregated based on the various types of IP, namely franchises and trademarks licensing fees, licenses for the use of outcomes of research and development, and licenses to reproduce and/or distribute computer software, audio-visual and related products and other IP charges.

Several of these series have been compiled from data items first developed and introduced in the TIS survey with the implementation of BPM6 in 2012.

Audio-visual and related services (and others), health services and education services are compiled based on data collected from the TIS survey and presented as new services categories under personal, cultural and recreational services.

The various major services categories under other business services have been regrouped to align with the EBOPS presentation, viz. research and development services, professional and management consulting services and technical, trade-related and other business services. These are the main EBOPS sub-components for this standard services component.

With the reclassification, professional and management consulting services now comprise legal, accounting, advertising and market research and business management services.

Operating leasing services is introduced as a new services category in other business services. This, together with architectural, engineering and technical, trade-related and other services, now come under technical, trade-related and other business services.

New Presentation Format based on EBOPS

With the release of the EBOPS classification, a new and more detailed presentation of the BOP services account and TIS statistics has been introduced. Table 1 provides a comparison of the current presentation for services trade and the new format presented based on EBOPS.

Recent Trends

Singapore's total trade in services reached $463 billion in 2017, close to 104 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current market prices (Chart 1). Singapore recorded a services trade deficit as major categories such as other business services, charges for the use of intellectual property, travel services as well as transport services registered net payments for the year.

In terms of the selected services components with EBOPS breakdown, other business services, transport services, financial services, charges for the use of intellectual property, telecommunications, computer & information services, as well as personal, cultural and recreational services collectively constituted around 80 per cent of total trade in services for the year.

CHART 1 COMPOSITION OF TRADE IN SERVICES, 2017

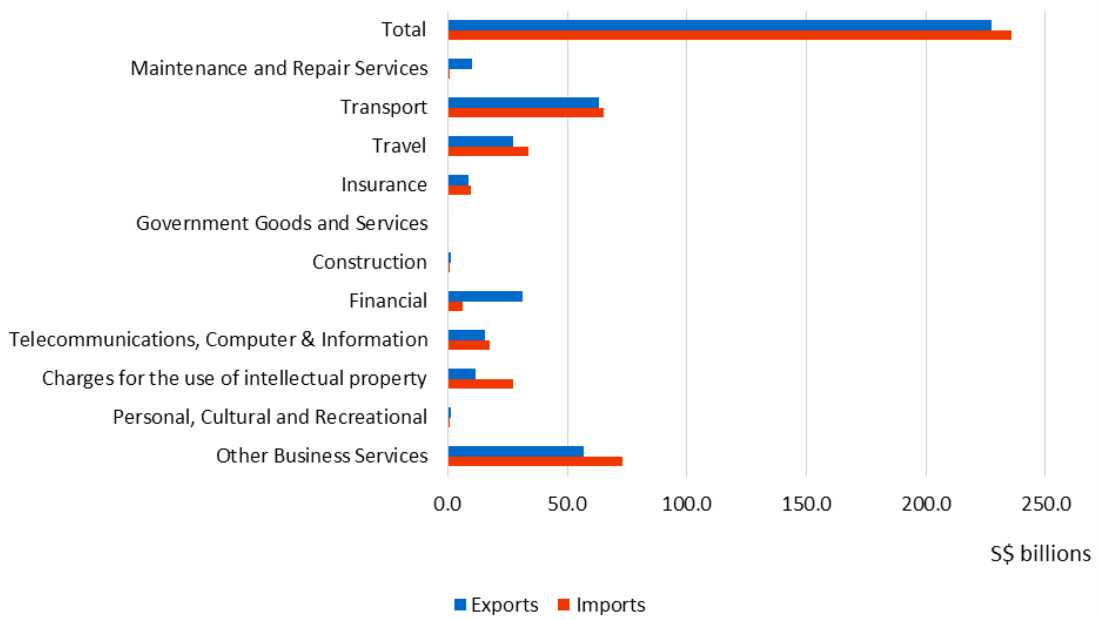


TABLE 1 PRESENTATION OF BOP SERVICES ACCOUNT AND TIS STATISTICS[1]

Existing Format	New EBOPS Format
Maintenance And Repair Services	Maintenance And Repair Services
Transport	Transport
Freight[2]	Sea transport
Others[3]	Freight
	Passenger and Others
	Air transport
	Other modes of transport
	Postal and courier services
Travel	Travel
Insurance	Insurance
Government Goods And Services	Government Goods And Services
Construction	Construction
Financial	Financial
	Explicitly charged and other financial services
	Financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM)
Telecommunications, Computer & Information	Telecommunications, Computer & Information
	Telecommunications services
	Computer services
	Information services
Charges For The Use Of Intellectual Property	Charges For The Use Of Intellectual Property
	Franchises and trademarks licensing fees
	Licences for the use of outcomes of research and development
	Licenses to reproduce and/or distribute computer software, audio-visual and related products and other IP charges
Personal, Cultural And Recreational	Personal, Cultural And Recreational
	Audio-visual and related services and others
	Health services
	Education services
Other Business Services	Other Business Services
Research And Development	Research And Development
Legal	Professional and management consulting
Accounting	Legal
Advertising And Market Research	Accounting
Business Management	Advertising And Market Research
Architectural	Business Management
Engineering And Technical	Technical, trade-related and other business services
Trade-related	Architectural
Others	Engineering And Technical
	Operating leasing[4]
	Trade-related
	Others

1 For more information on the definitions of the various services categories, please refer to the Technical Notes in the Singapore's International Trade in Services 2016 report from page 18.

2 Includes Freight services for all modes of transport.

3 Includes Passenger and Other transport services for all modes of transport.

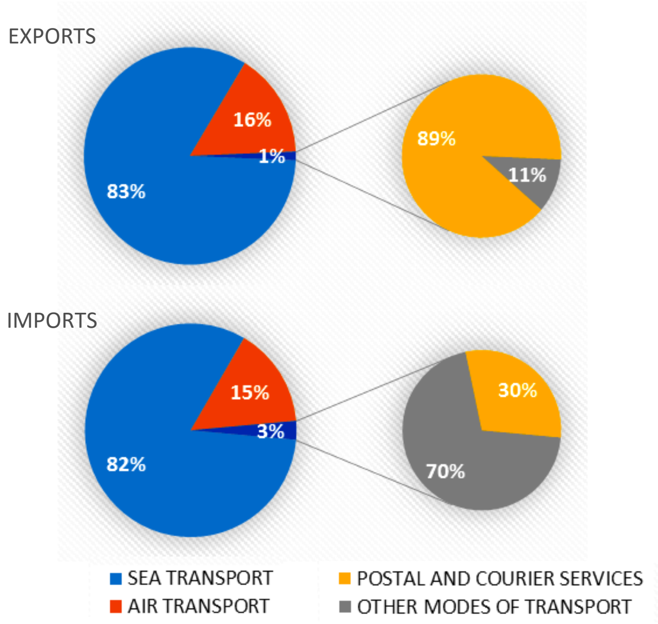
4 Shown separately on its own with the adoption of EBOPS; previously subsumed under Others.

Transport

Transport services exports was the largest contributor of Singapore's exports of services, recording a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 1.9 per cent from 2013 to 2017. The increase in transport receipts was mainly driven by the growth in sea and air transport services, which accounted for 83 per cent and 16 per cent of exports of transport services in 2017 respectively (Chart 2).

In comparison, imports of transport services registered a higher CAGR of 7.6 per cent on the back of higher payments for transport services by sea and air during the period.

CHART 2 TRANSPORT SERVICES BY MODE OF TRANSPORT, 2017



Financial

Trade in financial services grew steadily over the past five years, with both exports and imports registering CAGRs of about 7.4 per cent each. The growth in exports and imports of financial services were led by the increase in financial management services and FISIM, reflecting Singapore's status as an international financial centre. In 2017, explicitly charged and other financial services accounted for 78 per cent of trade in financial services, with FISIM constituting the rest.

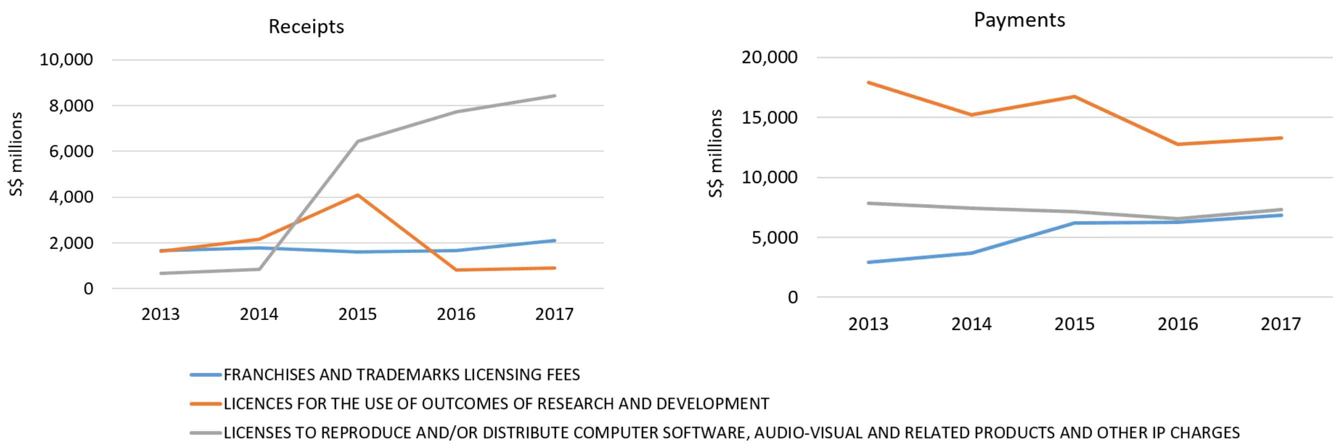
Telecommunications, Computer & Information

Exports and imports of telecommunications, computer and information services have been expanding rapidly over the years. Receipts and payments for computer services recorded robust annual growths of 13 per cent and 10 per cent respectively over the last five years. Computer services contributed 85 per cent, whereas telecommunications services and information services accounted for 11 per cent and around 4 per cent respectively of total trade in telecommunications, computer and information services in 2017.

Charges for the Use of Intellectual Property

Services exports of charges for the use of intellectual property grew significantly over the past five years (Chart 3) at a CAGR of 30 per cent, which resulted in its share of total services exports rising from 2.2 per cent in 2013 to 5.0 per cent in 2017.

CHART 3 CHARGES FOR THE USE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, 2013 - 2017

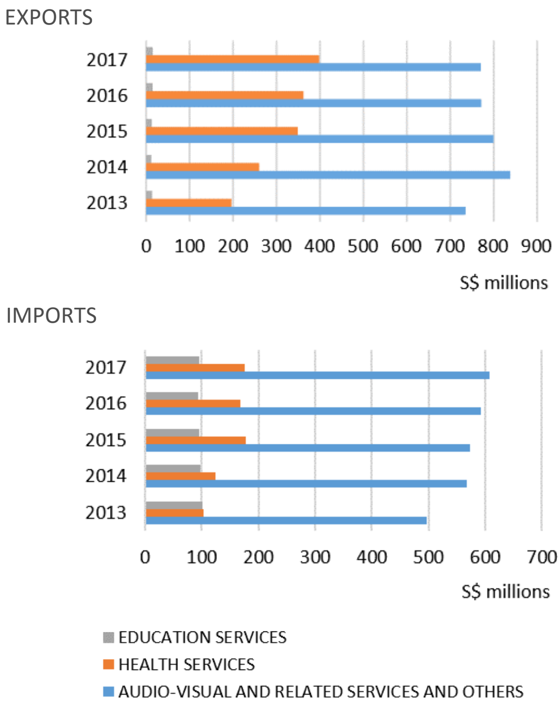


This was due mainly to the surge in receipts from IP charges for the reproduction and redistribution of software and multimedia works in recent years. In contrast, services imports of charges for the use of intellectual property was relatively stable over the period with a CAGR of -1.1 per cent, although it remained an important contributor to overall services imports, accounting for 12 per cent of the total in 2017.

Personal, Cultural and Recreational

Personal, cultural and recreational services exports and imports, which mainly comprise audio-visual and related as well as health services receipts and payments, registered CAGRs of 5.8 per cent and 5.9 per cent respectively from 2013 to 2017 (Chart 4).

CHART 4 TRADE IN PERSONAL, CULTURE & RECREATIONAL SERVICES, 2013 - 2017

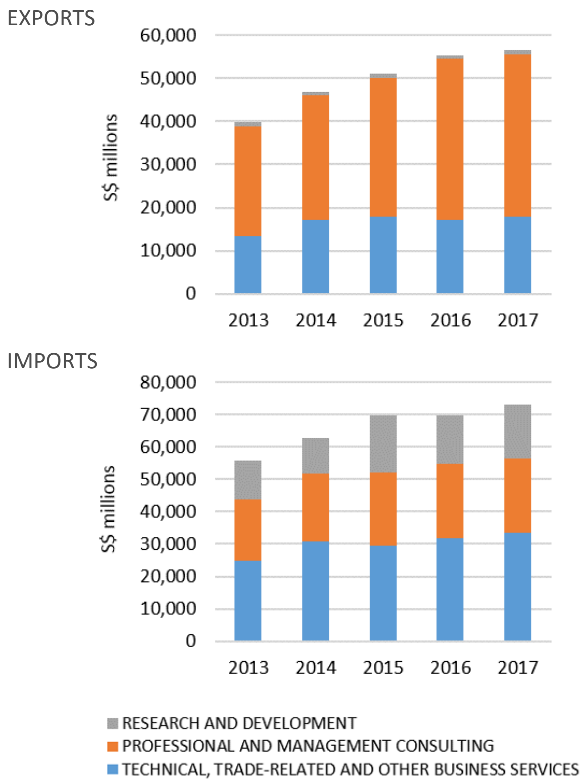


Other Business Services

Since 2013, exports of other business services expanded by an annualised 9.2 per cent as professional and management consulting services, as well as technical, trade-related and other business services recorded CAGRs of 10 per cent and 7.4 per cent respectively (Chart 5).

Similarly, imports of other business services, which formed the bulk of the total services imports increased over the past five years with a CAGR of 7.0 per cent.

CHART 5 TRADE IN OTHER BUSINESS SERVICES, 2013 - 2017



Concluding Remarks

The successful adoption of EBOPS by DOS will significantly enhance the analytical usefulness of Singapore's BOP and TIS statistics, providing more disaggregated data for the monitoring of developments in the global economy and international trade.

DOS will continue to review the remaining BPM6 services components and work towards releasing more detailed EBOPS categories. This will better align Singapore's statistics on international trade in services with the presentation found in BPM6 and MSITS 2010, while improving data quality and increasing their relevance to underlying economic conditions.

Cervical Cancer Epidemiology and Screening Behaviour in Singapore

By
Benjamin Er and Chua Yi Xian
Epidemiology & Disease Control Division
Ministry of Health

Introduction

Cervical cancer is mainly caused by persistent infection with the human papillomavirus (HPV), specifically HPV types 16 and 18 which account for 70 per cent of all cases[1] . Other risk factors include infection with the human immunodeficiency virus, a weakened immune system, early age of sexual activity, multiple lifetime sexual partners, history of sexually-transmitted infections, long-term use of oral contraceptives, and tobacco smoking.

The risk of cervical cancer can be reduced by addressing these risk factors. In addition, regular cervical cancer screening in women can facilitate the detection of precancerous lesions and early-stage cancer for prompt treatment to achieve good health outcomes.

In 2004, the Health Promotion Board (HPB) launched the Cervical Screen Singapore (CSS), a national cervical cancer screening programme. This programme invites women aged 25-69 years, who had ever had sex, to undergo cervical cancer screening once every three years. Eligible women receive subsidised Papanicolaou (Pap) tests[2] at polyclinics. It also encourages women to go for Pap smear screening at private clinics through educational campaigns aimed at increasing awareness of cervical cancer screening and the importance of follow-up.

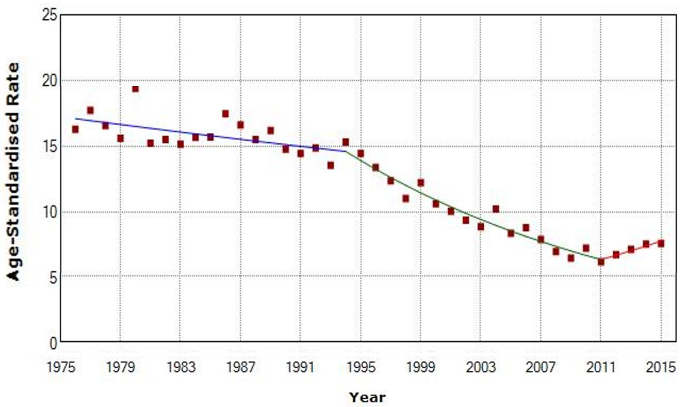
This article presents the epidemiology of cervical cancer based on data up till 2015 from the Singapore Cancer Registry, and highlights how Pap smear screening behaviour among women surveyed in the National Health Surveys has changed over the years.

Epidemiology of Cervical Cancer in Singapore

Between 2011 and 2015, a total of 1,037 new cases of cervical cancer were diagnosed. From being the 4th most common cancer in the 1970s, cervical cancer is now ranked as the 10th most common cancer.

Trend analysis of the Age-Standardised Incidence Rates (ASIR)[3] of cervical cancer corroborated this observation. It showed that the rates had declined over the years, with a steeper decline from 1994 to 2011 as compared to the period 1976-1994 (Chart 1).

CHART 1 TREND ANALYSIS[4] OF CERVICAL CANCER ASIR, 1976-2015



1 There are over 100 different types of HPV, of which at least 13 are cancer causing (high-risk types).

2 The Papanicolaou test (Pap smear) is a method of cervical screening in which a small brush or spatula is used to gently remove cells from the cervix (opening of the uterus) so that they can be checked under a microscope for cervical cancer or cell changes that may lead to cervical cancer. Abnormal findings are followed up by more sensitive diagnostic procedures, and if indicated, interventions that aim to prevent the progression to cervical cancer. The test was invented by, and named after, the prominent Greek doctor Georgios Papanicolaou.

3 The ASIR is a weighted average of the age-specific incidence rates. The weights used are from the population distribution of a standard population, in this case, Segi's World Population. Age-standardisation is used to account for the effect of population growth and ageing.

4 Using Join-Point Regression. This method is used here to determine the number of trend segments needed to adequately explain the relationship between cervical cancer incidence rates and time. Any change in trend detected is indicated by a 'join-point', which connects two different trend segments.

However, there seems to be a reversal of this downward trend in recent years as the ASIR increased (albeit not statistically significantly) from 6.3 per 100,000 person-years in 2011 to 7.7 per 100,000 person-years in 2015.

Given the serious impact of cervical cancer on a woman's well-being, the rates should be continually monitored to see if the change in trend is warranted.

Analysis of the stage distribution of cervical cancer shows that there is a rising proportion of late-stage cancers (Chart 2). The proportion of stage III-IV cancers increased from the period 2006-2010 to the period 2011-2015 across all age groups of women 30 years and above.

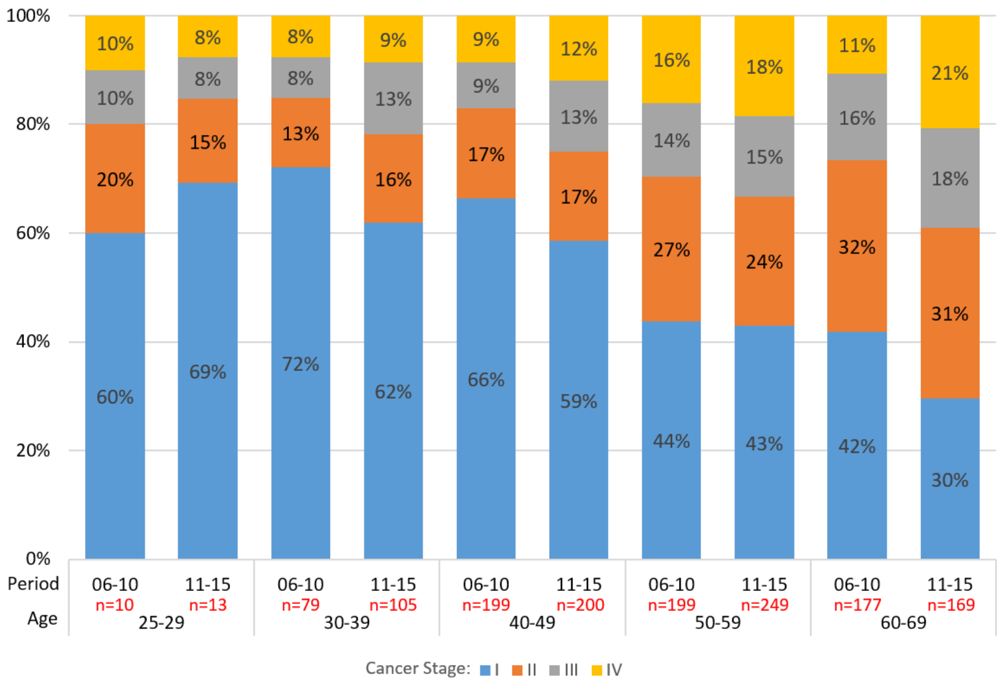
In light of this finding, there is a need to improve screening rates among younger women to ensure detection and intervention at the early stages, particularly in the 10 years[5] prior to the progression to late-stage cancer.

The overall survival rates of cervical cancer patients had remained stagnant over the past 40 years. The 5-year Age-Standardised Relative Survival (ASRS)[6] of cervical cancer was 57.5 per cent and 58.7 per cent for 1976-1980 and 2011-2015 respectively.

Although survival for late-stage cervical cancer had improved over the last decade, due likely to advances in treatment modalities and improvement in quality of healthcare, this had not translated to an improvement in overall survival due to the significant number of cancers diagnosed in the later stages.

Again, this highlights the importance of screening to effect a shift in the stage distribution towards early-stage cancer and consequently improve the survival of cervical cancer patients.

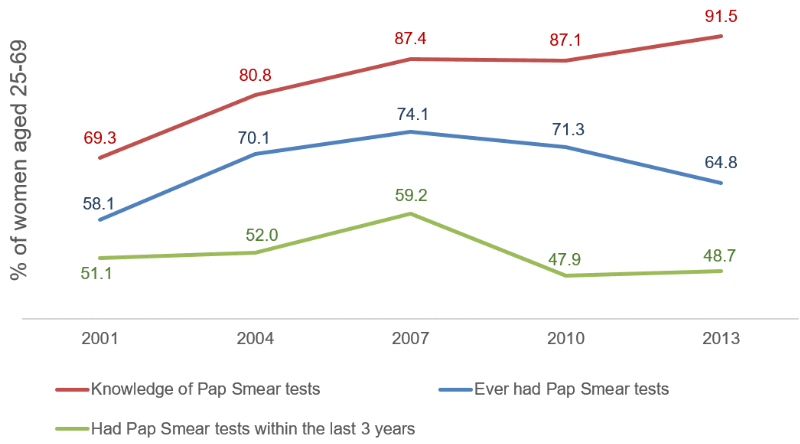
CHART 2 STAGE DISTRIBUTION OF CERVICAL CANCER BY AGE GROUP AND TWO 5-YEAR PERIODS, 2006-2010 and 2011-2015



5 It usually takes 10-15 years for precancerous cells in the cervix to develop into invasive cancer cells (www.arhp.org/Publications-and-Resources/Patient-Resources/Fact-Sheets/cervical-cancer).

6 The 5-year ASRS measures the net proportion of cervical cancer patients that survive in a certain 5-year time period, in the absence of other causes of death.

CHART 3   KNOWLEDGE OF THE PAP SMEAR TEST AND SCREENING BEHAVIOUR, 2001—2013



Trends in Pap Smear Screening Coverage, Knowledge and Attitudes

Based on results from the National Health Surveys[7], Pap smear screening rates improved between 2001 and 2007, but fell in recent years (Chart 3).

In 2013, close to 2 in 3 (64.8%) women aged 25-69 years reported that they had ever gone for a Pap smear test. However, only 1 in 2 women (48.7%) had been screened within the past three years, the recommended screening interval.

In addition, the proportion of women with knowledge of the Pap smear test increased sharply from 69.3% in 2001 to 91.5% in 2013. Despite the improvement in awareness, a corresponding increase in Pap smear screening rates was not observed.

Over the years, the most commonly cited reasons by women who had never gone for a Pap smear test were: “Never heard about it”, “Not at risk”, “Not necessary as I am healthy” and “Too young”. On the other hand, reasons such as “Advised by doctor” and “Routine” were most commonly cited by women who had ever gone for a Pap smear test.

These findings suggest that many still lack proper understanding of cervical cancer and its risk factors.

Conclusion

As cervical cancer is a screen-detectable and thus highly-preventable cancer among women, it is important to not only understand the epidemiology of cervical cancer in Singapore but also the behaviour and attitudes of women toward screening.

The findings presented in this article suggest that more can be done to improve the screening rate of cervical cancer, especially among younger women, by raising awareness of its associated risk factors.

To further encourage screening uptake and follow-up amongst Singaporean women, the Ministry of Health (MOH) recently enhanced the subsidies for HPB’s Screen for Life programme. This programme offers screening for cervical cancer, in addition to colorectal cancer and cardiovascular risk factors (diabetes, hypertension and hyperlipidaemia).

From 1 September 2017, eligible Singaporeans pay no more than $5 for screening and the first post-screening consultation.

For more information on the Screen for Life programme, please visit:
www.healthhub.sg/programmes/61/Screen_for_Life

7 National Health Surveillance Survey (NHSS) 2001, 2007 & 2013 and National Health Survey (NHS) 2004 & 2010 conducted by the Ministry of Health.

Revision of the Singapore Standard Statistical Classifications

By
Cai Wanwei and Isabella Poh
Policy Planning Division
Singapore Department of Statistics

Introduction

The Singapore Department of Statistics (DOS) develops national statistical standards and classifications for use in data collection, compilation, presentation and statistical analyses for various subject matters such as national income, social, labour and education.

Three of the key classifications that are in use are the Singapore Standard Industrial Classification (SSIC), Singapore Standard Occupational Classification (SSOC) and the Singapore Standard Educational Classification (SSEC). Prior to 2018, they are revised every 5 years to reflect developments in the economic and social landscape.

With rapid changes in the economy and labour market, these classifications need to be updated more regularly to take into account the recent changes in economic activities and occupations. By distinguishing the scope of revision as either major or minor, more regular minor updates can be made to the classifications. Referred to as minor revisions, the changes made are largely confined to the lowest level of a classification (e.g. five-digit SSIC).

On the other hand, major revisions are undertaken every 5 to 8 years to reflect developments in the structure of the Singapore economy and labour market, incorporating major conceptual and structural changes, as well as revisions in international standards.

The first minor revisions of the SSIC 2015 and SSOC 2015 were completed in January 2018. The revised SSIC 2015 (Version 2018) and SSOC 2015 (Version 2018) maintain the classification principles and structures of the 2015 editions. The key changes in these revisions are detailed in this article.

A major revision of the SSIC, SSOC and SSEC will be undertaken next, and the revised classifications will be released in 2020.

Singapore Standard Industrial Classification 2015 (Version 2018)

Similar to the SSIC 2015, the SSIC 2015 (Version 2018) adopts the basic framework of the UN International Standard Industrial Classification Revision 4 (ISIC Rev. 4). The updates made are at the four-digit and five-digit levels to capture changes in economic activities and incorporate changes arising from the Industry Transformation Maps (ITMs) and inputs of key stakeholders.

In SSIC 2015 (Version 2018), a number of five-digit codes have been introduced to reflect activities which have become significant and can be separately identified. For instance, to reflect the increase in cybersecurity activities, a separate code for information technology cybersecurity consultancy has been created under the Computer Consultancy and Computer Facilities Management Activities class, and separate codes for wholesale and retail sale of cybersecurity hardware, software and peripheral equipment have been created under the Wholesale and Retail Trade section (Table 1).

New unique codes have also been created to take into account various activities, for example, manufacture and repair of additive manufacturing equipment by their material type under the Manufacturing section, and transaction/payment processing services under the Financial and Insurance Activities section.

Activities with decreasing number of establishments and those that are difficult to distinguish from one another were streamlined and combined into fewer codes or a single code. Examples include motion picture projection activities, insurance agencies and financial advisory activities (Table 2). Activities which can be better classified in other existing codes were reclassified based on their predominant activity and their existing codes were removed. An example is the wholesale of specific commodities n.e.c.

TABLE 1 EXAMPLES OF NEW FIVE-DIGIT CODES CREATED IN SSIC 2015 (VERSION 2018)

Section	New Five-digit Codes	
C Manufacturing	28225	Manufacture and repair of metal additive manufacturing (AM) equipment (including metal powder)
	28294	Manufacture and repair of polymer additive manufacturing (AM) equipment
G Wholesale and Retail Trade	46514	Wholesale of cybersecurity software, hardware and peripheral equipment
	47415	Retail sale of cybersecurity software, hardware and peripheral equipment
J Information and Communications	62022	Information technology cybersecurity consultancy
K Financial and Insurance Activities	66195	Transaction/Payment processing services

TABLE 2 EXAMPLES OF FIVE-DIGIT CODES THAT ARE CONSOLIDATED IN SSIC 2015 (VERSION 2018)

Section	SSIC 2015 Codes Removed		Merged Codes in SSIC 2015 (Version 2018)	
G Wholesale and Retail Trade	46691	Wholesale of animal Feed	46219	Wholesale of agricultural raw materials and live animals n.e.c (excluding tropical product)
	46692	Wholesale of leather and PVC materials	46411	Wholesale of textiles and leathers
	46693	Wholesale of joss paper, joss sticks and other ceremonial products	46499	Wholesale of other household goods n.e.c
	46694	Wholesale of rattan	46229	Wholesale of tropical produce n.e.c
	46695	Wholesale of industrial ice (dry ice)	46649	Wholesale of chemicals and chemical products n.e.c
	46699	Wholesale of other specific commodities n.e.c.	46411	Wholesale of textiles and leathers
			46499	Wholesale of other household goods n.e.c
J Information and Communications	59149	Motion picture projection activities n.e.c.	59140	Motion picture projection activities (including cinemas)
	59190	Other motion picture, video, television and programme related activities		
K Financial and Insurance Activities	66119	Administration of financial markets n.e.c	66110	Securities and commodities exchange

Singapore Standard Occupational Classification 2015 (Version 2018)

Similar to SSOC 2015, the SSOC 2015 (Version 2018) adopts the basic framework and principles of the International Standard Classification of Occupations 2008 (ISCO-08) developed by the International Labour Office (ILO), and incorporates latest developments in the labour market from the Skills Framework developed by SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG).

In SSOC 2015 (Version 2018), new five-digit codes have been created to reflect new occupations which have become more prevalent, particularly in emerging industries.

New codes were also created for occupations in certain fields with tasks and duties that are distinct from existing occupations in the SSOC 2015.

For instance, new five-digit codes have been created for occupations in Major Group 1 'Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers', such as those managing e-commerce, merchandising and brand development activities (Table 3).

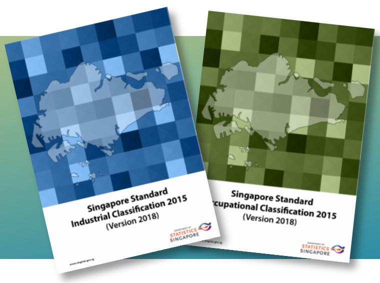
In addition, to better reflect the different tasks and duties performed by chefs and other kitchen staff, separate codes have been created for pastry chef and kitchen operations head/supervisor.

New codes for private-hire drivers and delivery men using motorised personal mobility devices have also been created to cater to new occupations in the sharing economy.

Other examples of new codes created include digital marketing professionals, revenue specialists, volunteer managers, educarers, sommeliers and food & beverage operations managers.

TABLE 3 EXAMPLES OF NEW FIVE-DIGIT CODES CREATED IN SSOC 2015 (VERSION 2018)

Major Group		New Five-digit Codes	
1	Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers	12211	Sales and marketing manager
		12213	Regional sales manager
		12214	Merchandising/category manager
		12215	Online sales channel manager
		13442	Volunteer manager
		14124	Food & beverage operations manager
2	Professionals	24314	Digital marketing professional (e.g. online, social media, e-commerce marketing professional)
		24315	Revenue specialist
3	Associate Professionals and Technicians	34341	Chef
		34342	Kitchen operations head/supervisor
		34343	Pastry Chef
5	Service and Sales Workers	51313	Sommelier
		53115	Educarer
8	Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	83212	Delivery man using motorised personal mobility devices
		83226	Private-hire car driver



The SSIC 2015 (Version 2018) and SSOC 2015 (Version 2018) reports can be accessed via the SingStat Website at

www.singstat.gov.sg/methodologies-standards

2017 in Brief

Contents

1 Adoption of the Extended Balance of Payments Services Classification

7 Cervical Cancer Epidemiology and Screening Behavior in Singapore

10 Revision of the Singapore Standard Statistical Classifications

13 2017 in Brief

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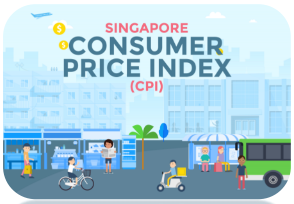

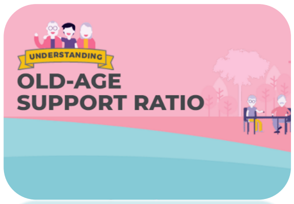

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