

# Singapore Government PRESS RELEASE

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## CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1980 - RELEASE NO. 2

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The results of the Census of Population conducted during June 1980 are scheduled for periodic publication by topics. Data relating to a specific topic are published as and when they become available. A total of nine such releases are planned. The first set of tables on the distribution of the population by age group and ethnic group in the 69 census divisions was published as Release No. 1 in early February. The second set on the demographic characteristics is now published as "Release No. 2".

Release No. 2 includes information on the age and sex of each ethnic and dialect group, marital status, citizenship, residential status, birthplace of the total population and year of first arrival for persons born outside Singapore.

In June 1980 the population in Singapore was 2,413,945, comprising 1,231,760 males and 1,182,185 females giving an even sex ratio of 1,042 males per thousand females. Of the three major ethnic groups, the Chinese and Malays displayed fairly balanced sex ratio of 1,015 and 1,072 males per thousand females respectively whilst the Indians still had a relatively less balanced sex ratio of 1,323 males per thousand females reflecting the residual effect of past migration.

This eleventh population census recorded the highest proportion of persons born in Singapore. The proportion of Singapore-born persons increased steadily from 29 per cent in 1921 census to 78 per cent in 1980, reflecting the movement of Singapore from a migrant society in the earlier decades to a progressively settled population since the fifties. This trend is also evident from the proportion of Singapore-born

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persons by age group. Among persons aged 60 years and over, that is those who were born in 1920 and earlier, only 25 per cent were born in Singapore. Of those aged 15-59 years or those born during 1921-1965, 77 per cent were born in Singapore and of those born after 1965 the proportion of Singapore-born persons rose to 95 per cent.

Another interesting result of the census is the change in the composition of the foreign-born population by country of birth. Of the population who first arrived prior to the second world war, a large majority of about 80 per cent were born in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. In the fifties and sixties arrivals from Malaysia predominated as a result of the relatively free movement of population between Malaysia and Singapore. During the seventies though the Malaysians still predominated the inflow of foreign-born persons was more diversified reflecting Singapore's increasing international role and the inflow of foreign investment, technology and labour. Of the arrivals during the past decade, 12 per cent were born in countries outside Asia.

Other details and two charts of the age-sex structure of the population are also included in Release No. 2. The contents should be of interest to research workers, policy makers and businessmen. The forthcoming releases will be on education and literacy, economic characteristics, geographical distribution, houses and households, income and mode of transport, language and dialect spoken at home, and religion and fertility. After the releases, there will be a series of self-contained monographs by specialists in the fields of demography and socio-economic subjects.

Release No. 1 and No. 2 as well as all other subsequent releases on the population census can be purchased at Singapore National Printers (Pte) Ltd, Publications Sales Division, Ground Floor, Fullerton Building, Singapore 0104. The price of Release No. 1 and No. 2 is S\$4.00 per copy.