

# SINGAPORE HELPER SALARY INDEX 2026

A primary-data report from Upwill

## Executive Summary

Filipino domestic helper salaries in Singapore rose roughly 7% year-on-year in 2026 to S\$700–S\$780/month, driven by Philippine Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) floor enforcement and tighter Manila-side recruitment supply. Indonesian helper salaries narrowed the gap, landing at S\$580–S\$650/month. Myanmar helpers, the fastest-growing nationality segment in Singapore since 2023, stabilised at S\$500–S\$580/month.

The true two-year cost of hiring a domestic helper in Singapore in 2026 — including monthly levy, security bond, mandatory insurance, food, medical exams, and home leave — sits at approximately S\$22,000, roughly 30% higher than the salary line alone, which is what most online "cost calculators" surface.

Only about 60% of households eligible for the S\$60/month concessionary levy actually apply for it, leaving an estimated S\$2,880/year per eligible household on the table.

*Citation policy: This report is free to cite. A direct link back to [upwill.com.sg/resources/singapore-helper-salary-2026](https://upwill.com.sg/resources/singapore-helper-salary-2026) is appreciated but not required.*

## Salary Ranges by Nationality (2026)

Nationality	Monthly basic salary	YoY change	Embassy/source-country floor
Filipino	S\$700 – S\$780	+7%	DMW floor enforced; minimum S\$650
Indonesian	S\$580 – S\$650	+5%	KDEI-aligned; minimum ~S\$570
Myanmar	S\$500 – S\$580	+4%	No formal embassy floor
Sri Lankan	S\$550 – S\$620	+4%	Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau (SLFEB)
Indian	S\$580 – S\$650	+3%	Recently re-opened source country

*Methodology note: Figures derived from Upwill's own placements during 2025–26, cross-checked against MOM-published aggregates, public posting boards (HelperPlace, HelperChoice), and source-country government salary floors. Sample size: 100+ placements across nationalities, 2025–26.*

## The True 24-Month Cost of Hiring a Helper (2026)

Cost component	Standard household	Concessionary household
Agency placement fee (one-time)	S\$3,000	S\$3,000
Settling-in programme + medical	S\$300	S\$300
Air ticket in	S\$400	S\$400
FDW levy (24 months)	S\$7,200 (S\$300/mo)	S\$1,440 (S\$60/mo)
Mandatory medical insurance (2 yr)	S\$700	S\$700
Security bond premium (2 yr)	S\$140	S\$140
Food allowance (S\$300/mo × 24)	S\$7,200	S\$7,200
Monthly salary (mid-range × 24)	S\$15,600 (S\$650/mo)	S\$15,600
6-monthly medical exam (4 cycles)	S\$320	S\$320
Home leave airfare + cash-in-lieu	S\$600	S\$600
<b>Total 24-month cost</b>	<b>~S\$35,460</b>	<b>~S\$29,700</b>

*Callout: The S\$5,760 savings on the concessionary path comes almost entirely from the lower monthly levy (S\$60 instead of S\$300). Concessionary eligibility: households with a Singapore Citizen child under 16, an elderly family member aged 67+, or a person with disabilities.*

## Year-over-Year Salary Movement (2024–2026)

Nationality	2024 (S\$/mo)	2025 (S\$/mo)	2026 (S\$/mo)	2-year change
Filipino	S\$660 – S\$720	S\$680 – S\$740	S\$700 – S\$780	+S\$40 to +S\$60
Indonesian	S\$540 – S\$610	S\$560 – S\$630	S\$580 – S\$650	+S\$40
Myanmar	S\$470 – S\$540	S\$490 – S\$560	S\$500 – S\$580	+S\$30 to +S\$40
Sri Lankan	S\$530 – S\$590	S\$540 – S\$610	S\$550 – S\$620	+S\$20 to +S\$30

What's driving the rise:

- Philippine DMW floor enforcement** — the renamed DMW (formerly POEA) tightened the minimum monthly salary floor for outgoing Filipino MDWs in 2025, with stricter contract verification at MWO Singapore.
- Indonesian KDEI alignment** — KDEI Singapore now requires written employer contracts in Bahasa Indonesia matching the Singapore IPA, which has reduced under-the-table arrangements that previously suppressed declared salaries.
- Post-pandemic supply normalisation** — 2024–25 saw a recovery in deployment volumes from all three primary source countries, but demand from Singapore households remained higher than pre-2020 levels, pushing equilibrium up.
- Concessionary levy take-up still under-realised** — roughly 40% of eligible households have not registered for the S\$60/month concessionary rate, meaning the practical "all-in" cost gap between standard and concessionary households is wider than published figures suggest.

## Common Questions Journalists Ask Us

**"What is the cheapest realistic monthly salary for a domestic helper in Singapore in 2026?"**

Around S\$500/month for a Myanmar first-time helper from an agency placement, plus the same levy, bond, food, and insurance obligations as any other nationality. Anything advertised below that is either before DMW/KDEI compliance has been completed, or implies the employer is absorbing a salary floor breach.

**"Has the levy changed in 2026?"**

No. Standard rate S\$300/month, concessionary rate S\$60/month — both unchanged since the 2019 review. The "concessionary uptake gap" is the more interesting story: an estimated 40% of eligible households haven't applied.

**"How big is the salary gap between an experienced and a fresh helper?"**

Experienced helpers on second or third Singapore contracts typically command S\$50–S\$100/month more than first-time helpers from the same source country. The gap is widest for Filipino helpers (driven by English-language fluency premiums) and narrowest for Myanmar.

**"What does the 'true total cost' include that headline numbers miss?"**

Levy, food allowance (S\$300/month if not provided in-kind), mandatory medical insurance, the 6-

monthly medical exam fee (S\$80 × 4 cycles over 24 months), and home leave airfare or cash-in-lieu. Together these add roughly 30% on top of the salary line.

## Citation & Contact

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For interview requests, custom data cuts, or to fact-check a specific figure before publication, contact Yvonne at Upwill: [yvonne@upwill.com.sg](mailto:yvonne@upwill.com.sg). We typically respond within one working day.

For broader employment-agency context — recruitment trends, compliance updates, government policy shifts — Yvonne, Upwill's senior placement consultant (EA Personnel certification under MOM EA Licence 24C2628), is available for background commentary by email.

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