

Press Release

1.7 Million Singaporeans to Benefit from \$1 Billion in GST Vouchers and MediSave Top-Ups

1.7 million Singaporeans will be notified by 5 July 2019 of their 2019 MediSave top-ups and GST Voucher (GSTV) benefits which they will receive between July and November 2019. Singaporeans can view their GSTV benefits online anytime at www.gstvoucher.gov.sg, using their SingPass login. Eligible Singaporeans will receive text messages and/or letters to inform them of the benefits they will be receiving.

GST Voucher (GSTV) Scheme

2 The GSTV is a permanent scheme introduced in 2012 to help lower and middle-income Singaporeans offset some of their GST expenses. The GST and GSTV form an important part of Singapore's progressive system of taxes and transfers.

3 **Individuals will receive their benefits based on the following timeline.**

Date	Milestones
July 2019	<p><u>Notification</u></p> <p>1.7 million Singaporeans will receive text messages and/or letters informing them of their GSTV benefits and MediSave top-ups.</p> <p><u>Benefits: MediSave Top-ups for Pioneer Generation (PG) and Merdeka Generation (MG) Seniors</u></p> <p>As announced earlier, PG and MG Seniors will receive their PG/MG MediSave top-ups in July 2019¹.</p> <p>Through both the PG/MG MediSave and GSTV – MediSave:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An MG Senior aged 65 in 2019 living in an HDB flat will receive \$450 in MediSave top-ups; • A Pioneer aged 85 in 2019 living in an HDB flat will receive \$1,250 in MediSave top-ups.

¹ For more information: <https://www.mof.gov.sg/Newsroom/press-releases/eligible-pioneer-generation-and-merdeka-generation-seniors-to-receive-medisave-top-ups-amounting-to-270-million-in-july-2019>

<p>August 2019</p>	<p><u>Benefit: GSTV – Cash</u></p> <p>About 1.4 million Singaporeans will receive GSTV – Cash of up to \$300 each, credited directly into their bank accounts.</p> <p>Those who have not previously provided their bank account numbers at www.gstvoucher.gov.sg will receive cheques about two weeks later.</p> <p>The GSTV – Cash payout will cost about \$410 million.</p> <p><u>Benefits: GST Voucher – MediSave and 5-Year MediSave Top-Up</u></p> <p>About 520,000 Singaporeans aged 65 years and above in 2019 will receive up to \$450 in GSTV – MediSave in August 2019. The top-ups will amount to about \$152 million.</p> <p>In addition, Singaporeans who were born on or before 31 December 1969 (50 years and above in 2019) and do not receive PG or MG benefits will each receive a MediSave top-up of \$100 annually from 2019 to 2023, to be credited into their MediSave accounts in August 2019. This is the 5-Year MediSave Top-up scheme that was announced in Budget 2019.</p> <p>The top-up will benefit about 570,000 citizens in 2019, and amount to about \$57 million.</p>
<p>November 2019</p>	<p><u>Benefits: GSTV – Cash (Bicentennial Payment)</u></p> <p>In Budget 2019, the Government announced the GSTV – Cash (Bicentennial Payment) which provides an additional cash payment of up to \$300 to the 1.4 million GSTV – Cash recipients.</p> <p>This will be paid out from November 2019, and will cost about \$410 million.</p>

4 What This Means to Citizens

- Most citizens will automatically receive their GSTV payouts if they have signed up for the GSTV or any other government payout scheme in the past.
- For the small number of citizens who have not signed up for GSTV or past government payouts, they will be invited to do so, and have until 31 December 2019 to sign up online, or through forms at the Community Centres.
- Citizens who have not provided their bank account details are encouraged to do so at www.gstvoucher.gov.sg to receive their cash payouts earlier. Otherwise, they will receive their GSTV – Cash payout via cheques about two weeks later than direct bank crediting.
- Annex A provides more information on the benefits, while Annex B lists illustrations of how various households are expected to benefit from the schemes mentioned.

5 Other Benefits in 2019

Bicentennial Bonus [Announced in Budget 2019]

- In addition to the GSTV – Cash (Bicentennial Payment), the Bicentennial Bonus package also includes:
 - Top-ups to **Edusave Accounts or Post-Secondary Education Accounts (PSEA)** of Singaporeans aged 7 to 20;
 - A **Workfare Bicentennial Bonus**, which provides additional cash assistance to lower-wage workers who received Workfare Income Supplement payouts for Work Year 2018;
 - A **CPF Top-up** for lower-income Singaporeans who have low CPF balances;
 - A **Personal Income Tax Rebate** for Year of Assessment 2019.

The top-ups to Edusave and PSEA will be made by end June 2019. The GSTV – Cash (Bicentennial Payment), Workfare Bicentennial Bonus and CPF Top-up will be paid to eligible citizens at the end of 2019.

Household Benefits

- GSTV – U-Save: Eligible HDB households will receive a GSTV – U-Save of up to \$100, depending on the household's HDB flat type, is given every three months to help offset utilities bills directly². This includes an additional U-Save of \$20 a year from 2019 to 2021. The GSTV – U-Save benefits amount to about \$300 million annually and benefit about **930,000** eligible Singaporean HDB households.
- One-off Service & Conservancy Charges (S&CC) Rebate [Announced in Budget 2019]: The S&CC Rebate provides additional support for households. Around **930,000** eligible Singaporean HDB households will receive **1.5 to 3.5 months of S&CC Rebate** between April 2019 to January 2020, depending on their HDB flat type³.

Contact Information

6 Details on the GSTV can be found at www.gstvoucher.gov.sg, and information on the other benefits announced in Budget 2019 can be found at www.singaporebudget.gov.sg. If you require more information pertaining to specific scenarios, the contact details are as follows:

Scheme	Telephone	Email
GSTV – Cash and MediSave	1800-2222-888	contactus@gstvoucher.gov.sg
5-Year MediSave Top-up		contactus@govtopup.gov.sg
Pioneer Generation MediSave Top-up		contactus@pioneer.gov.sg
Merdeka Generation MediSave Top-up		contactus@merdeka.gov.sg
GSTV – U-Save	6671-7117	customersupport@spgroup.com.sg
S&CC Rebate	1800-866-3078	sccrebates@mailbox.hdb.gov.sg

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² View more information on the GSTV – U-Save at <https://www.mof.gov.sg/newsroom/press-releases/930-000-hdb-households-to-receive-gst-voucher-u-save-in-april-2019>.

³ View more information on the S&CC rebate at <https://www.mof.gov.sg/newsroom/press-releases/930-000-hdb-households-to-receive-132-million-of-s-cc-rebate-as-part-of-budget-2019>.

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About the GST Voucher (GSTV)

The permanent GST Voucher scheme was introduced by the Government in Budget 2012 to help lower- and middle-income Singaporeans offset some of their GST expenses. The GST Voucher comprises three components – Cash, MediSave and U-Save. GST Voucher – Cash provides lower-income Singaporeans with some cash for immediate needs, and is paid every August. Similarly paid every August is the GST Voucher – MediSave, which provides elderly Singaporeans aged 65 and above with a CPF MediSave account top-up to support their medical needs. Lastly, the GST Voucher – U-Save provides lower- and middle-income HDB households with a rebate to offset their utilities bills, and is paid every January, April, July and October.

More information on the GSTV can be found at www.gstvoucher.gov.sg.

About Ministry of Finance

The Ministry of Finance aims to advance the well-being and development of Singapore through Finance. The Ministry strives to achieve a balanced budget through prudent and sustainable fiscal policies, foster a regulatory environment conducive to business and enterprise, ensure prudent investment of the Government's reserves and other public funds, and sets policies for government procurement, customs regulation, accounting standards and business regulation.

We achieve this together with our departments (Accountant-General's Department, Singapore Customs and Vital), and statutory boards/bodies (Accounting & Corporate Regulatory Authority, Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore, Tote Board and Singapore Accountancy Commission).

For more information, please visit www.mof.gov.sg.

Table A1: GSTV – Cash

Singaporeans aged 21 years and above in 2019 Assessable Income for YA 2018 ≤ \$28,000	Annual Value of Home as at 31 Dec 2018		Paid on*/in
	Up to \$13,000	\$13,001 to \$21,000	
GSTV – Cash payment	\$300	\$150	1 Aug 2019
GSTV – Cash (Bicentennial Payment)	\$300	\$150	Nov 2019

Note: Individuals who own more than one property are not eligible for the GSTV Scheme.

** Cheque payment takes two weeks longer. Citizens are encouraged to switch to direct bank crediting at www.gstvoucher.gov.sg.*

Table A2: MediSave Top-Ups

Age in 2019	Amount of MediSave Top-Up					Paid in
	5-Year MediSave Top-up	Merdeka Generation Package [#]	Pioneer Generation Package [#]	GST Voucher	Total	
50 to 59 years	\$100				\$100	Jul 2019 (PGP and MGP)
60 to 64 years		\$200			Up to \$200	
65 to 69 years		\$200		Up to \$250	Up to \$450	
70 to 74 years			\$200	Up to \$250	Up to \$450	Aug 2019 (GSTV and 5- Year MediSave Top-up)
75 to 79 years			\$400	Up to \$350	Up to \$750	
80 to 84 years			\$600	Up to \$350	Up to \$950	
85 years and above			\$800	Up to \$450	Up to \$1,250	

[#] Citizens 60 years and above who are not eligible for the Merdeka Generation Package (MGP) and the Pioneer Generation Package (PGP) can receive the 5-Year MediSave Top-up.

Table A3: Household Benefits

HDB Flat Type	GSTV – U-Save				
	Jul 2019	Oct 2019	Jan 2020	Apr 2020	Total
1- and 2-room	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$400
3-room	\$90	\$90	\$90	\$90	\$360
4-room	\$80	\$80	\$80	\$80	\$320
5-room	\$70	\$70	\$70	\$70	\$280
Executive/ Multi-Gen	\$60	\$60	\$60	\$60	\$240

Note: Eligible HDB households will receive an additional U-Save of \$20 a year from 2019 to 2021. Households whose members own more than one property are not eligible for U-Save.

HDB Flat Type	FY2019 S&CC Rebate (no. of months)				
	Apr 2019	Jul 2019	Oct 2019	Jan 2020	Total
1- and 2-room	1	1	1	0.5	3.5
3- and 4-room	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.5
5-room	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2
Executive/ Multi-Gen	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	1.5

Note: Households with a member owning or having any interest in a private property, or have rented out the whole flat, are not eligible for S&CC rebates.

Illustration of Benefits

1. For example, a **retired Pioneer couple** (husband aged 80, wife aged 77), living in an HDB flat (and not owning a second property) will receive the benefits below in 2019:

Individual
\$1,200 in cash (\$300 GSTV – Cash and \$300 GSTV – Cash (Bicentennial Payment) <u>per person</u>)
\$1,700 in MediSave top-ups (\$350 GSTV – MediSave and \$600 Pioneer Generation MediSave <u>for husband</u>) (\$350 GSTV – MediSave and \$400 Pioneer Generation MediSave <u>for wife</u>)
Household
\$220 to \$380 of GSTV – U-Save rebate annually, with additional \$20 a year from 2019 to 2021
1.5 to 3.5 months of S&CC rebate in FY2019

2. A **retired Merdeka Generation couple in their 60s** (husband aged 66, wife aged 60 who had been a housewife) living in an HDB flat (and not owning a second property) will receive the benefits below in 2019:

Individual
\$1,200 in cash (\$300 GSTV – Cash and \$300 GSTV – Cash (Bicentennial Payment) <u>per person</u>)
\$650 in MediSave top-ups (\$200 of Merdeka Generation MediSave <u>per person</u>) (\$250 GSTV – MediSave <u>for husband</u>)
\$1,000 in CPF top-up (\$1,000 Bicentennial Bonus CPF top-up into <u>wife's</u> CPF Retirement Account)
Household
\$220 to \$380 of GSTV – U-Save rebate annually, with additional \$20 a year from 2019 to 2021
1.5 to 3.5 months of S&CC rebate in FY2019

3. A **lower-income working couple** in their 40s, with both the husband and wife each having a monthly salary of \$2,000, living in an HDB flat (and not owning a second property), will receive the benefits below in 2019:

Individual
\$1,400 in cash (\$300 GSTV – Cash and \$300 GSTV – Cash (Bicentennial Payment) <u>per person</u>) (\$100 Workfare Bicentennial Bonus <u>per person</u>)
Household
\$220 to \$380 of GSTV – U-Save rebate annually, with additional \$20 a year from 2019 to 2021
1.5 to 3.5 months of S&CC rebate in FY2019