

Executive Summary

Singapore's total population grew by around 1.1 per cent a year between 2010 and 2020. The citizen population increased from 3.23 million to 3.52 million over this period, while the permanent resident population remained stable at around 0.5 million. Ethnic composition of the resident population¹ remained stable, with 74.3 per cent Chinese, 13.5 per cent Malays and 9.0 per cent Indians in 2020.

Marital Status

The proportion of singles rose across age groups, with the increase being the most prominent for residents aged 25-34 years. Between 2010 and 2020, the proportion of singles among residents aged 25-29 years rose from 74.6 per cent to 81.6 per cent for males, and from 54.0 per cent to 69.0 per cent for females. Similarly, the proportion of singles among those aged 30-34 years rose from 37.1 per cent to 41.9 per cent for males and from 25.1 per cent to 32.8 per cent for females over the same period.

Number of Children Born

Females generally had fewer children compared to a decade ago. The average number of children born to resident ever-married females aged 40-49 years decreased from 2.02 per female in 2010 to 1.76 per female in 2020.

Higher educated females had fewer children on average than those with lower educational qualifications. Among resident ever-married females aged 40-49 years, university graduates had an average of 1.66 children in 2020, lower than the average of 1.94 children among those with secondary qualification.

Educational Attainment

The education profile of the resident population improved between 2010 and 2020. Among residents aged 25 years and over in 2020, 58.3 per cent attained post-secondary or higher qualifications, up from 46.5 per cent in 2010. The Chinese, Malay and Indian communities all saw improvements in their educational attainment.

Females have made more significant progress in education. Among residents aged 55 years and over in 2020, the proportion with post-secondary or higher qualifications was 34.0 per cent for males and 22.8 per cent for females, a 11.2 percentage-points difference. This gap narrowed to a 2.4 percentage-points difference among those aged 35-44 years, with the proportion at 84.2 per cent for males and 81.8 per cent for females. Among younger residents aged 25-34 years, the proportion for

¹ The resident population comprises citizens and permanent residents.

females (90.2 per cent) marginally exceeded that for their male counterparts (90.0 per cent).

Literacy

Literacy rate remained high at 97.1 per cent in 2020. Multi-language literacy also remained high at 90.3 per cent among literate residents aged 15-24 years.

Language Spoken at Home

English was the language most frequently spoken at home for 48.3 per cent of residents aged 5 years and over in 2020, up from 32.3 per cent in 2010. Among the residents who spoke English most frequently at home, over 80 per cent also spoke a vernacular language at home.²

Religion

Singapore continued to be religiously diverse. Among residents aged 15 years and over in 2020, 31.1 per cent identified themselves as Buddhists, 8.8 per cent as Taoists, 18.9 per cent as Christians, 15.6 per cent as Muslims and 5.0 per cent as Hindus. Those with no religious affiliation made up 20.0 per cent in 2020, up from 17.0 per cent in 2010.

² Data on the language second most frequently spoken at home was first collected in 2020.