

# UNDERSTANDING SINGAPORE'S POPULATION ESTIMATES

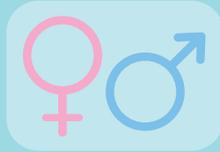


## Why Are Population Estimates Important?

Singapore's official population estimates are compiled by the Singapore Department of Statistics. Population estimates provide insights on the size and profile of the population by various characteristics such as



Age



Sex



Ethnic Group



Type of Dwelling



Geographical Distribution

Population estimates are **important for**

### Businesses & Government to:



- Make informed decisions
- Plan their policies
- Provide their services within Singapore

### Researchers & General Public to:



- Understand the demographic profile of people residing in Singapore
- Analyse population changes and trends

## How Are Population Estimates Compiled?

In line with international recommendations, Singapore's official population estimates are compiled based on the "De Jure" Population Concept since 1990.

### De Jure (Latin for 'In Law')

Counts the population as at a **reference date** based on their **place of usual residence**, regardless of where they were physically on the reference date.



The reference date for Singapore's population estimates is as at end June of each year

Conceptually, the size of a country's population at a given time ( $P_t$ ) can be determined by the **Population Balancing Equation**.

$$P_t = P_i + \underbrace{(B - D)}_{\text{Natural Increase}} + \underbrace{(I - E)}_{\text{Net Migration}}$$

$P_i$  = the initial population count

$B$  = the number of births since the date of the initial population count

$D$  = the number of deaths since the date of the initial population count

$I$  = the number of arrivals since the date of the initial population count (i.e., immigrants)

$E$  = the number of departures since the date of the initial population count (i.e., emigrants)

### Example for illustration:

Suppose we have the following set of data for reference year  $i$ , we can estimate the size of population for reference year  $i+1$  using the Population Balancing Equation.

Year $i$	Changes between Year $i$ and Year $i+1$	Year $i+1$
Population ( $P_i$ ): 10,000	<b>Births (B) : 85</b> <b>Deaths (D) : 52</b> <b>Immigration (I) : 37</b> <b>Emigration (E) : 15</b>	<b>Size of Population</b> <b>Natural Increase</b> <b>Net Migration</b> $= P_i + (B - D) + (I - E)$ $= 10,000 + (85 - 52) + (37 - 15)$ $= \underline{10,055}$

### Where does Singapore obtain its data to compile the Official Population Estimates?

Since 2000, data to compile Singapore's population counts by basic demographic characteristics (e.g., age, sex, ethnic group, type of dwelling and geographical distribution) are obtained from official administrative records.



### Who Are Included in Singapore's Population Estimates?



#### Total Singapore Population

#### Resident Population

#### Non-Resident Population

Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents are **excluded** if they

- Have a **registered foreign address**; or
- Were **away from Singapore** for a continuous period of **12 months or longer** as at the reference period

**Foreigners** who are working, studying or living in Singapore with **valid pass types** but **not granted permanent residence**.

Tourists and short-term visitors are excluded.

For more information on Singapore's Population Estimates, check out the following:



Key Indicators in the SingStat Table Builder



Population Trends Report



Infographic on Singapore's Population



Population Trends Dashboards

