

Singapore Standard Occupational Classification 2005

Introduction

The Singapore Department of Statistics has just released the Singapore Standard Occupational Classification (SSOC) 2005. The SSOC 2005 is the national standard for classifying statistical information on occupations to ensure data comparability and consistency. It is designed for use in censuses of population and all other surveys where occupation data are collected. To maintain the currency and relevance of SSOC, the classification is revised regularly, taking into account economic, technological and organisational changes which tend to bring about emergence of new types of work as well as redundancy of some existing jobs.

The SSOC 2005 was updated from the SSOC 2000. It adopts the basic framework of the International Standard Classification of Occupations 1988 (ISCO-88), published by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Appropriate modifications were made to meet national requirements while providing for international comparability of data.

Comparison with the SSOC 2000

The basic structure of the SSOC 2005 remains essentially the same as that in the SSOC 2000.

Arising from the changes in the job and skill requirements over the years, some occupational groups have been re-classified to better reflect the job scope and complexities in the tasks performed. For example, social work professionals who provide developmental, preventive and remedial intervention services and require specialised training at tertiary level have been moved from Major Group 3 'Social Work Associate Professionals' to Major Group 2 'Social Work Professionals'. Social work professionals such as counsellor in specialised areas like rehabilitation, drugs and alcohol and family, are assigned specific 5-digit codes within Major Group 2. Correspondingly, youth workers and school counsellors with lower job skill requirements are assigned specific 5-digit codes in Major Group 3 in SSOC 2005. A comparison of the classifications of 'social work professionals' and 'social work associate professionals' in SSOC 2000 and SSOC 2005 is shown in Table 1.

On the whole, the SSOC 2005 contains more categories at 4- and 5-digit levels as compared with SSOC 2000. The number of unit groups and occupations has been revised from 274 and 993 in SSOC 2000 to 317 and 999 in SSOC 2005 respectively.

TABLE 1 CHANGES IN SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONALS AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSIONALS

SSOC 2005	Occupation	SSOC 2000
292	Social Work Professionals and Other Social Science and Related Professionals	
29231	Social Worker (General)	39301
29232	Social Worker, delinquency	39302
29233	Medical Social Worker	39303
29234	Counsellor, rehabilitation	new item
29235	Counsellor, drugs & alcohol	new item
29236	Counsellor, family	new item
29239	Other Social Work Professionals	39309 (part)
393	Social Work Associate Professionals	
39301	Youth Worker	new item
39302	School Counsellor	new item
39309	Other Social Work Associate Professionals	39309 (part)

The Singapore Standard Occupational Classification (SSOC) 2005 is available for free downloading from the SingStat website at :

<http://www.singstat.gov.sg/pdtsvc/pubn/ssoc.html>

For more information on Singapore's national statistical standards and classifications, please visit :

<http://www.singstat.gov.sg/stats/resources.html#ssc>