

WHY I **MOVED** TO SINGAPORE



Why do People Migrate to Singapore?

- **Immigration policy**

- Migrant workers address shortfall in labour market
- PRs and new SCs address low birth rate & ageing population

- **Economic opportunities**

- Business-friendly environment
- Sustained economic growth

- **Sociocultural environment**

- Community support
- Safe environment
- Education system

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Rapid Growth in Singapore's Immigrant Population Brings Policy Challenges

APRIL 3, 2012 PROFILE | By Brenda Yeoh and Weiqiang Lin



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A kiosk in Little India, a popular ethnoburb in multicultural Singapore.

The history and fortunes of Singapore, an island nation between Malaysia and Indonesia, have always been closely intertwined with migration. As a British trading colony established in 1819, most of the city's population growth until the World War II was due to immigration. Supported by a fledgling colonial economy, Singapore drew in large numbers of laborers from China, India, and the Malay Archipelago. Consequently, its population quickly grew from a few hundred to half a million by the 1931 census.

Immigration temporarily ceased during the Japanese occupation of 1942 to 1945, and Singapore's road to self-

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AUTHORS

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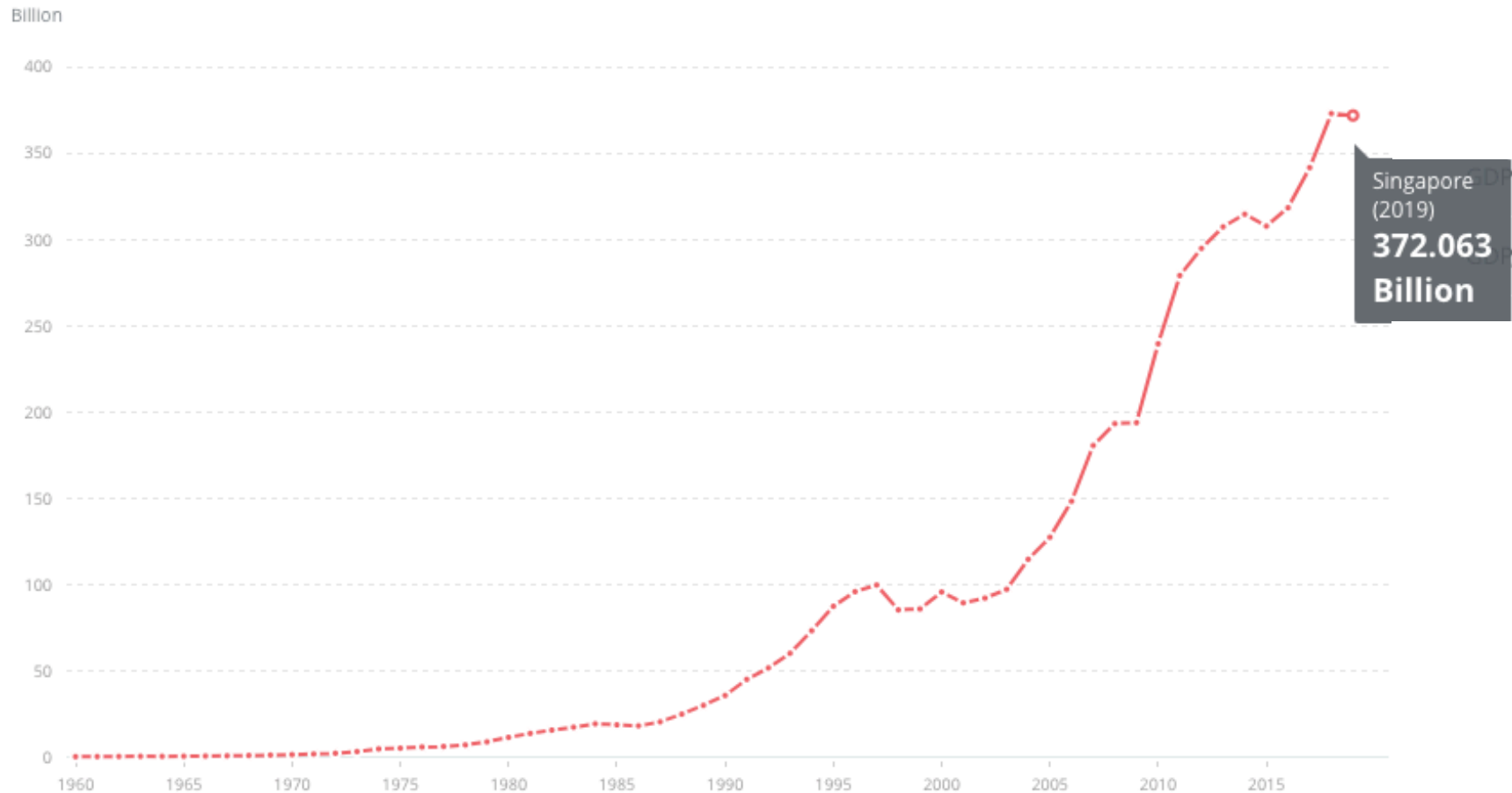
- **Immigration accounts for most of SG's growth** from founding to WWII, with most migrants from China, India and the Malay Archipelago; population quickly grew from hundreds to ~500k by 1931 census
- Temporarily **ceased** during Japanese Occupation, **limited** during path to independence (50s—60s) and **restricted** further still in years just after (60s—70s)
- **Increased again** only in the 80s after Singapore became more industrialised

(Yeoh & Lin, 2012)

Singapore's Immigration Trends

- Majority of immigrants (as at 2010) born in Malaysia; China, Hong Kong and Macau; South Asia; Indonesia; and other Asian countries
- Direct consequence of **policies to attract and rely on foreign manpower** at both the high and low ends of the labour spectrum to overcome limitations of local human capital

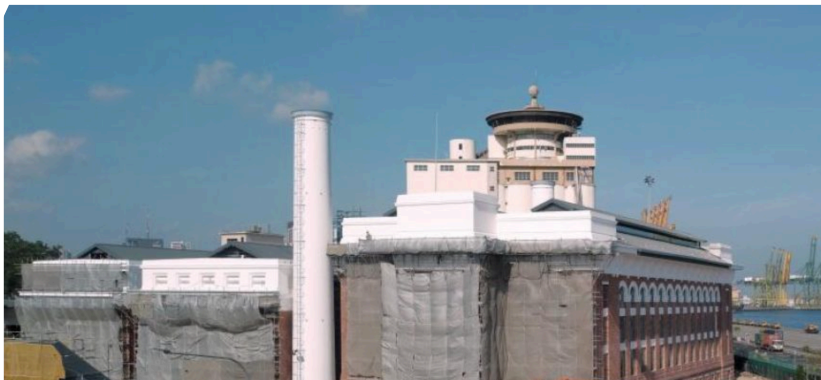
Singapore's GDP (current US\$) 1965-2019



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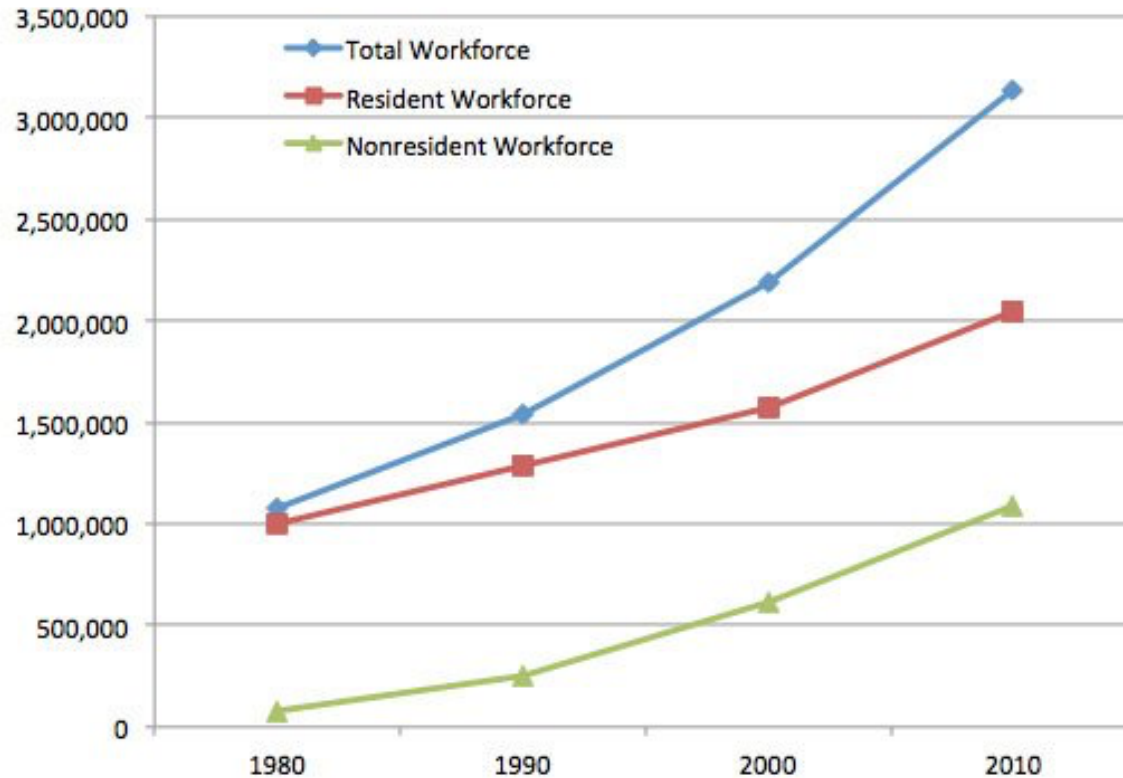
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Facebook's US\$1b data centre in Singapore to open in 2022

The Singapore centre will span 170,000 sq. m with 11 storeys, and will be built on an area known as the Singapore Data Centre Park.

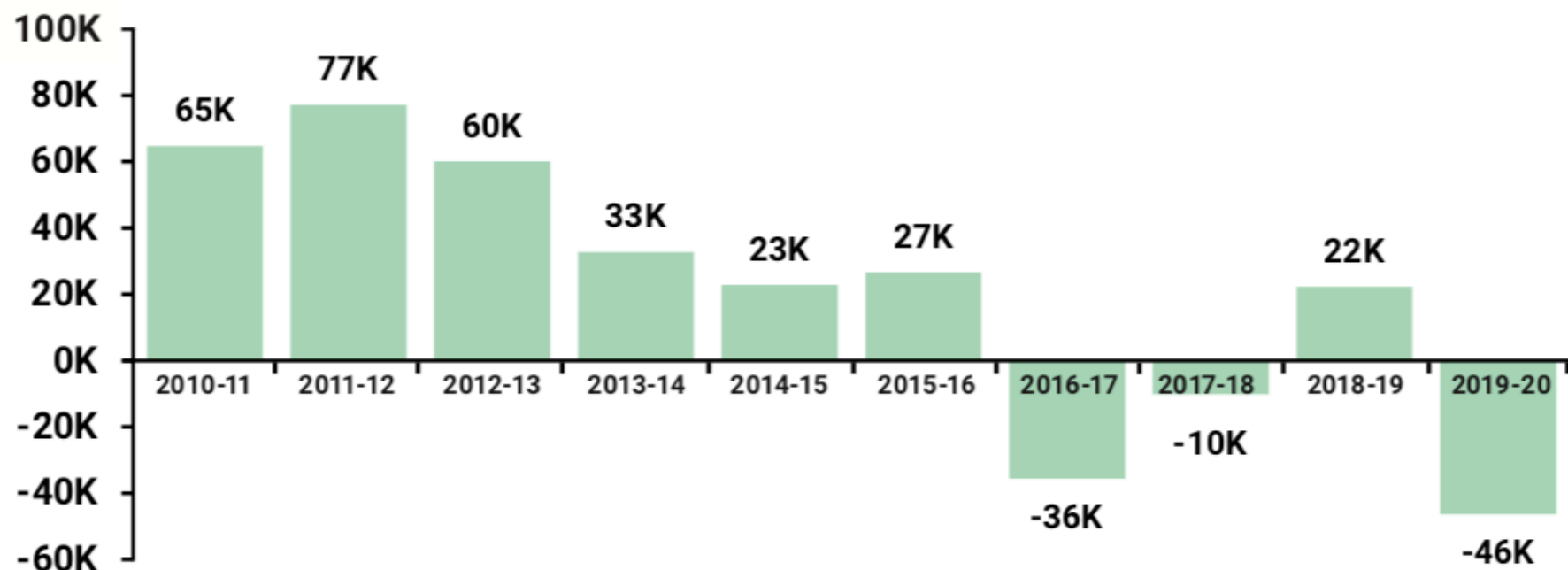
By Elaine Huang • 29 Oct 2018 • 2 min read

Singapore's Total Resident and Nonresident Workforce, 1980-2010



Decrease in Foreign Employment from Jun 2019 to Jun 2020

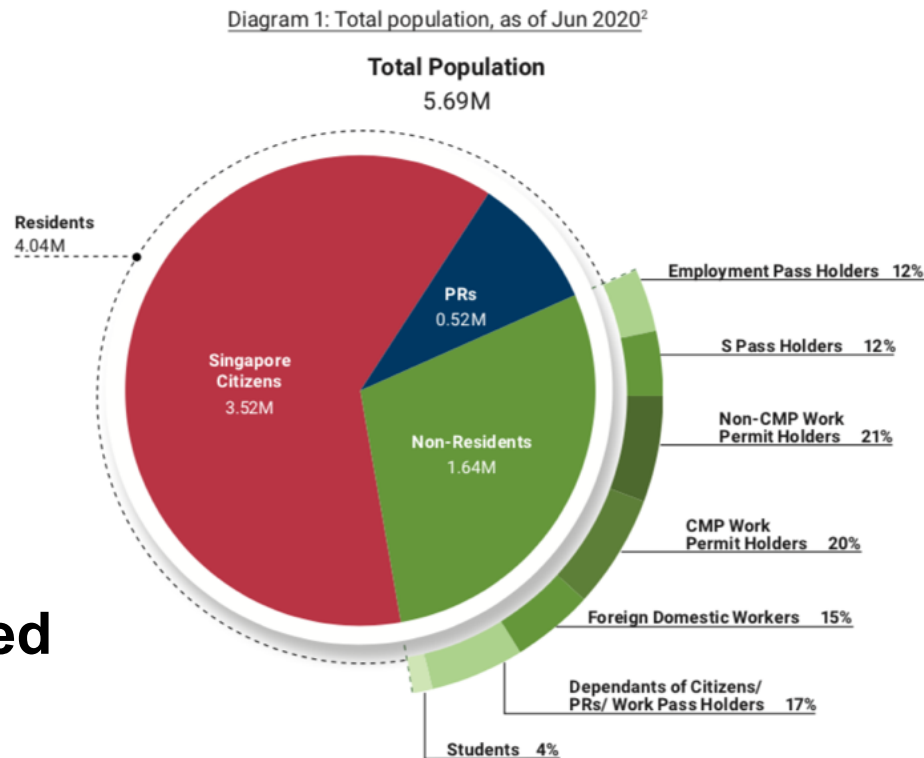
Chart 2: Foreign employment growth³, as of Jun



Source: Ministry of Manpower

Singapore's Immigration Trends

- Most of new arrivals in 2010 (about 870k) are **low-skilled workers** in construction, domestic labour, services, manufacturing, and marine industries; since 2008, some admitted as performers in the entertainment and F&B industries
- Remaining 240k are **skilled and generally better-educated** S-pass or EP holders and entrepreneurs



Source: Department of Statistics, Ministry of Manpower
Numbers may not sum up due to rounding.

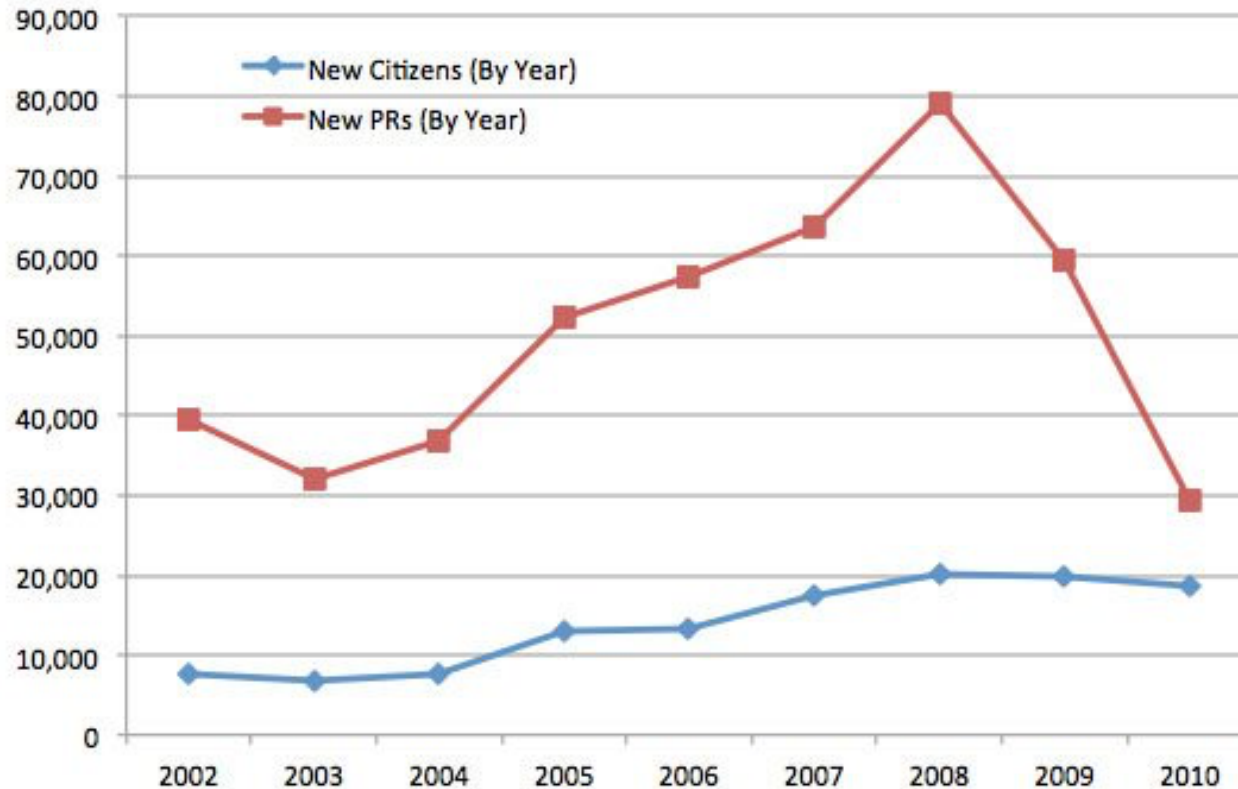
Singapore's Immigration Trends

- Third flow of increasing importance is **international students**: in 2010, 91.5k came to study on foreign-born student passes, comprising 13.1% of all students; SG govt. made recruitment of foreign students a priority since 1997

Singapore's Immigration Trends

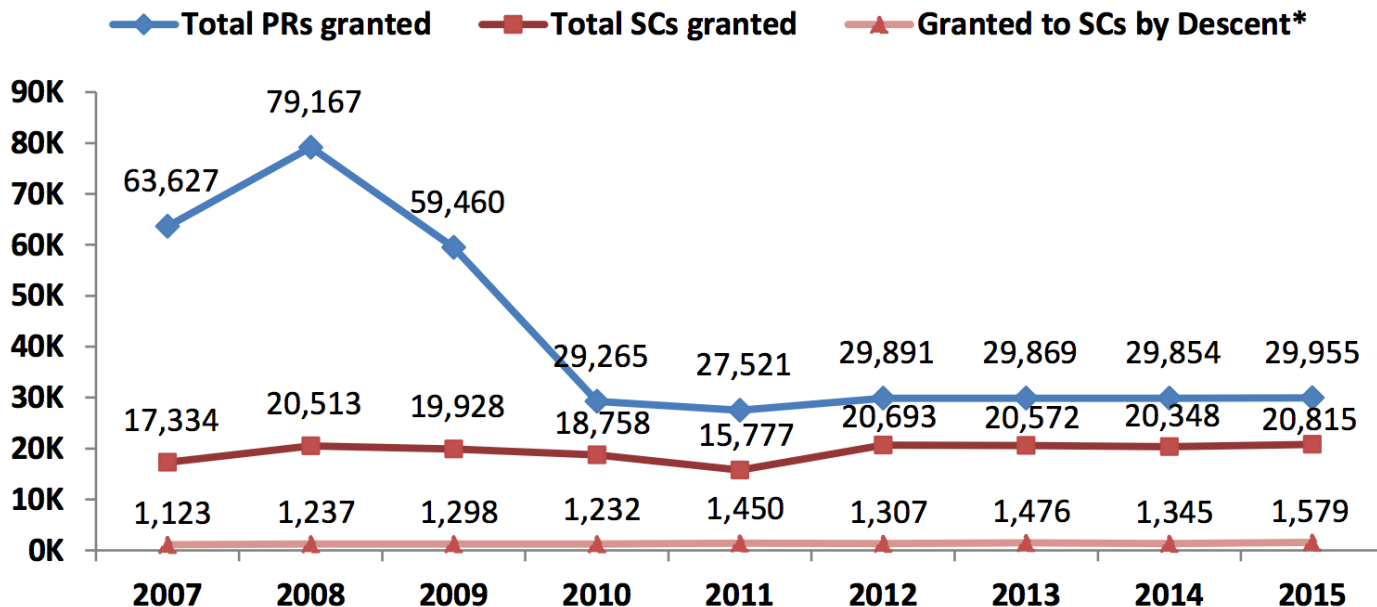
- **Citizenship eligibility** for the foreign born is limited to those who are at least 21 years of age and who have been PRs for at least two to six years immediately prior to the date of application; applicants must also be "of good character," intend to reside permanently in Singapore, and be able to support themselves and their dependents financially
- Rising trend of **new PRs and citizens** from '03-'08, with **sharp decline from '09** onwards

New Citizens and Permanent Residents in Singapore, 2002-2010



Stable Number of SCs and PRs Granted in Last Six Years

Chart 12: Number of SCs and PRs granted



**This is part of the total number of SCs granted each year. It refers to SCs granted to children born overseas to Singaporean parents.*

Source: Immigration & Checkpoints Authority

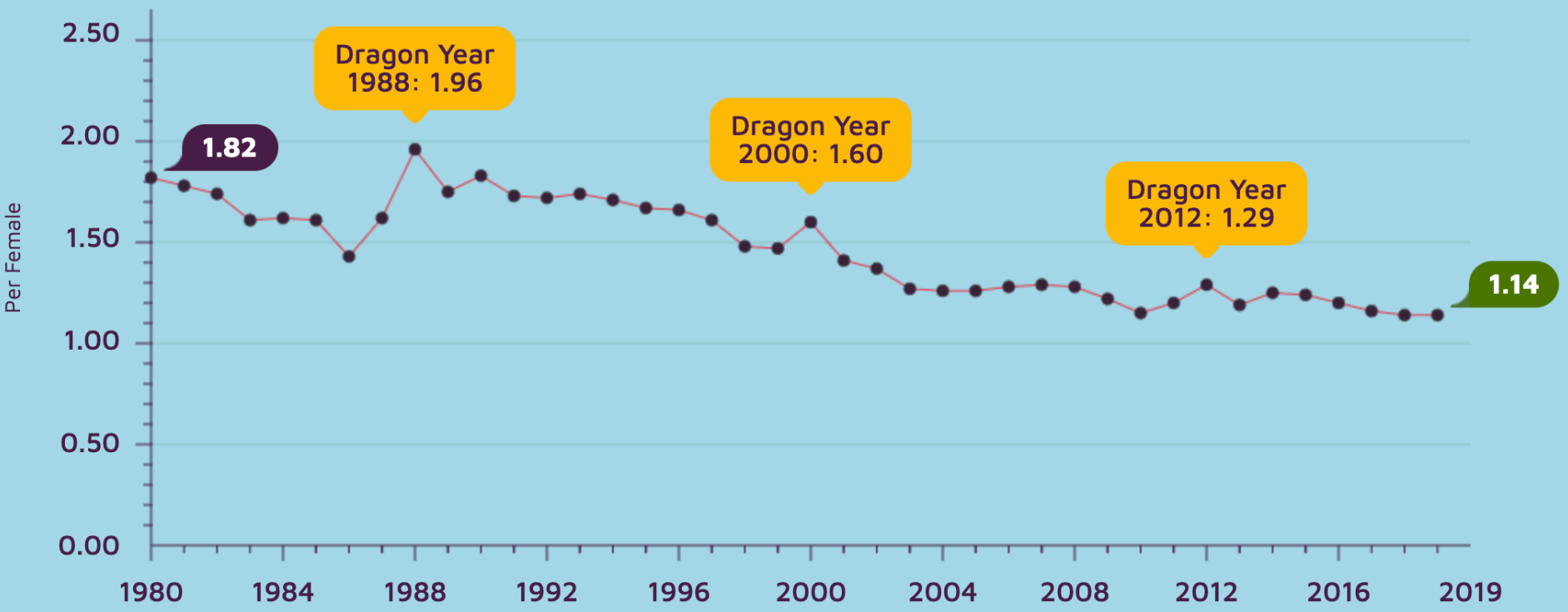
Singapore's Immigration Trends

- As at 2011, ~192.3k Singaporeans **live overseas**, mostly in Australia, the UK, the US and China; many highly skilled workers or tertiary students
- **Trend of S'poreans emigrating permanently** worries govt.; average of 1200 highly educated S'poreans (incl. 300 naturalised citizens) giving up citizenship per year for past decade leads to fears of **brain-drain**

Immigration Issues & Challenges

- **Low fertility rates and increasing emigration** drive need to continue attracting skilled immigrants while managing the unskilled
- **Rising tensions between locals and immigrants** drive need to maintain harmony and promote interaction and national solidarity between locals and newcomers

Resident Total Fertility Rate



Source: <https://www.singstat.gov.sg/modules/infographics/total-fertility-rate>

Rare mass rally over Singapore immigration plans

16 February 2013



Critics of the government's white paper say they want to see a curb on the numbers of immigrants

Singaporeans have staged a rare demonstration, in protest at government plans to allow more immigration.

Organisers said more than 4,000 people attended the rally, making it one of Singapore's largest ever protests.

They are angry at a recent government policy paper that predicted the population would grow by 30% to 6.9 million by 2030, with immigrants making up nearly half that figure.

Many locals blame immigration for rises in property prices and living costs.

The peaceful three-hour rally took place in heavy rain at a park venue known as Speakers' Corner, where protests are allowed without a police permit. Only a handful of uniformed officers were seen close by,

The crowds, protected from the downpours by a sea of umbrellas, came out to voice their displeasure at the ruling People's Action Party's (PAP) immigration policies, rally organisers said.

"The large crowd here shows the PAP government that they are not afraid any more, they don't want to hide behind a moniker on Facebook to show their displeasure," chief organiser Gilbert Goh, a former opposition candidate for parliament, told AFP news agency.

Hong Lim Park event criticising CECA & [REDACTED] draws 1,000 S'poreans, Lim Tean & Tan Kin Lian

There was also anger at National Service.

Andrew Koay | November 04, 2019, 01:11 PM



"Say no to CECA! Say no to 6.9 million! Say no to the PAP!"

That was the chant that rang out throughout Hong Lim Park on Sunday, Nov. 3 at an event organised in the wake of the now-infamous Eight Riversuites condominium [incident](#), where a video that captured a resident berating a security guard became linked to antecedent issues pertaining to immigration and job security in Singapore.

Organisers estimated that almost 1,000 people turned up at the event's peak to voice their anger at a variety of issues.