



Best News Website or Mobile Service Digital Media Awards Worldwide 2022

Top Stories Latest News Discover Singapore Asia Commentary Sustainability CNA Insider Lifestyle Watch Listen

ADVERTISEMENT

STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS SPDR®

The biggest ideas inspire new ones.

What can you do with **SPY**, the SPDR® S&P 500® ETF Trust?

SPDR® S&P 500® ETF Trust • SPY • S27

[Learn more](#)

SPDR® S&P 500® ETF Trust (S27) is a diversified equity fund that tracks the performance of the S&P 500® Index. It is not insured against loss. Investments in the fund are subject to market risk. For more information, click here. The SPDR® S&P 500® ETF Trust (S27) was not reviewed by the SEC.

Singapore

Singapore's total fertility rate drops to historic low of 1.05

Singapore's total fertility rate has been falling for many years. The previous low was 1.1 in 2020.



File photo of a close-up view of baby feet. (Photo: iStock)



Abigail Ng

24 Feb 2023 05:03PM | (Updated: 24 Feb 2023 09:35PM)



SINGAPORE: Singapore's resident total fertility rate hit an all-time low of 1.05 in 2022, dipping below the [previous record of 1.1 in 2020](#) and 1.12 in 2021.

"This was partly due to the Tiger year in the Lunar calendar, which is generally associated with lower births among the Chinese," Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Indraneel Rajah said in Parliament on Friday (Feb 24).

ADVERTISEMENT

In 2010, which was also a Tiger year, the total fertility rate was 1.15, lower than the years before and after.

Speaking during the PMO's Committee of Supply debate, Ms Indraneel noted that the country's total fertility rate has been declining for many years, like other advanced societies.

The total fertility rate refers to the average number of live-births each woman would have during her reproductive years.

Singapore's figure has been below 1.2 since 2017.

South Korea currently has the [world's lowest total fertility rate at 0.78 in 2022](#).

ADVERTISEMENT

SOCIETAL TRENDS



Best News Website or Mobile Service Digital Media Awards Worldwide 2022

Top Stories

Latest News

Discover

Singapore

Asia

Commentary

Sustainability

CNA Insider

Lifestyle

Watch

Listen

The resident life expectancy at birth has risen to more than 83 years today, up from 72 years in 1980. Around one in four Singapore citizens will be aged 65 and above by 2030.

Singapore will find it "increasingly challenging" to sustain economic growth as the resident workforce increases at a slower rate, Ms Indranee said.

As family sizes shrink, caregiving needs will also intensify.

ADVERTISEMENT

"More Singaporeans will face the dual pressures of raising young children while caring for their elderly parents – and in fact, this is already happening," she added.

SUPPORT FOR PARENTS, FAMILIES

Ms Indranee said there has been feedback about difficulties in getting access to reliable infant care.

"We will be reviewing how we can better support new parents in caring for their infants," she added.

Laying out the measures announced at Budget 2023 to boost support for parents and families, Ms Indranee noted that government-paid paternity leave for eligible working fathers will be doubled to four weeks for children born from Jan 1 next year, and companies are encouraged to offer flexible work arrangements.

Among those applying for Build-to-Order flats, first-timer families with children and younger married couples will get greater priority, including an additional ballot.

ADVERTISEMENT

Housing grants for first-timer families buying resale flats will [increase by up to S\\$30,000 as well](#), which the Ministry of National Development will elaborate on at its Committee of Supply debate.

The Government has also [increased the Baby Bonus Cash Gift by S\\$3,000](#) and will contribute more to the Child Development Account.

Related:



["Every cent helps": More parental support welcome, but couples say it won't push them to have more children](#)



[Bigger baby bonus, more paternity leave: 7 takeaways for parents from Budget 2023](#)



[Commentary: More paternity leave is promising, but Singapore could be so much bolder](#)

CITIZENSHIP AND PERMANENT RESIDENCIES

Welcoming immigrants to Singapore plays an important part in moderating the impact of an ageing population and low birth rates, said Ms Indranee, who is also Second Minister for Finance and National Development.

"While most Singaporeans understand why we need immigrants, there are, understandably, concerns over competition for jobs and other resources, and how the texture and character of our society could change, and whether our infrastructure can keep up," she told the House.

"Since the tightening of our immigration framework in late 2009, we have maintained a measured and stable pace of immigration."

Related:



[Commentary: Fathering is so much more than being there the first four weeks of a baby's life](#)



[Commentary: Singapore is trying to make things better for families, but employers and employees too need to walk the talk](#)



[Commentary: Parenthood incentives – Singapore cannot keep doing more of the same without knowing whether these really work](#)