



# **economic survey of singapore 1990**

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE



# ECONOMIC SURVEY OF SINGAPORE 1990

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## BASIC ECONOMIC DATA

	1960 <sup>1</sup>	1970 <sup>1</sup>	1980	1988	1989	1990p
<b>National Income Aggregates</b>						
Gross Domestic Product						
At Current Market Prices (\$m)	2,149.6	5,804.9	25,090.7	49,694.2	56,235.1	62,711.3
Annual Change (%)	9.9	15.1	22.3	16.5	13.2	11.5
At 1985 Market Prices						
Annual Change (%)	8.7	9.4	9.7	11.1	9.2	8.3
<b>Gross National Product (GNP)</b>						
At Current Market Prices (\$m)	2,189.0	5,861.1	24,188.5	49,941.4	56,340.0	63,905.1
Annual Change (%)	9.9	14.9	18.3	15.5	12.8	13.4
Per Capita GNP (\$)	1,329.6	2,825.3	9,940.6	17,700.3	19,412.9	21,657.6
Indigenous GNP (\$m)	na	4,989.9	19,039.1	39,213.5	44,104.7	49,027.7
Per Capita Indigenous GNP (\$) <sup>2</sup>	na	2,478.1	8,342.8	15,235.1	16,840.9	18,437.0
<b>Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF)</b>						
At Current Market Prices (\$m)						
Total	204.9	1,888.5	10,203.1	17,344.1	20,683.2	23,840.7
Private	145.1	1,521.2	7,710.2	13,262.1	16,891.0	19,663.5
Public	59.8	367.3	2,492.9	4,082.0	3,792.2	4,177.2
GFCF as % of GNP	9.4	32.2	42.2	34.7	36.7	37.3
At 1985 Market Prices						
Annual Change (%)						
Total	21.7	11.8	20.2	8.2	17.7	14.7
Private	23.1	12.2	20.2	27.9	27.3	16.7
Public	17.6	11.3	20.2	-26.3	-11.5	6.3
Gross National Saving (\$m)	-52.3	1,129.7	8,282.0	20,659.8	24,379.7	28,504.3
As % of GNP	na	19.3	34.2	41.4	43.3	44.6
As % of GFCF	na	59.8	81.2	119.1	117.9	119.6
<b>Employment</b>						
Employed ('000)	448.6 <sup>3</sup>	644.2	1,073.4	1,238.5	1,277.3	1,324.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.9 <sup>3</sup>	6.0	3.0	3.3	2.2	1.7
Productivity (Annual Change in %)	na	4.3	5.7	4.5	4.8	3.4
Index of Industrial Production (1989 = 100)	na	18.7	56.2	90.8	100.0	109.5
Annual Change (%)	na	12.1	12.2	18.4	10.1	9.5
Retail Sales Volume Index (1987 = 100)	na	na	na	125.0	139.1	141.5
Unit Labour Cost Index Of Manufacturing (1983 = 100)	na	na	77.1	94.8	103.0	110.3
Money Supply (M1) (\$m)	na	1,574.3	6,134.7	11,957.7	13,744.6	15,233.9
Annual Change (%)	na	15.6	7.5	8.4	14.9	10.8
<b>Interest Rate</b>						
Minimum Lending Rate (%)	na	na	13.60	6.13	6.25	7.73

<sup>1</sup> Annual changes refer to averages for the decade.

<sup>2</sup> Based on resident population.

<sup>3</sup> Census of Population 1957.

<sup>4</sup> Refer to Jan – Oct data.

# BASIC ECONOMIC DATA (Cont'd)

	1960 <sup>1</sup>	1970 <sup>1</sup>	1980	1988	1989	1990p
Measures of Inflation (Annual Change in %)						
Consumer Price Index	1.2	5.6	8.5	1.5	2.4	3.4
Domestic Supply Price Index	na	na	19.6	-1.9	2.6	1.7
GDP Deflator	1.0	5.3	11.4	4.9	3.6	3.0
Trade						
Total Trade At Current Prices (\$m)	7,554.8	12,289.6	92,797.1	167,278.0	183,980.2	205,011.6
Imports	4,077.7	7,533.8	51,344.8	88,226.7	96,863.7	109,805.8
Exports	3,477.1	4,755.8	41,452.3	79,051.3	87,116.5	95,205.8
Domestic Exports	217.1	1,832.2	25,805.2	49,555.2	55,251.7	62,754.1
Re-exports	3,260.0	2,923.6	15,647.1	29,496.1	31,864.8	32,451.7
Annual Change (%)						
Total Trade	4.2	20.2	34.0	30.0	10.0	11.4
Imports	4.8	19.9	33.9	29.0	9.8	13.4
Exports	3.5	20.6	34.0	31.2	10.2	9.3
Domestic Exports	25.5	26.9	41.8	26.8	11.5	13.6
Re-exports	-0.7	15.3	22.8	39.2	8.0	1.8
Terms of Trade (1985 = 100)	na	na	101.1	88.8	85.3	85.9
Transport and Communications						
Vessel Arrivals (Million GRT)	na	na	237.7	396.4	430.7	483.0
Sea Cargo Handled (Million FT)	na	43.5	86.3	154.7	174.3	187.8
Aircraft Landings ('000)	6.2	17.1	38.0	41.6	46.3	51.7
International Telephone Calls (Annual Change in %)	na	29.9	42.0	41.8	34.3	26.0
Tourism						
Visitor Arrivals ('000)	90.0	521.7	2,562.1	4,186.1	4,830.0	4,375.9 <sup>a</sup>
Hotel Occupancy Rate (%)	na	70.7	86.1	79.3	86.4	84.0
Balance of Payments						
Current Account Balance (\$m)	-244.7	-1,750.8	-3,345.6	2,524.8	4,968.1	4,258.8
Overall Balance (\$m)	140.1	564.8	1,433.8	3,343.6	5,334.2	9,892.5
Exchange Rate (Per US\$)	na	3.0942	2.1412	2.0124	1.9503	1.8125
Official Foreign Reserves						
Total at End of Year (\$m)	na	3,097.9	13,757.7	33,276.6	38,607.2	48,521.3
Ratio to Merchandise Imports (months)	na	4.9	3.2	4.5	4.8	5.3
Public Debt at End of Year (\$m)	na	2,016.6	14,669.5	41,830.7	46,209.7	51,425.6
Domestic	na	1,842.8	13,732.5	41,589.9	46,071.0	51,357.7
External	na	173.8	937.0	240.8	138.7	67.9
Debt Servicing Ratio (%)	na	0.6	1.0	0.4	0.7	0.2

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### NOTATIONS

p	preliminary
—	nil, zero or negligible
na	not applicable or not available
nie	not included elsewhere



# 1 THE WORLD ECONOMY

The world economy slowed down slightly in 1990, with some countries in recession. The economies in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) grew by an average of 2.8 per cent compared with 3.4 per cent in 1989 (see Chart 1.1).

## THE UNITED STATES (Chart 1.1)

After almost eight years of steady growth, the longest period of expansion

since World War II, the US economy went into recession in the fourth quarter of 1990 with a decline in real gross national product (GNP) of 2.1 per cent in that quarter. For 1990 as a whole, the US economy registered 0.9 per cent growth, lower than the 2.5 per cent increase achieved in 1989.

Demand had been weak even before the onset of the Gulf crisis. It had been affected by the credit squeeze and high interest rates which were consequences of

Chart 1.1

## ECONOMIC GROWTH IN SELECTED OECD COUNTRIES

