Singapore

Sources:
Rao and Ramakrishnan 1980, Table 12 on page 24
Mizoguchi 1985
UN 1985
Fields 1989
Rao 1989, Table 2
Rao 1990, Table 1, 3 and 8
Singapore CSO 1993
Sze 2002 Table 1 and 4
Rao 2003

Surveys:
Family Budget Survey 1966
Singapore Sample Household Survey 1966
It appears that the two different names refer to the same survey. It was carried out between September and November 1966 by the Economic Research Center of the University of Singapore and the Ministry of National Development. The sample consisted of 4 % of the population and was based on a two-stage sampling design. Rao and Ramakrishnan (1980) had access to unpublished computer prints out with data on the personal income distribution. According to the authors it is not easy to comment on the reliability of the data. The non-response for the survey as a whole was about 3 %. The income concept was gross earnings. All employees were asked to state in relation to the past month the actual amount of money income received from a) wages and salaries, allowance and overtime b) commissions c) tips and d) annual bonuses. Another question sought information on whether the employee received free housing or subsidized housing, free or subsidized meals and free uniforms. All the respondents (employees, employers, and self-employed) were also asked the amount of income obtained from rents, interests, dividends, pensions and gifts but these were not available in the tables. Only grouped income distributions for employee income and employer's income were available in the tables.

Preparatory Survey for the Household and Expenditure Survey 1972
This survey is used by Rao and Ramakrishnan (1980). It was carried out in March 1972 by the Singapore Department of Statistics with a sampling fraction of 1.3 % of the population. The income concept is likely to be monetary gross income since the survey collected information on the average monthly "principal income" of each household member. Based on the explanations in the survey report it would appear that the principal income includes income from employment, business, rents, transfers and other income. The incomes are only reported for working persons in the tabulations.

Household Expenditure Survey 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993
This survey is used by several authors. The 1978 survey covered 5173 households selected in the main island of Singapore, 4777 of these responded but finally 4638 were used in the tabulations due to some incomplete questionnaires. The income data

collection lasted from June 1977 to May 1978. The households were divided into twelve groups and each group was surveyed for one month.

The survey excludes single person households (this applies to all). Gross income was defined as the sum of monthly income of the household members, except boarders and servants, derived from employment, business, rent, investment and transfers before deduction of taxes and provident fund contributions. Employment income includes income in-kind such as food, clothing and lodging provided by the employer. Household consumption of production from own farm was valued at current retail prices. Rent includes imputed rents. Investment income is the sum of interest, dividends and royalties. Transfers consist of cash contributions from other households, pensions, social welfare grants and bursaries, scholarships and fellowships. Lump sums were excluded. Despite of the seemingly good coverage of the income concept, the income estimated was only 26-35% of GNP per capita so the underreporting is huge (even some of the underreporting can be explained due to differences in definitions).

Labour Force Survey by the Singapore Department of Statistics 1973
The survey had a sampling fraction of 1.0% and was carried out in the month of June. Data on "income from last month" was collected from each household member. The income concept is not explained.

Labour Force Survey conducted by the Ministry of Labour and the National Statistical Commission 1974-1994, 1996-1999
Also called June Labour Force Survey

The following information refers to the 1974 and 1975 surveys:
The 1974 survey covered 2.06 % of the population and the 1975 one 1.85%. Question on gross incomes for last month was posed to all individuals age 10 or more. Seven income groups were used on the questionnaire to record the response of the income question so the income was only given in an interval. The published report state that gross monthly income refers to the total amount of income earned during the calendar month preceding the interview. In respect of employees, the information supplied relates to wages or salaries inclusive of allowances and overtime for all jobs, commissions, tips and bonuses. In the case of employers and own account workers it relates to the total receipt from sales or services performed less the business expenses incurred.

It is not clear if the earnings for the later surveys also were given in intervals. In general it seems that 7-9 income classes were available. In Rao and Ramakrishnan (1980) the mean incomes for the tales were estimated by Pareto fitting. In Rao (2003) the means for the open ended highest income interval were estimated both by curve fitting and interpolation.

Census of Population 1980, 1990, 2000
The census data covers resident private households, which refers to private households headed by a Singapore citizen or permanent resident. In 1980 the census data included 102243 households. The income definition for all years is income from earnings only

obtained from persons working. Household income is defined as the sum of monthly income from work received by all members of the household except domestic servants.

In UN (1981), 7 income classes were available for 1980. In Sze (2002) households with no income earner were included in the estimates and contribute to a greater household income disparity. Households with no income earner comprised 8.7 per cent of total resident households in 2000 and 4% 1990.

General Household Survey 1995

Used by Sze (2002). No specific documentation was available but apparently the income concept refers to income from earnings as in the other surveys.