

Singapore's Demographic Trends in 2002

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Introduction

Population size, structure and changes have important implications for production, investment and consumption activities as well as community development. This paper highlights the key trends in population, marriages, fertility and mortality in the year 2002.

residents. Singapore residents, comprising Singapore citizens and Singapore permanent residents, formed 81 per cent of the population. The population share of non-residents decreased to 19 per cent in 2002, after almost reaching 20 per cent in 2001.

Population Profile

Population Size and Growth

Singapore's total population as at end June 2002 was 4,171,300 (Table 1). There were 3,378,300 Singapore residents and 793,000 non-

The total population in 2002 grew by 1.0 per cent over the previous year. This growth rate was one of the lowest in the last decade, due largely to the decline in the non-resident population. The resident population grew by 1.8 per cent in 2002.

TABLE 1 POPULATION SIZE AND SHARE

	Number ('000)			Average Annual Growth ¹ (%)		
	Total Population	Singapore Residents	Non-Residents	Total Population	Singapore Residents	Non-Residents
1990	3,047.1	2,735.9	311.3	2.3	1.7	9.0
2000	4,017.7	3,263.2	754.5	2.8	1.8	9.3
2001	4,131.2	3,319.1	812.1	2.8	1.7	7.6
2002	4,171.3	3,378.3	793.0	1.0	1.8	- 2.4

¹ Refers to growth during the decade. For 2001 and 2002, refers to growth over the previous year.

Age Structure

Singapore's resident population is growing older. Chart 1 shows the population ageing between 1980 and 2002. With the post-war baby boomers moving into the age group 35–54 years, about half of Singapore residents were aged 35 years or older in 2002. The median age of the Singapore resident population was a lower 24 years in 1980 and 30 years in 1990.

The size of the elderly resident population has also increased. In 2002 there were 253,000 residents aged 65 years and over. This was more than double the size in 1980.

As a result of declines in fertility and mortality, elderly residents aged 65 years and over accounted for an increasing proportion of the Singapore resident population (Table 2). There was also a corresponding increase in the old age dependency ratio.

CHART 1 AGE PROFILE OF RESIDENT POPULATION

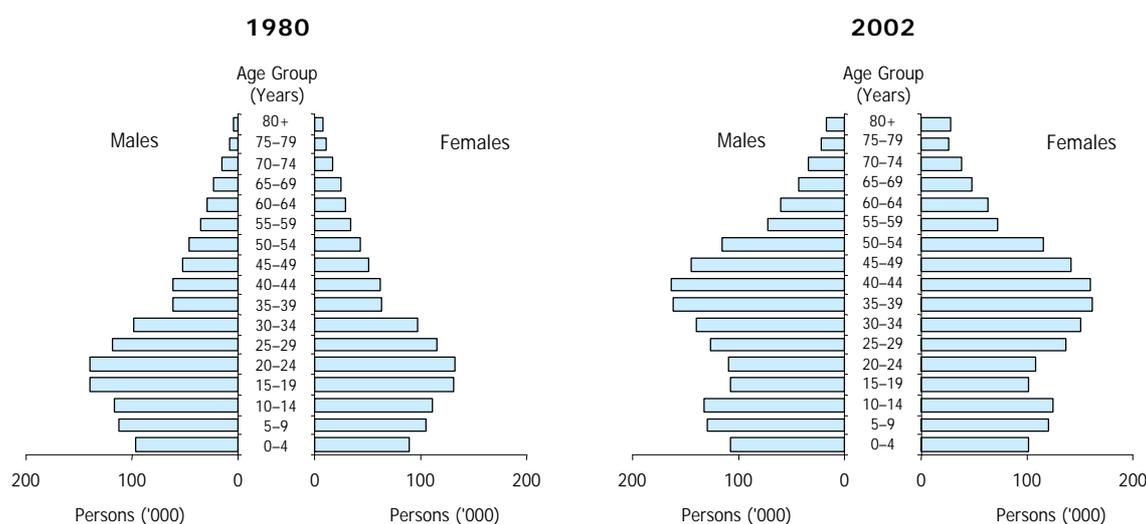


TABLE 2 AGEING INDICATORS OF THE SINGAPORE RESIDENT POPULATION

	Proportion of Residents Aged 65 Years & Over	Old Age Dependency Ratio (Residents Aged 65+ Per 100 Residents Aged 15–64 Years)	Median Age (Years)
1980	4.9	7.3	24.4
1990	6.0	8.5	29.8
2000	7.3	10.2	34.2
2001	7.4	10.4	34.6
2002	7.5	10.5	34.9

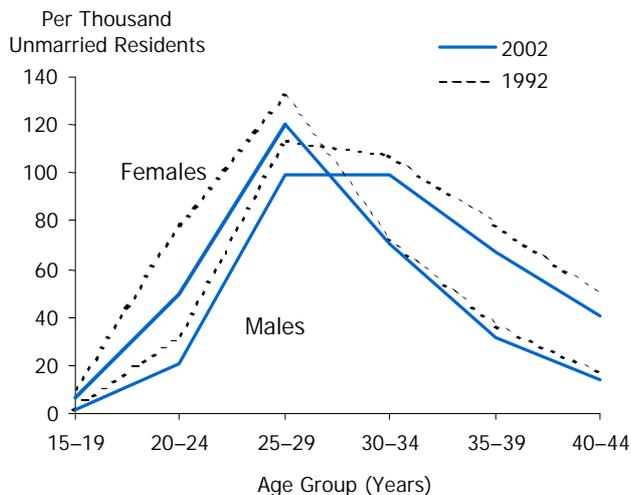
Marriages

Marriage Rates

In 2002, a total of 23,200 marriages was registered in Singapore. This was an increase from 22,300 in 2001.

Marriage rates fell across all age groups between 1992 and 2002 (Chart 2). The largest absolute decline in rates occurred for males in the age group 25–29 years, from 113 per thousand in 1992 to 100 per thousand in 2002. For females, the largest drop in rate was in the 20–24 age group, from 78 to 50 per thousand.

CHART 2 AGE-SEX SPECIFIC MARRIAGE RATES



Marriage Timing

There is a continuing trend towards marrying at older ages. The median age at first marriage increased slightly for both grooms and brides in 2002 compared with the previous year (Table 3).

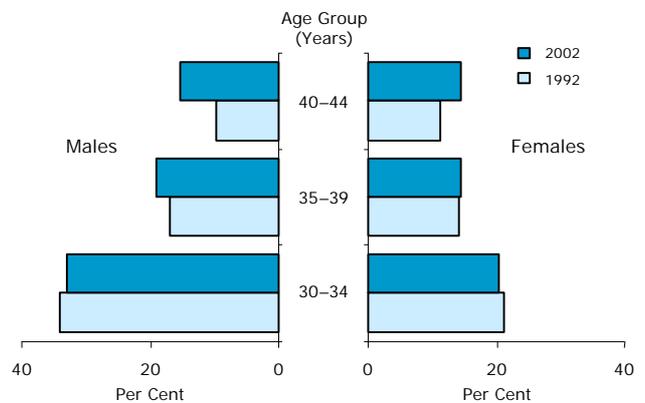
TABLE 3 MEDIAN AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE

	Years	
	Grooms	Brides
1990	28.0	25.3
2000	28.7	26.2
2001	28.8	26.2
2002	28.9	26.3

Proportion Single

Corresponding to the decline in marriage rates, proportionately more resident males and females are remaining single. In 2002, some 15 per cent of resident males and females were still not married at age 40–44 years (Chart 3). This was higher than the 10–11 per cent in 1992.

CHART 3 PROPORTION SINGLE AMONG RESIDENT POPULATION



Fertility

Total Fertility Rates

The total number of births declined to 40,800 in 2002 from 41,500 in 2001. The total fertility rate (TFR) was 1.4 births per woman aged 15 to 44 years in 2002 (Table 4). Among the main ethnic groups, the Chinese continued to have the lowest TFR at 1.2 in 2002.

TABLE 4 TOTAL FERTILITY RATE BY ETHNIC GROUP

	Per Woman Aged 15–44			
	Total	Chinese	Malays	Indians
1990	1.83	1.65	2.69	1.89
2000	1.60	1.43	2.54	1.58
2001	1.41	1.21	2.44	1.50
2002	1.37	1.18	2.29	1.50

Completed Family Size

Females still tend to have two to three children during their marriage. On average, ever-married resident females aged 40–49 years had 2.2 children in 2002 (Table 5).

The family size has remained relatively stable for females with secondary or higher education. For less-educated females, the family size has declined and converged to the same level as the better-educated females.

TABLE 5 MEAN NUMBER OF CHILDREN BORN TO RESIDENT EVER-MARRIED FEMALES AGED 40–49 YEARS

	Total	Below Secondary	Secondary	Post-Secondary	University
1990	2.8	3.0	2.1	2.1	2.0
2000	2.2	2.4	2.1	2.0	1.9
2001	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.9
2002	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0

Mortality

Mortality Rate

The mortality rate in Singapore continues to be low (Table 6). The crude death rate was 4.4 per 1,000 residents in 2002, a decline from the 4.7 deaths per 1,000 residents in 1990. The infant mortality rate was 2.9 per 1,000 resident live-births in 2002. This was significantly lower than the 6.6 per 1,000 resident live-births in 1990.

Life Expectancy

Life expectancy at birth continued to improve in 2002. A new-born Singapore resident could expect to live up to 79 years. Females could expect to live longer than males. A boy born in 2002 could expect to live 77 years, while a girl could expect to live 81 years.

TABLE 6 MORTALITY RATES AND LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH

	1990	2000	2001	2002
Crude Death Rate (Per 1,000 Residents)	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.4
Infant Mortality Rate (Per 1,000 Resident Live-Births)	6.6	2.5	2.2	2.9
Life Expectancy at Birth (Years)	75.3	78.1	78.4	78.7
Males	73.1	76.1	76.4	76.7
Females	77.6	80.1	80.3	80.6