

PRESS STATEMENT

KEY FINDINGS OF THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY 2005

TRANSPORT, OVERSEAS TRAVEL, HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

1 The General Household Survey (GHS) 2005 is the second in the series of large-scale mid-decade national surveys undertaken by the Singapore Department of Statistics (DOS). The GHS is conducted in between the Population Censuses which are taken once in ten years, during the years ending in '0'. As a mini-Census, the GHS is the most comprehensive source of information on the profile of Singapore's population and households. The first GHS was conducted in 1995.

Key Findings of the GHS 2005

Transport

2 Public transport remained the most important mode of transport for commuting to work in Singapore. In 2005, one in two residents commuted to work by public transport (public bus, MRT, LRT or taxi) (Chart A1 in Annex). This proportion had remained stable in the last five years.

3 Among public transport users, there was a further shift from bus to MRT, with the opening of the Northeast Line. The proportion of resident working persons commuting to work by MRT only or MRT with transfer from / to public bus increased from 23 per cent in 2000 to 25 per cent in 2005. Over the same period, there was a corresponding decline in the proportion commuting by public bus only, from 25 per cent to 22 per cent. Usage of cars fell marginally, with the proportion of residents commuting to work by car decreasing from 24 per cent in 2000 to 23 per cent in 2005.

4 In 2005, the average journey time for resident working persons who used private transport was shorter than those who commuted by public transport - 29 minutes as against 42 minutes. Among public transport users, the average journey time was shorter for workers who travelled by bus only (38 minutes) compared to those who travelled by MRT & public bus (51 minutes) (Table A1 in Annex).

5 In 2005, some 44 per cent of students travelled to school by public transport. Public bus remained the most important mode of transport to school, although its importance declined in the last five years due to a shift to MRT. About one in four students used private transport to school. With the increase in the proportion of students who travelled to school by car between 2000 and 2005 (from 7.8 to 9.1 per cent), fewer took chartered bus/van than before (14 per cent in 2000 compared with 12 per cent in 2005).

Overseas Travel

6 Among Singapore's 2.8 million residents aged 15 years and over, 50 per cent made at least 1 trip overseas¹ during the last twelve months. Young adults in their late twenties and early thirties had the highest propensity to travel overseas (Chart A2 in Annex). Some 64 per cent of residents aged 25 -34 years had made an overseas trip. A much lower 32 per cent of elderly residents aged 65 years and over travelled overseas.

7 The majority of Singapore residents travelled overseas for holiday. Based on the longest overseas trip, six in ten Singapore residents aged 15 years and over who travelled overseas went on a holiday in 2005² (Chart A3 in Annex). Some 20 per cent travelled overseas to visit friends and relatives while another 16 per cent went on work-related trips.

8 The proportion of holidaymakers was highest at 67-68 per cent among those aged 15-24 years and older residents aged 55 years and over in 2005. Females were more likely than males to travel overseas for non-work related purposes. Holidaymakers accounted for 67 per cent of resident females aged 15 years and over who travelled overseas in 2005, compared with 53 per cent of males.

9 Among holidaymakers, Malaysia was the most popular destination (37 per cent) followed by Thailand (13 per cent) and China (12 per cent). In comparison, China accounted for the largest share of Singapore residents travelling on work-related trips (20 per cent), followed by USA (12 per cent) and Malaysia (11 per cent).

10 China was a more popular holiday destination among older than younger Singapore residents. Among Singapore residents aged 55 years and over who travelled overseas for holiday, 23 per cent had their vacation in China (Chart A4 in Annex). The corresponding proportion was a lower 13 per cent among holidaymakers aged 40-54 years and less than 10 per cent among those aged below 40 years old.

11 In 2005, the median duration of overseas travel was 7 days. Singapore residents on work-related trips tended to have longer duration of travel than those on holiday trips. In 2005, about 45 per cent of those on work-related trips were away for more than 7 days. In comparison, only 25 per cent of holidaymakers went on trips for more than 7 days.

Households and Housing Characteristics

Household Income

12 In 2005, the average monthly household income from work for Singapore resident households was \$5,400. With low inflation, household income increased in real terms between 2000 and 2005 by 1.1 per cent per annum (Table A2 in Annex).

¹ Overseas trips in the General Household Survey (GHS) 2005 refer to trips that were longer than 24 hours and were made during the last 12 months prior to enumeration.

² Main purpose of travel, destination and duration of travel in the GHS 2005 are based on the longest overseas trip.

13 All ethnic groups enjoyed income growth between 2000 and 2005. On average, the monthly household income from work grew from \$5,200 in 2000 to \$5,600 in 2005 (by 1.5 per cent per annum) for the Chinese, from \$3,200 to \$3,400 (1.8 per cent per annum) for the Malays and \$4,600 to \$5,200 (2.6 per cent per annum) for the Indians (Table A3 in Annex).

14 In 2005, the lowest 10% of resident households comprised those with no income earner (Table A4 in Annex). Households with no income earner accounted for a smaller 8.7 per cent in 2000. The increase was mainly due to the higher proportion of households with retired elderly persons as the population aged.

15 Compared with 2000, the average household income from work declined for households in the 2nd and 3rd decile groups in 2005. The decline was partly caused by the larger number of households with retired persons and no incomes. It could also be partly due to the higher unemployment in 2005 than 2000 among the 2nd decile group and lower income from employment in the 3rd decile group. Households with unemployed persons would tend to fall into the lower income groups, as household income from work would shrink when household members become unemployed. The figures do not take into account the various government financial benefits eg Progress Package payments, which were expressly weighted in favour of these decile groups.

16 Reflecting the improved economic conditions in 2005, the average household income from work increased across all decile groups in 2005 compared with 2004. The middle 60% households generally experienced larger increase in income than the lowest 20% and top 20% households.

17 The disparity in distribution of per capita household income from work among all resident households increased in the last five years. The Gini coefficient rose from 0.490 in 2000 to 0.517 in 2004 and 0.522 in 2005 (Table A5 in Annex).

Dwelling Type and Home Ownership

18 With the changes in lifestyle choices of households and increased availability of condominium housing, proportionately more resident households lived in private housing in 2005 than five years ago – 15 per cent as against 11 per cent (Chart A5 in Annex). There was also an increase in the proportion of resident households occupying HDB 5-room or larger flats.

19 The home ownership rate remained high among resident households, at 92 per cent in 2005 (Table A6 in Annex). Some 93 per cent of Chinese and Malay households owned the dwelling units they occupied. Among Indian households, the home ownership rate declined from 87 per cent to 83 per cent during 2000 – 2005 largely due to the entry of permanent residents who were more likely to rent accommodation.

Household Size and Structure

20 The average household size dropped slightly from 3.7 persons in 2000 to 3.6 persons in 2005.

21 The family remained as a strong social unit, with the majority of resident households comprising one family nucleus (80 per cent) in 2005 (Table A7 in Annex). Compared with 2000, there were proportionately more households with no family nucleus largely due to more one-person households. The increase in proportion of one-person households (from 8.2 per cent in 2000 to 10 per cent in 2005) may be attributed to the increase in singlehood among the population and HDB's policy of allowing single persons to own their homes.

Living Arrangements of Elderly Persons

22 The proportion of the elderly resident population co-residing with their spouse or children remained high at 87 per cent in 2005 (Table A8 in Annex). However, there were proportionately more elderly residents living with their spouse without children in the household – 14 per cent in 2000 compared with 17 per cent in 2005. The proportion living with their children dropped from 74 per cent to 69 per cent. Elderly persons who lived alone formed a small proportion of 7.7 per cent in 2005.

Scope and Coverage

23 The General Household Survey 2005 covered all Singapore residents (citizens and permanent residents) with usual residence in Singapore. Non-residents who stayed in Singapore were also included in the total population. The non-resident population comprised foreign workers, students and other foreigners who were not granted permanent residence in Singapore. The transient population such as tourists was excluded.

24 The GHS 2005 built upon the experiences of the Population Census 2000, combining a register-based approach with a large-scale sample survey. Under the register-based approach, key demographic data on the size, growth and structure of the population were obtained from DOS's Household Registration Database (HRD). The HRD captured basic individual information such as sex, age, ethnic group and type of house.

25 Additional data items in the GHS 2005 were collected from a sample survey of 90,000 dwellings. These items included marital status and fertility, education and home language, economic characteristics, mode of transport, overseas travel as well as housing and household characteristics.

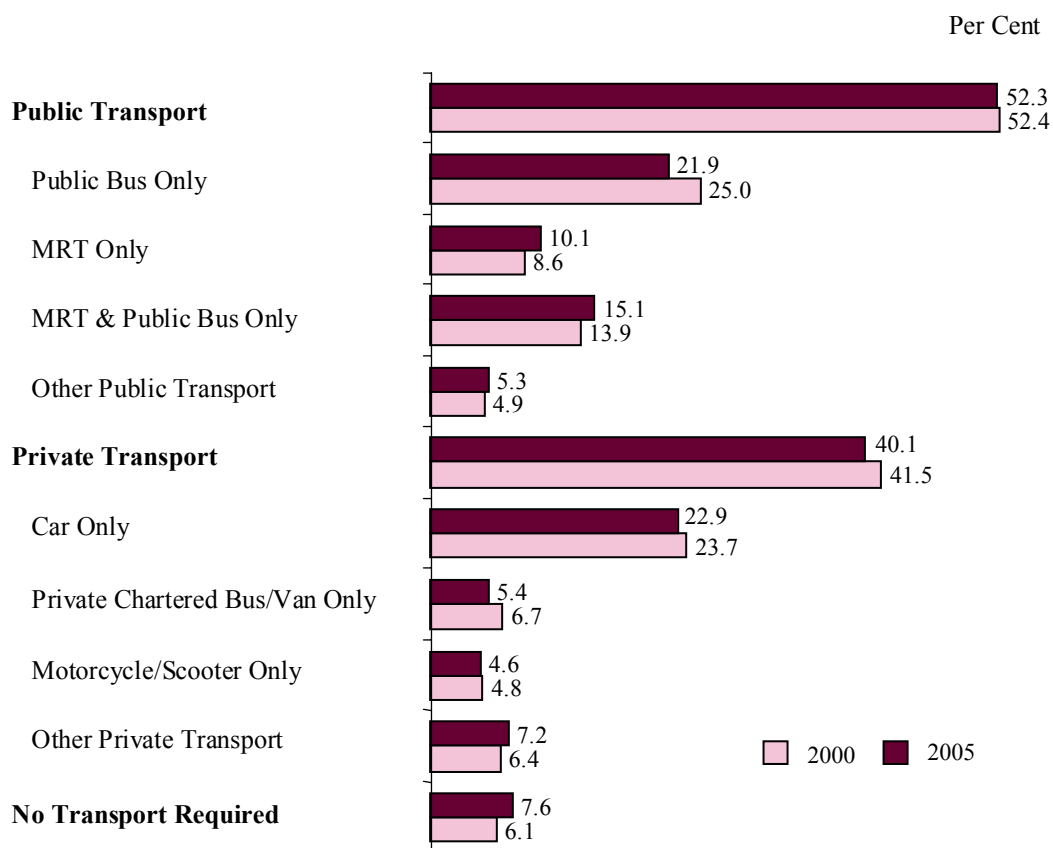
Data Dissemination/Enquiries

26 DOS is releasing the results of the General Household Survey 2005 in two statistical reports. The first report, *General Household Survey Statistical Release 1: Socio-Demographic and Economic Characteristics* was released on 14 June 06. The second report, *General Household Survey 2005: Statistical Release 2 Transport, Overseas Travel, Households and Housing Characteristics*, provides analyses of broad trends and changes since 2000 where appropriate and detailed statistical tables. This report is available at the Department's website at <http://www.singstat.gov.sg>, from 28 June 2006. The hardcopy publication will be available by August 2006, at SNP Corporation Ltd, 1 Kim Seng Promenade, #18-01/06 Great World City, East Tower, Singapore 237994 (Tel: (65) 68269691 / Fax : (65) 68203341).

27 For enquiries, please contact Mr Tan Kian Heng at email: Tan_Kian_Heng@singstat.gov.sg or Tel: 63327170.

SINGAPORE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS
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**Chart A1 Resident Working Persons Aged 15 Years and Over
by Mode of Transport to Work**



**Table A1 Resident Working Persons Aged 15 Years and Over
by Travelling Time and Mode of Transport to Work, 2005**

Per Cent

Travelling Time (minutes)	Public Bus Only	MRT Only	MRT & Public Bus Only	Car Only	Private Chartered Bus/Van Only	Motorcycle/Scooter Only
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
15 or less	13.1	6.2	1.9	24.1	18.3	26.4
16 - 30	40.3	34.2	22.0	55.8	48.3	57.1
31 - 45	23.1	31.6	27.6	15.0	19.4	12.7
46 - 60	18.2	22.8	33.4	4.5	11.8	3.4
More than 60	5.2	5.1	15.1	0.6	2.2	0.4
Average (minutes)	38	41	51	27	32	26

Chart A2 Proportion of Resident Population Who Travelled Overseas by Age Group and Sex, 2005

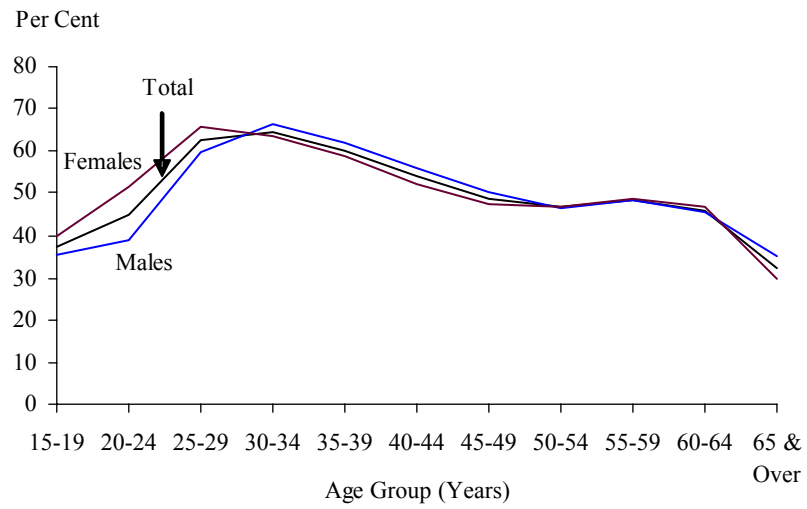
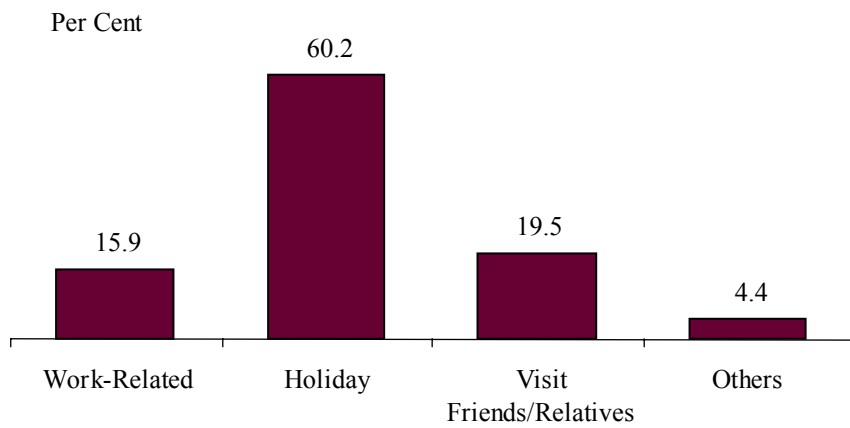


Chart A3 Residents Aged 15 Years and Over by Main Purpose of Overseas Travel, 2005



**Chart A4 Top Five Destinations Among Residents
Who Travelled Overseas for Holiday by Age Group, 2005**

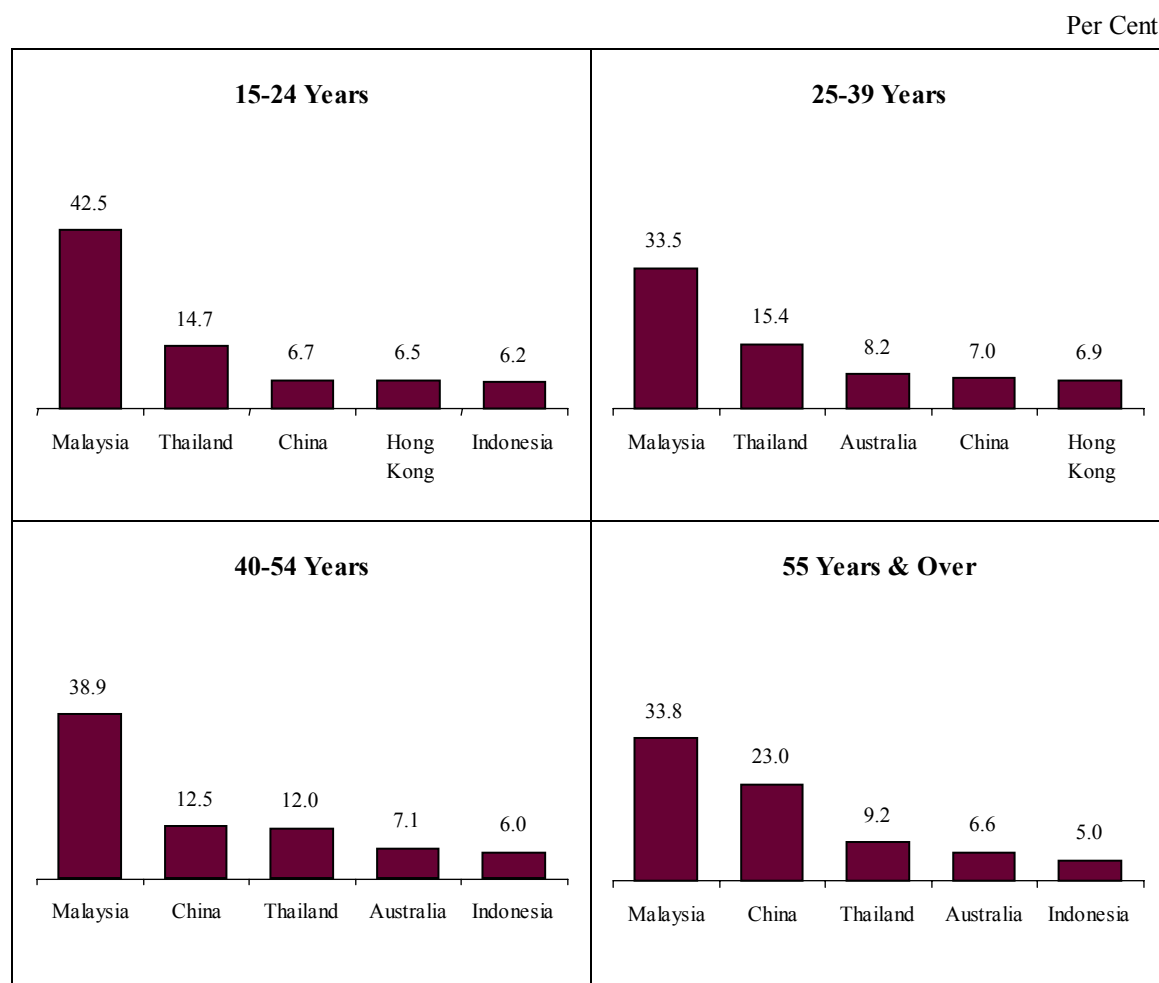


Table A2 Monthly Household Income from Work in Current and 2000 Dollars

	2000	2005	Average Annual Change
	Dollars		Per Cent
Average Household Income	4,940	5,400	1.8
<i>In 2000 Dollars</i>	<i>4,940</i>	<i>5,230</i>	<i>1.1</i>
Median Household Income	3,610	3,830	1.2
<i>In 2000 Dollars</i>	<i>3,610</i>	<i>3,700</i>	<i>0.5</i>
Consumer Price Index			0.6

Table A3 Monthly Household Income from Work by Ethnic Group of Head
Dollars

Ethnic Group	Average Household Income		Median Household Income	
	2000	2005	2000	2005
Total	4,940	5,400	3,610	3,830
Chinese	5,220	5,630	3,850	4,000
Malays	3,150	3,440	2,710	2,830
Indians	4,560	5,170	3,390	3,730
Others	7,250	8,500	4,780	5,590

Table A4 Average Monthly Household Income from Work by Decile
Among All Resident Households

Decile*	Average Household Income (\$)			Average Annual Change (%)		
	2000	2004	2005	2004	2005	2000 - 2005
Total	4,940	5,170	5,400	2.7	4.4	1.8
1 st – 10 th	90	-	-	-	-	-
11 th – 20 th	1,470	1,170	1,180	0.2	0.8	-4.3
21 st – 30 th	2,250	2,140	2,190	4.3	2.6	-0.5
31 st – 40 th	2,950	2,890	2,990	1.9	3.7	0.3
41 st – 50 th	3,660	3,670	3,850	2.1	4.8	1.0
51 st – 60 th	4,470	4,600	4,840	1.3	5.2	1.6
61 st – 70 th	5,390	5,510	5,890	1.3	6.9	1.8
71 st – 80 th	6,520	6,820	7,260	0.6	6.5	2.2
81 st – 90 th	8,270	8,960	9,300	2.6	3.8	2.4
91 st – 100 th	14,360	15,960	16,480	5.0	3.3	2.8

* Based on ranking of all resident households by per capita monthly household income from work.

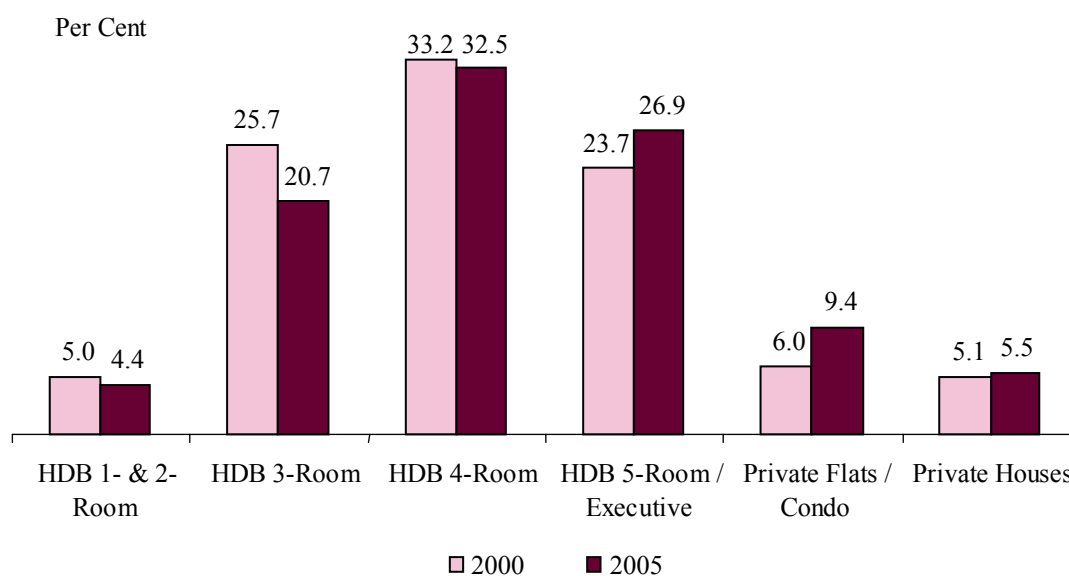
Table A5 Measures of Inequality in Per Capita Household Income from Work

	All Households ²		Employed Households ³	
	Gini Coefficient ¹	Ratio of Average Per Capita Income of Top 20% to Lowest 20%	Gini Coefficient ¹	Ratio of Average Per Capita Income of Top 20% to Lowest 20%
2000	0.490	20.9	0.442	10.0
2001	0.493	19.5	0.455	11.0
2002	0.505	25.4	0.455	11.2
2003	0.512	28.1	0.458	11.4
2004	0.517	29.6	0.463	11.6
2005	0.522	31.9	0.468	12.1

1 The Gini coefficient takes values from zero to one. The more unequal the income distribution, the larger is the Gini coefficient.

2 Based on ranking of all resident households by per capita monthly household income from work.

3 Based on ranking of resident households with income earners by per capita monthly household income from work.

Chart A5 Resident Households by Dwelling Type**Table A6 Home Ownership Rate by Ethnic Group of Head**

Ethnic Group	Per Cent	
	2000	2005
Total	92.3	91.7
Chinese	92.9	92.9
Malays	93.5	93.2
Indians	86.8	83.1

Table A7 Resident Households by Household Structure and Ethnic Group of Head

Per Cent

Household Structure	Total		Chinese		Malays		Indians		Others	
	2000	2005	2000	2005	2000	2005	2000	2005	2000	2005
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No Family Nucleus	12.3	14.4	13.0	15.1	6.6	8.6	13.1	14.5	18.6	22.4
<i>One-Person Household</i>	8.2	10.0	8.7	10.6	4.3	5.7	7.9	9.4	13.1	14.4
One Family Nucleus	82.1	80.2	81.7	79.8	85.8	84.0	80.7	79.9	77.8	73.6
Multi-Family Nuclei	5.6	5.4	5.2	5.1	7.7	7.4	6.2	5.6	3.6	4.0

Table A8 Living Arrangements of Resident Population Aged 65 Years and Over

Per Cent

Elderly Living Arrangement	2000	2005
Total	100.0	100.0
Living with Spouse	50.4	52.4
No Children in Household	13.9	17.4
With Working Children in Household	33.1	31.2
With Non-Working Children in Household	3.4	3.7
Not Living with Spouse but with Children	37.2	34.5
With Working Children in Household	33.2	30.5
With Non-Working Children in Household	4.1	4.0
Not Living with Spouse or Children	12.3	13.1
Alone	6.6	7.7
With Other Elderly Persons Only	1.2	1.3
Others	4.5	4.1