



The Singapore Life Panel® (SLP) is about to be five years old! The August 2020 survey will be the 60<sup>th</sup> consecutive monthly survey of the Panel. This is a notable milestone and could not have been reached without the amazing support from YOU, our respondents. Thank you all for your commitment.

Launched by a small group of academics and support staff, the SLP embarked with a crew of 12,000 on an unprecedented journey that has generated a unique database of information on Singaporeans in or approaching retirement. This is not the portrait of an 'average' Singaporean, it is a detailed history of individuals who collectively represent the cross-section of the population and their varied circumstances as they have evolved over this important phase of life. With core information on financial assets, income, spending, employment, health, housing, subjective well-being and other characteristics, it has shed light on retirement readiness, its variation across sub-populations and how it is affected by new events such as unemployment, ill health or new government programmes. Many special modules added from time to time – most recently during the Covid-19 pandemic – have provided insights into a variety of topics such as financial literacy, government transfer programmes, the Lease Buyback Scheme, long-term care insurance and cancer screening. These topics related to health and retirement have been of particular interest to both researchers and policy-makers and illustrate the value of the SLP as a live source of information and insights.

# Looking Ahead - The Next 5 Years



It is a time of great transition for our centre. Thanks to your dedicated efforts we have now completed 60 survey months, with half a million surveys completed, across more than 2,000 variables. Your valuable data has empowered our extensive research into the economics of ageing and retirement.

In recognition of the world-class quality of data being produced by our wonderful respondents, we have received generous support from the Ministry of Education to continue running the Singapore Life Panel for at least another five years.

Our core goal will still be to improve the well-being of older Singaporeans through high quality research. The expertise we have developed on the economics of ageing will be combined with elements of physical, mental and social well-being, to construct a more holistic picture of successful ageing in Singapore.

To reflect this direction, we are being renamed to the Centre for Research on Successful Ageing (ROSA), and are revitalising our team with fresh leadership

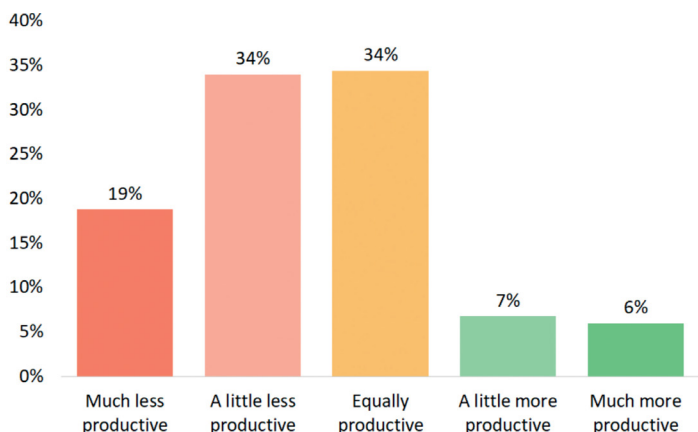
from Professor Paulin Straughan, our new Principal Investigator, who is supported by a diverse range of collaborators from the fields of economics, sociology and psychology at SMU, the Centre for Ageing Research and Education at Duke-NUS, the Institute of Policy Studies at NUS, RAND Center for the Study of Aging, and Colombia University.

You will observe some changes to the survey questions as we start to field additional modules exploring aspects of your well-being, social and family life, provision and receipt of care, psychological measures, and many more new topics! Many respondents have requested additional voucher payments, and we are pleased to announce that the new schedule will involve compensation of \$40 after the August and February surveys, \$20 after the November and May surveys, and \$10 in all other months.

When you first log in to complete our survey in August, you will be presented with an informed consent form that will explain this information in greater detail and invite you to continue participating in this important project. We look forward to embarking on this new journey, and we eagerly hope that you will continue along with us!

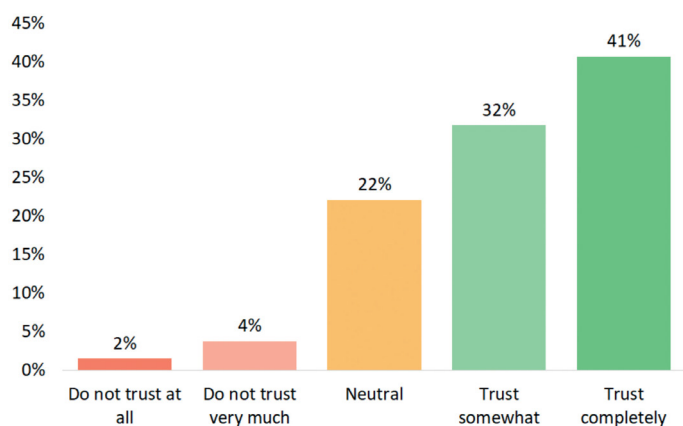
# Snapshot of Key Findings on COVID-19

## Productivity while Working from Home

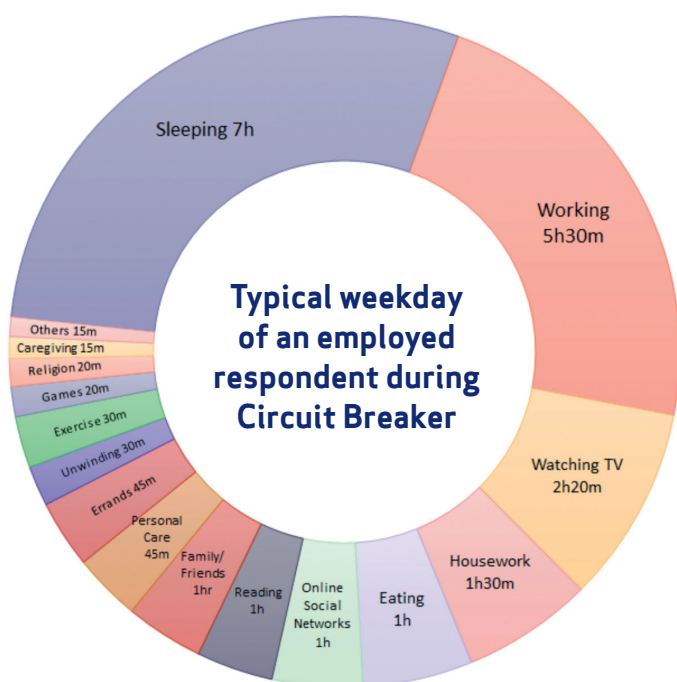


During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we have been asking you a range of questionnaires to monitor how you are getting on. Across our entire panel, household spending has fallen by a quarter on average. Work hours have fallen, with an average loss of employment income of 6%. More than half of respondents tell us that they are less productive while working from home; compared to only 13% who feel that they are more productive at home.

## How much trust do you have in the way the government is managing the COVID-19 situation?



Despite all the above, trust in the government's response to COVID-19 remains strong, with three-quarters of respondents trusting the government 'somewhat' or 'completely'.



During the Circuit Breaker, the typical employed respondent was getting 7 hours sleep and working for 5 and a half hours. Daily maintenance tasks included an hour and a half of housework on average, 45 minutes of errands, 45 minutes of personal care, and a 30-minute dose of exercise! A typical respondent was relaxing with 2 hours 20 minutes of TV/movies and an hour each of social networks, reading and catching up with family/friends. An average of 80 minutes was spent eating each day!

Unfortunately, well-being for many has fallen dramatically in recent months, including satisfaction with social & family life, daily activities, economic situation and life overall. We should all thus try our best to reach out to those whom we feel might need some extra support in these challenging times.

If you would like to know more about our COVID-19 findings, please visit our website at: <https://rosa.smu.edu.sg>.

## Our new Director and Principal Investigator

Professor Paulin Straughan is the Dean of Students at the Singapore Management University, where she is also a Professor of Sociology (Practice). Prior to this, she was an Associate Professor at the National University of Singapore from 1991 to 2017, where she was also a vice-dean.

Aside from taking on the mantle of Director at our new Centre for Research on Successful Ageing (ROSA), Professor Paulin has been involved in numerous other research endeavours, such as a current project investigating the environmental factors that lead to childhood obesity. Recently she was the Principal Investigator of a project on Successful Ageing in Singapore, Seoul and Shanghai, which involved multiple institutions and a multidisciplinary team. Professor Straughan additionally serves as consultant on many projects commissioned by government agencies, including the Marriage and Parenthood Survey.

Professor Straughan is committed to translating research insights into policy impacts to improve the lives of Singaporeans. At ROSA, that will include finding ways to advance the well-being of the elderly and promote successful ageing as Singapore faces a rapidly ageing society. With the valuable inputs provided by panel respondents, she aims to continue the work done at Centre for Research on the Economics of Ageing (CREA) and bring it to new heights under ROSA to help Singapore overcome the challenges faced by an ageing population.



## Dates of Surveys

- **August Survey: 1–24 August 2020**
- **September Survey: 1–24 September 2020**
- **October Survey: 1–25 October 2020**

## Confidentiality and Your Privacy

We treat the information you provide us in the strictest confidence and in full compliance with the Personal Data Protection Act 2012 (PDPA), under the legislation of the Personal Data Protection Commission of Singapore. The data transmission between our servers and web browsers is handled using highly secured protocols and an SSL certificate is installed in our domain. Your personal data and survey responses are kept in separate servers so that the data you provide cannot be traced back to you. Research is conducted on de-identified data and never on single observations. This de-identified data is used only by researchers approved by SMU, and the results collected will only be used for research purposes and reported as a statistic. Your details will never be passed to other organisations for commercial purposes.

## Contact Us

If you have changed your address or telephone number, if you need any form of assistance in completing the survey, or if you have any questions or feedback, please contact us on our Centre Hotline at **6808 7910** (9am to 5pm, Mondays to Fridays) or by email at **slp@smu.edu.sg**. We are always happy to hear from you.