Population in Singapore

Introduction

Singapore is the second most densely populated country in the world. (Source: MapsofWorld.com). The 2010 census reveals the population count to be 5.08 million and 3.23 million were Singapore citizens. (Source: Department of Statistics). Of the resident population, the Chinese formed 74.1 per cent while the Malay and Indian populations were 13.4 per cent and 9.2 per cent, respectively.

The high average rate of life and low infant mortality rate showcases a well-established healthcare system. On the other hand, the city-state has registered low fertility, increasing population and a growing number of senior citizens. This is a familiar trend in many developed countries. Public policies and programmes regarding fertility, population growth and ageing population are frequently debated and discussed in the media.

This pathfinder serves as a guide to help you locate resources on the subject that are available at the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library as well as on the Internet.

Editorial Notes

Books and texts are often mainstays of resource guides as these provide introductory and comprehensive information on a particular topic. In the creation of this libguide however, effort was also made to recommend resources that are highly accessible, such as, ebooks, journal and newspaper articles, authoritative websites, among others.

Please find below a brief write-up of the resource formats, as well as, how to access them.

- Print materials from both the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, as well as, NLB's Public Libraries. Just click on the given links to activate NLB's online catalogue showing availability of the items. Apart for the reference books at the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, books recommended in this guide can be reserved online and brought to the library branch of your choice for a small fee of $1.55 (just click on "Reserve this item").

Libguides.nl.sg/print_content.php?pid=223482&sid=1854562&mode=g
Population in Singapore

Overview

In a multi-ethnic society such as Singapore, people of different races, beliefs, languages, customs and cultures live, study and work together. The Singapore government recognizes this rich diversity and has conducted significant religious celebrations and cultural events as public holidays, such as Good Friday, Vesak Day, Hari Raya Puasa, Deepavali, Hari Raya Haji, Chinese New Year and Christmas Day. This not only helps to draw people of the same faith or cultural practices together, but also creates awareness and mutual shared understanding among people from different ethnic groups.

Different practices and ways of living however, can create disharmony in a multi-cultural society if small conflicts between different ethnic groups are left to brew and escalate, leading to wide-spread discontent and unhappiness. If left unchecked, such negativity can rupture into protests, demonstrations, riots, acts of violence and terrorist activities, causing damage to state and personal property, crippling the nation's economy and even result in tragic loss of lives.

This section offers an overview of two case studies, focusing on the ethnic conflicts in Northern Ireland and Sri Lanka. The lessons learnt from how these two countries coped with and resolved their internal strife can help Singapore to be better prepared to tackle such potential problems in the future.

Books

- The population of Singapore by Saw, Swee-Hock
  - Call Number: RSING 304.6095957 SAW
  - Analyses population trends and patterns in Singapore. Includes population growth and distribution, marriage trends and patterns, family planning, fertility trends, immigration policies, labour force and future population trends and more.

- Bibliography of Singapore demographic by Saw, Swee-Hock
  - Call Number: RSING 016.3046095957 SAW
  - Covers more than 100 titles on various aspects of the demography of Singapore such as census reports, population laws, family planning, population distribution, mortality, labour force and future population trends.

Population in Singapore

News

- Our population: near 7 million
  - Our population: near 7 million
  - Malaysia's latest population figures were announced yesterday by Mr. R. Dow, Acting Registrar of Malay Statistics. The total population of Singapore was estimated at 1.147 million.
  - The Straits Times, 6 April 1954, Page 7

- Two's enough
  - http://newspapers.nlb.gov.sg/ Digitised/Article/a rticles/straitstimes/1984/12/14/article1
  - Two's enough THE Singapore Family Planning Board is taking its "two is enough" message to factory workers. Tenders for a 20-minute filmlet in Mandarin and Malay were called last week. It is expected to be completed by March next year.
  - The Straits Times, 14 December 1984, Page 42

- 1.9 mil. Singaporeans
  - 1.9 mil. Singaporeans SIM.APORI: Lues Singapore population hu passed the 1.9 million mark. Latest official statistics show how the total population stood at 1.913,500 at the end of June.
  - The Straits Times, November 1966, Page 13

- S'pore population unlikely to touch 6.5m: MM Lee
  - S'pore population unlikely to touch 6.5m: MM Lee
  - THE figure of 6.5 million used for planning purposes has been doing the rounds for some time now, but Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew indicated yesterday that Singapore was unlikely to touch that population level at least for the next ten years.
  - The Business Times, 7 August 2007, Page 2

- Our population: near 7 million
  - Our population: near 7 million
  - Malaya's latest population figures were announced yesterday by Mr. R. Dow, Acting Registrar of Malay Statistics. The total population of Singapore was estimated at 1.147 million.
  - The Straits Times, 11 November 1966, Page 13
Population policies and programmes in Singapore by Saw, Swee-Hock
Call Number: RSING 363.960595957 SAW
Gives account of governments’ initiatives to influence the course of fertility and rate of population growth in Singapore since the 1950s. Also discussed the population issue of low below-replacement fertility and its consequences.

Responding to globalization: Nation, culture and identity in Singapore by Velayutham, Selvaraj
Call Number: RSING 305.860595957 VEL
Describes government’s responses to globalization through policy initiatives and creation of national citizens for a global city and re-branding Singapore as a cosmopolitan cultural city-state.

Youth.sg: The state of youth in Singapore 2010 by Ho, Kong-Chong
Call Number: RSING 305.235095957 YOU
Based on the National Youth Survey 2010, the book looks at youth’s attitude and responses to issues such as politics, definition of happiness, standard of living and concludes that youths are complex, ever changing and unpredictably experimental.

The 1965 Singaporean cohort: Profile and progress
Call Number: RSING 304.8.6021095957 NIN
Looks at the cohort of 50,700 Singaporean born in 1965 and had experienced Singapore transformation from young nation to a modern economy and society. Examines their asset profile, social mobility and achievement between 1990 and 2000.

Laws affecting population and family planning in Singapore by Wee, Kenneth K.S.
Call Number: RSING 344.5957 WEE
Explains and provides information on family planning and contraception law and legislation in Singapore.

Public policy and population change in Singapore
Call Number: RSING 301.3295957 PUB
Examines the fertility rate and population statistics in Singapore and the policy implemented by the government.

Statistics and indicators

Google Singapore population
Search for information on the topic of population in Singapore.

Singapore population.sg
Search

Overview
A statistical study of population (also known as demography) gives facts and figures about its characteristics such as the size, age, gender and nationality of the people residing in the country. Information on Singapore population is compiled and analysed by the Singapore Department of Statistics and the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority.

Statistical tables, time series, complete life tables and census of population, household survey and related publications are available at the Department of Statistics website.

A census is a count of all people and households in the country. It collects information about the people and housing units by their demographic, social and economic status from a national to neighbourhood level for government, local authorities, business and communities. Singapore’s first census was taken in April 1871 as part of the Straits Settlement Census. Since then, regular censuses were undertaken at ten-year intervals up to 1931 and resumed on 1937 and 1947 due to the second world war. (Source: Singapore’s Census Population 2010).

The last census for Singapore was in March to June 2010. Detailed information on demographic, education, economic, transport, household and housing characteristics were obtained from a sample enumeration of about 200,000 households.

Books

- Census of population 2010: Advance census release
  Call Number: RSING 304.6021095957 CEN
  Examines key trends in population size, growth, demographic profile and broad geographic distribution of the Singapore population as at end end-June 2010, compiled from multiple administrative sources.

- Census of population 2010: Statistical release 1, Demographic characteristics, education, language and religion
  Call Number: RSING 304.6021095957 CEN
  The census of population is conducted once in ten years by Singapore Department of Statistics. The 2010 exercise is the fifth census after Singapore’s independence.

- Census of population 2010: Statistical release 2, Households and housing
  Call Number: RSING 304.6021095957 CEN
  Provides broad trends and changes relating to household and housing characteristics of resident and households since 2000.

Web Resources

- Inter-Religious Organisation Singapore (IRO)
  http://www.iro.org.sg/website/home.html
  Formed in 1949, the IRO aims to cultivate mutual respect, friendship and cooperation among the leaders and followers of different religions. It also organises seminars, talks, inter-faith prayer services and fellowships to promote inter-faith understanding.
• PM’s 4 basic rules for religious harmony
  http://www.pmo.gov.sg/News/Transcripts/Prime+Minister/PM+s+4+basic+rules+for+religious+harmony.htm
  In this article, PM Lee outlines 4 basic rules to ensure that peace and harmony is maintained in Singapore:
  1. All groups have to exercise tolerance and restraint
  2. Keep religion separate from politics
  3. Government must remain secular
  4. Maintain the common space that all Singaporeans share

• Declaration on Religious Harmony - ZoCard Design Competition
  In 2007, the Inter-Religious Harmony Circle (IRHC) launched the ZoCard Design Competition to promote the spirit of the Declaration on Religious Harmony to the community. This website shows the winning entries for this contest for different school categories. Links are also provided to IRHC's publications of compiled stories from the major religions in Singapore, with the aim to spread the message of generosity and kindness to all mankind.

• Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act
  http://lnfnpedia.nl.sgp/articles/SIP_1638_2010-01-31.html
  Passed in Nov 1990, the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act aims to ensure that religion is not used for any unlawful purposes in Singapore. The Act also provides for the establishment of a Presidential Council for Religious Harmony.

• Singapore: Multiculturalism’s Success Story
  In this speech, Prof Tommy Koh shares 3 stories about race, religion and food to illustrate how successful Singapore has been in fostering racial and religious harmony and the appeal of multicultural dining that goes beyond cultural boundaries.

• Community Engagement Programme (CEP) Portal
  http://www.singapourunited.sg/cep/
  Started in 2006, CEP seeks to foster social cohesion through strengthening the understanding and ties between people of different races and religions, and to build up our society's skills and knowledge in coping with emergencies. Through the Community Engagement Programme, the community will be involved in response plans that will be activated when a crisis, e.g. a terrorist incident, does occur. These plans aim to help Singaporeans cope with the shock and to stay calm and resilient.

• The People’s Association (PA) Malay Activity Executive Committees Council (MESRA)
  MESRA works with the PA Malay Activity Executive Committees (MAECs) to organise and promote Malay cultural activities and to facilitate collaborations between MAECs and the larger community.

• The People’s Association (PA) Indian Activity Executive Committees Council (Narpani Pearavai)
  http://www.narpani.sg/
  Narpani Pearavai (“Good Activity Council”) oversees the 78 Indian Activity Executive Committees (IACEs) located all over Singapore to engage the Indian community through outreach activities and facilitate collaborations between IACEs and other Grassroots Organisations and the larger community.

• OnePeople.sg
  http://www.onepeople.sg/
  OnePeople.sg was launched in July 2007 to coordinate racial harmony programmes by different organisations (Peoples’ Association, self-help groups, Community Development Councils) and to inculcate the spirit of racial harmony among the younger generation.

• The Orange Ribbon Celebrations 2010
  http://orangering.on.people.sg/2010/
  As part of the 2010 Orange Ribbon Celebrations (ORC) theme, “Friendship Without Borders”, the goal is to gather 201,000 pledges from people of all walks of life to commit to living in a harmonious society. You can summit your pledge on this website as well as read the pledges from other people.

Newspaper Articles

Here is a selection of newspaper articles retrieved from Facitiva, a newspaper database subscribed by the National Library Singapore.

About Facitiva

Facitiva enables you to gain single click access to a deep archive of news and business information that provides a historical, global, and local perspective.

Maintaining racial harmony imperative to Singapore’s survival: MFA

Channel NewsAsia, 22 May 2010, 922 words

The Foreign Affairs Ministry (MFA) explains the government’s efforts to promote racial and religious harmony in Singapore and stresses the importance that this be maintained for the economic and political survival and progress of the nation.

The price of racial rapport

TODAY (Singapore), 12 September 2009, 426 words, Alicia Wong

In 2009, the Central Singapore Community Development Council (CDC) spent $744,000 (10% of its annual project budget) on racial harmony activities, such as getting families of different ethnicities and faiths to host youth and outreach programmes at each other’s places. CDC also prints yearly calendars carrying facts about cultural practices and these are distributed to schools and government ministries. Various other CDCs have also budgets set aside for programmes that help to promote the integration of different races and cultivate an appreciation for different cultures.

Month-long celebration of harmony

Straits Times, 2 July 2009, 620 words, Ang Yiyang

Describes the month-long National Orange Ribbon Celebrations that aims to foster friendship among different races and religious groups. Activities include an 18-day drive to collect 201,000 pledges in support of racial harmony and a carnival where people can watch multi-cultural performances, try different ethnic foods and participate in various cultural and sporting activities.

She believes in learning other faiths

The New Paper, 24 August 2009, 493 words, Crystal Chan

Fueled by her belief and desire to enable people to have a deeper understanding of one another’s religions, Miss Peta Yang, a third-year medical student at NUS founded the Interfaith Society in 2008. The society is now 30-strong, with representatives from seven religions: the Bahai faith, Taoism, Buddhism, Islam, Sikhism, Christianity and Hinduism. Some of Society’s activities include excursions to a Sikh temple where members learn Gurdwara Sikh Punjabi folk dance, dialogues with the Buddhist Society and the Catholic Students’ Society and an inter-religious community project, where youths were taught skills to deal with crises.

Minorities say ‘no’ to special privileges

Straits Times, 30 August 2008, 690 words

The findings from a survey conducted among 50 non-Chinese Singaporeans revealed the sentiment that the government should not grant special privileges or rights to minority groups and the system of meritocracy should prevail in society.

Beyond Chinese, Malay, Indian and Others

Straits Times, 24 October 2008, 1174 words, Zakir Hussain

This article debates the notion that people should be categorised strictly into distinct races. He proposes that people be allowed to have two races, particularly the offspring from mixed-race marriages to forestall the onset of identity crises when these children grow up.
Research Articles on the Web

Here is a selection of research articles retrieved from the web on social cohesion and harmony in Singapore.

- **Taking Group Rights Seriously: Multiracialism in Singapore**
  Author discusses how the policy of multiculturalism has been the impetus for many public policies in Singapore, beginning from its founding as an independent nation. These policies include the public housing racial quota ruling, the re-centralisation of the administration of the Malays and having English as the medium of instruction in schools.

- **Global Multicultural Citizenship Education: A Singapore Experience**
  Written by an assistant professor at the National Institute of Education, this paper examines how the social studies curriculum for secondary schools has changed to include a more global oriented outlook while retaining the focus on building a multicultural citizenship education.

- **National Identity and Religious Harmony – Secularism the ‘Singaporean Way’; The State and the Muslim Minority in Singapore**
  This paper focuses on the relationship between the state and the Muslim community, which comprise about 15% of the Singapore population. It discusses the challenges of secularism for Malays, how the religious boundaries are being maintained and delineates the history behind the separation of politics and religion.

- **Rethinking Racial Harmony in Singapore**
  This paper debates on the double-edged sword of celebrating racial harmony day, that highlights race and religious differences in ways that people may not have been aware of.

Racial Harmony Cultural Visits

Watch a 10min YouTube video to learn about the diverse foods, customs and beliefs of the Chinese, Indian and Malay communities in Singapore.

National Day Rally 2009 Racial & Religious Harmony

This is a 30min video clip of PM Lee Hsien Loong's 2009 National Day Rally Speech, which focused on the issue of racial and religious harmony in Singapore.
Population in Singapore - Resource Guides at National Library, Singapore

Books and CD-ROM

- Population trends [CD-ROM]
  Call Number: RSING 301.6095957 PT year 2009
  Statistical analysis of the changing population profiles over the years. The report comprises of four sections, namely, ‘Population Structure’, ‘Family Formation and Dissolution’ ‘Fertility’ and ‘Mortality’.

- Population projections for Singapore, 1980-2030
  Call Number: RSING 312.095957 SIN

- Population projections for Singapore, 1970-2070
  Call Number: RSING 312.095957 SAW

- Population projections for Singapore, 1980-2070
  Call Number: RSING 312.095957 SAW

- New population and labour force projections and policy implications for Singapore
  Call Number: RSING 301.32095957 SAW

- Social policy in an ageing society: Age and health in Singapore by Reisman, David A.
  Call Number: RSING 305.26095957 REI
  Investigates the challenges facing Singapore rising median age and pressure of old people on medical resources.

- Ageing in Singapore: Service needs and the state by Teo, Peggy, et al.
  Call Number: RSING 305.26095957 AGE
  Analyses the rapid growth of the ageing population in Singapore and examines key challenges of older people which are often seen as a social and financial burden.

- Report on the ageing population by Singapore. Committee on Ageing issues
  Call Number: RSING 305.26095957 SIN
  The Committee on Ageing issues (CAI) was set up to prepare for ageing society. This report recommends 4 areas: housing, accessibility, caring and opportunities as long-term goals for the elderly in Singapore.

Posters

- Plan a two-child family [picture]
  Call Number: RCLOS 363.96095957 PLA

- Singapore Medical Association: Reversing the falling birth-rate [picture]
  Call Number: RCLOS 612.6 SIN

- Enjoy your children, help them grow: Girl or boy, two is enough [picture]
  Call Number: RCLOS 363.96095957 ENJ
Databases

**Databases and Singapore Resources**

- **NLB eResources**
  - [Factiva](http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg)
  - Access a deep archive of local (example, The Straits Times) and international (example, New York Times) news and business information.
  
  **Sample:**
  - **Title:** Land plans cater to growing population
  - **Source:** The Straits Times, 12 January 2010

- **NLB eResources**
  - [Factiva](http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg)
  - Proquest Central
  - Comprises multiple databases that cover a wide range of subjects from social science, business, technology, health and medicine.
  
  **Sample:**
  - Population movement in the Asia Pacific region: Singapore perspective
    - **Source:** The International Migration Review, New York: Fall 1995. Vol. 29, Iss. 3; pg. 745.

- **NLB eResources**
  - [Factiva](http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg)
  - Proquest Central
  - Fertility and Eugenics: Singapore's Population Policies
    - J. John Palen

- **NewspapersSG - The Online Singapore News Archive**
  - [http://newspapers.nl.sg/](http://newspapers.nl.sg/)
  - This is a fully searchable online archive of Singapore news, offering users access to a host of newspaper titles, dating from 1831 to 2006.
  
  **Sample:**
  - **Title:** Republic is Asia's fastest-ageing country
    - **Source:** The Straits Times, 6 July 1997, Page 6

**Websites**

- **National Population and Talent Division**
  - The National Population Committee is a ministerial-level committee that looks at Singapore’s population landscape and steers the development of policies on population challenge. See also Statistic Booklet: Population in Brief 2010.

- **Department of Statistics**

- **Singapore Infopedia: Singapore’s first family planning campaign**
  - [http://www.infopedia.nl.sg](http://www.infopedia.nl.sg)
  - Recognising the importance of family planning to the national development of Singapore, the government organised the first national family planning campaign in 1960 to raise awareness of family planning and the disadvantages of having large unplanned families.

- **National Library Resource Guide: Singapore Governance**
  - This is part of a collection of resource guides on various topics compiled by the reference librarians. For the theme under Singapore Governance, there is a case study on Singapore population highlighting key resources on the topic. See also Ageing population under case study.

- **Nations Online Project**
  - [http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/world_population.htm](http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/world_population.htm)
  - World population by country and continent.

- **World Population Density Map**
  - [http://www.mapsofworld.com/world-population-density.htm](http://www.mapsofworld.com/world-population-density.htm)

**Accessing the Resources**

This page links to:
- [http://libguides.nl.sg/lkcrl](http://libguides.nl.sg/lkcrl)

Back to Top

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