



General Household Survey 2025

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PREFACE

The General Household Survey (GHS) 2025 is the fourth in the series of mid-decade national surveys. Conducted since 1995, it provides up-to-date comprehensive data, covering a wide range of topics on Singapore's population and households between the population censuses undertaken once in every ten years.

Since 2000, the Singapore Department of Statistics (DOS) has adopted the register-based approach for the population censuses and GHS. Basic population count and characteristics were compiled using administrative records. Additional data not available from administrative sources were collected from a sample survey.

The sample survey for the GHS 2025 was conducted as part of the 2025 Comprehensive Labour Force & Household Survey (CLFHS), which also incorporated the Comprehensive Labour Force Survey conducted annually by the Ministry of Manpower (MOM).

This report provides the key trends on the resident population and households, and changes since 2020. Topics covered include marriage and fertility, education, literacy and home language, religion, households and housing, household market income, married couples, geographic distribution of residence and workplace, transport, and difficulty in performing basic activities. Detailed statistical tables are included to facilitate in-depth studies by interested users.

I would like to thank all participating households for their full support and cooperation in the GHS 2025. The contributions from MOM and various government ministries and statutory boards, which provided pertinent information for the GHS 2025, are also much appreciated.

Koh Eng Chuan
Chief Statistician
Singapore

June 2026

Our Vision

National Statistical Service of Quality, Integrity and Expertise

Our Mission

We deliver Insightful Statistics and Trusted Statistical Services that Empower Decision Making

Our Guiding Principles

Professionalism & Expertise	<i>We adhere to professional ethics and develop statistical competency to produce quality statistics that comply with international concepts and best practices.</i>
Relevance & Reliability	<i>We produce statistics that users need and trust.</i>
Accessibility	<i>We facilitate ease of access to our statistics through user-friendly platforms.</i>
Confidentiality	<i>We protect the confidentiality of individual information collected by us.</i>
Timeliness	<i>We disseminate statistics at the earliest possible date while maintaining data quality.</i>
Innovation	<i>We constantly seek ways to improve our processes, leveraging on new technology, to deliver better products and services to users.</i>
Collaboration	<i>We engage users on data needs, data providers and respondents on supply of data, and undertake the role of national statistical coordination.</i>
Effectiveness	<i>We optimise resource utilisation, leveraging on administrative and alternative data sources to ease respondent burden.</i>

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Singapore's resident population stood at 4.20 million in 2025. The key findings on the resident population and households from the General Household Survey 2025 are as follows:

Singapore residents continued to see improvements in their educational attainment, household market income¹ and home ownership rate

Between 2020 and 2025, the proportion of residents aged 25 years and over with post-secondary or higher qualifications increased to 64.8% from 58.3%. Over the same period, median² household market income grew by 6.5% per annum in nominal terms (or 3.2% per annum in real³ terms) from \$9,099 to \$12,446⁴. After accounting for household size, the median monthly household market income per household member grew by 7.1% per annum (or 3.8% per annum in real³ terms), from \$2,952 in 2020 to \$4,160⁴ in 2025. Home ownership rates increased from 87.9% in 2020 to 91.2% in 2025. Improvements in educational profile, household market income and home ownership rates were observed across all broad ethnic groups.

While singlehood among younger resident adults rose, married couple-based households with children remained the most common household living arrangement

Singlehood rose among younger residents aged below 40 years, with larger increases among those aged 25–34 years. Among female residents, those aged 25–29 years saw the largest increase in the proportion of singles, rising from 69.0% in 2020 to 73.4% in 2025. Among male residents, those aged 30–34 years recorded the largest increase, rising from 41.9% in 2020 to 47.6% in 2025.

¹ Market income refers to income received by households before any Government transfers and taxes. It comprises income from employment and non-employment sources. It excludes income received by live-in domestic workers in the households. This income concept aligns with international standards, which define income as regular monetary or in-kind receipts available for current consumption without diminishing net worth. The [Technical Note](#) on Household Income contains more details on the concepts and components of the household income coverage.

² Median household income refers to the household income in the middle of the income distribution, i.e., half of the households have higher income than the median household income and half have lower income than the median household income. Refer to this [infographic](#) for more information on how the median household income is derived and why it differs from an individual's personal experience.

³ The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Items for the relevant household income group was used as the deflator to compute real income changes.

⁴ Data for 2025 are preliminary.

Notwithstanding the trend towards singlehood among younger resident adults, married couple-based households with children remained the most common household living arrangement, constituting 47.6% of all resident households, although this was lower compared to the 50.4% recorded in 2020.

English continued to be the most frequently spoken language at home while bilingualism remained strong, with the majority of English-speaking residents also using a vernacular language at home

English remained the most frequently spoken language in Singapore homes, used for nearly six in ten residents (58.1%) aged 5 years and over, up from 48.3% in 2020. Among those who spoke English most frequently at home, the majority (80.5%) also spoke a vernacular language as a second language, reflecting bilingual usage in daily life.

Literacy, the ability to read in at least one language, was near universal at 98.6% among residents aged 15 years and over. Multi-language literacy also remained prevalent with about nine in ten literate residents aged below 45 years able to read two or more languages.

Singapore remained a religiously diverse society

Among residents aged 15 years and over, 30.9% identified as Buddhists, 17.1% as Christians, 15.0% as Muslims, 7.3% as Taoists, and 5.4% as Hindus in 2025. The share of residents with no religious affiliation rose from 20.0% in 2020 to 23.9% in 2025.

Public transport was the dominant mode of transport to work, with its share continuing to grow over time

In 2025, 60.1% of employed residents travelled to work by public bus, Mass Rapid Transit (MRT)/Light Rail Transit (LRT), or a combination of these with other modes, up from 57.7% in 2020. Cars were the sole mode of transport to work for 21.2% of employed residents in 2025, while 9.7% did not require transport

KEY INDICATORS OF THE RESIDENT POPULATION

	Total		Chinese		Malays		Indians		Others	
	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025
Demographic Characteristics										
Singapore Residents ('000)	4,044.2	4,204.5	3,006.8	3,109.1	545.5	569.1	362.3	379.1	129.7	147.2
Median Age (Years)	41.5	43.2	43.2	44.9	34.5	36.1	39.1	41.2	39.6	41.0
Proportion Aged 65 years & over (%)	15.2	18.8	17.1	21.0	10.3	13.5	10.0	12.8	6.4	7.8
Old-Age Support Ratio (Aged 20-64 years per resident aged 65 years & over)	4.3	3.3	3.8	3.0	6.2	4.5	6.6	5.1	10.9	9.0
Ethnic Composition (%)	100.0	100.0	74.3	73.9	13.5	13.5	9.0	9.0	3.2	3.5
Marital Status & Fertility										
Residents Aged 15 years & over by Marital Status (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	31.5	28.6	32.0	29.0	32.4	28.0	27.8	27.3	25.6	23.9
Married	58.8	61.8	58.4	61.3	56.6	61.7	63.0	63.4	68.0	69.5
Widowed	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.7	5.6	4.9	5.1	2.3	2.6
Divorced/Separated	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.1	5.3	4.7	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.0
Proportion of Singles (%) (Aged 30-39 years)										
Males	32.3	35.7	35.4	38.0	24.7	28.7	21.8	28.5	22.7	34.8
Females	26.0	27.3	29.9	30.7	17.2	16.5	15.3	23.7	10.5	13.9
(Aged 40-49 years)										
Males	15.3	14.9	17.4	16.6	15.0	14.8	6.2	7.2	7.6	7.0
Females	15.9	14.9	18.6	17.4	9.2	10.7	6.3	6.5	7.3	7.2
Ever-Married Females Aged 40-49 years by Number of Children Born (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0	13.5	16.1	15.1	17.2	10.7	14.3	7.1	11.8	10.5	14.3
1	24.0	25.5	25.3	26.3	14.2	16.9	23.0	26.4	28.9	29.3
2	41.9	40.5	42.4	41.4	29.8	26.9	52.0	47.9	40.5	40.8
3	15.5	12.9	14.4	12.3	23.9	21.0	14.1	9.5	15.4	12.3
4 & Over	5.1	4.9	2.8	2.7	21.5	21.0	3.7	4.4	4.7	3.2
Average Number of Children Born (Per ever-married female aged 40-49 years)	1.76	1.67	1.65	1.58	2.43	2.27	1.86	1.72	1.76	1.61

Note: Figures may not add up to the totals due to rounding.

KEY INDICATORS OF THE RESIDENT POPULATION (cont'd)

	Total		Chinese		Malays		Indians		Others	
	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025
Education^{1/}										
Residents Aged 25 years & over										
by Highest Qualification Attained (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Below Secondary	25.5	20.6	26.2	21.2	28.9	25.0	18.3	14.3	12.4	8.2
Secondary	16.3	14.6	15.5	14.2	23.5	20.3	14.3	12.7	10.4	8.9
Post-Secondary (Non-Tertiary)	10.0	10.3	8.4	8.9	19.8	19.6	11.0	10.9	7.5	6.0
Diploma and Professional Qualification	15.3	16.9	15.2	16.4	16.9	21.8	15.0	15.6	13.4	14.0
University	33.0	37.6	34.7	39.3	10.8	13.3	41.3	46.6	56.2	62.9
Proportion with Post-Secondary or Higher Qualification (%)										
25-34 Years	90.1	91.7	92.7	94.0	81.6	82.7	88.3	91.2	75.9	88.8
35-44 Years	82.9	88.1	84.9	90.5	66.7	76.2	86.9	88.7	81.5	81.5
45-54 Years	64.8	78.2	65.9	78.7	43.0	59.4	73.2	85.2	84.3	90.6
55 Years & Over	28.1	39.1	28.1	38.9	17.0	27.2	36.2	48.6	63.8	73.4
Literacy & Language										
General Literacy Rate (%) (Aged 15 years & over)	97.1	98.6	96.8	98.3	97.9	99.2	98.4	99.3	99.1	99.8
Residents Aged 15 years & over by Language Literacy (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Literate in one language only	25.7	21.4	28.5	23.2	12.1	11.4	18.2	16.2	34.5	31.4
Literate in two or more languages	74.3	78.6	71.5	76.8	87.9	88.6	81.8	83.8	65.5	68.6
Residents Aged 5 years & over by Language Most Frequently Spoken at Home ^{2/} (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
English	48.3	58.1	47.6	57.1	39.0	53.2	59.2	65.4	71.1	76.9
Mandarin	29.9	26.6	40.2	36.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	4.6	4.0
Chinese Dialects	8.7	4.9	11.8	6.7	-	0.0	-	0.0	0.4	0.3
Malay	9.2	7.0	0.2	0.2	60.7	46.5	6.0	4.9	5.0	1.9
Tamil	2.5	2.2	-	0.0	-	0.0	27.4	23.0	0.1	0.2
Other Languages	1.4	1.3	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1	7.3	6.5	18.8	16.6
Residents Aged 5 years & over who Spoke English Most Frequently at Home by Second Most Frequently Spoken Language (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mandarin	56.1	55.1	75.5	74.9	1.1	1.2	2.6	1.8	13.2	15.6
Chinese Dialects	7.2	4.1	9.8	5.6	-	-	0.2	0.1	1.0	0.7
Malay	13.5	13.1	1.3	0.9	93.3	86.9	13.8	13.1	11.8	5.3
Tamil	5.1	4.6	-	-	0.1	0.1	44.9	43.2	0.5	0.1
Other Languages	4.9	3.6	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.2	23.2	19.6	37.4	29.9
No Second Language	13.2	19.5	12.7	18.5	4.9	11.6	15.3	22.2	36.0	48.4
Religion										
Residents Aged 15 years & over by Religion (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Buddhism	31.1	30.9	40.4	40.1	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.9	18.6	21.8
Taoism ^{3/}	8.8	7.3	11.6	9.7	-	-	-	0.1	0.6	0.6
Christianity	18.9	17.1	21.6	19.4	0.6	0.6	12.6	10.8	48.5	43.4
Islam	15.6	15.0	0.5	0.4	98.8	98.6	23.4	22.5	14.2	8.5
Hinduism	5.0	5.4	-	-	-	0.2	57.3	58.8	0.9	1.3
Other Religions	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.1	-	0.1	3.9	3.7	2.6	0.8
No Religion	20.0	23.9	25.7	30.3	0.4	0.4	2.2	3.2	14.6	23.6

^{1/} Data pertain to residents who were not attending educational institutions as full-time students and include those who were upgrading their qualifications through part-time courses.

^{2/} Data exclude persons who were unable to speak, and those in one-person households and households comprising only unrelated persons.

^{3/} 'Taoism' includes Chinese Traditional Beliefs.

Notes:

Figures may not add up to the totals due to rounding.

'-' denotes Nil or negligible. Users are advised to exercise caution when drawing inferences from survey estimates with small sample sizes or those denoted as '-', as these estimates are based on a sample survey and subject to sampling variability. For more information, refer to the write up on the GHS 2025 Sample Design and Sampling Variability (<https://go.gov.sg/ghs2025-sample-design-and-variability>).

KEY INDICATORS OF THE RESIDENT POPULATION (cont'd)

	2020	2025
Transport^{4/}		
Employed Residents Aged 15 years & over by Usual Mode of Transport to Work (%)	100.0	100.0
Combinations of Rail (MRT/LRT) or Public Bus	57.7	60.1
Public Bus Only	15.0	12.9
Rail(MRT/LRT) Only	14.2	15.8
Rail(MRT/LRT) & Public Bus Only	26.4	30.3
Combination of Rail (MRT/LRT) and/or Public Bus, with Other Modes	2.2	1.2
Taxi/Private Hire Car Only	3.1	2.5
Car Only	21.1	21.2
Private Chartered Bus/Van Only	2.1	1.6
Lorry/Pickup Only	1.3	0.7
Motorcycle/Scooter Only	3.4	2.9
Others	1.5	1.2
No Transport Required	9.8	9.7
Difficulty Performing Basic Activities^{5/}		
Proportion of Residents Unable to Perform/ with A Lot of Difficulty in At Least One Basic Activity (%)		
Aged 5 Years & Over	2.5	2.3
Below 65 Years	0.9	0.9
65 Years & Over	11.2	7.8
Proportion of Residents Aged 5 years & over who were Unable to Perform/ with A Lot of Difficulty in Specific Domain of Difficulty (%)		
Seeing	0.5	0.5
Hearing	0.5	0.5
Mobility	1.6	1.4
Remembering	0.7	0.6
Self-Care	0.8	0.6
Communicating	0.5	0.5

^{4/} Data exclude employed persons who were full-time students or overseas for at least 6 months.

^{5/} Basic Activities refer to seeing, hearing, mobility (walking or climbing steps), remembering or concentrating, self-care (such as washing all over or dressing), and communicating (understanding or being understood). The GHS 2025 data are based on a sample survey of households living in residential dwelling units and exclude persons living in institutions such as nursing homes.

Note: Figures may not add up to the totals due to rounding.

KEY INDICATORS OF THE RESIDENT HOUSEHOLDS

	Total		Chinese		Malays		Indians		Others	
	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025
Housing Type and Tenancy										
Resident Households ('000)	1,372.6	1,487.1	1,062.0	1,143.2	151.7	168.9	121.2	131.7	37.6	43.2
Households by Housing Type (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
HDB Dwellings	78.7	77.2	76.7	74.9	96.2	95.9	79.7	78.0	60.7	61.6
1- & 2-Room Flats ^{6/}	6.5	7.3	5.1	6.0	16.0	16.0	7.7	7.6	3.9	5.3
3-Room Flats	17.7	16.6	17.4	16.5	21.1	19.1	17.3	15.6	12.0	12.3
4-Room Flats	31.6	31.2	31.3	30.8	36.9	36.8	30.4	29.3	23.6	24.3
5-Room & Executive Flats	22.9	22.1	22.9	21.5	22.3	24.0	24.3	25.5	21.2	19.8
Condominium & Other Apartments	16.0	17.9	17.3	19.5	3.0	3.4	16.2	18.4	31.5	30.4
Landed Properties	5.0	4.7	5.6	5.3	0.7	0.7	3.9	3.6	7.6	6.6
Others	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	-	-	0.2	-	0.2	1.3
Proportion Living in Owner-Occupied Households (%)	87.9	91.2	89.6	93.0	85.6	86.6	82.2	86.8	65.6	74.4
Household Size and Living Arrangement										
Households by Household Size (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1 Person	16.0	16.7	17.3	18.2	9.8	10.9	12.7	11.4	16.1	13.5
2 Persons	22.6	23.8	23.5	24.8	20.1	22.0	19.0	19.1	18.4	20.6
3 Persons	20.4	22.6	20.8	22.8	20.0	21.4	18.9	22.4	18.4	20.4
4 Persons	20.1	19.9	19.6	19.0	19.8	20.5	24.7	26.5	20.5	21.6
5 Persons	11.9	10.9	11.0	9.9	14.8	13.3	15.2	14.1	16.1	16.6
6 or More Persons	9.0	6.1	7.9	5.2	15.6	11.8	9.5	6.4	10.5	7.3
Average Household Size (Persons) ^{7/}	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.3
Households by Household Living Arrangement (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Married Couple-Based With Children	50.4	47.6	48.6	45.4	56.9	54.0	56.9	56.7	52.5	52.9
Married Couple-Based Without Children	16.8	19.1	17.2	19.7	15.0	17.9	15.5	16.0	14.7	16.3
Lone Parent	9.3	6.8	9.0	6.6	13.0	8.6	8.1	6.8	7.0	6.1
One-Person	16.0	16.7	17.3	18.2	9.8	10.9	12.7	11.4	16.1	13.5
Others	7.5	9.8	7.8	10.1	5.4	8.6	6.8	9.1	9.7	11.3
Monthly Household Income										
Monthly Household Market Income ^{8/} (\$)										
Average	12,396	16,159	12,787	16,731	7,800	10,026	13,019	16,714	17,904	23,297
Median	9,099	12,446	9,469	12,969	6,514	8,581	9,597	13,382	12,671	18,158
Monthly Household Market Income Per Household Member ^{8/} (\$)										
Average	4,111	5,579	4,311	5,905	2,303	3,060	4,028	5,158	6,047	8,075
Median	2,952	4,160	3,164	4,523	1,846	2,552	2,867	3,968	3,850	5,302

^{6/} Includes HDB Studio Apartments and Community Care Apartments.

^{7/} Includes domestic workers.

^{8/} Data for 2025 are preliminary.

Notes:

Figures may not add up to the totals due to rounding.

' - ' denotes Nil or negligible. Users are advised to exercise caution when drawing inferences from survey estimates with small sample sizes or those denoted as ' - ', as these estimates are based on a sample survey and subject to sampling variability. For more information, refer to the write up on the GHS 2025 Sample Design and Sampling Variability (<https://go.gov.sg/ghs2025-sample-design-and-variability>).

Introduction

INTRODUCTION

The General Household Survey (GHS) provides comprehensive data on Singapore's population and households between the population censuses, which are conducted once every ten years. It covers a wide range of topics to provide information on the profile of population and households in Singapore. The GHS 2025 is the fourth mid-decade survey in the series, since it started in 1995.

Concept and Coverage

The GHS 2025 adopted the de jure concept for Singapore's population estimates based on a person's place of usual residence. Under the de jure concept of "usual residence", Singapore residents (citizens and permanent residents) with valid local addresses and who were not away from Singapore for a continuous period of 12 months or longer were included in the total population count. Non-residents comprising foreigners who were working, studying or living in Singapore but not granted permanent residence were also included in the total population. The transient population, such as tourists and short-term visitors, was excluded.

The GHS reference date was set as 30 June 2025 in line with the mid-year reference point where the administrative records were updated.

Register-Based Approach

Since 2000, DOS has adopted a register-based approach, supplemented with a large-scale sample survey, for the Censuses and GHS. For the GHS 2025, basic population count and characteristics such as age, sex, ethnic group, type of dwelling, and geographical distribution of residence were obtained and merged from multiple administrative sources. Basic data on population count and profile from the register-based GHS were first released in the Population Trends 2025 report published in September 2025.

Sample Survey

Additional information not available from administrative sources were then collected from a sample survey. These included marital status and fertility, religion, education, literacy and home language, mode of transport, difficulty in performing basic activities as well as housing and household characteristics.

The sample survey for the GHS 2025 was conducted as part of the Comprehensive Labor Force & Household Survey (CLFHS) 2025, which also incorporated the Comprehensive Labour Force Survey (CLFS) conducted annually by the Ministry of Manpower (MOM). This approach of having one CLFHS to provide information for the GHS and the CLFS reduced the overall response burden and cost of having separate sample surveys for the GHS and the CLFS.

The field operations of CLFHS 2025 were carried out by MOM from March to July 2025. Of the 33,000 housing units selected in the initial sample, 1,507 households were excluded from the survey as they were unoccupied, non-residential or demolished. A total of 27,324 households responded to the survey, achieving an overall response rate of 86.8%.

Key Findings

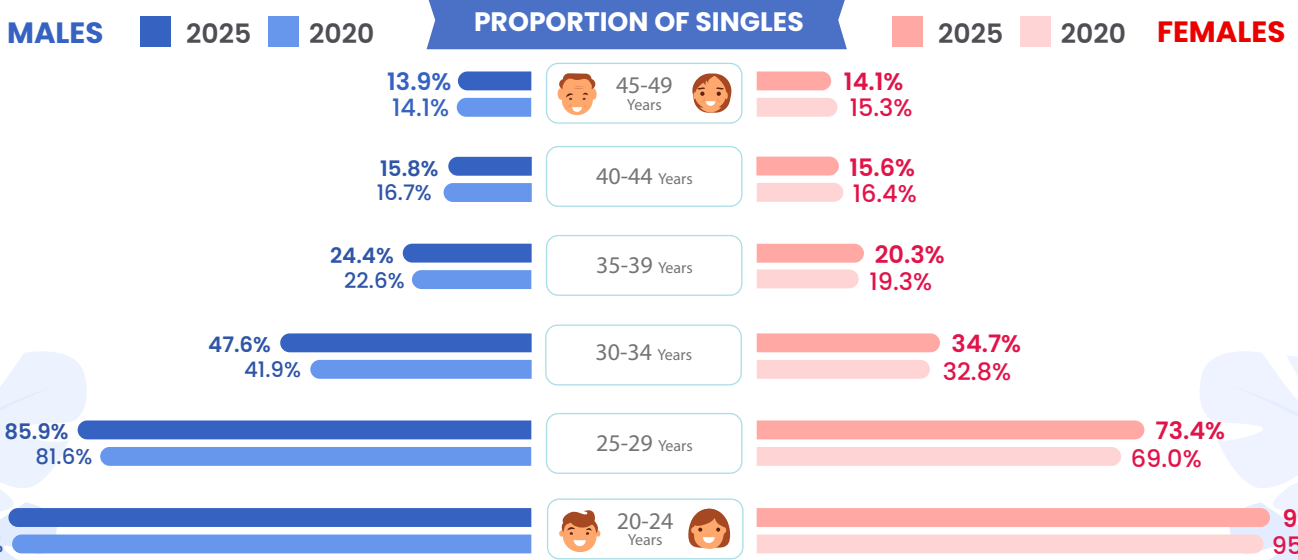
GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY 2025

Marriage & Fertility

While singlehood among younger resident adults rose, most residents were married by their forties, majority of whom had 2 or more children.



Singlehood rose for younger residents aged below 40, with larger increases for those between 25–34 years.



Among ever-married resident females aged **40 - 49 years**, the average number of children born declined from **1.76 in 2020** to **1.67 in 2025**.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN BORN



The majority still had 2 or more children, though this share decreased over the same period.

2025

58.4% of ever-married resident females aged 40 - 49 years had 2 or more children (compared to 62.5% in 2020).

CHAPTER 1

MARRIAGE AND FERTILITY

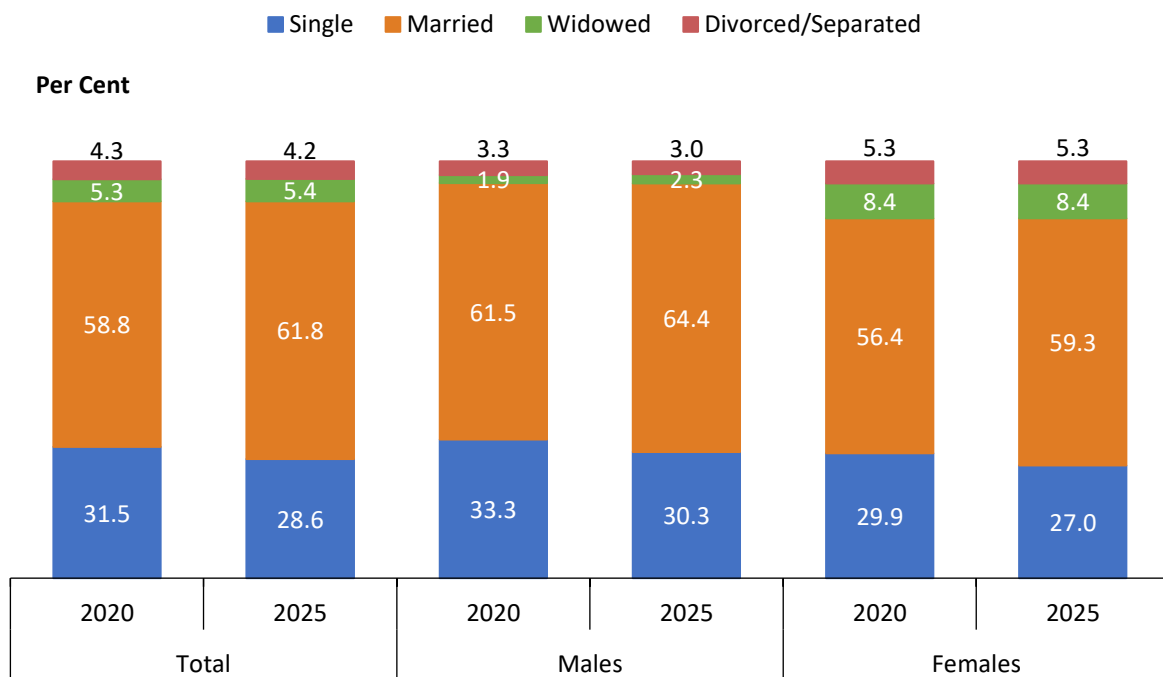
In 2025, Singapore’s resident population stood at 4.20 million, comprising 3.66 million citizens and 0.54 million permanent residents.

Marital Status

Most Singapore residents were married. Among residents aged 15 years and over, 61.8% were married in 2025, up from 58.8% in 2020 (Chart 1.1). Persons who were single (i.e. never married) formed the next largest group at 28.6% in 2025, down from 31.5% in 2020. This was likely due to the ageing of the resident population, coupled with lower singlehood rates at older ages.

Over the same period, the proportions of residents who were widowed, divorced or separated remained relatively low. In 2025, 5.4% of residents were widowed, while 4.2% were divorced or separated, almost unchanged from 2020. The proportion who were widowed was higher among females (8.4%) than males (2.3%), reflecting women’s longer life expectancy than men.

Chart 1.1 Marital Status of Resident Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Sex

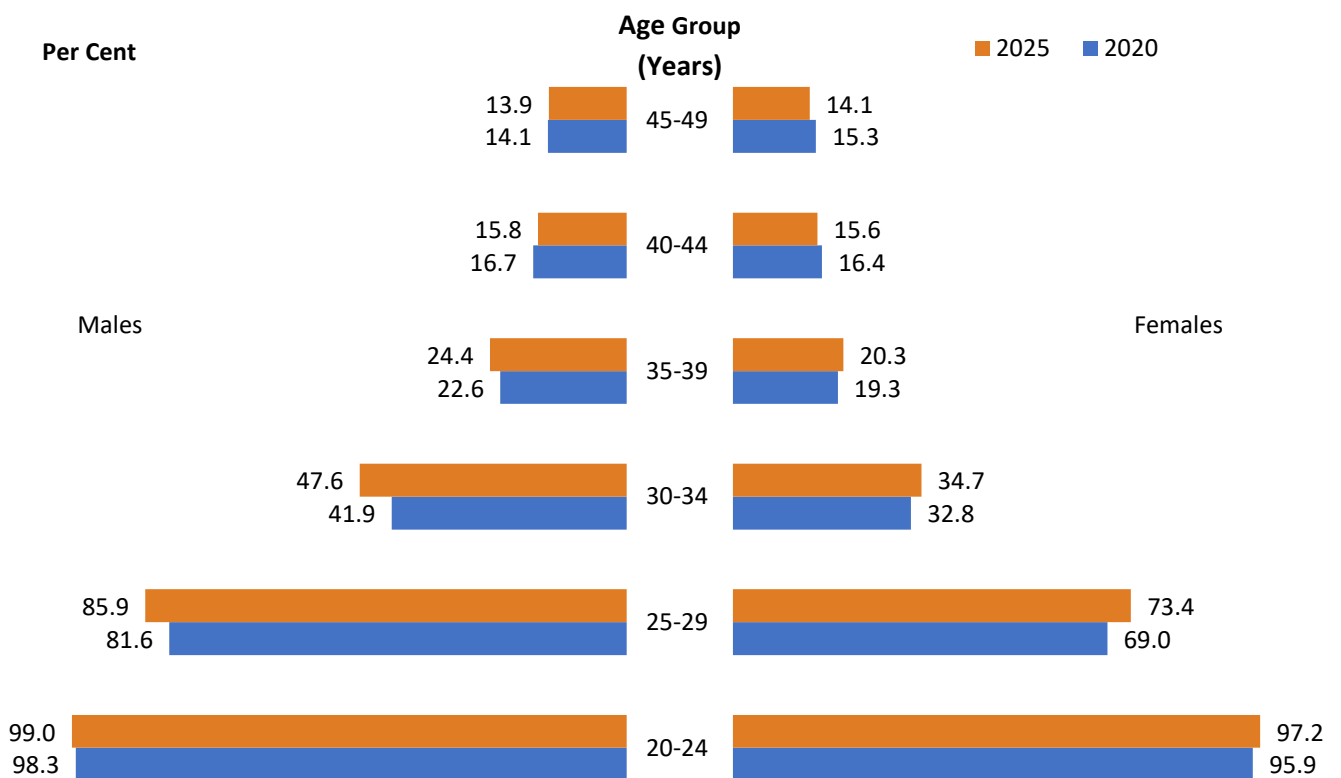


Proportion of Singles¹ by Age Group

Singlehood continued to be prevalent among residents in their early twenties. Among those aged 20–24 years, 99.0% of males and 97.2% of females were single in 2025 (Chart 1.2).

Singlehood rose among younger residents aged below 40 years, with larger increases among those aged 25–34 years. Among female residents, those aged 25–29 years saw the largest increase in the proportion of singles, rising from 69.0% in 2020 to 73.4% in 2025. Among male residents, those aged 30–34 years recorded the largest increase, with singles making up 47.6% of the age group in 2025, up from 41.9% in 2020.

Chart 1.2 Proportion of Singles Among Resident Population by Age Group and Sex

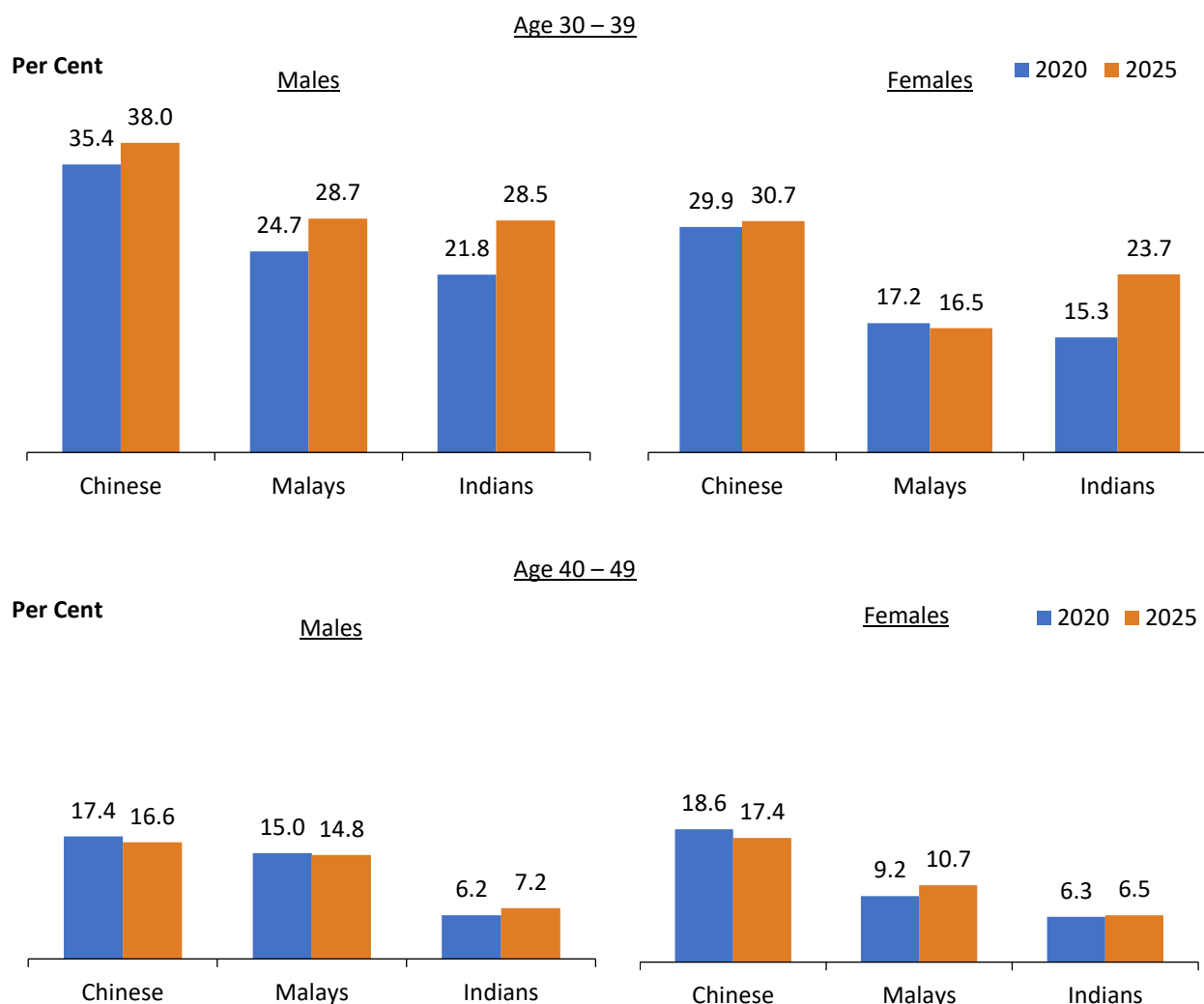


¹ Data refer to those who are never-married.

Proportion of Singles by Ethnic Group

Singlehood and later marriage continued to be more prevalent among Chinese residents than among Malays and Indians. In 2025, 38.0% of Chinese resident males and 30.7% of Chinese resident females aged 30–39 years were single, higher than the corresponding proportions for Malays (28.7% and 16.5% respectively) and Indians (28.5% and 23.7% respectively) in the same age group (Chart 1.3). Compared with 2020, singlehood rose across all subgroups within the 30–39 age group, except among Malay females. The gap between ethnic groups narrowed in the older 40–49 age cohort.

Chart 1.3 Proportion of Singles Among Resident Population by Selected Age Group, Sex and Ethnic Group



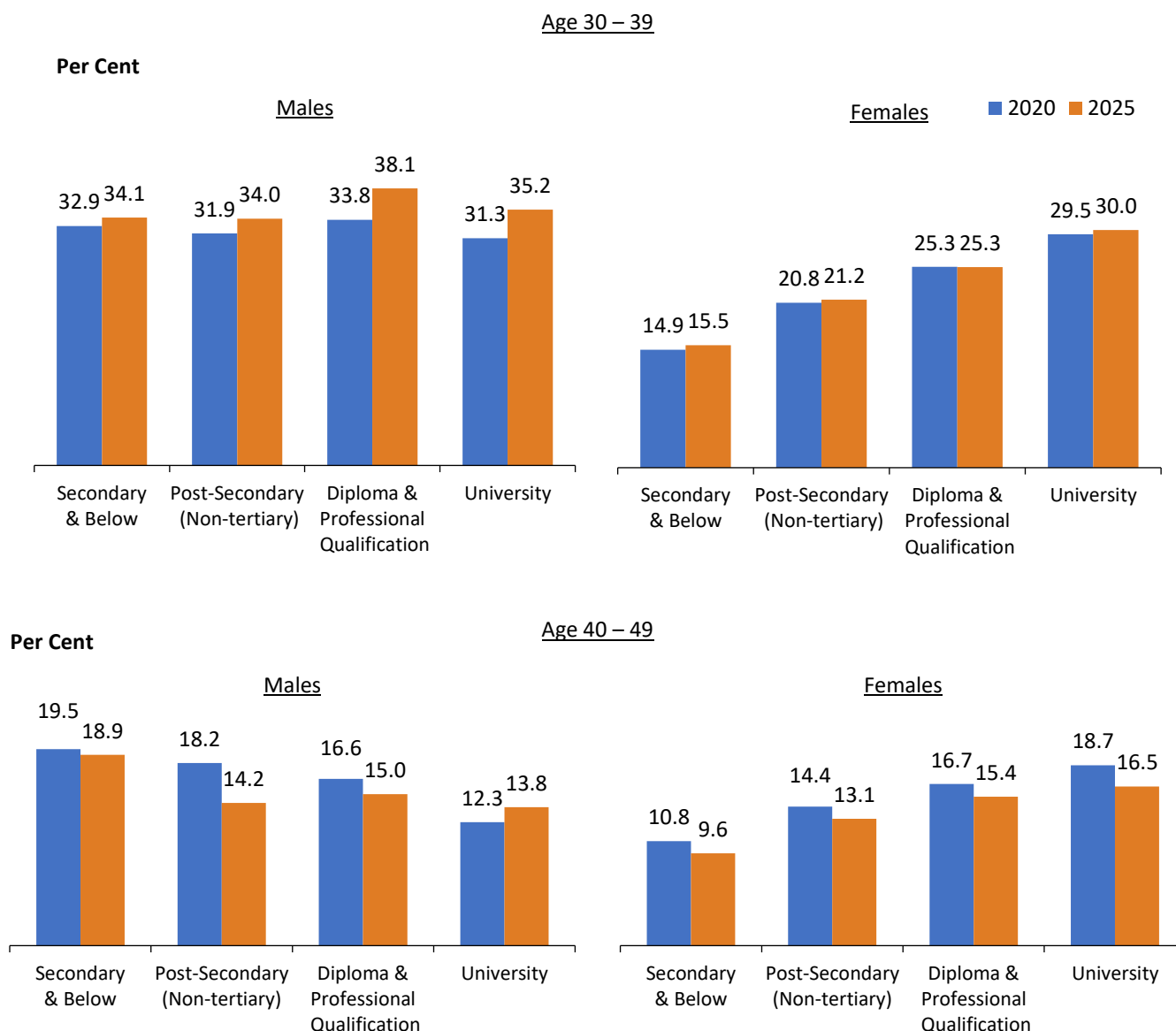
Proportion of Singles by Educational Attainment

Among men in their forties, singlehood was generally more prevalent among those with lower educational qualifications. In 2025, 18.9% of resident males aged 40–49 years with secondary and below qualifications were single, compared with 13.8% among those with university qualifications (Chart 1.4).

By contrast, women with higher educational qualifications were more likely to be single. In 2025, 16.5% of resident females aged 40–49 years with university qualifications were single, compared with 9.6% among those with secondary and below qualifications. A similar trend was observed among females aged 30–39 years.

Between 2020 and 2025, the proportion of singles rose across all educational qualification groups among males aged 30–39 years, while the corresponding proportions were relatively stable among their female counterparts.

Chart 1.4 Proportion of Singles Among Resident Population by Selected Age Group, Sex and Highest Qualification Attained



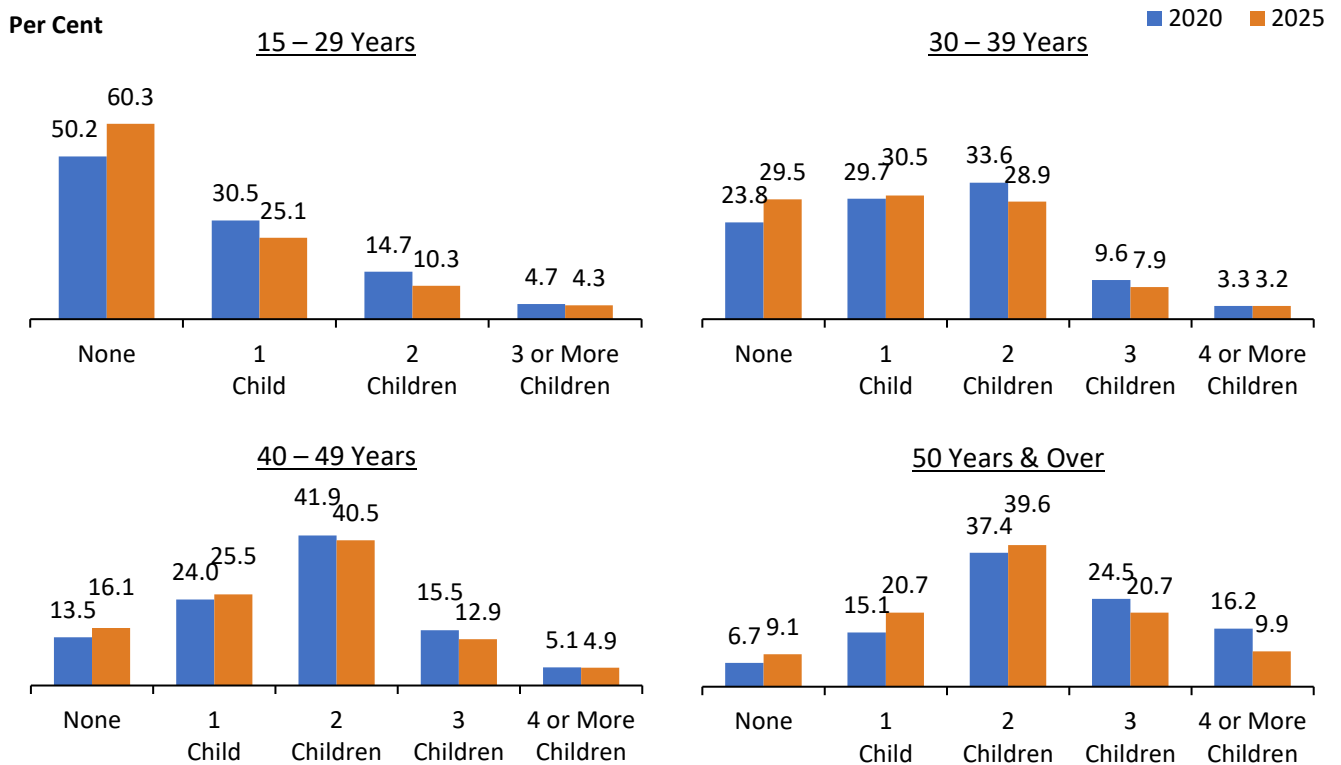
Note: Data pertain to residents who were not attending educational institutions as full-time students and include those who were upgrading their qualifications through part-time courses.

Number of Children Born

In general, women had fewer children in 2025 than in 2020. Among resident ever-married females aged 40–49 years, who were more likely to have completed childbearing, the proportion with two children declined from 41.9% in 2020 to 40.5% in 2025 (Chart 1.5). Similarly, the proportion with three children fell from 15.5% to 12.9%. The share with four or more children remained relatively stable at 4.9%.

Correspondingly, the proportion of resident ever-married females aged 40–49 years who had no children or only one child increased over the same period.

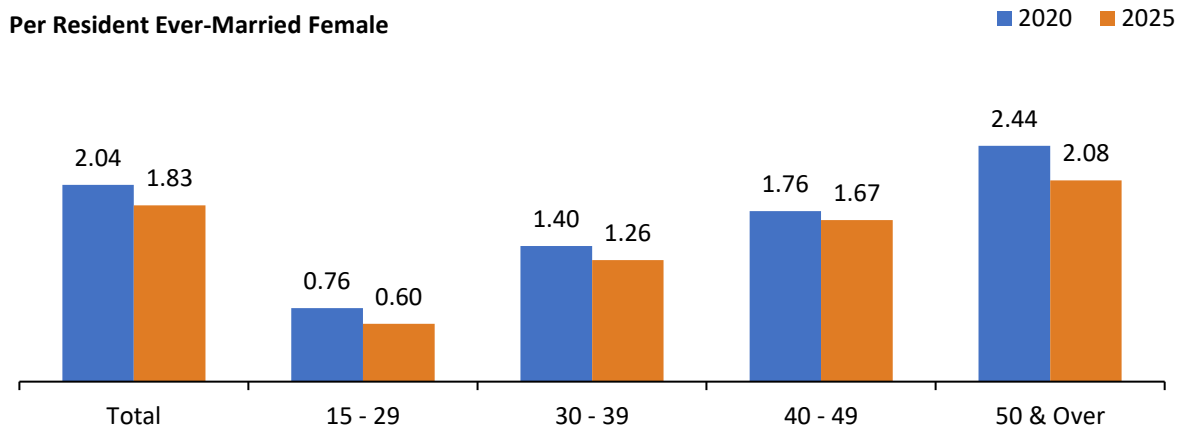
Chart 1.5 Resident Ever-Married Females by Age Group and Number of Children Born



Average Number of Children Born by Age Group

The average number of children born declined across age groups between 2020 and 2025. Among resident ever-married females aged 40–49 years, the average number of children born per female fell from 1.76 in 2020 to 1.67 in 2025 (Chart 1.6).

Chart 1.6 Average Number of Children Born by Age Group of Resident Ever-Married Females

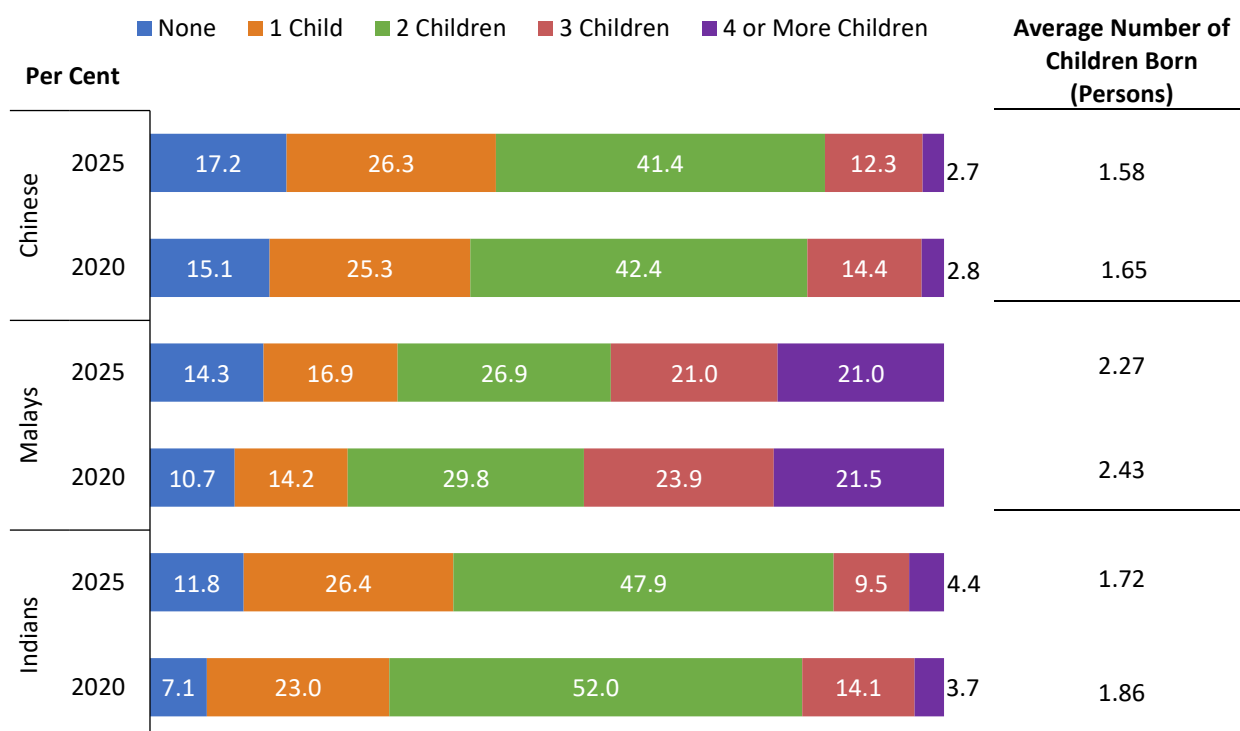


Number of Children Born by Ethnic Group

Among Chinese, Malay and Indian residents, having two children remained the most common family size among resident ever-married females aged 40–49 years. Nonetheless, there was a notable shift towards smaller family sizes between 2020 and 2025, with all three ethnic groups registering increases in the proportions with no children or one child, while the proportions with two, three, or four or more children declined (Chart 1.7).

Consequently, the average number of children born declined across the three ethnic groups. Malays continued to have more children on average, at 2.27 children per female in 2025, although this was lower than the 2.43 recorded in 2020 (Chart 1.7). By comparison, the average number of children born per female was lower among Chinese and Indian females, at 1.58 and 1.72 respectively in 2025.

Chart 1.7 Number of Children Born to Resident Ever-Married Females Aged 40-49 Years by Ethnic Group

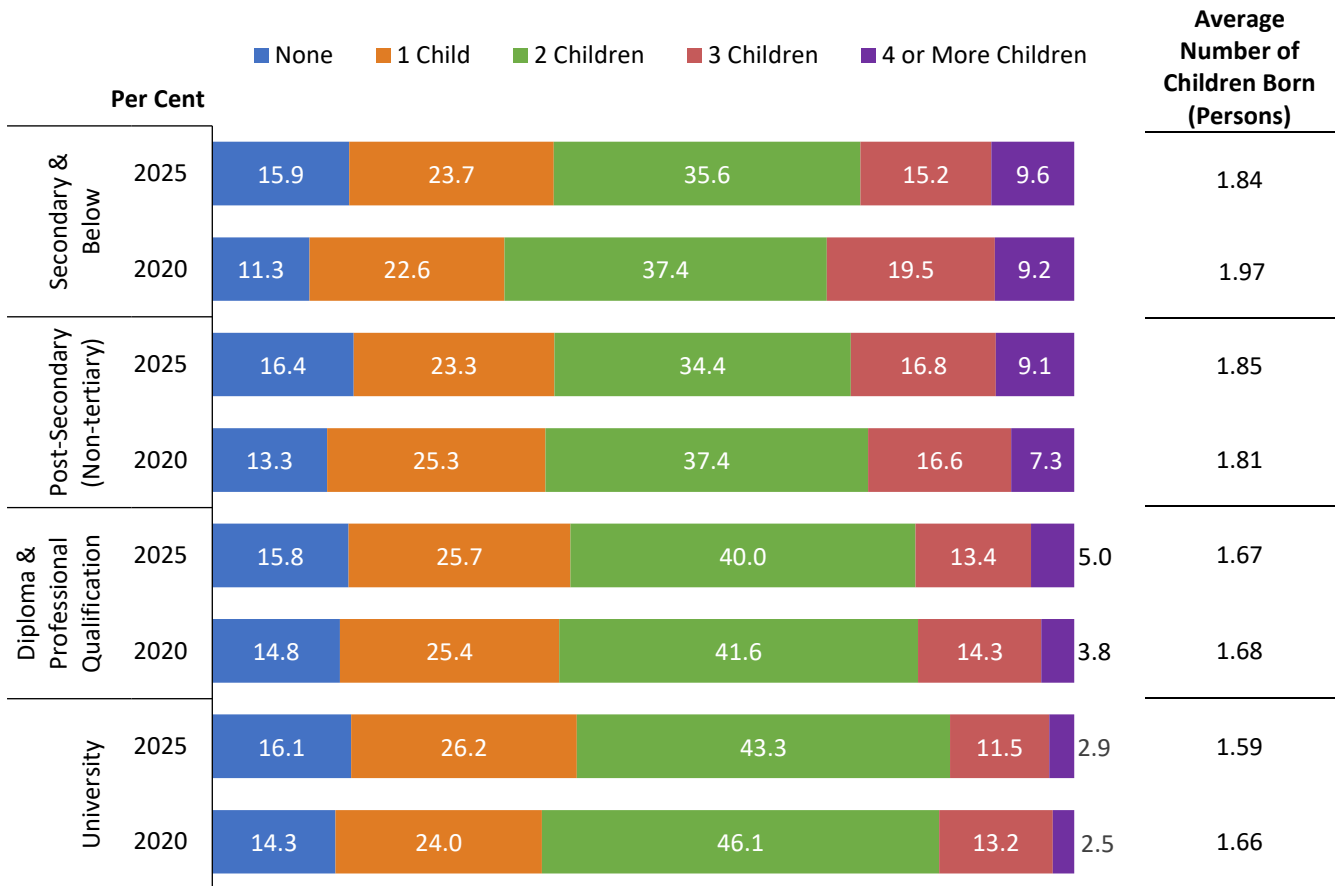


Number of Children Born by Educational Attainment

Between 2020 and 2025, the average number of children born declined most among resident ever-married females aged 40–49 years with secondary and below qualifications, followed by those with university qualifications (Chart 1.8). By contrast, those with post-secondary (non-tertiary) qualifications registered an increase in the average number of children born.

More highly educated females had fewer children on average than those with lower qualifications. Among resident ever-married females aged 40–49 years, university graduates had an average of 1.59 children per female in 2025, lower than the average of 1.84 among those with secondary and below qualifications.

Chart 1.8 Number of Children Born to Resident Ever-Married Females Aged 40-49 Years by Highest Qualification Attained

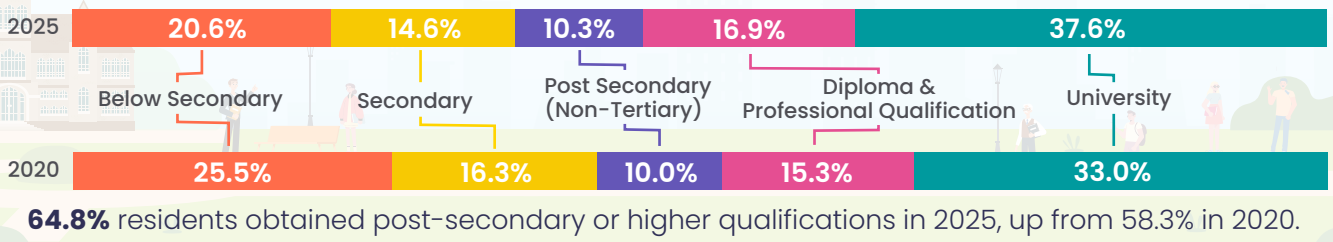


Note: Data pertain to residents who were not attending educational institutions as full-time students and include those who were upgrading their qualifications through part-time courses.

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY 2025

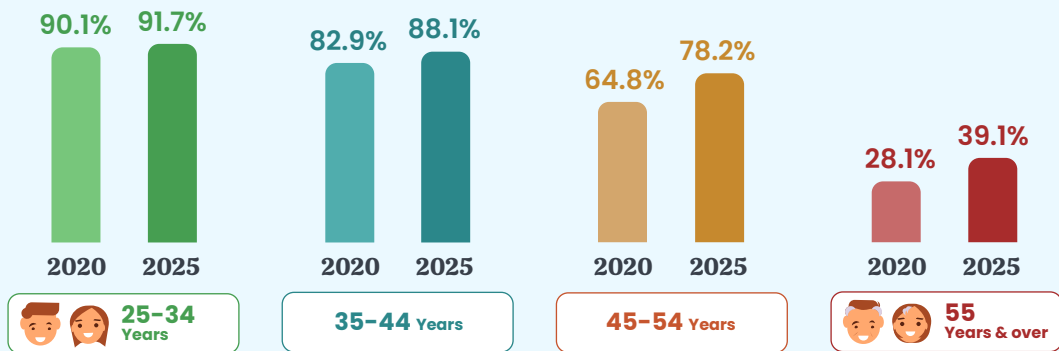
Education

Between 2020 and 2025, education profile of resident population continued to improve.



RESIDENTS WITH POST-SECONDARY OR HIGHER QUALIFICATIONS BY AGE GROUP

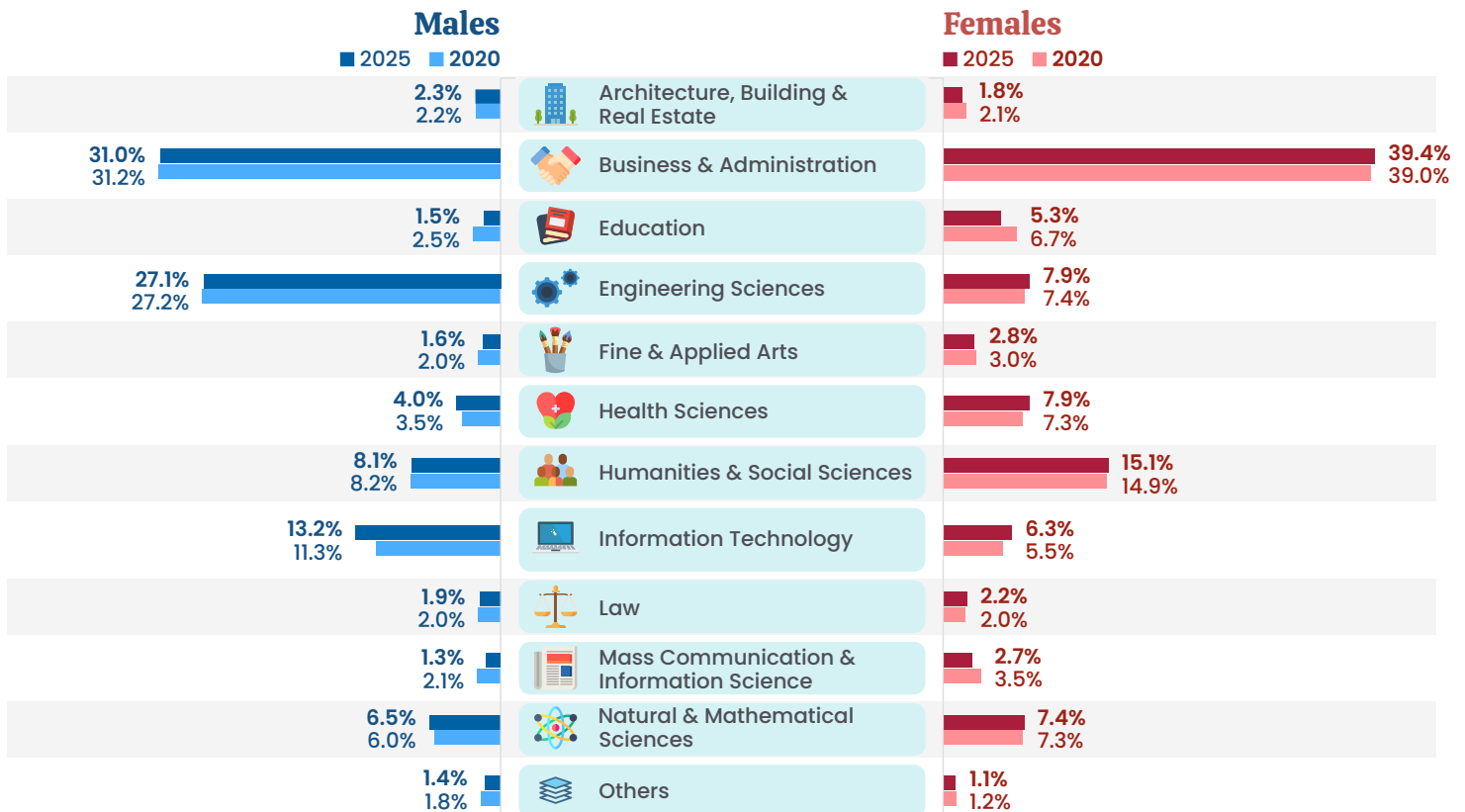
More residents* attained post-secondary or higher qualifications across all age groups.



* Refers to residents aged 25 years and over who were not attending educational institutions as full-time students and includes those who were upgrading their qualifications through part-time courses.

RESIDENT UNIVERSITY GRADUATES BY FIELD OF STUDY AND SEX

Business and administration continued to be the most common field of study among university graduates.



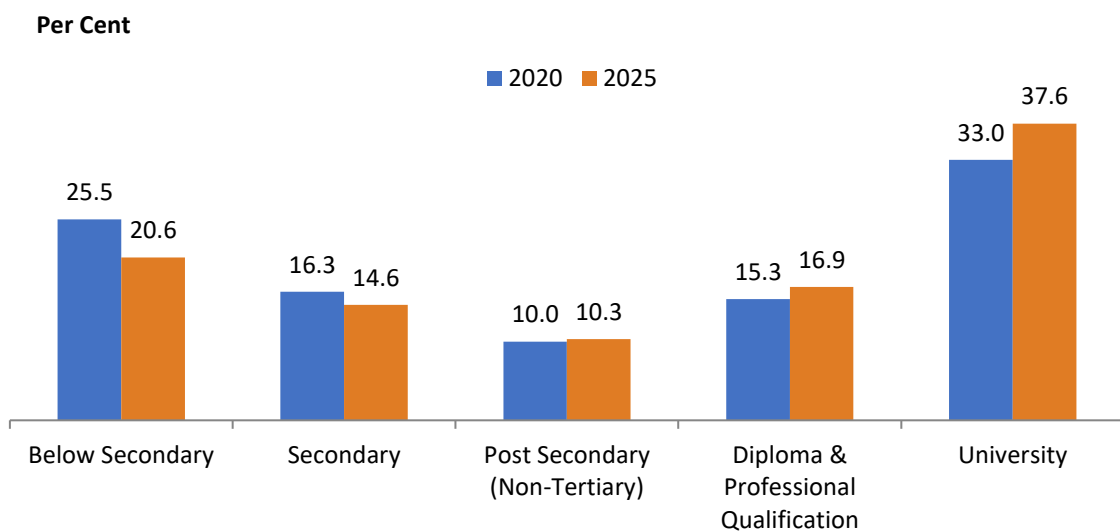
CHAPTER 2

EDUCATION

Education Profile

The educational profile of Singapore's resident population improved further between 2020 and 2025. Among residents aged 25 years and over in 2025, 64.8% had attained post-secondary or higher qualifications, up from 58.3% in 2020 (Chart 2.1).

Chart 2.1 Resident Population Aged 25 Years and Over by Highest Qualification Attained



Note: Data pertain to residents who were not attending educational institutions as full-time students and include those who were upgrading their qualifications through part-time courses.

Education Profile by Ethnic Group

All three major ethnic groups continued to record improvements in educational attainment between 2020 and 2025. Across the Chinese, Malay and Indian communities, the proportion of residents with post-secondary or higher qualifications rose. University graduates accounted for a larger share across all three ethnic groups, while Malays also recorded a substantial increase in the proportion with diploma and

professional qualifications (Table 2.1). The proportion with post-secondary (non-tertiary) as the highest qualification remained relatively stable across all three ethnic groups.

Table 2.1 Resident Population Aged 25 Years and Over by Highest Qualification Attained and Ethnic Group

Highest Qualification Attained	Per Cent					
	Chinese		Malays		Indians	
	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Below Secondary	26.2	21.2	28.9	25.0	18.3	14.3
Secondary	15.5	14.2	23.5	20.3	14.3	12.7
Post-Secondary (Non-Tertiary)	8.4	8.9	19.8	19.6	11.0	10.9
Diploma & Professional Qualification	15.2	16.4	16.9	21.8	15.0	15.6
University	34.7	39.3	10.8	13.3	41.3	46.6

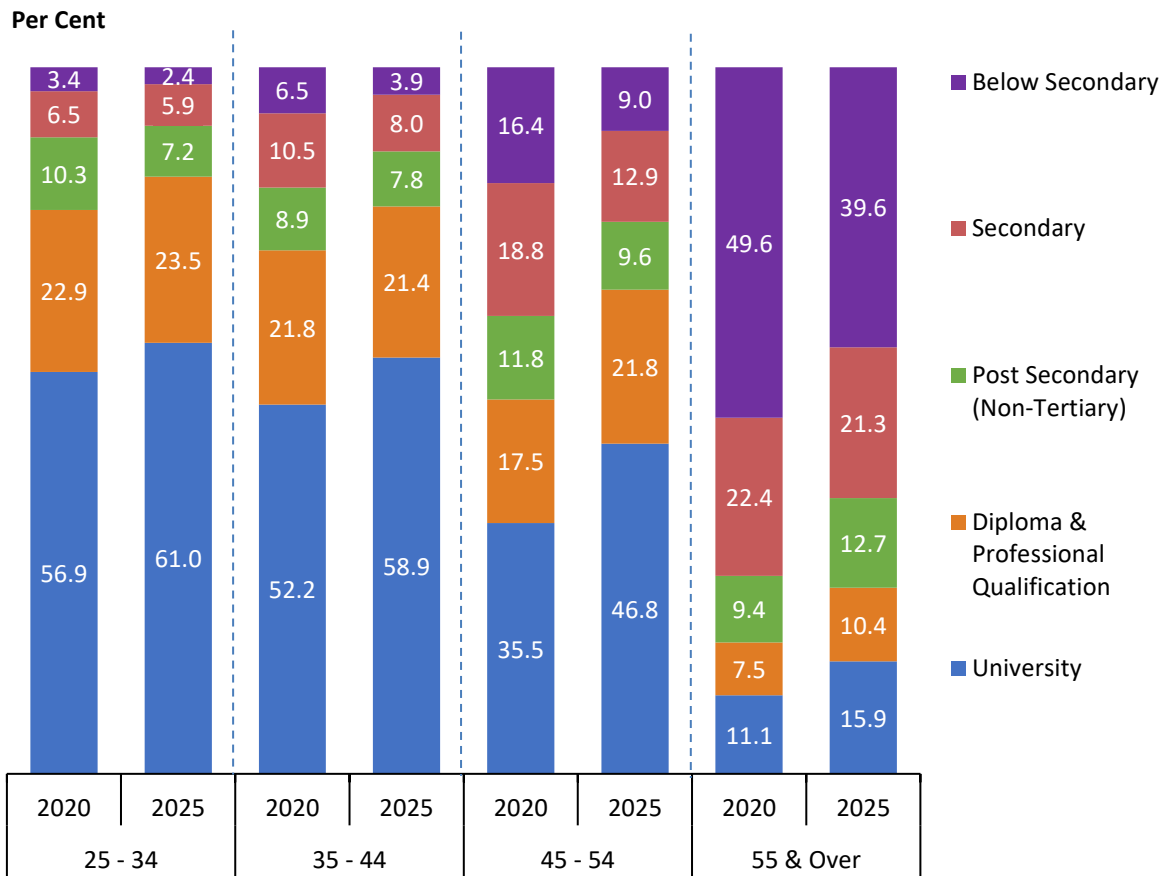
Note: Data pertain to residents who were not attending educational institutions as full-time students and include those who were upgrading their qualifications through part-time courses.

Education Profile by Age Group

The upward trend in the proportion of residents with post-secondary or higher qualifications was observed across all age groups between 2020 and 2025, with the largest gains among middle-aged and older residents (Chart 2.2).

Among the younger cohorts, post-secondary or higher educational attainment was near universal. In 2025, 91.7% of residents aged 25–34 years and 88.1% of those aged 35–44 years had post-secondary or higher qualifications. Residents aged 45–54 years recorded the largest improvement, with the proportion rising from 64.8% in 2020 to 78.2% in 2025. Residents aged 55 years and over also registered substantial gains, increasing from 28.1% to 39.1%.

Chart 2.2 Resident Population Aged 25 Years and Over by Highest Qualification Attained and Age Group



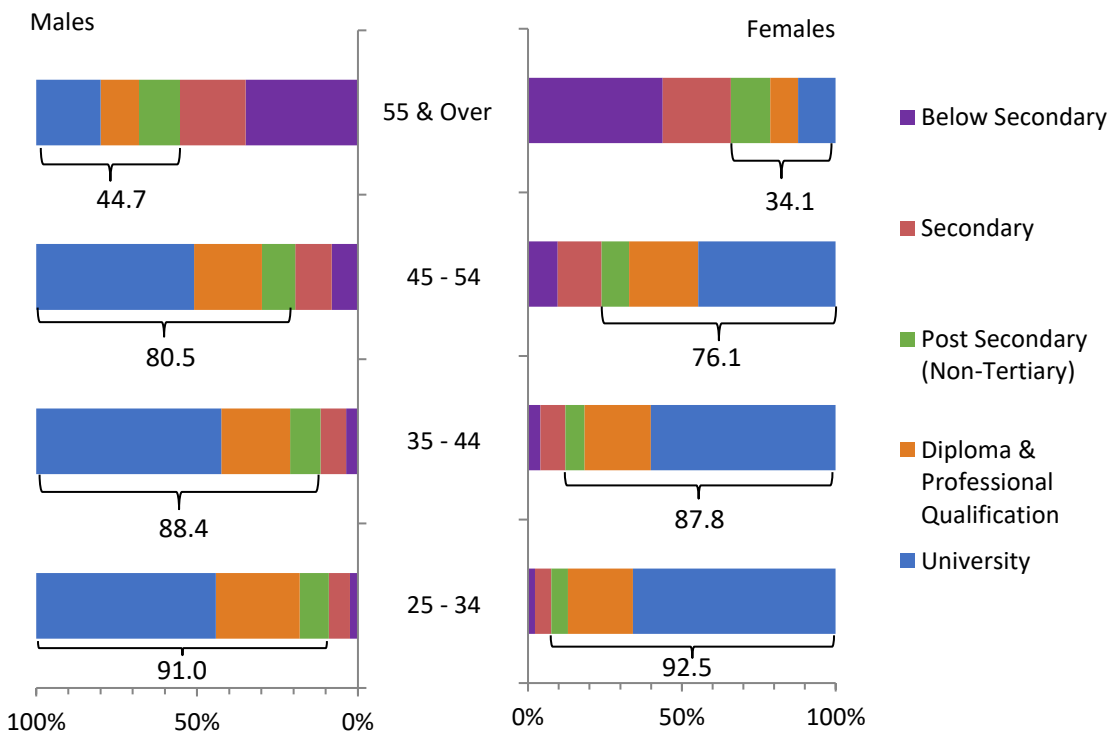
Note: Data pertain to residents who were not attending educational institutions as full-time students and include those who were upgrading their qualifications through part-time courses.

Education Profile by Age Group and Sex

While a gap in educational attainment between males and females persisted among older residents, it had narrowed markedly among younger residents. Over time, female residents made substantial progress in narrowing the education gap. Among residents aged 55 years and over in 2025, 44.7% of males and 34.1% of females had post-secondary or higher qualifications (Chart 2.3). By contrast, the corresponding proportions were almost the same among those aged 35–44 years, at 88.4% for males and 87.8% for females. Among those aged 25–34 years, the proportion of females with post-secondary or higher qualifications (92.5%) was marginally higher than that of their male counterparts (91.0%).

Chart 2.3 Resident Population Aged 25 Years and Over by Highest Qualification Attained, Age Group and Sex, 2025

Per Cent



Note: Data pertain to residents who were not attending educational institutions as full-time students and include those who were upgrading their qualifications through part-time courses. For the age group of 25-34 years, some males could be still pursuing higher education after performing national service at an earlier age.

University Graduates by Field of Study

The distribution of university graduates by field of study remained largely stable between 2020 and 2025. Business and Administration continued to be the most common field of study among university graduates, accounting for 31.0% of male graduates and 39.4% of female graduates in 2025 (Table 2.2). Among males, the next most common fields were Engineering Sciences (27.1%), followed by Information Technology (13.2%). Among females, Humanities & Social Sciences (15.1%) remained the second most common field of study, followed by Engineering Sciences and Health Sciences (both at 7.9%).

Information Technology recorded the largest increase among all fields of study, with the proportion of male and female graduates specialising in this field rising by 1.9 percentage points and 0.8 percentage points respectively.

Table 2.2 Resident University Graduates Aged 15 Years and Over by Field of Study and Sex

Field of Study	Per Cent			
	Male		Female	
	2020	2025	2020	2025
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Architecture, Building and Real Estate	2.2	2.3	2.1	1.8
Business & Administration	31.2	31.0	39.0	39.4
Education	2.5	1.5	6.7	5.3
Engineering Sciences	27.2	27.1	7.4	7.9
Fine & Applied Arts	2.0	1.6	3.0	2.8
Health Sciences	3.5	4.0	7.3	7.9
Humanities & Social Sciences	8.2	8.1	14.9	15.1
Information Technology	11.3	13.2	5.5	6.3
Law	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.2
Mass Communication & Information Science	2.1	1.3	3.5	2.7
Natural & Mathematical Sciences	6.0	6.5	7.3	7.4
Others	1.8	1.4	1.2	1.1

Note: Data pertain to residents who were not attending educational institutions as full-time students and include those who were upgrading their qualifications through part-time course

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY 2025

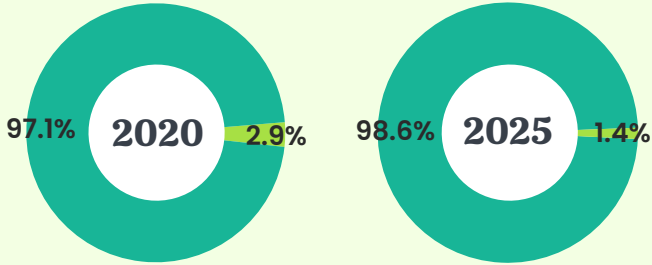
Literacy & Home Language

Most residents are literate in more than one language. English is the most frequently spoken language at home, with the majority of English-speaking residents also using a vernacular language at home.



LITERACY RATE

In 2025, the literacy rate among the resident population aged 15 and over remained high at **98.6 per cent**.



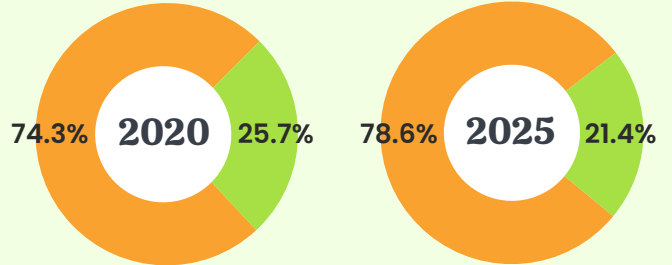
Literate



Not Literate

MULTI-LANGUAGE LITERACY

Multi-language literacy remained prevalent. Among those who were literate, nearly 8 in 10 residents could read in two or more languages.



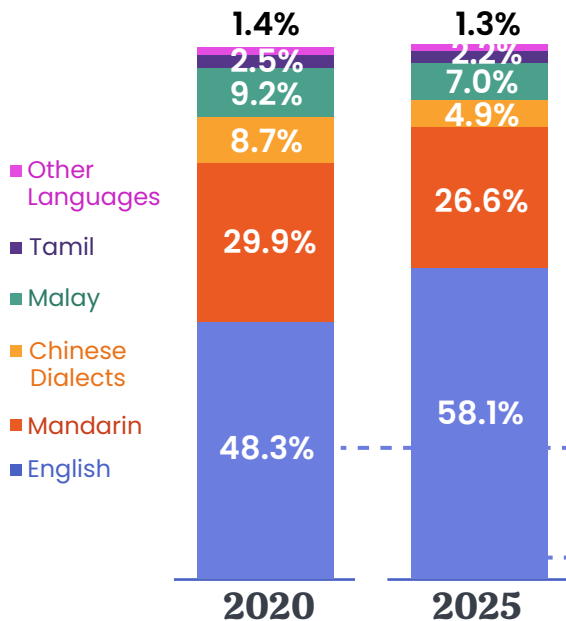
Literate in 2 or more languages



Literate in 1 language

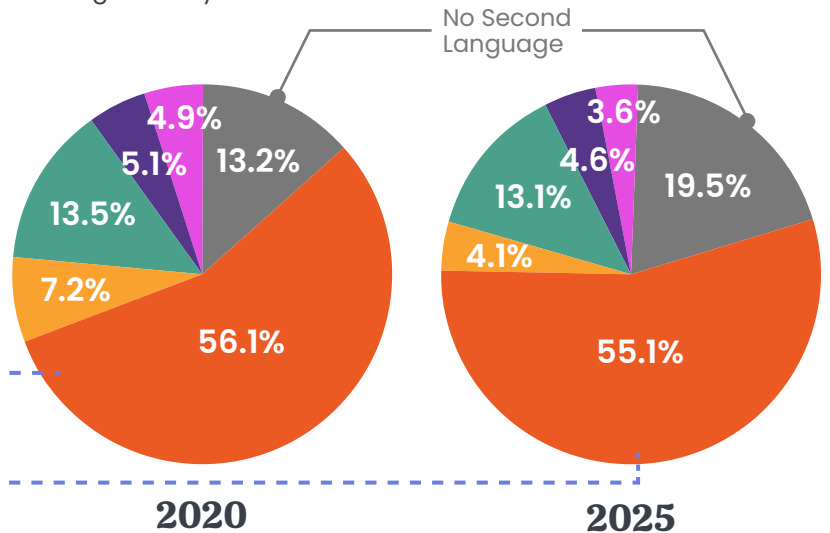
LANGUAGE MOST FREQUENTLY SPOKEN AT HOME

In 2025, close to 6 in 10 residents aged 5 years and over reported speaking English most frequently at home.



SECOND MOST FREQUENTLY SPOKEN LANGUAGE AT HOME AMONG RESIDENTS WHO SPOKE ENGLISH MOST FREQUENTLY

Among those who spoke English most frequently at home, a majority of them also spoke a mother tongue language or a vernacular language as a second language, reflecting bilingual usage in daily life.



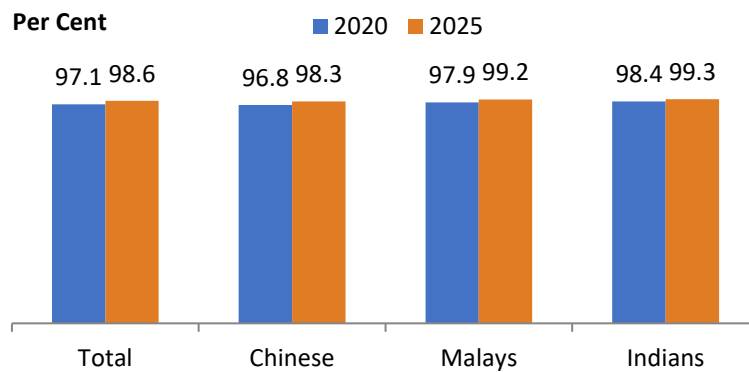
CHAPTER 3

LITERACY AND HOME LANGUAGE

Literacy Rate and Multi-Language Literacy

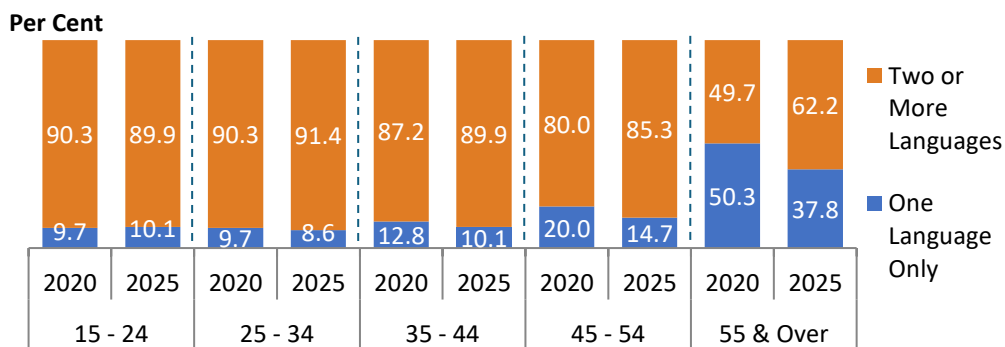
Literacy, i.e. the ability to read in at least one language, remained high among residents aged 15 years and over, with 98.6% being literate in 2025 (Chart 3.1). Literacy was near universal across all major ethnic groups.

Chart 3.1 Literacy Rate Among Residents Aged 15 Years and Over by Ethnic Group



Multi-language literacy remained prevalent. In 2025, about nine in ten literate residents aged below 45 years were able to read two or more languages (Chart 3.2). Literate residents aged 55 years and over registered the largest increase in multi-language literacy, with 62.2% being literate in two or more languages in 2025, up from 49.7% in 2020.

Chart 3.2 Literate Resident Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Age Group and Number of Language(s) Literate In

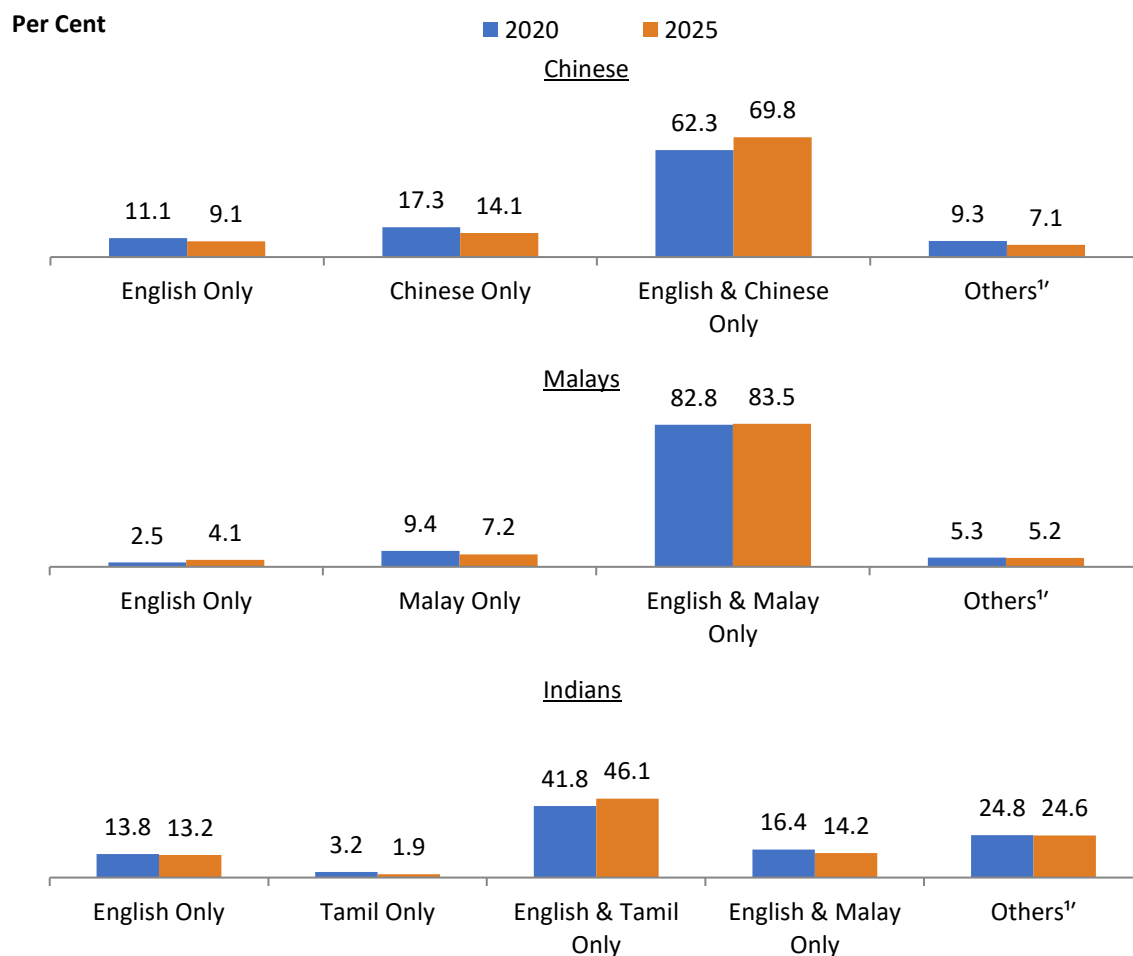


Language Literate In by Ethnic Group

Consistent with Singapore’s bilingual education policy, there was an overall increase in bilingual literacy in English and another mother tongue language across the three major ethnic groups, accompanied by a corresponding decline in the proportion of residents who were literate only in their respective mother tongue languages (Chart 3.3).

Most literate residents aged 15 years and over were bilingual in English and a mother tongue language. Among literate Chinese residents, 69.8% were literate in English and Chinese only, up from 62.3% in 2020. The corresponding proportion among Malay residents who were literate in English and Malay only increased slightly from 82.8% to 83.5%. Among Indian residents, 46.1% were literate in English and Tamil only, while another 14.2% were literate in English and Malay only, reflecting their language diversity.

Chart 3.3 Literate Resident Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Ethnic Group and Language Literate In

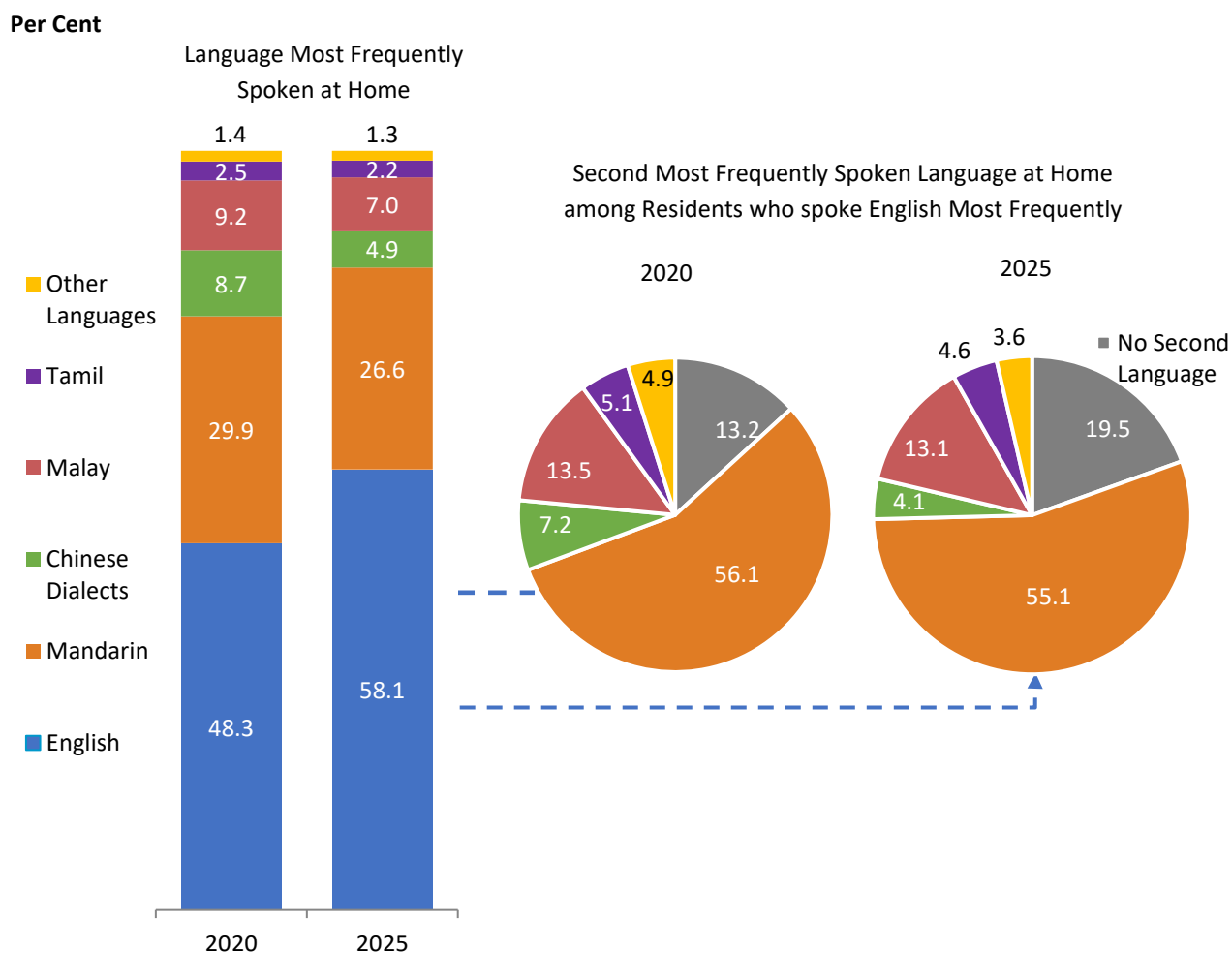


^{1/}Refers to other combinations of languages not elsewhere listed under respective ethnic group. For example, "Others" under Chinese includes Malay, Tamil etc. and "Others" under Malays includes Tamil etc.

Language Spoken at Home

English was the most frequently spoken language in Singapore homes. In 2025, close to six in ten residents (58.1%) aged 5 years and over reported speaking English most frequently at home, up from 48.3% in 2020 (Chart 3.4). Among those who spoke English most frequently at home, the majority also spoke a vernacular language as a second language, reflecting bilingual usage in daily life.

Chart 3.4 Resident Population Aged 5 Years and Over by Language Most/Second Most Frequently Spoken at Home



Language Spoken at Home by Ethnic Group

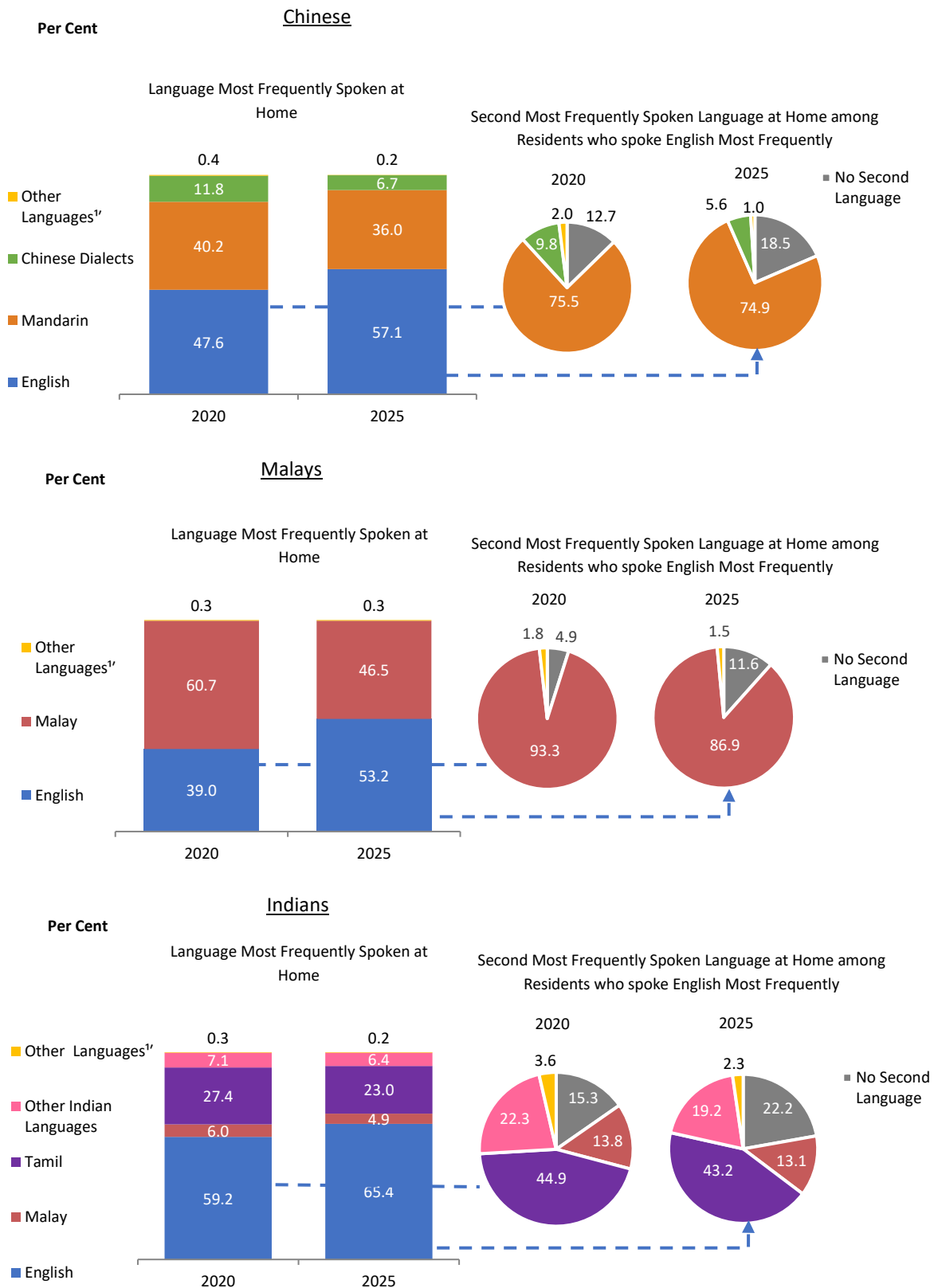
The shift towards English as the primary language spoken at home was evident across all major ethnic groups. In 2025, more than half of residents in each community reported English as the primary language spoken at home (Chart 3.5).

Among Chinese residents, the share who spoke English most frequently at home was 57.1% in 2025, compared with 36.0% who spoke Mandarin most frequently and another 6.7% who spoke Chinese dialects. Most Chinese residents who spoke English most frequently at home also used Mandarin as a second language.

Among Malay residents, 53.2% spoke English most frequently at home in 2025, while 46.5% spoke Malay most frequently at home. Most Malay residents who spoke English most frequently at home also used Malay as their second most frequently spoken language at home.

Among Indian residents, English was the language most frequently spoken at home for close to two-thirds (65.4%) of the community in 2025. Most Indian residents who spoke English most frequently at home also used Tamil, Malay, or other Indian languages at home.

Chart 3.5 Resident Population Aged 5 Years and Over by Ethnic Group and Language Most/Second Most Frequently Spoken at Home

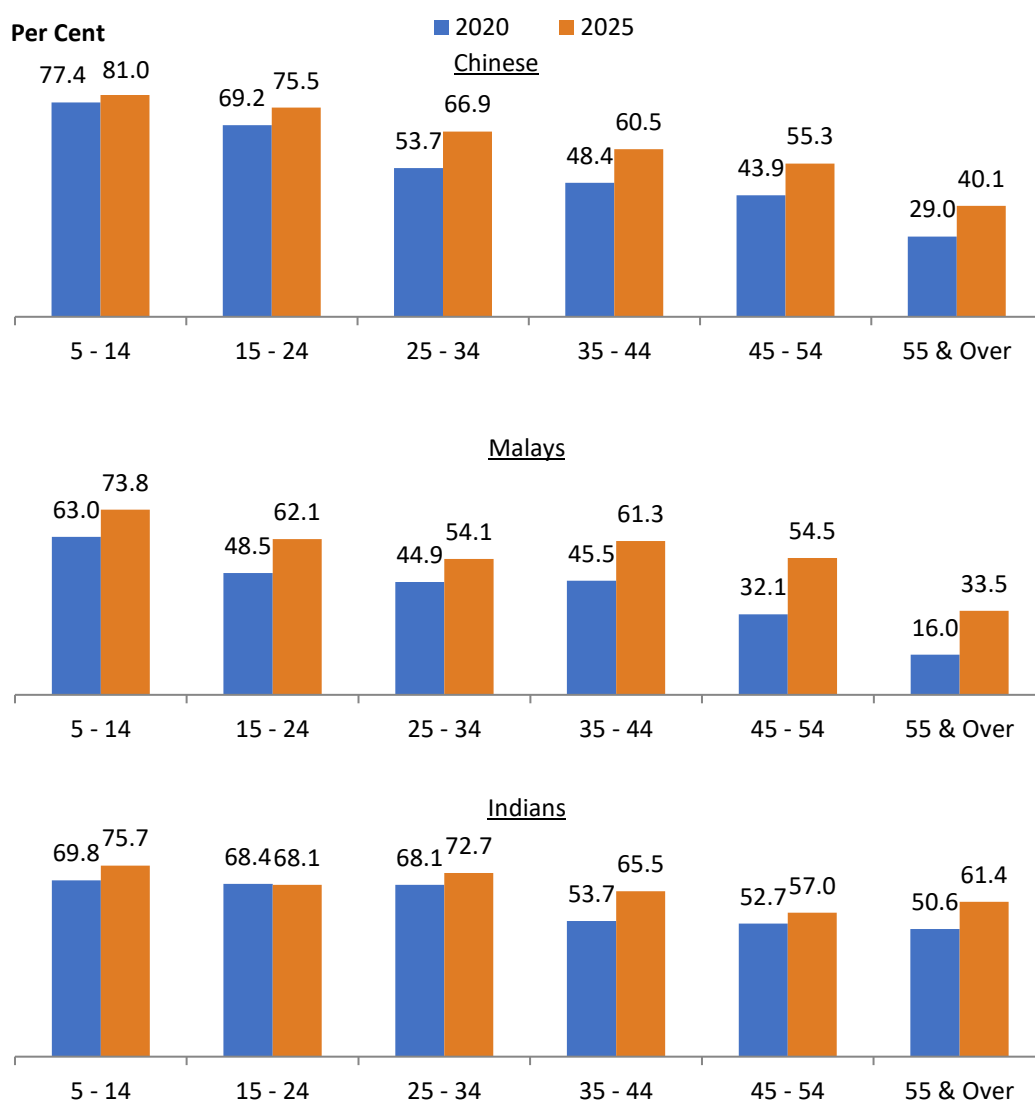


¹Refers to other combinations of languages not elsewhere listed under respective Ethnic Group. For example, "Others" under Chinese includes Malay, Tamil etc. and "Others" under Malays includes Mandarin, Chinese Dialects, Tamil etc.

Use of English as Language Most Frequently Spoken at Home by Ethnic Group and Age Group

The use of English as the primary language spoken at home was more prevalent among younger residents than among older residents. By age group and ethnic group, the proportion who reported speaking English most frequently at home increased across nearly all groups between 2020 and 2025, with larger increases among residents aged 35 years and over (Chart 3.6).

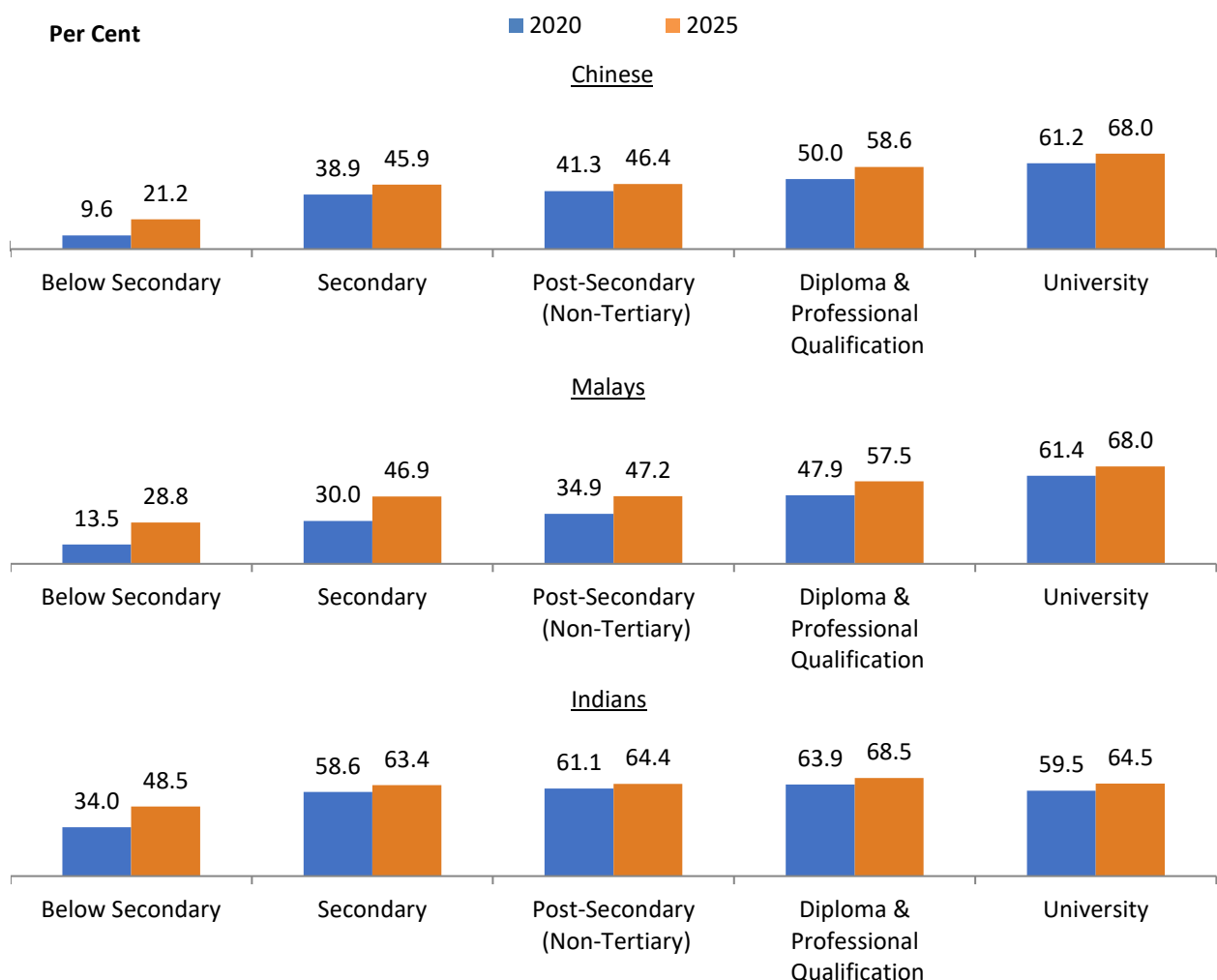
Chart 3.6 Proportion of Resident Population Aged 5 Years and Over who Spoke English Most Frequently at Home by Ethnic Group and Age Group



Use of English as Language Most Frequently Spoken at Home by Ethnic Group and Highest Qualification Attained

The proportion of residents who spoke English most frequently at home rose across all levels of educational attainment. In general, residents with higher qualifications were more likely to speak English most frequently at home. Among residents aged 15 years and over with university degrees, English was the language most frequently spoken at home for 68.0% of Chinese and Malay residents, and 64.5% of Indian residents in 2025 (Chart 3.7). By comparison, among those with below secondary qualifications, 21.2% of Chinese, 28.8% of Malays, and 48.5% of Indians spoke English most frequently at home.

Chart 3.7 Proportion of Resident Population Aged 15 Years and Over who Spoke English Most Frequently at Home by Ethnic Group and Highest Qualification Attained



Note: Data pertain to residents who were not attending educational institutions as full-time students and include those who are upgrading their qualifications through part-time courses.

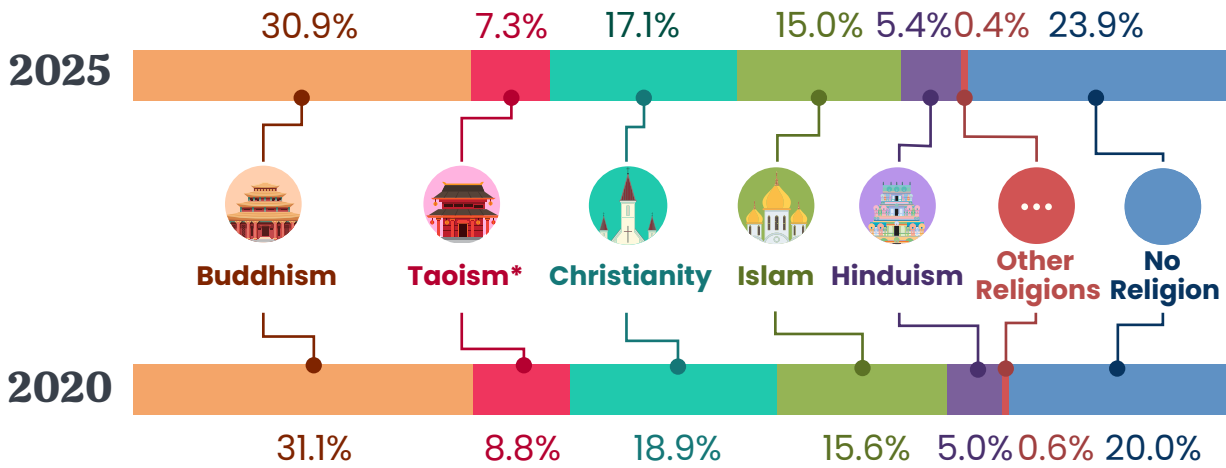
GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY 2025

Religion

In 2025, Singapore remained a multi-religious society.



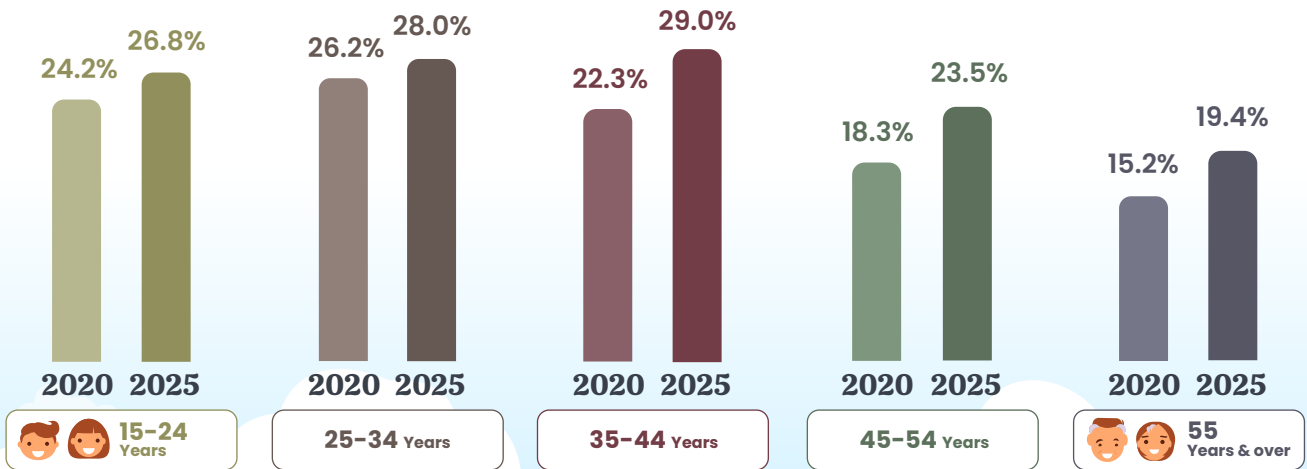
Singapore continued to be religiously diverse.



*Includes Chinese Traditional Beliefs.

PROPORTION OF RESIDENTS WITH NO RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION BY AGE GROUP

The share of residents with no religious affiliation rose.



CHAPTER 4

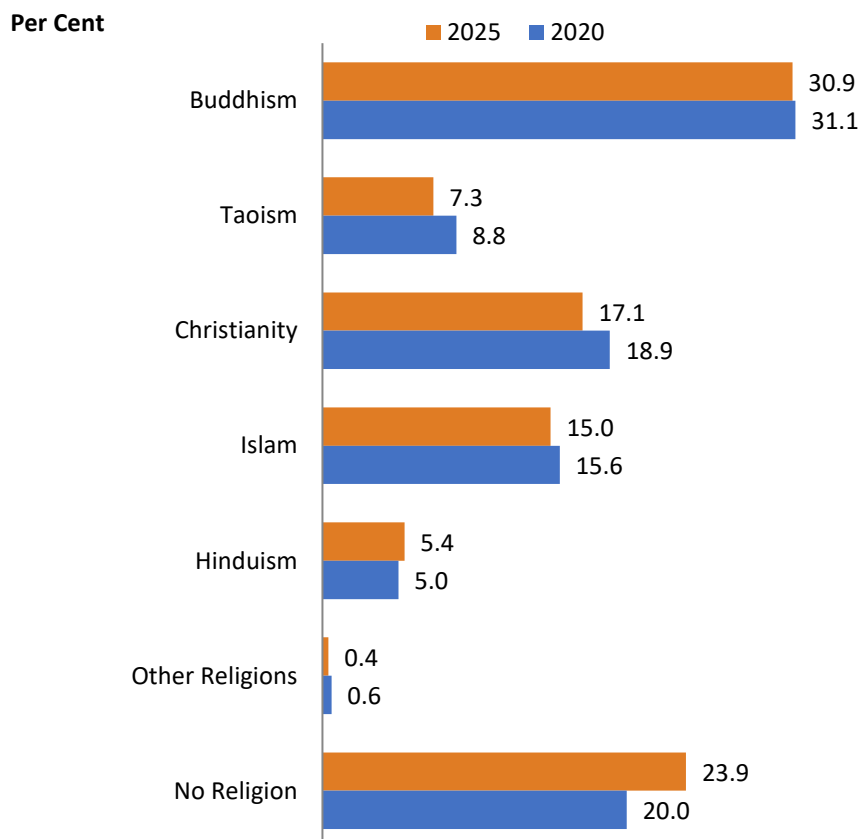
RELIGION

Religious Affiliation

Singapore remained a religiously diverse society. In 2025, among residents aged 15 years and over, 30.9% identified as Buddhists, 17.1% as Christians, 15.0% as Muslims, 7.3% as Taoists, and 5.4% as Hindus (Chart 4.1).

Notably, the share of residents with no religious affiliation rose from 20.0% in 2020 to 23.9% in 2025. Over the same period, the shares of most other religions declined slightly, while Hinduism recorded a marginal increase from 5.0% to 5.4%.

Chart 4.1 Resident Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Religion

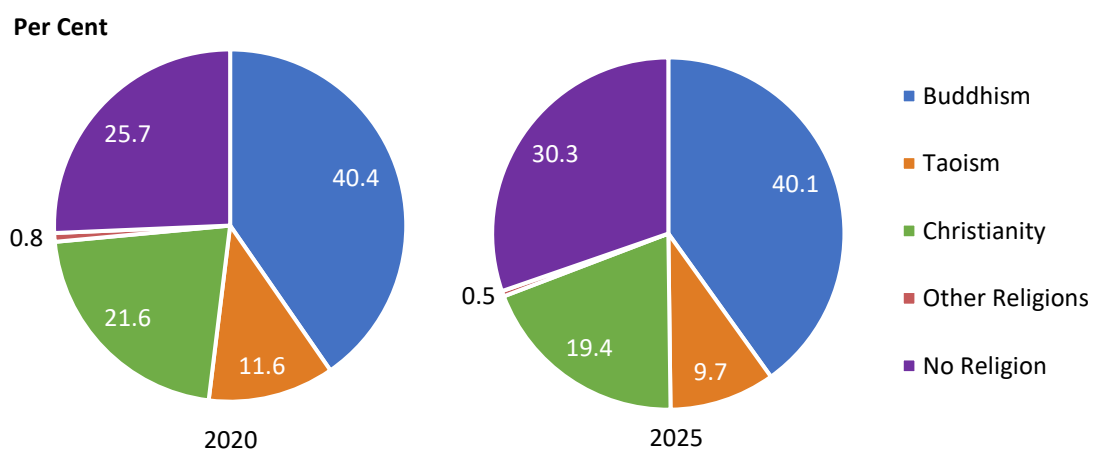


Religious Affiliation by Ethnic Group

The proportion with no religious affiliation grew considerably among Chinese residents, from 25.7% in 2020 to 30.3% in 2025 (Chart 4.2). This increase was markedly larger than that among Malays, for whom the proportion remained at 0.4% in both 2020 and 2025 (Chart 4.3), and among Indians, for whom the proportion increased slightly from 2.2% in 2020 to 3.2% in 2025 (Chart 4.4).

Among Chinese residents, Buddhism remained the most commonly practised religion at 40.1% in 2025, almost unchanged from 2020. The proportions affiliated with Taoism and Christianity declined over the same period, from 11.6% to 9.7% and from 21.6% to 19.4% respectively.

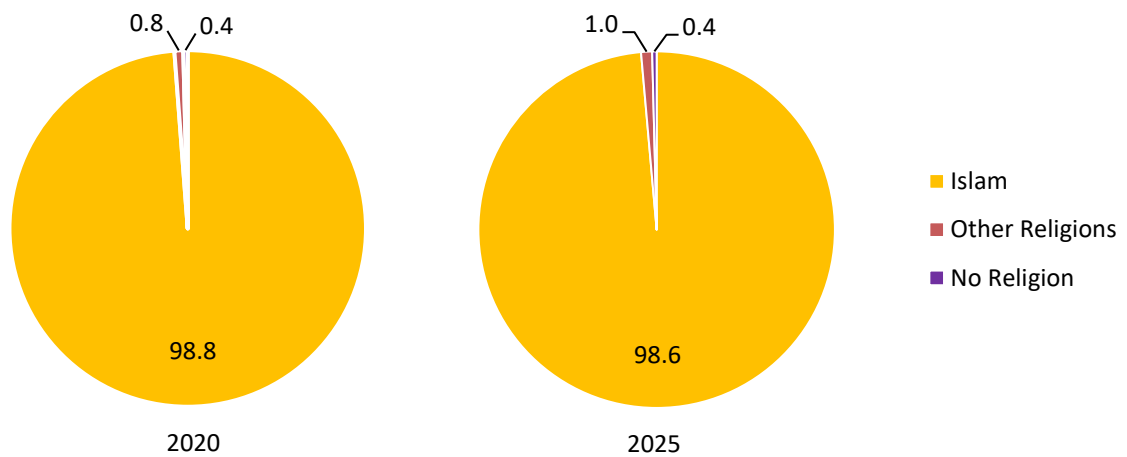
Chart 4.2 Chinese Resident Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Religion



Among Malay residents, the proportion who were Muslims remained near universal at 98.6% in 2025.

Chart 4.3 Malay Resident Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Religion

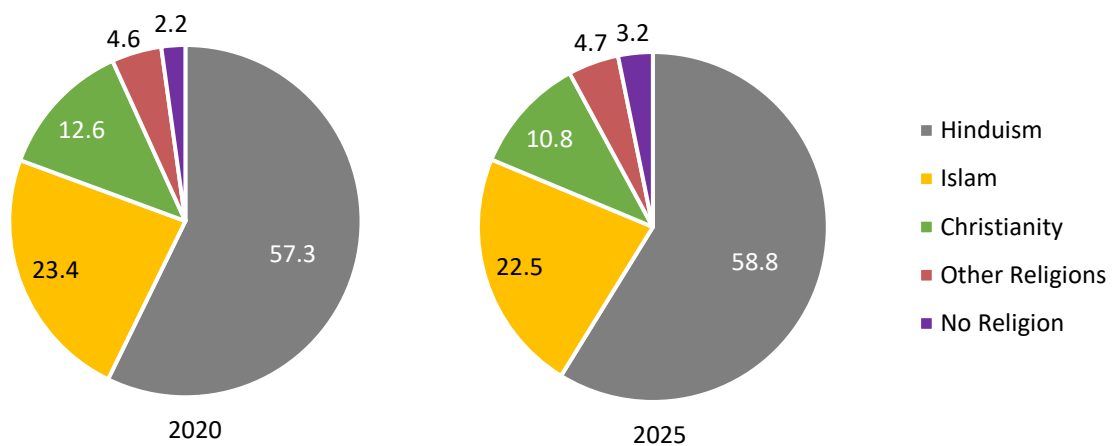
Per Cent



In 2025, Hinduism remained the most common religion among Indian residents at 58.8%, up from 57.3% in 2020. This was followed by Islam (22.5%), Christianity (10.8%), and other religions (4.7%), including Sikhism.

Chart 4.4 Indian Resident Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Religion

Per Cent



Religious Affiliation and Age Group

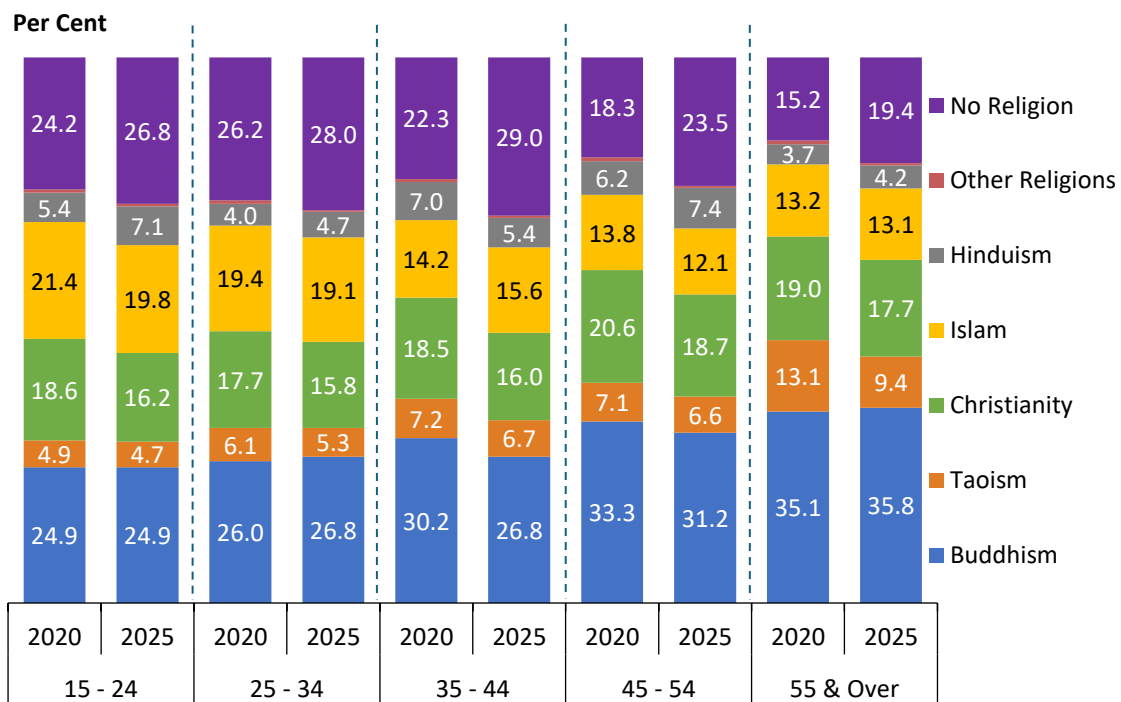
Younger residents were more likely than older residents to have no religious affiliation. In 2025, 26.8% of residents aged 15–24 years had no religion, compared with 19.4% of those aged 55 years and over (Chart 4.5). Between 2020 and 2025, the proportion of residents with no religious affiliation increased across all age groups.

Buddhism and Taoism were more prevalent among older residents. Among those aged 55 years and over, 35.8% were Buddhists and 9.4% were Taoists in 2025. By contrast, the corresponding proportions among residents aged 15–24 years were 24.9% and 4.7% respectively.

Muslims accounted for a larger share of residents in the younger age groups than in the older age groups. In 2025, 19.8% of residents aged 15–24 years were Muslims, compared with 13.1% of residents aged 55 years and over.

The proportion of Christians was relatively similar across age groups, ranging from about 16% among those aged 15–44 years to around 18%–19% among older residents.

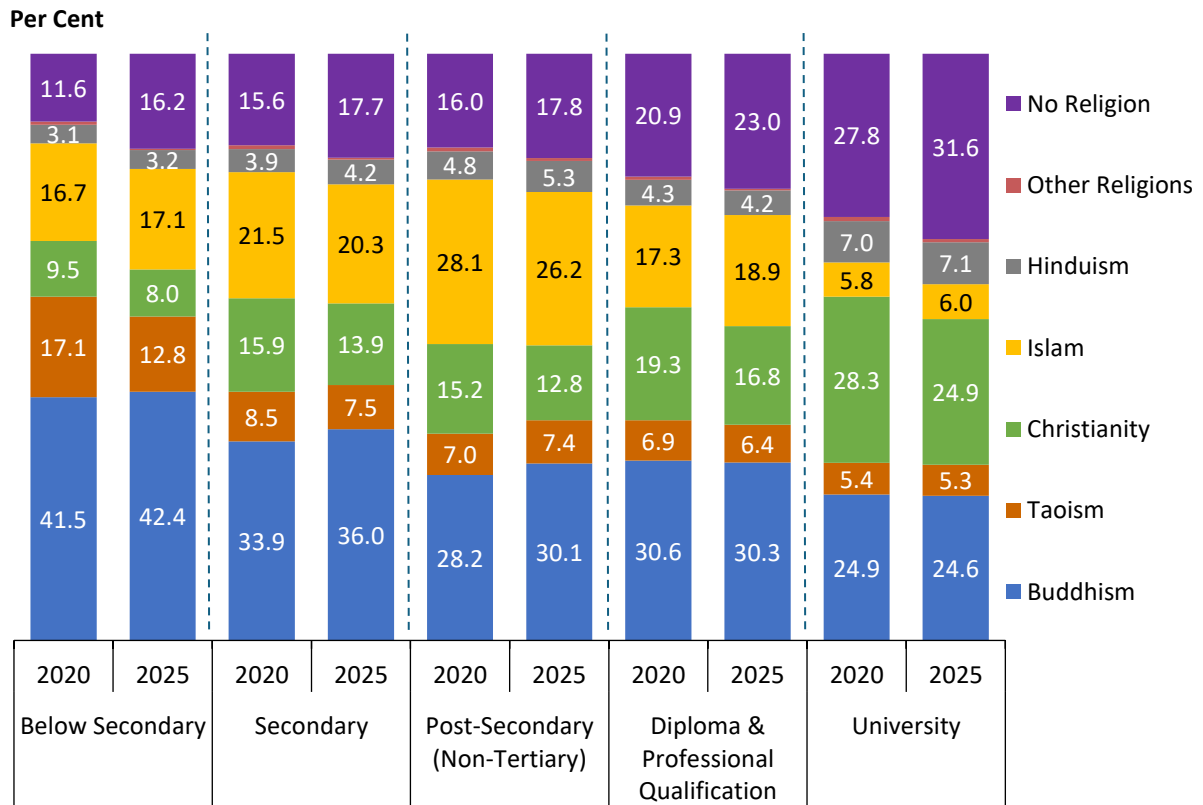
Chart 4.5 Resident Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Religion and Age Group



Religious Affiliation and Educational Attainment

The rise in residents with no religious affiliation was observed across all educational attainment groups between 2020 and 2025. Among residents with below secondary qualifications, the proportion with no religion increased from 11.6% to 16.2%. Among those with university qualifications, the corresponding proportion rose from 27.8% to 31.6% (Chart 4.6). By educational attainment, the proportion of Christians declined more among more highly educated residents, particularly those with university qualifications, for whom the share fell from 28.3% in 2020 to 24.9% in 2025.

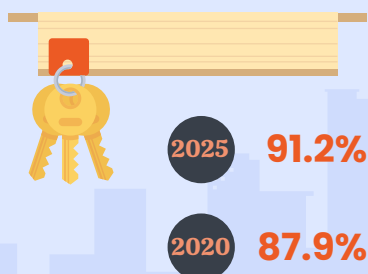
Chart 4.6 Resident Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Religion and Highest Qualification Attained



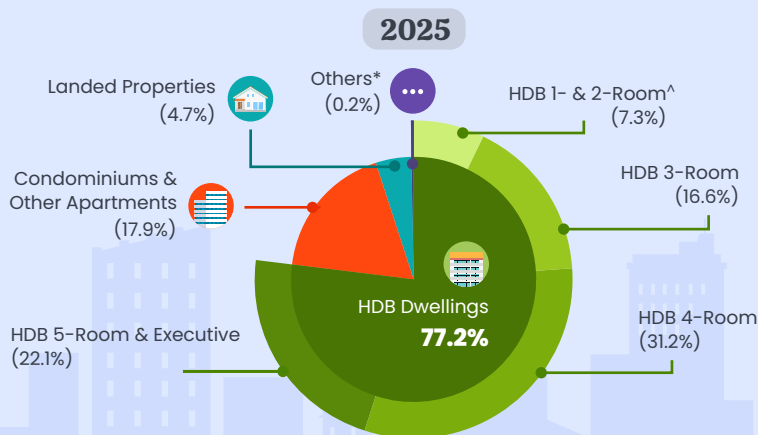
Note: Data pertain to residents who are not attending educational institutions as full-time students and include those who are upgrading their qualifications through part-time courses.

Households & Housing

Home ownership remained high – More than 9 in 10 resident households were owner-occupied, an **increase** from 2020.

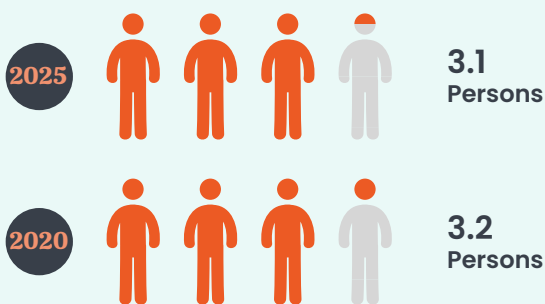


In 2025, over three-quarters of the households stayed in HDB flats, with **HDB 4-room flat** remaining the most common house type.

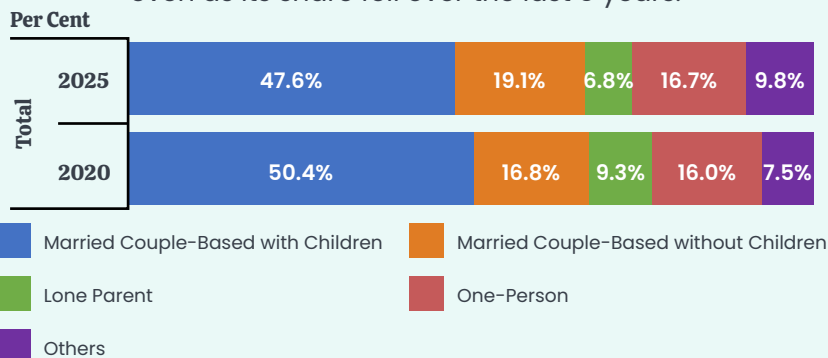


[^] Includes HDB Studio Apartments and Community Care Apartments.
* Refers to other types of dwelling not shown e.g., non-HDB shophouses, etc.

Average household size **decreased** marginally over the past 5 years.



Married couple-based households with children remained the most common living arrangement even as its share fell over the last 5 years.



Both median monthly household market income and median monthly income per household member increased over the past 5 years.



Note: - The dollar values are not adjusted for inflation.

- Median household income refers to the household income in the middle of the income distribution, i.e., half of the households have higher income than the median household income and half have lower income than the median household income. Refer to this [infographic](#) for more information on how the median household income is derived and why it differs from an individual's personal experience.
- Household market income refers to income received by households before any Government transfers and taxes. It comprises income from employment (including one-twelfth of annual bonuses and employer/ platform operator CPF contributions) and non-employment (e.g., investments, rental, regular payouts from CPF and insurance) sources. It excludes income received by live-in domestic workers in the households.
- Data for 2025 are preliminary. Data based on household employment income can be found in [SingStat Table Builder](#).

CHAPTER 5

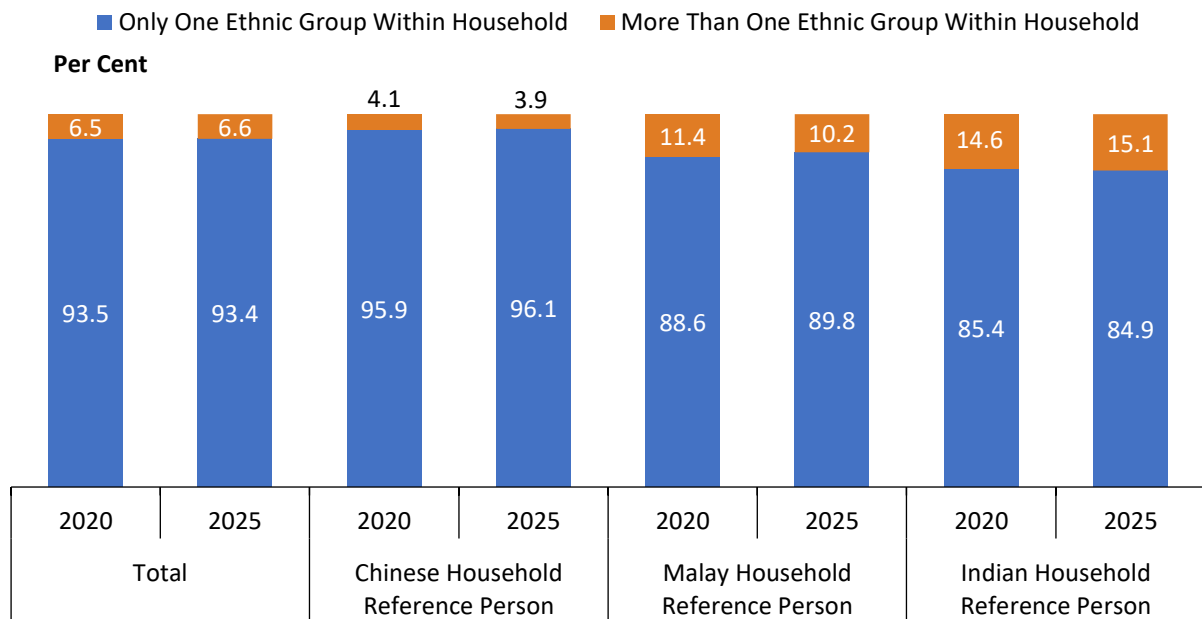
HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSING

Ethnic Composition¹ of Households

In 2025, there were 1.49 million resident households, up from 1.37 million in 2020. More than nine in ten (93.4%) resident households comprised members of the same ethnic group in 2025, comparable to 2020 (Chart 5.1).

In 2025, 15.1% of households with an Indian reference person were multi-ethnic and comprised Indian and non-Indian members. By comparison, 3.9% of households with a Chinese reference person and 10.2% of households with a Malay reference person had a mixed ethnic composition.

Chart 5.1 Resident Households by Household Ethnic Composition



¹ Ethnic composition of a household is defined based on household members who are related to the Household Reference Person (e.g., parent and parent-in-law, child and child-in-law, grandchildren, siblings or other relatives) and is based on the broad ethnic groups of Chinese, Malays, Indians and Others. Analysis on ethnic composition of household excludes domestic worker(s) and other household members who are unrelated to the Household Reference Person (e.g., tenant, friend, confinement lady, chauffeur).

Housing Type

Public housing continued to house the majority of resident households. In 2025, 77.2% of households stayed in Housing & Development Board (HDB) flats (Table 5.1). HDB 4-room flats remained the most common dwelling type, accounting for 31.2% of households.

The proportion of resident households staying in condominiums and other apartments increased from 16.0% in 2020 to 17.9% in 2025, while the proportion staying in landed properties remained relatively stable at 4.7%.

Table 5.1 Resident Households by Type of Dwelling and Ethnic Group of Household Reference Person

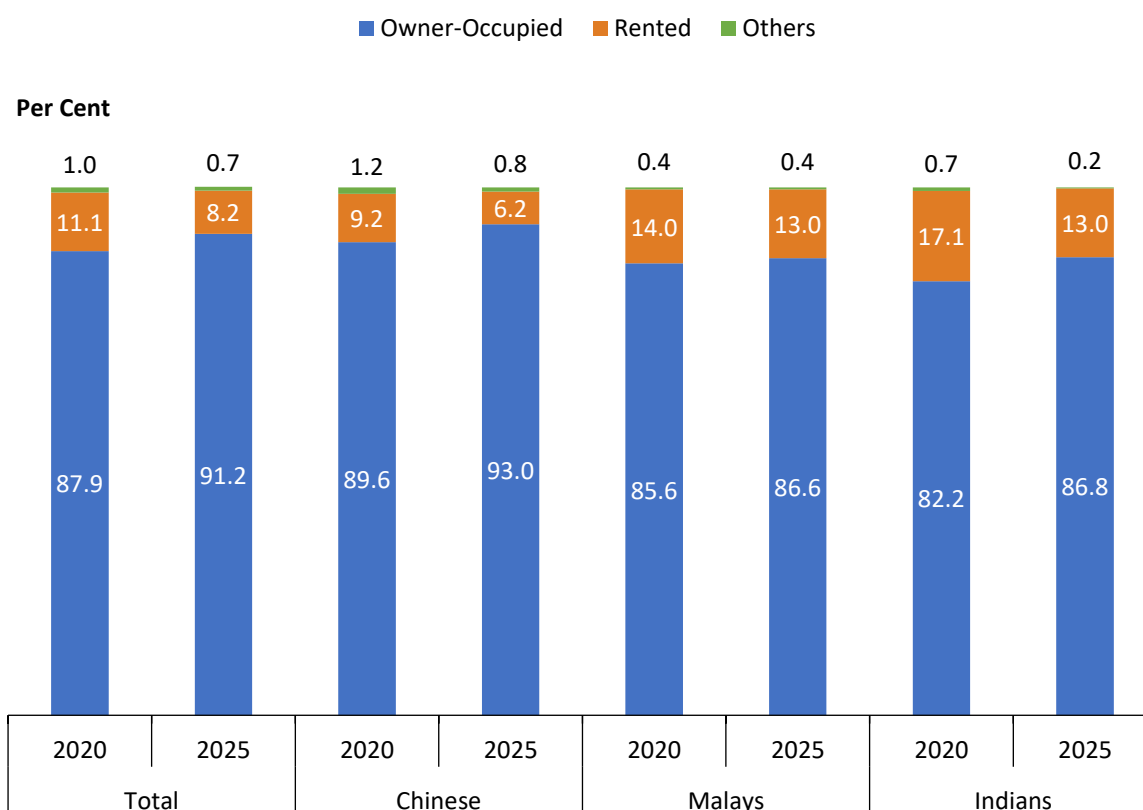
Type of Dwelling	Per Cent							
	Total		Chinese		Malays		Indians	
	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
HDB Dwellings	78.7	77.2	76.7	74.9	96.2	95.9	79.7	78.0
1- & 2- Room Flats ^{1/}	6.5	7.3	5.1	6.0	16.0	16.0	7.7	7.6
3-Room Flats	17.7	16.6	17.4	16.5	21.1	19.1	17.3	15.6
4-Room Flats	31.6	31.2	31.3	30.8	36.9	36.8	30.4	29.3
5-Room & Executive Flats	22.9	22.1	22.9	21.5	22.3	24.0	24.3	25.5
Condominiums & Other Apartments	16.0	17.9	17.3	19.5	3.0	3.4	16.2	18.4
Landed Properties	5.0	4.7	5.6	5.3	0.7	0.7	3.9	3.6
Others	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0

^{1/}Includes HDB Studio Apartments and Community Care Apartments.

Owner-Occupied Households

Home ownership remained high. In 2025, more than nine in ten resident households (91.2%) were owner-occupied, up from 87.9% in 2020 (Chart 5.2). The proportion of owner-occupied households was higher among Chinese households (93.0%) than among Malay households (86.6%) and Indian households (86.8%).

Chart 5.2 Resident Households by Tenancy and Ethnic Group of Household Reference Person



Note:

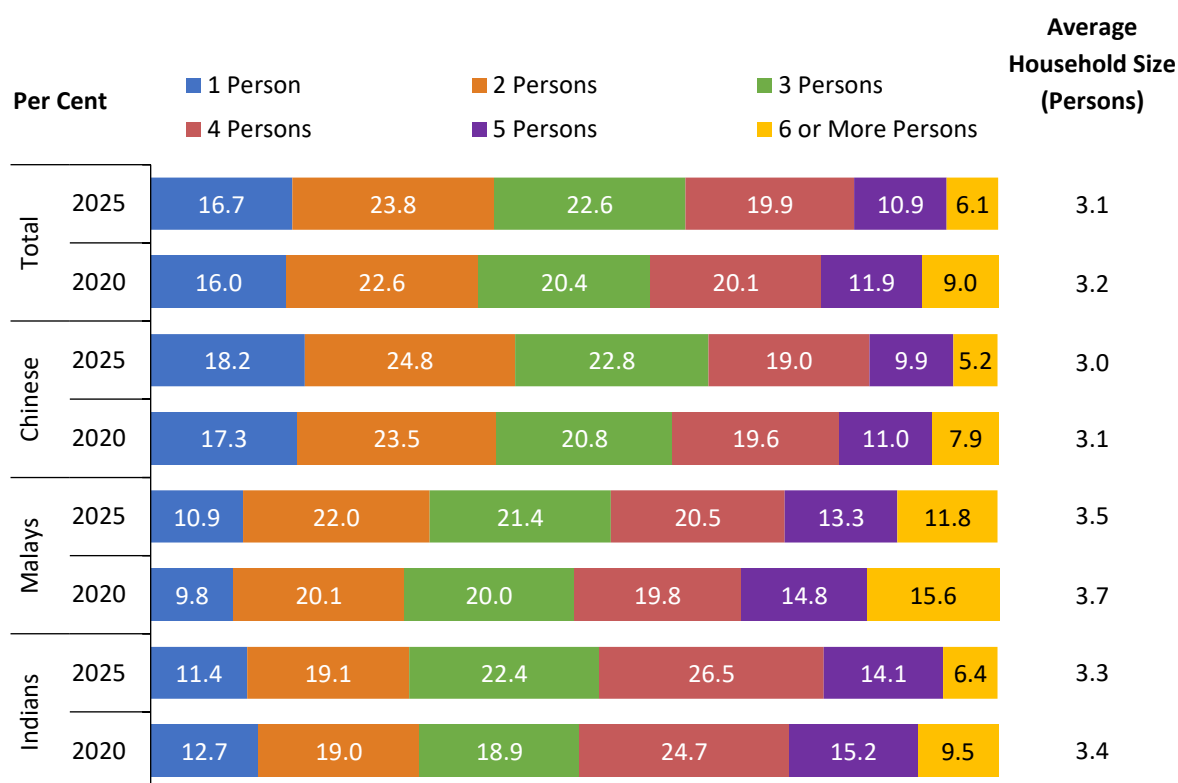
- 'Owner-Occupied' refers to a household where the household reference person and/or any other member(s) in the household owns the dwelling unit. This includes those which are fully paid-up as well as those with outstanding housing loans.
- 'Rented' refers to a household where the household reference person and/or any other member(s) in the household rents whole or part of the dwelling unit.
- 'Others' refers to a household where the household reference person and/or any other member(s) in the household occupies whole or part of the dwelling unit without charge (provided free by other persons (e.g., employers, relatives, friends, or any other persons)).

Household Size by Ethnic Group

Between 2020 and 2025, the average household size declined marginally from 3.2 persons to 3.1 persons as the trend towards smaller households continued. In 2025, 63.1% of resident households had three or fewer members, up from 59.0% in 2020 (Chart 5.3). Meanwhile, the proportion of resident households with six or more members fell, particularly among Malay households.

The decline in average household size between 2020 and 2025 was observed across ethnic groups. While the average size of Malay households declined from 3.7 to 3.5 persons, they remained the largest among the three major ethnic groups. Both Chinese and Indian households registered declines of 0.1 person over the five-year period, to 3.0 and 3.3 persons respectively in 2025.

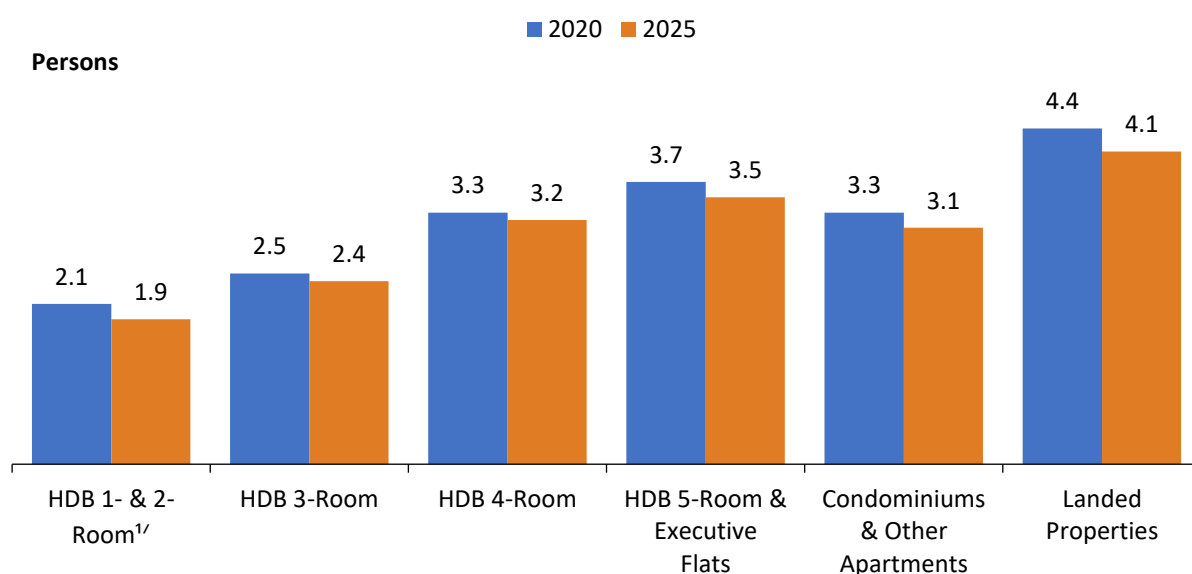
Chart 5.3 Resident Households by Household Size and Ethnic Group of Household Reference Person



Household Size by Housing Type

The reduction in household size was also observed across all housing types. Between 2020 and 2025, the decrease was larger for households staying in landed properties, where average household size fell by 0.3 person (Chart 5.4). By contrast, the decrease was smaller for households staying in HDB 3-room and 4-room flats, at 0.1 person each over the same period.

Chart 5.4 Average Household Size by Type of Dwelling



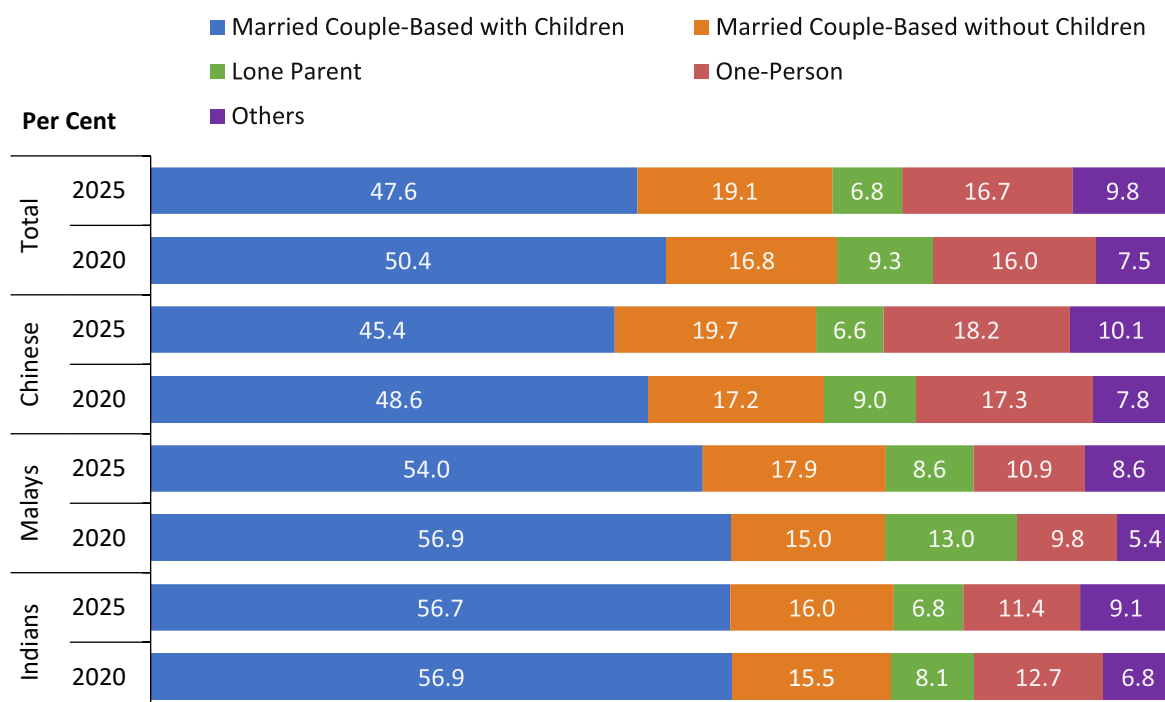
^{1/}Includes HDB Studio Apartments and Community Care Apartments.

Household Living Arrangement by Ethnic Group

Married couple-based households with children remained the most common living arrangement among resident households, even though its share fell from 50.4% in 2020 to 47.6% in 2025 (Chart 5.5). Conversely, the share of married couple-based households without children increased from 16.8% to 19.1% over the same period.

Across the three major ethnic groups, Indian households recorded the highest proportion of married couple-based households with children (56.7%) in 2025, followed by Malay households (54.0%) and Chinese households (45.4%). By contrast, the share of one-person households was considerably higher among Chinese households (18.2%) than among Malay households (10.9%) and Indian households (11.4%).

Chart 5.5 Resident Households by Household Living Arrangement and Ethnic Group of Household Reference Person

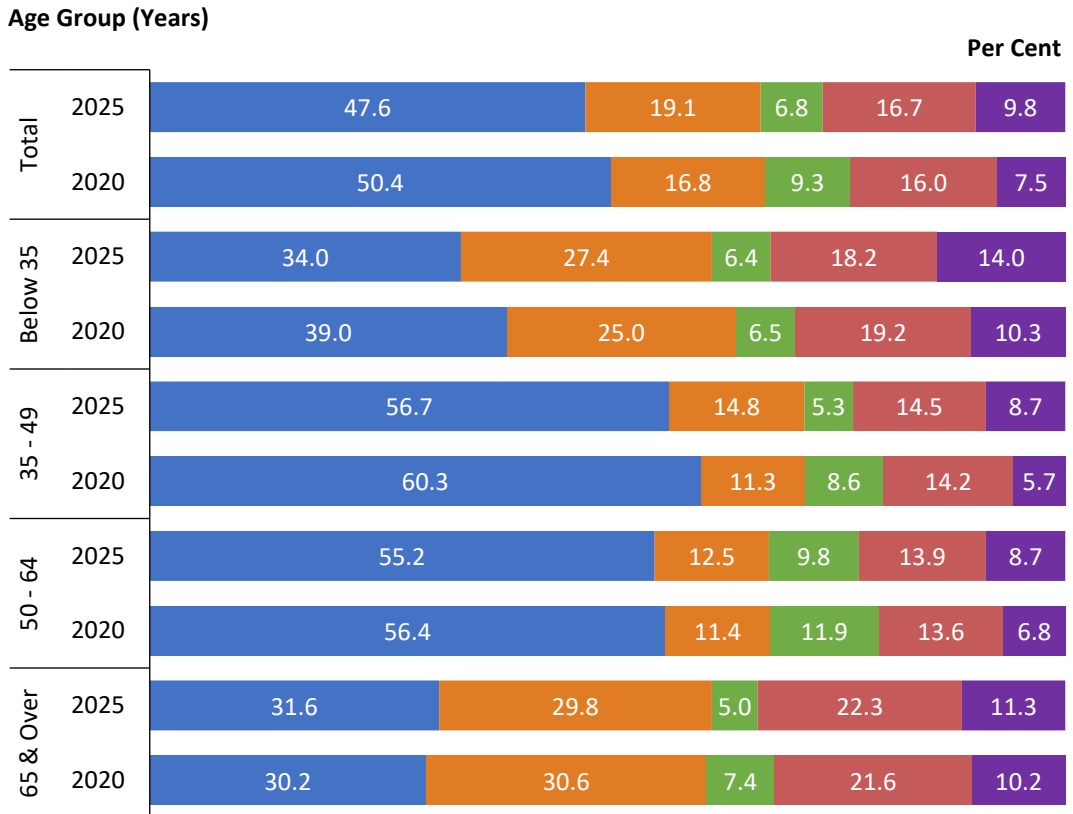


Household Living Arrangement by Age Group

Consistent with the trends of rising singlehood, later marriage, and lower fertility, the share of married couple-based households with children declined among households with younger reference persons. Among households with reference persons aged below 35 years, 34.0% were married couple-based households with children, down from 39.0% in 2020 (Chart 5.6). Over the same period, the share of married couple-based households without children for this group increased from 25.0% to 27.4%.

Compared with younger age groups, households with a reference person aged 65 years and over had proportionately more married couple-based households without children and one-person households. This generally reflected transitions at later life stages, including grown-up children moving out to form their own families or the passing of one spouse, as well as a rise in independent living among seniors.

Chart 5.6 Resident Households by Household Living Arrangement and Age Group of Household Reference Person



CHAPTER 6

HOUSEHOLD MARKET INCOME¹

Household Income Growth

Resident households² recorded growth in both average and median monthly household market incomes between 2020 and 2025³. Median household market income among resident households rose by 6.5% per annum, from \$9,099 in 2020 to \$12,446 in 2025 (Chart 6.1). After adjusting for inflation, median monthly household market income rose by 3.2% per annum in real terms.

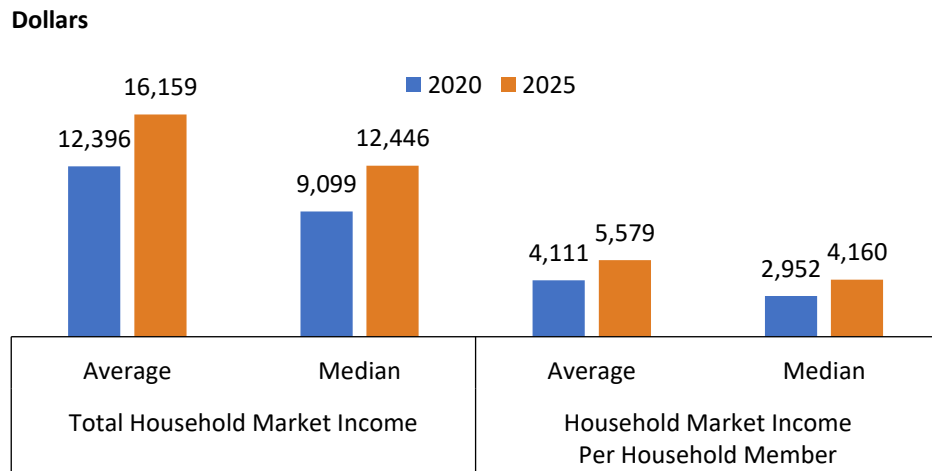
Taking household size into account, median monthly household market income per household member increased from \$2,952 in 2020 to \$4,160 in 2025. This translated into growth of 7.1% per annum, or 3.8% per annum in real terms.

¹ Market income refers to income received by households before any Government transfers and taxes. It comprises income from employment and non-employment sources. It excludes income received by live-in domestic workers in the households. This income concept aligns with international standards, which define income as regular monetary or in-kind receipts available for current consumption without diminishing net worth. The [Technical Note](#) on Household Income contains more details on the concepts and components of the household income coverage.

² This includes households with no employed persons, which could have income from non-employment sources. Examples of 'non-employment income' include income streams from investments (e.g., interests from savings and/or Central Provident Fund (CPF) balances, dividends from investments), rental, contributions from other households (e.g., allowance from children to parents who are not staying in the same household, alimony), pensions, annuities and regular payouts from CPF and insurance (i.e., CPF ElderShield and CareShield Life).

³ Data for 2025 are preliminary.

Chart 6.1 Monthly Household Market Income among Resident Households



Annualised Change between 2020 and 2025 (Per Cent)

Nominal	5.4	6.5	6.3	7.1
Real	2.1	3.2	2.9	3.8

Note:

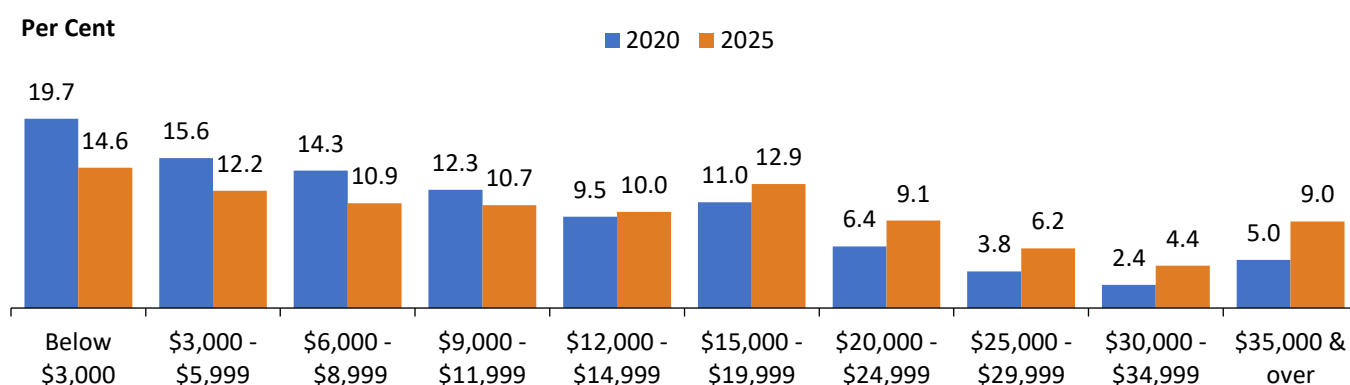
- The dollar values in the chart above are in nominal terms.
- Median household income refers to the household income in the middle of the income distribution, i.e., half of the households have higher income than the median household income and half have lower income than the median household income. Refer to this [infographic](#) for more information on how the median household income is derived and why it differs from an individual's personal experience.
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Items for the relevant household income group was used as the deflator to compute real income changes.
- Data for 2025 are preliminary.

Households by Household Income Group

Reflecting the increase in average and median household market incomes, the proportion of resident households in the higher household income brackets rose between 2020 and 2025.

The proportion of resident households earning at least \$12,000 increased from 38.2% in 2020 to 51.6% in 2025 (Chart 6.2). Notably, the proportion of resident households earning \$30,000 and over grew from 7.4% in 2020 to 13.4% in 2025.

Chart 6.2 Resident Households by Monthly Household Market Income



Note:

- a) The dollar values in the chart above are in nominal terms.
- b) Data for 2025 are preliminary.

Household Income by Ethnic Group

All three major ethnic groups experienced growth in household market income. Between 2020 and 2025, median household market income grew by 6.5% per annum (or 3.1% per annum in real terms) for Chinese households, 5.7% per annum (or 2.3% per annum in real terms) for Malay households, and 6.9% per annum (or 3.5% per annum in real terms) for Indian households (Table 6.1).

After accounting for household size⁴, median household market income per household member grew by 7.4% per annum (or 4.0% per annum in real terms) among Chinese households between 2020 and 2025, and by 6.7% per annum (or 3.3% per annum in real terms) for both Malay and Indian households.

⁴ Detailed trends on household size by ethnic group can be found in Chapter 5 on Households and Housing.

Table 6.1 Monthly Household Market Income by Ethnic Group of Household Reference Person Among Resident Households

	2020 (\$)	2025 (\$)	Annualised Change (Per Cent)	
			Nominal	Real
<u>Average Household Market Income</u>				
Total	12,396	16,159	5.4	2.1
Chinese	12,787	16,731	5.5	2.2
Malays	7,800	10,026	5.1	1.8
Indians	13,019	16,714	5.1	1.8
<u>Median Household Market Income</u>				
Total	9,099	12,446	6.5	3.2
Chinese	9,469	12,969	6.5	3.1
Malays	6,514	8,581	5.7	2.3
Indians	9,597	13,382	6.9	3.5
<u>Average Household Market Income Per Household Member</u>				
Total	4,111	5,579	6.3	2.9
Chinese	4,311	5,905	6.5	3.1
Malays	2,303	3,060	5.8	2.5
Indians	4,028	5,158	5.1	1.7
<u>Median Household Market Income Per Household Member</u>				
Total	2,952	4,160	7.1	3.8
Chinese	3,164	4,523	7.4	4.0
Malays	1,846	2,552	6.7	3.3
Indians	2,867	3,968	6.7	3.3

Note:

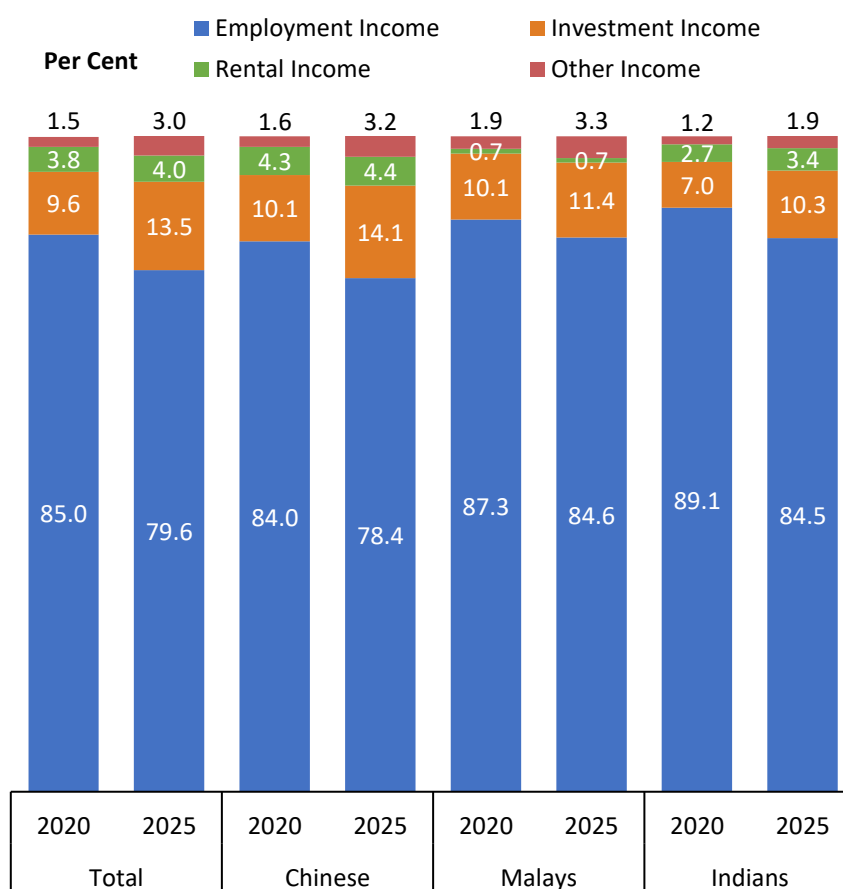
- a) The dollar values in the table above are in nominal terms.
- b) The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Items for the relevant household income group was used as the deflator to compute real income changes.
- c) Data for 2025 are preliminary.

Household Income by Income Source and Ethnic Group

The sources of household market income are categorised into – (i) employment income, (ii) investment income, (iii) rental income, and (iv) other sources. Employment income remained the primary source of income even as its share declined from 85.0% in 2020 to 79.6% in 2025 (Chart 6.3). Conversely, the share of income from non-employment sources increased over the same period, particularly for investment income (including interest from CPF balances) from 9.6% to 13.5%.

Similar trends were observed across the three major ethnic groups. Comparing between the ethnic groups, the share of employment income was lower for Chinese households (78.4% in 2025) than Malay (84.6%) and Indian households (84.5%). This was partly attributable to the older age profile of Chinese households compared to Malay and Indian households. In 2025, 10.2% of Chinese households comprised solely non-employed persons aged 65 years and over while the corresponding proportions were lower at 6.6% for Malay households and 5.9% for Indian households.

Chart 6.3 Distribution of Monthly Household Market Income Per Household Member Among Resident Households by Income Source and Ethnic Group of Household Reference Person



Average Monthly Household Market Income Per Household Member (\$)

Total	4,111	5,579	4,311	5,905	2,303	3,060	4,028	5,158
Employment Income	3,494	4,439	3,622	4,628	2,010	2,589	3,590	4,356
Investment Income	396	751	436	831	232	350	282	529
<i>Interest from CPF Balances</i>	348	470	375	511	230	301	271	361
Rental Income	157	223	184	258	17	21	107	174
Other Income	63	167	69	187	44	100	48	99
<i>Payouts from CPF Retirement Sum Scheme (RSS) & Lifelong Income For the Elderly (LIFE)</i>	48	130	52	147	35	79	34	77

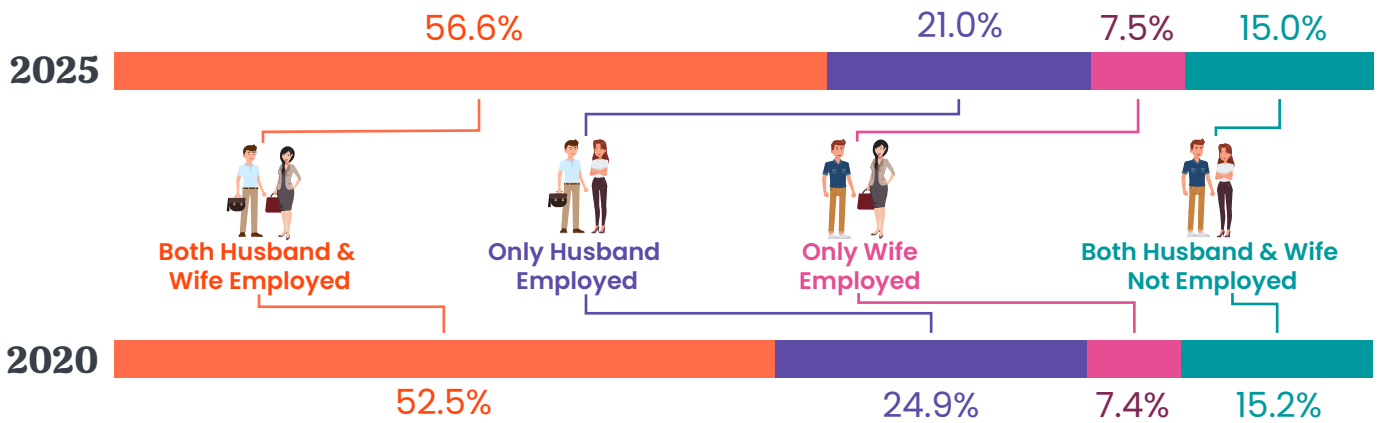
Note:

- The dollar values in the table above are in nominal terms.
- The average monthly household income from each income source is computed based on all resident households, regardless of whether households have received income from the specified source.
- Other income comprises contributions from other households (e.g., allowance from children to parents not staying in the same household, alimony), pensions, annuities, royalties, and regular payouts from CPF and insurance.
- Data for 2025 are preliminary.

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY 2025

Married Couples

Dual-career couples have become increasingly common.



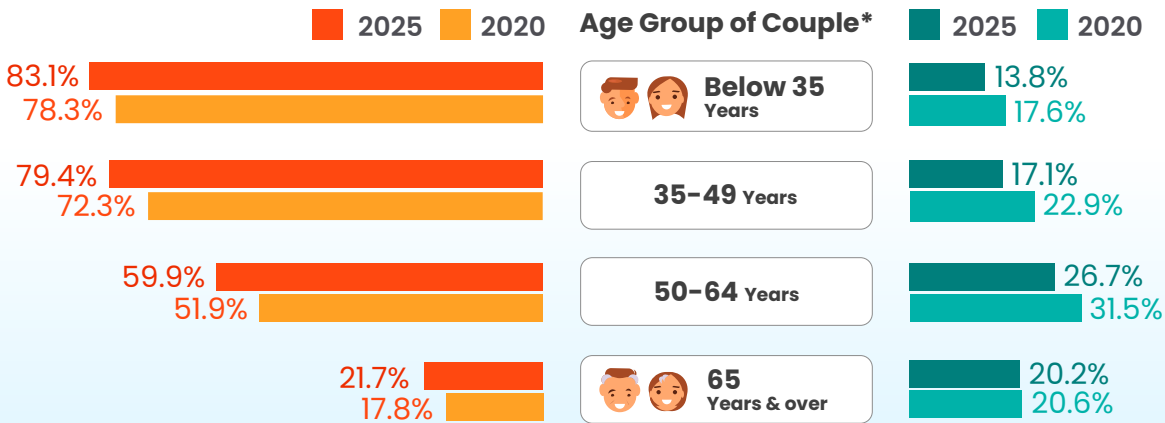
ACROSS ALL AGE GROUPS,



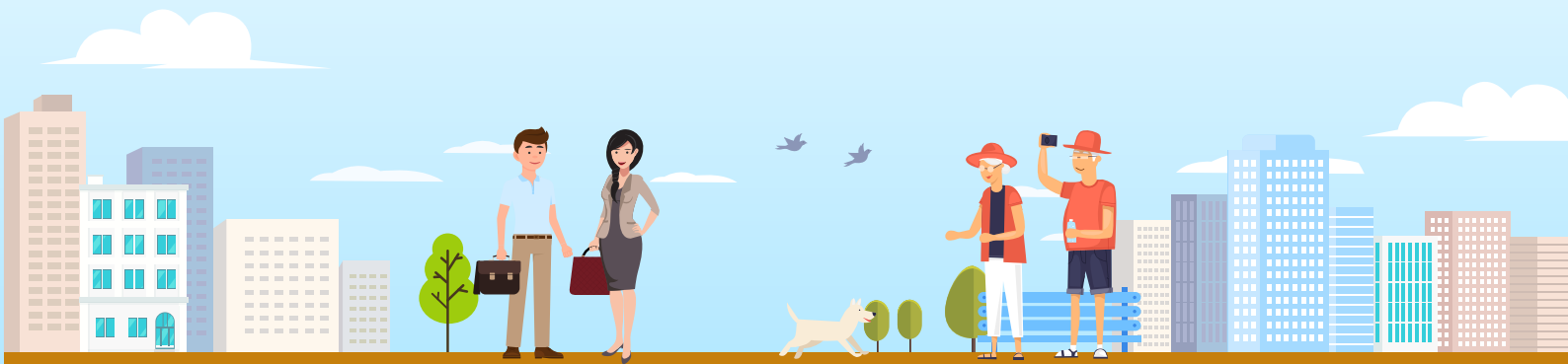
Proportion of dual-career couples **increased**.



Proportion of couples with only husband working **decreased**.



*For married couples where the husband and wife are not in the same age group, it refers to the age group of the older party.



CHAPTER 7

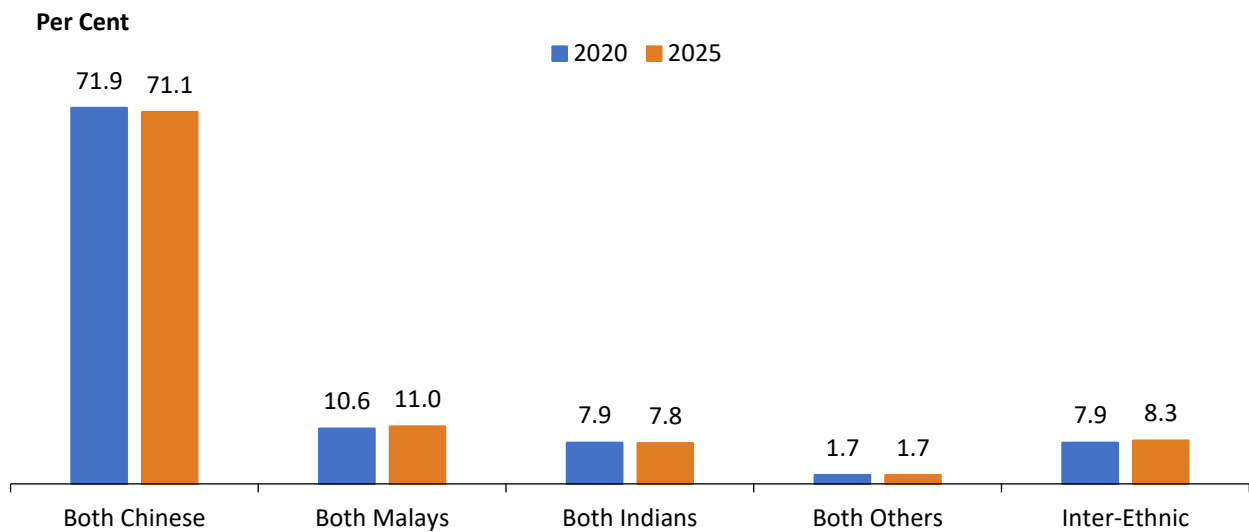
MARRIED COUPLES IN RESIDENT HOUSEHOLDS

The number of married couples in resident households increased from 977,300 in 2020 to 1,027,500 in 2025.

Ethnic Group of Married Couples

The ethnic distribution of married couples was largely stable between 2020 and 2025, with more than nine in ten married couples comprising both spouses of the same ethnic group (Chart 7.1). The proportion of inter-ethnic¹ married couples rose slightly from 7.9% in 2020 to 8.3% in 2025.

Chart 7.1 Married Couples in Resident Households by Ethnic Group of Husband and Wife



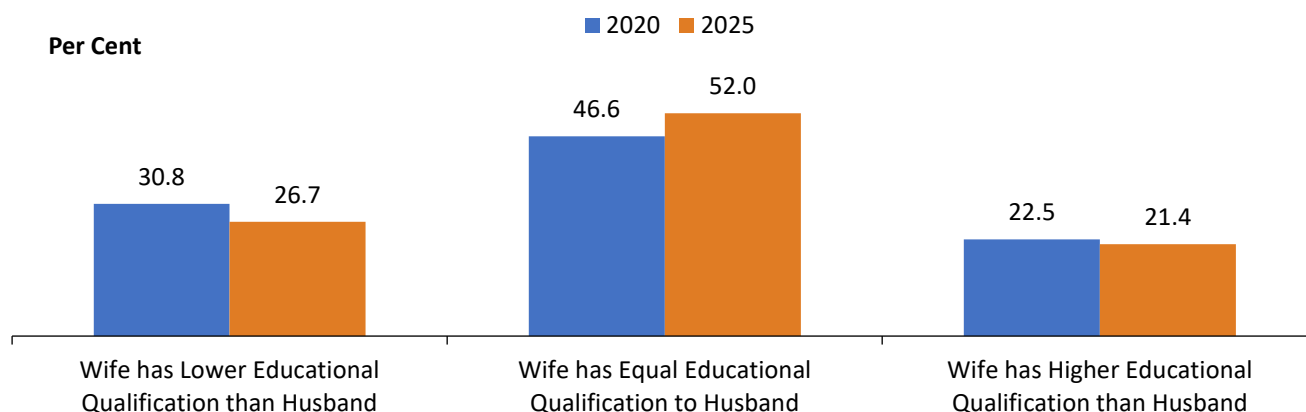
¹ Analysis on ethnic group of married couples is based on the broad ethnic groups of Chinese, Malays, Indians and Others. 'Inter-ethnic' refers to married couples with husband and wife of different broad ethnic group.

Educational Attainment of Married Couples

The proportion of married couples where the husband and wife had the same highest qualification increased from 46.6% in 2020 to 52.0% in 2025 (Chart 7.2). This partly reflects the continued equalisation of educational opportunities and the improvement in educational attainment among females over time².

The corresponding proportion of married couples where the wife had lower qualifications than the husband declined from 30.8% in 2020 to 26.7% in 2025, while the proportion where the wife had higher qualifications than the husband decreased from 22.5% to 21.4%.

Chart 7.2 Married Couples in Resident Households by Highest Qualification Attained of Husband and Wife



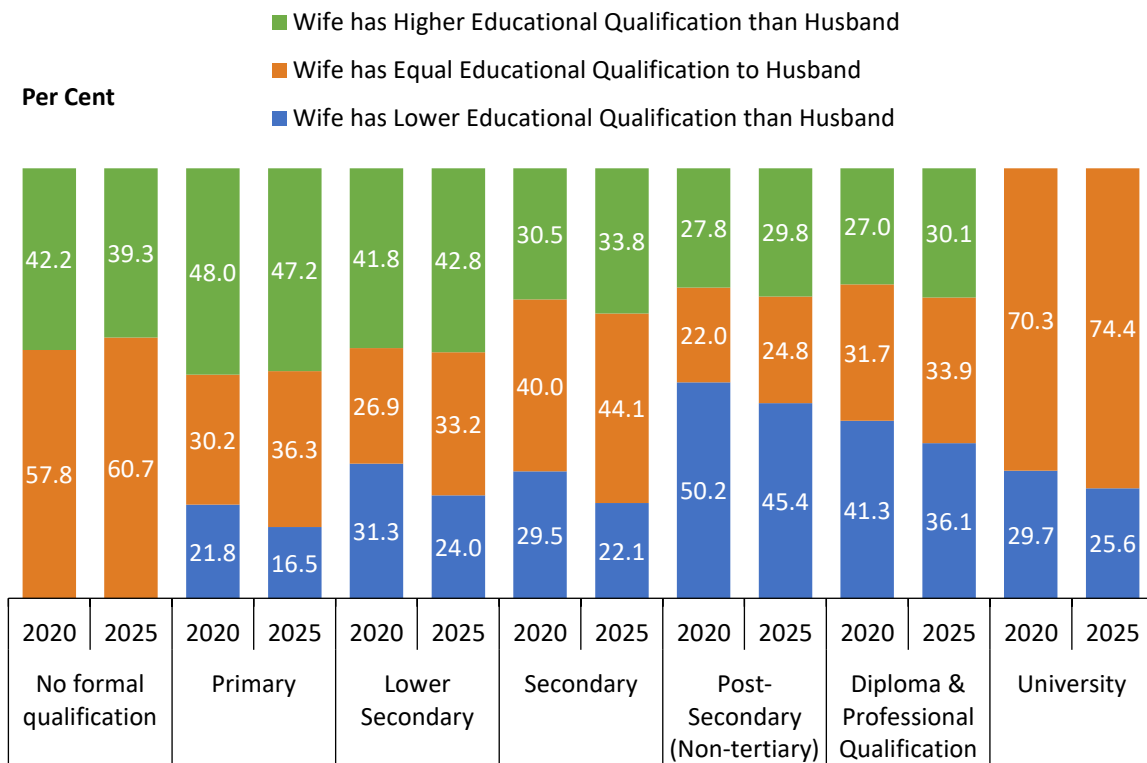
Note: Data exclude married couples where either the husband or wife or both were attending educational institutions as full-time students. The data include those who were upgrading their qualifications through part-time courses.

Across all educational qualification groups of the husband, the proportion of married couples where the wife had lower qualifications than the husband decreased between 2020 and 2025 (Chart 7.3).

Among married males with university qualifications in 2025, 74.4% had a spouse who was also a university graduate, higher than in 2020. Similarly, among married males with other educational attainment, the proportion with a spouse who had the same educational qualification also increased over the same period.

² Detailed trends on educational profile of residents can be found in Chapter 2: Education.

Chart 7.3 Married Couples in Resident Households by Highest Qualification Attained of Husband and Wife



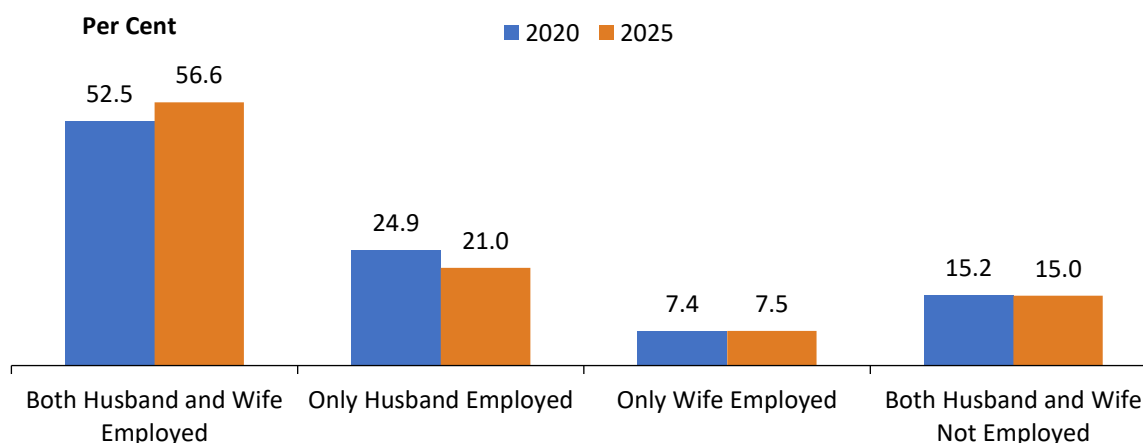
Note: Data exclude married couples where either the husband or wife, or both, were attending educational institutions as full-time students. The data include those who were upgrading their qualifications through part-time courses.

Labour Force Status of Married Couples

Between 2020 and 2025, labour force participation rates among married females rose across age groups³. Correspondingly, the proportion of married couples with an employed wife increased from 60.0% in 2020 to 64.0% in 2025 (Chart 7.4). Over the same period, the proportion of married couples where only the husband was employed decreased from 24.9% to 21.0%.

Dual-career couples, where both husband and wife were employed, became more common and remained the largest group among married couples. Their proportion increased from 52.5% in 2020 to 56.6% in 2025.

Chart 7.4 Married Couples in Resident Households by Labour Force Status of Couple

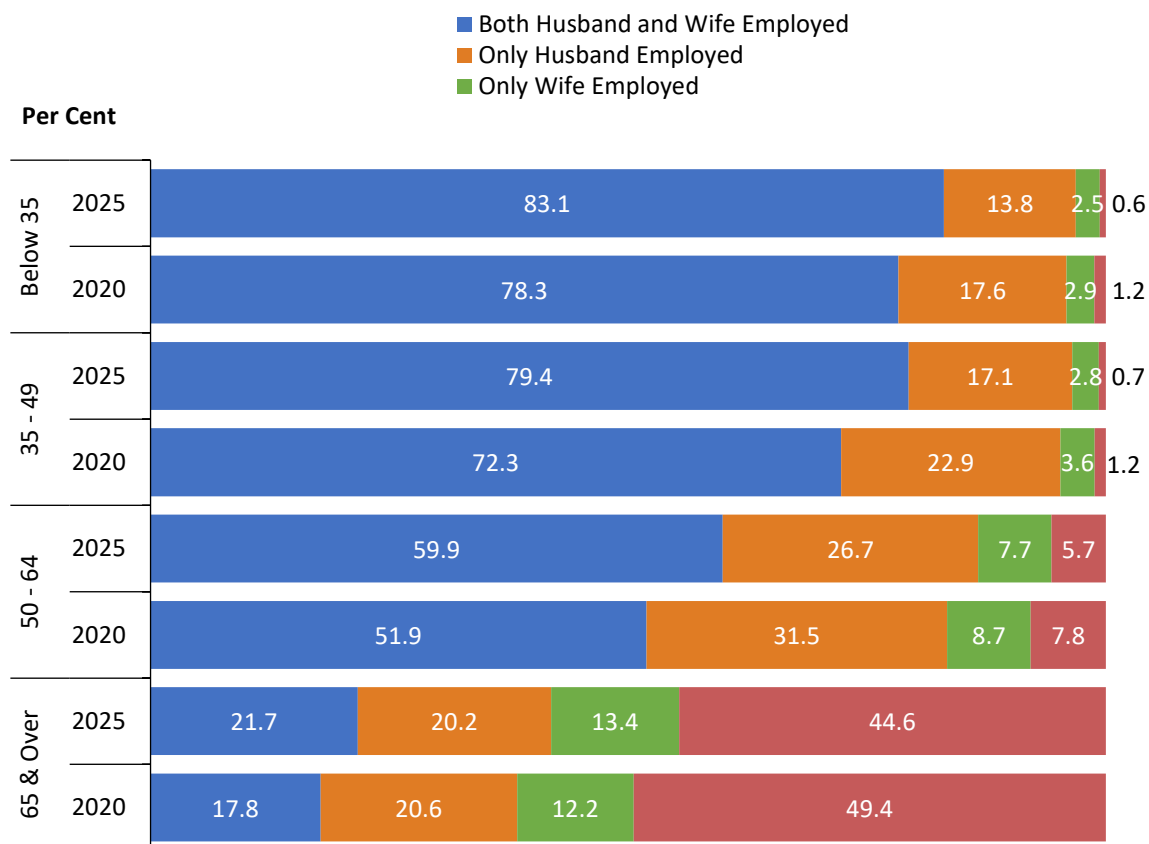


The increase in the proportion of dual-career couples between 2020 and 2025 was observed across all age groups, particularly among couples aged 35-49 years and 50-64 years (Chart 7.5).

Among married couples aged 65 years and over, the proportion where either or both spouses were employed increased from 50.6% in 2020 to 55.4% in 2025, in line with the continued rise in employment among seniors.

³ Details on labour force participation rate by sex, age and marital status are available in the annual report on Labour Force in Singapore by the Manpower Research & Statistics Department, Ministry of Manpower. The full report is available at stats.mom.gov.sg.

Chart 7.5 Married Couples in Resident Households by Labour Force Status and Age Group of Couple



Note: For married couples where the husband and wife are not in the same age group, it refers to the age group of the older party.

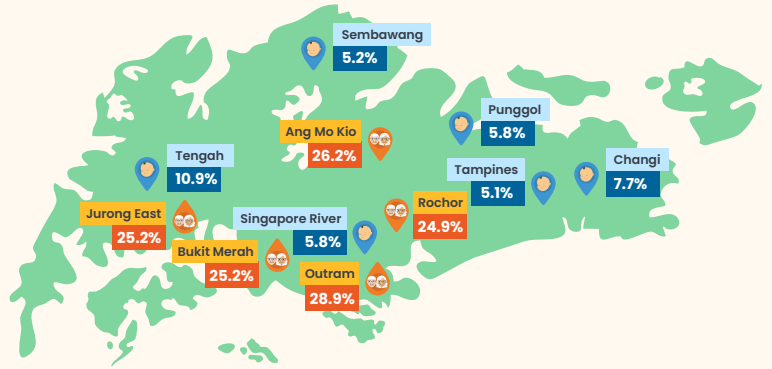
Geographical Distribution & Transport

With a total population of **6.11 million** in 2025, there was an average of **8,300 persons per square kilometer** in Singapore.



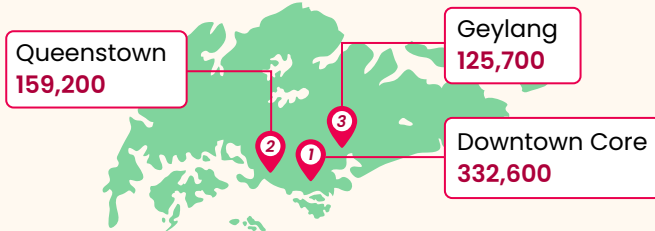
Outram, Ang Mo Kio, Jurong East, Bukit Merah and Rochor had the highest proportions of residents aged 65 years and over.

Tengah, Changi, Punggol, Singapore River, Sembawang and Tampines had the highest proportions of residents aged below 5 years.



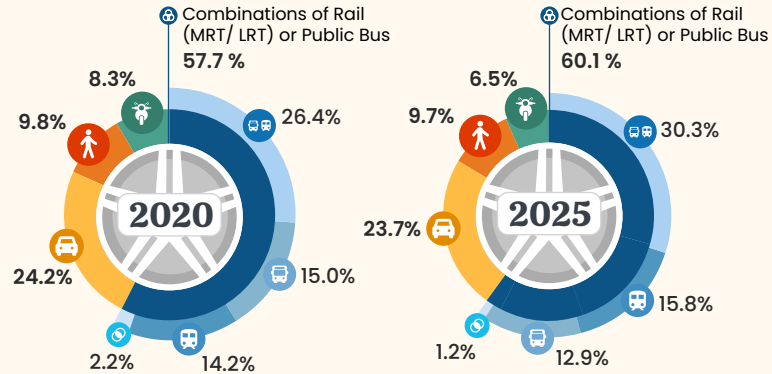
Top 3 Planning Areas of Workplace with the Most Employed Residents

Among all employed residents aged 15 years and over with a fixed location for work, **Downtown Core, Queenstown and Geylang** were the top 3 planning areas where employed residents travelled to for work.



Mode of Transport to Work

Public transport remained the dominant mode of transport to work, with 60.1% of employed residents relying on combinations of Rail (MRT/ LRT) or public bus to travel to work.



Main Mode of Transport to School by Level of Education

	2020	2025
Primary and Below: No Transport Required	43.0%	42.3%
Secondary: Public Bus Only	36.9%	36.8%
Post-Secondary (Non-Tertiary): Rail (MRT/ LRT) & Public Bus Only	46.9%	46.9%
Polytechnic Diploma: Rail (MRT/ LRT) & Public Bus Only	51.2%	49.6%
Professional Qualification and Other Diploma: Rail (MRT/ LRT) & Public Bus Only	50.1%	44.4%
University: Rail (MRT/ LRT) & Public Bus Only	52.8%	55.2%

Median Travelling Time to Work

Between 2020 and 2025, the median travelling time to work was largely stable across the different modes of transport.

Median Travelling Time	2020	2025
Combinations of Rail (MRT/ LRT) or Public Bus	45 min	45 min
Public Bus Only	37 min	35 min
Rail (MRT/ LRT) Only	45 min	45 min
Rail (MRT/ LRT) & Public Bus Only	60 min	56 min
Combinations of Rail (MRT/ LRT) and/or Public Bus, with Other Modes	50 min	60 min
Car or Taxi/ Private Hire Car Only	30 min	30 min
Other Modes	30 min	30 min
No Transport Required	8 min	5 min

CHAPTER 8

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Population Size and Density

Singapore's total population in 2025 was 6.11 million, or an average of 8,300 persons per square kilometre (sq km) (Table 8.1). This was higher than the population density¹ of 7,810 persons per sq km in 2020.

Table 8.1 Population Size and Density

Year	Total Population ^{1/} (‘000)	Resident Population (‘000)	Land Area (sq km)	Population Density (per sq km)
2020	5,685.8	4,044.2	728.0	7,810
2025	6,111.2	4,204.5	736.3	8,300

^{1/}Total population comprises Singapore residents and non-residents. Resident population comprises Singapore citizens and permanent residents.

Resident Population Size by Planning Area of Residence

In 2025, 52.0% of Singapore's 4.20 million residents lived in the nine most populous planning areas. With 290,090 residents, Tampines was the most populous planning area in 2025, overtaking Bedok, which had the largest resident population in 2020. Four other planning areas, namely Bedok, Sengkang, Woodlands and Jurong West, each had more than 250,000 residents (Map 8.1).

Age Profile of Resident Population by Planning Area of Residence

In 2025, Outram, Ang Mo Kio, Jurong East, Bukit Merah and Rochor had the highest proportions of residents aged 65 years and over among the 55 planning areas of residence (Map 8.2). Among residents living in each of these areas, at least one in five residents were aged 65 years and over.

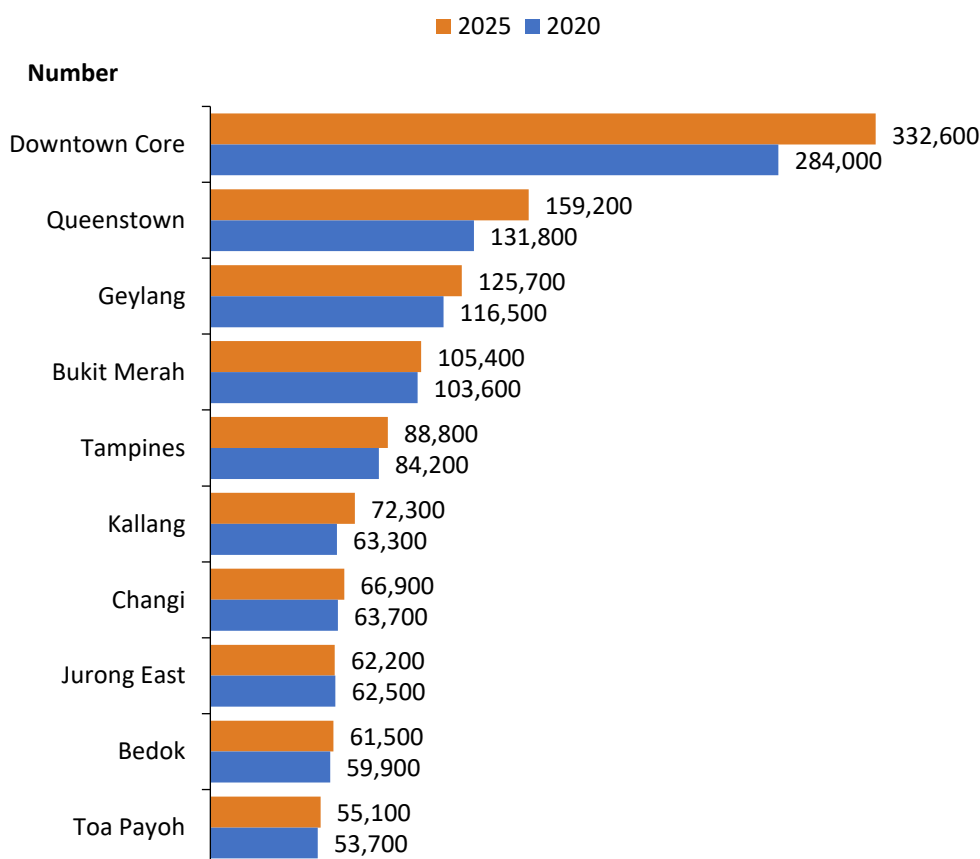
¹ Population density is calculated using the total population size divided by the total land area. This is different from, and not comparable to, living density which only takes into account land available for urban areas, and excludes land use for ports, airports, defence and utilities, among others.

By comparison, Tengah had the highest proportion of young children, with 10.9% of its resident population aged below 5 years in 2025 (Map 8.3). Five other planning areas, namely Changi, Punggol, Singapore River, Sembawang and Tampines, each had at least 5.0% of residents aged below 5 years in 2025.

Employed Residents by Planning Area of Workplace

In 2025, Downtown Core remained the planning area of workplace with the highest number of employed residents, at 332,600, or 14.0% of the resident workforce (Chart 8.1 and Map 8.4). This was an increase from 284,000, or 12.9%, in 2020. Queenstown, Geylang and Bukit Merah were the next largest planning areas of workplace, each with more than 100,000 employed residents in 2025.

Chart 8.1 Top 10^{1/} Planning Areas of Workplace with the Most Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over



^{1/}Top 10 ranking is based on 2025 data. In 2020, the same planning areas were in the top 10 except that Changi ranked ahead of Kallang.

Age Profile of Employed Residents by Planning Area of Workplace

In 2025, Western Water Catchment, which houses several military training grounds², was the only planning area of workplace with over half (54.6%) of employed residents aged below 35 years. Five other planning areas – Paya Lebar, Museum, Downtown Core, Novena and Changi – had between 30.0% and 35.0% of employed residents aged below 35 years (Map 8.5).

In comparison, Marine Parade had the highest proportion of employed residents aged 65 years and over in 2025, at 19.5%, followed by Bedok (18.4%), Sungei Kadut (17.8%), Hougang (17.3%), Choa Chu Kang (16.6%) and Bukit Panjang (16.1%) (Map 8.6).

Education Profile of Employed Residents by Planning Area of Workplace

The proportion of employed residents with post-secondary qualifications remained high, with nearly all planning areas of workplace registering an increase between 2020 and 2025. This corresponded with the continued improvement in overall education profile of the Singapore population.

Downtown Core had the highest proportion of employed residents with at least post-secondary qualifications in 2025, at 89.4%. Other planning areas where at least 80.0% of employed residents had post-secondary or higher qualifications were Museum, Newton, Novena, Queenstown, Seletar, Singapore River, Western Islands and Western Water Catchment (Map 8.7).

Workplace Location by Planning Region of Residence

In 2025, Downtown Core remained the main workplace destination for employed residents from all five planning regions of residence (Central, East, North, North-East and West), accounting for 10.0% to 19.9% of the resident workforce from each region (Figure 8.1). The number of employed residents commuting to Downtown Core was highest among those living in the Central region, at 102,100, followed by those in the North-East region (79,500), West region (61,900), East region (55,300) and North region (33,800).

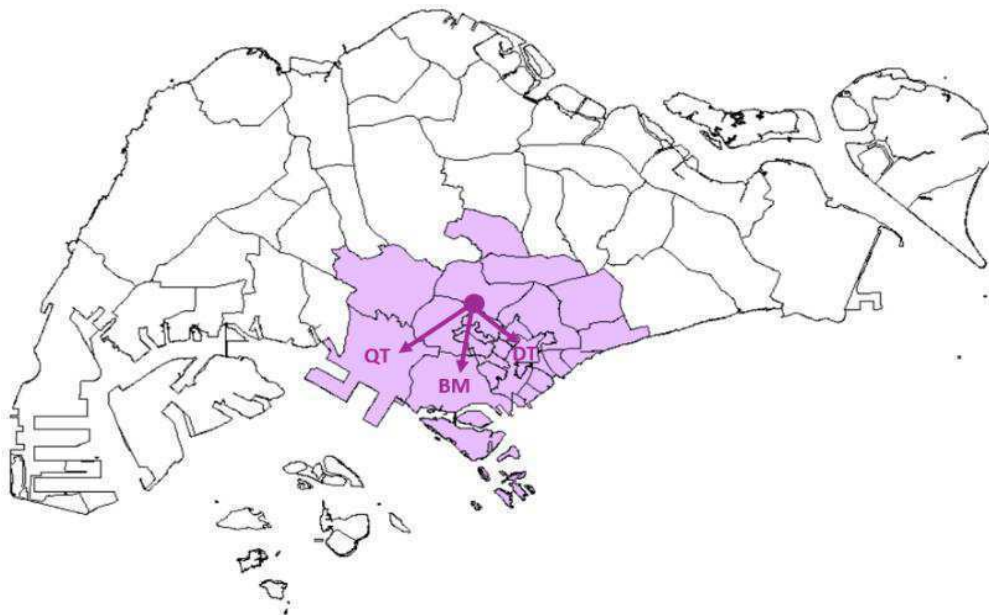
² Close to 70% of employed residents working in the Western Water Catchment planning area in 2025 were Singapore Armed Forces personnel.

After Downtown Core, the next two most common workplace destinations generally fell within the same planning region as the residents' homes. Among employed residents living in the East region, Tampines and Changi were the second and third most common workplace destinations. Similarly, Woodlands and Yishun were the next most common workplace destinations for those living in the North region. In the West region, Jurong East ranked as the third most common workplace destination. Residents of the Central region were more likely to work within the same region, with all three top workplace destinations located there.

About 79.1% of the resident workforce had their workplace located in a different planning area from their homes in 2025 as compared to 79.6% in 2020 (Chart 8.2). Employed residents in older age groups tended to have their workplace located in the same planning area as their homes or have no fixed location for work.

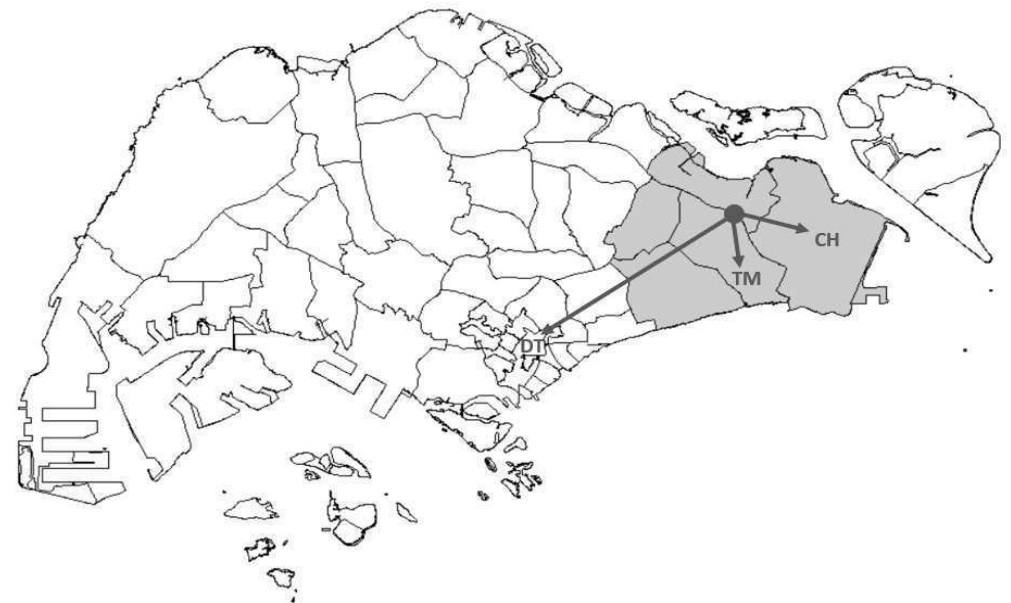
Figure 8.1 Top 3 Planning Areas of Workplace with the Most Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over by Planning Region of Residence, 2025

Central Region



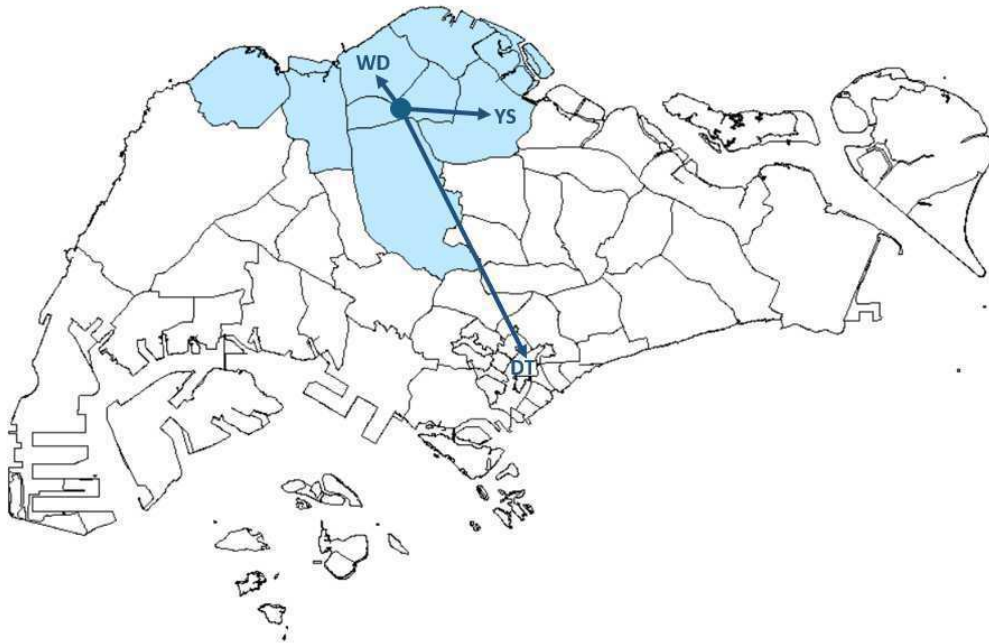
Top 3 Planning Areas of Workplace for Employed Residents Residing in Central Region	Number	Per Cent
Downtown Core	102,100	19.9%
Queenstown	42,300	8.2%
Bukit Merah	31,500	6.1%

East Region



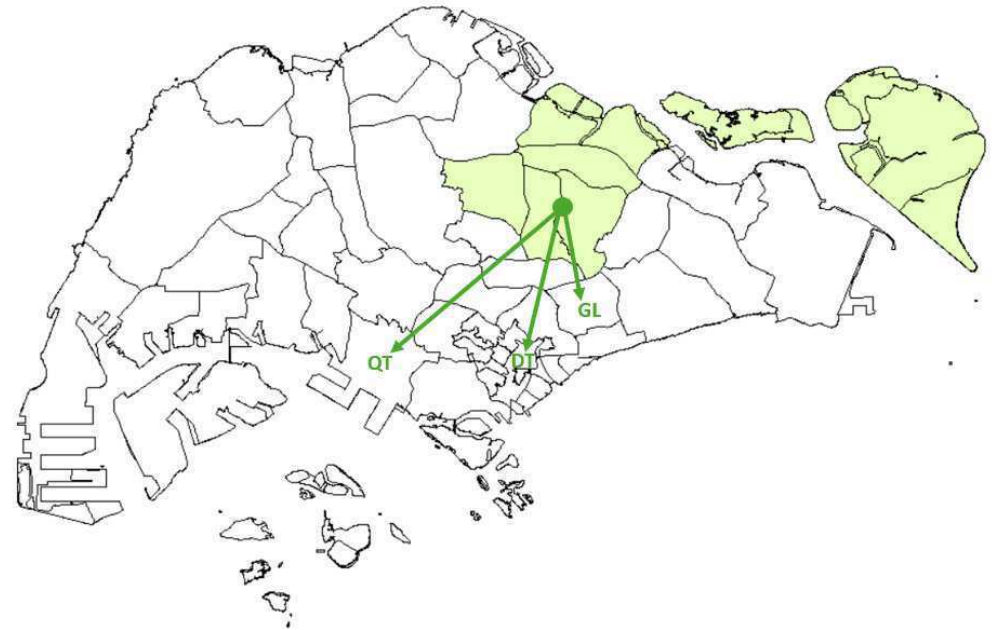
Top 3 Planning Areas of Workplace for Employed Residents Residing in East Region	Number	Per Cent
Downtown Core	55,300	13.8%
Tampines	43,100	10.8%
Changi	29,700	7.4%

North Region



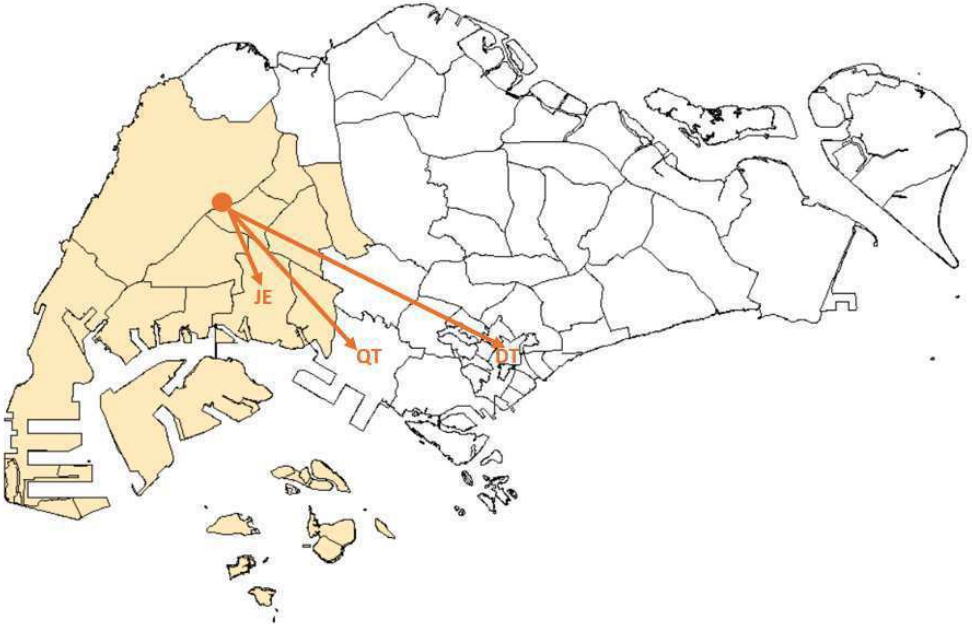
Top 3 Planning Areas of Workplace for Employed Residents Residing in North Region	Number	Per Cent
Downtown Core	33,800	10.0%
Woodlands	25,700	7.6%
Yishun	24,000	7.1%

North-East Region



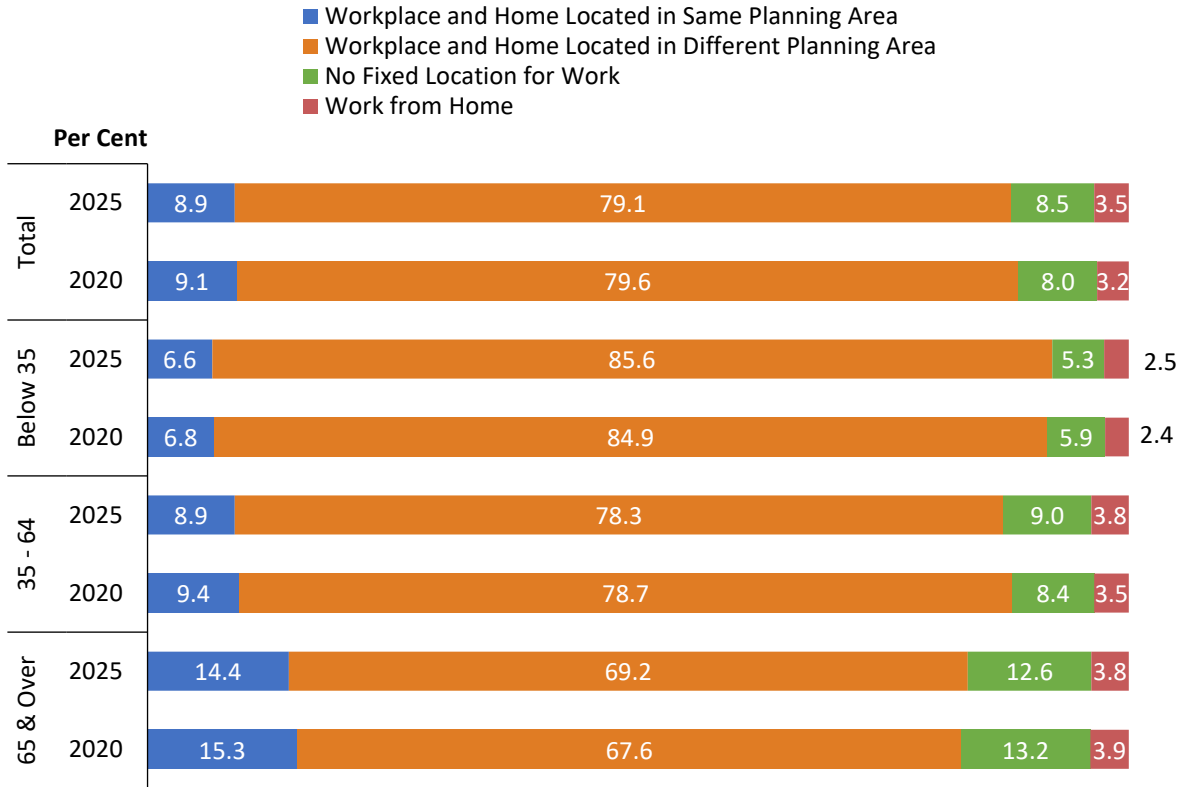
Top 3 Planning Areas of Workplace for Employed Residents Residing in North-East Region	Number	Per Cent
Downtown Core	79,500	14.0%
Geylang	35,500	6.2%
Queenstown	31,100	5.5%

West Region

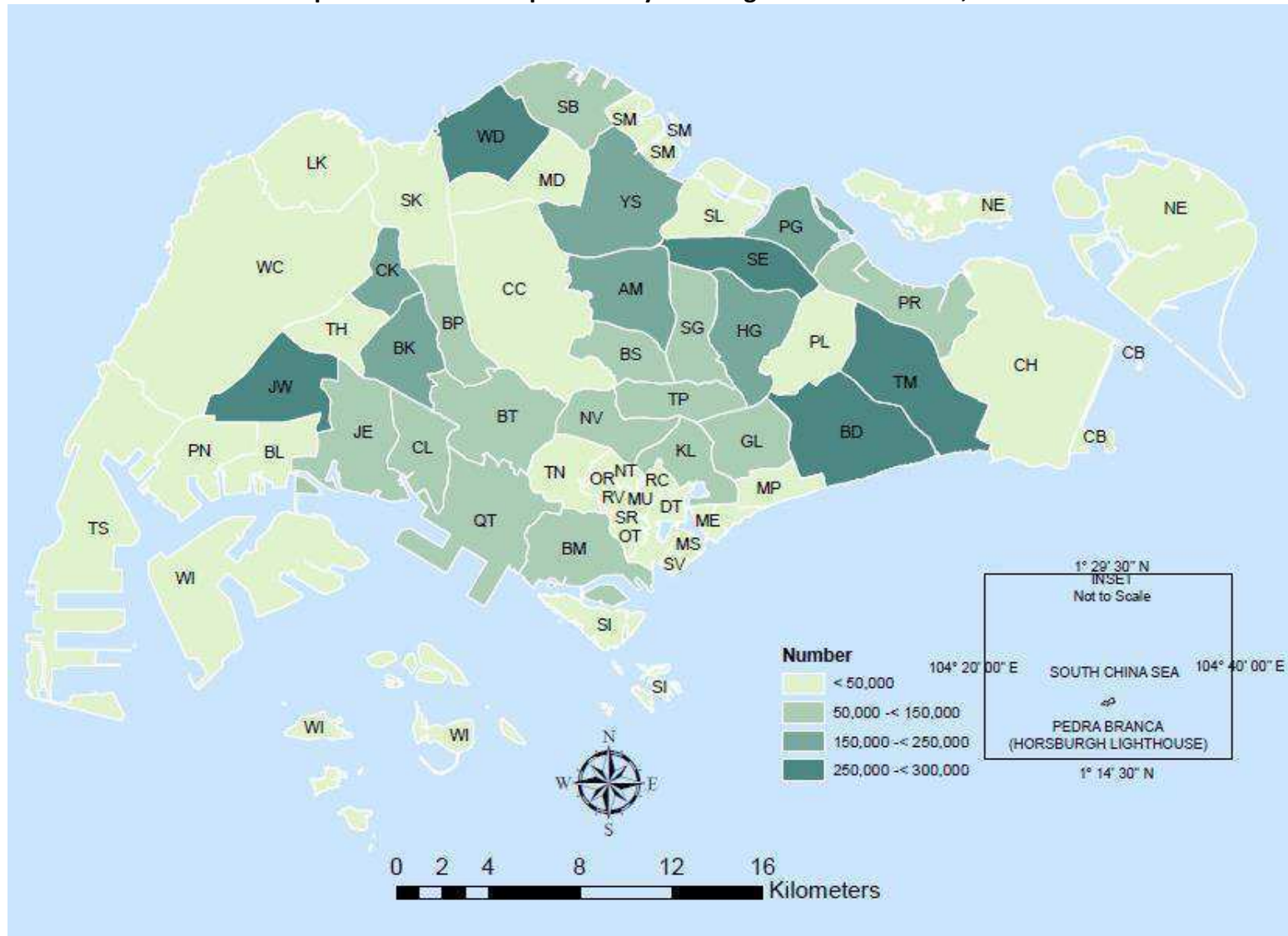


Top 3 Planning Areas of Workplace for Employed Residents Residing in West Region	Number	Per Cent
Downtown Core	61,900	11.1%
Queenstown	50,800	9.1%
Jurong East	33,700	6.0%

Chart 8.2 Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over by Age Group and Workplace Location

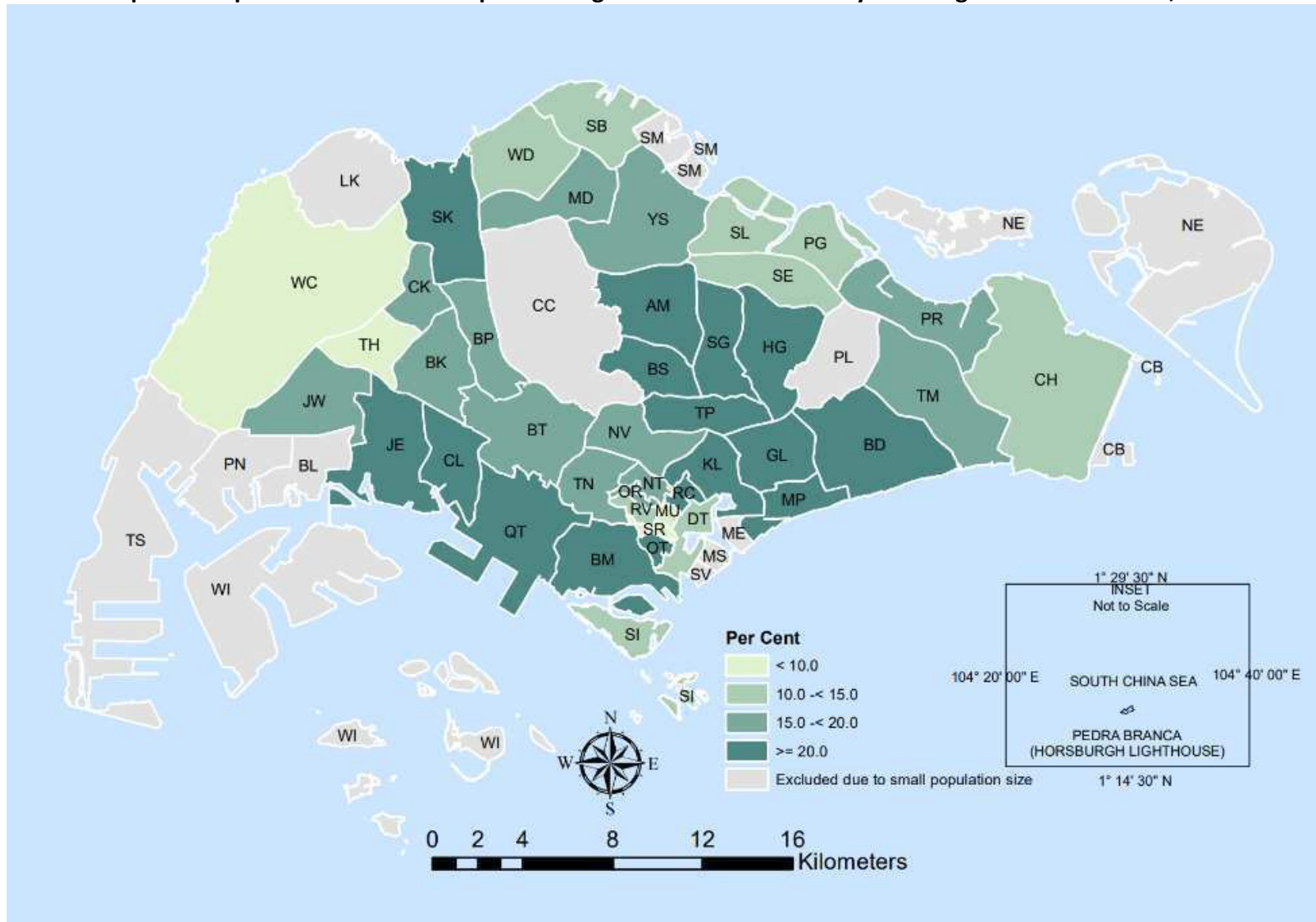


Map^{1/} 8.1 Resident Population by Planning Area of Residence, 2025

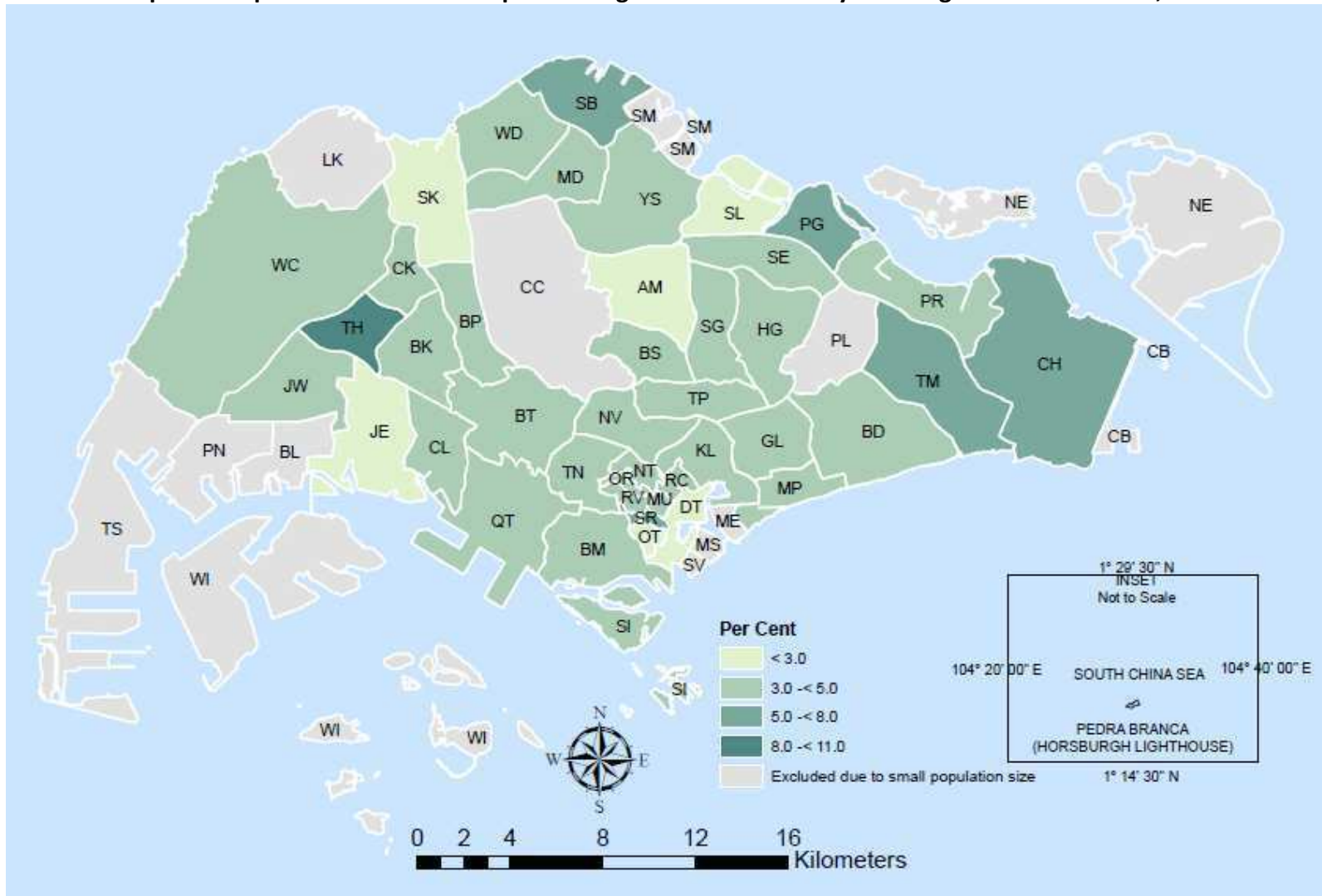


^{1/}Data on actual count of data presented on all maps are available in the section on detailed statistical tables in this report.

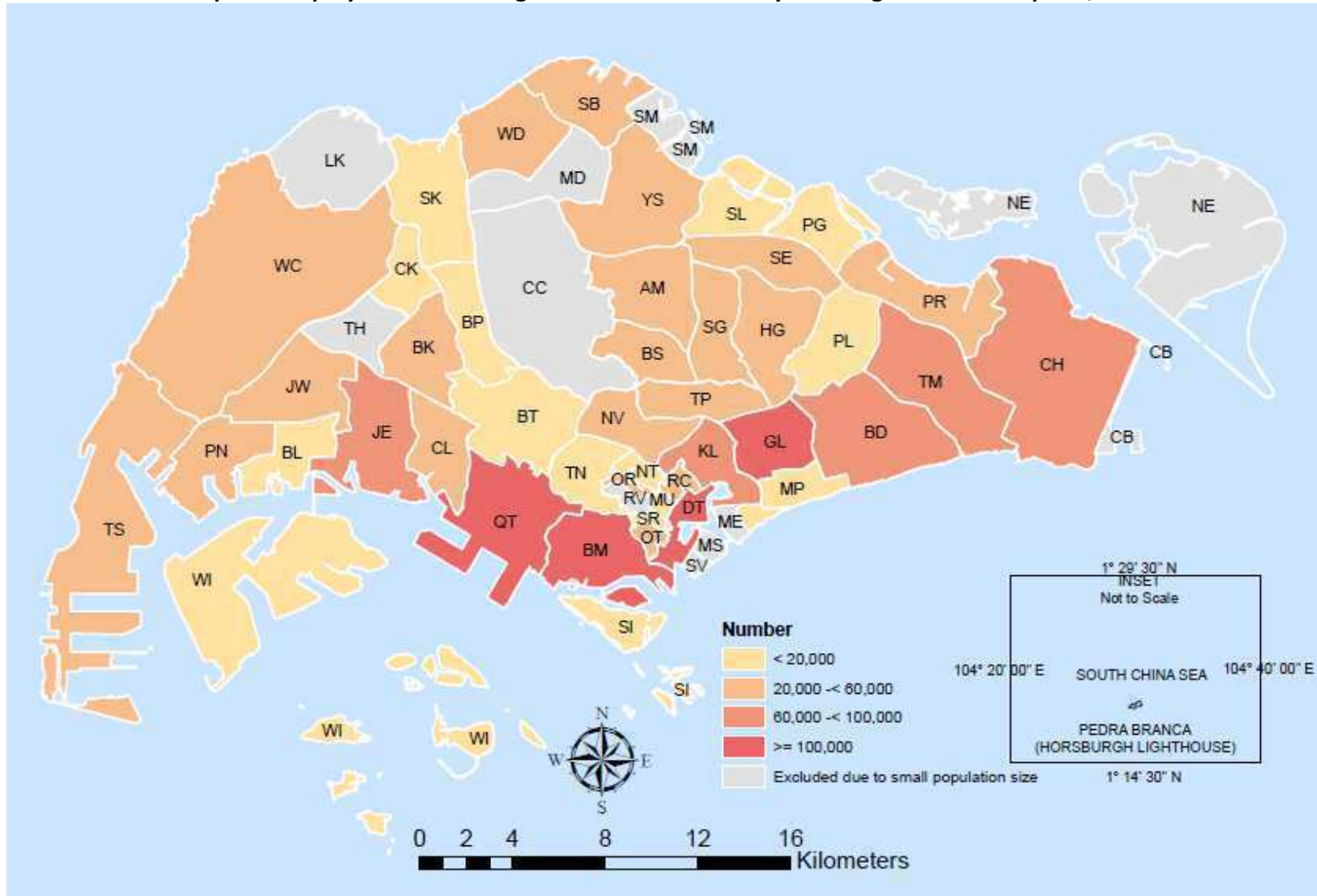
Map 8.2 Proportion of Resident Population Aged 65 Years and Over by Planning Area of Residence, 2025



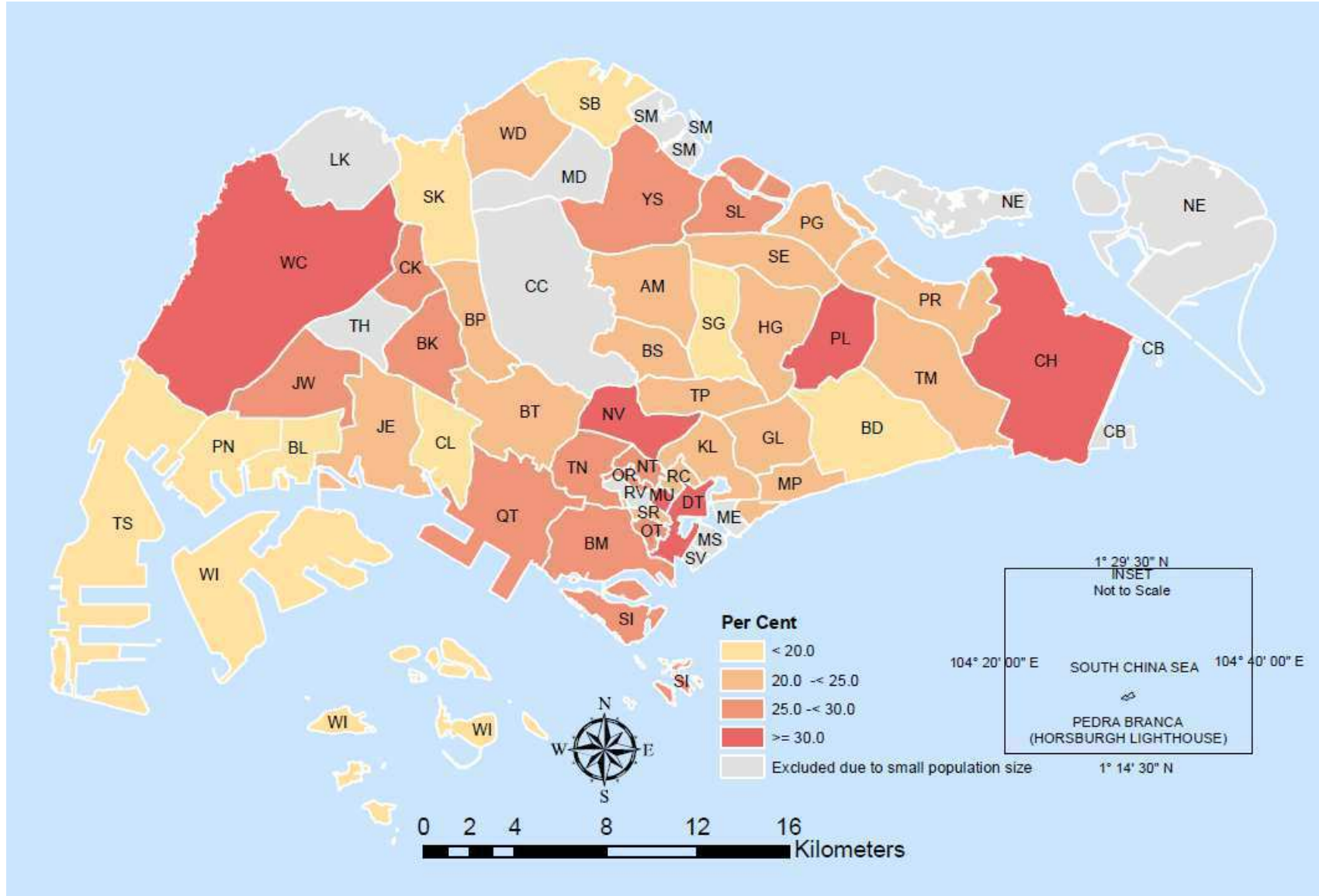
Map 8.3 Proportion of Resident Population Aged Below 5 Years by Planning Area of Residence, 2025



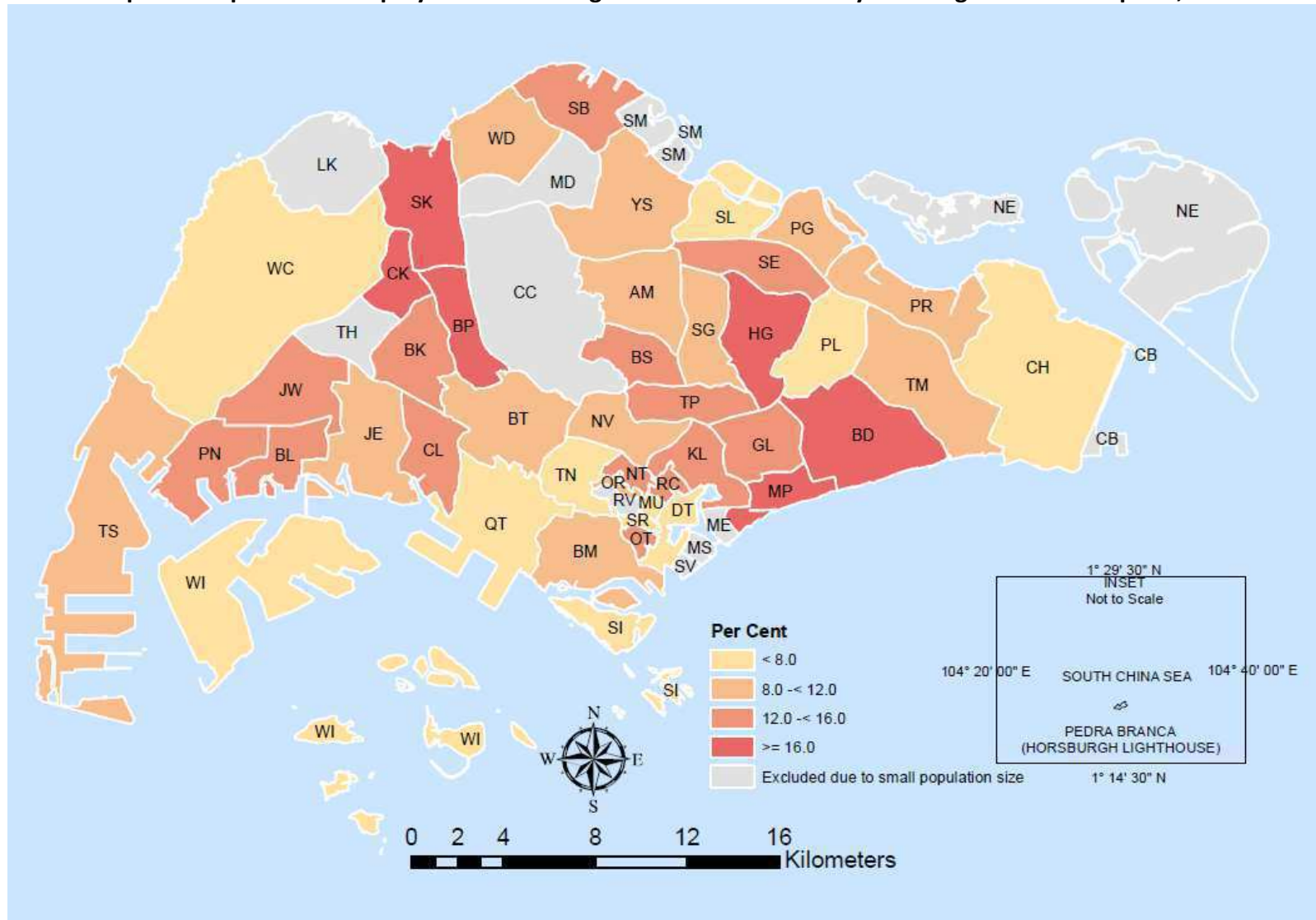
Map 8.4 Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over by Planning Area of Workplace, 2025



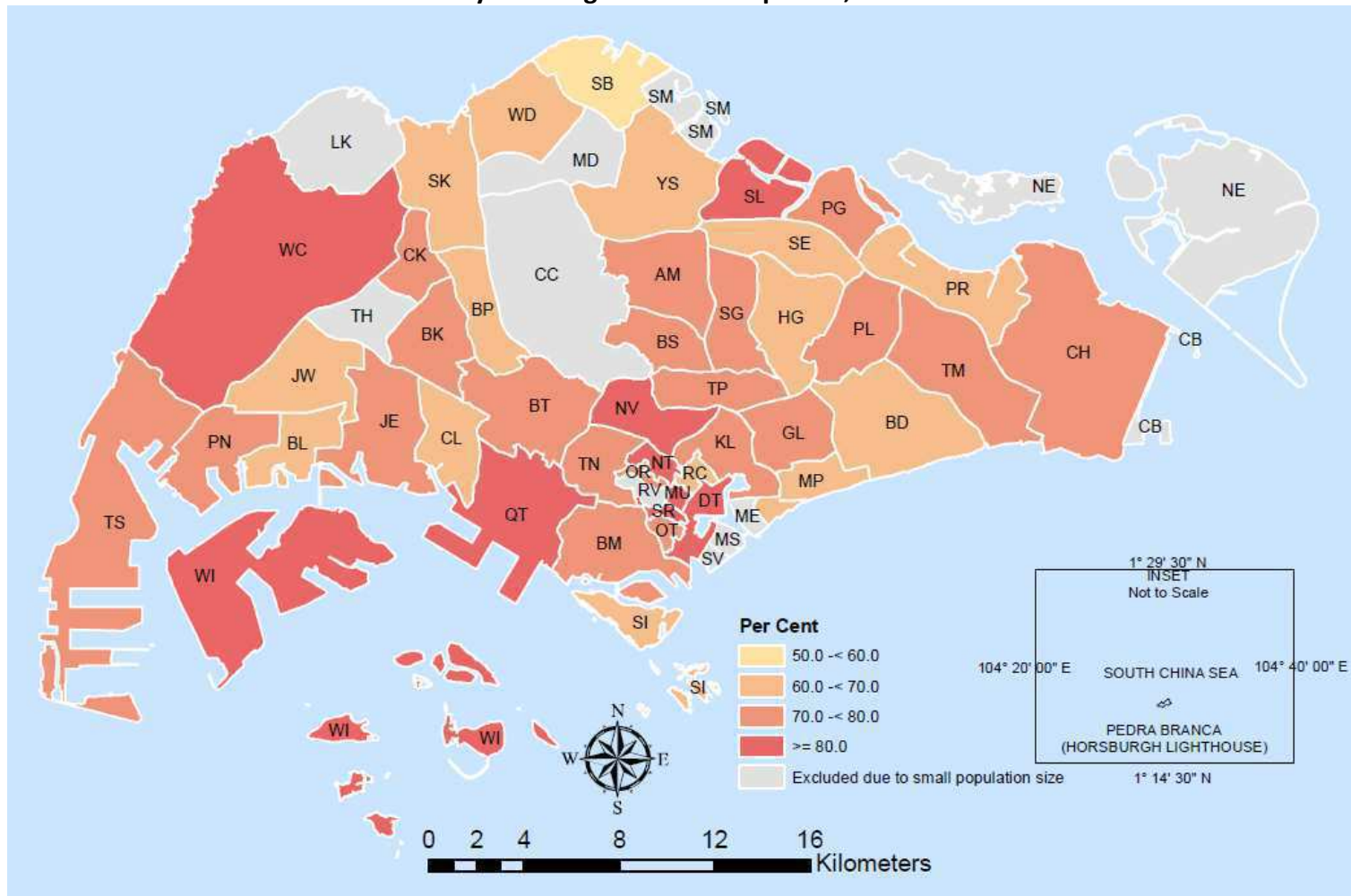
Map 8.5 Proportion of Employed Residents Aged Below 35 Years by Planning Area of Workplace, 2025



Map 8.6 Proportion of Employed Residents Aged 65 Years and Over by Planning Area of Workplace, 2025



Map 8.7 Proportion of Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over with at Least Post-Secondary Qualification by Planning Area of Workplace^{1/}, 2025



^{1/}Data pertain to residents who were not attending educational institutions as full-time students and include those who were upgrading their qualifications through part-time courses.

Note:

Published maps are based on Urban Redevelopment Authority's Master Plan 2019 planning area boundaries and Singapore Land Authority's 2025 Singapore island profile. The Master Plan 2019 is a forward looking guiding plan for Singapore's development in the medium term over the next 10 to 15 years and the planning boundaries may not coincide with existing developments for some areas.

Codes for Planning Area

AM	Ang Mo Kio	GL	Geylang	OR	Orchard	SL	Seletar
BD	Bedok	HG	Hougang	OT	Outram	SM	Simpang
BK	Bukit Batok	JE	Jurong East	PG	Punggol	SR	Singapore River
BL	Boon Lay	JW	Jurong West	PL	Paya Lebar	SV	Straits View
BM	Bukit Merah	KL	Kallang	PN	Pioneer	TH	Tengah
BP	Bukit Panjang	LK	Lim Chu Kang	PR	Pasir Ris	TM	Tampines
BS	Bishan	MD	Mandai	QT	Queenstown	TN	Tanglin
BT	Bukit Timah	ME	Marina East	RC	Rochor	TP	Toa Payoh
CB	Changi Bay	MP	Marine Parade	RV	River Valley	TS	Tuas
CC	Central Water Catchment	MS	Marina South	SB	Sembawang	WC	Western Water Catchment
CH	Changi	MU	Museum	SE	Sengkang	WD	Woodlands
CK	Choa Chu Kang	NE	North-Eastern Islands	SG	Serangoon	WI	Western Islands
CL	Clementi	NT	Newton	SI	Southern Islands	YS	Yishun
DT	Downtown Core	NV	Novena	SK	Sungei Kadut		

CHAPTER 9

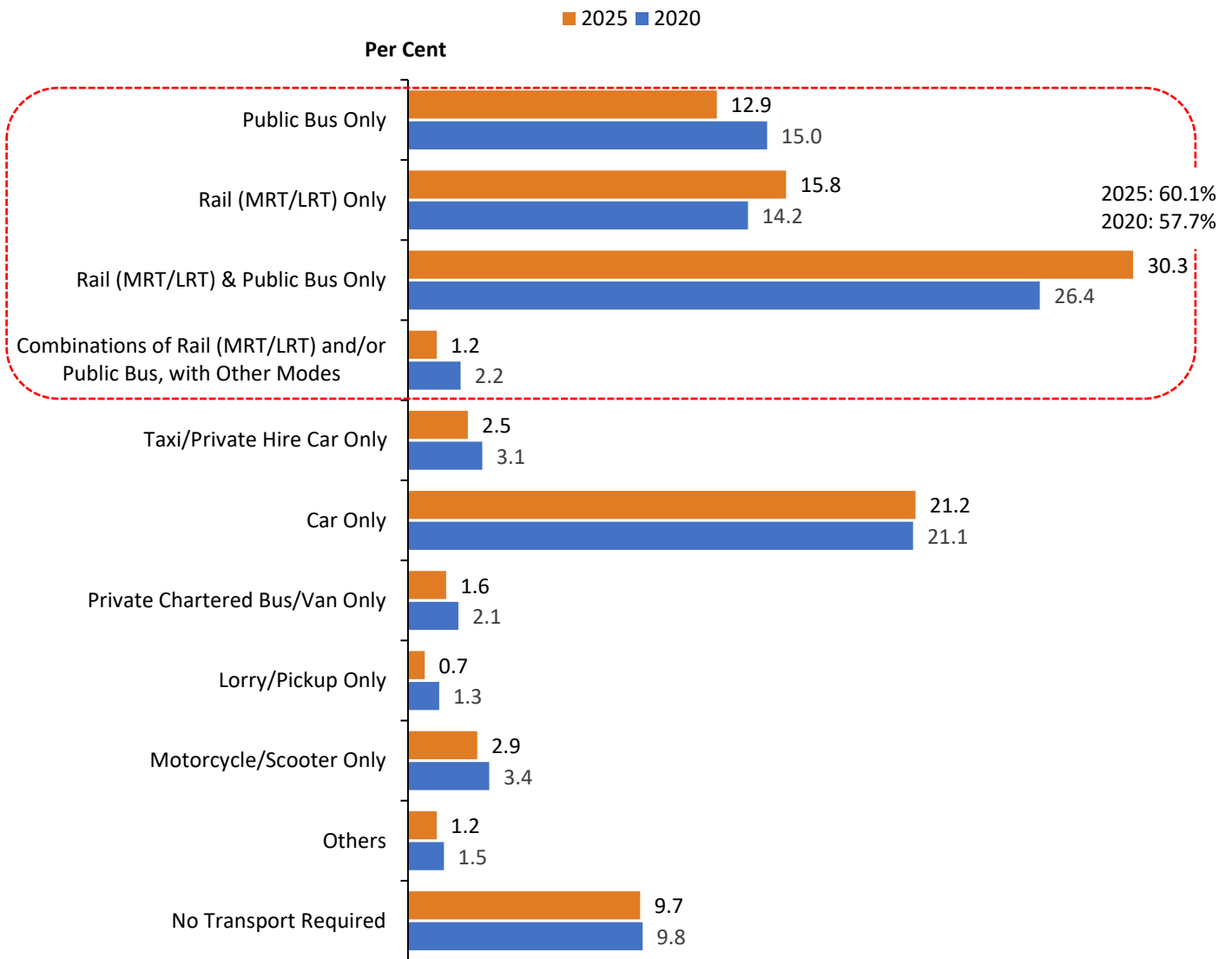
TRANSPORT

Usual Mode of Transport to Work

Public transport remained the dominant mode of transport to work. In 2025, 60.1% of employed residents travelled to work by public bus, Mass Rapid Transit (MRT)/Light Rail Transit (LRT), or a combination of these with other modes, up from 57.7% in 2020 (Chart 9.1). This increase reflected a higher proportion of commuters who used rail (MRT/LRT) only or combined rail (MRT/LRT) with public bus. Conversely, the proportion who relied solely on public bus declined over the same period.

Cars were the sole mode of transport to work for 21.2% of employed residents in 2025, similar to 2020. The proportion who did not require transport was also broadly unchanged over the same period, at 9.7% in 2025 compared with 9.8% in 2020.

Chart 9.1 Proportion of Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over by Mode of Transport to Work



Mode of Transport to Work by Housing Type

In 2025, combinations of rail (MRT/LRT) or public bus continued to be the most common mode of transport to work for HDB dwellers, accounting for between 59.5% of employed residents staying in HDB 5-room and executive flats and 70.2% of those in HDB 1- and 2-room flats (Table 9.1). The corresponding proportions were lower at 48.9% among those staying in condominiums and other apartments and 32.6% for those in landed properties.

The proportion who travelled to work solely by car remained highest among employed residents living in landed properties, at 51.4% in 2025, followed by those living in condominiums and other apartments, at 36.6%, even though the proportions declined from 2020. By contrast, the proportion who travelled to work solely by car increased among HDB residents between 2020 and 2025, from 2.9% to 4.6% for those in HDB 1- and 2-room flats and from 22.4% to 23.2% for those in HDB 5-room and executive flats.

**Table 9.1 Proportion of Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over
by Mode of Transport to Work and Type of Dwelling**

Mode of Transport	HDB Dwellings								Condominiums and Other Apartments		Landed Properties		Others		Per Cent
	1- and 2-Room Flats ^{1/}		3-Room Flats		4-Room Flats		5-Room and Executive Flats								
	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Combinations of Rail (MRT/LRT) or Public Bus	69.5	70.2	67.4	69.9	62.8	65.1	57.9	59.5	44.8	48.9	32.7	32.6	36.2	46.5	
Public Bus Only	27.2	21.5	22.9	19.4	16.5	14.0	12.8	11.1	8.5	8.2	7.2	5.5	10.3	12.7	
Rail (MRT/LRT) Only	11.4	11.1	13.1	15.1	14.6	15.9	15.3	16.6	15.1	17.6	8.7	9.1	8.8	10.2	
Rail (MRT/LRT) & Public Bus Only	29.5	36.7	29.6	34.3	29.3	33.8	27.4	30.5	19.0	22.0	15.1	17.6	15.5	23.6	
Combinations of Rail (MRT/LRT) and/or Public Bus, with Other Modes	1.5	0.9	1.8	1.0	2.4	1.4	2.5	1.3	2.2	1.0	1.6	0.4	1.6	0.0	
Taxi/Private Hire Car Only	1.6	1.6	2.3	2.1	2.5	2.2	3.0	2.1	5.1	4.1	4.0	3.0	1.7	4.2	
Car Only	2.9	4.6	7.7	7.8	13.8	14.8	22.4	23.2	39.3	36.6	52.9	51.4	20.1	14.4	
Private Chartered Bus/Van Only	2.1	1.6	2.6	1.8	2.5	1.9	2.2	1.9	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.3	1.2	3.4	
Lorry/Pickup Only	1.7	1.3	1.9	1.1	1.8	0.9	1.2	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	
Motorcycle/Scooter Only	4.2	3.5	4.1	3.5	4.7	4.1	3.2	2.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.4	1.0	0.0	
Others	2.6	2.3	2.0	1.6	1.8	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.0	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.2	0.0	
No Transport Required	15.5	14.9	12.1	12.2	10.1	9.7	8.8	8.6	7.7	8.1	7.8	11.1	39.7	31.4	

^{1/}Includes HDB Studio Apartments and Community Care Apartments.

Mode of Transport to Work by Planning Area of Residence

In 2025, the proportion who travelled to work by combinations of rail (MRT/LRT) or public bus was highest among employed residents living in Outram (69.1%), followed by Ang Mo Kio (67.5%) and Bukit Merah (65.6%) (Map 9.1a). At least 60.0% of employed residents in 14 other planning areas also travelled to work using combinations of rail (MRT/LRT) or public bus.

The proportion who relied on public bus only to travel to work was highest among employed residents living in Bukit Merah (20.0%), Marine Parade (17.9 %)¹, and Jurong East (17.1%) (Map 9.1b).

By comparison, the proportion who commuted to work solely by car was the highest among employed residents staying in Bukit Timah (43.9%), Tanglin (39.6%) and Novena (31.8%) where there was a higher concentration of private housing (Map 9.1c).

Mode of Transport to Work by Planning Area of Workplace

By workplace location, proportionately more employed residents working in the Central region used combinations of rail (MRT/LRT) or public bus to travel to work. Among employed residents working in Museum, 81.2% travelled by rail (MRT/LRT) or public bus. This was followed by Orchard (78.9%) and Downtown Core (77.4%) (Map 9.2a).

The proportion who took only public bus to work was higher among those working in Pasir Ris (29.8%), Marine Parade (27.3%) and Changi (24.3%) (Map 9.2b).

Those who travelled to their workplaces solely by car was highest for those working in Western Islands (38.0%), Paya Lebar (34.5%) and Pioneer (33.4%) (Map 9.2c).

¹ With the opening of the Thomson-East Coast Line Stage 4 for passenger service on 23 June 2024, Marine Parade saw a significant shift in the proportion of employed residents who used public bus only to travel to work. Among employed residents staying in the Marine Parade planning area, the proportion fell from 26.1% in 2020 to 17.9% in 2025 as more switched to MRT. Similarly, among those working in Marine Parade, the proportion fell from 33.7% to 27.3% over the same period.

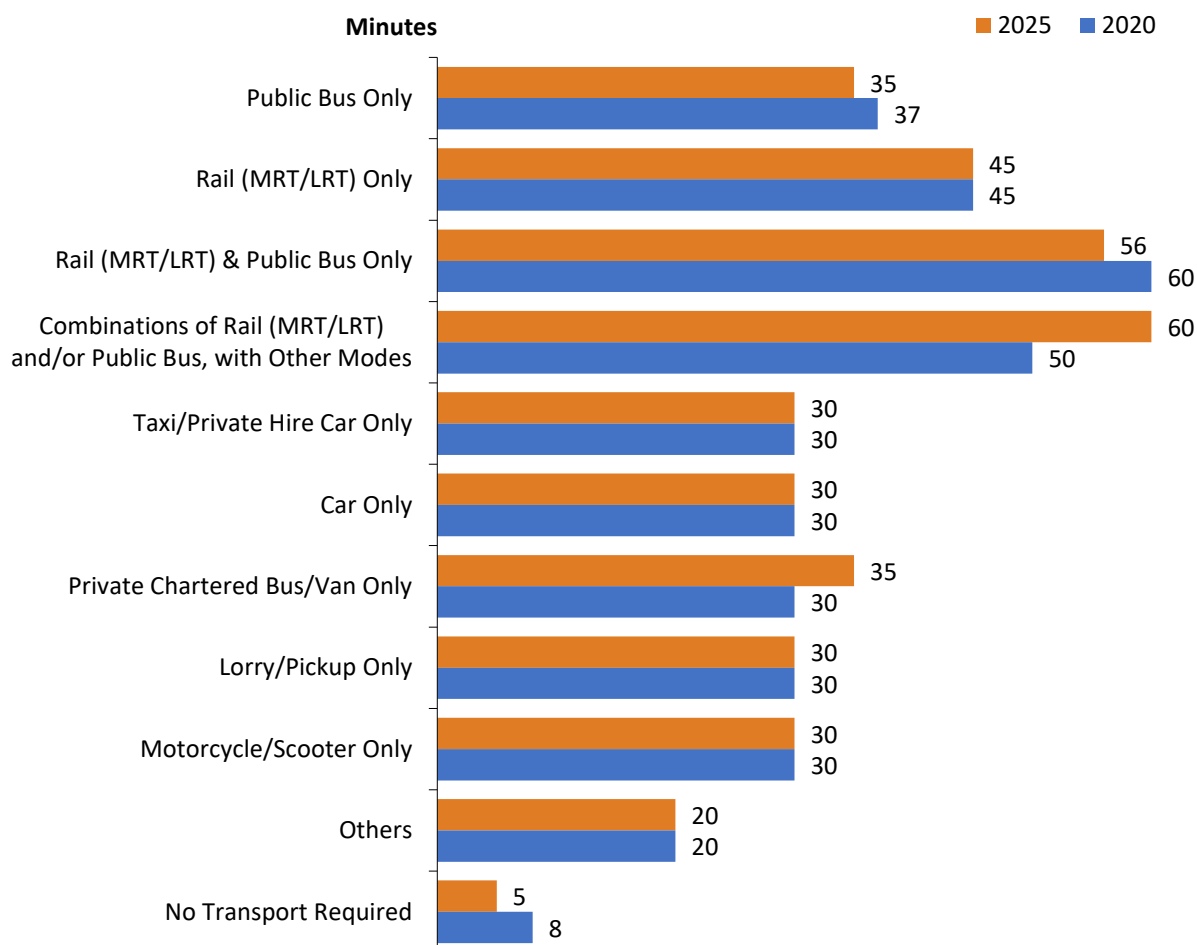
Travelling Time to Work

Among employed residents who relied on public transport to travel to work in 2025, those who used public bus only had the shortest median travelling time, at 35 minutes (Chart 9.2). In comparison, those who travelled by rail (MRT/LRT) only had a median travelling time of 45 minutes, while those who required a transfer had a median travelling time of 56 minutes. The shorter journeys among those who used public bus only partly reflected a higher proportion working closer to home, compared with those who used rail (MRT/LRT) in their commute to work.

For those who travelled to work by car, taxi/private hire car, lorry/pickup or motorcycle/scooter, the median travelling time to work was 30 minutes in 2025.

Between 2020 and 2025, the median travelling time to work was largely stable across the different modes of transport. Those who took public bus only or rail (MRT/LRT) with a transfer to/from public bus registered a reduction in the median travelling time.

Chart 9.2 Median Travelling Time to Work Among Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over by Mode of Transport



Travelling Time to Work by Planning Area of Residence

With almost half of employed residents working in the Central region, those living closer to the city centre generally had shorter travelling times to work. In 2025, the median travelling time to work was shortest, at 25 minutes, among employed residents living in Tanglin. This was followed by Bukit Merah, Bukit Timah, Clementi, Geylang, Kallang, Marine Parade, Novena, Outram, Queenstown and Toa Payoh, at 30 minutes (Map 9.3).

In contrast, the median travelling time to work was longest for employed residents staying in Sembawang at 50 minutes, followed by those staying in Bukit Batok, Bukit Panjang, Choa Chu Kang, Jurong West, Punggol, Sengkang, Tengah, Woodlands and Yishun at 45 minutes.

Travelling Time to Work by Planning Area of Workplace

By workplace location, employed residents working in Sengkang had the shortest median travelling time at 25 minutes in 2025, as about 40% also lived in Sengkang² (Map 9.4).

In contrast, the median travelling time to work was longest among employed residents working in the Southern Islands (60 minutes), followed by Tuas (55 minutes) and Western Water Catchment (50 minutes).

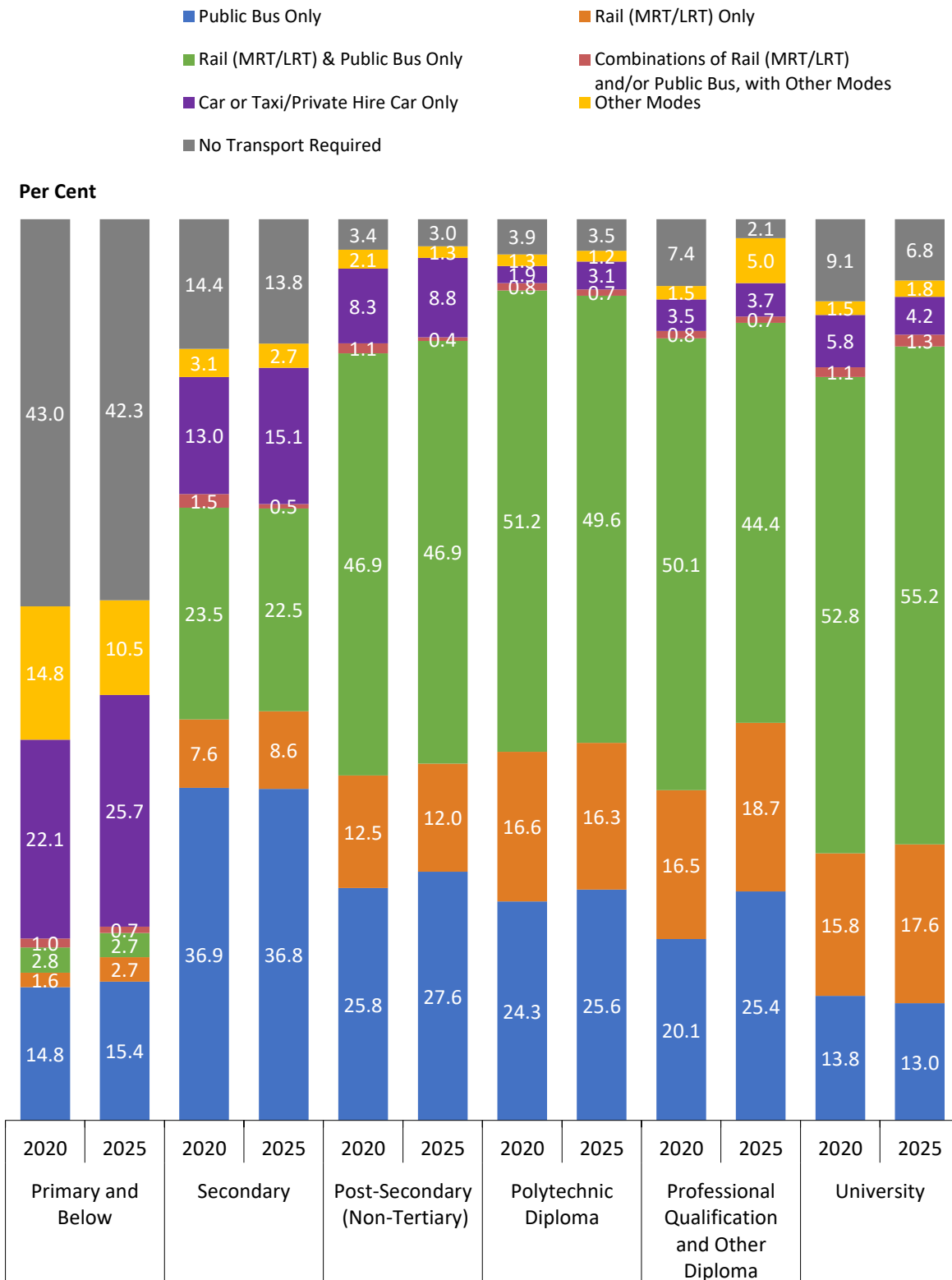
Usual Mode of Transport to School

Schools were generally nearer to homes for young children in pre-primary and primary school. More than two-fifths (42.3%) of pre-primary and primary school students did not require transport to school in 2025, similar to 2020 (43.0%) (Chart 9.3). Over the same period, the proportion who commuted to school solely by car or taxi/private hire car increased from 22.1% to 25.7%.

Public transport remained the top choice for students attending post-secondary and higher levels of education. In 2025, the proportion relying solely on rail (MRT/LRT) and public bus to commute to school ranged from 44.4% among students taking professional qualifications and other diplomas to 55.2% among university students.

² Among the 23,500 resident employed residents working in Sengkang in 2025, 40.7% were also staying in Sengkang. In comparison, among the 168,900 resident employed residents staying in Sengkang in 2025, only 5.7% also worked in Sengkang. Correspondingly, the median travelling time to work was higher at 45 minutes among employed residents staying in Sengkang.

**Chart 9.3 Resident Students Aged 5 Years and Over
by Mode of Transport to School and Level of Education Attending**

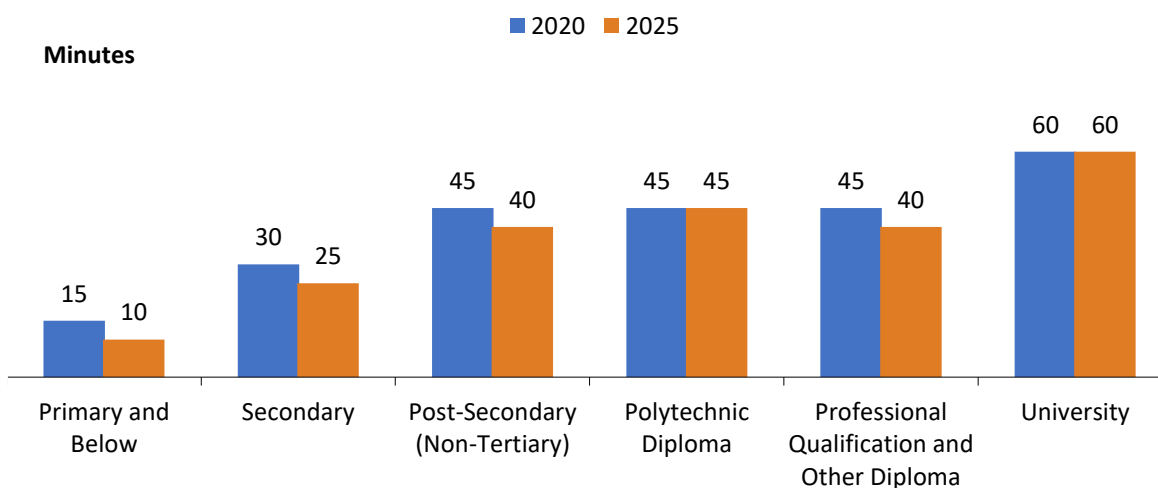


Travelling Time to School

In 2025, the median travelling time to school was shortest for students attending primary school and below at 10 minutes, followed by secondary school students at 25 minutes. In comparison, the median travelling time was longest for university students at 60 minutes (Chart 9.4).

Between 2020 and 2025, the median travelling time to school shortened for most student groups and was unchanged for polytechnic diploma and university students.

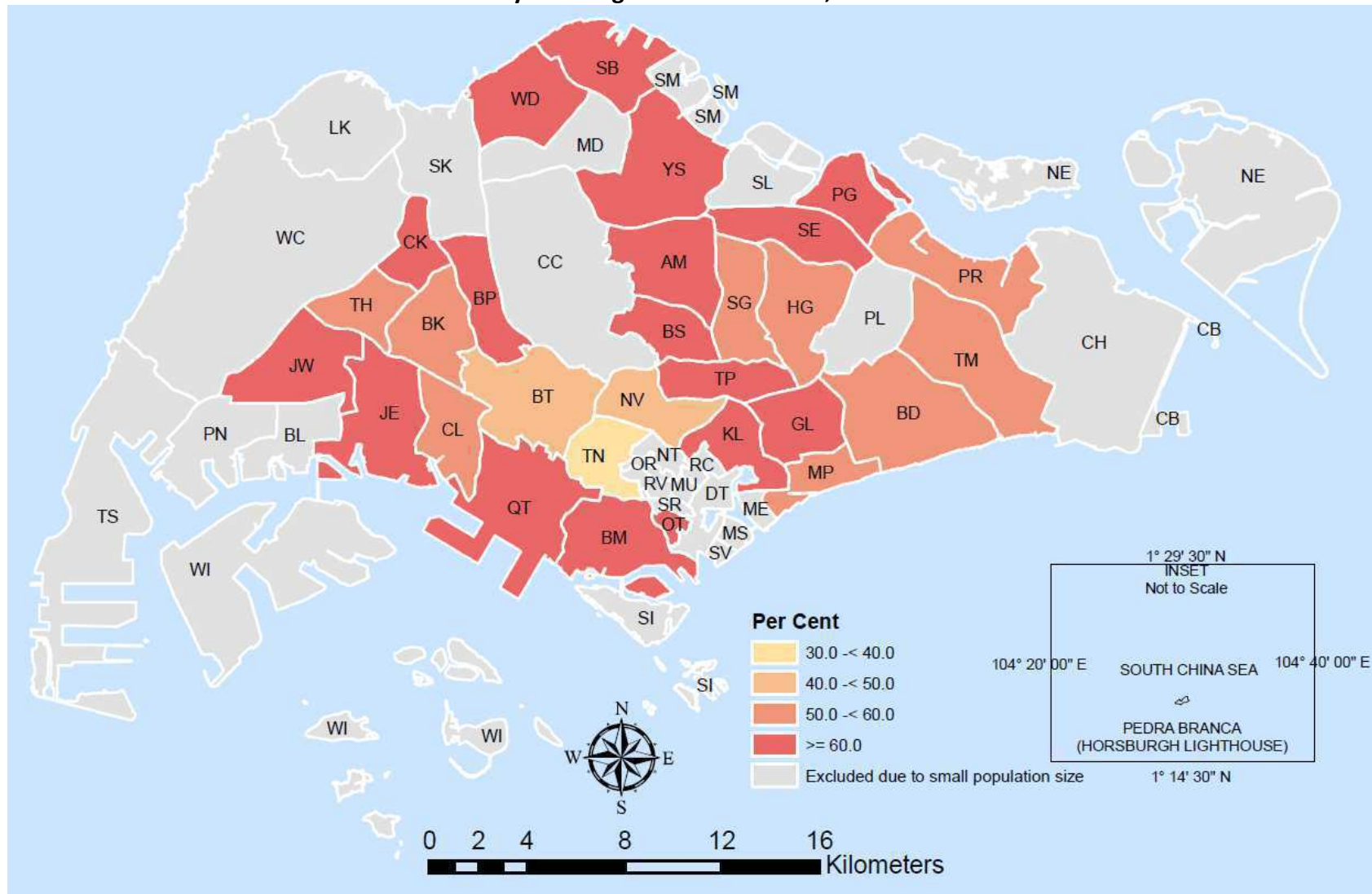
Chart 9.4 Median Travelling Time to School Among Resident Students Aged 5 Years and Over by Level of Education Attending



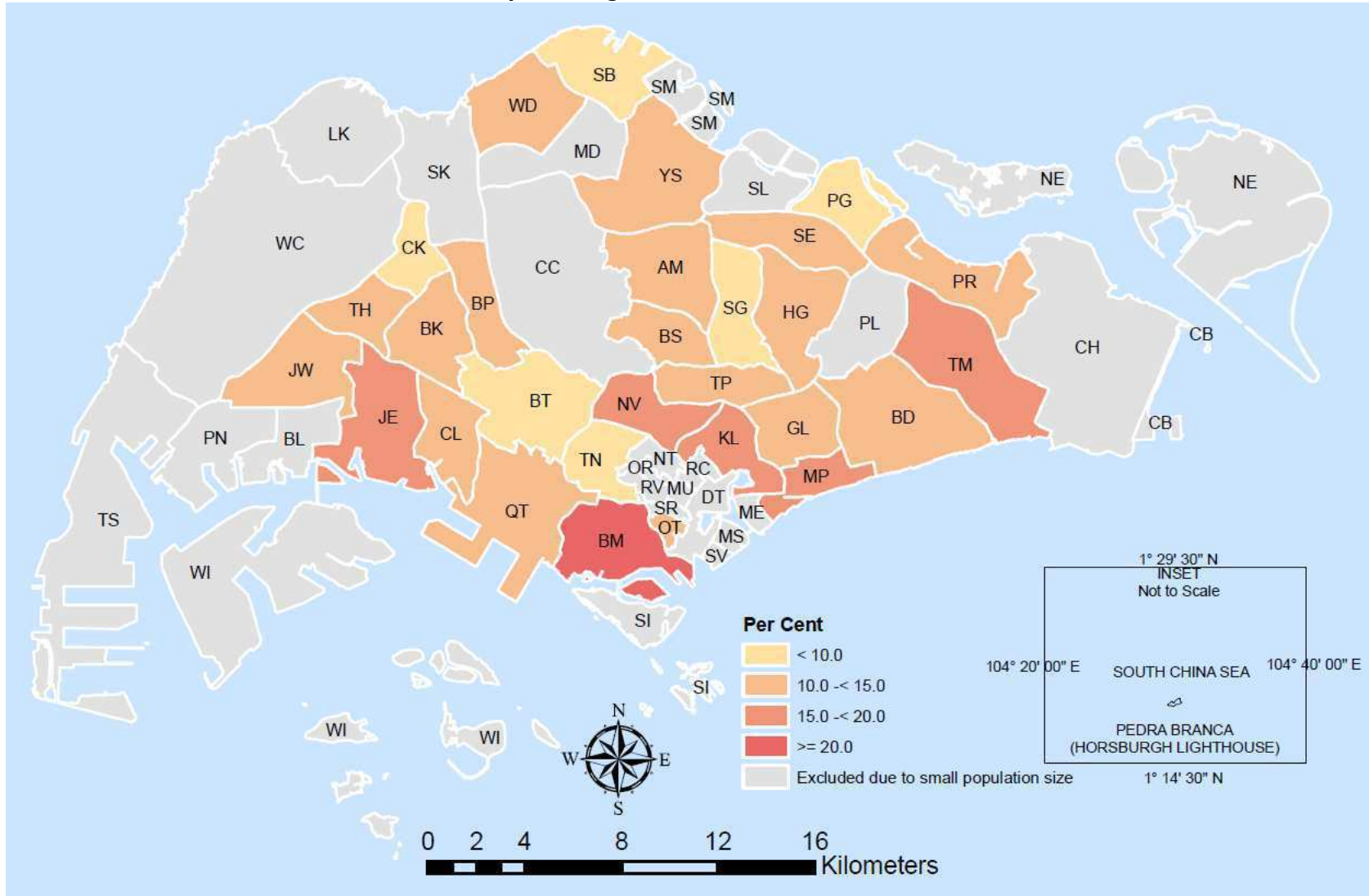
Travelling Time to School by Planning Area of Residence

Resident students attending primary or pre-primary schools staying in Tengah had a median travelling time to school of 20 minutes in 2025 (Map 9.5). Across all other planning areas of residence, the corresponding median travelling time was 15 minutes or shorter.

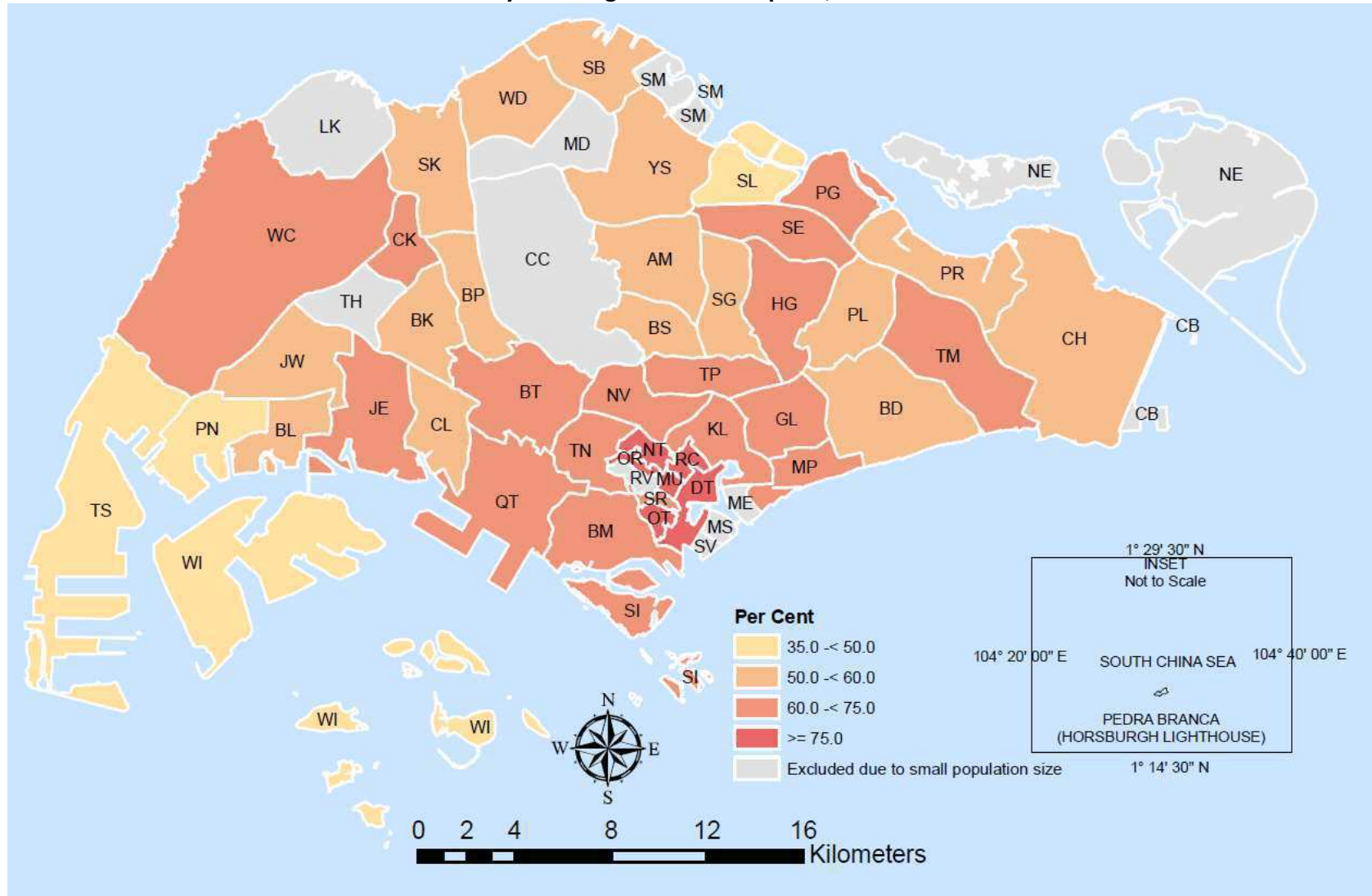
Map 9.1a Proportion of Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over Using Combinations of Rail (MRT/LRT) or Public Bus to Travel to Work by Planning Area of Residence, 2025



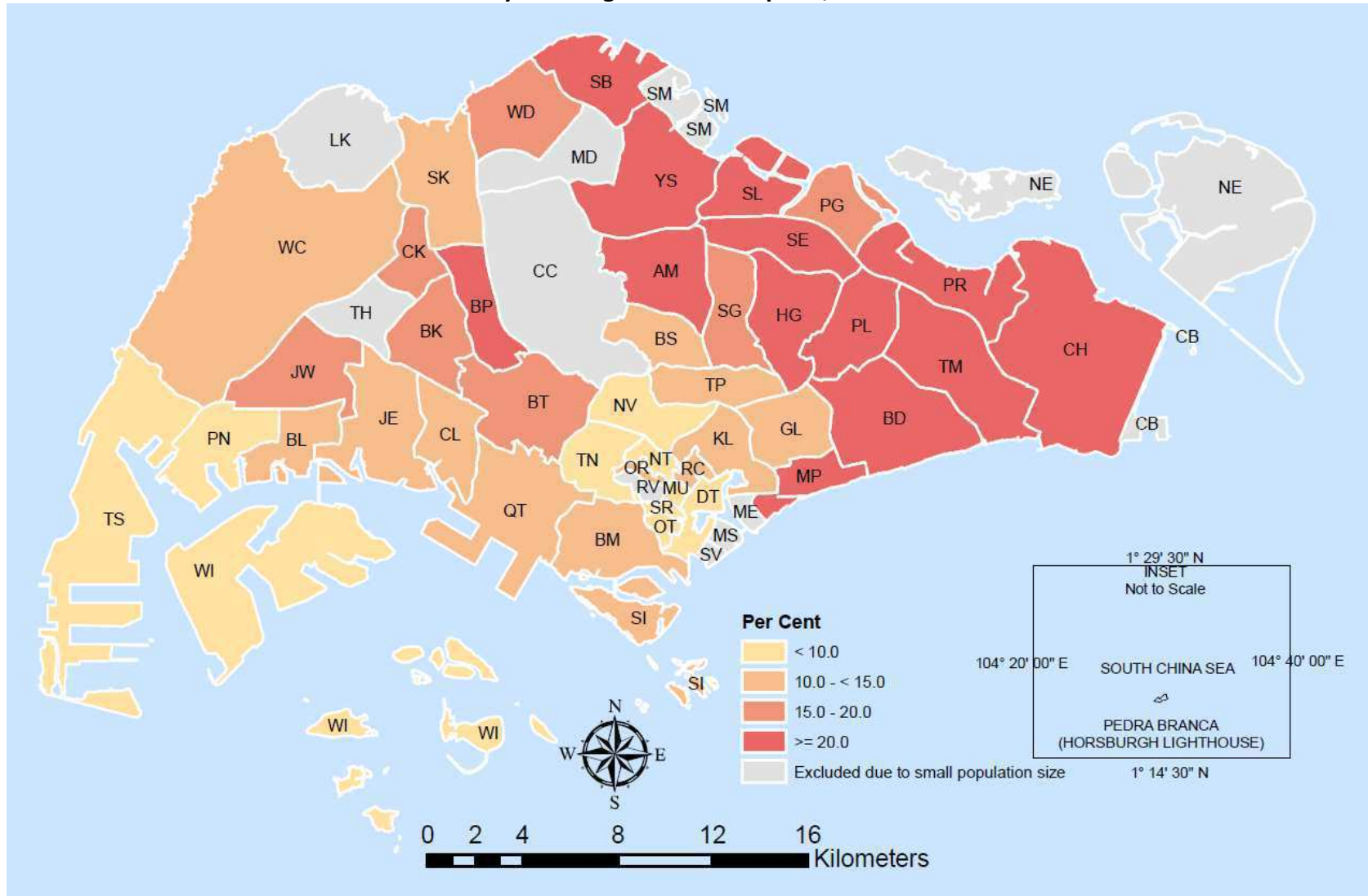
Map 9.1b Proportion of Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over Using Public Bus Only to Travel to Work by Planning Area of Residence, 2025



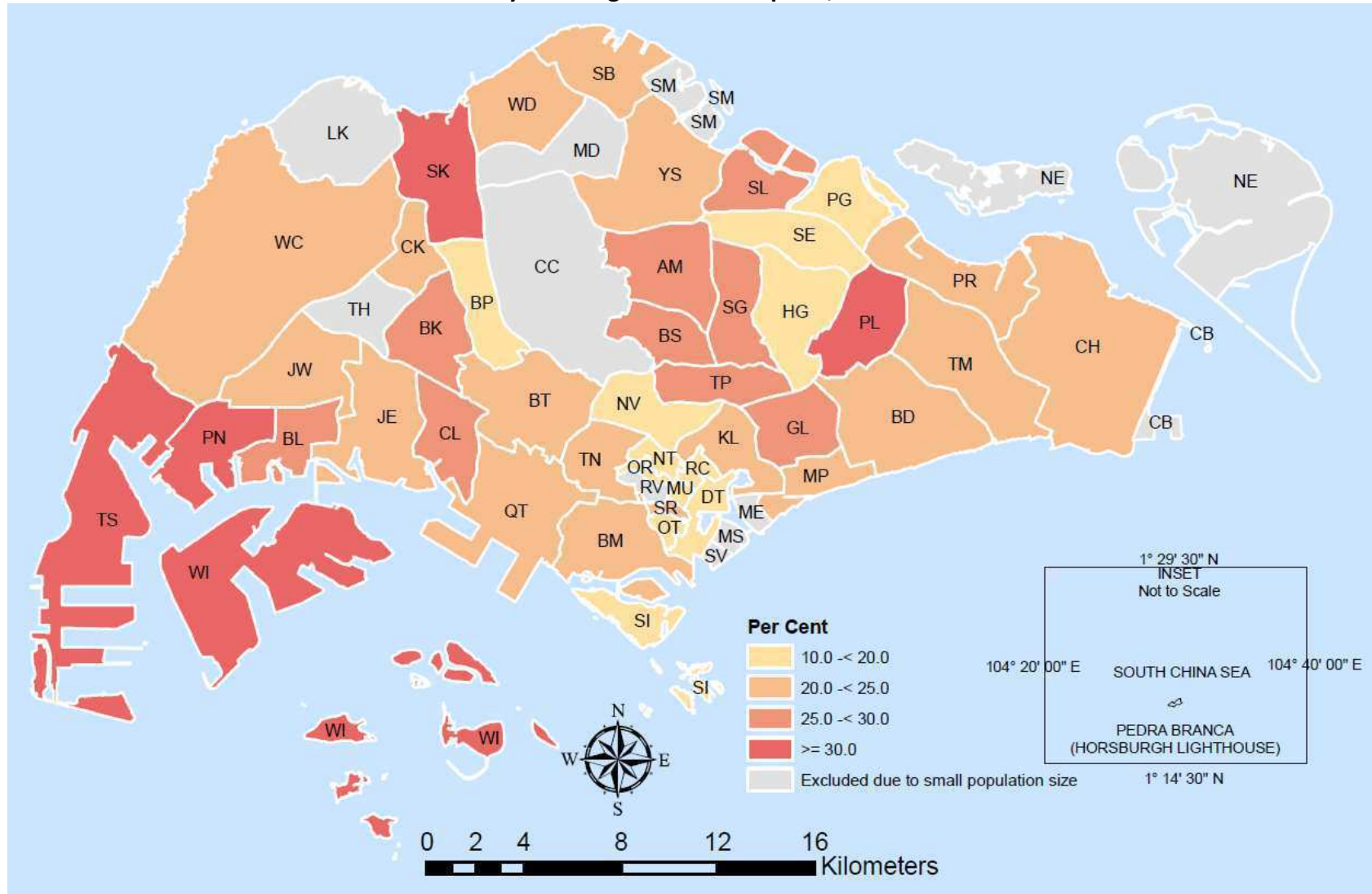
Map 9.2a Proportion of Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over Using Combinations of Rail (MRT/LRT) or Public Bus to Travel to Work by Planning Area of Workplace, 2025



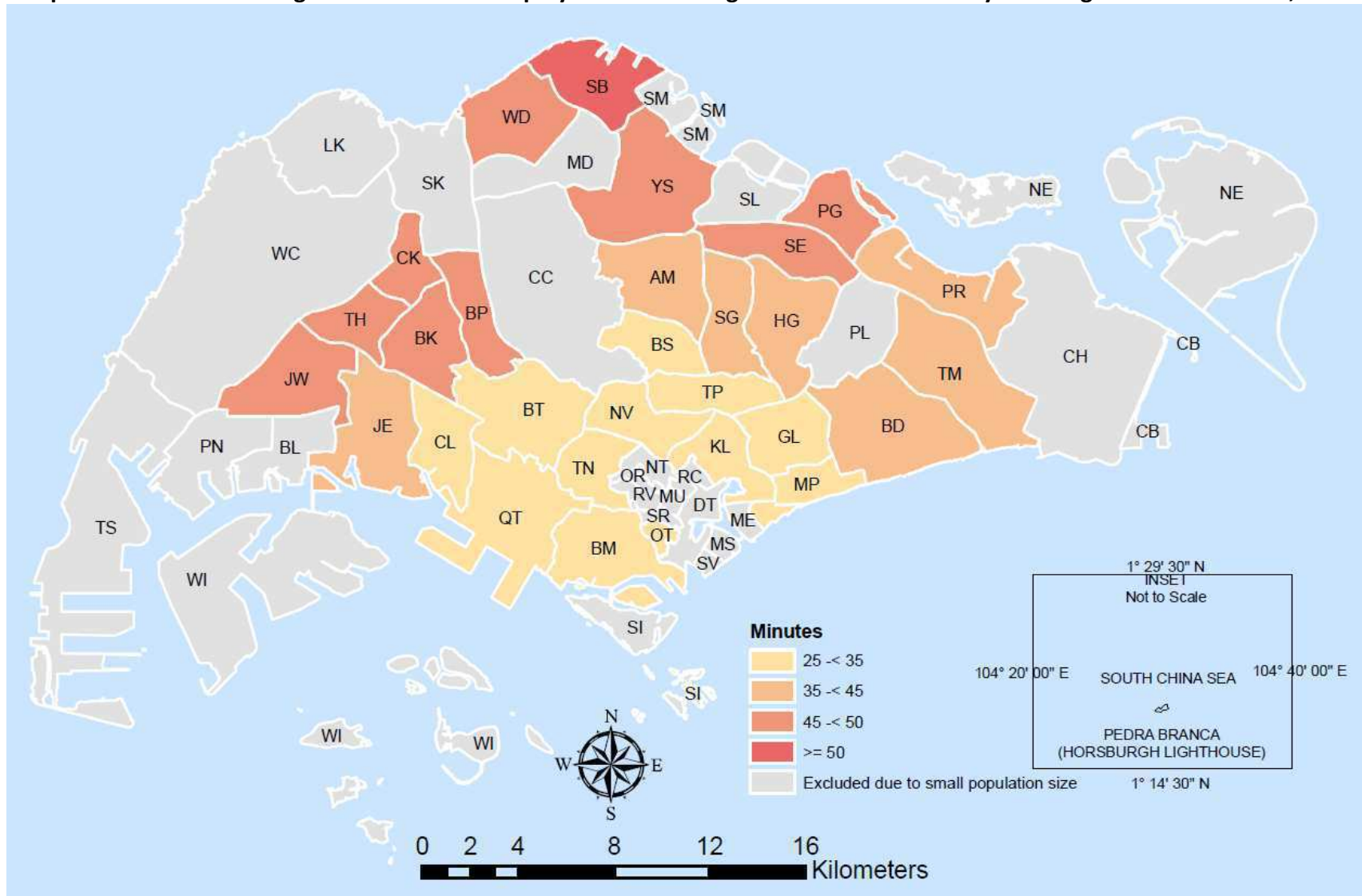
Map 9.2b Proportion of Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over Using Public Bus Only to Travel to Work by Planning Area of Workplace, 2025



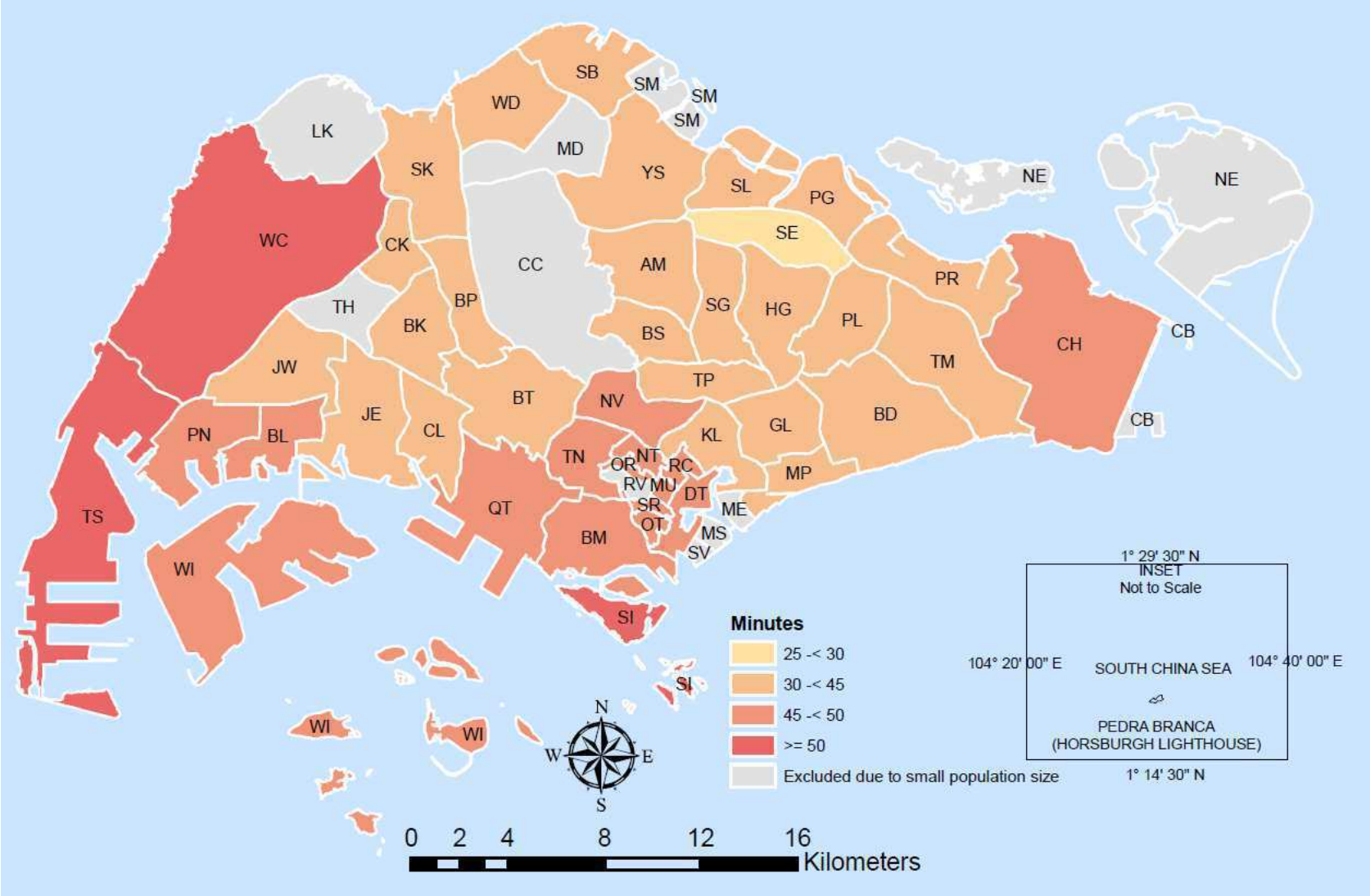
Map 9.2c Proportion of Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over Using Car Only to Travel to Work by Planning Area of Workplace, 2025



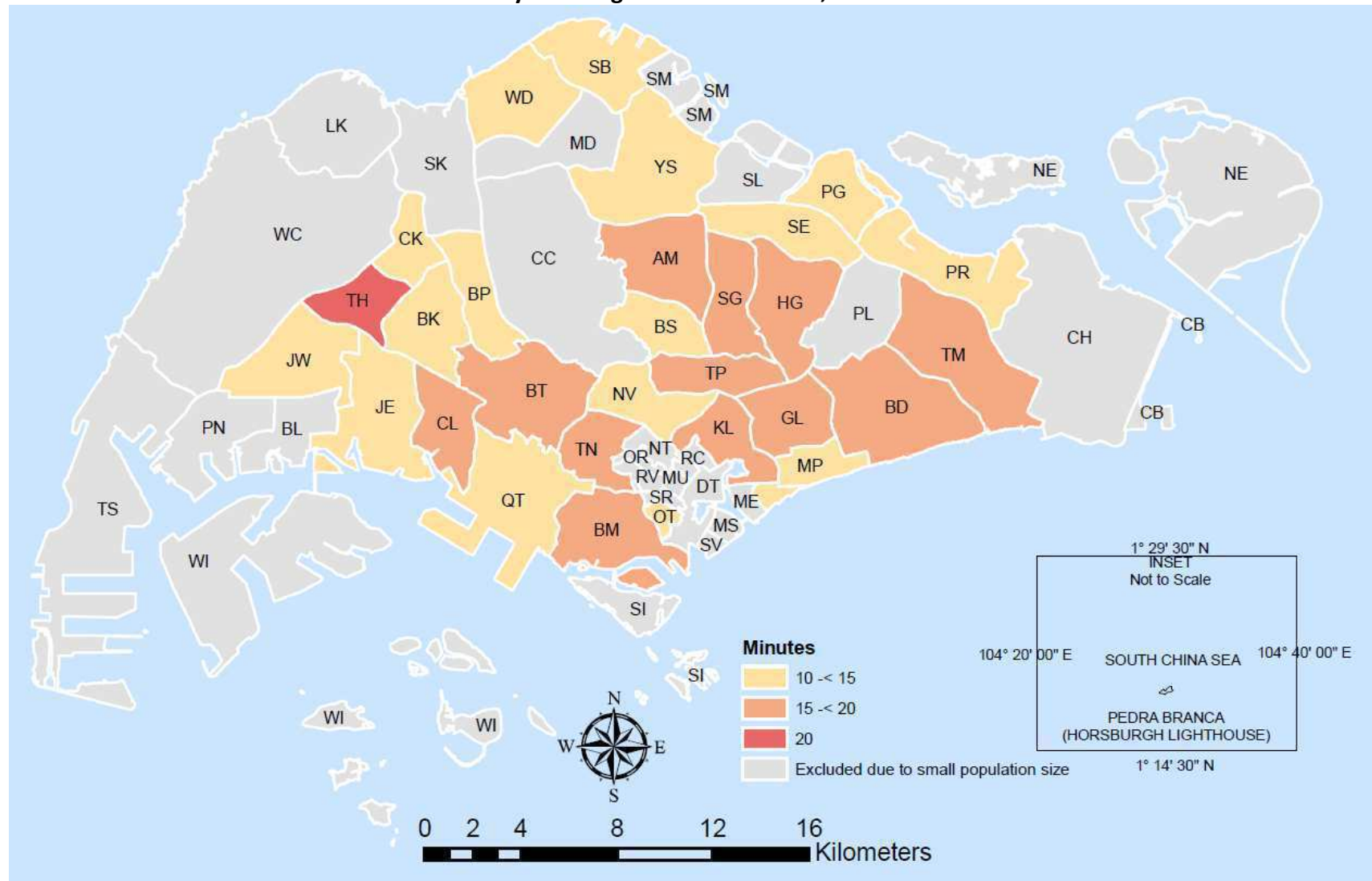
Map 9.3 Median Travelling Time to Work of Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over by Planning Area of Residence, 2025



Map 9.4 Median Travelling Time to Work of Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over by Planning Area of Workplace, 2025

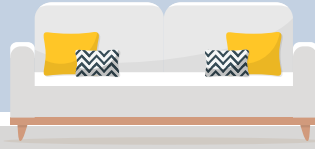


Map 9.5 Median Travelling Time to School of Resident Students Aged 5 Years and Over Attending Primary School and Below by Planning Area of Residence, 2025



GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY 2025

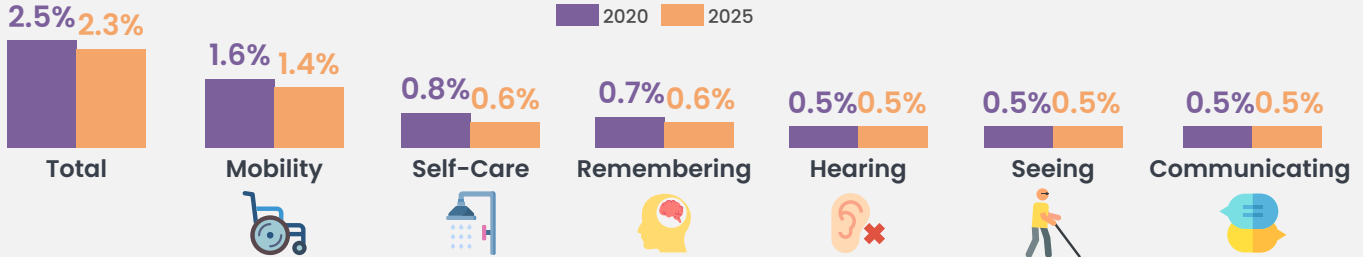
Difficulty Performing Basic Activities*



*Basic activities refer to seeing, hearing, mobility (walking or climbing steps), remembering or concentrating, self-care (washing all over or dressing), and communicating (understanding or being understood).

Residents Unable to Perform / with A Lot of Difficulty in At Least One Basic Activity

Residents with a lot of difficulty performing activities relating to mobility constituted the largest group, followed by self-care.



By Age and Sex

By Dwelling Type

Elderly faced more difficulty performing basic activities.

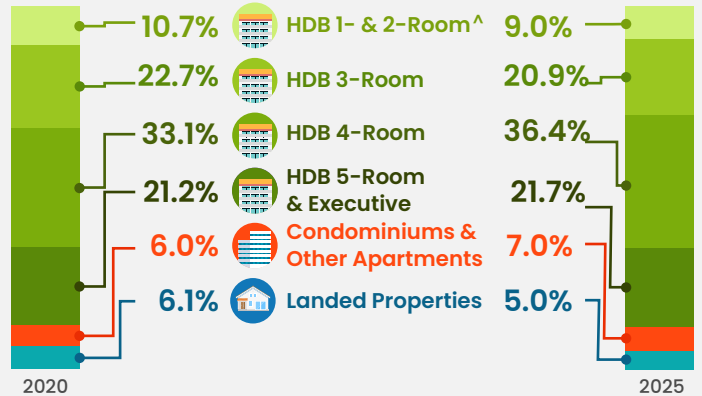
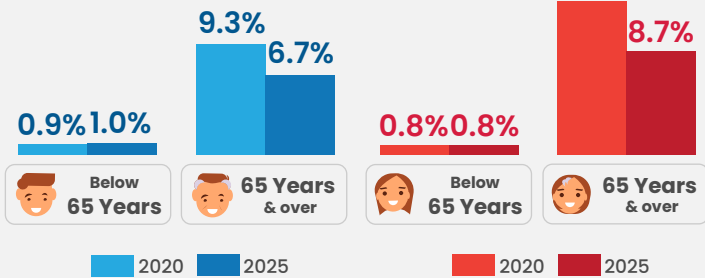
Unable to Perform / with A Lot of Difficulty in At Least One Basic Activity

Proportionately more residents with a lot of difficulty** lived in HDB 4-room or smaller flats than those without such difficulty.

Unable to Perform / with A Lot of Difficulty in At Least One Basic Activity

Males

Females*



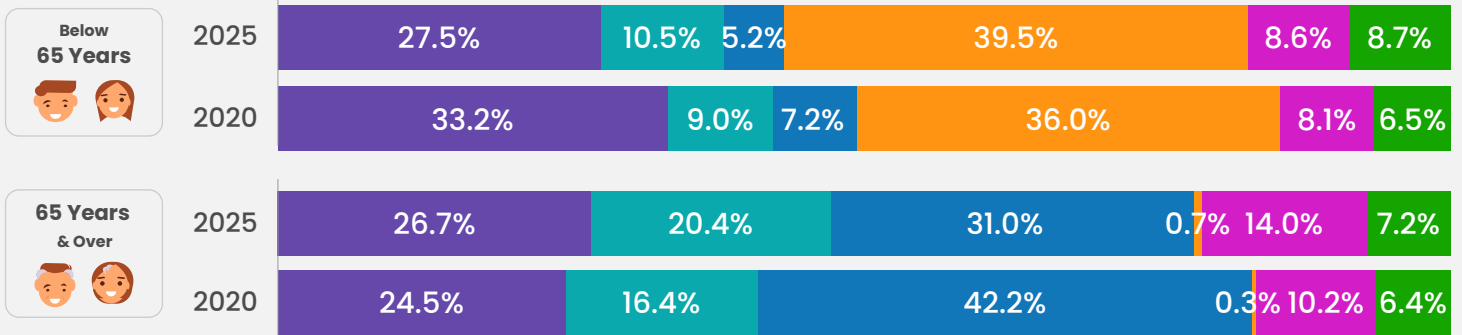
#Females tend to live longer and are more represented at older ages.

^ Includes HDB Studio Apartments and Community Care Apartments.

By Living Arrangement

Majority of persons with a lot of difficulty** lived with other people.

Unable to Perform / with A Lot of Difficulty in At Least One Basic Activity



- Living with Spouse and Children in Household
- Living with Spouse, No Children in Household
- Living with Children, No Spouse in Household
- Living with Parents, No Spouse or Children in Household
- Living with Other Person(s) in Household
- Living in One-Person Household

** Includes those unable to perform at least one basic activity.

CHAPTER 10

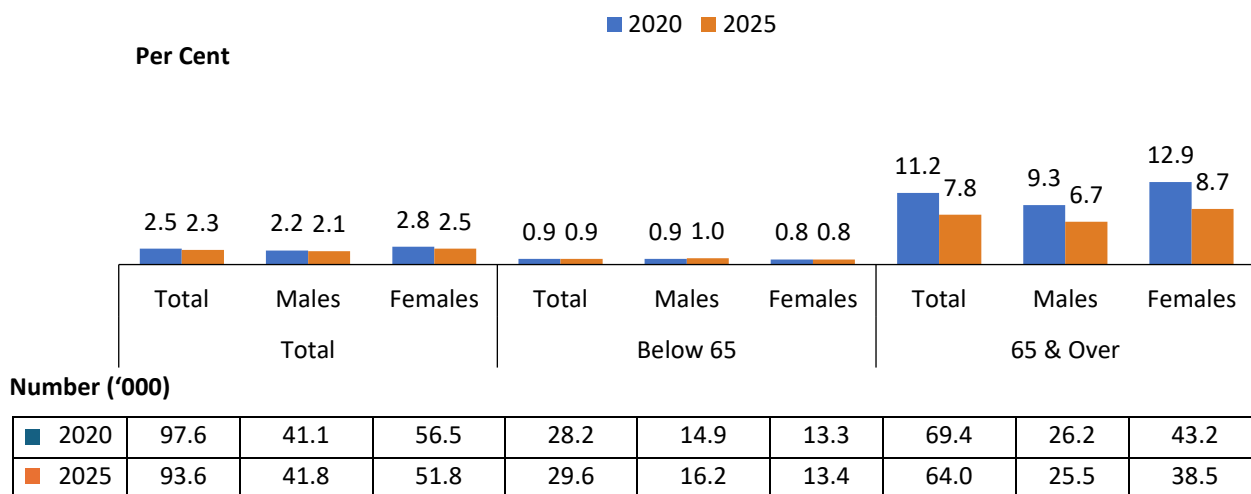
DIFFICULTY PERFORMING BASIC ACTIVITIES¹

Difficulty Performing Basic Activities by Age Group and Sex

In 2025, an estimated 93,600 (or 2.3%) residents aged 5 years and over were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity (Chart 10.1). The majority of them were aged 65 years and over. Nonetheless, the share of residents aged 65 years and over who were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity fell to 7.8% in 2025 from 11.2% in 2020.

Overall, a higher proportion of females (2.5%) than males (2.1%) reported being unable to perform or having a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity in 2025. This is consistent with findings that females tend to live longer and are more represented at older ages. Among residents aged 65 years and over, 8.7% of females were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity in 2025, compared with 6.7% of males, although this gap between the sexes narrowed compared with 2020. At ages below 65 years, the proportions were relatively similar for males and females.

Chart 10.1 Proportion of Resident Population Aged 5 Years and Over Unable to Perform/with A Lot of Difficulty in At Least One Basic Activity by Age Group and Sex



¹ Basic Activities refer to seeing, hearing, mobility (walking or climbing steps), remembering or concentrating, self-care (such as washing all over or dressing), and communicating (for example understanding or being understood). The GHS 2025 data are based on a sample survey of households living in residential dwelling units and exclude persons living in institutions such as nursing homes.

Domain of Difficulty by Age Group

Mobility continued to be the domain affecting the largest group of residents. In 2025, 57,100 residents aged 5 years and over (or 1.4%) were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing mobility-related activities, down from 62,500 (1.6%) in 2020 (Charts 10.2 and 10.3). This decline was largely due to improvements among those aged 65 years and over, where the number with mobility difficulties fell from 49,700 (8.0%) in 2020 to 45,300 (5.5%) in 2025.

Across domains, difficulties in self-care and remembering remained less common than mobility difficulties but accounted for sizeable groups, similar to 2020.

Chart 10.2 Resident Population Aged 5 Years and Over Unable to Perform/ with A Lot of Difficulty in Basic Activity by Domain of Difficulty and Age Group

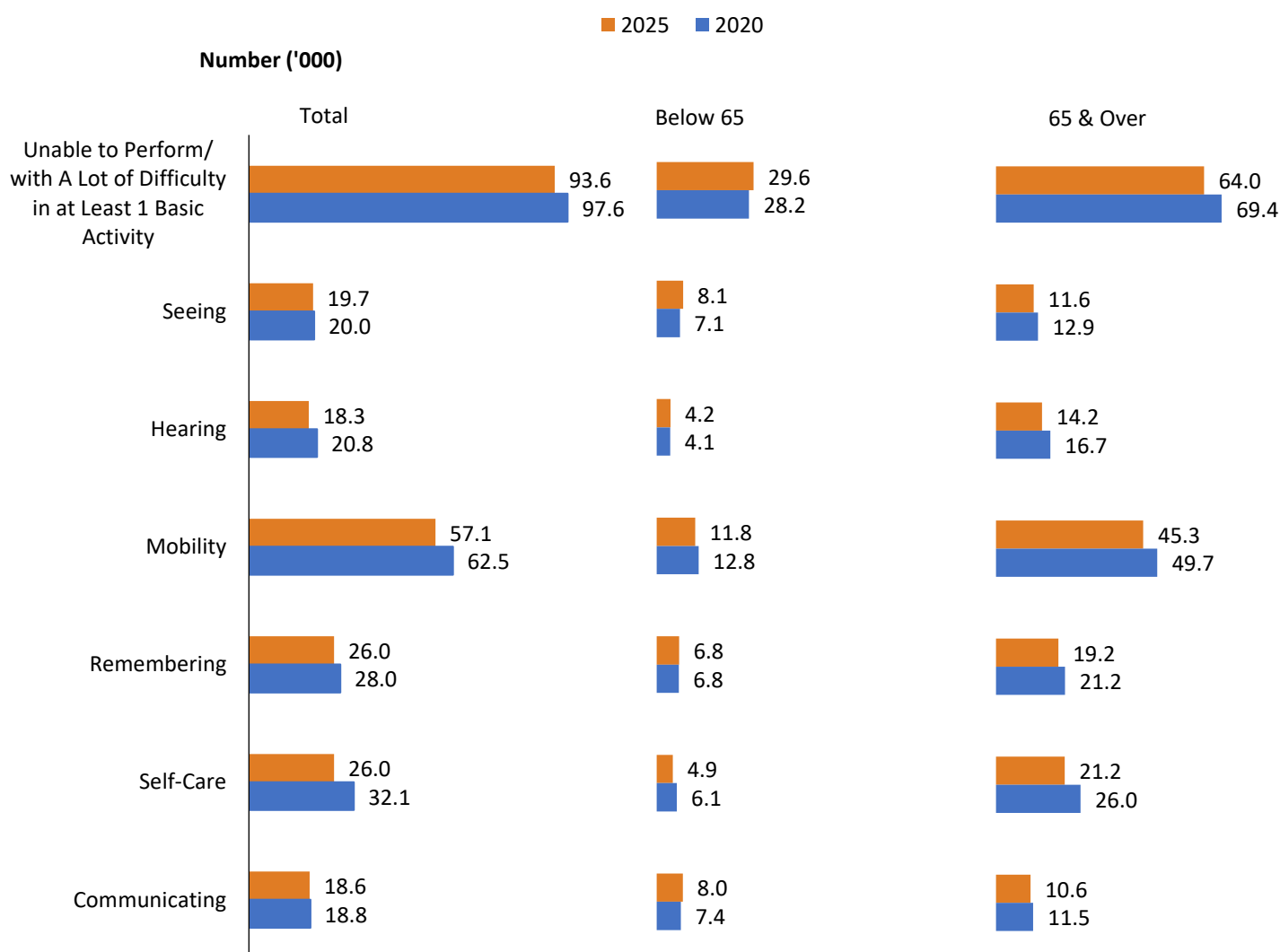
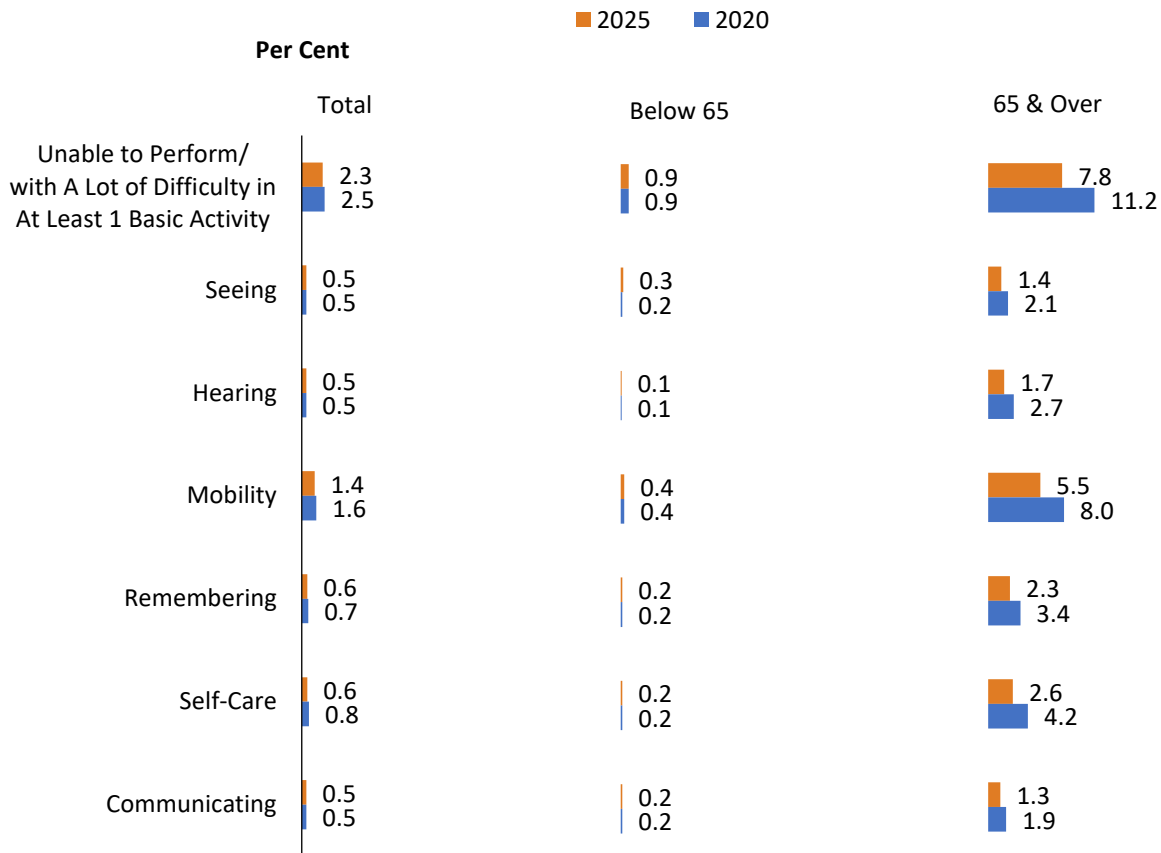


Chart 10.3 Proportion of Resident Population Aged 5 Years and Over Unable to Perform/with A Lot of Difficulty in Basic Activity by Domain of Difficulty and Age Group

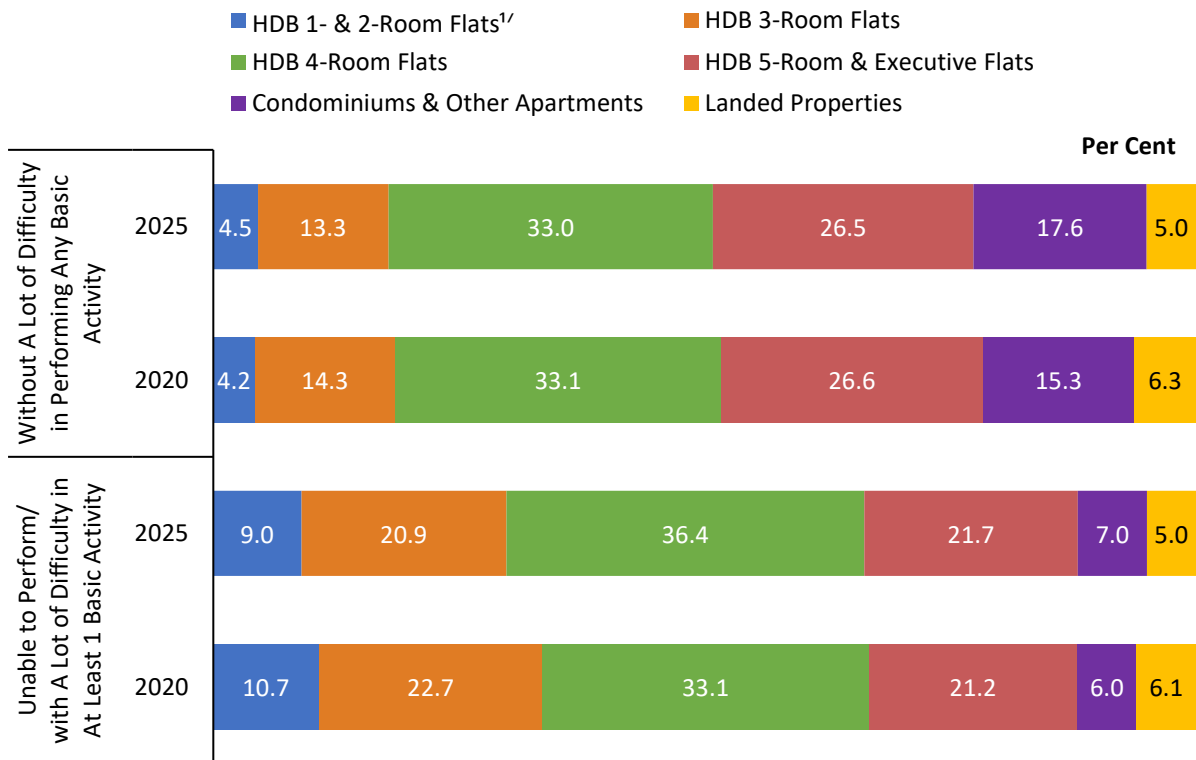


Note: For Charts 10.2 and 10.3, the number or proportion of residents unable to perform or with a lot of difficulty in specific basic activities do not add up to the overall figure, as there are residents unable to perform or with a lot of difficulty in multiple basic activities.

Difficulty in Basic Activities by House Type

In 2025, about two-thirds (66.2%) of residents who were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity lived in HDB 4-room or smaller flats (Chart 10.4). By contrast, among those who did not have a lot of difficulty performing any basic activity, the share living in HDB 4-room or smaller flats was lower, at 50.8%. This difference mainly reflected the older age profile of residents living in such dwellings compared with other dwelling types.

Chart 10.4 Resident Population Aged 5 Years and Over by Difficulty in Performing Basic Activities and Type of Dwelling

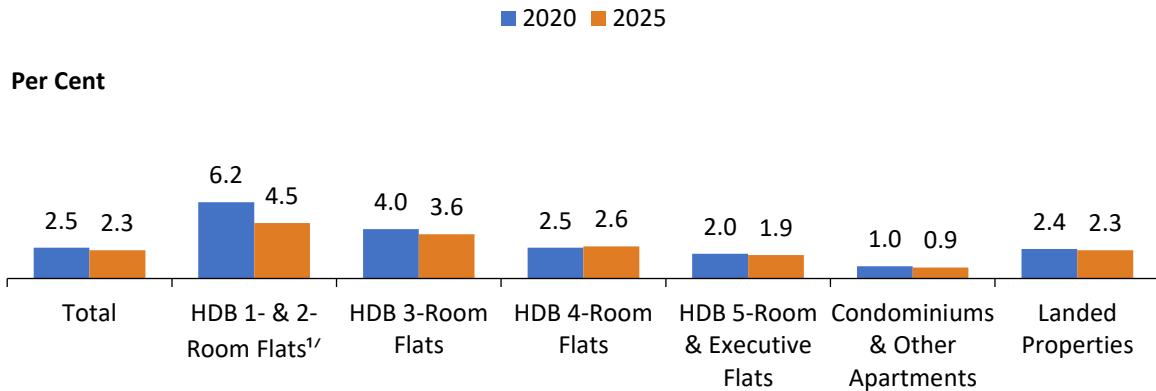


^{1/}Includes HDB Studio Apartments and Community Care Apartments.

Residents living in smaller HDB flats had a higher proportion who reported being unable to perform or having a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity, compared with those in other dwelling types. Residents staying in HDB 1- and 2-room flats had the highest proportion, at 4.5% in 2025, followed by those in HDB 3-room flats, at 3.6% (Chart 10.5). While these proportions were higher than the overall average of 2.3%, they improved from 6.2% and 4.0% respectively in 2020. The proportions for other dwelling types remained relatively stable over the same period. These observations also reflected the older age profile of residents living in smaller HDB flats².

² In 2025, the proportion of residents aged 65 years and over was 32.3% among those living in HDB 1- and 2-room flats, and 26.9% among those living in HDB 3-room flats. These were higher than the national average of 18.8% as well as for other types of dwelling ranging from 10.0% for condominiums and other apartments to 24.2% for landed properties.

Chart 10.5 Proportion of Resident Population Aged 5 Years and Over Unable to Perform/ with A Lot of Difficulty in At Least One Basic Activity by Type of Dwelling

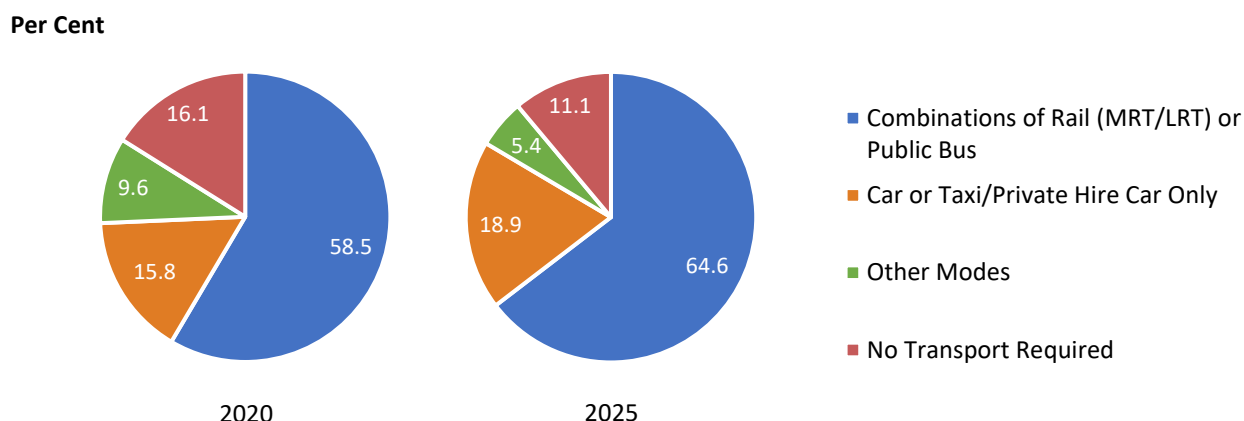


^{1/}Includes HDB Studio Apartments and Community Care Apartments.

Usual Mode of Transport to Work

Public transport was the main mode of transport to work among resident employed persons aged 15 years and over who were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity. The proportion who used combinations of rail (MRT/LRT) or public bus as their usual mode of transport to work rose from 58.5% in 2020 to 64.6% in 2025, higher than the 60.1% among employed persons without such difficulties (Chart 10.6). Over the same period, the proportion travelling by car or taxi/private hire car only also increased from 15.8% to 18.9%, although this remained below the 23.7% among those without a lot of difficulty performing any basic activity. Conversely, the proportion who did not require transport to get to work declined from 16.1% in 2020 to 11.1% in 2025.

Chart 10.6 Resident Employed Persons Aged 15 Years and Over Unable to Perform/ with A Lot of Difficulty in At Least One Basic Activity by Usual Mode of Transport to Work

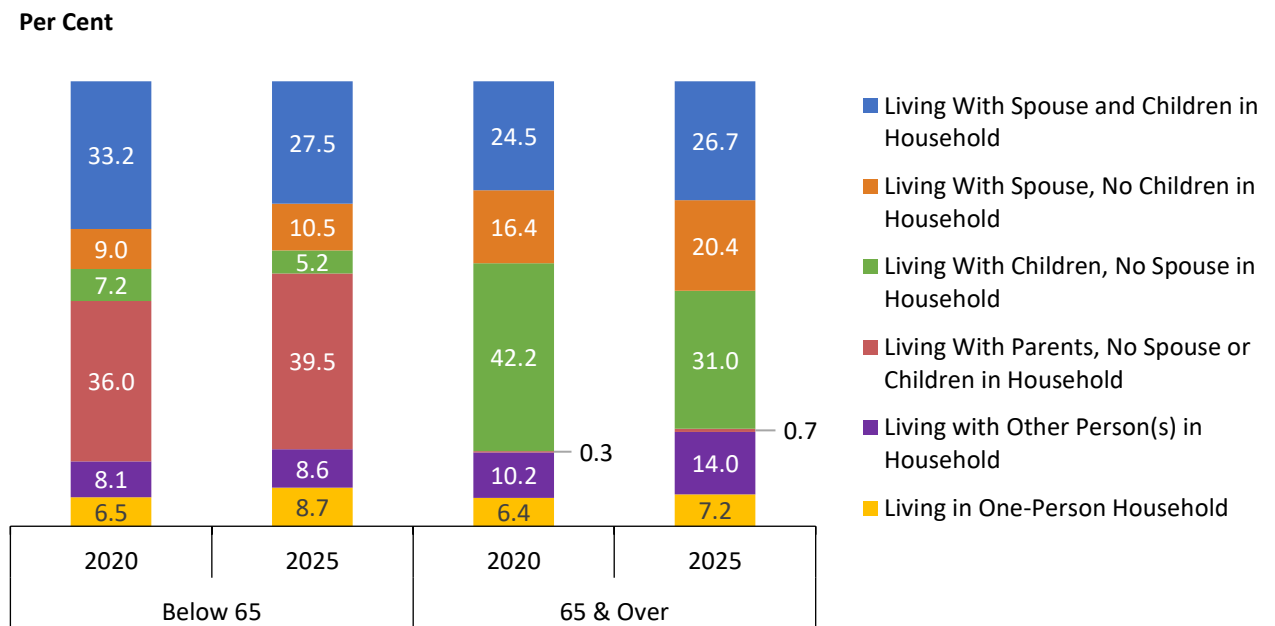


Living Arrangement

A large majority of residents aged 5–64 years in resident households who were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity lived with other household members (Chart 10.7). Only 8.7% of these residents lived alone in 2025, although this increased from 6.5% in 2020. Those living with their spouse and/or children accounted for 43.2% in 2025, down from 49.4% in 2020. Another 39.5% lived with their parents, but neither spouse nor children, in the household in 2025, up from 36.0% in 2020.

Similarly, more than nine in ten residents aged 65 years and over who were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity lived with other people in both 2020 and 2025. Among this older group, the proportion living with their spouse and/or children declined from 83.1% in 2020 to 78.1% in 2025. Correspondingly, the proportion living with persons other than a spouse or children (e.g. partners, other family members and/or domestic workers) increased from 10.2% in 2020 to 14.0% in 2025.

Chart 10.7 Resident Population Aged 5 Years and Over in Resident Households Unable to Perform/ with A Lot of Difficulty in At Least One Basic Activity by Age Group and Living Arrangement

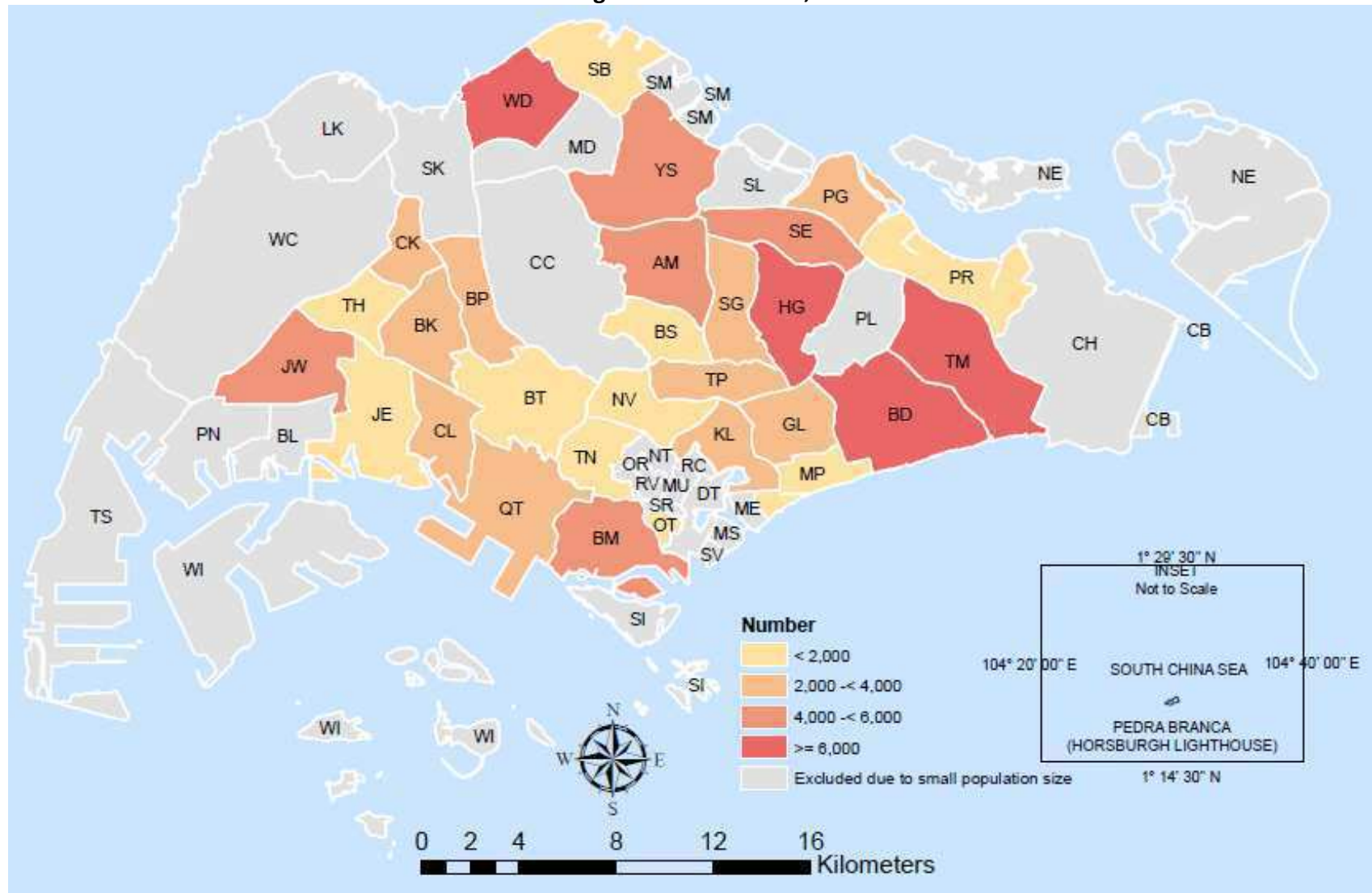


Planning Area of Residence

Across Singapore, the planning areas of Bedok, Hougang, Tampines and Woodlands had the highest numbers of residents aged 5 years and over who were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity in 2025 (Map 10.1). This reflected their generally larger populations compared with other planning areas, with Bedok and Hougang also having relatively higher proportions of elderly residents. Among all planning areas, Bedok had the highest number of residents who were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity, at 7,400.

Across all planning areas of residence, the proportion of residents who were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity remained low, ranging from 1–4% in 2025, broadly in line with the national average and comparable with 2020.

Map 10.1 Resident Population Aged 5 Years and Over Unable to Perform/ with A Lot of Difficulty in At Least One Basic Activity by Planning Area of Residence, 2025



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Data in the statistical tables may not add up to the totals due to rounding.

Glossary of Terms and Definitions

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Age

Age refers to the number of completed years between a person's date of birth and the reference date of 30 June 2025.

Old Age Support Ratio

Old age support ratio refers to the number of persons aged 20-64 years per elderly person aged 65 years and over.

Ethnic / Detailed Ethnic Group

Ethnic Group is obtained from administrative sources where available or as declared by the person through survey. The population is classified into four categories (Chinese, Malay, Indian and Others, or "CMIO") largely based on place(s) of origin:

<i>Chinese</i>	This refers to persons of Chinese origin.
<i>Malays</i>	This refers to persons of Malay origin or natives of the Indonesian archipelago.
<i>Indians</i>	This refers to persons of Indian, or other South Asian origin.
<i>Others</i>	This comprises all persons other than Chinese, Malays and Indians.

Detailed ethnic groups are sub-categories of ethnic groups. They include groups whose members declare a common identity, such as place of origin, dialect, language, etc.

Residential Status

Singapore citizens and permanent residents are classified as Singapore residents or the resident population. Singapore permanent residents refer to non-citizens who have been granted permanent residence in Singapore. The non-resident population comprised foreigners who were working, studying or living in Singapore but not granted permanent residence, excluding tourists and short-term visitors.

Marital Status

Marital status refers to a person's conjugal status in relation to the marriage laws or customs in Singapore.

<i>Single</i>	This refers to persons who have never been married.
<i>Married</i>	This refers to persons who are legally married or married according to customary rites.
<i>Widowed</i>	This refers to persons whose spouses are deceased and have not remarried.
<i>Divorced/Separated</i>	This refers to persons whose marriages have been legally dissolved, or persons who have been legally separated or estranged from their spouses and who have not remarried.

Ever-Married Females

Ever-married females refer to females who have been married before and are currently married, widowed, or divorced/separated.

Number of Children Born

Number of children born refers to all the live-born children each woman has ever given birth to. It includes those children who are currently staying with her, those who have set up their own homes and those who are no longer living.

Religion

Religion refers to the religious faith or spiritual belief of a person regardless of whether he/she regularly attends religious ceremonies in a temple, mosque, church or other religious building. He/she may or may not practise his/her faith or belief. It is as declared by the person.

EDUCATION, LITERACY AND LANGUAGE

Literacy (Language Literate In)

This refers to a person's ability to read with understanding, simple statements on materials such as newspapers/magazines/personal letters or messages in the language(s) specified.

Language Most / Second Most Frequently Spoken at Home

Language most / second most frequently spoken at home refers to the language or dialect that a person uses most / second most frequently at home when speaking to other household member(s).

Level of Education Attending

Level of education attending refers to the grade or standard of formal education which a student aged 5 years and over is attending. The classification of level of education attending into the following main categories is based on the [Singapore Standard Educational Classification 2026](#):

<i>Pre-Primary</i>	This refers to students attending nurseries, kindergartens or pre-primary classes.
<i>Primary</i>	This refers to students attending Primary 1 to 6 and special education for the educationally sub-normal.
<i>Secondary</i>	This refers to students attending Secondary 1 to 5 or courses of secondary level offered in the vocational, technical and commercial education institutions, including Institute of Technical Education (ITE) Skills Certificate courses.
<i>Post Secondary (Non-Tertiary)</i>	This refers to students attending Pre-university classes and junior colleges or other courses at post-secondary level, including fifth or sixth year of the Integrated Programme, National ITE Certificate (Nitec) and Higher Nitec.
<i>Polytechnic Diploma</i>	This refers to students attending polytechnic diploma or polytechnic post/advanced/specialist/ diploma courses offered by the local Polytechnics such as the Singapore Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Temasek Polytechnic, Nanyang Polytechnic and Republic Polytechnic.

<i>Professional Qualification and Other Diploma</i>	This refers to students attending courses leading to the award of a professional qualification or other diploma, including ITE diploma, National Institute of Education (NIE) diploma, Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) diploma, LASALLE diploma, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) diploma, Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), and Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).
<i>University</i>	This refers to students attending degree or post-graduate courses in universities.

Highest Qualification Attained

Highest qualification attained refers to the highest grade or standard a person has passed or the highest level where a vocational/skill certificate, diploma, or degree is awarded. The classification of highest qualification attained into the following main categories is based on the [Singapore Standard Educational Classification 2026](#):

<i>No Qualification</i>	This refers to persons who have never attended school, have primary education but without a Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) certificate or their equivalent.
<i>Primary</i>	This refers to persons who have PSLE, or at least 3 achievements for different Workplace Literacy and Numeracy (WPLN) skills at Level 1 or 2, or other certificate of equivalent standard.
<i>Lower Secondary</i>	This refers to persons who have secondary education without any subject pass at General Certificate of Education (GCE) Normal ('N')/Ordinary ('O') Level, or basic vocational certificates (including those from ITE Basic Vocational Training), or at least 3 achievements for different WPLN skills at Level 3 or 4 or equivalent education/certificate.
<i>Secondary</i>	This refers to persons who have at least 1 subject pass at GCE 'N' / 'O' Level, or have Singapore-Cambridge Secondary Education Certificate, or have ITE Skills Certificate (ISC) (including ITE Skills Subject Certificate, Certificate of Competency) or at least 3 achievements for different WPLN skills at Level 5 and above or equivalent education/certificate.

<i>Post-Secondary (Non-Tertiary)</i>	This refers to persons who have at least 1 'H2' subject pass at GCE 'A' Level or other certificates/qualifications of equivalent standard. It also includes those who have Nitec/Higher Nitec/Master Nitec or equivalent. This group also includes Workforce Skills Qualification (WSQ) Certificate/Higher Certificate/Advanced Certificate or other post-secondary certificates/ qualifications or equivalent (including international qualifications).
<i>Polytechnic Diploma</i>	This refers to persons who have Polytechnic diploma or Polytechnic post diploma.
<i>Professional Qualification and Other Diploma</i>	This refers to persons who have qualifications awarded by professional bodies (including ACCA, CFA), or other diploma qualifications (including ITE Diploma, NIE diploma, SIM diploma, LASALLE diploma, NAFA diploma, WSQ diploma, WSQ specialist diploma etc) or equivalent qualifications.
<i>University</i>	This refers to persons who have bachelor's degree or postgraduate diploma (including NIE postgraduate diploma), or master's degree, or doctorate or equivalent qualifications. It also includes persons with WSQ graduate diploma.

Field of Study

Field of study refers to the principal discipline, branch or subject matter of study that leads to the award of the qualification attained at polytechnic or university levels. The classification of field of study is based on the [Singapore Standard Educational Classification 2026](#).

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Labour Force Status

Labour Force Refers to persons who are either employed or unemployed during the reference period.

Employed Refers to persons who during the reference period:

- (i) work for one hour or more either for pay or profit; or
- (ii) have a job or business to return to but are temporarily absent because of illness, injury, breakdown of machinery at workplace, labour management dispute or other reasons.

Members of the Singapore Armed Forces including full-time National Servicemen are included, unless stated otherwise.

Unemployed Refers to persons who are not employed but are actively looking for a job and available for work during the reference period. They include persons who are not working but are taking steps to start their own business or taking up a new job after the reference period.

Outside the Labour Force Refers to persons who are neither employed nor unemployed during the reference period.

Occupation

This refers to the type of work performed by employed persons during the reference period, which may not necessarily be related to their work experience, employment status or professional qualification. In the case of workers who perform two or more kinds of work, their occupation would refer to the one in which they usually work the longest hours during the reference period. The classification of occupations is based on the [Singapore Standard Occupational Classification 2024](#).

Industry

This refers to the major kind of economic activity or the nature of business of the firm, organisation, establishment or department in which the person is employed during the reference period. If the person is self-employed, this item refers to the kind of economic activity or nature of business he/she is operating. The classification of industries is based on the [Singapore Standard Industrial Classification 2025](#).

Employment Status

This refers to the status of employed persons in relation to their employment. There are four types of employment status:

<i>Employers</i>	This refers to persons who hire one or more paid employees in their business or trade.
<i>Own Account Workers</i>	This refers to persons who operate their own business without employing any paid employee in the conduct of their business or trade.
<i>Employees</i>	This refers to persons who work for employers in return for regular wages or salaries.
<i>Contributing Family Workers</i>	This refers to persons who assist in the operation of family business without receiving regular wages or salaries.

Usual Hours Worked

This refers to the number of hours a person usually works on a typical week, regardless of whether he/she is paid for it. For those who are temporarily not working (e.g. on leave), the most recent week of employment is used. For a person who has just started work during the reference period, usual hours of work refers to the number of hours per week he/she is expected to work in that job. For a multiple jobholder, it should be aggregated from the hours spent in all the jobs.

Monthly Employment Income

This refers to income earned from employment. For employees, it refers to the gross monthly wages or salaries before deduction of employee CPF contributions. It comprises basic wages, overtime pay, commissions, tips, other allowances and one-twelfth of annual bonuses. For self-employed persons, it refers to the average monthly receipts from profits from their business, trade or profession (i.e., total receipts less business expenses incurred) before deduction of platform workers' share of CPF contributions.

Workplace Location

This refers to the address of the person's workplace where he/she usually works most of the time. For those who report to different places on different days, this refers to the address where this person reported most frequently to during the last week.

HOUSEHOLD AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Resident Household

A household refers to (i) a group of two or more persons living together in the same house and sharing common food or other essential arrangements for living; or (ii) a person living alone or living with others but having his own food or other essential arrangements for living. Although persons may be living in the same house, they may not be members of the same household. For example, a family renting out a room to a tenant – if the tenant does not share or have meals with the family, the tenant belongs to a separate household.

A resident household refers to a household where the household reference person is a resident (i.e., Singapore citizen or permanent resident).

Household Reference Person

The household reference person is as reported by the surveyed households and usually refers to the oldest member, the main income earner, the owner-occupier of the house, the person who manages the affairs of the household, or the person who supplied the information pertaining to other members.

Prior to 2020, survey respondents were asked to identify the ‘head of household’. The identified person is used as the reference person to determine relationships between household members. Since 2020, the term ‘head of household’ has been replaced with ‘household reference person’.

Household Structure

Household structure refers to the classification of a household according to the number of family nuclei and the number of generations in the household.

A family nucleus in a household can be formed by a married couple, or one parent with never-married child(ren).

Each nucleus comprises one or more generations.

A household can have one family nucleus, multiple family nuclei or none.

Household with no family nucleus refers to a household formed by a person living alone or living with others but does not constitute any family nucleus. This is further classified into one-person household or household with more than one person.

Household Living Arrangement

Household living arrangement refers to the classification of a household based on the composition of members within the household. Households are classified into:

<i>Married Couple-Based households with children</i>	Refers to households with at least one married couple living with their child(ren), regardless of age.
<i>Married Couple-Based households without children</i>	Refers to households with at least one married couple and none are living with their child(ren). This includes couples with child(ren) who have moved out.
<i>Lone-Parent households</i>	Refers to households with no married couple and at least one never-married /widowed /divorced /separated person who is living with his/her child(ren). The child(ren) must be aged below 16 years or are never-married to be considered.
<i>One-Person households</i>	Refers to one-person households. Examples include single persons living alone, or ever-married persons who are living alone as their child(ren) have moved out.
<i>Others</i>	Refers to all other households that do not fall under any of the above household living arrangement categories. Examples include a divorced person living with his/her widowed parent, elderly living only with domestic worker, only siblings living together without parents, or friends living together.

Household Size

Household size refers to the total number of members in the household, including domestic workers.

Number of Employed Persons in Household

The number of employed persons in the household includes members of the same household who are employed. Domestic workers in the household are excluded.

Household Employment Income

Household employment income refers to the sum of income received by employed members of the household from employment and business, excluding the income of live-in domestic workers. Monthly household employment income includes one-twelfth of the annual bonus. Data on household employment income refer to household employment income before accounting for Government transfers and taxes.

Household Employment Income Per Household Member

Household employment income per household member refers to the household employment income divided by the total number of members in the household. For example, if there is one employed person in a household of four, his/her income is divided by four to derive the household employment income per household member. This takes into account the different sizes of households in each group and enables analysis of changes in household income, adjusted for changes in household size over time.

Household Market Income

Household market income refers to income received by households before any Government transfers and taxes. It comprises income from employment (including one-twelfth of annual bonuses and employer/platform operator CPF contributions) and non-employment sources including investments (e.g., interests from savings and/or CPF balances, dividends from investments), rental, contributions from other households (e.g., allowance from children to parents not staying in the same household, alimony), pensions, annuities, royalties and regular payouts from CPF and insurance (i.e., CPF ElderShield and CareShield Life). It excludes income received by live-in domestic workers in the households. For more information on the components included, please refer to the [Technical Note on Household Income](#) from the 'Key Household Income Trends Report'.

Household Market Income Per Household Member

Household market income per household member refers to household market income divided by the total number of members in the household.

Predominant Household Language

Predominant household language refers to the language or dialect spoken by the majority of household members to other members (excluding domestic workers and unrelated persons), taking into account the reported language most frequently spoken and language second most frequently spoken at home for each household member.

Type of Dwelling

A dwelling refers to a building or part of a building used or intended to be used by one or more persons as living quarters. Each dwelling has its own separate entrance(s) with direct access to a public road or pathway. A dwelling may be a residential building by itself, or a unit in a residential building, or part of a non-residential building such as a shop or factory with space used as living quarters.

The dwellings covered are broadly classified into these three housing unit categories: Housing and Development Board (HDB) properties, condominiums and other apartments, and landed properties.

The [Singapore Standard Classification of Type of Dwelling \(Jan 2012\)](#) is used to classify the population and households by type of dwelling.

Tenancy

Tenancy refers to the tenure status of the household with respect to the dwelling in which the household members live. Tenancy is classified into the following three main categories:

<i>Owner-Occupied</i>	Refers to a household where the household reference person and/or any other member(s) in the household owns the dwelling unit. This includes those which are fully paid-up as well as those with outstanding housing loans.
<i>Rented</i>	Refers to a household where the household reference person and/or any other member(s) in the household rents whole or part of the dwelling unit.
<i>Others</i>	Refer to a household where the household reference person and/or any other member(s) in the household occupies whole or part of the dwelling unit without charge (provided free by other persons (e.g., employers, relatives, friends, or any other persons)).

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION AND TRANSPORT CHARACTERISTICS

Planning Areas of Residence / Workplace

Planning areas refer to areas demarcated in the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Master Plan 2019.

Planning Regions of Residence

Planning regions refer to areas demarcated in the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Master Plan 2019.

Floor Area of Residence

Floor area of residence refers to the total floor area of the residential dwelling unit of which the resident is living in and may also include areas such as planter box and air-con ledge.

Mode of Transport to School / Work

Mode of transport to school or work refers to how a student or an employed resident usually travels from home to school or work respectively in each journey.

Travelling Time to School / Work

Travel time to school or work refers to the total number of minutes that it usually takes a student or an employed resident to travel from home to school or to work respectively. The travel time includes time spent waiting for public transportation and walking to the bus-stop or MRT/LRT station.

DIFFICULTY IN PERFORMING BASIC ACTIVITIES

Difficulty in performing basic activities refers to the difficulties a person may have as the result of physical or mental health problem(s) in performing one or more of the activities below. It excludes those caused by a lack of resources. Difficulty in performing basic activities adopts the guidelines from the Washington Group on disability statistics. The person may or may not be medically diagnosed with a disability. Difficulty in the following core functional domains refer to:

<i>Seeing</i>	Persons who have vision difficulties or problems seeing even when wearing glasses (if they wear glasses).
<i>Hearing</i>	Persons who have some hearing limitation or problems of any kind with their hearing even when using a hearing aid (if they wear a hearing aid).
<i>Mobility</i>	Persons who have some limitation or problems of any kind walking or climbing steps without the assistance of any device (wheelchair, crutches, walker etc.) or human.
<i>Remembering</i>	Persons who have some problems with remembering or focusing attention that contribute to difficulty in doing their daily activities.
<i>Self-Care</i>	Persons who have some problems with taking care of themselves independently by washing all over and dressing.
<i>Communicating</i>	Persons who have some problems with talking, listening or understanding speech such that it contributes to difficulty in making themselves understood to others or understanding others, using one's usual (customary) language.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Living Arrangement of Residents Aged 65 Years and Over

Residents aged 65 years and over are classified according to the presence of their spouse or children (including children-in-law) living in the same household. Additional dimension on the labour force status of the children is incorporated into the classification.

<i>With At Least One Employed Child</i>	This refers to a resident aged 65 years and over living with his/her children in the same household, at least one of whom is employed.
<i>With All Non-Employed Children</i>	This refers to a resident aged 65 years and over living with his/her children in the same household, all of whom are not employed.

Residents aged 65 years and over who are not living with their spouse or children are classified according to whether they are in one-person household (with or without other occupants in the same dwelling unit) or living with other elderly persons aged 65 years and over.

Living Arrangement of Residents Aged 5 Years and Over

Residents aged 5 years and over are classified according to the presence of their spouse, children (including children-in-law), or parents (including parents-in-law) living in the same household. They are broadly grouped into the following categories:

<i>With Spouse in Household</i>	This refers to a resident living with his/her spouse in the same household. This is further classified into those living with or without children, and with or without parents.
<i>Without Spouse in Household</i>	This refers to a resident not living with a spouse in the same household, but with other persons except domestic worker(s) only. This is further classified into those living with or without children, and with or without parents.
<i>One-Person Household</i>	This refers to a resident in a one-person household, with or without other occupants in the same dwelling unit.
<i>Living with Only Domestic Worker(s) in Household</i>	This refers to a resident living with no other persons in the same household except domestic worker(s).

Appendix

Sample Design and Sampling Variability

Sample Design and Selection

The sample for the General Household Survey (GHS) 2025 was selected from a sampling frame comprising all residential dwelling units in Singapore. As the sample survey of the GHS 2025 covered only households in residential dwellings, institutions such as military camps, hostels and hotels were excluded from the frame.

The sample was selected based on a stratified design. Dwelling units in the sampling frame were divided into different groups, defined based on the planning areas demarcated by the Urban Redevelopment Authority and broad dwelling type groups. A random sample was then selected from the different groups using systematic sampling with a random start. The samples selected from each group were combined to form the required sample of about 33,000 dwelling units.

Sampling Variability

The precision of estimates derived from the sample survey are affected by sampling errors since the estimates are based on information obtained from a fraction of the population instead of the whole population. Sampling errors refer to the difference between the estimate based on a sample and its 'true' population value that would result if the whole population has been surveyed.

The extent of sampling error of an estimate under a particular sample design is assessed by the variability of the estimate across all possible samples under the design. One common measure of this variability is given by the standard error (SE), which is the standard deviation of the sampling distribution of the estimate. Another measure is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage to the estimate. The smaller the RSE, the more precise is the estimate.

Generalised Sampling Errors Tables

From Table A1, the Design Factor (DEFT)¹ for most of the selected attributes (T_Y) is about 1. As it is impractical to compute and display the sampling error for each and every possible estimate such as the total number of elements in the population with a given attribute Y from the GHS 2025, generalised sampling error tables are provided instead. These tables guide data users in estimating the errors for the GHS 2025 survey estimates.

Table A2 provides the generalised sampling errors of a selected range of estimates with DEFT value of 1. The smaller the estimate, the larger is the RSE. This implies that sample estimates of a rare characteristic would have high RSEs and users would have to be careful in drawing inferences based on the sample estimates.

Table A1 Sampling Errors and DEFT of T_Y for Selected Attributes, GHS 2025

	Sample Estimate	Standard Error	Relative Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval		DEFT
				('000)		
	('000)	(T_Y)	(T_Y)	Lower	Upper	(T_Y)
<u>Residents Aged 15 Years & Over</u>						
Single	1,035.9	8,538	0.8	1,019.2	1,052.6	1.16
Married	2,240.0	10,382	0.5	2,219.7	2,260.4	1.10
Widowed	196.8	3,364	1.7	190.2	203.4	1.03
Divorced/Separated	152.2	3,051	2.0	146.2	158.2	1.04
<u>Residents Aged 15 Years & Over</u>						
Christianity	621.3	8,936	1.4	603.8	638.8	1.56
Buddhism	1,120.2	11,458	1.0	1,097.7	1,142.6	1.59
Taoism ²	266.0	6,054	2.3	254.1	277.8	1.55
Islam	543.4	9,276	1.7	525.2	561.5	1.67
Hinduism	194.2	5,837	3.0	182.8	205.7	1.72
Other Religions	14.8	1,546	10.4	11.8	17.9	1.62
No Religion	865.1	9,772	1.1	845.9	884.3	1.50
<u>Ever-Married Resident Females Aged 40-49 Years</u>						
With No Children Born	45.3	1,740	3.8	41.9	48.8	1.06
With 1 Child Born	71.9	2,184	3.0	67.6	76.1	1.05
With 2 Children Born	114.3	2,679	2.3	109.1	119.6	1.00
With 3 Children Born	36.5	1,542	4.2	33.5	39.5	1.02
With 4 or More Children Born	14.0	950	6.8	12.1	15.8	1.02

¹ The DEFT is the ratio of the standard error of the estimate, under the sample design used, to that of a simple random sample. This ratio measures the effect of the complexity of the sample design and weighting on the standard error.

² Taoism includes Chinese Traditional Beliefs.

Table A1 Sampling Errors and DEFT of T_Y for Selected Attributes, GHS 2025 (cont'd)

	Sample Estimate	Standard Error	Relative Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval ('000)		DEFT
	('000)	(T _Y)	(T _Y)	Lower	Upper	(T _Y)
<u>Residents³ Aged 25 Years & Over</u>						
With Below Secondary	660.0	6,682	1.0	646.9	673.1	1.18
With Secondary	467.5	5,765	1.2	456.2	478.8	1.15
With Post-Secondary (Non-Tertiary)	328.5	4,722	1.4	319.2	337.8	1.10
With Diploma and Professional Qualification	540.5	5,977	1.1	528.7	552.2	1.10
With University	1,202.2	8,675	0.7	1,185.2	1,219.2	1.14
<u>Residents Aged 5 Years & Over⁴</u>						
English Most Frequently Spoken at Home	2,048.7	15,865	0.8	2,017.6	2,079.8	1.55
Mandarin Most Frequently Spoken at Home	937.4	11,268	1.2	915.3	959.5	1.55
Malay Most Frequently Spoken at Home	246.0	6,693	2.7	232.9	259.1	1.68
Tamil Most Frequently Spoken at Home	76.6	3,879	5.1	69.0	84.2	1.73
<u>Residents Aged 15 Years & Over</u>						
Literate in English	3,139.4	12,942	0.4	3,114.0	3,164.7	1.44
Literate in Two or More Languages	2,808.4	13,109	0.5	2,782.7	2,834.1	1.36
<u>Employed Residents Aged 15 Years & Over⁵</u>						
Travel to Work by Public Bus Only	303.2	4,719	1.6	294.0	312.5	1.13
Travel to Work by Rail (MRT/LRT) Only	372.5	5,358	1.4	362.0	383.0	1.17
Travel to Work by Rail (MRT/LRT) & Public Bus Only	713.0	7,250	1.0	698.8	727.2	1.18
Travel to Work by Car Only	499.0	5,973	1.2	487.3	510.7	1.12
<u>Residents Aged 5 Years & Over</u>						
Unable to Perform/ with A Lot of Difficulty in At Least 1 Basic Activity	93.6	2,571	2.7	88.6	98.7	1.09
<u>Resident Households</u>						
With 1 Person	247.9	2,816	1.1	242.4	253.4	0.88
With 2 Persons	354.2	3,504	1.0	347.4	361.1	0.97
With 3 Persons	335.8	4,534	1.4	326.9	344.7	1.12
With 4 Persons	296.6	4,513	1.5	287.8	305.5	1.15
With 5 Persons	161.6	3,553	2.2	154.6	168.5	1.19
With 6 or More Persons	91.0	2,762	3.0	85.6	96.4	1.22

³ Data pertain to residents who were not attending educational institutions as full-time students and include those who were upgrading their qualifications through part-time courses.

⁴ Data exclude persons who were unable to speak, and those in one-person households and households comprising only unrelated persons.

⁵ Data exclude employed persons who were overseas for at least 6 months.

Table A2 Sampling Errors for Square Root of DEFT Equals 1

Size of Estimates	Proportion of Total Population (%)	Standard Error	Relative Standard Error (%)	95% Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
PERSONS					
4,000,000	88.49	5,329	0.1	3,989,555	4,010,445
3,500,000	77.43	6,981	0.2	3,486,318	3,513,682
3,000,000	66.37	7,889	0.3	2,984,538	3,015,462
2,500,000	55.31	8,302	0.3	2,483,729	2,516,271
2,000,000	44.24	8,293	0.4	1,983,745	2,016,255
1,500,000	33.18	7,863	0.5	1,484,589	1,515,411
1,000,000	22.12	6,931	0.7	986,416	1,013,584
750,000	16.59	6,212	0.8	737,825	762,175
500,000	11.06	5,237	1.0	489,735	510,265
250,000	5.53	3,817	1.5	242,519	257,481
100,000	2.21	2,456	2.5	95,186	104,814
75,000	1.66	2,133	2.8	70,819	79,181
50,000	1.11	1,746	3.5	46,577	53,423
25,000	0.55	1,238	5.0	22,573	27,427
10,000	0.22	785	7.8	8,462	11,538
7,500	0.17	680	9.1	6,168	8,832
5,000	0.11	555	11.1	3,912	6,088
2,500	0.06	393	15.7	1,731	3,269
1,000	0.02	248	24.8	513	1,487
500	0.01	176	35.1	156	844
HOUSEHOLDS					
1,150,000	77.33	3,882	0.3	1,142,392	1,157,608
850,000	57.16	4,588	0.5	841,008	858,992
550,000	36.99	4,476	0.8	541,228	558,772
250,000	16.81	3,467	1.4	243,204	256,796
100,000	6.72	2,322	2.3	95,449	104,551
75,000	5.04	2,029	2.7	71,023	78,977
50,000	3.36	1,671	3.3	46,724	53,276
25,000	1.68	1,192	4.8	22,664	27,336
10,000	0.67	758	7.6	8,515	11,485
7,500	0.50	657	8.8	6,213	8,787
5,000	0.34	537	10.7	3,948	6,052
2,500	0.17	380	15.2	1,756	3,244
1,000	0.07	240	24.0	529	1,471
500	0.03	170	34.0	167	833

Simple Guide on Using Relative Standard Error and Confidence Interval

As an illustration, to compute the 95% confidence interval for an estimate of 1,100,000 persons reported in the sample survey,

Step 1: From Table A2, the RSE of this estimate is close to 0.7%

Step 2: To compute 95% confidence interval of the estimate

$$\text{Lower Confidence Interval} = 1,100,000 - 1.96 \times 0.7\% \times 1,100,000 = 1,084,908$$

$$\text{Upper Confidence Interval} = 1,100,000 + 1.96 \times 0.7\% \times 1,100,000 = 1,115,092$$

$$\text{95\% Confidence Interval} = (1,084,908, 1,115,092)$$

i.e. We are 95% confident that the true population value lies between 1,084,908 and 1,115,092.

PROJECT TEAM

<i>Director</i>	Ms Seet Chia Sing
<i>Deputy Directors</i>	Ms Koh Wee Ling Mrs Sally Lim
<i>Senior Assistant Director/ Assistant Directors</i>	Mr Ang Zhang, Bryan Ms Feng Huimin Ms Lam Xin Hua Ms Goh Kheng Shyan Mr Boon Kok Ann
<i>Senior Statisticians/ Statisticians</i>	Mr Cheng Wan Hsien Mr Jervin Tan Huai Qiu Mr Khoo Wui Guan
<i>Lead Managers</i>	Mr Yap Yee Liong Mr Tan Kian Heng
<i>Senior Managers</i>	Ms Chan Huiyi, Charlene Ms Chia Wai Yin Ms Wong Wei Lin
<i>Deputy Managers/ Assistant Managers</i>	Mr Loh Kheam Yeow, Gabriel Ms Neo Qian Yin Crystal

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