

Budget 2020 SG Gets A Big Thumbs Up

February's Budget Statement for 2020 came with the backdrop of a slumbering economy, questions over election dates and the global coronavirus crisis. Despite this, the Government's economic plan won a resounding thumbs up, with Singaporeans scoring the budget an average 6.7 out of 10. This is a sharp rise from a score of 5.8 in 2019 and 5.4 in 2018. 44% of Singaporeans believe they are "winners" because of the Budget, with only 14% believing they will be less well off.

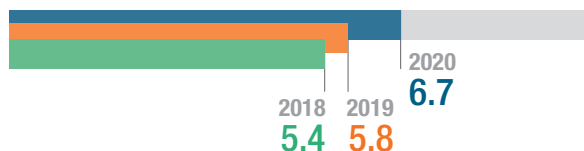
This Budget was crucial for the Government as the Red Dot is pessimistic about the economy overall. 45% believe 2020 will be worse for them, personally, than 2019. Only 26% have an optimistic view of the year ahead.

The previously announced GST rise may not popular, but the Government seems to have taken the sting out of the decision in the run up to the next GE. The deferral of the GST hike, together with the announced offsets were received well.

Measures supporting older citizens were most popular. These included a \$100 Passion Card top-up for over 50s, expansion of the Silver Support Scheme and Skills Future grants, and salary support for employers who take on new staff in their 40s or above.

How would you rate the Singapore Budget 2020?

(on a scale of 0-10, where 0 is very poor and 10 is excellent)



Top Five Most Favoured Initiatives Announced at Budget 2020



\$100 Passion card top up for those over 50	90%
Higher cash pay-outs and more Singaporeans to be covered under the Silver Support Scheme	89%
20% salary support (6 months) to employers who employ a Singaporean over the age of 40	89%
Skills Future extra top up of \$500 for Singaporeans aged 40-60	89%
HDB households will get double their GST voucher/U-Save rebate in 2020	88%

Three Least Favoured Initiatives Announced at Budget 2020



45% rebate on registration fee for those who buy fully electric vehicles – capped at \$20,000	82%
The Asia-Ready Exposure Programme, will support young Singaporeans' visits to cities in ASEAN, China or India. The aim is to expose younger Singaporeans to other cultures and experiences that may benefit their careers in the future	81%
Electric vehicle charging points to rise from 1600 to 28,000	80%

Singapore's Top 5 News Stories of the Month

■ % Who Followed the News
■ % Who Paid Close Attention

- Coronavirus: Wuhan and 15 other cities in China on lockdown, Singapore bans visitors holding Chinese passports or been to China in last 14 days

67% 97%
- Trump acquitted by US Senate following impeachment

22% 80%
- With hotter-than-usual months, 2019 tied with 2016 to be warmest year on record

17% 79%
- First Singaporean charged with funding terrorism sentenced to nearly 3 years' jail

19% 78%
- Employment growth for Singapore residents slowed slightly in 2019; more working as freelancers

20% 77%



COMMUNITY SATISFACTION

Those who say they are satisfied with the way things are going in Singapore

Jan 71 > Feb 75

Community Satisfaction up by 4 points



PERSONAL FINANCES

Those who rate their personal finances as Excellent/Good

Jan 67 > Feb 66

Personal Finances down by 1 point



NATIONAL ECONOMY

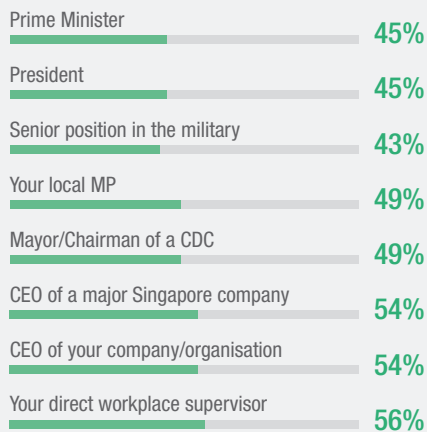
Those who rate current economic conditions in Singapore as Excellent/Good

Jan 70 > Feb 67

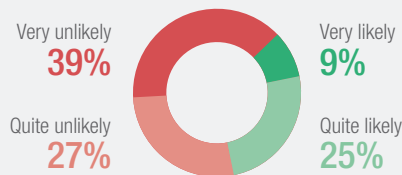
National Economy down by 3 points

Is Singapore ready for a gay PM?

How comfortable would you be with an openly gay person occupying the following positions?



How likely do you think that Singapore will have an openly gay Prime Minister before 2050?



South Bend, Indiana has given us Pete Buttigieg, the first openly gay US presidential candidate, in a country known for its sharp opinions on homosexuality. We asked locals how likely they think it is that Singapore will have a gay Prime Minister by 2050.

While only 34% of people thought it was likely to happen in that timeframe, 45% of Singaporeans said they would be comfortable with it. Just as many were comfortable with a gay President and even more were OK with a homosexual MP (49%) or Mayor (50%).

Singaporeans, however, appear slightly more comfortable with gay leadership in the workplace with 56% saying they are comfortable with their direct supervisor/boss being gay and 54% comfortable with a gay CEO.

Consistent with other recent publicised studies on gay attitudes in Singapore, those under 25 are roughly twice as tolerant as those over 50.

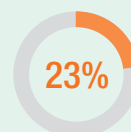
Digital Personas: How Many of Us Fake it Online?



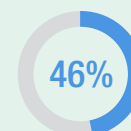
With fake Instagram accounts apparently on the rise, it got us thinking – how many Singaporeans maintain fake personas or noms de plume online? Our findings show that nearly a quarter of Singaporeans (23%) claim to maintain a fake or alternative profile on social media to stay anonymous. The figure is a little higher amongst those under the age of 25 – 27%

Not only are there numerous fake accounts out there, many Singaporeans also admit they exclude people from their feeds – nearly half (46%) say they like to 'block'. Most common block targets are strangers followed by the boss. Findings also show that 22% block their children but only 7% block their romantic/partner or spouse. Grounds for divorce?

So, with all those fake accounts out there, be careful – your next Facebook friend or Instagram voyeur could well be your boss in disguise.

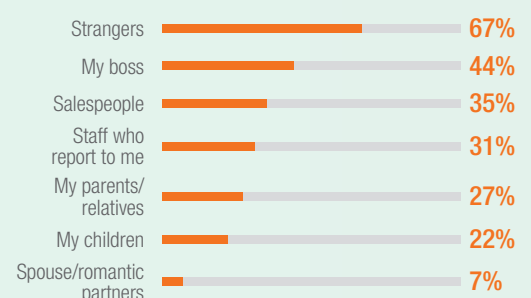


Those who say they maintain a fake/alternative profile on social media



Those who say they exclude certain people from their social media feeds

Who are you most likely to exclude from your social media feeds?



Government Satisfaction Index

The GSI was up one point in February with fieldwork taking place both sides of the Budget announcement. While the trends on wages/salaries and elderly care are positive for the Government, satisfaction with cost of living remains stubbornly low relative to other areas. The next few months will determine whether Budget announcements help to move the dial on this.

GOVERNMENT SATISFACTION INDEX

Monthly
Index **81** GSI

Monthly
Trend **+1**

About the Results

Each month Blackbox conducts interviews with a representative sample of 1,000 Singaporeans. We use a geographically stratified online sample. Our methodology also applies quota controls to ensure representative demographic coverage of the population. If you would like to purchase customised questions for your organisation or want to dig into our historical general community data/demographic information, please contact chris@blackbox.com.sg for assistance.

Rank	Issue	Satisfaction with Government	Change since last month	Change over last 12 months
1	Defence/ national security	96%	0%	3%
2	Crime levels	96%	2%	0%
3	Racial relations/ integration	94%	3%	0%
4	Education system	92%	1%	1%
5	The environment	92%	2%	-2%
6	Care for the Elderly	90%	3%	5%
7	Moral standards	88%	2%	2%
8	Health insurance/protection	87%	2%	4%
9	Public transport	84%	1%	-3%
10	Management of the economy	84%	0%	0%
11	Taxes	81%	2%	2%
12	Government accountability	80%	2%	4%
13	Level of salaries and wages	78%	3%	4%
14	Civil rights/ liberties/ free speech	77%	2%	6%
15	CPF/pensions	75%	-1%	3%
16	Housing affordability	73%	3%	5%
17	Jobs and unemployment	73%	1%	-7%
18	Population management	72%	0%	0%
19	Motor vehicle prices/ COE	71%	2%	4%
20	Gap between rich and poor	68%	2%	3%
21	Cost of living	55%	-1%	-5%
Overall Government Satisfaction Index		81	+1	+1

Who We Are

Blackbox Research is an award-winning Singapore based agency specialising in communications insights. We provide advanced research, analytics and digital intelligence services for both public sector and commercial clients. Our team has expertise covering market research, strategic communications and messaging, advertising and public policy.

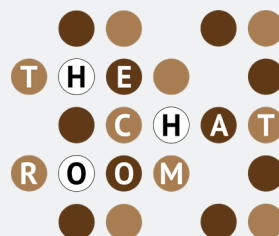
YouKnowAnot

YouKnowAnot is our monthly community survey platform that has been running since 2013. We interview a representative sample of 1,000 Singaporeans every month. We now use a geographically stratified online sample. Our methodology also applies quota controls to ensure representative demographic coverage of the population. If you would like to purchase customised questions for your organisation or want to dig into our historical general community data/demographic information, please contact chris@blackbox.com.sg for assistance.

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Blackbox Research introduces Singapore's first inspiration laboratory – the Chat Room. Primarily designed for focus group discussions, The Chat Room is a creative space that brings people together. The inviting and relaxed atmosphere allows companies and brands to connect with consumers in meaningful conversations.

For more information, visit thechatroom.com.sg