



PRESS RELEASE

Household Income Increased in 2011 for All Income Groups

1 Household income from work increased for all income groups, in tandem with strong employment creation in 2011, according to the Singapore Department of Statistics' latest report on "Key Household Characteristics and Household Income Trends, 2011". Below are some key findings on the report.

Largest Increase in Household Income Per Household Member among Lower Income Households

2 Among resident employed households¹, median monthly household income² per household member rose from \$1,850 in 2010 to \$1,990 in 2011, an increase of 7.9 per cent in nominal terms, or 2.7 per cent in real³ terms. The first decile saw the highest percentage growth in average monthly household income per member of 11 per cent and 5.8 per cent in nominal and real terms respectively.

3 On a total household income basis, median monthly household income from work increased from \$6,340 in 2010 to \$7,040 in 2011, an 11 per cent growth in nominal terms, or 5.6 per cent in real terms. The tenth decile saw the highest percentage growth in average monthly household income of 14 per cent in nominal terms, or 7.9 per cent in real terms.

4 Cumulatively between 2001 and 2011, the median monthly household income from work per household member of resident employed households rose by 20 per cent in real terms, with most of the gains coming from 2006 to 2011. On a total household income basis, the median monthly household income from work rose by 22 per cent in real terms between 2001 and 2011.

Households in Smaller Types of Dwelling Received More Government Transfers

5 On average, resident households received \$1,660 of transfers per member from various government schemes in 2011. Those in HDB 1- & 2-room flats received the most, at an average of \$3,270 per household member, with those in HDB 3-room flats receiving \$2,090 per household member on average.

¹ Resident employed households refer to resident households with at least one working person. Resident households refer to households headed by Singapore citizens or permanent residents.

² Income includes employer Central Provident Fund (CPF) contributions.

³ The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is used as a deflator to compute real income changes.

Government Transfers had a Redistributive Effect on Household Income

6 The Gini coefficient⁴ increased slightly from 0.472 in 2010 to 0.473 in 2011. After adjusting for Government transfers and taxes, the Gini coefficient in 2011 was reduced from 0.473 to 0.452, reflecting the redistributive effect of government transfers.

Profile of Households Remained Relatively Stable

7 The number of resident households was relatively unchanged at 1.15 million in 2011 compared to 2010, with average household size remaining at 3.5 persons since 2006. Similarly, the distribution of resident households by type of dwelling was relatively stable with HDB 4-room flats remaining as the most common type of dwelling for resident households in 2011. The proportion of resident households with at least one working person (i.e. resident employed households) increased from 90 per cent in 2010 to 91 per cent in 2011.

For More Information

8 The paper “Key Household Characteristics and Household Income Trends, 2011” can be downloaded from the Singapore Department of Statistics’ website at <http://www.singstat.gov.sg>.

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⁴ The Gini coefficient is a summary measure of income inequality. It is equal to zero in the case of total income equality and to one in the case of total inequality.