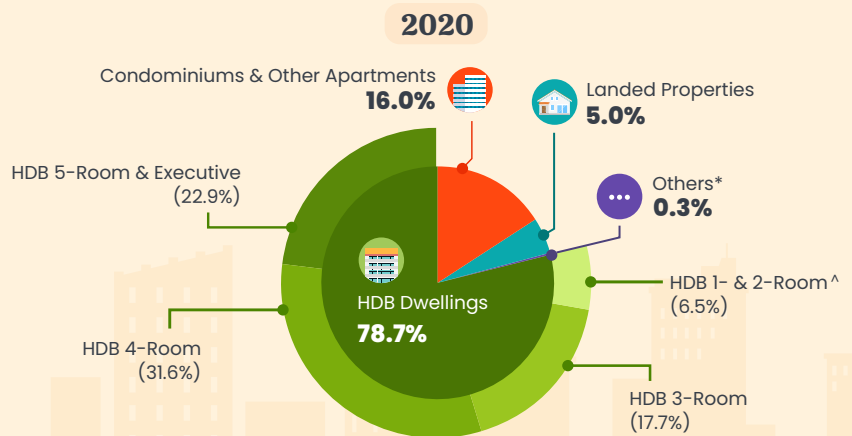# Key Findings

Households & Housing

Close to 9 in 10 resident households were owner-occupied, **consistently high** and a **slight increase** from 2010.

2010 **87.2%**

2020 **87.9%**

Nearly **1 in 3 households lived in a HDB 4-room flat in 2020**, which remained the most common house type over the past 10 years.

2020

Condominiums & Other Apartments **16.0%**

Landed Properties **5.0%**

HDB 5-Room & Executive (22.9%)

Others* **0.3%**

HDB Dwellings **78.7%**

HDB 1- & 2-Room^ (6.5%)
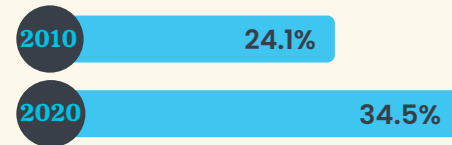
HDB 4-Room (31.6%)

HDB 3-Room (17.7%)

^ Includes HDB studio apartments.
* Refers to other types of dwelling not shown e.g. non-HDB shophouses, etc.

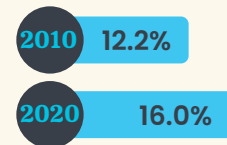Average household size **decreased** over the past 10 years.

2010 3.5 Persons

2020 3.2 Persons
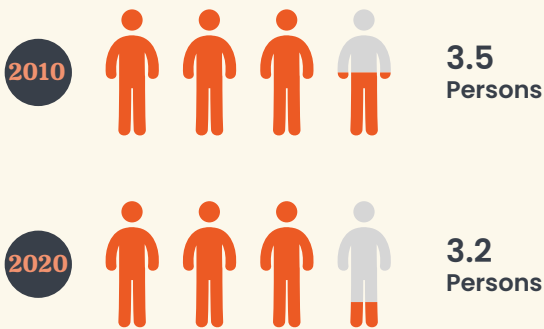
Proportion of resident households with at least 1 member aged 65 years and over **increased**.

2010 24.1%

2020 34.5%

Proportion of single person households **increased**.

2010 12.2%

2020 16.0%

Median monthly household income from work increased over the past 10 years.

Household Income from Work

2010 $5,600

2020 $7,744

Household Income from Work Per Household Member

2010 $1,638

2020 $2,463
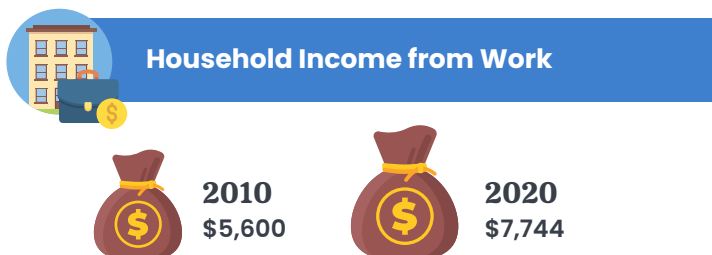
Note: Household income from work includes employer CPF contributions.

CHAPTER 1

HOUSING TYPE AND TENANCY

Housing Type

In 2020, there were 1.37 million resident households, up from 1.15 million in 2010. About 4 in 5 households (or 78.7 per cent) stayed in Housing Development Board (HDB) flats and nearly 1 in 3 households (or 31.6 per cent) lived in HDB 4-room flats, which remained the most common house type over the last decade (Table 1.1).

The proportion of resident households staying in condominiums and other apartments increased from 11.5 per cent in 2010 to 16.0 per cent in 2020, while the proportion staying in landed properties remained relatively unchanged at 5.0 per cent in 2020.

**Table 1.1 Resident Households by Type of Dwelling and
Ethnic Group of Household Reference Person**

Per Cent

Type of Dwelling	Total		Chinese		Malays		Indians	
	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
HDB Dwellings[1]	82.4	78.7	81.2	76.7	96.9	96.2	82.8	79.7
1- & 2- Room Flats[2]	4.6	6.5	4.1	5.1	8.7	16.0	4.9	7.7
3-Room Flats	20.0	17.7	19.9	17.4	22.0	21.1	21.0	17.3
4-Room Flats	31.9	31.6	31.2	31.3	39.2	36.9	32.0	30.4
5-Room & Executive Flats	25.6	22.9	25.7	22.9	26.9	22.3	24.6	24.3
Condominiums & Other Apartments	11.5	16.0	11.9	17.3	2.0	3.0	12.5	16.2
Landed Properties	5.7	5.0	6.3	5.6	0.9	0.7	4.4	3.9
Others	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.2

[1] Data for 2010 includes non-privatised Housing and Urban Development Company (HUDC) flats.

[2] Includes HDB studio apartments.

Owner-Occupied Households

In 2020, close to 9 in 10 resident households (or 87.9 per cent) were owner-occupied households (Table 1.2). This proportion remained consistently high and was a slight increase over the 87.2 per cent in 2010. There were proportionately more owner-occupied households among the Chinese households (89.6 per cent) than Malay households (85.6 per cent) and Indian households (82.2 per cent).

Table 1.2 Resident Households by Tenancy and Ethnic Group of Household Reference Person

Per Cent

Tenancy	Total		Chinese		Malays		Indians	
	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Owner-Occupied[1]	87.2	87.9	89.9	89.6	89.6	85.6	77.3	82.2
Rented[2]	11.6	11.1	8.8	9.2	9.7	14.0	21.9	17.1
Others[3]	1.3	1.0	1.4	1.2	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.7

[1] Refers to a household where the household reference person and/or any other member(s) in the household owns the dwelling unit. This includes those which are fully paid-up as well as those with outstanding housing loans.

[2] Refers to a household where the household reference person and/or any other member(s) in the household rents whole or part of the dwelling unit.

[3] Refer to a household where the household reference person and/or any other member(s) in the household occupies whole or part of the dwelling unit without charge (provided free by other persons (e.g., employers, relatives, friends, or any other persons)).
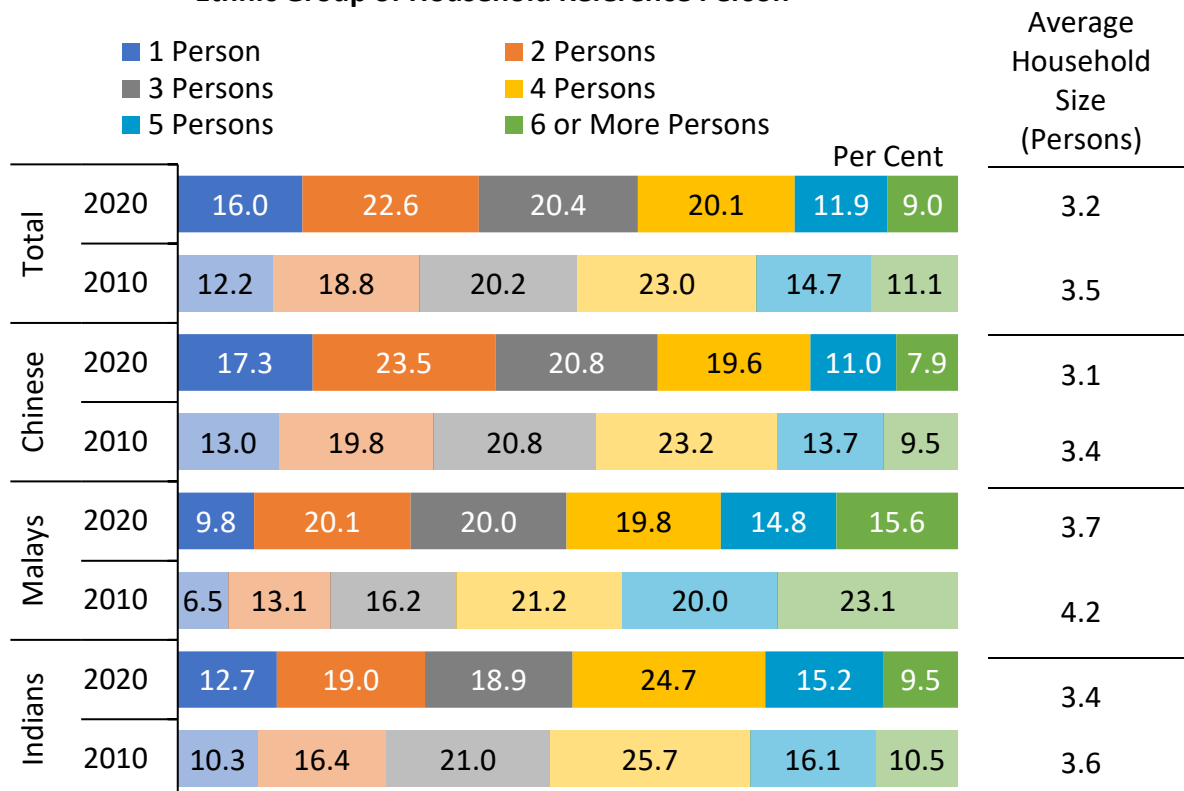
CHAPTER 2

HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND LIVING ARRANGEMENT

Household Size by Ethnic Group

Between 2010 and 2020, the average household size decreased from 3.5 persons to 3.2 persons as households with fewer members became more prevalent. In particular, the proportion of one-person households rose from 12.2 per cent in 2010 to 16.0 per cent in 2020 (Chart 2.1), while two-person households rose from 18.8 per cent to 22.6 per cent over the same period. Close to 60.0 per cent of resident households in 2020 had three or fewer members.
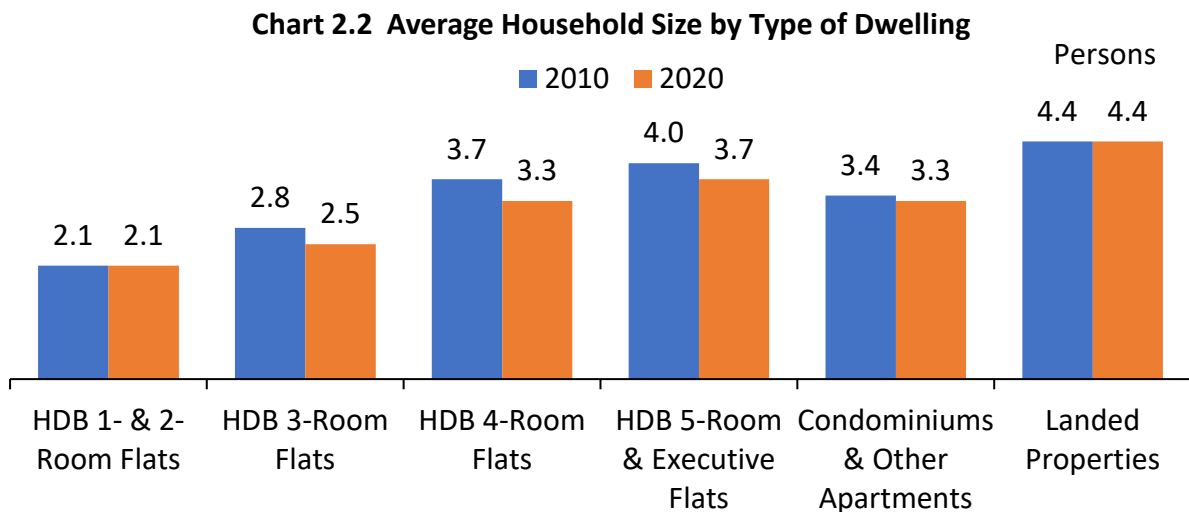
The shift towards smaller households was most prominent for Malay households, with the proportion of households with three or fewer members increasing from 35.7 per cent in 2010 to 49.9 per cent in 2020. The corresponding increase was lower for Chinese households (from 53.7 per cent to 61.6 per cent) and Indian households (from 47.7 per cent to 50.6 per cent). Nevertheless, Malay households continued to have larger households on average (3.7 persons) as compared to Chinese households (3.1 persons) and Indian households (3.4 persons).

Chart 2.1 Resident Households by Household Size and Ethnic Group of Household Reference Person

	1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 or More Persons

Ethnic Group	Year	1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 or More Persons	Average Household Size (Persons)
Total	2020	16.0	22.6	20.4	20.1	11.9	9.0	3.2
Total	2010	12.2	18.8	20.2	23.0	14.7	11.1	3.5
Chinese	2020	17.3	23.5	20.8	19.6	11.0	7.9	3.1
Chinese	2010	13.0	19.8	20.8	23.2	13.7	9.5	3.4
Malays	2020	9.8	20.1	20.0	19.8	14.8	15.6	3.7
Malays	2010	6.5	13.1	16.2	21.2	20.0	23.1	4.2
Indians	2020	12.7	19.0	18.9	24.7	15.2	9.5	3.4
Indians	2010	10.3	16.4	21.0	25.7	16.1	10.5	3.6

Per Cent

6

Household Size by Type of Dwelling

While average household size remained relatively unchanged for resident households staying in HDB 1- and 2- room flats and landed properties between 2010 and 2020, households staying in other housing types saw a decrease in size (Chart 2.2). The decrease was more significant for households staying in HDB 3-room and larger flats, where household sizes decreased by an average of 0.3 to 0.4 persons over the 10-year period.
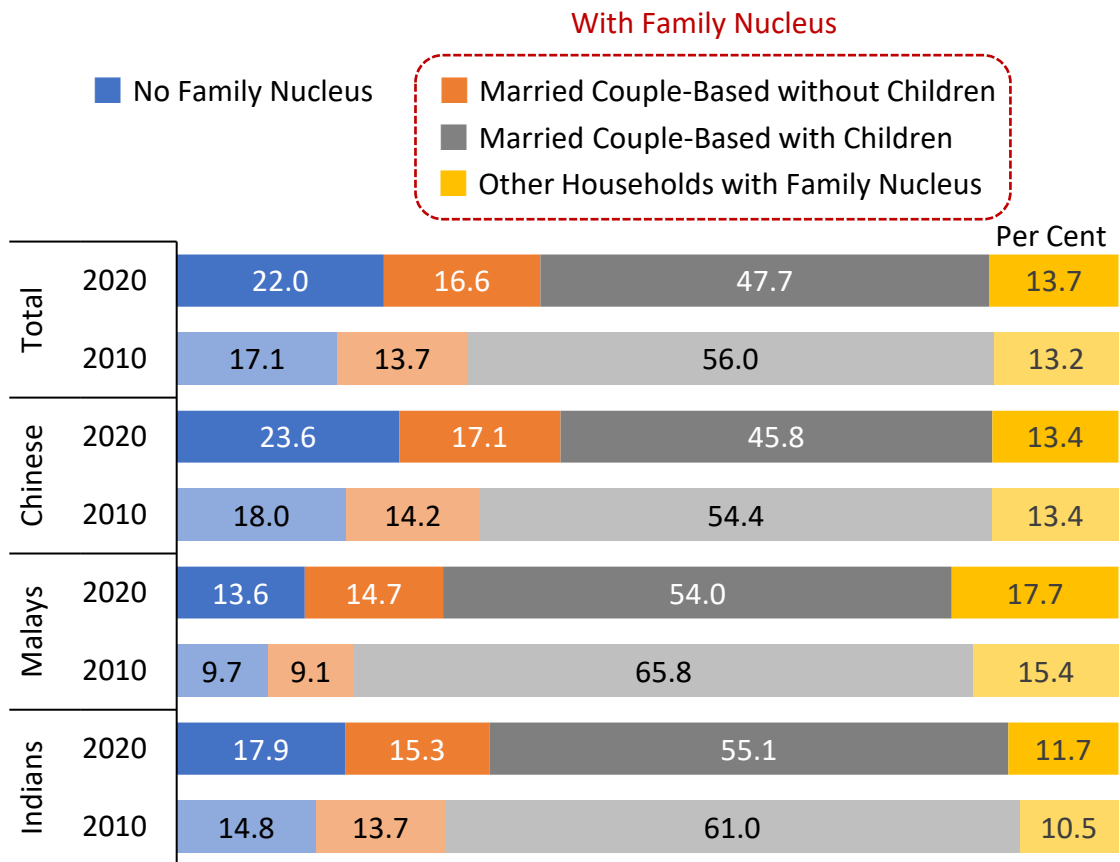
Chart 2.2 Average Household Size by Type of Dwelling

Persons

■ 2010 ■ 2020

Type of Dwelling	2010	2020
HDB 1- & 2-Room Flats	2.1	2.1
HDB 3-Room Flats	2.8	2.5
HDB 4-Room Flats	3.7	3.3
HDB 5-Room & Executive Flats	4.0	3.7
Condominiums & Other Apartments	3.4	3.3
Landed Properties	4.4	4.4

Household Living Arrangement

Households comprising at least one family nucleus[1] accounted for 78.0 per cent of resident households in 2020, a decrease from 82.9 per cent in 2010 (Chart 2.3). This was mainly due to a lower proportion of couple-based households with children, from 56.0 per cent in 2010 to 47.7 per cent in 2020.

Across the three major ethnic groups, Indian and Malay households had a higher proportion of couple-based households with children (55.1 and 54.0 per cent respectively), than Chinese households (45.8 per cent) in 2020.

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[1] For statistical purposes, a family nucleus in a household can be formed by (a) a married couple, or (b) one parent with never-married child(ren). Households with no family nucleus include households formed by a person living alone or living with others but do not constitute any family nucleus.

Chart 2.3 Resident Households by Household Living Arrangement and Ethnic Group of Household Reference Person

With Family Nucleus

■ No Family Nucleus
■ Married Couple-Based without Children
■ Married Couple-Based with Children
■ Other Households with Family Nucleus

Per Cent

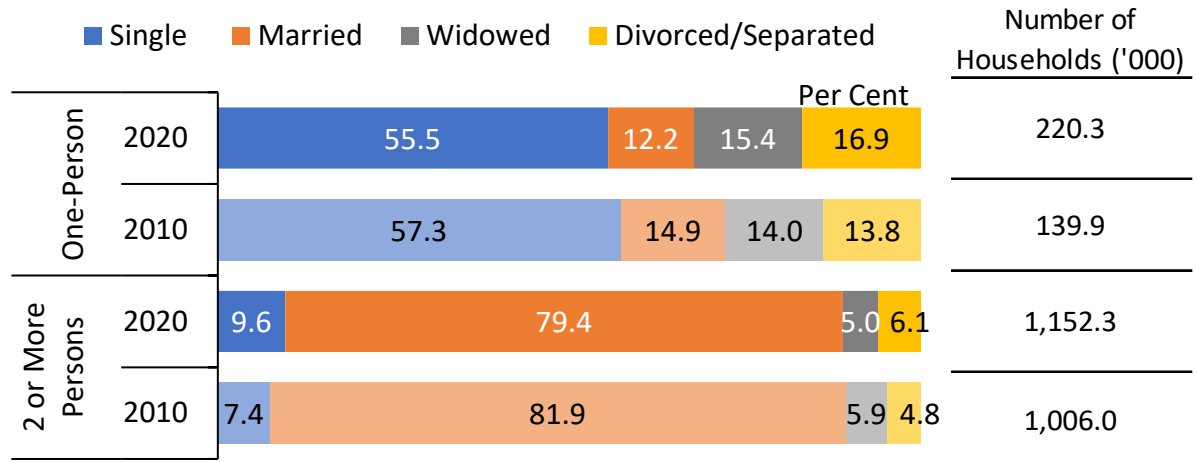| Group	Year	No Family Nucleus	Married Couple-Based without Children	Married Couple-Based with Children	Other Households with Family Nucleus
Total	2020	22.0	16.6	47.7	13.7
Total	2010	17.1	13.7	56.0	13.2
Chinese	2020	23.6	17.1	45.8	13.4
Chinese	2010	18.0	14.2	54.4	13.4
Malays	2020	13.6	14.7	54.0	17.7
Malays	2010	9.7	9.1	65.8	15.4
Indians	2020	17.9	15.3	55.1	11.7
Indians	2010	14.8	13.7	61.0	10.5

Profile of One-Person Households

Among the 220,300 one-person resident households in 2020, more than half (55.5 per cent) had household reference persons who were single. Almost a third (or 32.3 per cent) consisted of persons who were widowed, divorced or separated, up from 27.8 per cent in 2010 (Chart 2.4).

In comparison, among resident households with two or more persons, a majority (79.4 per cent in 2020) had households with reference persons who were married.
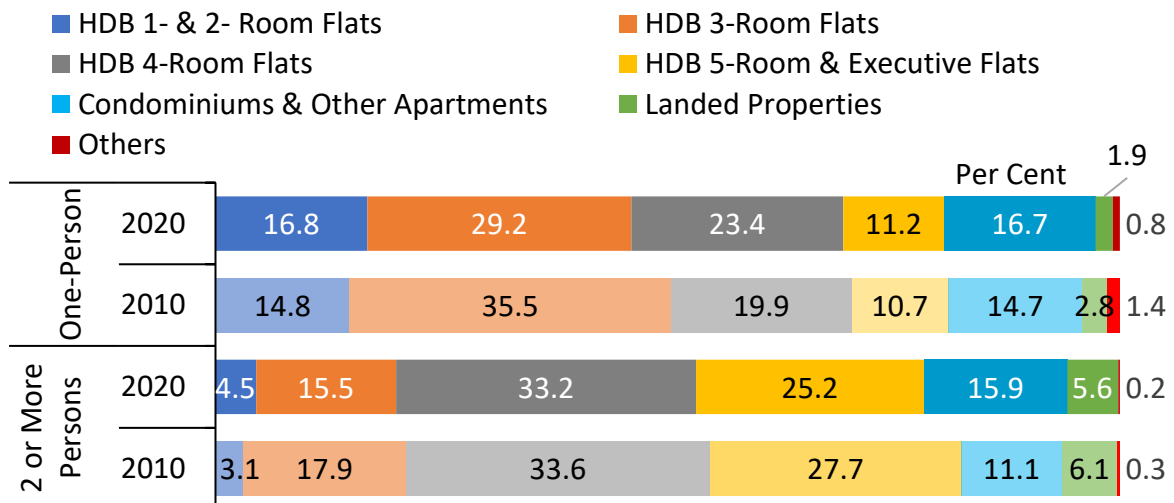
Chart 2.4 Resident Households by Marital Status of Household Reference Person

| Single | Married | Widowed | Divorced/Separated |

		Single	Married	Widowed	Divorced/Separated	Per Cent	Number of Households ('000)
One-Person	2020	55.5	12.2	15.4	16.9		220.3
	2010	57.3	14.9	14.0	13.8		139.9
2 or More Persons	2020	9.6	79.4	5.0	6.1		1,152.3
	2010	7.4	81.9	5.9	4.8		1,006.0

The proportion of one-person households residing in HDB 4-room or larger flats[2], or condominiums and other apartments was notably higher in 2020 (51.3 per cent) than in 2010 (45.5 per cent) (Chart 2.5). Nonetheless, a sizable 46.0 per cent resided in HDB 3-room or smaller flats in 2020.

In contrast, only one-fifth of resident households with two or more persons resided in HDB 3-room or smaller flats in 2020.

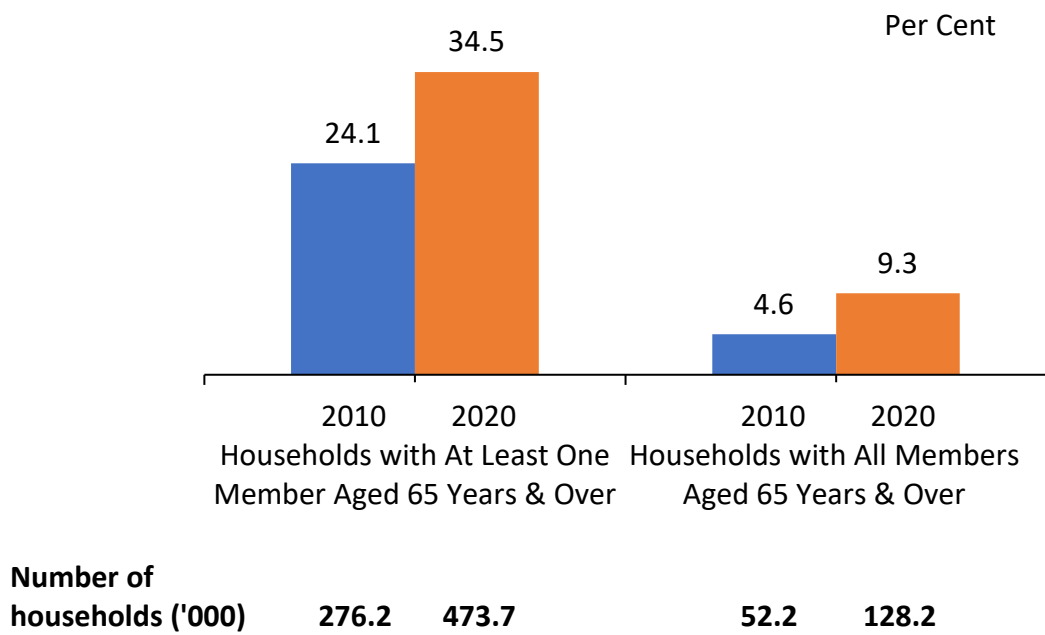**Chart 2.5 Resident Households by Type of Dwelling**

HDB 1- & 2- Room Flats	HDB 3-Room Flats
HDB 4-Room Flats	HDB 5-Room & Executive Flats
Condominiums & Other Apartments	Landed Properties
Others	

		HDB 1- & 2- Room Flats	HDB 3-Room Flats	HDB 4-Room Flats	HDB 5-Room & Executive Flats	Condominiums & Other Apartments	Landed Properties	Others
One-Person	2020	16.8	29.2	23.4	11.2	16.7	1.9	0.8
	2010	14.8	35.5	19.9	10.7	14.7	2.8	1.4
2 or More Persons	2020	4.5	15.5	33.2	25.2	15.9	5.6	0.2
	2010	3.1	17.9	33.6	27.7	11.1	6.1	0.3

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[2] Data for 2010 includes non-privatised Housing and Urban Development Company (HUDC) flats.

Households with Members Aged 65 Years and Over

With the ageing population, the proportion of resident households with at least 1 member aged 65 years and over rose from 24.1 per cent in 2010 to 34.5 per cent in 2020 (Chart 2.6). Households with all members aged 65 years and over also grew in share, from 4.6 per cent in 2010 to 9.3 per cent in 2020.

Chart 2.6   Proportion and Number of Resident Households with Members Aged 65 Years and Over

Per Cent

34.5

24.1

9.3

4.6

	2010	2020		2010	2020
	Households with At Least One Member Aged 65 Years & Over			Households with All Members Aged 65 Years & Over	
Number of households ('000)	**276.2**	**473.7**		**52.2**	**128.2**

CHAPTER 3

HOUSEHOLD INCOME FROM WORK

Household Income Growth

Resident households[3] saw growth in both their average and median monthly household incomes from work between 2010 and 2020. The median household income from work among resident households rose by 3.3 per cent per annum, from $5,600 in 2010 to $7,744 in 2020 (Table 3.1). After adjusting for inflation, median monthly household income from work rose by 1.9 per cent per annum in real terms.

Taking into account household size, the median monthly household income from work per household member increased, from $1,638 in 2010 to $2,463 in 2020. This translated to growth of 4.2 per cent per annum (or 2.8 per cent per annum in real terms).

Table 3.1 Monthly Household Income from Work among Resident Households

	2010 ($)	2020 ($)	Annualised Change (Per Cent)	
			Nominal	Real[1]
Total Household Income from Work				
Average	7,812	10,608	3.1	1.7
Median	5,600	7,744	3.3	1.9
Household Income from Work Per Household Member				
Average	2,425	3,488	3.7	2.3
Median	1,638	2,463	4.2	2.8

Note: Household income from work includes employer CPF contributions. The dollar values in the table above are in nominal terms.
[1] The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Items is used as the deflator to compute real change.

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[3] This includes households with no employed persons, which could have income from non-work sources.

Households by Household Income Groups

Reflecting the higher average and median household income from work, the proportion of resident households in the higher household income brackets rose between 2010 and 2020.

The proportion of resident households earning at least $9,000 & over increased from 29.7 per cent in 2010 to 44.2 per cent in 2020. Notably, the proportion of resident households earning $20,000 & over more than doubled from 6.6 per cent in 2010 to 13.9 percent in 2020 (Chart 3.1). On the other hand, in tandem with the increase in households comprising solely persons aged 65 and over[4], the proportion of households with no employed persons rose to 13.3 per cent in 2020, up from 10.5 per cent in 2010.

Chart 3.1 Resident Households by Monthly Household Income from Work

Per Cent
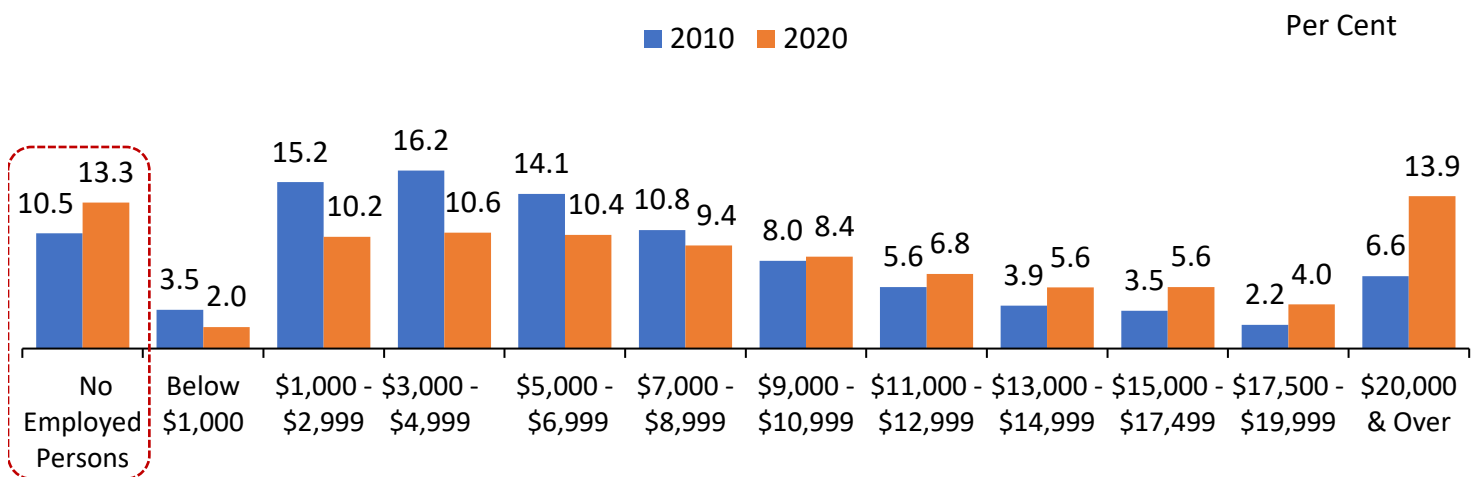
Note: Household income from work includes employer CPF contributions. The household income bands are based on nominal terms.

Household Income by Ethnic Group

All the three major ethnic groups experienced growth in household income from work. From 2010 to 2020, median household income from work grew by 3.4 per cent per annum (or 2.1 per cent in real terms) for the Chinese households, 2.8 per cent per annum (or 1.4 per cent in real terms) for the Malay households and 3.5 per cent per annum (or 2.2 per cent in real terms) for the Indian households (Table 3.2).

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[4] Detailed trends on households with members aged 65 years and over can be found in Census 2020 Statistical Release 2: Chapter 2 on Household Size and Living Arrangement.

After accounting for household size[5], growth in median household income from work <u>per household member</u> was the highest among Malay households, which registered a growth of 4.3 per cent per annum (or 3.0 per cent in real terms) between 2010 and 2020. This was followed by the Chinese households at 4.2 per cent per annum (or 2.9 per cent in real terms) and Indian households at 3.9 per cent per annum (or 2.5 per cent in real terms).

Table 3.2 Monthly Household Income from Work by Ethnic Group of Household Reference Person Among Resident Households

	2010 ($)	2020 ($)	Annualised Change (Per Cent)	
			Nominal	Real[1]
<u>Average Household Income from Work</u>				
Total	7,812	10,608	3.1	1.7
Chinese	7,926	10,812	3.2	1.8
Malays	5,109	6,851	3.0	1.6
Indians	8,271	11,688	3.5	2.2
<u>Median Household Income from Work</u>				
Total	5,600	7,744	3.3	1.9
Chinese	5,691	7,972	3.4	2.1
Malays	4,328	5,704	2.8	1.4
Indians	6,000	8,500	3.5	2.2
<u>Average Household Income from Work Per Household Member</u>				
Total	2,425	3,488	3.7	2.3
Chinese	2,478	3,615	3.8	2.5
Malays	1,304	2,003	4.4	3.0
Indians	2,533	3,584	3.5	2.2
<u>Median Household Income from Work Per Household Member</u>				
Total	1,638	2,463	4.2	2.8
Chinese	1,718	2,603	4.2	2.9
Malays	1,043	1,594	4.3	3.0
Indians	1,721	2,521	3.9	2.5

Note: Household income from work includes employer CPF contributions. The dollar values in the table above are in nominal terms.
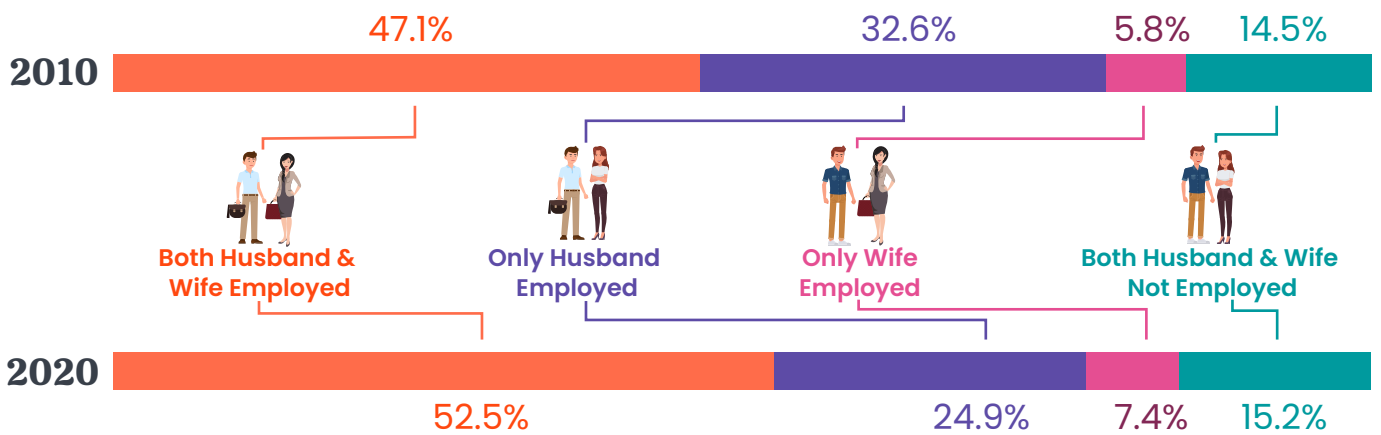
[1] The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Items is used as the deflator to compute real change.

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[5] Detailed trends on household size by ethnic group breakdown can be found in Census 2020 Statistical Release 2: Chapter 2 on Household Size and Living Arrangement.
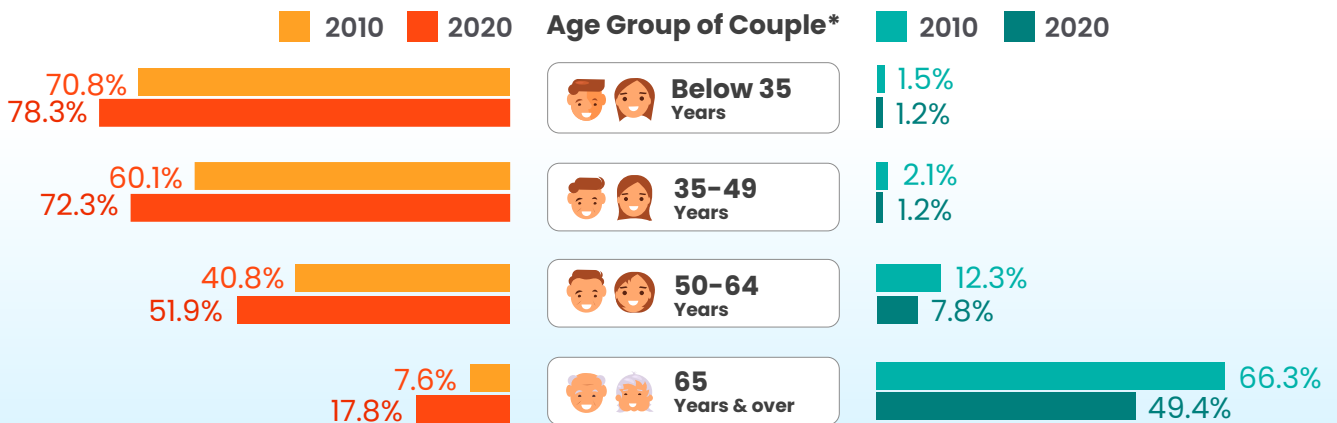
Married Couples

In 2020, **majority of married couples were dual-career couples.**
The proportion increased over the past 10 years.

	Both Husband & Wife Employed	Only Husband Employed	Only Wife Employed	Both Husband & Wife Not Employed
2010	47.1%	32.6%	5.8%	14.5%
2020	52.5%	24.9%	7.4%	15.2%

ACROSS ALL AGE GROUPS,

Proportion of dual-career couples **increased**.

Proportion of non-employed couples **decreased**.

	2010	2020	Age Group of Couple*	2010	2020
	70.8%	78.3%	Below 35 Years	1.5%	1.2%
	60.1%	72.3%	35–49 Years	2.1%	1.2%
	40.8%	51.9%	50–64 Years	12.3%	7.8%
	7.6%	17.8%	65 Years & over	66.3%	49.4%

*For married couples where the husband and wife are not in the same age group, it refers to the age group of the older party.
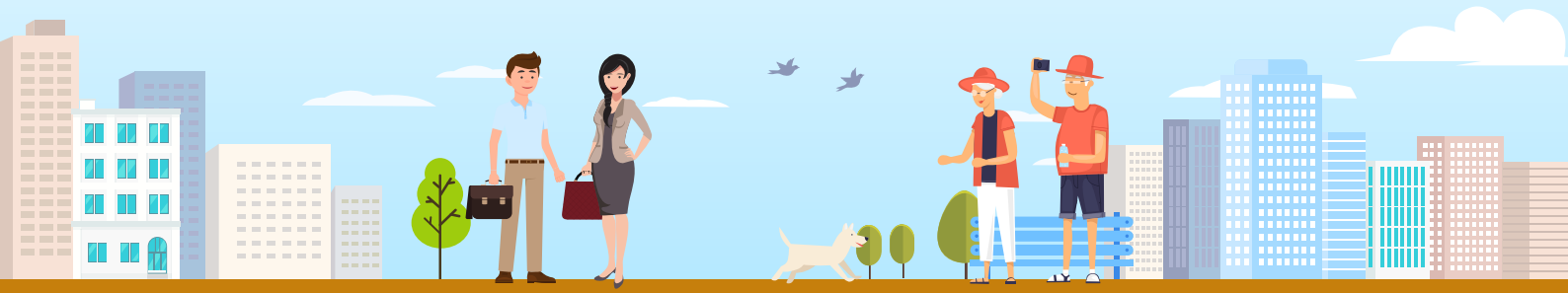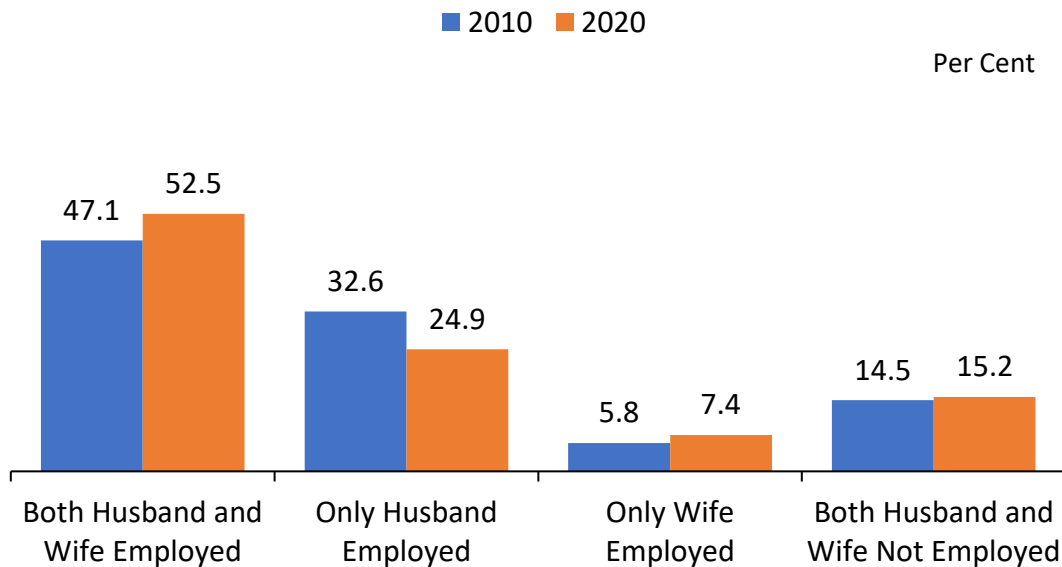
CHAPTER 4

MARRIED COUPLES IN RESIDENT HOUSEHOLDS

Labour Force Status of Married Couples

The number of married couples increased from 880,800 in 2010 to 977,300 in 2020. In tandem with the increase in female labour force participation rate, the proportion of married couples with an employed wife[6] increased from 52.9 per cent in 2010 to 60.0 per cent in 2020 (Chart 4.1). Correspondingly, the proportion with only the husband employed decreased from 32.6 per cent to 24.9 per cent over the same period.

Dual-career couples (with both husband and wife employed) constituted the largest group among married couples, with the proportion increasing from 47.1 per cent in 2010 to 52.5 per cent in 2020.

**Chart 4.1 Married Couples in Resident Households
by Labour Force Status of Couple**

■ 2010 ■ 2020

Per Cent

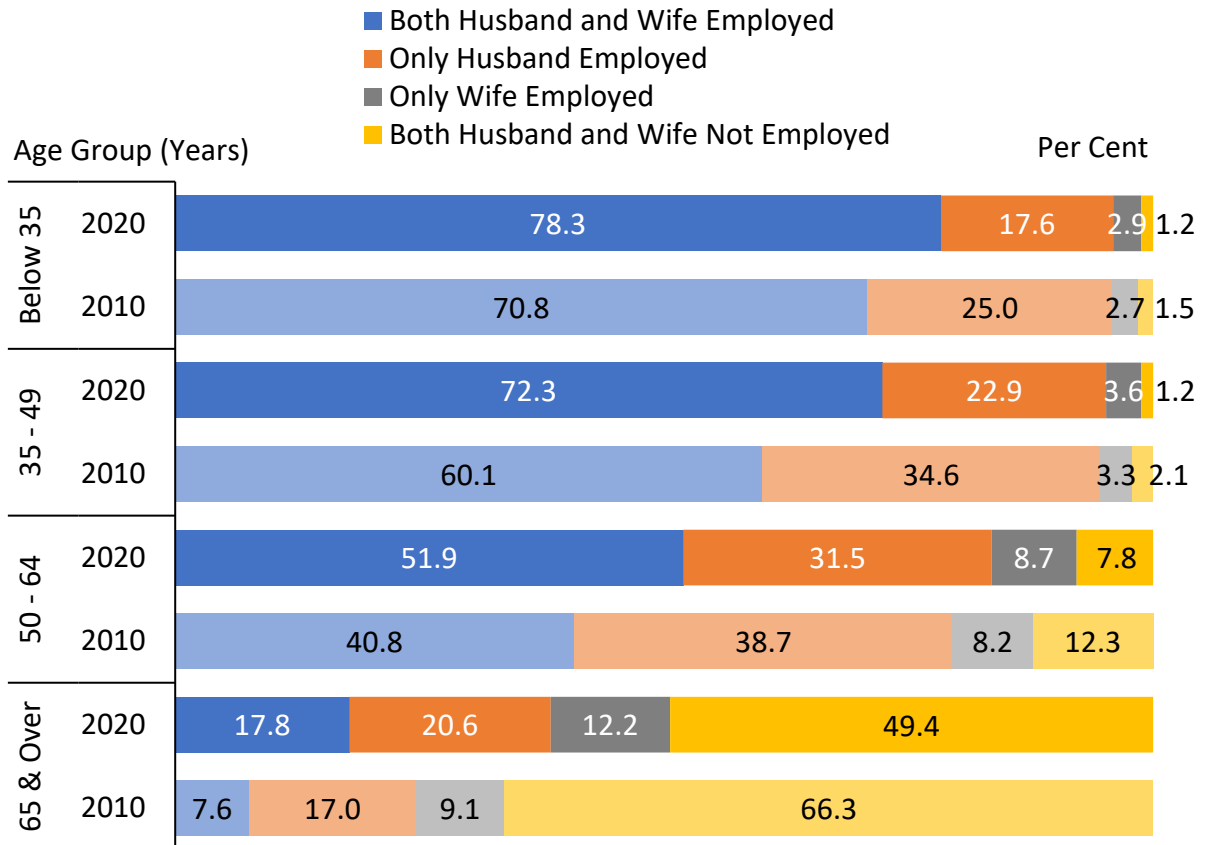|	Both Husband and Wife Employed	Only Husband Employed	Only Wife Employed	Both Husband and Wife Not Employed
2010	47.1	32.6	5.8	14.5
2020	52.5	24.9	7.4	15.2

The increase in proportion of dual-career couples between 2010 and 2020 was observed in married couples across all age groups, with the highest increase (12.2 percentage points) among couples aged 35 – 49 years old (Chart 4.2).

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[6] Refers to married couples where (a) both husband and wife were employed and (b) only wife was employed.

Among married couples aged 65 years & over, the proportion where either or both husband and wife were employed increased, while couples with both husband and wife not employed dropped significantly from 66.3 per cent in 2010 to 49.4 per cent in 2020, reflecting the rising employment rate of seniors.

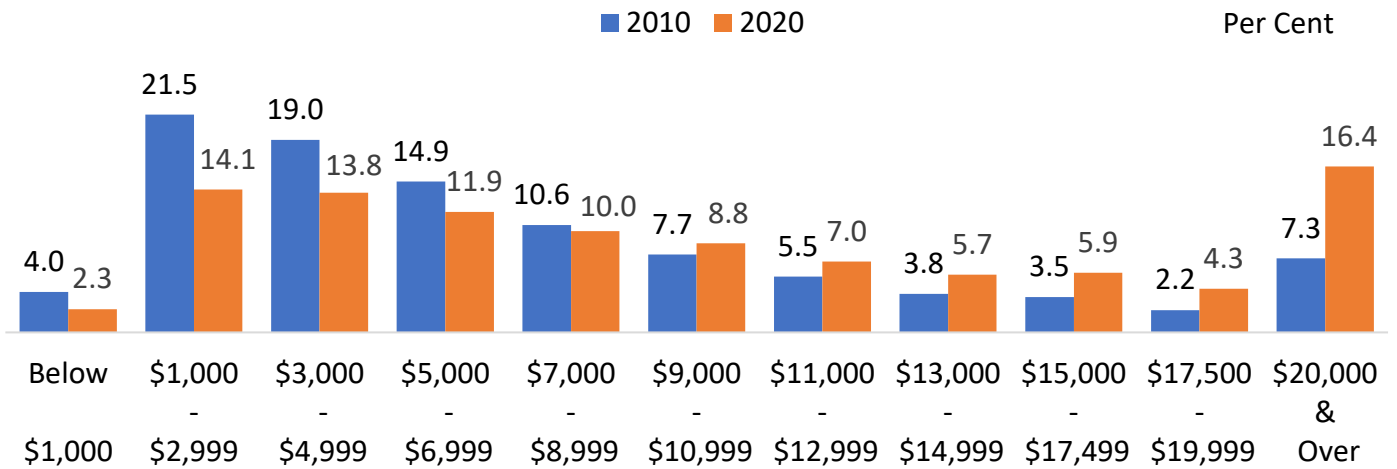**Chart 4.2 Married Couples in Resident Households by Labour Force Status and Age Group of Couple**

■ Both Husband and Wife Employed
■ Only Husband Employed
■ Only Wife Employed
■ Both Husband and Wife Not Employed

Age Group (Years)   Per Cent

Age Group	Year	Both Employed	Only Husband	Only Wife	Both Not Employed
Below 35	2020	78.3	17.6	2.9	1.2
Below 35	2010	70.8	25.0	2.7	1.5
35 - 49	2020	72.3	22.9	3.6	1.2
35 - 49	2010	60.1	34.6	3.3	2.1
50 - 64	2020	51.9	31.5	8.7	7.8
50 - 64	2010	40.8	38.7	8.2	12.3
65 & Over	2020	17.8	20.6	12.2	49.4
65 & Over	2010	7.6	17.0	9.1	66.3

Note: For married couples where the husband and wife are not in the same age group, it refers to the age group of the older party.

Income from Work of Married Couples

Excluding married couples who were not employed, the proportion whose combined monthly income from work was $9,000 & over rose significantly from 29.9 per cent in 2010 to 48.0 per cent in 2020 (Chart 4.3).
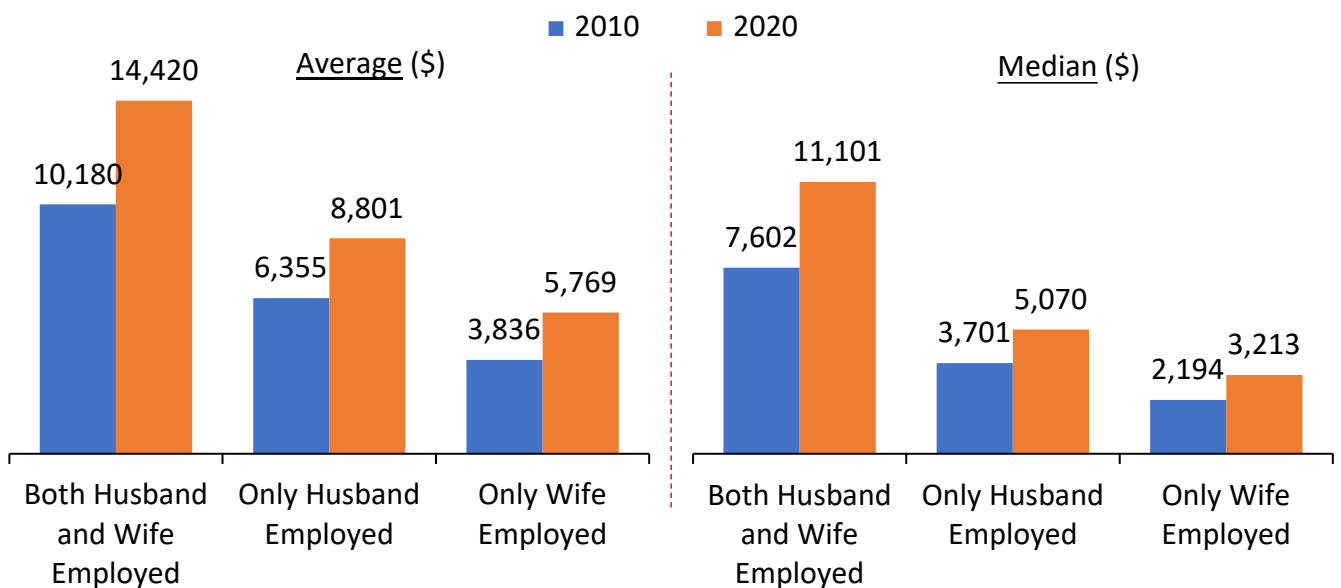
**Chart 4.3 Married Couples in Resident Households by
Monthly Income from Work of Couple**

■ 2010 ■ 2020

Per Cent

Income Range	2010	2020
Below $1,000	4.0	2.3
$1,000 - $2,999	21.5	14.1
$3,000 - $4,999	19.0	13.8
$5,000 - $6,999	14.9	11.9
$7,000 - $8,999	10.6	10.0
$9,000 - $10,999	7.7	8.8
$11,000 - $12,999	5.5	7.0
$13,000 - $14,999	3.8	5.7
$15,000 - $17,499	3.5	5.9
$17,500 - $19,999	2.2	4.3
$20,000 & Over	7.3	16.4

Note: Income from work includes employer CPF contributions. Data excludes married couples where both husband and wife were not employed.

Across all labour force status of married couples, the average and median monthly income from work of couples rose between 2010 and 2020 (Chart 4.4). Married couples with both husband and wife employed earned a median monthly income of $11,101 in 2020, higher than those with only husband employed ($5,070) and those with only wife employed ($3,213).
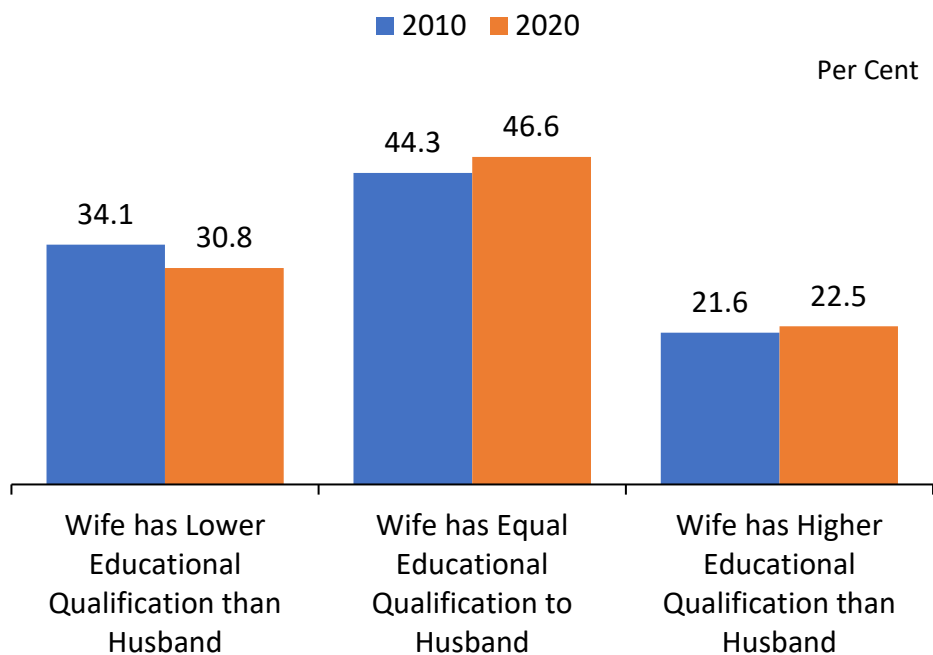
**Chart 4.4 Average and Median Monthly Income from Work of Married Couples in
Resident Households by Labour Force Status of Couple**

■ 2010 ■ 2020

Average ($)

Labour Force Status	2010	2020
Both Husband and Wife Employed	10,180	14,420
Only Husband Employed	6,355	8,801
Only Wife Employed	3,836	5,769

Median ($)

Labour Force Status	2010	2020
Both Husband and Wife Employed	7,602	11,101
Only Husband Employed	3,701	5,070
Only Wife Employed	2,194	3,213

Educational Attainment of Married Couples

Reflecting the continued equalisation of educational opportunities for females[7], the proportion of married couples with both the husband and wife having equal qualifications rose from 44.3 per cent in 2010 to 46.6 per cent in 2020 (Chart 4.5). The corresponding share of married couples where the wife had lower qualifications than the husband decreased to 30.8 per cent in 2020 while that for couples where the wife had higher qualifications than the husband remained relatively unchanged.

**Chart 4.5 Married Couples in Resident Households by
Highest Qualification Attained of Husband and Wife**

■ 2010 ■ 2020

Per Cent

	Wife has Lower Educational Qualification than Husband	Wife has Equal Educational Qualification to Husband	Wife has Higher Educational Qualification than Husband
2010	34.1	44.3	21.6
2020	30.8	46.6	22.5

 Note: Data excludes married couples where either the husband or wife or both were attending educational institutions as full-time students. The data includes those who were upgrading their qualifications through part-time courses.

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[7] Detailed trends on educational profile of residents can be found in Census 2020 Statistical Release 1: Demographic Characteristics, Education, Language and Religion.

Across all educational qualification groups of the husband, the proportion of married couples where the wife had lower qualifications than the husband decreased between 2010 and 2020 (Chart 4.6).

Among married males with university qualifications in 2020, the majority (or 70.3 per cent) had a spouse who was also a university graduate. In comparison, 41.3 per cent of married males with diploma and professional qualifications had a spouse with lower educational qualifications.

**Chart 4.6 Married Couples in Resident Households
by Highest Qualification Attained of Husband and Wife**

■ Wife has Higher Educational Qualification than Husband
■ Wife has Equal Educational Qualification to Husband
■ Wife has Lower Educational Qualification than Husband

Per Cent

	No Qualification		Primary		Lower Secondary		Secondary		Post-Secondary (Non-Tertiary)		Diploma & Professional Qualification		University	
	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020
Higher	34.8	42.2	42.2	48.0	35.3	41.8	24.2	30.5	21.9	27.8	20.5	27.0		
Equal	65.2	57.8	32.7	30.2	28.5	26.9	42.5	40.0	20.6	22.0	30.6	31.7	64.2	70.3
Lower			25.1	21.8	36.2	31.3	33.2	29.5	57.5	50.2	48.9	41.3	35.8	29.7

Highest Qualification Attained of Husband
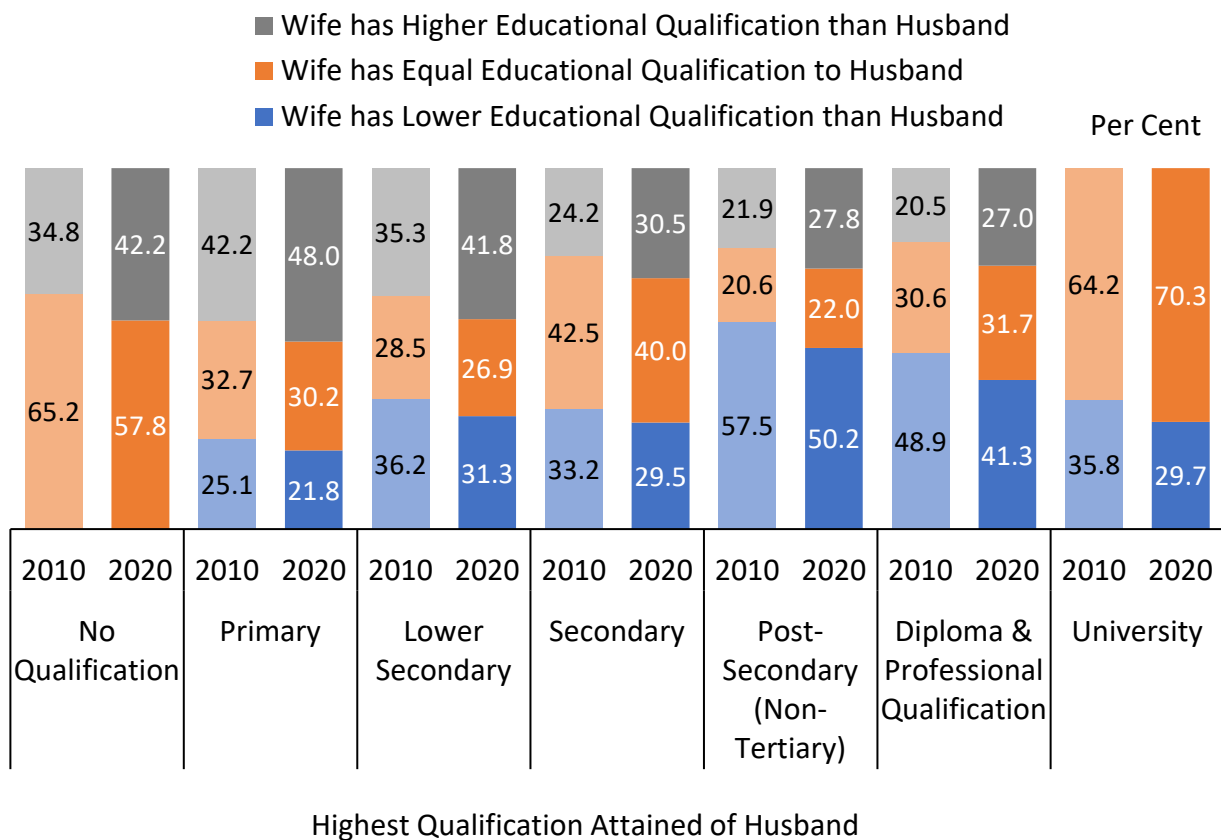
Note: Data excludes married couples where either the husband or wife or both were attending educational institutions as full-time students. The data includes those who were upgrading their qualifications through part-time courses.

Geographical Distribution & Transport

With a total population of **5.69 million** in 2020, there was an average of **7,810 persons per square kilometer** in Singapore.

**Outram** had the highest proportion of residents aged 65 years and over.

Punggol had the highest proportion of residents aged below 5 years.

Punggol
9.3%

Outram
25.5%
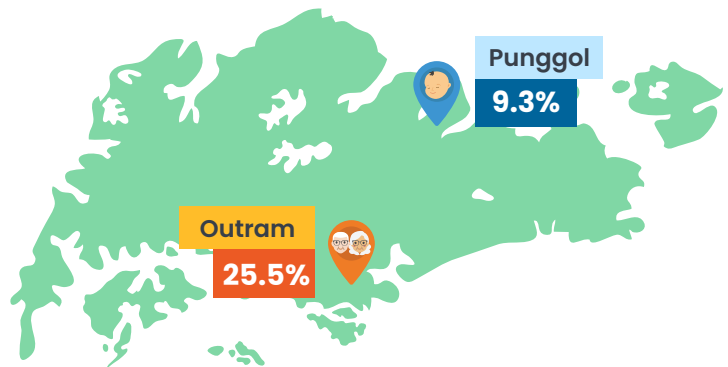
Top 3 Areas Where Residents Work

Among all employed residents aged 15 years and over with a fixed location for work, Downtown Core, Queenstown and Geylang were the top 3 areas where employed residents travelled to for work.

Queenstown
131,800

Geylang
116,500

Downtown Core
284,000
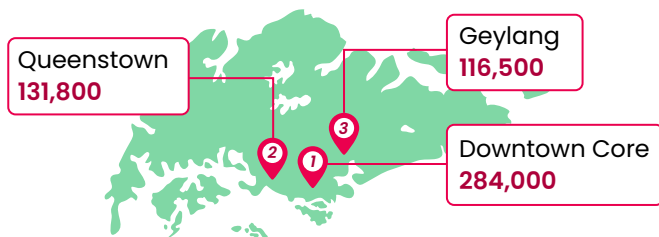
Main Mode of Transport for Students

		2010	2020
Primary and Below: **No Transport Required**		46.2%	43.0%
Secondary: **Public Bus Only**		42.1%	36.9%
Post-Secondary(Non-Tertiary): MRT/LRT & Public Bus Only		29.4%	44.2%
Polytechnic Diploma: MRT/LRT & Public Bus Only		34.6%	49.7%
Professional Qualification and Other Diploma: MRT/LRT & Public Bus Only		38.3%	48.9%
University: MRT/LRT & Public Bus Only		43.7%	51.1%

Mode of Transport & Median Travelling Time for Employed Residents

The use of combinations of MRT/LRT or public bus to work increased to **57.7%** in 2020.

2010
- Combinations of MRT/LRT or Public Bus 54.6 %
- 19.3%
- 11.6%
- 17.7%
- Other Combinations 6.1%
- 26.1%
- 11.8%
- 7.5%

2020
- Combinations of MRT/LRT or Public Bus 57.7 %
- 15.0%
- 13.2%
- 25.7%
- Other Combinations 3.9%
- 24.1%
- 8.4%
- 9.8%
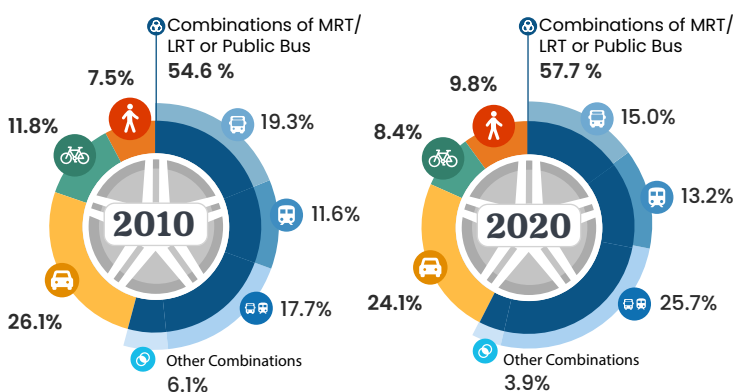
Median Travelling Time	2010	2020
Combinations of MRT/LRT or Public Bus	45	45 min
Public Bus Only	30	37 min
MRT/LRT Only	40	45 min
MRT/LRT & Public Bus Only	50	60 min
Other Combinations	45	60 min
Car/Taxi/Private Hire Car Only	30	30 min
Other Modes	30	30 min
No Transport Required	10	8 min

CHAPTER 5

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF RESIDENCE

Population Size and Density

Singapore's total population in 2020 was 5.69 million, or an average of 7,810 persons per square kilometer (sq km) (Table 5.1). This was higher than the population density[8] of 7,146 persons per sq km in 2010.

Table 5.1 Population Size and Density

Year	Total Population[1/] ('000)	Resident Population ('000)	Land Area (sq km)	Population Density (per sq km)
2000	4,027.9	3,273.4	682.7	5,900
2010	5,076.7	3,771.7	710.4	7,146
2015	5,535.0	3,902.7	719.1	7,697
2016	5,607.3	3,933.6	719.2	7,797
2017	5,612.3	3,965.8	719.9	7,796
2018	5,638.7	3,994.3	722.5	7,804
2019	5,703.6	4,026.2	725.1	7,866
2020	5,685.8	4,044.2	728.0	7,810

[1/] Total population comprises Singapore residents and non-residents. Resident population comprises Singapore citizens and permanent residents.

Resident Population Size by Planning Area of Residence

In 2020, slightly over half of the 4.04 million residents in Singapore stayed in the top 9 planning areas of residence. There were four planning areas with more than 250,000 residents each, namely Bedok, Jurong West, Tampines and Woodlands (Map 5.1). Bedok was the most populated with 276,990 residents.

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[8] Population density is calculated using the total population size divided by the total land area. This is different from, and not comparable to, living density which only takes into account land available for urban areas, and excludes land use for ports, airports, defence and utilities, among others.

Age Profile

In 2020, Outram, Sungei Kadut, Rochor, Bukit Merah, Ang Mo Kio, Queenstown, Kallang, Toa Payoh and Clementi had higher proportions of residents aged 65 years and over (Map 5.2) than other planning areas of residence. For each of these areas, at least one in five residents were aged 65 years and over.
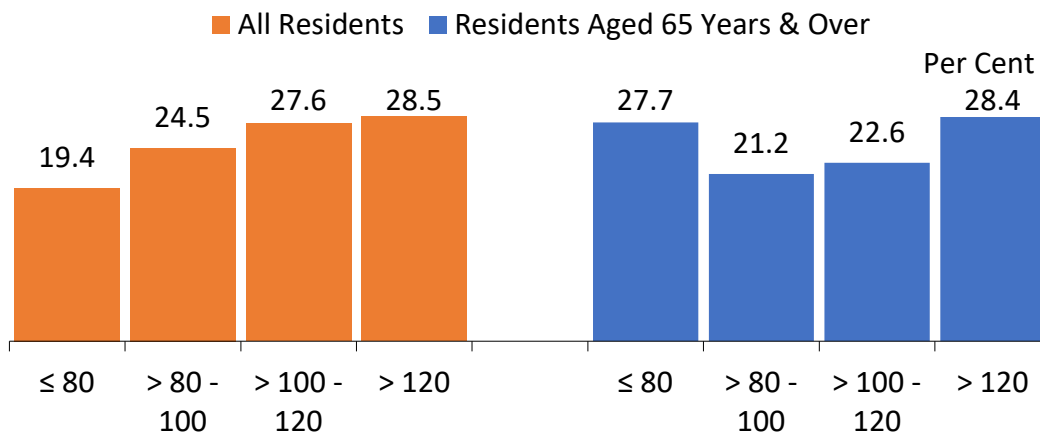
In comparison, newer planning areas had a higher proportion of children aged below 5 years than older planning areas. In 2020, Punggol had the highest proportion of children aged below 5 years at 9.3 per cent of the resident population in the planning area (Map 5.3). Five other planning areas each had at least 6.0 per cent of residents aged below 5 years.

Floor Area of Residence

In 2020, more than half of the resident population lived in residential dwelling units with floor areas greater than 100 square metres (sq m) (Chart 5.1). Proportionately more seniors aged 65 years and over (27.7 per cent) lived in smaller residential dwelling units with floor areas of 80 sq m or less, compared to the overall resident population (19.4 per cent). This corresponded with the smaller average household size of 2.6 persons for resident households with reference persons aged 65 years and over compared to 3.2 persons for all resident households.

By planning area, Outram, Changi, Queenstown, Kallang and Rochor had at least 50 per cent of residents aged 65 years and above staying in residential dwelling units with floor areas of 80 sq m or less (Map 5.4).

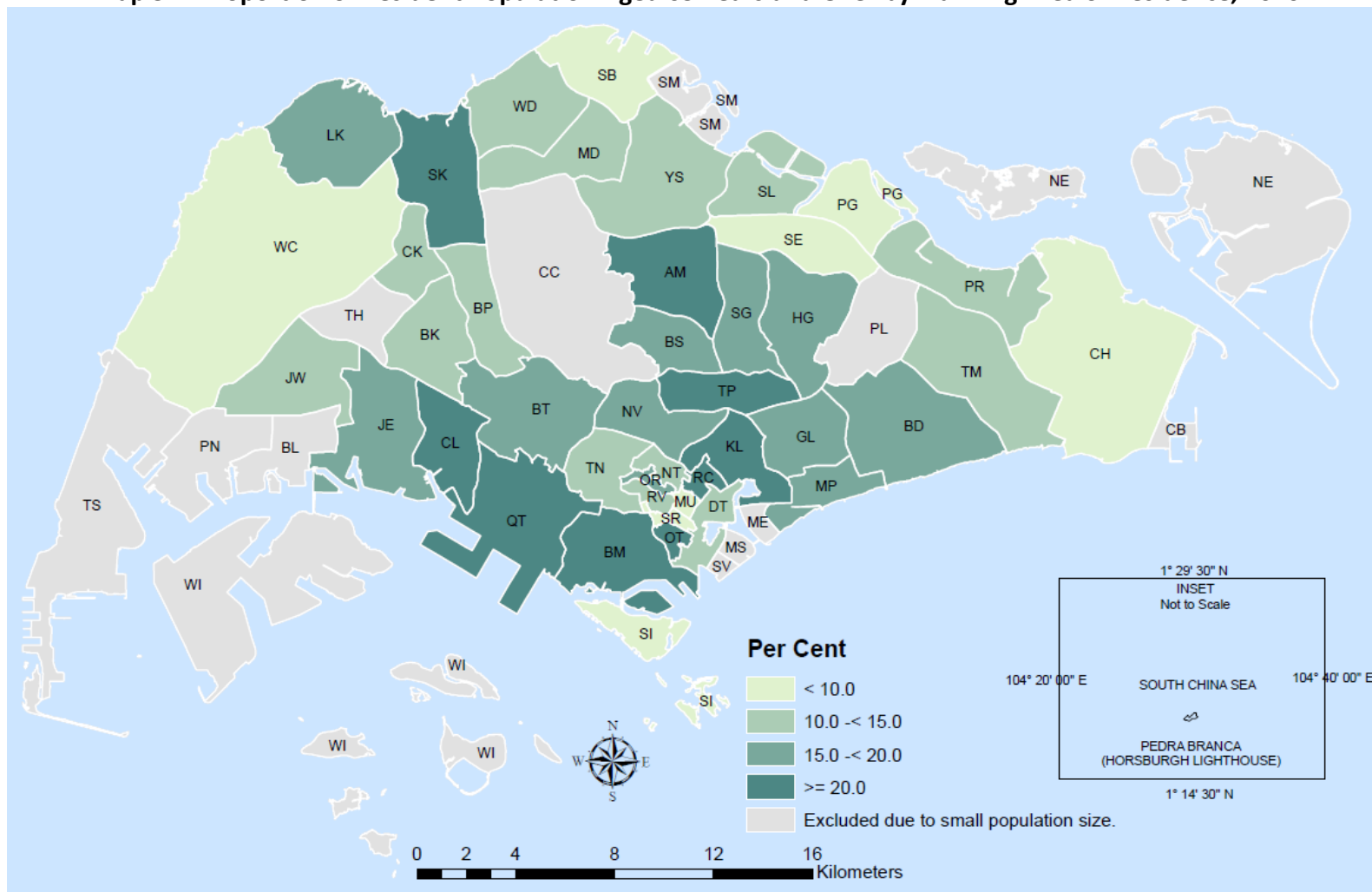**Chart 5.1 Proportion of Resident Population by Floor Area of Residence (sq m), 2020**

All Residents — Residents Aged 65 Years & Over

Floor Area	All Residents	Residents Aged 65 Years & Over
≤ 80	19.4	27.7
> 80 - 100	24.5	21.2
> 100 - 120	27.6	22.6
> 120	28.5	28.4

Map* 5.1 Resident Population by Planning Area of Residence, 2020

SEMBAWANG (SB)
SIMPANG (SM)
SIMPANG (SM)
WOODLANDS (WD)
SIMPANG (SM)
LIM CHU KANG (LK)
MANDAI (MD)
SUNGEI KADUT (SK)
YISHUN (YS)
SELETAR (SL)
NORTH-EASTERN ISLANDS (NE)
NORTH-EASTERN ISLANDS (NE)
PUNGGOL (PG)
PUNGGOL (PG)
SENGKANG (SE)
CHOA CHU KANG (CK)
WESTERN WATER CATCHMENT (WC)
ANG MO KIO (AM)
CENTRAL WATER CATCHMENT (CC)
PASIR RIS (PR)
TENGAH (TH)
BUKIT PANJANG (BP)
SERANGOON (SG)
HOUGANG (HG)
BUKIT BATOK (BK)
PAYA LEBAR (PL)
BISHAN (BS)
CHANGI (CH)
JURONG WEST (JW)
TAMPINES (TM)
BUKIT TIMAH (BT)
TOA PAYOH (TP)
JURONG EAST (JE)
NOVENA (NV)
BEDOK (BD)
CHANGI BAY (CB)
PIONEER (PN)
BOON LAY (BL)
CLEMENTI (CL)
GEYLANG (GL)
ROCHOR (RC)
KALLANG (KL)
TANGLIN (TN)
NEWTON (NT)
RIVER VALLEY (RV)
MARINE PARADE (MP)
TUAS (TS)
QUEENSTOWN (QT)
DOWNTOWN CORE (DT)
MARINA EAST (ME)
OUTRAM (OT)
BUKIT MERAH (BM)
MARINA SOUTH (MS)
STRAITS VIEW (SV)
WESTERN ISLANDS (WI)
SOUTHERN ISLANDS (SI)
WESTERN ISLANDS (WI)
SOUTHERN ISLANDS (SI)
WESTERN ISLANDS (WI)
WESTERN ISLANDS (WI)

Number

	< 50,000
	50,000 -< 150,000
	150,000 -< 250,000
	250,000 -< 300,000

INSET
Not to Scale
1° 29' 30" N
104° 20' 00" E
104° 40' 00" E
SOUTH CHINA SEA
PEDRA BRANCA
(HORSBURGH LIGHTHOUSE)
1° 14' 30" N

0 2 4 8 12 16
Kilometers

Note: Published map is based on the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Master Plan 2019 planning area boundaries and the Singapore Land Authority's 2020 Singapore island profile. The Master Plan 2019 is a forward-looking guiding plan for Singapore's development in the medium term over the next 10 to 15 years and the planning boundaries may not coincide with existing developments for some areas.
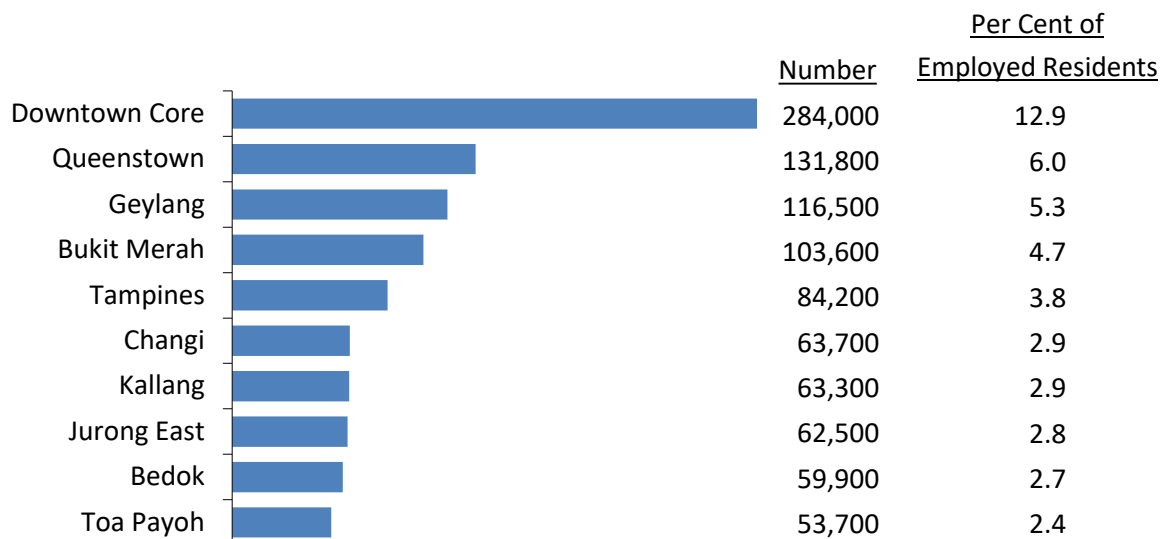
*Data on actual count of data presented on all maps are available in the section on detailed statistical tables in this report.

Map 5.2 Proportion of Resident Population Aged 65 Years and Over by Planning Area of Residence, 2020

Per Cent
- < 10.0
- 10.0 -< 15.0
- 15.0 -< 20.0
- >= 20.0
- Excluded due to small population size.

Note: Published map is based on the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Master Plan 2019 planning area boundaries and the Singapore Land Authority's 2020 Singapore island profile. The Master Plan 2019 is a forward-looking guiding plan for Singapore's development in the medium term over the next 10 to 15 years and the planning boundaries may not coincide with existing developments for some areas.

Map 5.3 Proportion of Resident Population Aged Below 5 Years by Planning Area of Residence, 2020
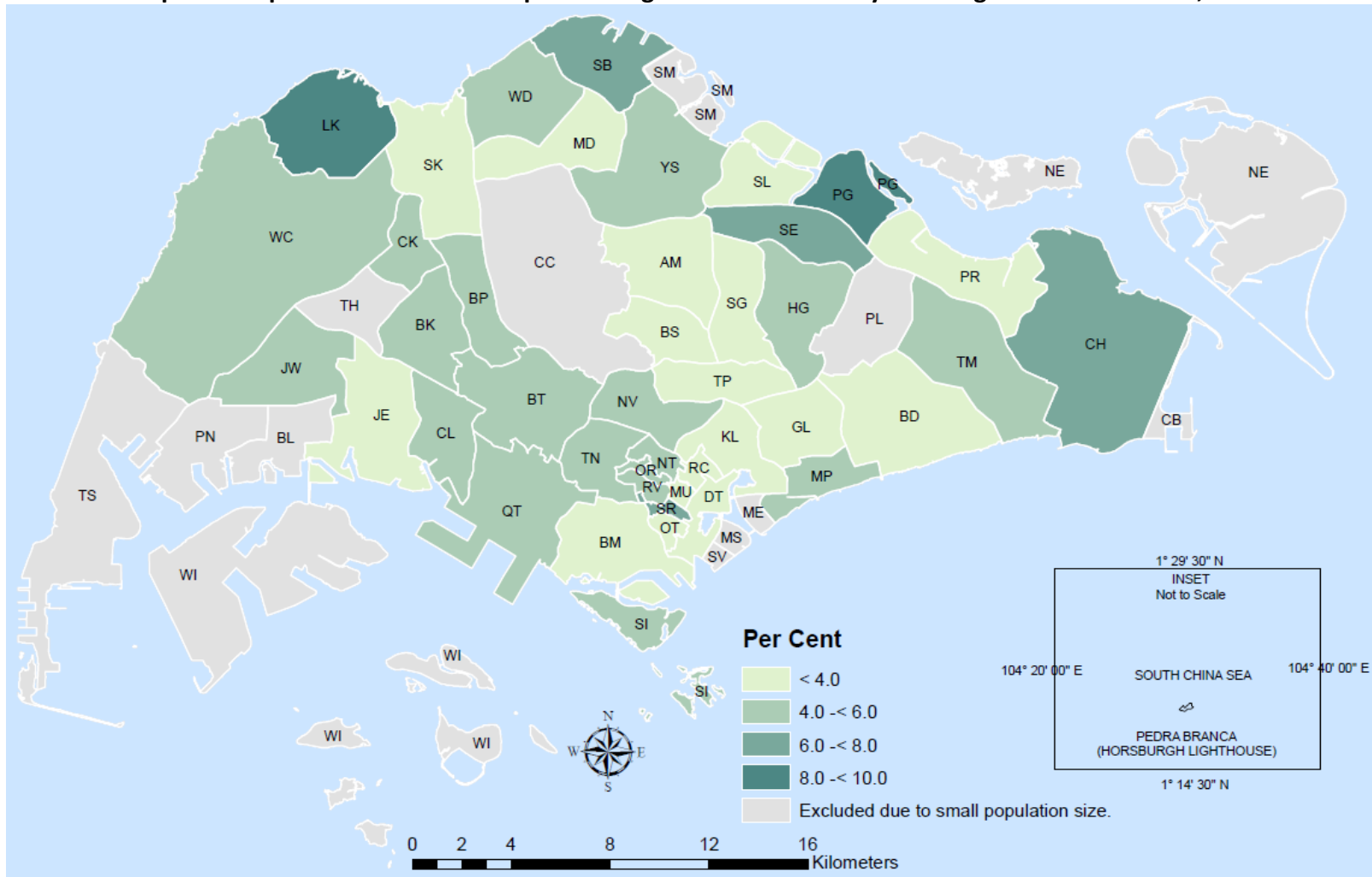
Note: Published map is based on the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Master Plan 2019 planning area boundaries and the Singapore Land Authority's 2020 Singapore island profile. The Master Plan 2019 is a forward-looking guiding plan for Singapore's development in the medium term over the next 10 to 15 years and the planning boundaries may not coincide with existing developments for some areas.

Map 5.4 Proportion of Residents Aged 65 Years & Over Staying in Residential Dwelling Units of Floor Area ≤80 sq m by Planning Area of Residence
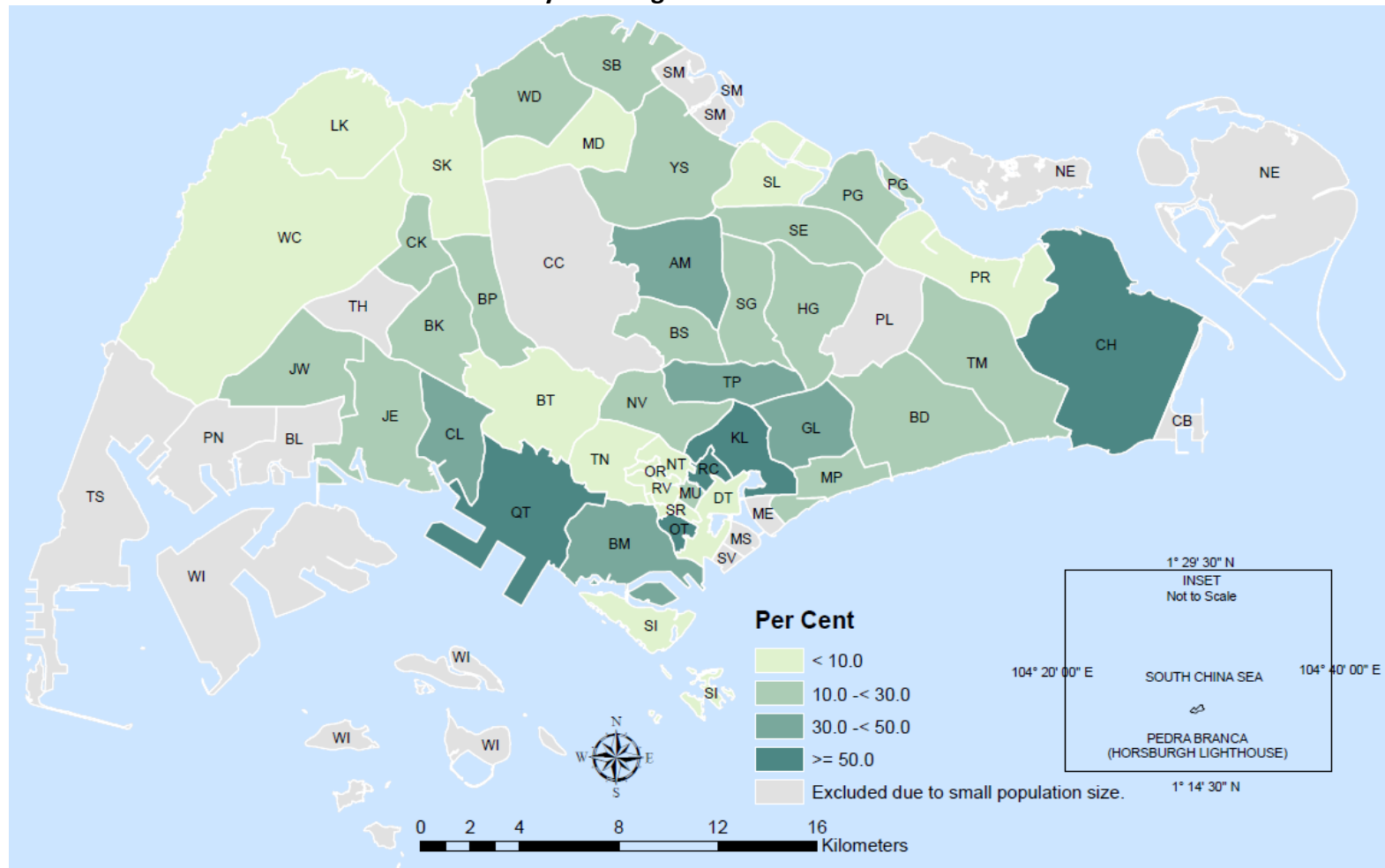
Note: Published map is based on the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Master Plan 2019 planning area boundaries and the Singapore Land Authority's 2020 Singapore island profile. The Master Plan 2019 is a forward-looking guiding plan for Singapore's development in the medium term over the next 10 to 15 years and the planning boundaries may not coincide with existing developments for some areas.

CHAPTER 6

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF WORKPLACE[9]

Employed Residents

In 2020, some 284,000 employed residents aged 15 years and over, or 12.9% of the resident workforce, worked in the planning area of Downtown Core. This was followed by Queenstown, Geylang and Bukit Merah, each with more than 100,000 employed residents working in the planning area (Chart 6.1 and Map 6.1).

**Chart 6.1 Top 10 Planning Areas of Workplace
by Number of Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over, 2020**

		Number	Per Cent of Employed Residents
Downtown Core		284,000	12.9
Queenstown		131,800	6.0
Geylang		116,500	5.3
Bukit Merah		103,600	4.7
Tampines		84,200	3.8
Changi		63,700	2.9
Kallang		63,300	2.9
Jurong East		62,500	2.8
Bedok		59,900	2.7
Toa Payoh		53,700	2.4

Age Profile of Employed Residents

Among the top 10 planning areas of workplace with the largest number of employed residents, Downtown Core had proportionately more employed residents in the younger age groups in 2020. Almost two-thirds of those who worked in Downtown Core were aged below 45 years while less than 4 per cent were aged 65 years and over (Chart 6.2).

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[9] Data refers to the usual workplace location and not the temporary arrangements due to COVID-19 measures. Persons who usually worked from home or were usually with no fixed location for work were excluded from the counts of employed residents by planning area of workplace.

Chart 6.2 Top 10 Planning Areas of Workplace by Age Group, 2020

■ Below 25 ■ 25 - 34 ■ 35 - 44 ■ 45 - 54 ■ 55 - 64 ■ 65 & Over

Per Cent

Planning Area	Below 25	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 & Over
Downtown Core	4.2	32.7	29.4	20.2	9.9	3.6
Queenstown	5.3	29.1	27.4	21.3	12.2	4.6
Geylang	5.2	20.5	22.7	22.5	19.9	9.1
Bukit Merah	5.3	24.8	23.8	22.4	16.4	7.4
Tampines	5.1	23.5	24.6	23.0	17.4	6.3
Changi	7.4	24.7	23.1	22.7	16.9	5.2
Kallang	4.9	24.3	23.5	21.6	16.5	9.2
Jurong East	4.8	22.1	24.4	23.8	17.9	7.0
Bedok	5.1	18.4	20.9	22.3	23.0	10.2
Toa Payoh	3.1	21.2	23.2	23.0	20.5	9.0

In comparison, nine other planning areas had at least 10.0 per cent of employed residents who were aged 65 years and over in 2020, namely Bukit Panjang, Rochor, Marine Parade, Bishan, Hougang, Bukit Timah, Outram, Bedok and Choa Chu Kang (Map 6.2).

Education Profile of Employed Residents

Among employed residents working in Downtown Core in 2020, 86.2 per cent had at least post-secondary qualifications. This was the highest across all planning areas of workplace. Other planning areas with at least 80 per cent of employed residents with post-secondary or higher qualifications were Queenstown, Western Water Catchment, Newton, Seletar, Western Islands and Museum (Map 6.3).

Workplace where Employed Residents from Planning Region of Residence travelled to

Downtown Core was the top workplace destination in 2020 for residents living in all five planning regions of residence (Central, East, North, North-East, West), accounting for 9.8 per cent to 21.3 per cent of the resident workforce from each region (Map 6.4). The number of employed residents travelling to Downtown Core for work was the highest for those staying in the Central region at 91,500,

followed by the North-East region at 65,900, the East region at 51,100, the West region at 47,600 and the North region at 27,900.

Almost 80.0 per cent of the resident workforce had their workplace located in a different planning area from their homes in 2020 (Chart 6.3). Employed residents in older age groups tended to have their workplace located in the same planning area as their homes, or have no fixed location for work.
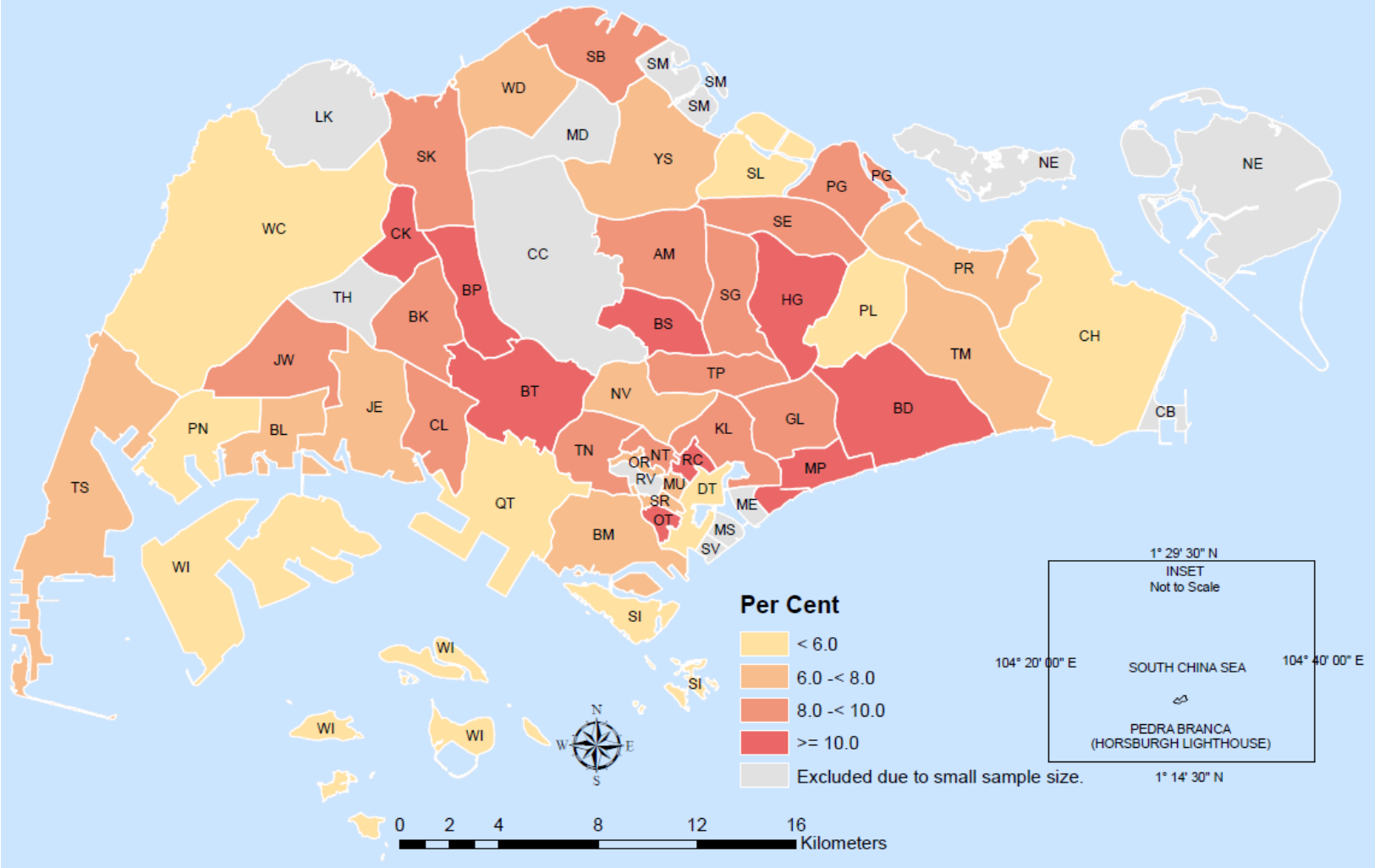
Chart 6.3 Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over by Workplace Location, 2020

■ Workplace and Home Located in Same Planning Area
■ Workplace and Home Located in Different Planning Area
■ No Fixed Location for Work
■ Work from Home

Per Cent

Age Group	Same Planning Area	Different Planning Area	No Fixed Location	Work from Home
Total	9.1	79.6	8.0	3.2
Below 35	6.8	84.9	5.9	2.4
35 - 64	9.4	78.7	8.4	3.5
65 & Over	15.3	67.6	13.2	3.9
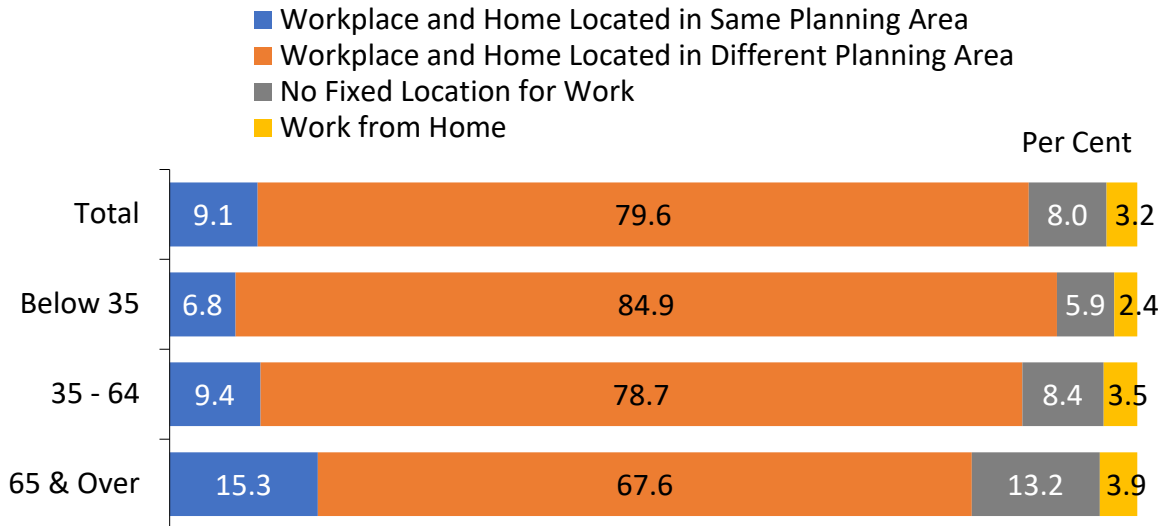
Map 6.1 Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over by Planning Area of Workplace, 2020

Note: Published map is based on the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Master Plan 2019 planning area boundaries and the Singapore Land Authority's 2020 Singapore island profile. The Master Plan 2019 is a forward-looking guiding plan for Singapore's development in the medium term over the next 10 to 15 years and the planning boundaries may not coincide with existing developments for some areas.
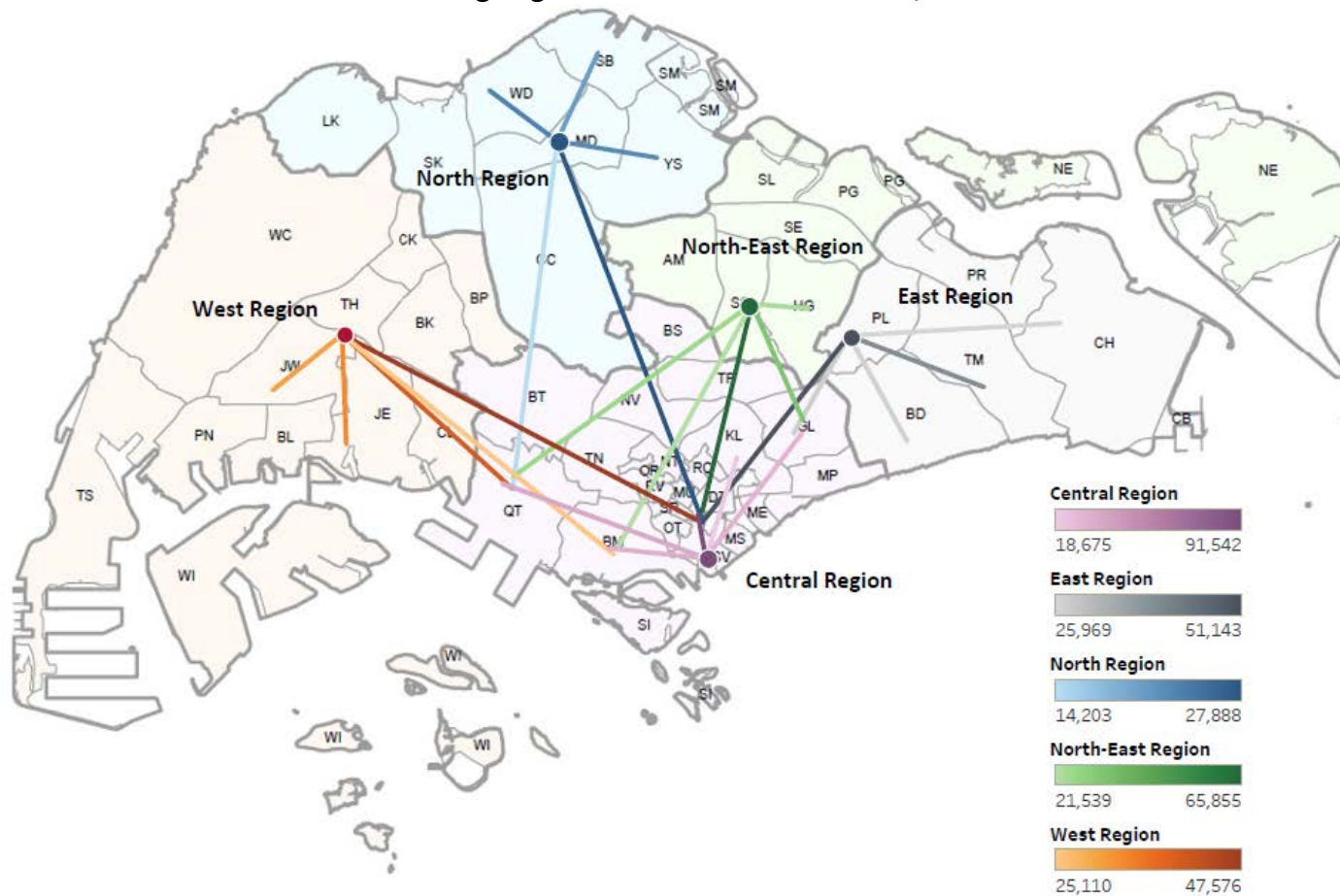
Map 6.2 Proportion of Employed Residents Aged 65 Years and Over by Planning Area of Workplace, 2020

Per Cent

	< 6.0
	6.0 -< 8.0
	8.0 -< 10.0
	>= 10.0
	Excluded due to small sample size.

INSET
Not to Scale

1° 29' 30" N

104° 20' 00" E   SOUTH CHINA SEA   104° 40' 00" E

PEDRA BRANCA
(HORSBURGH LIGHTHOUSE)

1° 14' 30" N

0 2 4 8 12 16
Kilometers

Note: Published map is based on the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Master Plan 2019 planning area boundaries and the Singapore Land Authority's 2020 Singapore island profile. The Master Plan 2019 is a forward-looking guiding plan for Singapore's development in the medium term over the next 10 to 15 years and the planning boundaries may not coincide with existing developments for some areas.

Map 6.3 Proportion of Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over with at Least Post-Secondary Qualification[10] by Planning Area of Workplace, 2020
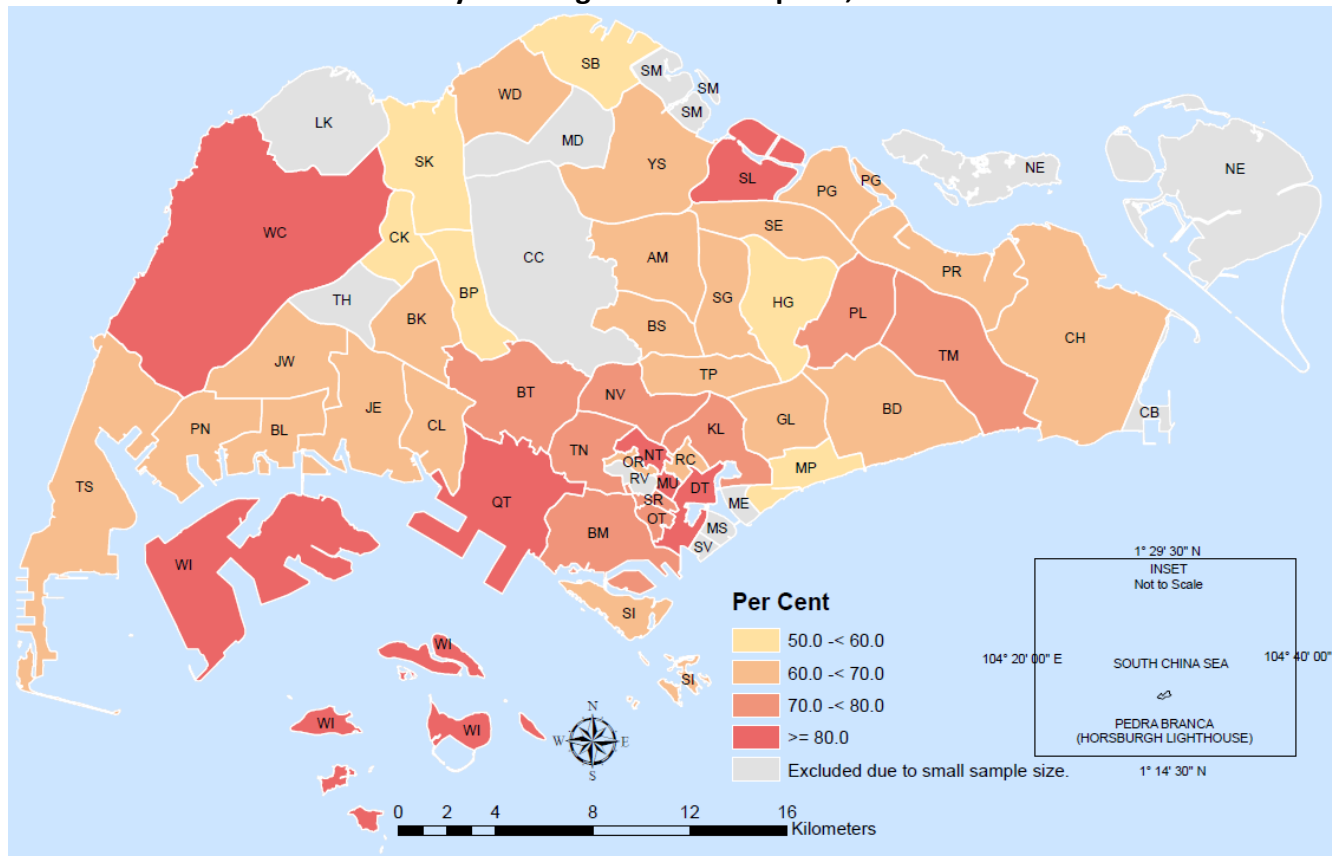
Note: Published map is based on the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Master Plan 2019 planning area boundaries and the Singapore Land Authority's 2020 Singapore island profile. The Master Plan 2019 is a forward-looking guiding plan for Singapore's development in the medium term over the next 10 to 15 years and the planning boundaries may not coincide with existing developments for some areas.

[10] Data pertain to residents who were not attending educational institutions as full-time students and include those who were upgrading their qualifications through part-time courses.

Map 6.4 Top 5 Planning Areas of Workplace where Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over from various Planning Region of Residence travelled to, 2020

Central Region
18,675 — 91,542

East Region
25,969 — 51,143

North Region
14,203 — 27,888

North-East Region
21,539 — 65,855

West Region
25,110 — 47,576

Note: This map shows the top 5 planning areas of workplace corresponding to employed residents from each planning region of residence (i.e. Central, East, North-East, North and West). From each planning region of residence, the relative size of employed residents travelling to the destination planning area of workplace is illustrated by the colour intensity of the lines (higher numbers represented by darker shades and lower numbers are in light shades). The nodes representing the planning regions of residence are approximations of the region to aid visualisation.

CHAPTER 7

TRANSPORT[11]

Usual Mode of Transport to Work

Public bus and the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT)/Light Rail Transit (LRT) continued to be key modes of transport to work among employed residents. In 2020, 57.7 per cent took public bus, MRT/LRT or combinations of MRT/LRT or public bus to work, up from 54.6 per cent in 2010 (Chart 7.1). This was mainly due to an increase in the proportion who commuted to work by MRT/LRT with a transfer to or from public bus, in line with the expansion of the MRT/LRT network. Conversely, the share of those who commuted to work by bus only declined over the same period.

Slightly over one-fifth of employed residents travelled to work only by car in 2020, down from about a quarter in 2010. The proportion who travelled only by taxi or private hire car increased from 1.3 per cent to 3.0 per cent over the same period.

**Chart 7.1 Proportion of Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over
by Mode of Transport to Work**

Legend: ■ 2020 ■ 2010 Per Cent

Mode of Transport	2020	2010
Public Bus Only	15.0	19.3
MRT/LRT Only	13.2	11.6
MRT/LRT & Public Bus Only	25.7	17.7
Other combinations of MRT/LRT or Public Bus	3.9	6.1
Taxi/Private Hire Car Only	3.0	1.3
Car Only	21.1	24.8
Private Chartered Bus/Van Only	2.1	3.6
Lorry/Pickup Only	1.3	2.3
Motorcycle/Scooter Only	3.4	3.8
Others	1.6	2.1
No Transport Required	9.8	7.5

2020: 57.7%
2010: 54.6%

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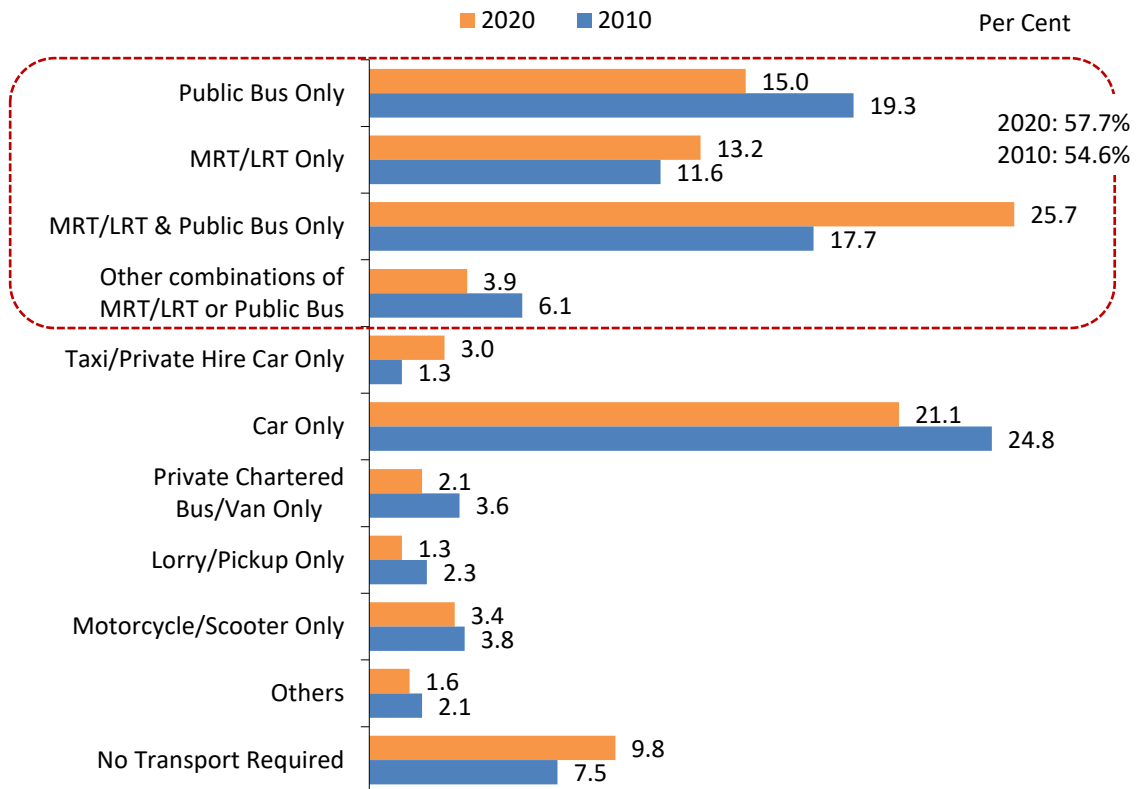
[11] Data refers to the usual mode of transport to work/school based on the usual workplace/school location and not the temporary arrangements due to COVID-19 measures.

Mode of Transport to Work by Housing Type

In 2020, 69.5 per cent of employed residents staying in HDB 1- and 2- room flats commuted to work by public bus, MRT/LRT or other combinations of MRT/LRT or public bus (Table 7.1). The corresponding proportions among other HDB dwellers were between 57.9 per cent for those staying in HDB 5-room or executive flats and 67.4 per cent for those staying in HDB 3-room flats.

In comparison, 52.9 per cent of employed residents staying in landed properties relied on cars to travel to work in 2020, though this was a decrease from 59.6 per cent in 2010. Similarly, the proportion of employed residents staying in condominiums and other apartments who relied on cars as their only mode of transport to work decreased to 39.3 per cent in 2020, from 50.3 per cent in 2010.

Table 7.1 Proportion of Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over
by Mode of Transport to Work and Type of Dwelling

Per Cent

Mode of Transport	HDB Dwellings[1]								Condominiums and Other Apartments		Landed Properties		Others	
	1- and 2-Room Flats[2]		3-Room Flats		4-Room Flats		5-Room and Executive Flats							
	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Combinations of MRT/LRT or Public Bus	71.6	69.5	65.3	67.4	60.2	62.8	53.2	57.9	36.6	44.8	28.7	32.7	28.7	36.2
Public Bus Only	39.9	27.2	28.7	22.9	21.5	16.5	15.3	12.8	10.4	8.5	8.6	7.2	8.6	10.3
MRT/LRT Only	10.8	11.0	12.2	12.7	12.6	13.4	12.5	13.8	8.8	14.5	5.5	8.7	5.5	8.8
MRT/LRT & Public Bus Only	18.2	28.8	19.8	29.0	20.0	28.4	18.1	26.5	10.9	18.7	9.4	15.1	9.4	15.5
Other combinations	2.7	2.5	4.6	2.8	6.1	4.5	7.3	4.9	6.6	3.1	5.3	1.7	5.3	1.6
Taxi/Private Hire Car Only	0.4	1.6	1.0	2.3	0.9	2.4	1.3	2.9	3.0	4.9	1.9	3.9	1.9	1.7
Car Only	2.2	2.9	9.3	7.7	15.6	13.8	29.3	22.4	50.3	39.3	59.6	52.9	59.6	20.1
Private Chartered Bus/Van Only	2.3	2.1	4.1	2.6	4.7	2.5	3.6	2.2	1.5	0.9	1.2	0.6	1.2	1.2
Lorry/Pickup Only	2.5	1.7	2.9	1.9	3.1	1.8	1.8	1.2	0.5	0.3	1.1	0.6	1.1	-
Motorcycle/Scooter Only	4.4	4.2	5.1	4.1	5.2	4.7	3.3	3.2	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.6	1.0
Others	3.7	2.6	2.4	2.0	2.4	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.7	0.8	1.7	0.2
No Transport Required	12.9	15.5	9.9	12.1	7.9	10.1	5.9	8.8	5.9	7.7	5.1	7.8	5.1	39.7

[1] Data for 2010 includes non-privatised Housing and Urban Development Company (HUDC) flats.
[2] Includes HDB studio apartments.

Mode of Transport to Work by Planning Area of Residence

In 2020, the proportion who commuted to work by combinations of MRT/LRT or public bus was highest among employed residents staying in Toa Payoh (63.1 per cent). Seven other planning areas, including Sembawang, Bukit Merah, Queenstown, Geylang, Ang Mo Kio, Kallang and Yishun, each had at least 60.0 per cent of employed residents who commuted to work by combinations of MRT/LRT or public bus (Map 7.1).

The proportion who took only public bus to work was higher among those staying in Marine Parade (26.1 per cent), Bukit Merah (23.7 per cent) and Jurong East (20.5 per cent) (Map 7.2).

In comparison, the proportion who commuted to work by car only was higher among employed residents staying in Tanglin (50.3 per cent), Bukit Timah (49.2 per cent), followed by Marine Parade, River Valley and Novena (between 31.0 and 36.6 per cent) (Map 7.3).

Travelling Time to Work

In 2020, the median travelling time to work was 37 minutes for employed residents commuting to work by public bus only (Chart 7.2). Journeys to work by MRT/LRT were typically longer. The median travelling time was 45 minutes for those who travelled to work by MRT/LRT only. For those who travelled by MRT/LRT with a transfer to/from public bus, the median travelling time was 60 minutes, same as those who commute by other combinations of MRT/LRT or public bus.

For those who travelled to work by car, taxi/private hire car, private chartered bus/van, lorry/pickup or motorcycle/scooter, the median travelling time to work was shorter, at 30 minutes.

Between 2010 and 2020, the median travelling time increased for those who took combinations of MRT/LRT or bus to work, likely due to longer distances travelled via these transport modes [12]. Over the same period, travelling time similarly rose for those who took taxi or private hire car only to work. For those who took other modes of transport to work, the median travelling time in 2020 remained unchanged from 2010.

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[12] According to findings from the Household Interview Travel Survey (HITS) 2008 and 2016 conducted by the Land Transport Authority (LTA), the average public transport travel distance to work increased by 17.5% from 2008 to 2016, i.e. from 10.3km to 12.1km. Land-use developments (e.g. growth of townships and growth of employment in certain areas) may be a contributing factor, such that home-work locations are further apart. The opening of new MRT lines (e.g. Circle Line, Downtown Line) and longer trunk bus services could also have enabled more employed persons to make longer trips via MRT/LRT or public buses.

Chart 7.2 Median Travelling Time to Work Among Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over by Mode of Transport

■ 2020 ■ 2010

Minutes

Mode of Transport	2020	2010
Public Bus Only	37	30
MRT/LRT Only	45	40
MRT/LRT & Public Bus Only	60	50
Other combinations of MRT/LRT or Public Bus	60	45
Taxi/Private Hire Car Only	30	20
Car Only	30	30
Private Chartered Bus/Van Only	30	30
Lorry/Pickup Only	30	30
Motorcycle/Scooter Only	30	30
Others	20	20
No Transport Required	8	10
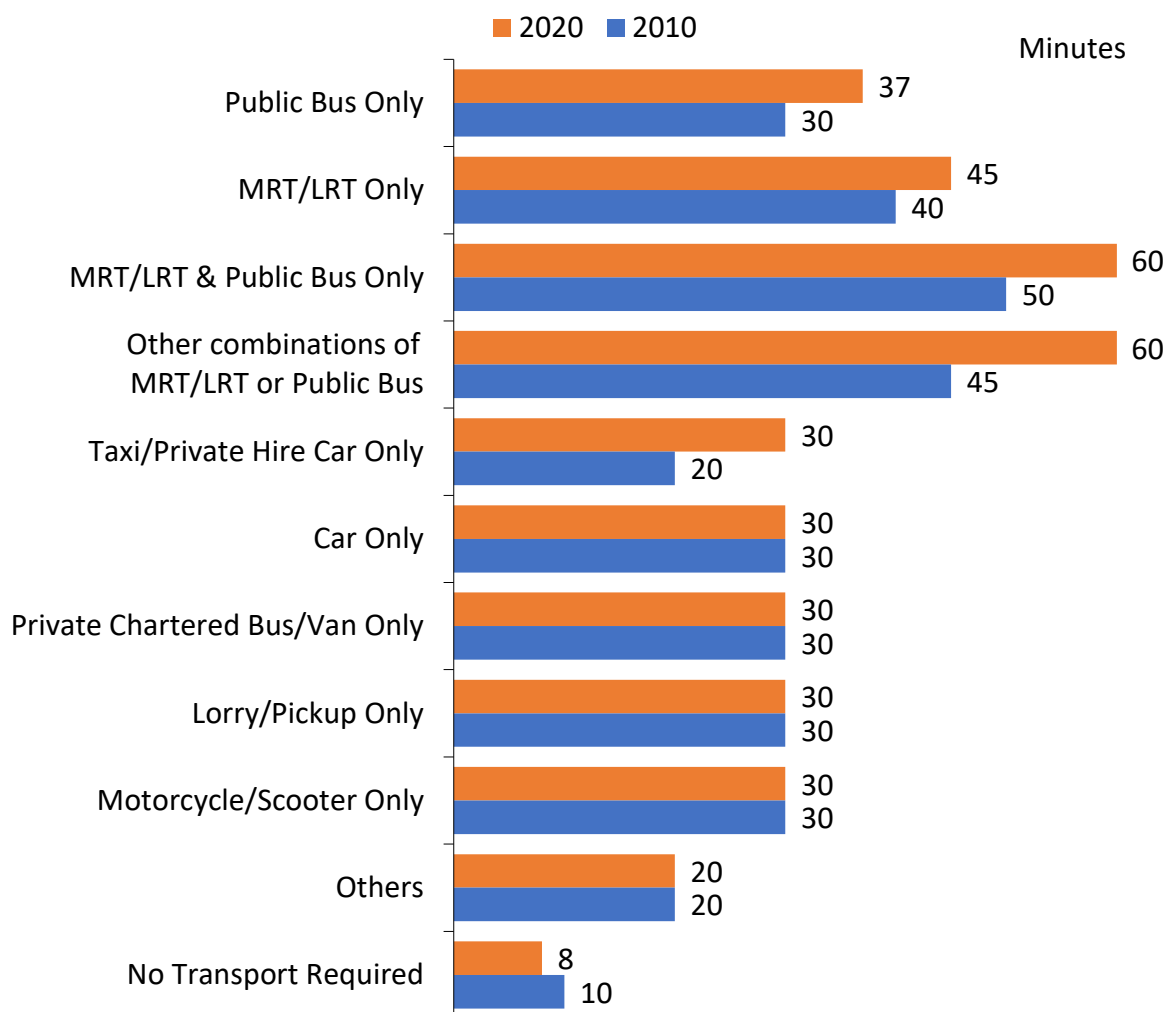
Travelling Time to Work by Planning Area of Residence

Employed residents staying in planning areas in or near the central business district generally had shorter travelling times to work than those staying further away. In 2020, the median travelling time to work was less than 25 minutes among employed residents staying in Downtown Core and River Valley (Map 7.4).

In contrast, the median travelling time to work was 45 minutes for employed residents staying in Bukit Panjang, Choa Chu Kang, Punggol, Sembawang, Sengkang, Woodlands and Yishun.

Usual Mode of Transport to School

Reflecting the close proximity of the schools to their homes, 43.0 per cent of pre-primary and primary school students did not require any mode of transport to school in 2020. This was slightly lower than 46.2 per cent in 2010 (Chart 7.3). Conversely, the corresponding proportion with car, taxi or private hire car only as their usual mode of transport to school increased from 14.5 per cent in 2010 to 22.0 per cent in 2020.

For students attending secondary or higher level of education, a large majority continued to take combinations of MRT/LRT or public bus to school. For university students, those who did not require any transport increased from 3.9 per cent in 2010 to 9.1 per cent in 2020.

**Chart 7.3 Resident Students Aged 5 Years and Over
by Mode of Transport to School and Level of Education Attending**

Legend:
- Combinations of MRT/LRT or Public Bus
- Car/Taxi/Private Hire Car Only
- Other Modes
- No Transport Required

Per Cent

	Primary and Below		Secondary		Post-Secondary (Non-Tertiary)		Polytechnic Diploma		Professional Qualification and Other Diploma		University	
	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020
Combinations of MRT/LRT or Public Bus	15.7	20.1	66.7	69.5	84.3	86.2	94.1	92.9	91.1	87.5	85.6	83.6
Car/Taxi/Private Hire Car Only	14.5	22.0	12.0	13.0	10.3	8.3	1.8	1.9	3.9	3.5	8.8	5.8
Other Modes	23.6	14.9	3.1	3.1	1.8	2.1	1.8	1.3	2.4	1.5	1.8	1.5
No Transport Required	46.2	43.0	18.2	14.4	3.6	3.4	2.3	3.9	2.6	7.4	3.9	9.1

Travelling Time to School

The median travelling time to school was 45 minutes for students attending post-secondary (non-tertiary) and diploma and professional qualification courses, and 60 minutes for university students in 2020 (Chart 7.4). In comparison, the median travelling time was shorter for pre-primary and primary school students (15 minutes) and secondary school students (30 minutes), reflecting the shorter distances between school and home for these students.

Compared to 2010, the median travelling time to school increased[13] for most students, except for those attending diploma and professional qualification courses.

Chart 7.4 Median Travelling Time to School Among Resident Students Aged 5 Years and Over by Level of Education Attending
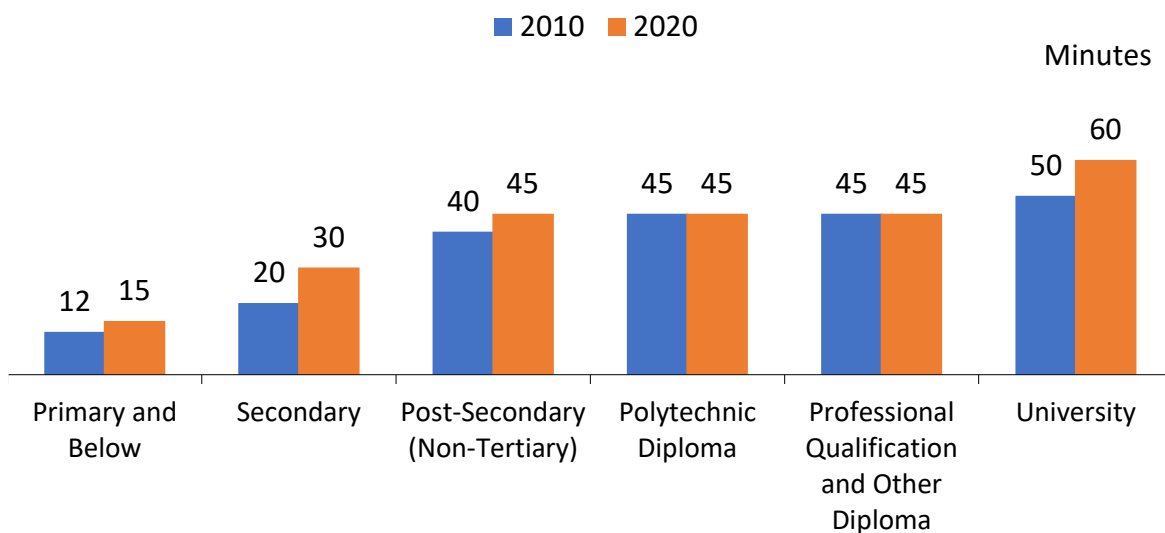
Travelling Time to School by Planning Area of Residence

In contrast to the relatively shorter travelling times among employed residents staying near the central business district, resident students staying in Downtown Core attending primary or pre-primary schools had the longest median travelling time to school at 30 minutes, followed by River Valley at 20 minutes. The travelling time to school was relatively shorter, at a median of less than 15 minutes for those staying in Punggol, Sembawang, Sengkang or Woodlands (Map 7.5).

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[13] According to findings from the HITS 2008 and 2016 conducted by the LTA, the average public transport travel distance to school increased by 9.0% from 2008 to 2016, i.e. from 7.8km to 8.5km. Land-use developments (e.g. growth of townships and changes in school locations) may be a contributing factor, such that home-school locations are further apart. The opening of new MRT lines (e.g. Circle Line, Downtown Line) and longer trunk bus services could also have enabled more students to make longer trips via MRT/LRT or public buses.

Map 7.1 Proportion of Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over Using Combinations of MRT/LRT or Public Bus by Planning Area of Residence, 2020
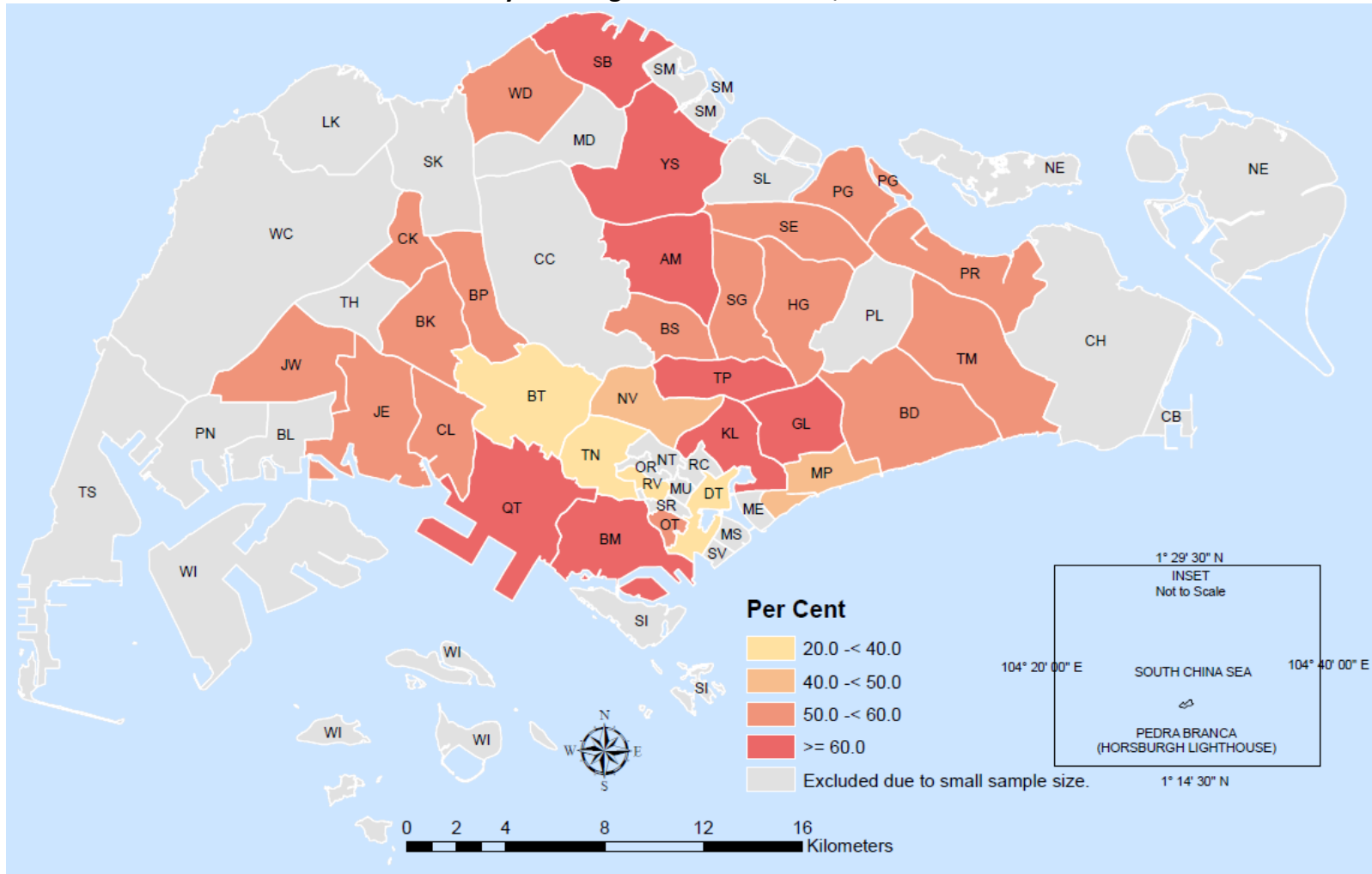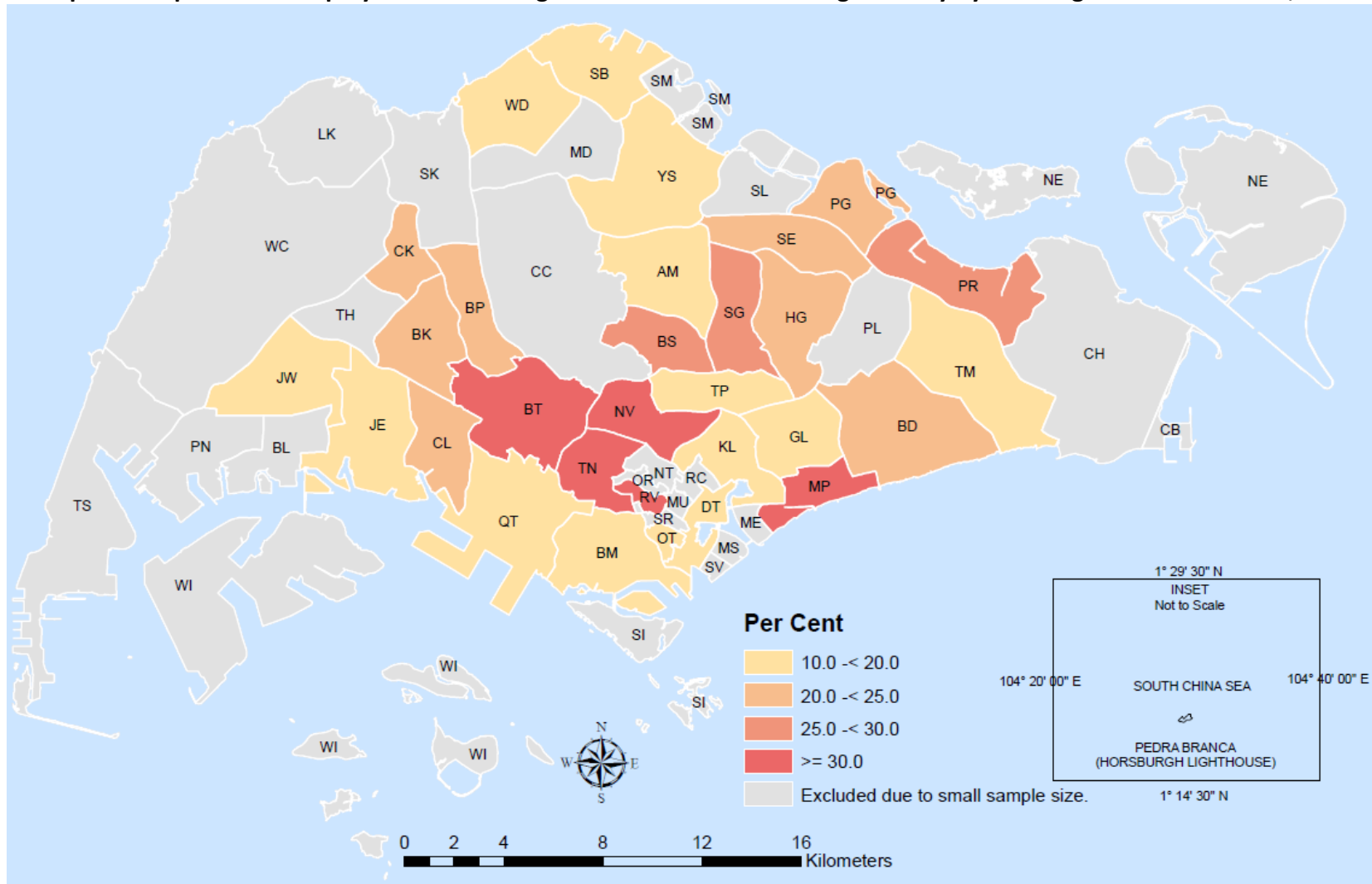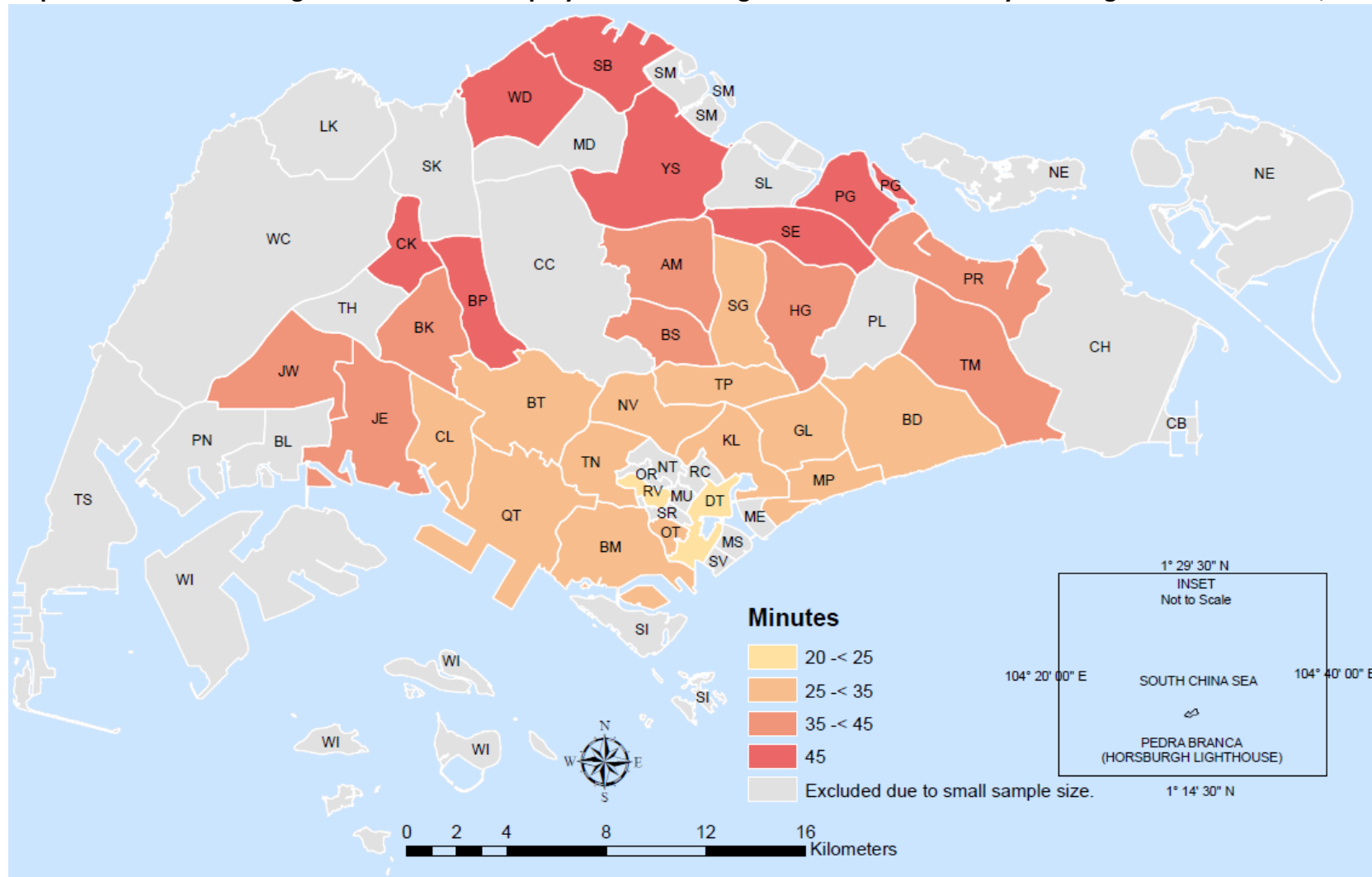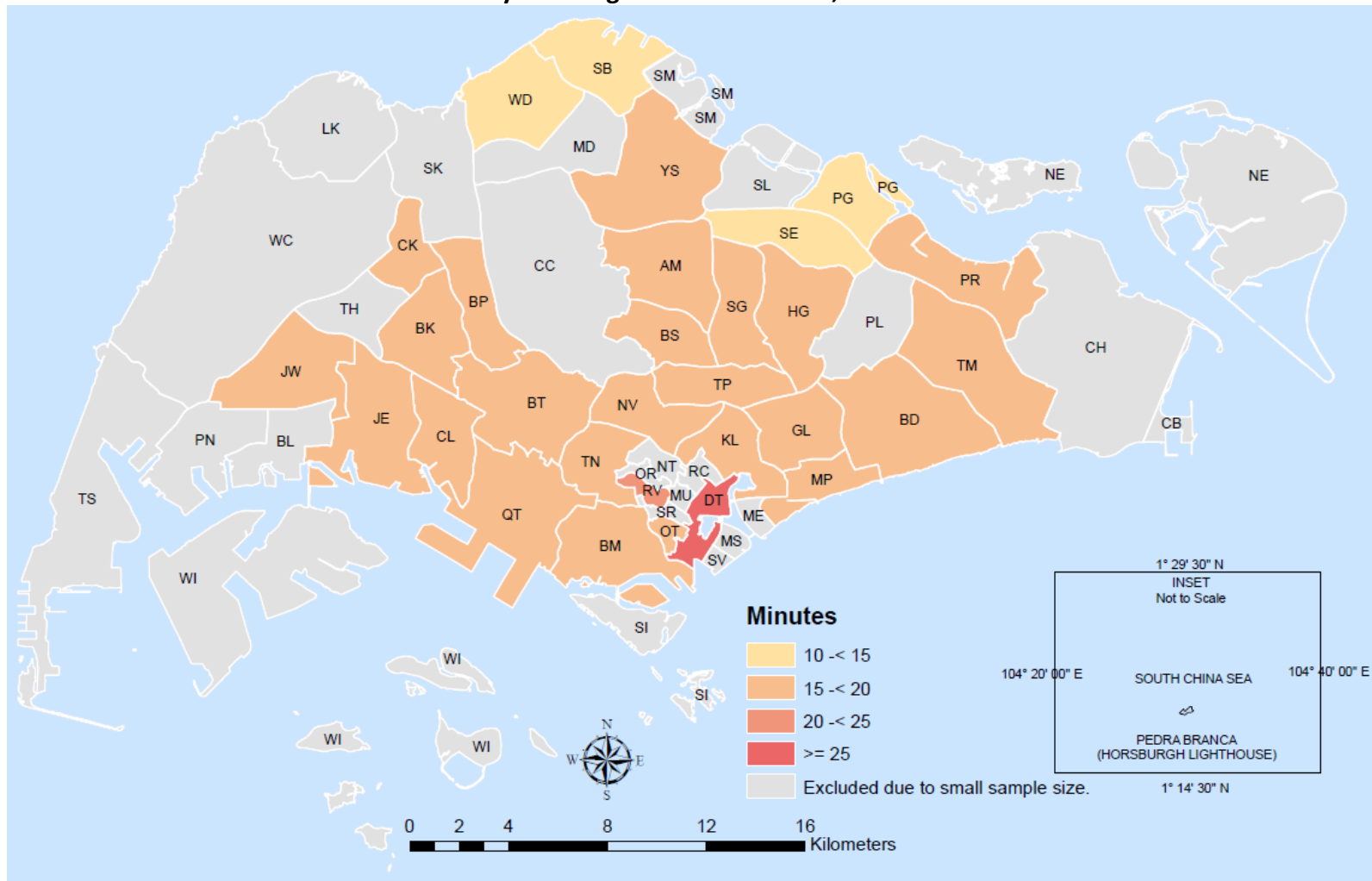

Note: Published map is based on the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Master Plan 2019 planning area boundaries and the Singapore Land Authority's 2020 Singapore island profile. The Master Plan 2019 is a forward-looking guiding plan for Singapore's development in the medium term over the next 10 to 15 years and the planning boundaries may not coincide with existing developments for some areas.

Map 7.2 Proportion of Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over Using Public Bus Only by Planning Area of Residence, 2020
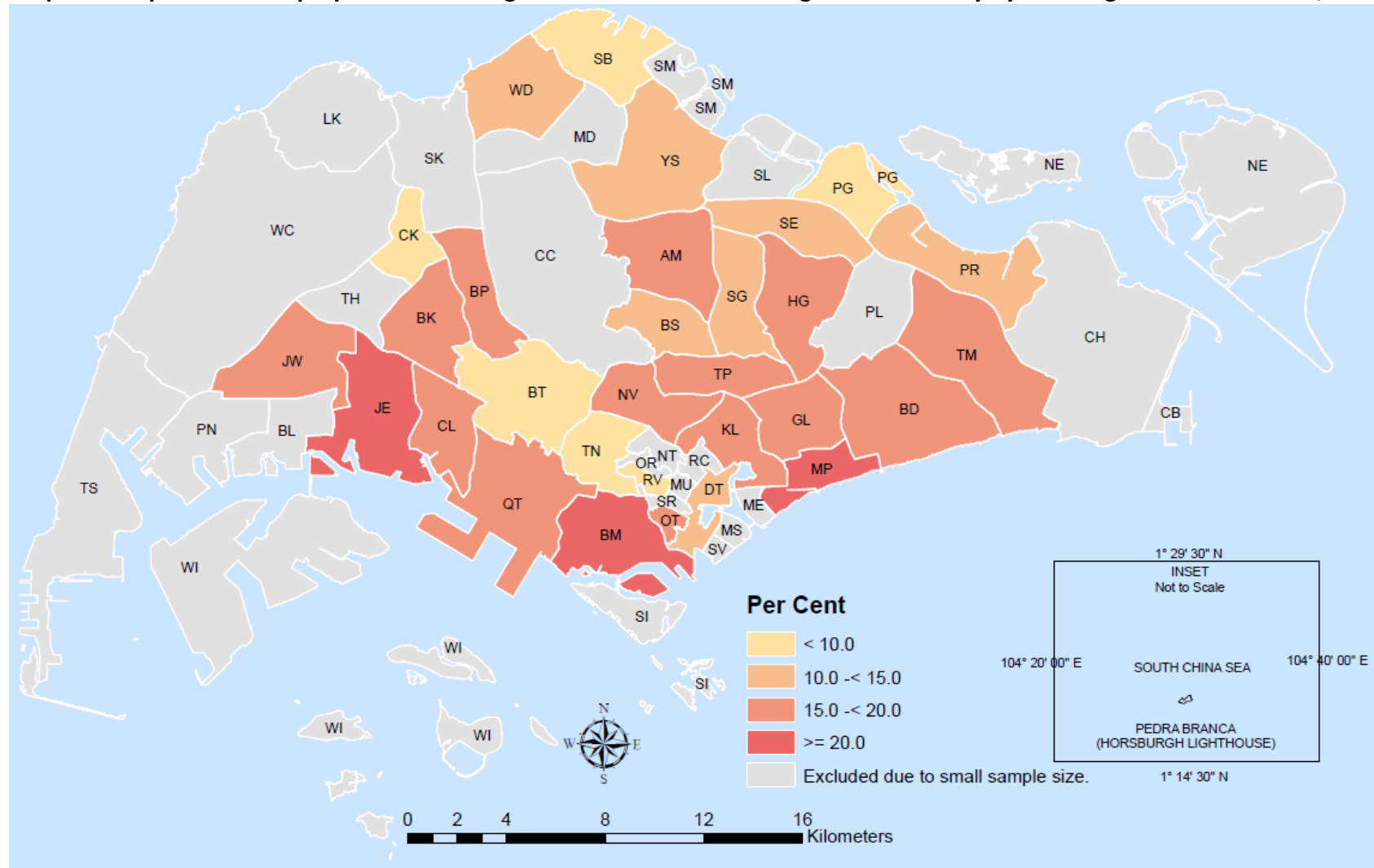
Note: Published map is based on the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Master Plan 2019 planning area boundaries and the Singapore Land Authority's 2020 Singapore island profile. The Master Plan 2019 is a forward-looking guiding plan for Singapore's development in the medium term over the next 10 to 15 years and the planning boundaries may not coincide with existing developments for some areas.

Map 7.3 Proportion of Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over Using Car Only by Planning Area of Residence, 2020

Note: Published map is based on the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Master Plan 2019 planning area boundaries and the Singapore Land Authority's 2020 Singapore island profile. The Master Plan 2019 is a forward-looking guiding plan for Singapore's development in the medium term over the next 10 to 15 years and the planning boundaries may not coincide with existing developments for some areas.

Map 7.4 Median Travelling Time to Work of Employed Residents Aged 15 Years and Over by Planning Area of Residence, 2020

Note: Published map is based on the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Master Plan 2019 planning area boundaries and the Singapore Land Authority's 2020 Singapore island profile. The Master Plan 2019 is a forward-looking guiding plan for Singapore's development in the medium term over the next 10 to 15 years and the planning boundaries may not coincide with existing developments for some areas.

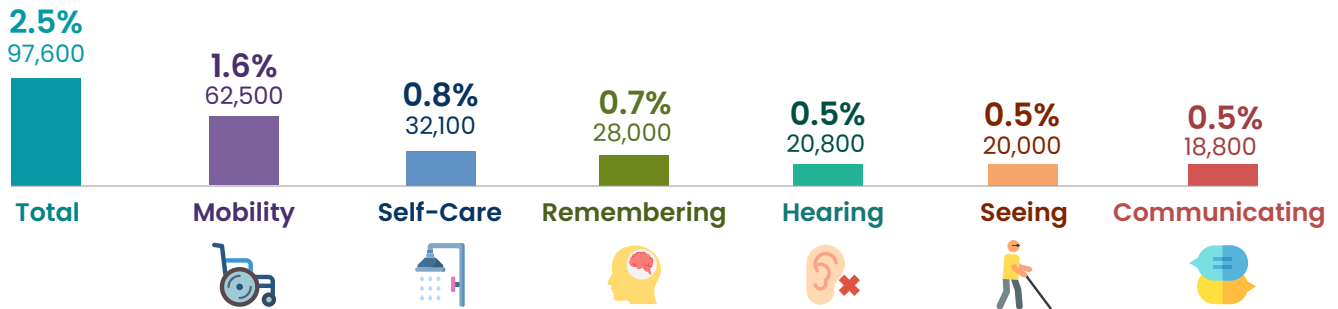**Map 7.5 Median Travelling Time to School of Resident Students Aged 5 Years and Over Attending Primary School and Below by Planning Area of Residence, 2020**

Note: Published map is based on the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Master Plan 2019 planning area boundaries and the Singapore Land Authority's 2020 Singapore island profile. The Master Plan 2019 is a forward-looking guiding plan for Singapore's development in the medium term over the next 10 to 15 years and the planning boundaries may not coincide with existing developments for some areas.

Difficulty Performing Basic Activities*

*Basic activities refer to seeing, hearing, mobility (walking or climbing steps), remembering or concentrating, self-care (washing all over or dressing), and communicating (understanding or being understood).

Data on difficulty performing basic activities were captured for the first time in Census 2020.

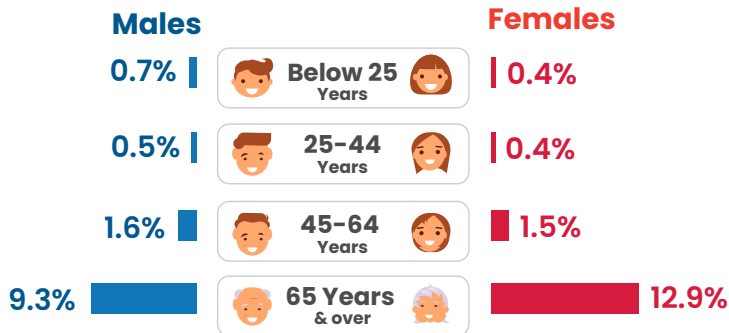## Residents Unable to Perform / with A Lot of Difficulty in At Least One Basic Activity

Residents with a lot of difficulty** performing activities relating to mobility constituted the largest group, followed by self-care.

2.5% 97,600 — **Total**	
1.6% 62,500 — **Mobility**	
0.8% 32,100 — **Self-Care**	
0.7% 28,000 — **Remembering**	
0.5% 20,800 — **Hearing**	
0.5% 20,000 — **Seeing**	
0.5% 18,800 — **Communicating**	

By Age and Sex

Elderly faced more difficulty performing basic activities.

Unable to Perform / with A Lot of Difficulty in At Least One Basic Activity

Males		**Females**
0.7%	Below 25 Years	0.4%
0.5%	25–44 Years	0.4%
1.6%	45–64 Years	1.5%
9.3%	65 Years & over	12.9%

By Elderly Living Arrangement

Majority of elderly with a lot of difficulty** lived with other people.

Unable to Perform / with A Lot of Difficulty in At Least One Basic Activity

- 16.4% — Living with Spouse, No Children
- 24.5% — Living with Spouse, With Children
- 42.2% — Living with Children but Without Spouse
- 6.4% — Alone
- 10.5% — Others
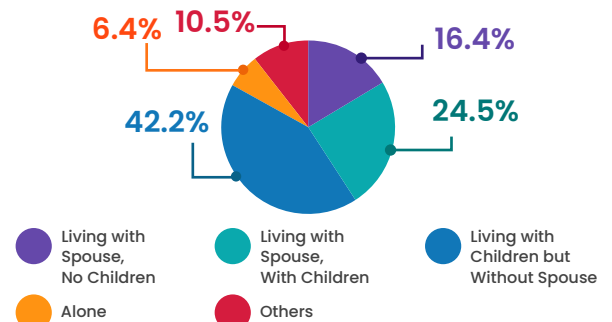
Resident Population Aged 65 Years and Over in Resident Households.

By Dwelling Type

Proportionately more residents with a lot of difficulty** lived in HDB 3-room or smaller flats.

Without A Lot of Difficulty in Performing Any Basic Activity	Dwelling Type	Unable to Perform / with A Lot of Difficulty in At Least One Basic Activity
4.2%	HDB 1- & 2-Room^	10.7%
14.3%	HDB 3-Room	22.7%
33.1%	HDB 4-Room	33.1%
26.6%	HDB 5-Room & Executive	21.2%
15.3%	Condominiums & Other Apartments	6.0%
6.3%	Landed Properties	6.1%
0.2%	Others ^^	0.2%

By Labour Force Participation Rate

Proportionately fewer residents with a lot of difficulty** were in the labour force.

	Total	15–64 Years	65 Years & over
Without A Lot of Difficulty	69.3%	76.5%	32.8%
Unable to Perform / with A Lot of Difficulty	11.4%	31.2%	4.1%

- ■ Without A Lot of Difficulty in Performing Any Basic Activity
- ■ Unable to Perform / with A Lot of Difficulty in At Least One Basic Activity
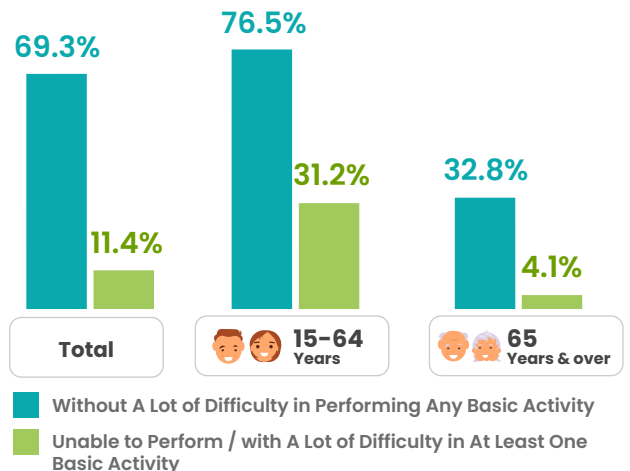
^ Includes HDB studio apartments.

^^ Refers to other types of dwelling not shown e.g. non-HDB shophouses, etc.

** Includes those unable to perform at least one basic activity.

CHAPTER 8

DIFFICULTY PERFORMING BASIC ACTIVITIES[14]

Difficulty Performing Basic Activities by Age Group and Sex

There were some 97,600 residents aged 5 years and over (or 2.5 per cent) who were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity in 2020 (Chart 8.1). The majority of them were aged 65 years and over.

A higher proportion of females (2.8 per cent) than males (2.2 per cent) were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity. This could be partially due to the longer life expectancy of females. Among residents aged 65 years and over, 12.9 per cent of females were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity, compared to 9.3 per cent for males. At younger ages, the proportions were similar for males and females.
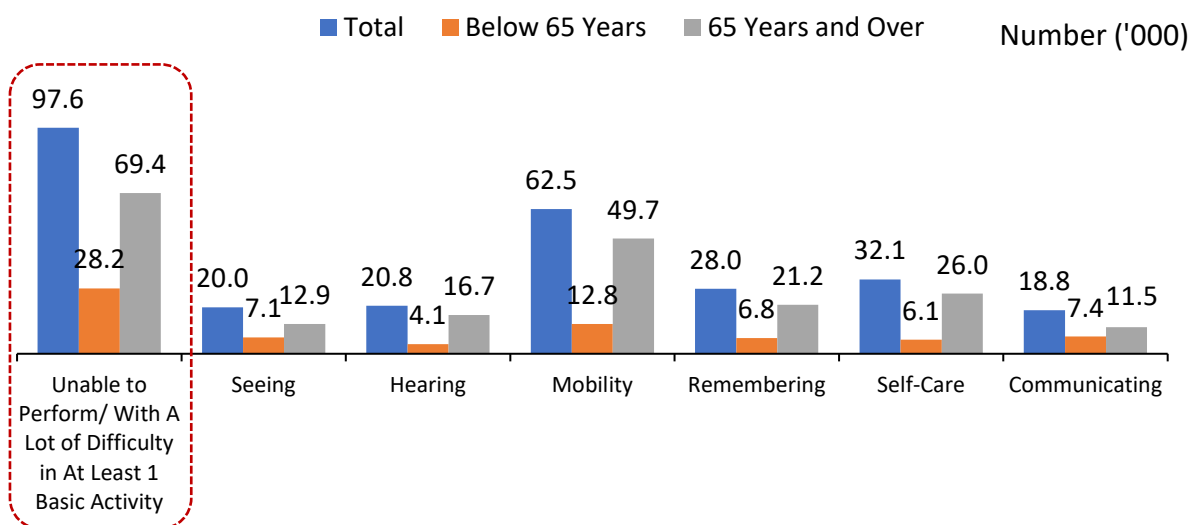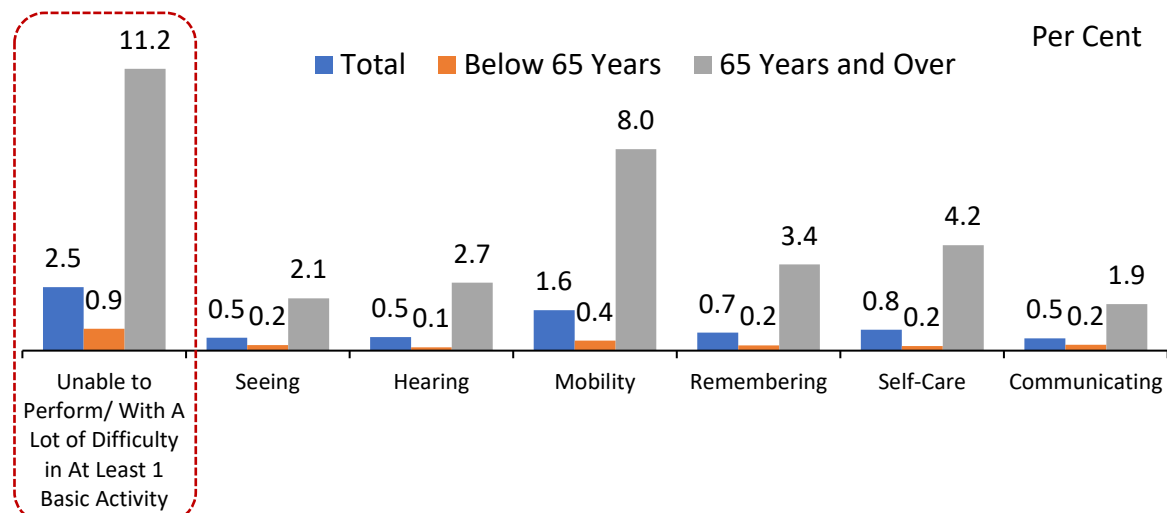
Chart 8.1 Proportion of Resident Population Aged 5 Years and Over Unable to Perform/ with A Lot of Difficulty in At Least One Basic Activity by Age Group and Sex, 2020

Number ('000)
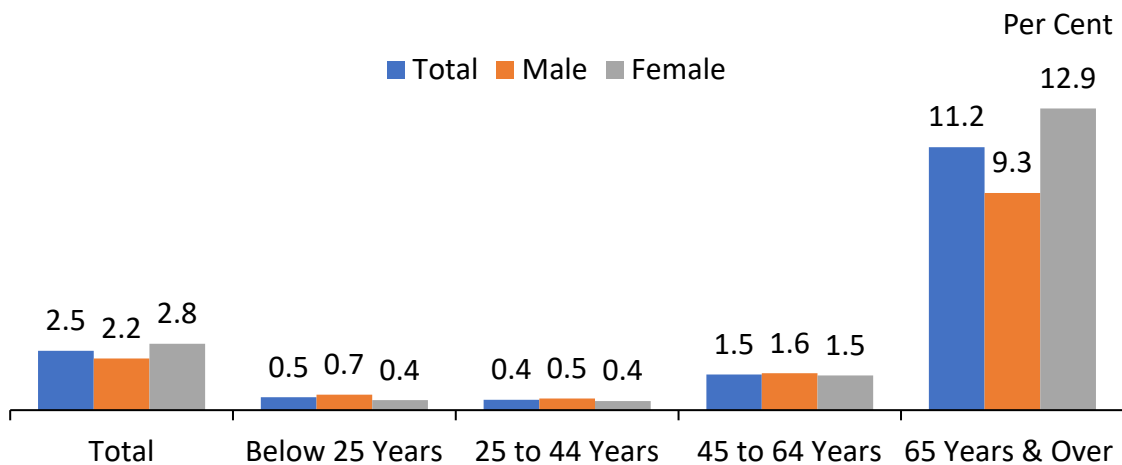
	Total	Below 25 Years	25 to 44 Years	45 to 64 Years	65 Years & Over
Total	97.6	4.7	5.2	18.2	69.4
Male	41.1	2.9	2.8	9.2	26.2
Female	56.5	1.8	2.4	9.1	43.2

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[14] Basic Activities refer to seeing, hearing, mobility (walking or climbing steps), remembering or concentrating, self-care (such as washing all over or dressing), and communicating (for example understanding or being understood).

Domain of Difficulty by Age Group

In 2020, 62,500 residents aged 5 years and over (or 1.6 per cent) were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing activities relating to mobility (Charts 8.2 and 8.3). Those who were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing self-care activities formed the next largest group at 32,100 (or 0.8 per cent). For residents aged 65 years and over, the corresponding proportions were higher at 8.0 and 4.2 per cent respectively.

Chart 8.2 Resident Population Aged 5 Years and Over Unable to Perform/ with A Lot of Difficulty in Basic Activity by Domain of Difficulty and Age Group, 2020

Chart 8.3 Proportion of Resident Population Aged 5 Years and Over Unable to Perform/ with A Lot of Difficulty in Basic Activity by Domain of Difficulty and Age Group, 2020
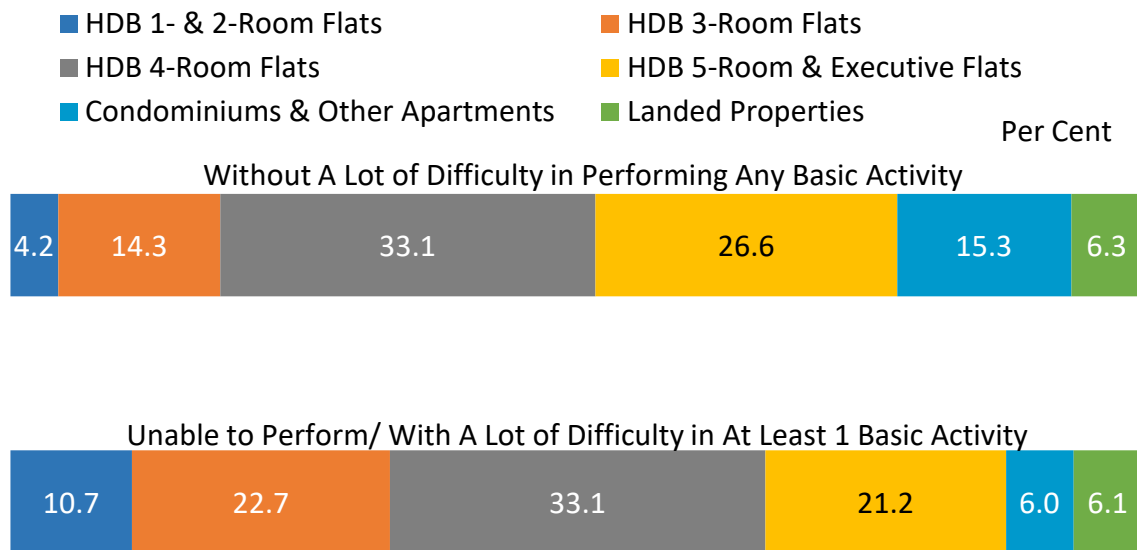

Note: For Charts 8.2 and 8.3, the number or proportion of residents unable to perform or with a lot of difficulty in specific basic activities do not add up to the overall figure, as there are residents unable to perform or with a lot of difficulty in multiple basic activities.

Difficulty in Basic Activities by House Type

Proportionately more residents who were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity lived in HDB 3-room or smaller flats (combined 33.5 per cent) than those who did not have a lot of difficulty in performing any basic activity (18.5 per cent) in 2020 (Chart 8.4).
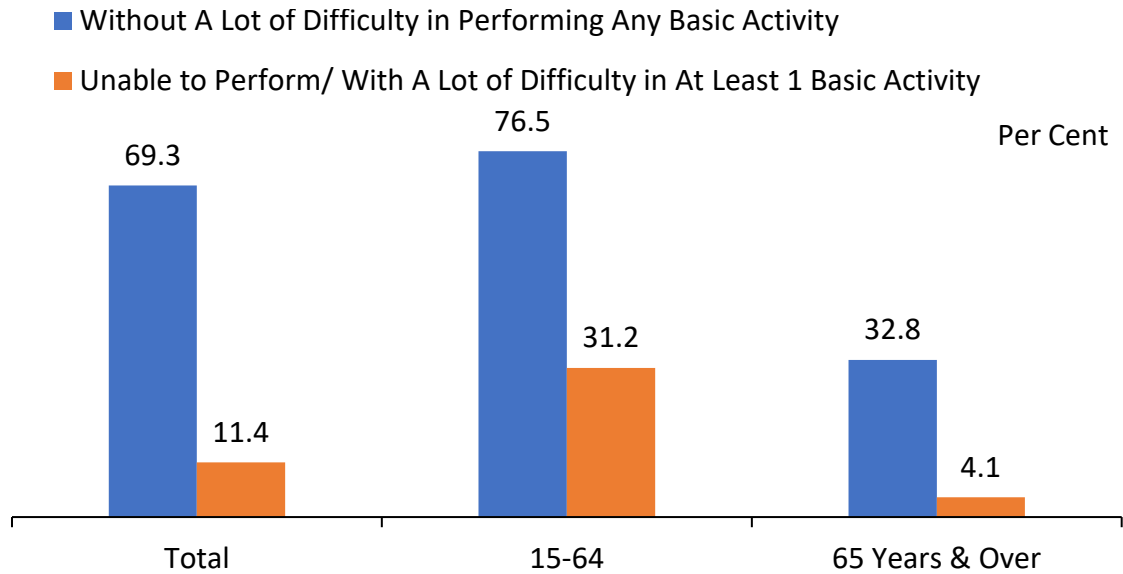
Chart 8.4 Resident Population Aged 5 Years and Over by Difficulty in Performing Basic Activities and Type of Dwelling, 2020

- ■ HDB 1- & 2-Room Flats
- ■ HDB 3-Room Flats
- ■ HDB 4-Room Flats
- ■ HDB 5-Room & Executive Flats
- ■ Condominiums & Other Apartments
- ■ Landed Properties

Per Cent

Without A Lot of Difficulty in Performing Any Basic Activity

4.2	14.3	33.1	26.6	15.3	6.3

Unable to Perform/ With A Lot of Difficulty in At Least 1 Basic Activity

10.7	22.7	33.1	21.2	6.0	6.1

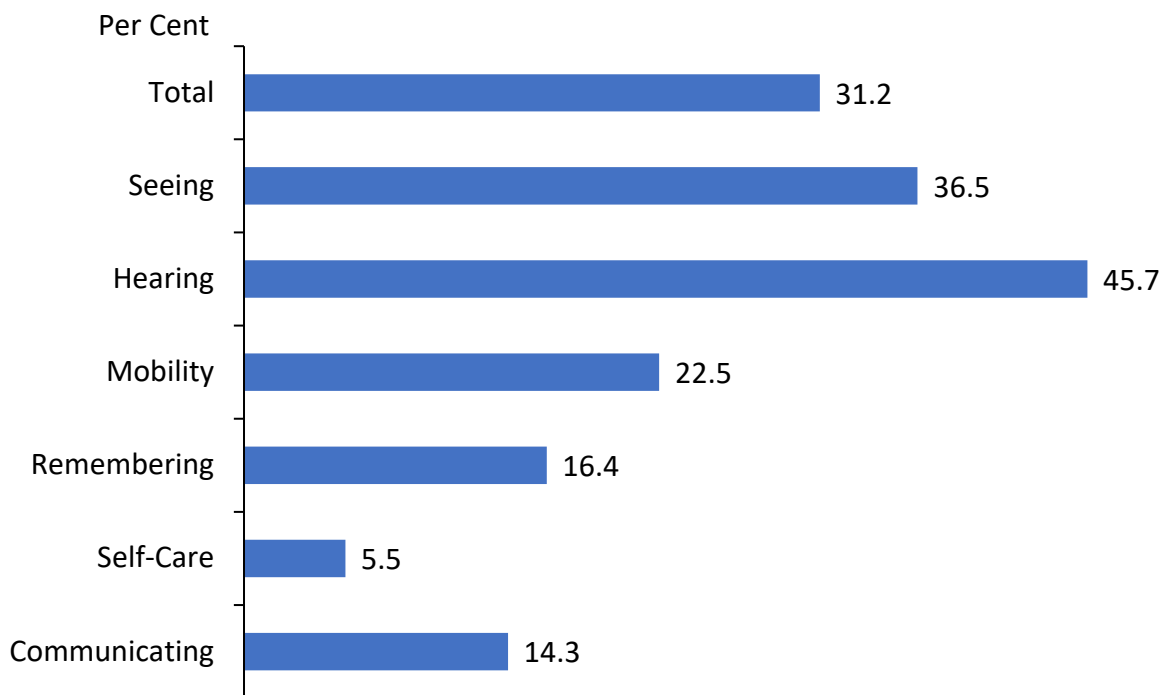## Labour Force Participation Rate by Age Group and Domain of Difficulty

Among residents who were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity, about 11.4 per cent (or about 10,900 persons) were in the labour force in 2020, significantly lower than the 69.3 per cent for residents without a lot of difficulty performing any basic activity (Chart 8.5). Excluding elderly aged 65 years and over, 31.2 per cent of those aged 15-64 years who were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity were in the labour force.

Chart 8.5 Labour Force Participation Rate Among Resident Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Difficulty in Performing Basic Activities and Age Group, 2020

■ Without A Lot of Difficulty in Performing Any Basic Activity

■ Unable to Perform/ With A Lot of Difficulty in At Least 1 Basic Activity

Per Cent

Age Group	Without A Lot of Difficulty	Unable to Perform/ With A Lot of Difficulty
Total	69.3	11.4
15-64	76.5	31.2
65 Years & Over	32.8	4.1

Across the various domains of difficulty, residents aged 15-64 years who were unable to hear, or had a lot of difficulties hearing, had the highest labour force participation rate at 45.7 per cent in 2020, followed by those who were unable to see, or had a lot of difficulties seeing at 36.5 per cent (Chart 8.6).

Chart 8.6 Labour Force Participation Rate Among Residents Aged 15 to 64 Years Unable to Perform/ with A Lot of Difficulty in At Least One Basic Activity, by Domain of Difficulty, 2020

Per Cent

| Domain of Difficulty	Per Cent
Total	31.2
Seeing	36.5
Hearing	45.7
Mobility	22.5
Remembering	16.4
Self-Care	5.5
Communicating	14.3

50

Usual Mode of Transport to Work

Close to 6 in 10 resident employed persons aged 15 years and over who were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity (58.5 per cent) took combinations of MRT/LRT or public bus to work in 2020 (Chart 8.7). Another 15.5 per cent travelled to work by car, taxi or private hire car only, while 16.1 per cent did not require transport.

Chart 8.7 Resident Employed Persons Aged 15 Years and Over Unable to Perform/ with A Lot of Difficulty in At Least One Basic Activity by Usual Mode of Transport to Work, 2020

- Combinations of MRT/LRT or Public Bus
- Car/Taxi/Private Hire Car Only
- Other Modes
- No Transport Required

Per Cent
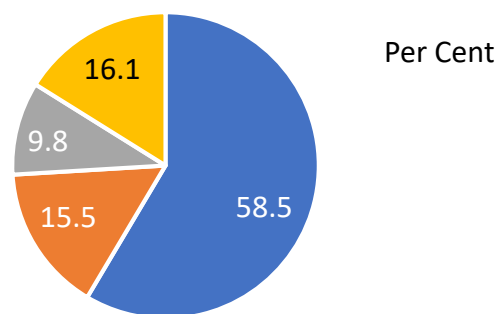
Note: Data exclude working persons who were overseas for at least 6 months.

Living Arrangement of Elderly Residents

In 2020, over 9 in 10 residents aged 65 years and over in resident households who were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity were living with other people (Chart 8.8). Most of them were living with their spouse and/or children (83.1 per cent).

Chart 8.8 Resident Population Aged 65 Years and Over in Resident Households Unable to Perform/ with A Lot of Difficulty in At Least One Basic Activity by Living Arrangement, 2020

- ■ Living with Spouse, No Children
- ■ Living with Spouse, With Children
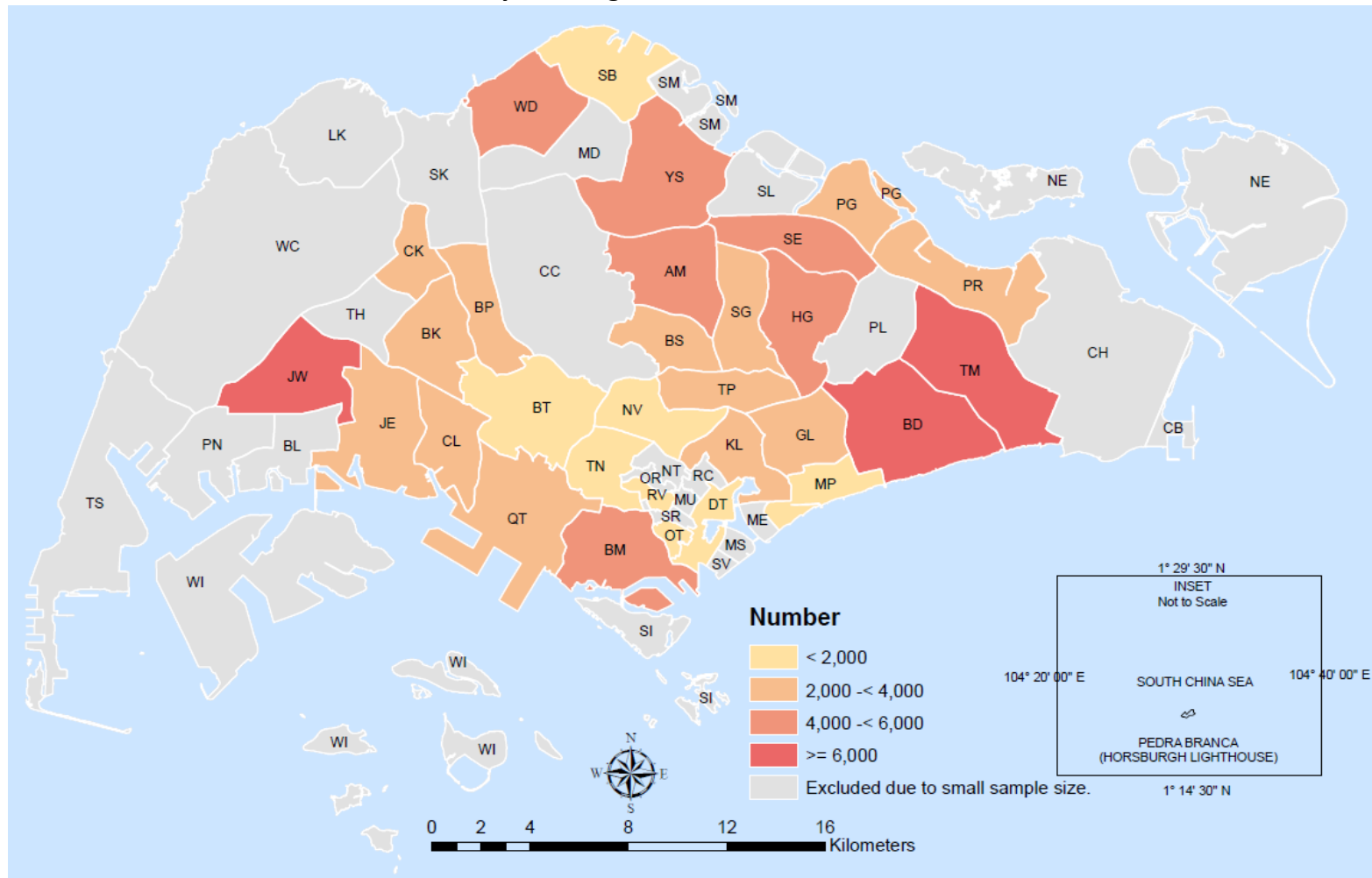- ■ Living With Children but Without Spouse
- ■ Alone
- ■ Others

Per Cent
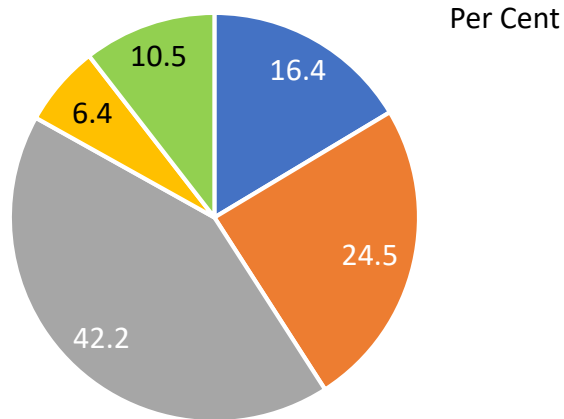
Planning Area of Residence

Bedok, Jurong West and Tampines had the highest number of residents aged 5 years and over who were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity (Map 8.1). Corresponding to its larger population size, Bedok had the highest number of residents who were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity at 8,200.

Across planning areas of residence, the proportion of residents aged 5 years and over who were unable to perform or had a lot of difficulty performing at least one basic activity was low at around 1-4 per cent.

Map 8.1 Resident Population Aged 5 Years and Over Unable to Perform/ with A Lot of Difficulty in At Least One Basic Activity by Planning Area of Residence, 2020

Note: Published map is based on the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Master Plan 2019 planning area boundaries and the Singapore Land Authority's 2020 Singapore island profile. The Master Plan 2019 is a forward-looking guiding plan for Singapore's development in the medium term over the next 10 to 15 years and the planning boundaries may not coincide with existing developments for some areas.