

Singapore Government**PRESS RELEASE**

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17-6/81/07/22CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1980 - RELEASE NO. 6

The results of the census of population conducted in June 1980 are scheduled for periodic publication by different topics as and when such data become available. A total of nine periodic releases are planned. The first five releases on general characteristics of the population, demographic characteristics, literacy and education, economic characteristics and geographic distribution of the population were published as Release No. 1 to No. 5 between February and June 1981. This Release No. 6 publishes data on households and houses and the characteristics of persons living in them.

There were 509,524 private households in 1980, about 34 per cent more than a decade ago. One-family nucleus households which predominated in all ethnic groups expanded significantly by 46 per cent during the decade. This reflected the increasing practice of young couples to set up their own homes, facilitated by the easier availability of public housing and their financial independence. The proportion of households with more than one family nucleus declined despite their increase in numbers. The number and proportion of one-person households also declined, continuing a trend which began in the fifties. The decline reflected the return of the early migrants that formed the majority of such households to their countries of origin and their reduction through deaths. The influx of single and unaccompanied foreign workers in the past few years, however, had moderated the decline.

Households with one family nucleus comprised the largest proportion of households in all types of house except shophouses. In

shophouses, most of the households were those without any family nucleus, especially one-person households which comprised 38 per cent of the total. Public flats had the highest proportion of one-family nucleus households and the lowest proportion of households without any family nucleus. Among private flats, as high as 28 per cent of the households were without any family nucleus. Of the households in attap and zinc-roofed houses, a relatively large proportion of 19 per cent had two or more family nuclei.

Between 1970 and 1980, there was a distinct shift away from large size households of eight or more persons to small and medium size households (2-7 persons). The proportion of large size households dropped from 24 per cent in 1970 to 12 per cent in 1980 whilst the proportion of small and medium size households increased from 63 per cent to 79 per cent. With the trend towards smaller families, the average size of household dropped from 5.35 in 1970 to 4.71 persons in 1980. Smaller average size of households also occurred among all ethnic groups, reflecting widespread acceptance of family planning.

On the other hand, as a result of the increased participation in economic activities especially among the females, the average number of working persons per household increased. The proportion of households with more than one working person increased from 41 per cent in 1970 to 55 per cent in 1980.

With rapid economic development and growing affluence, more households in 1980 owned the houses they lived in - 55 per cent compared with about 30 per cent a decade ago. Relatively higher proportion of households were owners among those living in bungalows and terrace houses, public flats and attap and zinc-roofed houses. Proportionately more of the households in private flats and shophouses rented their houses - 47 per cent of those in private flats and 83 per cent in shophouses were tenant households. Sharing of houses among households was also less common compared with a decade ago. The proportion of households that shared accommodation was reduced from 26 per cent to 12 per cent. Higher proportion of households in shophouses and attap and zinc-roofed houses shared their accommodation with other households.

The 1980 census also identified and numbered 467,142 census houses that were occupied by private households. This represented an increase of 53 per cent over 1970. Reflecting the active housing programme in the public sector, the number of public flats predominated, accounting for over two-thirds of the total number of houses in 1980. Compared with a decade ago, the number of public flats nearly trebled whilst its proportion almost doubled. On the other hand, the number and proportion of shophouses and attap and zinc-roofed houses declined significantly. With continued development of the city and the building of public flats, shophouses and attap and zinc-roofed houses are expected to decline further in the eighties.

The slower growth of population and the greater availability of houses enabled fewer persons to be accommodated per house on average. The average number of persons per house dropped from 6.65 in 1970 to 5.14 in 1980. The reduction in number of persons per house occurred in all types of house. The decline was greatest in shophouses but moderate in bungalows and terrace houses. In the case of public flats, the reduction was relatively smaller but the population was accommodated in larger numbers of bigger and more spacious four-room and five-room HDB and HUDC executive flats in 1980 compared with 1970.

More detailed analyses on the characteristics of houses, households and persons living in them as well as statistical tables, charts and maps are presented in Release No. 6. Copies of this release as well as those published earlier can be purchased at the Singapore National Printers (Pte) Ltd, Publications Sales Division, Ground Floor, Fullerton Building, Singapore 0104. The price for Release No. 1, 2 and 3 is S\$4.00 per copy, Release No. 4 and 5 is S\$8.00 per copy and Release No. 6 is S\$5.00 per copy.

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

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