



SINGAPORE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

PRESS RELEASE

CENSUS OF POPULATION 2010

STATISTICAL RELEASE 1 ON DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS, EDUCATION, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION

1 The Census of Population 2010 “Statistical Release 1 - Demographic Characteristics, Education, Language and Religion” released by the Singapore Department of Statistics showed that between 2000 and 2010, the proportion of singles among younger age groups had risen and there were fewer children after marriage. The education profile of the resident population improved significantly between 2000 and 2010. Literacy in two or more languages rose and the usage of English as home language became more prevalent.

Marital Status

2 The proportion of singles increased between 2000 and 2010, with the increase more prominent for the younger age groups. Among Singapore citizens aged 30-34 years, the proportion of singles rose significantly from 33 per cent to 43 per cent for the males, and from 22 per cent to 31 per cent for the females.

3 Singlehood was most prevalent among citizen males with below secondary qualifications and graduate citizen females. At age 40-44 years, 24 per cent of citizen males with below secondary qualifications were single in 2010, compared to 13 per cent of university graduates. For citizen females, 23 per cent of graduates aged 40-44 years were single in 2010, compared to 11 per cent among females with below secondary qualifications.

Number of Children Born

4 There was a continuing delay in family formation, as reflected in the increase in the proportion who were childless. The proportion rose from 14 per cent in 2000 to 20 per cent in 2010 among resident ever-married females aged 30-39 years, and from 6.4 per cent to 9.3 per cent for those aged 40-49 years.

5 Families with only one child showed an increasing trend. Among resident ever-married females aged 40-49 years who were likely to have completed child-bearing, the proportion with one child increased from 15 per cent in 2000 to 19 per cent in 2010. Nonetheless, families with two children continued to be the norm. The proportion of resident ever-married females aged 40-49 years who had given birth to two children was 42 per cent in 2010, unchanged from 2000.

6 With more remaining childless or having one child, the average number of children born to resident ever-married females aged 40-49 years declined from 2.21 in 2000 to 2.02 in 2010.

7 Higher educated females had fewer children than lower educated females on average. University graduates had the fewest children by the end of their child-bearing years, with an average of 1.74 children among resident ever-married graduates aged 40-49 years in 2010. In contrast, resident ever-married females with below secondary qualification had an average of 2.21 children by the age of 40-49 years.

Education Profile

8 The education profile of the resident population improved significantly between 2000 and 2010. Some 49 per cent of the non-student residents aged 15 years and over in 2010 had at least post-secondary qualifications, up from 33 per cent in 2000. The share of university graduates also increased significantly from 12 per cent in 2000 to 23 per cent in 2010.

9 Majority of the younger resident population had attained at least post-secondary qualifications. In 2010, about 8 in 10 residents aged 25-34 years had at least post-secondary qualifications. The proportion of university graduates among residents aged 25-34 years rose from 24 per cent in 2000 to 47 per cent in 2010.

Literacy

10 Literacy had improved, in tandem with the improvement in education profile of the resident population. In 2010, 96 per cent of residents aged 15 years and over were literate, up from 93 per cent in 2000.

11 Among literate residents aged 15 years and over, 80 per cent were literate in English in 2010, up from 71 per cent in 2000. Literacy in two or more languages also rose from 56 per cent in 2000 to 71 per cent in 2010.

Use of English as Home Language

12 Concurrent with the rise in the level of English literacy, the usage of English as home language became more prevalent, especially among the younger age groups. Among Singapore residents aged 5-14 years, English was the home language for 52 per cent of the Chinese and 50 per cent of the Indians. English was also the home language for 26 per cent of Malays aged 5-14 years, up from 9.4 per cent in 2000.

Religion

13 Buddhists and Taoists accounted for 33 per cent and 11 per cent of the resident population aged 15 years and over in 2010 respectively, as compared to 43 per cent and 8.5 per cent in 2000. The proportion of Christians increased from 15 per cent in 2000 to 18 per cent in 2010. The proportions of Muslims and Hindus

were relatively stable at 15 per cent and 5.1 per cent respectively in 2010. Persons without religious affiliation constituted 17 per cent of the resident population aged 15 years and above in 2010, up from 15 per cent in 2000.

14 The Chinese experienced a bigger shift in religious affiliations than the Malays and Indians. In 2010, 57 per cent of the Chinese identified themselves as Buddhists or Taoists, down from 64 per cent in 2000. Among the Chinese, there was a corresponding increase in the proportion of Christians (from 17 per cent to 20 per cent) and persons with no religion (from 19 per cent to 22 per cent).

15 Among the Indians, Hindus comprised 59 per cent in 2010, up from 55 per cent in 2000. Muslims remained the second largest group among Indians at 22 per cent in 2010, declining from 26 per cent in 2000. The proportion of Christians among Indians increased slightly from 12 per cent to 13 per cent. About 99 per cent of Malays in 2010 were Muslims, similar to the proportion reported in 2000.

About the Release

16 The Census of Population 2010 “Statistical Release 1 - Demographic Characteristics, Education, Language and Religion” is the first of a series of statistical publications on detailed census results. This release provides the broad trends and changes relating to marriage and fertility, education, literacy, home language and religion of the resident population between 2000 and 2010. The report includes detailed statistical tables to enable more comprehensive study by users as well as a glossary of census concepts and definitions.

17 The report “Statistical Release 1 - Demographic Characteristics, Education, Language and Religion” is available for download from the Department of Statistics’ website at www.singstat.gov.sg.

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