Revision of the Singapore Standard Statistical Classifications

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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

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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