

Quality of employment and the COVID-19 pandemic



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A Great Workforce A Great Workplace

Impact of COVID-19 on Singapore



Fall in GDP

-\$34.4 bil

from \$374.4bil to \$340bil



Working-from-home
becoming a norm



Unemployment and retrenchment
figures were at a high

3.5% and **9,120** respectively



Global travel were disrupted



Issues that all economy
seeks to address:

- i. How to help as much businesses stay afloat as possible?
- ii. How do we help workers who jobs are affected?
- iii. What are the necessary policies required for a safe workplace?



MRSD initiatives

Timely information on the labour market is critical to make deliberate policy moves during different phases of the pandemic

MRSD has swiftly deployed several statistical programs



Increase frequency of unemployment tracking

- Closely track the unemployment impact
- Increased frequency of tracking from quarterly to monthly



Occupational Employment Dataset (OED)

- Businesses provide worker occupation data via a registry
- Monitor occupation flows to minimize impact on economy and protect workers' livelihoods during pandemic

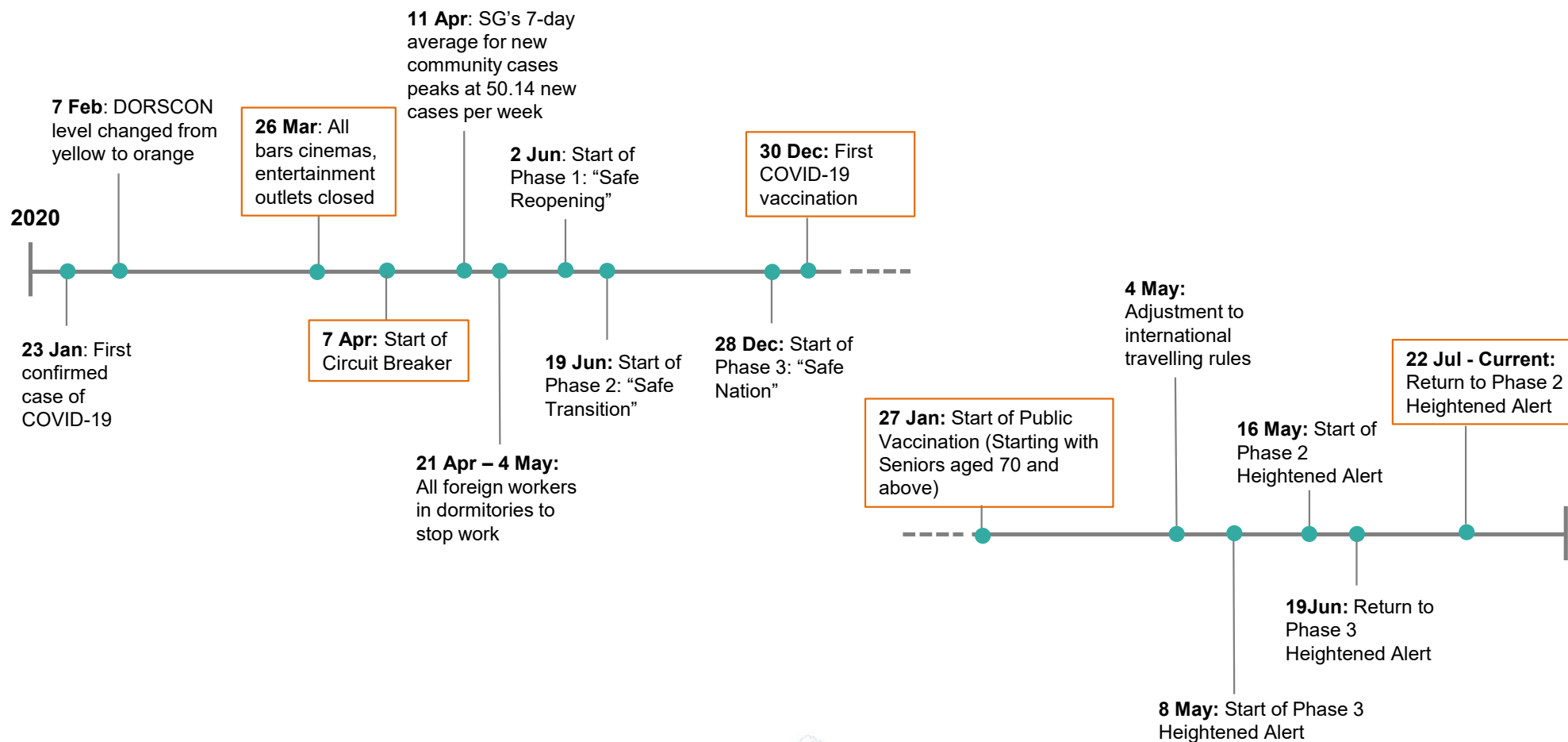


Flash surveys

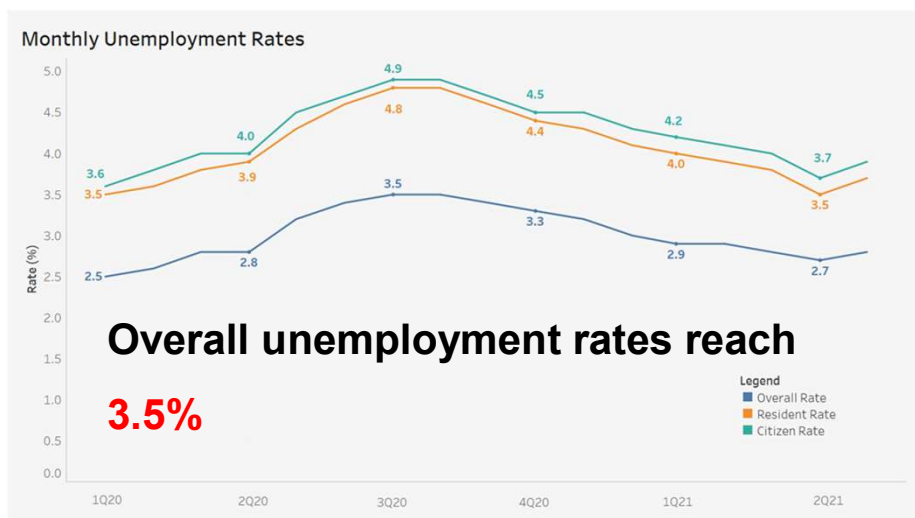
- Information such as telecommuting arrangement, cost-saving measures, impact of wages and outcomes of government support programmes
- Quick sensing through flash surveys



Singapore COVID-19 timeline



Unemployment



01

The economic downturn caused by the pandemic resulting in restructuring of workforce

02

Unemployment rate increases throughout 2020 and peaks in the third quarter before a decline



Aged 40 – 49 & 50 – 59

Unemployment rate peaked above 4% in 2021

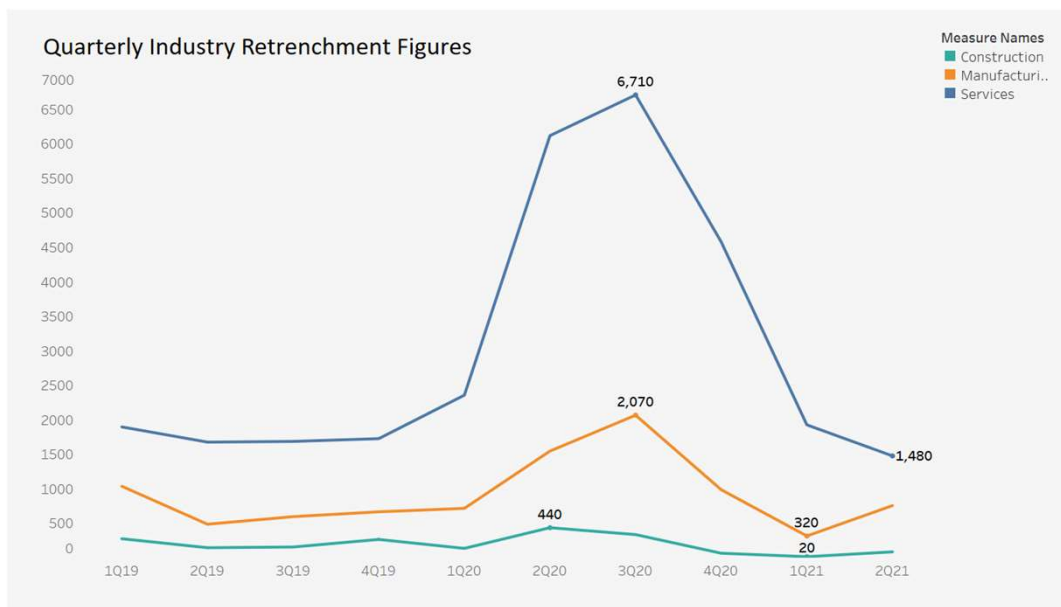
Partly due to the higher wage expectation which are often not desirable in view of companies' cost reduction measures



Retrenchment

Sharp increase in quarterly retrenchment figures in Q2 2020 and peaked at Q3 2020

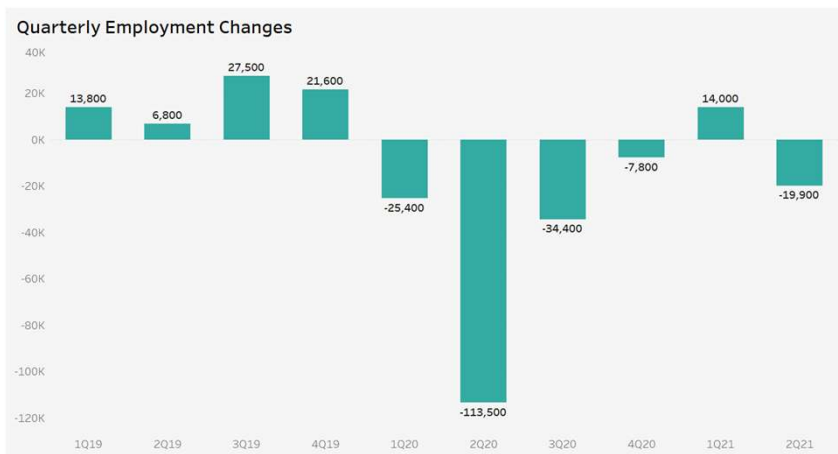
Largest increase in retrenchment levels came from **service sector**



- **Community, Social and Personal Service** were the most affected in Q3 2020
- This was due to the huge decline in tourist arrivals affecting the **air transport industries**
- Arts, Entertainment & Recreation industry, were the most affected during **Circuit Breaker**



Effects of COVID-19 on employment



- Overall employment declined in the 2020 indicated by the negative employment changes
- Largest decline of 113,500 was seen in Q2 of 2020 due to the implementation of **Circuit Breaker**
- Impact of COVID measures where most workplaces had to be closed and dining-in were not allowed

Sector most affected by COVID-19



Accommodation and Food services



Community, Social and Personal services

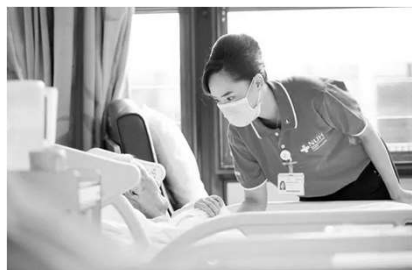


Wholesale and Retail Trade



Employment shifts

800 SIA cabin crew deployed in Singapore's fight against Covid-19 in alternative roles



With SIA extending flight cancellation, aircrews have signed up for role of a health care ambassador, to provide administrative support, assist and engage patients, as well as to check on their well-being

New roles as safe distancing ambassadors for some workers amid job disruption due to Covid-19

Some workers who have had their jobs disrupted by the Covid-19 outbreak are making ends meet through temporary jobs that have been created by the pandemic. Such roles include safe distancing ambassadors and temperature screeners.



Covid-19 took away the job I loved. I found another, but yearn for the old times. What should I do?

Two Singaporeans who had to relook at their careers and learn new skills during this period.

Mr Goh, was working in the events industry when Covid-19 hit. He decided to look for a new job and enrolled in the two-year nursing diploma programme last October.



Mr Veeragoo was previously responsible for the maintenance and repairs for passenger aircraft. With the growing passenger-to-freighter (PTF) aircraft conversion business, Mr Veeragoo, enrolled in a CCP last year to gain the know-how for PTF conversion.



Data driven policies

JOBS SUPPORT SCHEME

The Singapore Government will **co-fund wages** of workers for **9 months** in **3 payouts** for the first **S\$4,600** of monthly wages for every local worker in employment



01

Job Support Scheme

To provide wage support to enterprises that retain local workers



04

COVID-19 Driver Relief Fund

CDRF offers sector-specific support to our point-to-point (P2P) drivers

Temporary Relief Fund

One-time assistance of \$500



02

Temporary Relief Fund

Help Singaporeans and PRs who have lost their jobs, or a substantial portion of their income due to COVID-19



05

Covid 19 Recovery Grant

To support lower- to middle-income employees and self-employed who remain significantly affected by job or income loss

SG UNITED JOBS



03

SGUnited Jobs & Skills Package

Aims to create jobs, traineeships for both first-time and mid-career jobseekers, and increasing capacity of highly subsidized training courses for upskilling

COVID-19 Support for Stallholders*



06

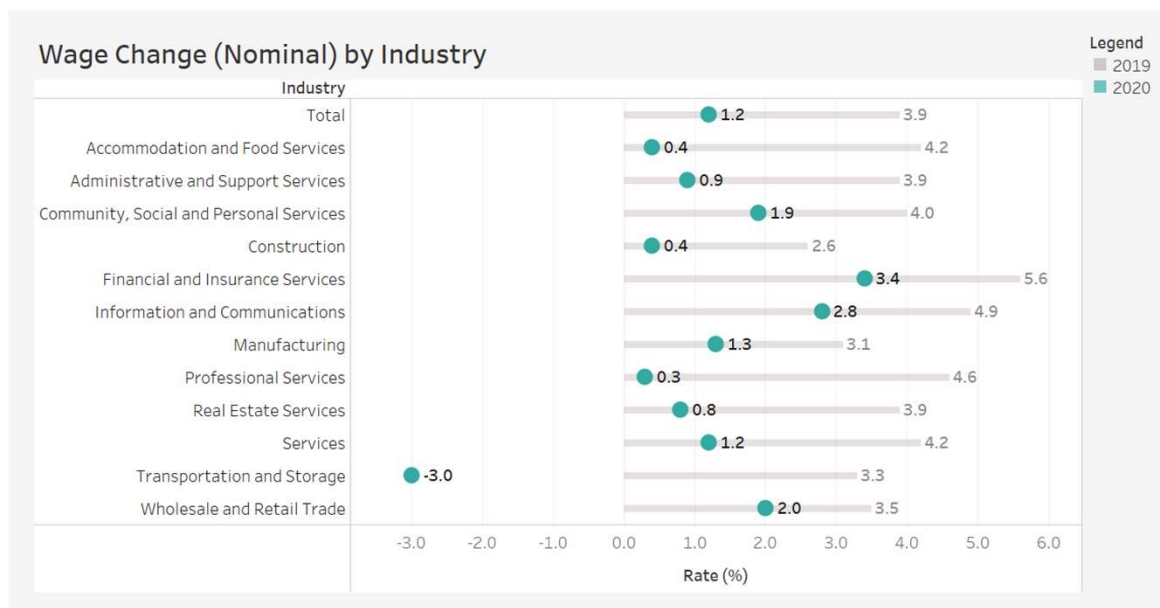
Market and Hawker Centre Relief Fund

To help our stallholders tide over challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic



Income

Wage change across the board for all industries decreased from 2019 to 2020



In 2020, Worst affected sector



Transportation & Storage

-3.0%

Result of travel restriction and tightening of COVID-19 restrictions

Least affected sector



Financial and Insurance Services

3.4%

Remained an essential industry
Increased digitalization in the financial landscape



Work arrangements



Top industries that adopts telecommuting arrangements:

- 01 Information and Communication
 - 02 Financial and Insurance
 - 03 Professional, Scientific, and Technical activities
- Occupation within such sectors rely heavily on technology



Industries that least adopts telecommuting arrangements:

- 01 Manufacturing
 - 02 Accommodation and Food services
 - 03 Agriculture and Fishing
- Due to nature of work



Thank you!



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