
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 or 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.

*With At Least One
Employed Child*

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.

*With All Non-Employed
Children*

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:

*With Spouse in
Household*

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.

*Without Spouse in
Household*

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.

One-Person Household

This refers to a resident in a one-person household, with or without other occupants in the same dwelling unit.

*Living with Only
Domestic Worker(s) in
Household*

This refers to a resident living with no other persons in the same household except domestic worker(s).