
Introduction

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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%.