

Featured in this edition

Total Defence Day

Exercise SG Ready

MTI Economic Survey 2023

Budget 2024



Pictured from left to right - Dr Ng Eng Hen, Dr Koh Poh Koon, Mr Zaqy Mohamad, and Mr Heng Chee How viewing examples of Ready To Eat (RTE) meals jointly conceptualised by the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) and SATS

Total Defence Day

Total Defence Day (TD Day) is commemorated on 15 Feb each year. TD Day reminds all Singaporeans that we should never take our defence for granted, and that the entire society plays a part to address new threats and overcome all sorts of challenges and crises, military or otherwise.

This year, the Total Defence Day 2024 Commemoration Event (TDDCE) was held at South Beach Tower Courtyard on 15 Feb 2024. The event was attended by Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen, Senior Minister of State (SMS) for Defence Mr Zaqy Mohamad, SMS for Defence Mr Heng Chee How, and SMS for Sustainability and the Environment Dr Koh Poh Koon. Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Mr Lawrence Wong also delivered a message on the importance of Total Defence via video recording.

This year marks 40 years of Total Defence in Singapore, since it was first introduced in 1984.



These live examples teach us in Singapore to be thankful that the previous and present generations have kept up our Total Defence till this day. It is Total Defence that will help us remain prepared, adaptable and resilient and overcome turbulent times. In times of crisis, we will need all six pillars of Total Defence to support us – Military, Civil, Economic, Social, Psychological, and Digital – to stay strong and secure as a nation.

-Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen, at the Total Defence Day 2024 Commemoration Event



Read more about
Minister's speech here:
go.gov.sg/td40speech



Exercise SG Ready

In such a volatile security climate, it is all the more crucial that Singaporeans must be ready for crises and disruptions if and when they hit our shores. Exercise SG Ready was launched on TD Day by DPM Mr Lawrence Wong to strengthen our resilience and readiness for crises and disruptions. The inaugural island-wide exercise was held from 15 Feb to 29 Feb 2024.

Watch DPM Mr Lawrence Wong's Total Defence Day 2024 Message here: go.gov.sg/dpmtdday2024message



“ Through these exercises, we aim to increase our readiness and resilience to crises and threats... I urge everyone to use this opportunity to learn about the threats facing us, reflect on whether we are ready to deal with such threats, and practise what to do when they materialise.

-DPM Mr Lawrence Wong,
Total Defence Day 2024 Message

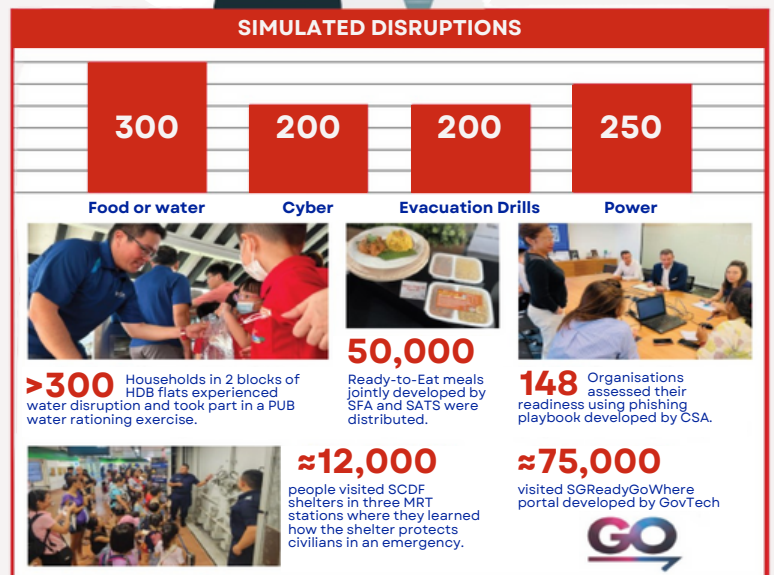


More than 800 organisations took part

 Over 250 Public Agencies	 Over 160 Businesses	 21 NEA Markets and Hawker Centres
 2 Blocks of HDB Flats	 17 Community Organisations and 4 PA Integrated Hubs	 4 MRT Train Stations
 Over 330 MOE Schools	 10 Institutes of Higher Learning	 9 Public Attractions



Find out more about Exercise SG Ready here:



The aim of the exercise was to get individuals, communities, and businesses to think about what they can do, how they can respond, and why they must remain united in the face of crises and disruptions.

Businesses such as Bain & Company South-east Asia simulated a disruption of power and water at its office in South Beach Tower. It had also earlier carried out a phishing drill that involved sending a suspicious email to employees.

“

... companies today consider resilience to be an important element in business planning.

-Mr Edmund Lin, Chairman of Bain and Co South East Asia

”

The exercise showed why it is important for companies to rethink and validate their business contingency plans in the event of crises and disruptions.

Some students also had ready-to-eat meals served to simulate a food disruption. One student reflected that “[the] exercise taught [her] that she had to be conscious about consumption” and avoid panic buying or over-consumption.

Taman Jurong also simulated a water disruption at select HDB blocks, with residents experiencing how it was like to have water supply disrupted. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) also distributed water bags and made house calls during the water disruption, highlighting the communal spirit and support that Singaporeans show to one another.



Simulating water supply disruption at Taman Jurong
Photo: We Are Total Defence Facebook

Some questions that the Exercise helps Singaporeans to think about:

How should we, as a nation, ensure that Singapore is ready and resilient during crises and disruptions?

In times of disruption, what roles can I play in any of the areas of Total Defence (military, psychological, economic, social, civil, and digital)?

What action can I take to contribute towards TD? Here are some examples:

- **Strengthen** contingency plans to ensure readiness during crises and disruptions
- **Support** National Service
- **Keep a lookout** and help others around us
- **Ensure** essential items such as food with long shelf life, torch lights, and first-aid kits are well-stocked in your household
- **Equip yourself** with life-saving skills such as basic first aid and CPR
- **Know** where your nearest Civil Defence Shelters are located

As part of public engagement and outreach efforts to commemorate TD40, Singapore Discovery Centre (SDC) had put up an exhibition titled “Total Defence For Thee!”. Roving exhibitions will also make public appearance at locations like SAFRA clubhouses and libraries. The exhibition showcases how Singaporeans’ contributions safeguards Singapore, and hopes to inspire us to continue doing our part to keep Singapore strong and prepared for crises and disruptions.

Find out more about the exhibition’s roving schedule here:

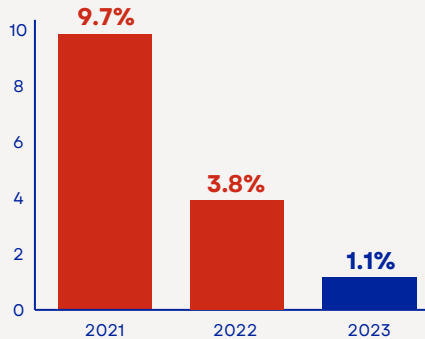
go.gov.sg/td40rovexschedule



MTI Economic Survey 2023

(Released Feb 2024)

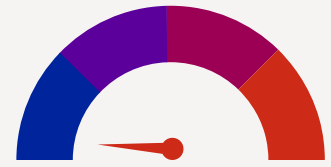
Real GDP grew by 1.1% in 2023



Growth Forecast

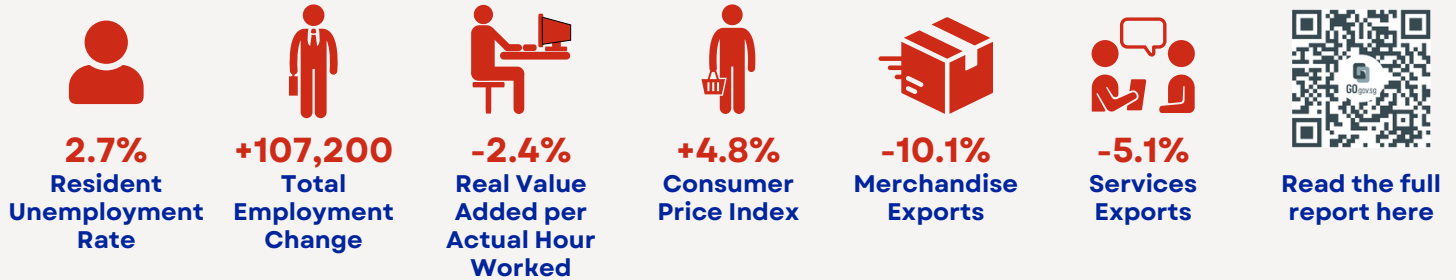


Downside Risks



- Escalation in geopolitical conflicts
- Lagged effects of monetary tightening on banking and financial systems
- Idiosyncratic cost shocks

Main Indicators



Budget 2024

Budget 2024 bolsters support for Singaporeans from all walks of life in several key areas. The suite of measures will:

- Tackle immediate challenges for households and businesses;
- Pursue better growth and jobs, and equip our workers for life;
- Create more paths for equality and mobility; and
- Provide more assurance for families and seniors, ultimately forging a stronger shared future.

Read the full Budget 2024 Booklet here:



“
By creating more paths towards equality and mobility, we also put ourselves in a better position for continued growth... In other words, a strong economy and a strong society to reinforce each other,
”

-DPM Mr Lawrence Wong, Budget 2024



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<https://go.gov.sg/feedbacknif>
or email us at nexus@defence.gov.sg.



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