



POPULATION IN BRIEF 2013

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SUMMARY

1. Population in Brief is an annual publication by the National Population and Talent Division (NPTD) that provides relevant information on Singapore's population landscape. It contains a collation of key population indicators and demographic trends.

2. Our goal is to promote understanding of the factors that contribute to a sustainable population made up of a strong and cohesive society with a strong Singaporean core, living in a high quality environment, and supporting a dynamic and vibrant economy with good jobs and opportunities for Singaporeans.

3. Key highlights:

- Singapore's total population was 5.40 million as of June 2013. The total population grew by 1.6%. This is the slowest growth rate in the past nine years.
- The citizen population grew by 0.9% to 3.31 million with citizen births and immigration, but continues to age – with 11.7% aged 65 and above. The permanent resident (PR) population remained stable at 0.53 million.
- Growth in the non-resident population slowed, mainly due to slower foreign employment growth. Growth in foreign employment in the non-construction sectors slowed to about half compared to the year before, while the bulk of foreign employment growth was from the construction sector to support key infrastructure projects such as housing and transport.
- More Singaporeans are getting married, and our birth rates have improved. Our resident Total Fertility Rate (TFR) increased from 1.20 in 2011 to 1.29 in 2012, with improvements seen across all ethnic groups.
- The ethnic profile of the citizen population remains stable.

KEY INDICATORS

OVERALL POPULATION	2012	2013
Citizen population	3,285.1	3,313.5
PR population	533.1	531.2
Resident population	3,818.2	3,844.8
Non-resident population	1,494.2	1,554.4
Total population	5,312.4	5,399.2
AGE PROFILE OF CITIZENS	2012	2013
Citizen old-age support ratio ¹	5.9	5.5
Citizen median age	39.6	40.0
% Aged 65 and above	11.1%	11.7%
MARRIAGE & PARENTHOOD	2011	2012
Number of marriages involving at least one citizen	22,712	23,192
Resident total fertility rate ²	1.20	1.29
Citizen births	30,946	33,238

Note: All data as of June of each year, except for Marriage & Parenthood which is as of December of each year.

Source: Department of Statistics

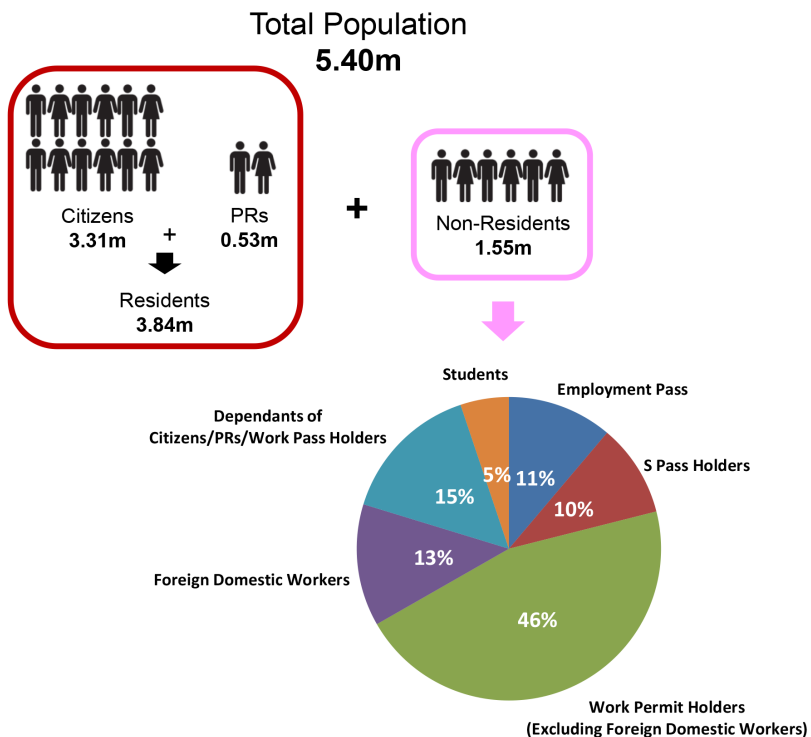
¹ The old-age support ratio refers to the number of persons aged 20-64 years per person aged 65 years and over.

² Total fertility rate refers to the average number of children who would be born per female, if all females live through their childbearing years of 15-49 and bear children according to a given set of age-specific fertility rates.

OVERALL POPULATION

1. There were 3.31 million Singapore citizens as of end June 2013. Together with 0.53 million permanent residents (PRs), there were 3.84 million residents. Non-residents numbered 1.55 million, made up of individuals holding work passes, dependants, and international students. Singapore's total population was 5.40 million.

Diagram 1: Total population, as of June 2013³



Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding.

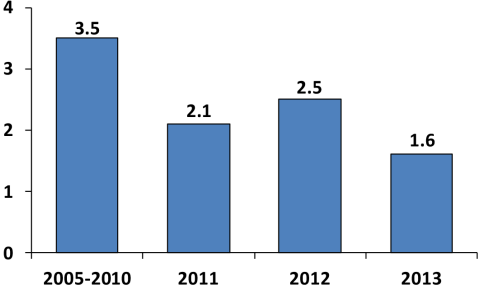
Source: Department of Statistics, Ministry of Manpower

³ The figures are based on stock numbers as of end June 2013. Work Permit Holders are mostly in occupations which face difficulties in hiring Singaporeans (e.g. construction workers). S Pass holders work in various industries such as retail, manufacturing (e.g. electronics), and healthcare (e.g. nurses and allied healthcare workers), as well as in social and voluntary welfare sectors as care-givers for the elderly. Employment Pass Holders are foreign professionals working in managerial, executive or specialised jobs.

2. Singapore’s total population grew by 1.6% last year. This is the slowest growth rate in the last nine years (Chart 1). The last time population growth rate fell below 1.6% was in 2004 (1.3%).

Slowest Population Growth in Last Nine Years

Chart 1: Total population growth per year (%)

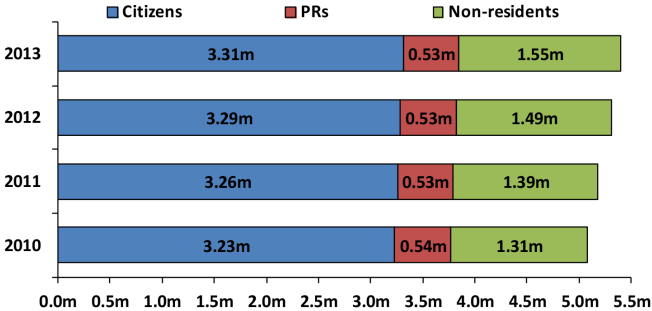


Source: Department of Statistics

3. The citizen population grew by 0.9% to 3.31 million last year, through citizen births and immigration. The PR population remained stable at 0.53 million (Chart 2).

Growth in Citizen Population; Stable PR Population

Chart 2: Total population by residency status, as of June

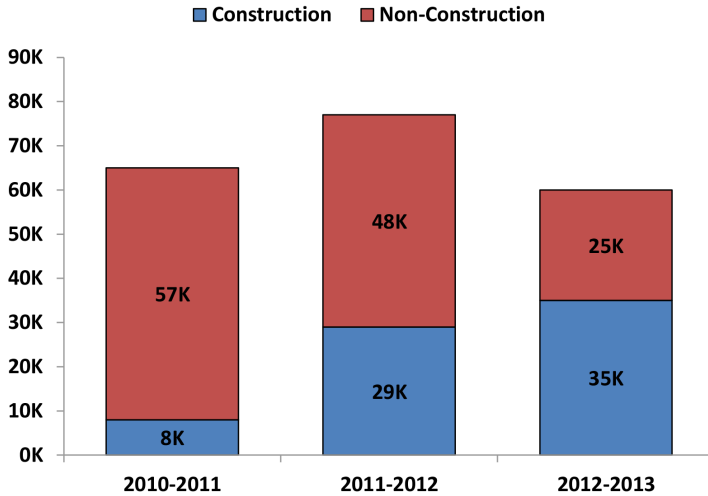


Source: Department of Statistics

4. Growth in the non-resident population slowed. There was slower growth in foreign employment due to tightened foreign manpower policies and weaker economic conditions. Growth in foreign employment (excluding foreign domestic workers) in the non-construction sectors halved to 3.5%, compared to 7.1% growth the year before. Foreign employment growth was mainly driven

by the construction sector, to support the major ongoing infrastructure developments in housing and transport ([Chart 3](#)).

**Overall Foreign Employment Growth Slowed;
Growth mainly in Construction Sector**
Chart 3: Foreign employment growth by sector⁴, as of June



Source: Ministry of Manpower

⁴ The figures refer to foreigners employed at any time in the month, in line with internationally accepted statistical definition of employment. Foreign domestic workers are excluded in the figures.

CITIZEN POPULATION

5. With increasing life expectancy and declining fertility rates, our citizen population continues to age. There are more citizens in the older age groups and fewer in the younger age groups today (Chart 4a). The proportion of citizens aged 65 years⁵ and above increased from 7.8% in 2002 to 11.7% in 2013. The median age of the citizen population also rose from 35.3 years in 2002 to 40.0 years in 2013 (Chart 4b).

A More Aged Citizen Population

Chart 4a: Age pyramid of citizen population, as of June

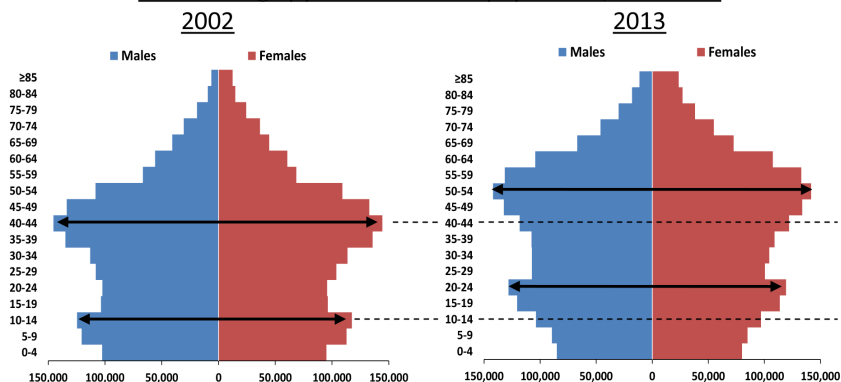
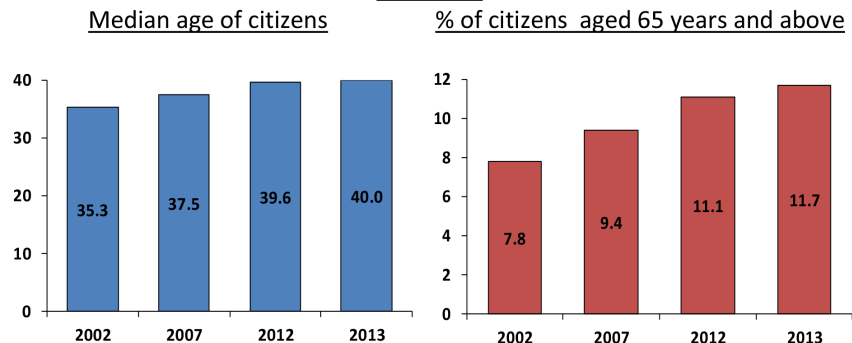


Chart 4b: Median age (years) and proportion of citizens aged 65 years and above (%)



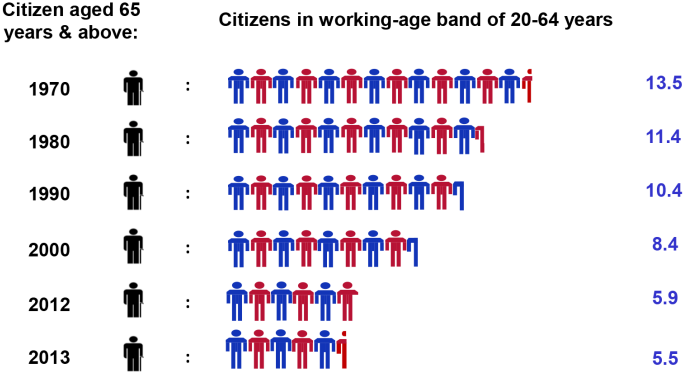
Source: Department of Statistics

⁵ The benchmark of 65 years is used to align with international statistical norms.

6. At the same time, the citizen old-age support ratio⁶ is decreasing rapidly. Currently, for each citizen aged 65 years and above, there are 5.5 citizens in the working-age band of 20-64 years (Chart 5). This is a sharp decline from 8.4 in 2000.

Fewer Working-Age Adults to Each Citizen Above Age 65

Chart 5: Citizen old-age support ratio, 1970-2013

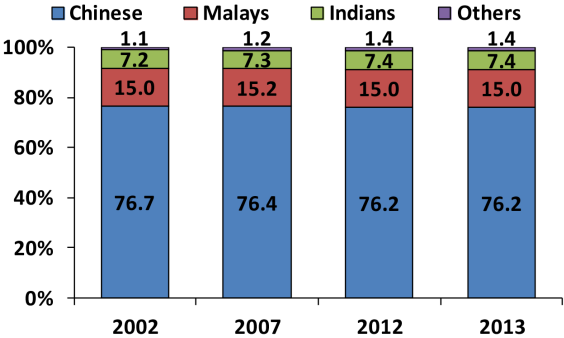


Source: Department of Statistics

7. The ethnic mix of our citizen population remains stable (Chart 6). We remain committed to maintaining this ethnic balance in our citizen population.

Stable Ethnic Mix for Our Citizen Population

Chart 6: Ethnic profile of citizen population (%)



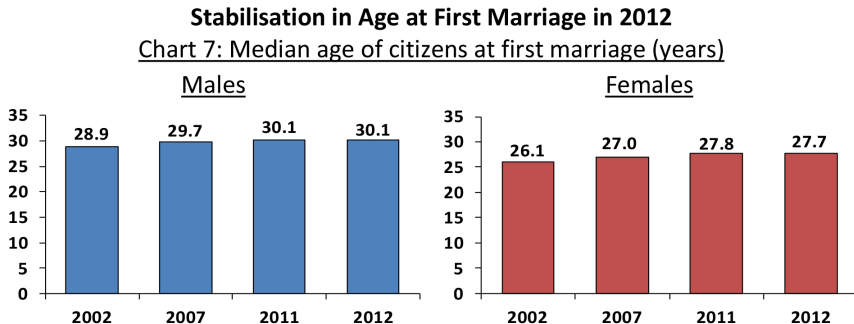
Source: Department of Statistics

⁶ The old-age support ratio is generally computed as the ratio of persons aged 15-64 years to persons aged 65 years and over, following international practice and United Nations' recommendations. However, with more persons aged 15-19 years remaining in school, this publication computes the old-age support ratio as the ratio of persons aged 20-64 years to persons aged 65 years and over.

MARRIAGE & PARENTHOOD

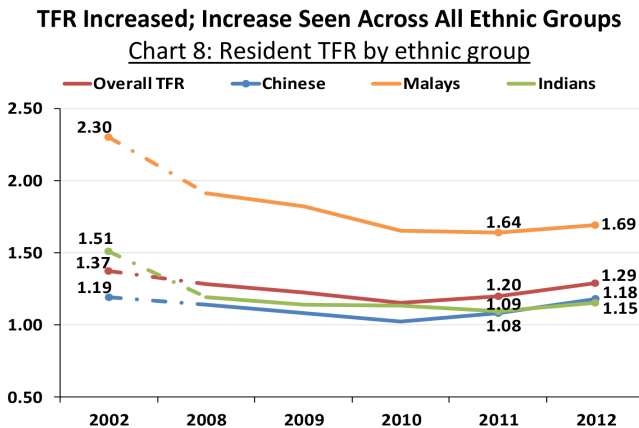
More Marriages and Higher Birth Rates

8. More Singaporeans are getting married. The number of marriages involving at least one citizen increased to 23,192 in 2012, from 22,712 in 2011. The median age at first marriage has remained stable for both genders from 2011 to 2012 ([Chart 7](#)).



Source: Department of Statistics

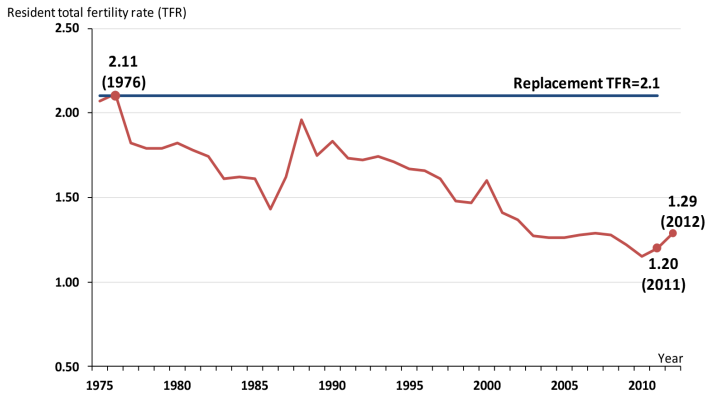
9. Our overall Total Fertility Rate (TFR) increased from 1.20 in 2011 to 1.29 in 2012. The improvement in TFR was seen across all ethnic groups, with Chinese experiencing the largest increase. The TFR for Malays continued to be the highest among the major ethnic groups ([Chart 8](#)).



Source: Department of Statistics

10. Nevertheless, the overall TFR has remained below the replacement level of 2.1 for more than three decades (Chart 9). We need to continue our efforts to provide a supportive environment for Singaporeans to achieve their aspirations of getting married and having children.

TFR Below Replacement Level
Chart 9: Resident TFR, 1975-2012



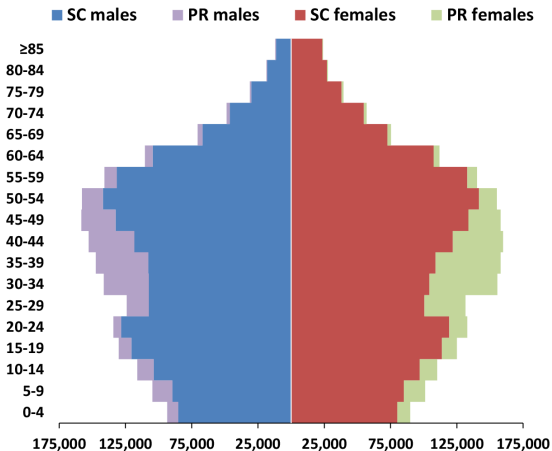
Source: Department of Statistics

IMMIGRATION

11. Immigration helps to balance the shrinking and ageing of our citizen population. Most of our PRs are in the prime working ages of 25-49 years (Chart 10).

Immigration Helps To Balance the Shrinking and Ageing of Our Citizen Population

Chart 10: Age pyramid of resident population, as of June 2013



Source: Department of Statistics

12. Over the last five years, we have granted about 20,000 new citizens each year (Chart 11). We plan to continue this calibrated rate of immigration of between 15,000 and 25,000 new citizens each year to keep our citizen population from shrinking. New citizens are drawn from the pool of existing PRs.⁷

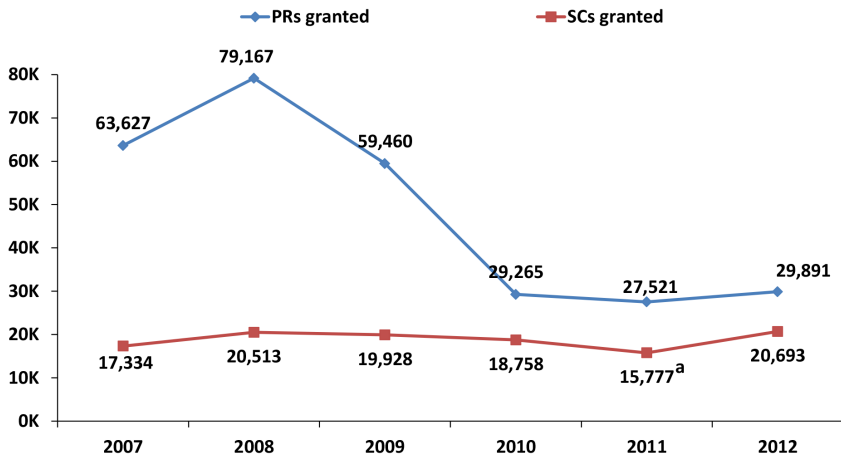
13. Permanent residence is an intermediate step through which suitable foreigners and spouses take up citizenship in Singapore. Since the tightening of the immigration framework in late 2009, the number of new PRs has decreased from an average of 58,000 a year from 2004 to 2008, to about 30,000 new PRs a year in the last three years. We will grant about 30,000 PRs each year, to

⁷ Except for the overseas-born children of SC parents as well as some minors sponsored by successful SC applicants.

keep the PR population stable at between 0.5 and 0.6 million and to ensure a pool of suitable candidates for citizenship.

Number of SCs and PRs Granted Stable in Last 3 Years

Chart 11: Number of SCs and PRs granted, 2007-2012



^a The introduction of the compulsory Singapore Citizenship Journey resulted in fewer SCs being granted in 2011. From February 2011, all applicants aged between 16 and 60 have to undergo the Singapore Citizenship journey prior to being granted citizenship, lengthening the process of citizenship formalities with some spill-over from 2011 to 2012.

Source: Immigration & Checkpoints Authority

ANNEX

Detailed Statistical Tables

Table 1: Total population, as of June of each year ('000)

	2002	2007	2012	2013
Citizens	3,043.4	3,133.8	3,285.1	3,313.5
PRs	339.5	449.2	533.1	531.2
Residents	3,382.9	3,583.1	3,818.2	3,844.8
Non-residents	793.0	1,005.5	1,494.2	1,554.4
Total	4,176.0	4,588.6	5,312.4	5,399.2

Source: Department of Statistics

**Table 2: Old-age support ratio, as of June of each year
(persons aged 20-64 years per person aged 65 years & above)**

	2002	2007	2012	2013
Residents	8.7	7.7	6.7	6.4
Citizens	8.1	6.8	5.9	5.5

Source: Department of Statistics

Table 3: Median age, as of June of each year (years)

	2002	2007	2012	2013
Residents	34.7	36.4	38.4	38.9
Citizens	35.3	37.5	39.6	40.0

Source: Department of Statistics

Table 4: Singapore Citizens by Age Group, Ethnic Group and Sex, June 2013

Age Group (Years)	Total		Chinese		Malays		Indians		Others		
	Persons	Females	Persons	Females	Persons	Females	Persons	Females	Persons	Females	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Total	3,313.5	1,650.6	1,663.0	1,253.4	1,271.5	246.7	245.2	124.1	121.1	46.3	23.7
0 - 4	165.2	85.1	80.1	60.6	56.5	14.8	12.8	6.5	6.3	5.0	2.5
5 - 9	174.5	89.5	85.0	62.6	59.2	16.1	15.2	7.7	7.5	4.6	2.3
10 - 14	200.7	103.7	97.0	72.2	67.5	18.9	17.4	8.9	8.6	4.1	2.0
15 - 19	234.3	120.5	113.7	85.5	80.4	22.0	19.2	9.7	9.5	3.7	1.9
20 - 24	247.4	128.2	119.3	91.3	84.2	23.5	20.1	10.2	9.9	3.4	1.8
25 - 29	207.9	107.4	100.5	77.0	71.2	19.6	17.1	8.7	8.4	2.7	1.4
30 - 34	211.7	107.4	104.3	81.7	79.4	15.7	15.7	7.9	7.8	2.6	1.2
35 - 39	216.7	107.7	109.0	84.9	86.8	13.3	15.2	7.8	7.4	2.7	1.3
40 - 44	240.3	118.3	122.0	91.7	96.1	15.6	18.1	9.6	8.5	3.1	1.4
45 - 49	266.2	132.4	133.8	99.6	101.8	20.5	21.0	11.0	10.0	3.1	1.4
50 - 54	283.7	142.0	141.7	108.9	109.2	20.4	21.5	11.0	10.4	3.0	1.4
55 - 59	264.4	131.5	132.9	105.3	106.5	16.3	17.6	8.8	8.8	2.5	1.2
60 - 64	211.9	104.4	107.5	86.6	88.5	11.3	13.2	6.4	6.8	1.9	1.0
65 - 69	139.6	66.9	72.6	56.5	61.2	6.7	7.8	3.7	4.1	1.2	0.6
70 - 74	101.1	46.2	54.9	40.1	47.1	4.5	5.0	2.1	2.9	0.8	0.4
75 - 79	68.1	30.0	38.1	25.1	31.7	3.8	3.8	1.6	2.2	0.7	0.3
80 - 84	44.9	18.0	27.0	14.7	23.0	2.3	2.7	1.4	1.3	0.6	0.3
85 & Over	35.0	11.4	23.6	9.0	21.1	1.4	1.8	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.2

Source: Department of Statistics

Table 5: Proportion of singles among citizen males / females by age group (%)

	2012
Proportion of singles among citizen males by age group (%)	
20-24 years	98.5
25-29 years	82.3
30-34 years	45.6
35-39 years	24.0
40-44 years	16.0
45-49 years	13.6
Proportion of singles among citizen females by age group (%)	
20-24 years	95.0
25-29 years	67.6
30-34 years	32.3
35-39 years	20.3
40-44 years	15.4
45-49 years	13.6

Source: Department of Statistics

Note: Singlehood rates have generally increased over the years, particularly among citizens at the younger age cohorts. For example, the proportion of singles among citizens aged 25-29 years increased from 70.5% in 2002 to 82.3% in 2012 for males, and 50.3% in 2002 to 67.6% in 2012 for females.

Table 6: Proportion of singles among citizens in selected age groups by gender and highest qualification attained, as of June of each year (%)

Age group (years) / Highest qualification attained	2002		2007		2012	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Aged 30-34	35.5	23.0	40.5	28.4	45.6	32.3
Below secondary	43.9	17.6	49.0	21.2	46.8	20.4
Secondary	33.5	20.0	38.9	22.4	44.3	25.9
Post-secondary (Non-Tertiary)	33.1	23.8	39.3	29.7	43.3	27.0
Diploma & Professional Qualification	31.7	24.2	40.5	29.6	45.7	30.6
University	34.7	30.0	38.2	33.1	45.9	37.2
Aged 35-39	20.6	15.6	22.7	18.4	24.0	20.3
Below secondary	26.4	10.7	33.4	14.5	30.6	17.7
Secondary	18.2	14.0	22.0	14.0	25.8	15.4
Post-secondary (Non-Tertiary)	20.0	20.0	21.1	19.3	25.9	19.7
Diploma & Professional Qualification	15.5	20.7	19.7	21.5	22.5	19.3
University	16.8	27.2	18.3	24.7	22.1	23.7
Aged 40-44	16.0	15.1	17.0	13.9	16.0	15.4
Below secondary	21.9	10.4	22.6	10.7	28.6	11.0
Secondary	12.9	16.0	16.5	12.0	14.9	11.4
Post-secondary (Non-Tertiary)	13.5	18.1	14.3	15.6	13.7	15.3
Diploma & Professional Qualification	9.1	25.1	11.4	18.6	14.4	18.2
University	10.0	26.1	11.5	22.5	12.1	20.7
Aged 45-49	12.2	12.9	13.4	13.5	13.6	13.6
Below secondary	15.8	8.2	18.3	9.4	18.9	9.9
Secondary	9.6	15.9	10.7	13.2	13.4	12.8
Post-secondary (Non-Tertiary)	10.6	19.5	12.3	17.9	13.0	13.3
Diploma & Professional Qualification	6.6	28.7	6.3	21.1	10.1	17.7
University	6.0	24.9	8.1	25.7	8.8	20.1

Source: Department of Statistics

Note: Particularly in the 35-39 age group, singlehood rates were the highest among the lower-educated citizen males and higher-educated citizen females.

Table 7: Number of marriages by residency status of grooms and brides

Grooms	Brides	2002	2007	2012
Total number of marriages		23,198	23,966	27,936
Citizen	Citizen	13,851	12,689	13,929
Citizen	PR	1,094	1,202	1,428
Citizen	Non-resident	3,988	4,998	5,599
PR	Citizen	783	716	718
Non-resident	Citizen	941	1,170	1,518
PR	PR	589	766	785
PR	Non-resident	830	1,014	1,067
Non-resident	PR	413	533	614
Non-resident	Non-resident	709	878	2,278

Source: Department of Statistics

Note: The number of citizen marriages increased from 22,712 in 2011 to 23,192 in 2012. Marriages between citizens and non-citizens made up 39.9% of such marriages in 2012, with those between citizen grooms and non-citizen brides representing the majority (75.9%).

**Table 8: General marriage rates
(per 1,000 unmarried males / females aged 15-44 years)**

		2002	2007	2011	2012
Residents	Males	47.6	43.8	43.7	44.1
	Females	47.9	42.6	41.4	41.6
Citizens	Males	46.1	41.7	42.1	42.4
	Females	46.7	39.9	39.4	39.8

Source: Department of Statistics

Note: Improvements in marriage rates were seen across both genders in 2012 compared to 2011. The marriage rate for citizen males increased from 42.1 per 1,000 unmarried males aged 15-44 years in 2011 to 42.4 in 2012. The corresponding figures for citizen females were 39.4 in 2011 to 39.8 in 2012. However, the marriage rates for citizens are lower today than they were a decade ago.

Table 9: Median age at first marriage (years)

		2002	2007	2012
Residents	Males	28.9	29.7	30.1
	Females	26.2	27.2	27.9
Citizens	Males	28.9	29.7	30.1
	Females	26.1	27.0	27.7
PRs	Males	28.8	30.0	30.7
	Females	26.9	28.3	29.3

Source: Department of Statistics

Note: The median age at first marriage has remained stable for both genders from 2011 to 2012. However, citizens today are getting married at a later age compared to a decade ago.

Table 10: Origins of non-citizen spouses married to citizens

	2002	2007	2012
Total	6,806	8,086	9,263
Non-citizen brides	5,082	6,200	7,027
Americas	25	27	17
Asia	4,963	6,005	6,863
Europe	37	38	65
Oceania	25	19	23
Others	32	111	59
Non-citizen grooms	1,724	1,886	2,236
Americas	107	112	112
Asia	1,241	1,232	1,544
Europe	241	300	361
Oceania	89	118	138
Others	46	124	81

*"Americas" consists of "United States of America" and "Canada".
"Oceania" consists of "Australia", "New Zealand" and "Papua New Guinea".*

Source: Department of Statistics

Note: More than 90% of the non-citizen brides came from Asia, while non-citizen grooms came from more diverse regions.

Table 11: Median age of mothers at first birth by residency status of mothers (years)

	2002	2007	2012
Residents	29.1	29.7	30.4
Citizens	29.0	29.4	30.1
PRs	29.5	30.4	31.0

Source: Immigration & Checkpoints Authority

Note: With later marriages, the median age of citizen mothers at first birth is also rising. The median age of citizen mothers who had their first birth in 2012 was 30.1 years, compared to 29.0 years in 2002.

Table 12: Average number of children born to ever-married females aged 30-49 years by residency status of females

	2002		2007		2012	
	30-39	40-49	30-39	40-49	30-39	40-49
Residents	1.68	2.15	1.50	2.07	1.42	1.94
Citizens	1.74	2.17	1.57	2.12	1.48	1.99

Source: Department of Statistics

Note: Married couples are having fewer children, especially those in the younger age groups. The average number of children born to ever-married females aged 30-49 years declined over the last decade. The decline was more pronounced among the younger cohort aged 30-39 years as compared to those aged 40-49 years.

Table 13: Proportion of ever-married females aged 30-49 years who are childless by residency status of females (%)

	2002		2007		2012	
	30-39	40-49	30-39	40-49	30-39	40-49
Residents	15.9	6.4	19.7	7.7	22.0	10.0
Citizens	15.8	6.1	19.8	7.1	23.0	9.4

Source: Department of Statistics

Table 14: Number of births by birth order and residency status

Birth Order	2002	2007	2012
Total births	40,760	39,490	42,663
Resident births	38,555	37,074	38,641
First	16,514	17,005	18,569
Second	14,058	13,135	13,767
Third	5,714	4,878	4,568
Fourth	1,608	1,490	1,214
Fifth & over	661	566	523
Citizen births	35,337	32,361	33,238
First	15,078	14,700	15,764
Second	12,677	11,254	11,676
Third	5,362	4,439	4,136
Fourth	1,568	1,420	1,149
Fifth & over	652	548	513

Source: Department of Statistics

Table 15: Resident total fertility rate by race

	2002	2007	2012
Overall	1.37	1.29	1.29
Chinese	1.19	1.14	1.18
Malays	2.30	1.94	1.69
Indians	1.51	1.25	1.15

Source: Department of Statistics

Table 16: New residents granted in 2012

	New Permanent Residents	New Citizens
Total	29,891	20,693
<i>By age group (%)</i>		
Above 40 years	8.0	17.8
31-40	23.3	26.7
21-30 years	38.9	17.4
20 years and below	29.9	38.1
<i>By highest qualification attained among those aged 20 & over (%)</i>		
Post-Secondary	80.6	75.1
Secondary and below	19.4	24.9
<i>By region of origin (%)</i>		
Southeast Asian countries	51.2	55.5
Other Asian countries	38.4	38.5
Others	10.4	6.0

Source: Immigration & Checkpoints Authority

Note: New citizens are drawn from the pool of existing PRs, except for the overseas-born children of SC parents as well as some minors sponsored by successful SC applicants. The majority of our new SCs and PRs were aged 30 years and below, and this helps to improve the age-balance of our citizen population. Their educational profiles were wide-ranging, as they came through different schemes, including family-ties and economic schemes. Most of our new SCs and PRs came from Asia.

Table 17: Overseas Singaporean population size, as of June of each year

Year	Number of Overseas Singaporeans
2003	157,100
2004	157,800
2005	163,000
2006	168,200
2007	172,000
2008	181,900
2009	180,700
2010	184,400
2011	192,200
2012	200,000
2013	207,000

Source: Department of Statistics

List of Relevant Publications

<i>Singapore Department of Statistics</i>
Population Trends 2013
Census of Population 2010
Statistics on Marriages & Divorces 2012
Monthly Digest of Statistics
Singapore in Figures 2013
Yearbook of Statistics 2013
<i>Immigration & Checkpoints Authority</i>
Report on Registration of Births & Deaths 2012
Singapore Demographic Bulletin

For more information, you may visit the following websites:

National Population and Talent Division, Prime Minister's Office	:	www.nptd.gov.sg
Singapore Department of Statistics	:	www.singstat.gov.sg
Ministry of Home Affairs	:	www.mha.gov.sg
Immigration & Checkpoints Authority	:	www.ica.gov.sg



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