



## PRESS RELEASE

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### KEY HOUSEHOLD INCOME TRENDS, 2017

#### *Median Household Income from Work Grew in 2017*

1. Median household income from work grew in 2017, according to the “Key Household Income Trends, 2017” paper released by the Singapore Department of Statistics today.
2. Among resident employed households<sup>1</sup>, median monthly household income from work<sup>2</sup> increased by 2.0 per cent in nominal terms from \$8,846 in 2016 to \$9,023 in 2017, or 1.5 per cent in real<sup>3</sup> terms. From 2012 to 2017, median monthly household income from work of resident employed households rose by 15.5 per cent cumulatively in real terms or 2.9 per cent per annum.
3. After accounting for household size, median monthly household income from work per household member grew by 4.5 per cent in nominal terms from \$2,584 in 2016 to \$2,699 in 2017, or 3.9 per cent in real terms. From 2012 to 2017, real growth in median monthly household income per household member was 22.9 per cent cumulatively or 4.2 per cent per annum.

#### *Households in All Income Deciles<sup>4</sup> Saw Real Growth in Average Household Income from Work Per Household Member*

4. Resident employed households in all income groups enjoyed real growth in average household income from work per household member in 2017. The lowest 50% households recorded real growth of 2.1 – 3.6 per cent, while households in the 51<sup>st</sup> – 90<sup>th</sup> percentile income groups registered higher real growth of 3.7 – 4.5 per cent. The top 10% households experienced real growth of 2.6 per cent.
5. **From 2012 to 2017, real growth in average household income from work per household member was faster for the lowest 50% households (4.2 – 4.6 per cent per annum) than for the top 50% households (2.2 – 4.2 per cent per annum).**

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<sup>1</sup> A resident employed household refers to a household headed by a Singapore citizen or permanent resident and with at least one working person.

<sup>2</sup> Household income from work includes employer Central Provident Fund (CPF) contributions.

<sup>3</sup> The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Items is used as the deflator to compute real income changes.

<sup>4</sup> Not all households are consistently in the same decile group from one year to the next. For example, a household may move down from a higher decile in a particular year due to the temporary unemployment of a household member, before moving up the deciles when the member resumes work in the subsequent year. In comparing the performance of any particular decile group over time, it is therefore relevant to note that they may not pertain to the same group of households.

### ***Households in HDB 1- & 2-Room Flats Received More Government Transfers***

6. Resident households (including households with no working person) received \$4,433 per household member on average from various Government schemes in 2017. Resident households in HDB 1- & 2-room flats received \$10,245 per household member on average, more than double the transfers received by resident households staying in other dwelling types.

### ***Gini After Government Transfers & Taxes Remained Unchanged***

7. The Gini coefficient<sup>5</sup> before Government transfers and taxes was 0.459 in 2017, little changed from 2016 and among the lowest figures in a decade.

8. Government transfers and taxes reduced the Gini coefficient in 2017 from 0.459 to 0.401, unchanged from the 0.401 in 2016. This reflected the redistributive effect of Government transfers.

9. The report on “Key Household Income Trends, 2017” is available online on the Department of Statistics’ website at <http://www.singstat.gov.sg/>.

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<sup>5</sup> The Gini coefficient is a summary measure of income inequality. It is equal to zero in the case of total income equality and to one in the case of total inequality.