

HIGHLIGHTS

ON LABOUR FORCE 2015

- The resident labour force participation rate (LFPR) rose for the fourth consecutive year to 68.3% in June 2015¹. Amid greater availability of flexible work arrangements, and continued tripartite efforts to enhance the employability of older workers, LFPR among women and older residents continued to rise. However, the pace of increase among older residents had slowed since 2012.
- The employment rate for residents aged 25 to 64 rose further to 80.5% in June 2015, helped by the strong employment gains in the second half of 2014. This continued a broadly consistent uptrend from 2006. While employment rates for residents in various age groups continued to rise, the pace of increase had moderated for residents aged 55 to 64 and women aged 25 to 54.
- Median income grew strongly over the year in June 2015 amid a tight labour market. The nominal median monthly income from work of full-time employed residents (including employer Central Provident Fund (CPF) contributions) rose by 4.7% over the year to \$3,949 in June 2015, or 5.3% in real terms.
- Over the last five years (2010 to 2015), there was also a sustained increase in income growth at the median and 20th percentile. The median income (including employer CPF contributions) of full-time employed residents rose by 32% or 5.7% p.a. in nominal terms from 2010 to 2015, or 16% or 3.0% per annum (p.a.) after adjusting for inflation. Amid on-going initiatives to boost income of low-wage workers, income at the 20th percentile of full-time employed residents rose by 26% or 4.7% p.a. in nominal terms, or 11% or 2.1% p.a. in real terms.
- Unemployment remained low in June 2015,² decreasing over the year for residents aged 25 to 29 and in their 30s and 40s. On the other hand, it rose for older residents aged 50 & over, as well as non-degree holders³ amid slower employment growth in the first half of 2015. Youths aged 15 to 24 also registered higher unemployment rate than a year ago. This largely reflected an increase in students searching for part-time or vacation jobs.

¹ Unless otherwise stated, data in this report are for June of the respective years.

² The seasonally adjusted resident unemployment rate was 2.8% in June 2015, similar to a year ago. On a non-seasonally adjusted basis, the resident unemployment rate was 3.8% in June 2015 compared with 3.7% in June 2014.

³ Except for the below-secondary educated whose unemployment rate was unchanged over the year.