

POPULATION IN BRIEF : 2009

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KEY INDICATORS

2008

OVERALL POPULATION

Population profile¹ ('000)

Total population	4,839.4
Resident population	3,642.7
Citizen population	3,164.4
PR population	478.2
Non-resident population	1,196.7

Ageing population

Citizen old-age support ratio ²	7.5
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MARRIAGE & FERTILITY

Singlehood

Proportion of single citizen males for age group (%)

30-34 years	40.8
35-39 years	22.8
40-44 years	16.6
45-49 years	13.6

Proportion of single citizen females for age group (%)

30-34 years	29.4
35-39 years	18.3
40-44 years	14.1
45-49 years	12.8

2008

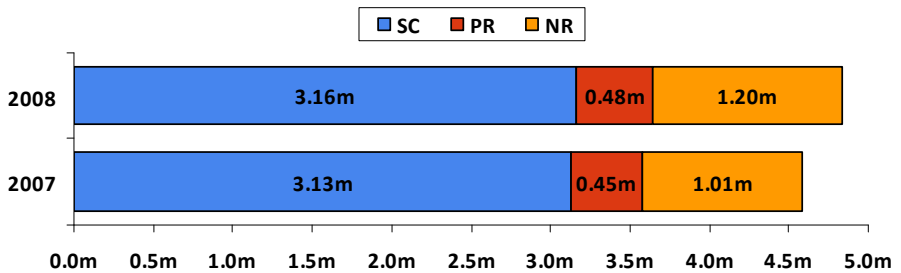
MARRIAGE & FERTILITY (CONTINUED)	
Marriage	
Number of marriages involving at least one citizen	21,042
General marriage rate among citizens (per 1,000 unmarried males / females)	
Males	42.1
Females	39.3
Median age of citizens at first marriage (years)	
Grooms	29.7
Brides	27.1
Fertility	
Median age of citizen mothers at first birth (years)	29.4
Average number of children born to ever-married citizen females aged 40-49 years	2.11
Proportion of ever-married citizen females aged 40-49 years who are childless (%)	7.7
Resident total fertility rate ³	1.28
Citizen births ⁴	32,423
IMMIGRATION	
Persons granted permanent residency	79,167
Persons granted Singapore citizenship	20,513
OVERSEAS SINGAPOREANS⁵	
Number of Overseas Singaporeans	180,400

OVERALL POPULATION

1. Population Size and Growth

1.1 Singapore's total population grew by 5% in 2008 over the previous year. Growth was recorded across citizens (+1%), permanent residents (+6%) and non-residents (+19%) (Chart 1). The growth in the non-resident population is largely due to increases in the foreign workforce alongside years of good economic growth, prior to the onset of the economic downturn in late 2008. Amid the current economic recession, we can expect the increase in the non-resident population to be moderated.

Chart 1: Total population, as of June 2008 (millions)



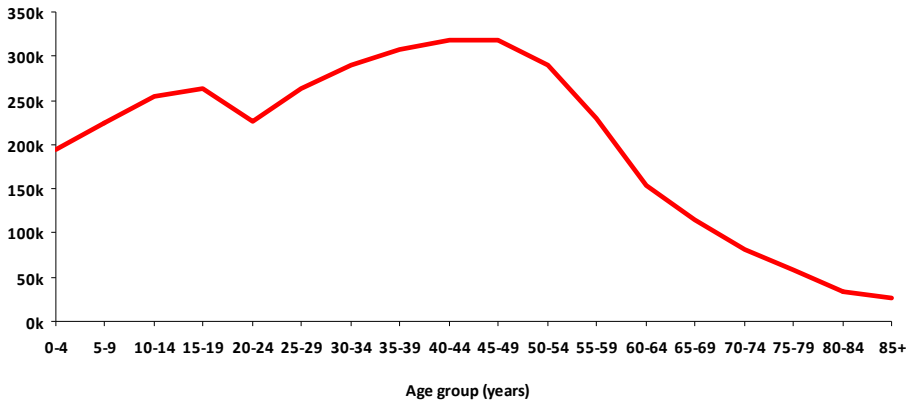
SC refers to Singapore citizens

PR refers to permanent residents

NR refers to non-residents

1.2 The growth in Singapore's population is largely due to the increase in the number of PRs and non-residents. Singapore continues to face significant population challenges, brought about by low fertility rates and an ageing population. Our total fertility rate, which has remained below replacement level since 1976, has resulted in a smaller resident population aged below 35 compared with the older generations (Chart 2).

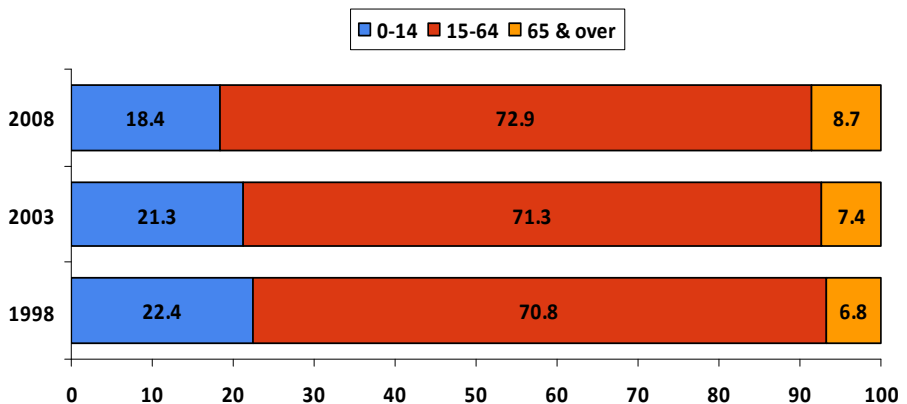
Chart 2: Resident population by age group, as of June 2008 ('000)



2. Ageing Population

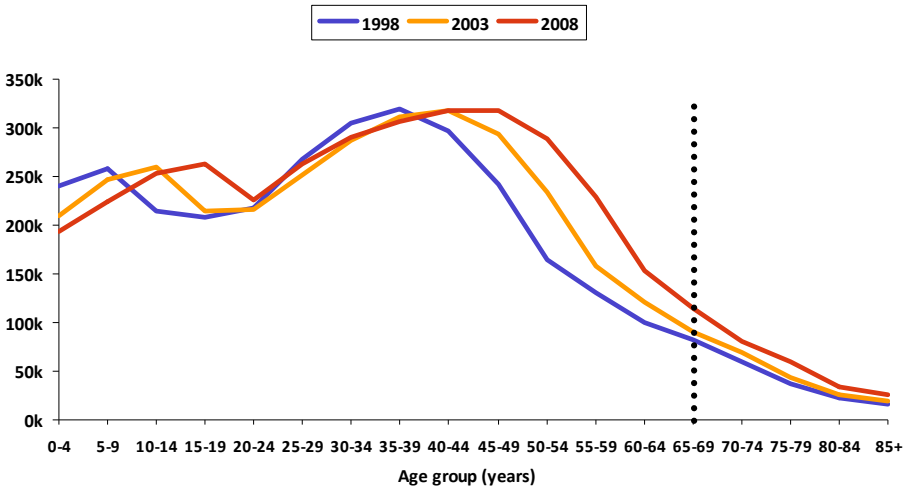
2.1 The proportion of residents aged 65 and above increased from 6.8% of the resident population in 1998 to 8.7% in 2008 (Chart 3). As such, the number of younger persons aged 15-64 for every resident aged 65 and above (i.e. the old-age support ratio) fell from 10.4 in 1998 to 8.4 in 2008.

Chart 3: Proportion of residents by selected age groups (%)



2.2 The low fertility rates over the past 30 years have resulted in a much smaller generation of young residents. This, coupled with the ageing of our baby boomers (i.e. those born between 1947 and 1964), has led to a rapidly ageing population profile (Chart 4). We will need to encourage more Singaporeans to get married and have children, facilitate the naturalisation and integration of suitable foreigners, as well as engage our Overseas Singaporeans, to ensure that Singapore will continue to have a viable population.

Chart 4: Momentum of ageing for the resident population ('000)



MARRIAGE & FERTILITY

3. Marriage and Singlehood

3.1 There is a growing trend of people not marrying or marrying at a later age, especially among the females. Between 1998 and 2008, the median age of citizens at first marriage increased from 28.3 to 29.7 years for males, and from 25.7 to 27.1 years for females (Chart 5). At the same time, the general marriage rate for citizen males decreased from 47.9 married males per 1,000 unmarried males in 1998 to 42.1 in 2008, while that for females decreased from 49.0 to 39.3 married females per 1,000 unmarried females over the same period (Chart 6).

Chart 5: Median age of citizens at first marriage (years)

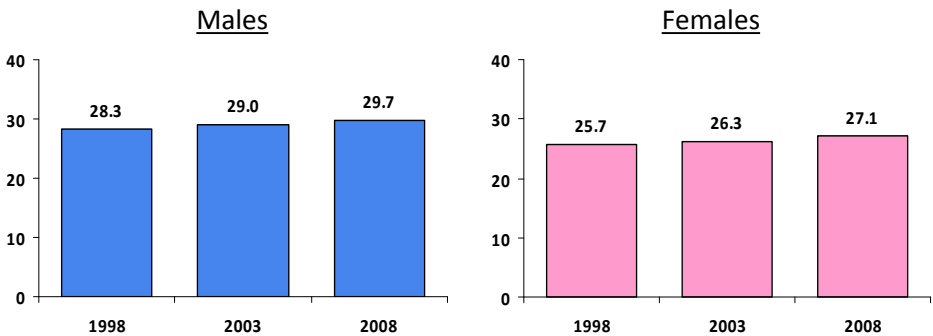
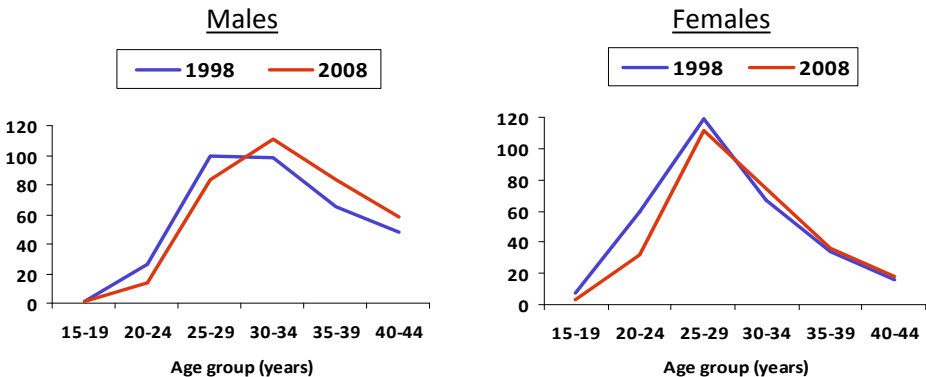


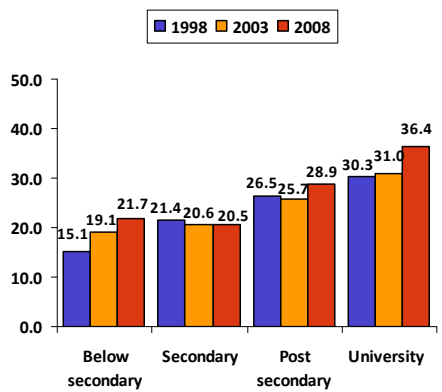
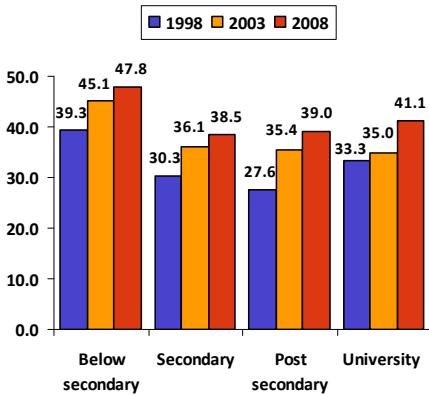
Chart 6: Age-specific marriage rate among citizens (per 1,000 unmarried citizen males / females)



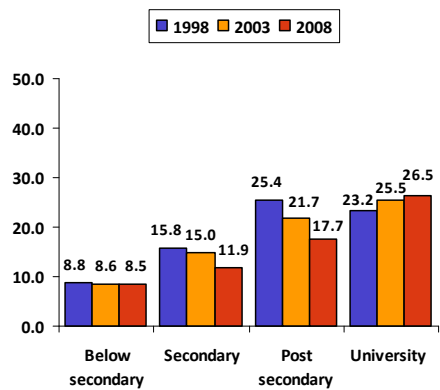
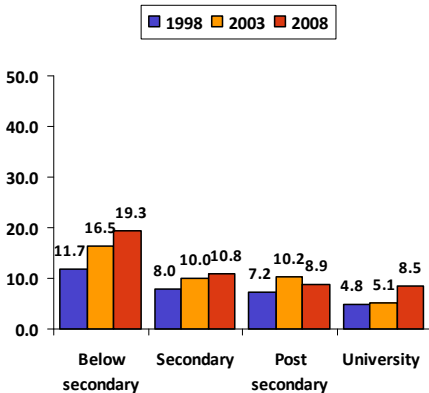
3.2 A higher proportion of citizens aged 30-34 were single in 2008 (40.8% for males and 29.4% for females) compared to 1998 (33.3% and 21.6%), as was the proportion of citizen singles aged 45-49 (13.6% for males and 12.8% for females in 2008 vs. 9.5% and 12.5% in 1998). Singlehood rates were the highest among males with below secondary education and among females with university qualifications (Chart 7).

Chart 7: Proportion of citizen singles by highest qualification attained as of June (%)
Males Females

Age group 30-34

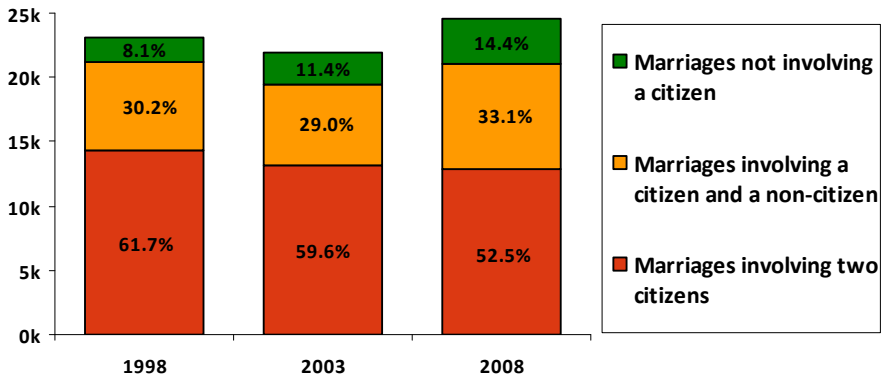


Age group 45-49



3.3 More citizens are marrying non-citizens, resulting in the share of marriages involving only citizens declining steadily between 1998 and 2008 (Chart 8). In 2008, marriages involving only citizens made up just over half (52.5%) of all marriages registered in Singapore.

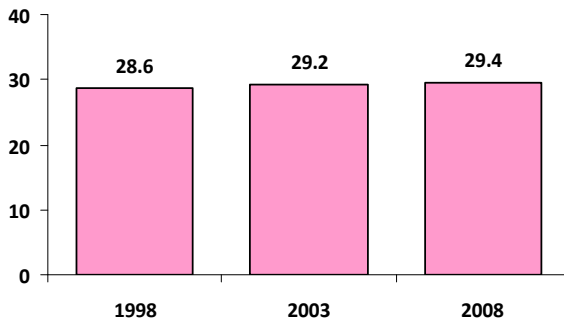
Chart 8: Number and proportion of marriages by residency status



4. Fertility

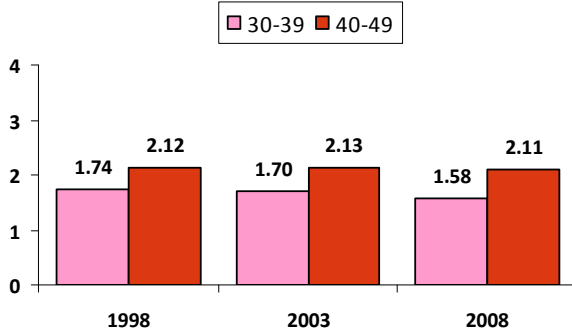
4.1 As Singaporeans get married later in life, they also start to have children later. The median age of citizen mothers at their first birth increased from 28.6 years in 1998 to 29.4 years in 2008.

Chart 9: Median age of citizen mothers at first birth (years)



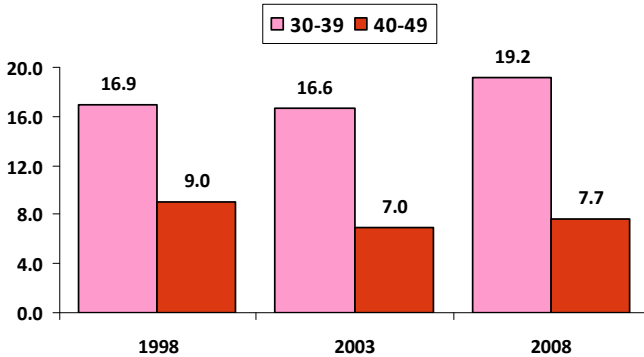
4.2 Singaporeans also tend to have fewer children. The average number of children born to ever-married females aged 40-49 remained relatively stable at slightly over 2.1 children in the past decade. However, among the younger cohorts aged 30-39, the decline was pronounced; they may not have more than two children by the time they reach 40-49 years old (Chart 10).

Chart 10: Average number of children born to ever-married citizen females aged 30-49 years



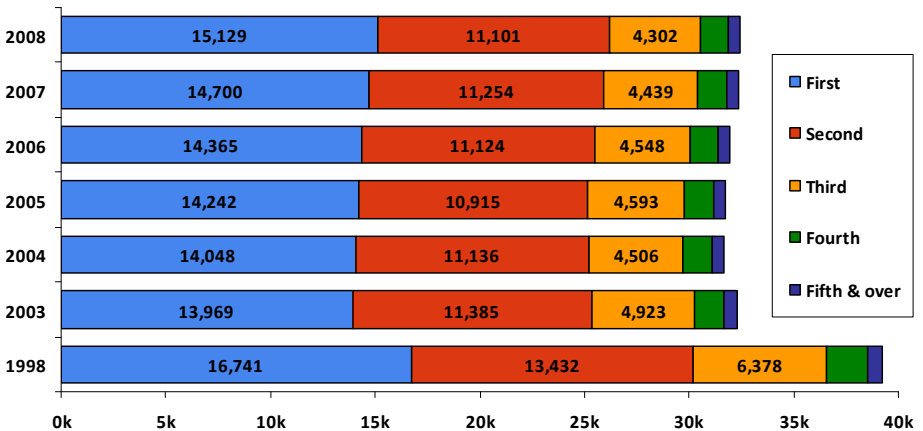
4.3 Fewer than one in 10 ever-married females aged 40-49 remained childless. Among the younger cohort aged 30-39, the trend suggests that more could remain childless by the time they reach 40-49 years old (Chart 11).

Chart 11: Proportion of ever-married citizen females aged 30-49 years who are childless (%)



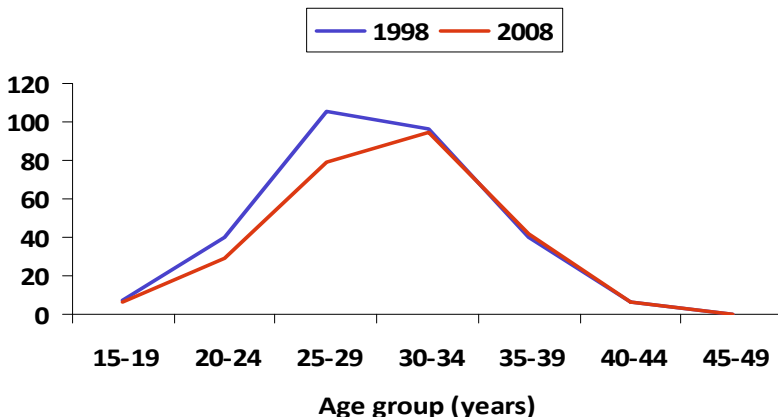
4.4 The marriage and parenthood (M&P) package introduced in 2004 recognised the need to encourage and support the birth of the first child with the extension of the Baby Bonus to the first child. It appears to have had a positive effect on the number of first-order births in recent years. In 2008, there were 15,129 first-order births, compared to 13,969 in 2003. However, this is still lower than the 16,741 first-order births in 1998 (Chart 12).

Chart 12: Number of citizen births by birth order ('000)



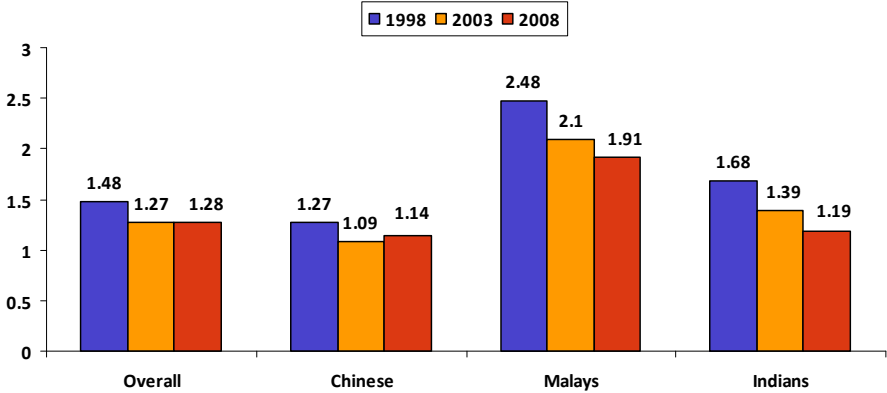
4.5 Overall, the fertility rates for the prime childbearing age group of 20-34 years declined between 1998 and 2008. The peak childbearing age group also increased from 25-29 to 30-34 years (Chart 13).

Chart 13: Resident age-specific fertility rates (per 1,000 females)

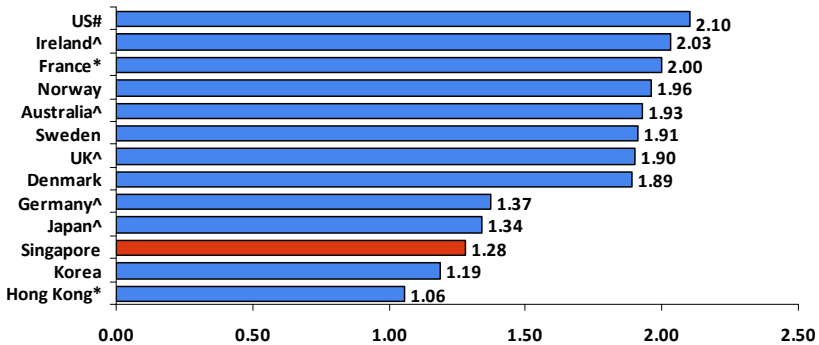


4.6 Singapore's total fertility rate (TFR) was 1.28 in 2008. Chinese (1.14) continued to have the lowest TFR, followed by Indians (1.19) and Malays (1.91). Our overall TFR is low compared to many developed countries (Chart 15). Even Japan, one of the fastest ageing societies in the world, has a higher TFR than Singapore.

Chart 14: Resident TFR by race (number of children per woman)



**Chart 15: International comparison of TFR, 2008
(number of children per woman)**



Source: DOS and national statistical websites of respective countries.

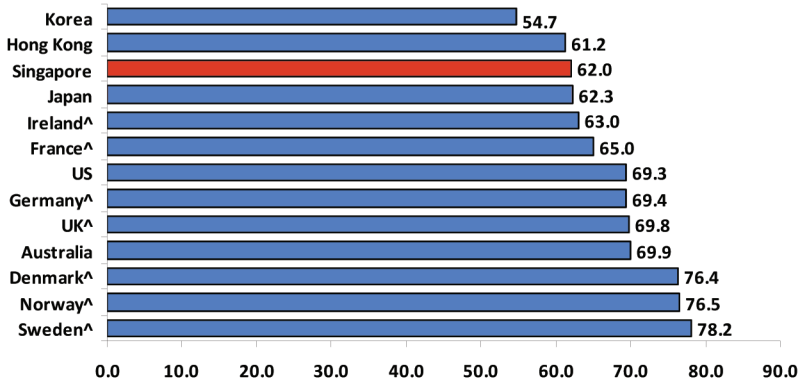
* Provisional

^ As of 2007

As of 2006

4.7 It is notable that countries with higher TFR could also have high female labour force participation rates (LFPR) (Chart 16).

Chart 16: International comparison of LFPR for females aged 15-64, 2008 (%)



Source: National labour and/or statistical websites of respective countries/ OECD.

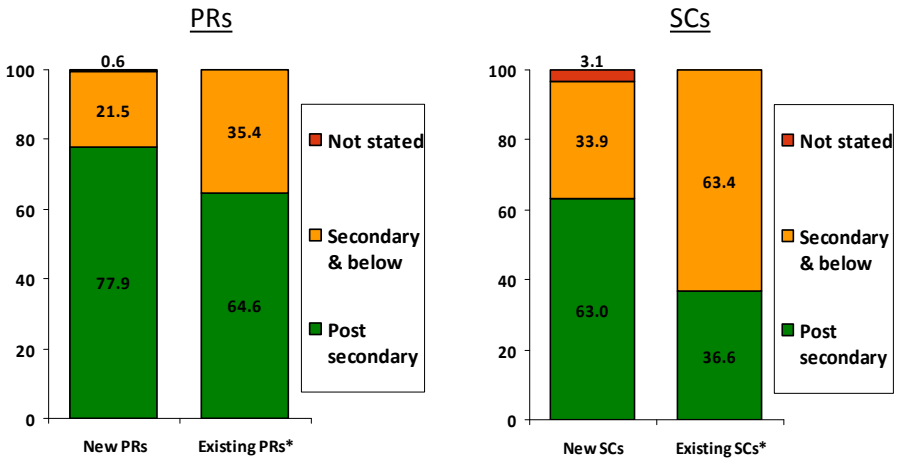
^ As of 2007

4.8 The M&P package was enhanced in August 2008 in order to provide a more pro-family environment for Singaporeans to have families, including enhancing support for first births, enhancing childcare options and providing greater work-life support. It will, however, take time before we can see results. The latest take-up rates of the package are in Annex B.

IMMIGRATION

5.1 In the years of good economic growth when we saw a healthy inflow of non-residents, an increasing number also chose to make Singapore their home. In 2008, there were 79,167 new PRs and 20,513 new citizens. In particular, more than half of these new residents aged 20 and above had post secondary education (Chart 17). This is a good sign reflective of Singapore’s ability to attract suitable foreigners to become part of us.

Chart 17: New residents by highest qualification attained⁶ for those aged 20 & over, 2005 & 2008 (%)



* Educational data of the existing population are only available for those aged 15 years and over for General Household Survey and Census years.

5.2 As we encourage immigration, it is crucial that we continue with our integration efforts to help our new residents adapt and integrate into our society. The National Integration Council is spearheading ground-up efforts to facilitate the integration of new immigrants in our midst.

OVERSEAS SINGAPOREANS

6.1 As of June 2008, there were 180,400 Singaporeans who were overseas for a cumulative period of six months or more. Based on administrative records in 2008, most Overseas Singaporeans (OS) are aged between 20 and 54 (63%). This is expected as most OS venture overseas to work or study.

6.2 Our OS are part of the Singaporean family. We need to engage them so that they can remain connected with Singapore. Key initiatives to engage OS include platforms such as the OS Portal (www.overseassingaporean.sg) and OS Clubs, as well as outreach events such as Singapore Day and the Distinguished Business Leaders Series. Through these platforms and events, we have reached out to more than 35,000 OS.

Detailed statistical tables of the charts above can be found in the Annexes.

ANNEX A

Detailed Statistical Tables

Table A-1: Total population, as of June ('000)

	1998	2003	2008
Total	3,927.2	4,114.8	4,839.4
Residents	3,180.0	3,366.9	3,642.7
Citizens	2,929.7	3,032.5	3,164.4
PRs	250.3	334.4	478.2
Non-residents	747.2	747.9	1,196.7

Refer to www.singstat.gov.sg for the time series on age-gender breakdown of the resident population.

**Table A-2: Old-age support ratio²
(persons aged 15-64 per elderly aged 65 & above)**

	1998	2003	2008
Residents	10.4	9.7	8.4
Citizens	9.9	8.8	7.5

Table A-3: Median age at first marriage (years)

		1998	2003	2008
Residents	Males	28.3	29.0	29.7
	Females	25.8	26.5	27.3
Citizens	Males	28.3	29.0	29.7
	Females	25.7	26.3	27.1
PRs	Males	28.3	29.0	29.8
	Females	26.7	27.3	28.2

Table A-4: General marriage rates (per 1,000 unmarried males / females)

		1998	2003	2008
Residents	Males	49.4	45.8	43.9
	Females	49.7	46.6	41.9
Citizens	Males	47.9	43.7	42.1
	Females	49.0	44.0	39.3

Table A-5: Number of marriages by residency status of grooms & brides

Grooms	Brides	1998	2003	2008
Total number of marriages		23,106	21,962	24,596
Citizen	Citizen	14,264	13,100	12,906
Citizen	PR	961	1,113	1,345
Citizen	Non-resident	4,143	3,647	5,015
PR	Citizen	906	679	714
PR	PR	378	616	842
PR	Non-resident	675	778	1,035
Non-resident	Citizen	959	919	1,062
Non-resident	PR	181	430	580
Non-resident	Non-resident	639	680	1,097

Table A-6: Origins of non-citizen spouses married to citizens

	1998	2003	2008
Total	6,969	6,358	8,136
Non-citizen brides	5,104	4,760	6,360
Americas	19	16	19
Asia	4,992	4,644	6,160
Europe	28	42	40
Oceania	31	29	27
Others	34	29	114
Non-citizen grooms	1,865	1,598	1,776
Americas	101	107	102
Asia	1,373	1,107	1,226
Europe	221	226	264
Oceania	103	97	84
Others	67	61	100

Americas consist of persons with "United States of America" and "Canada" nationalities. "Oceania" will consist of "Australia", "New Zealand" and "Papua New Guinea".

**Table A-7: Proportion of resident singles
by selected age group & highest qualification attained (%)**

Age group (years) / Highest qualification attained	1998		2003		2008	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Aged 30-34	30.9	19.4	33.1	20.1	34.6	23.3
Below secondary	37.4	13.4	42.3	13.8	43.0	15.3
Secondary	29.9	20.5	34.1	17.2	36.3	16.4
Post secondary	26.1	23.4	32.4	23.4	34.6	24.6
University	26.9	24.6	28.7	24.5	32.0	27.6
Aged 35-39	19.5	14.6	19.7	15.3	19.4	15.2
Below secondary	26.9	10.2	27.4	10.5	29.5	9.7
Secondary	17.3	15.2	19.8	14.5	21.2	12.9
Post secondary	14.5	19.7	16.3	19.9	18.6	17.1
University	11.0	23.7	14.1	20.2	15.4	18.7
Aged 40-44	13.7	13.1	15.4	14.0	14.7	12.5
Below secondary	17.8	8.6	22.1	9.9	20.9	9.0
Secondary	11.5	16.2	13.0	15.1	14.1	11.4
Post secondary	9.8	20.9	10.9	19.0	13.1	13.6
University	7.0	19.0	8.5	19.3	10.6	19.0
Aged 45-49	9.1	12.2	11.9	12.6	12.6	12.0
Below secondary	11.3	8.8	15.8	8.5	18.5	8.1
Secondary	7.8	15.5	9.7	14.8	10.5	11.6
Post secondary	6.8	23.1	9.7	20.6	8.1	16.4
University	4.6	19.7	4.6	20.6	8.0	20.5

**Table A-8: Proportion of citizen singles
by selected age group & highest qualification attained (%)**

Age group (years) / Highest qualification attained	1998		2003		2008	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Aged 30-34	33.3	21.6	37.2	24.4	40.8	29.4
Below secondary	39.3	15.1	45.1	19.1	47.8	21.7
Secondary	30.3	21.4	36.1	20.6	38.5	20.5
Post secondary	27.6	26.5	35.4	25.7	39.0	28.9
University	33.3	30.3	35.0	31.0	41.1	36.4
Aged 35-39	20.9	15.6	22.6	17.2	22.8	18.3
Below secondary	28.2	11.1	29.3	11.9	31.6	12.9
Secondary	17.9	15.6	21.0	15.4	22.8	14.5
Post secondary	14.3	21.7	18.4	21.9	21.4	19.4
University	13.9	27.0	18.2	26.8	19.4	24.6
Aged 40-44	14.3	13.7	16.9	15.0	16.6	14.1
Below secondary	18.4	8.7	23.5	10.5	22.0	10.1
Secondary	11.7	16.7	13.4	15.6	15.2	12.5
Post secondary	9.6	23.0	11.4	20.1	14.2	15.6
University	8.1	24.2	10.7	26.0	13.1	23.8
Aged 45-49	9.5	12.5	12.7	13.1	13.6	12.8
Below secondary	11.7	8.8	16.5	8.6	19.3	8.5
Secondary	8.0	15.8	10.0	15.0	10.8	11.9
Post secondary	7.2	25.4	10.2	21.7	8.9	17.7
University	4.8	23.2	5.1	25.5	8.5	26.5

Table A-9: Median age of mothers at first birth by residency status (years)

	1998	2003	2008
Residents	28.6	29.2	29.7
Citizens	28.6	29.2	29.4
PRs	28.5	29.5	30.3

Table A-10: Average number of children born to ever-married females aged 30-49 years by residency status

	1998		2003		2008	
	30-39	40-49	30-39	40-49	30-39	40-49
Residents	1.68	2.12	1.63	2.11	1.52	2.06
Citizens	1.74	2.12	1.70	2.13	1.58	2.11

Table A-11: Proportion of ever-married females aged 30-49 years who are childless by residency status (%)

	1998		2003		2008	
	30-39	40-49	30-39	40-49	30-39	40-49
Residents	17.7	9.1	17.2	7.3	19.3	8.2
Citizens	16.9	9.0	16.6	7.0	19.2	7.7

Table A-12: Number of births by birth order & residency status

Birth Order	1998	2003	2008
Total births	43,664	37,485	39,826
Resident births	41,636	35,474	37,277
First	17,945	15,465	17,675
Second	14,288	12,686	12,938
Third	6,688	5,260	4,708
Fourth	2,029	1,446	1,412
Fifth & over	686	617	544
Citizen births	39,214	32,294	32,423
First	16,741	13,969	15,129
Second	13,432	11,385	11,101
Third	6,378	4,923	4,302
Fourth	1,986	1,409	1,364
Fifth & over	677	608	527

Table A-13: Resident total fertility rate by race³

	1998	2003	2008
Overall	1.48	1.27	1.28
Chinese	1.27	1.09	1.14
Malays	2.48	2.10	1.91
Indians	1.68	1.39	1.19

Table A-14: New residents by highest qualification attained⁶, 2008

	New Permanent Residents	New Citizens
Total	79,167	20,513
By highest qualification attained among those aged 20 & over (%)		
Post secondary*	77.9	63.0
Secondary & below [^]	21.5	33.9
Not stated	0.6	3.1

* includes JC, diploma and degree holders

[^] includes trade certificates (e.g. ITE)

Table A-15: Overseas Singaporeans⁵ by age group & gender, as of June 2008

	Total	Males	Females
Total*	180,400	89,800	90,600
0-4	7,600	3,600	4,000
5-9	8,600	4,100	4,400
10-14	9,300	4,600	4,700
15-19	8,800	3,900	4,900
20-24	13,300	5,600	7,700
25-29	14,100	6,900	7,300
30-34	16,200	7,800	8,400
35-39	17,700	8,700	9,000
40-44	18,800	9,700	9,100
45-49	18,700	9,700	9,000
50-54	15,800	8,200	7,500
55-59	11,200	5,700	5,400
60-64	6,800	3,500	3,300
65-69	4,200	2,100	2,100
70-74	3,200	1,800	1,400
75-79	2,700	1,700	1,000
80-84	1,700	1,100	700
85+	1,900	1,000	800

**Numbers may not tally to total due to rounding.*

ANNEX B

Take-Up Rates of the M&P Package

	2007 ⁷	2008
CPF Housing Top-up Grant		
Number of applicants during period	27	12
Medisave Maternity Package		
Number of claimants during period	35,600	37,600
Medisave for Assisted Conception Procedures		
Number of claimants during period	1,400	1,800
Co-funding for Assisted Reproduction Technology Treatment		
Number of claimants during period (From 17 Aug 2008)	Not applicable	1,000
Parenthood Tax Rebate		
Number of claimants for Year of Assessment	58,500	64,100
Working Mother's Child Relief		
Number of claimants for Year of Assessment	147,400	156,500
Qualifying Child Relief/ Handicapped Child Relief		
Number of claimants for Year of Assessment	471,500	497,400
Grandparent Caregiver Relief		
Number of claimants for Year of Assessment	32,900	36,000
Baby Bonus Cash Gift⁸		
Number of children born in period who received Baby Bonus cash gift	32,400	31,400
Take-up rate for children born in period (%)	For 2001 cohort: 99.4	For 2002 cohort: 99.6

	2007 ⁷	2008
Baby Bonus Children Development Account (CDA)⁹		
Number of children born in period who opened CDA	15,300	18,900
Number of children born in period who opened CDA with deposit	14,100	15,200
Take-up rate for opening of CDA for children born in period (%)	For 2001 cohort: 98.2	For 2002 cohort: 98.4
Take-up rate for opening of CDA with deposit for children born in period (%)	For 2001 cohort: 91.2	For 2002 cohort: 93.3
Infant Care Subsidy		
Number of infants who benefited during period	800 For month of Dec	900 For month of Dec
Childcare Subsidy		
Number of children who benefited during period	45,400 For month of Dec	47,500 For month of Dec
Foreign Domestic Worker Levy Concession		
Number of households with children below 12 years old that benefited during period	83,300 For month of Dec	83,200 For month of Dec
Government-paid Maternity Leave (GPML)¹⁰		
Take-up rate for mothers who gave birth during period (%)	For 2005 cohort: 68.3 For 2006 cohort: 68.7	For 2007 Cohort: 66.7
Adoption Leave		
Number of mothers who went on Adoption Leave during period	31	32

Data as of May 2009.

NOTES

- ¹ Data as of June.
- ² The old-age support ratio refers to the number of persons aged 15-64 years per elderly person aged 65 years and over.
- ³ Total fertility rate refers to the average number of children that 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.
- ⁴ Citizen births refer to births born to at least one citizen parent.
- ⁵ Defined as Singapore citizens with registered foreign address or who are away for a cumulative period of at least six months in the past 12 months prior to the reference date. This would include frequent travellers who have their usual residence (venue of residence for a period of at least 12 months) in Singapore but travel overseas for the greater part of the reference period. Data on OS who left Singapore before 1 Jan 2000 are not available. Data as of June.
- ⁶ “Post secondary” includes JC, ITE, Diploma and Degree holders while “Secondary & below” includes trade certificates.
- ⁷ Data for 2007 may differ from data generated previously due to updates and late claims, etc.
- ⁸ Parents can apply for the Baby Bonus cash gift any time before the child turns six years of age. Hence, for a complete take-up rate, only data for children born in 2001 and 2002 are available.
- ⁹ Parents can open a CDA any time before the child turns six years old, and make a deposit in the CDA at any time until 31 December in the year the child turns six years old. Hence, for a complete take-up rate, only data for children born in 2001 and 2002 are available.
- ¹⁰ Mothers have six months from the birth of their child to utilise their leave, while their employers have three months thereafter to submit their claims. Hence, for a complete take-up rate, only data from women who had children in 2005, 2006 and 2007 are available. From 17 Aug 2008, mothers have 12 months from the birth of their child to utilise their leave.

List of Relevant Publications

Singapore Department of Statistics

Population Trends 2008
Statistics on Marriages & Divorces 2008
Monthly Digest of Statistics
Singapore in Figures 2008
Yearbook of Statistics 2008

Ministry of Community Development, Youth & Sports

Singapore Social Statistics in Brief, 2008

Immigration & Checkpoints Authority

Report on Registration of Births & Deaths 2007
Singapore Demographic Bulletin

Ministry of Manpower

Labour Market, 2008
Report on Labour Force in Singapore, 2008
Singapore Yearbook of Manpower Statistics, 2008

For more information, you may visit the following websites:

National Population Secretariat	:	www.nps.gov.sg
Singapore Department of Statistics	:	www.singstat.gov.sg
Ministry of Community Development, Youth & Sports	:	www.mcys.gov.sg
Ministry of Home Affairs	:	www.mha.gov.sg
Immigration & Checkpoints Authority	:	www.ica.gov.sg
Ministry of Manpower	:	www.mom.gov.sg

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