

Understanding Private Consumption Expenditure (PCE) by Key Consumption Purpose



Definition

Private Consumption Expenditure (PCE) refers to **final purchases of goods and services** by **resident** households including non-profit institutions serving households.

$$PCE = DCE + REA - NREL$$

DCE: Domestic Consumption Expenditure

REA: Residents' Expenditure Abroad

NREL: Non-Residents' Expenditure Locally



DCE refers to the total expenditure on goods and services in Singapore, regardless of whether the spending is made by residents or non-residents. It comprises the following categories:



REA refers to residents' expenditure **outside** Singapore (e.g., holiday expenses, overseas education fees, medical tourism).

NREL refers to foreigners' expenditure **in** Singapore (e.g., tourism receipts).

How is PCE Used?

PCE data is used by government agencies and think tanks to monitor domestic demand and guide policy decisions. Businesses and investors also utilise the data to assess market potential, consumer behaviour and spending patterns for strategic planning.



Quarterly and **annual** nominal and real PCE data by key consumption purpose are now available in the SingStat Table Builder! Click [here](#) to access the data.

Key Highlights/ Findings

Impact of COVID-19 on Real PCE

PCE recorded the **sharpest decline** in 2Q 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, with significant declines in spending across:

- » **Transport** (e.g., motor vehicles, air transport services),
- » **Recreation & Culture** (e.g., casino and lottery spend), and
- » **Residents' Expenditure Abroad (REA)**.

REA declined from 1Q 2020 and remained weak until 1Q 2021 due to cross-border travel restrictions.

Post COVID-19 Recovery

PCE **rebounded strongly** in 2Q 2021 across most categories due to the low base effect during 2Q 2020. Gradual easing of border measures and the resumption of international travel contributed to the **peak** in **REA** in 3Q 2022.

Year-on-Year Growth in Real PCE by Consumption Purpose, 4Q 2019 - 4Q 2023



^Secondary y-axis on the right hand side

Note: Data are based on estimates from the Economic Survey of Singapore 1Q 2025. Please refer to the SingStat Table Builder for updated data.



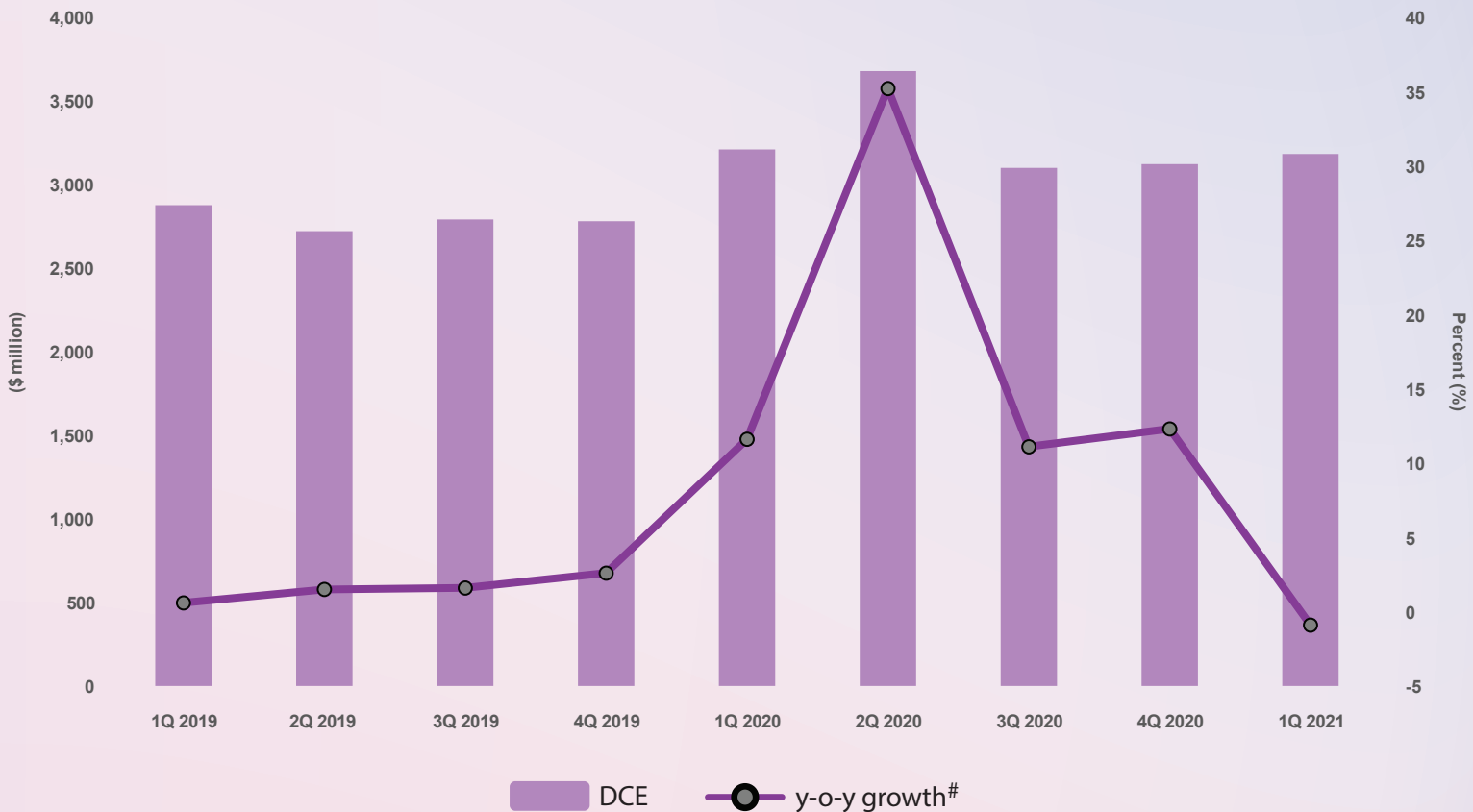
Did You Know?

Expenditure on Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages expanded significantly in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, reaching its peak in the second quarter.

This surge was primarily driven by increased spending on groceries as more people prepared meals at home during the Circuit Breaker.



Real DCE on Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages, 1Q 2019 - 1Q 2021



#Secondary y-axis on the right hand side

Note: Data are based on estimates from the Economic Survey of Singapore 1Q 2025. Please refer to the SingStat Table Builder for updated data.

Relevant Resources

- Explore PCE trends via the interactive dashboard on [Singapore's Total Demand](#).
- Check out the infographic on [Production and Generation of Income Accounts & Government Consumption Expenditure by Individual and Collective Consumption](#).
- For more information, visit the [SingStat Website](#) to view and download related publications.

