

For immediate release

Media Release

Significant S\$5.79b in life and health insurance claims and maturity payouts in Q1 2026 eases pressure on families in Singapore

- *Life insurance payout of S\$5.08b in Q1 2026 for critical illness, death & total permanent disability as well as for matured policies hit a six-year record high for a first quarter since 2021*
 - *Long-term health protection and wealth accumulation remain priorities for many*
- *Industry focuses on retaining and upskilling workforce to better leverage AI and address diverse, evolving needs of customers*

Singapore, 13 May 2026 — Individuals and families in Singapore received claims and maturity payouts amounting to a significant S\$5.08b in Q1 2026 – the highest amount paid out in a first quarter since 2021 – the Life Insurance Association, Singapore (LIA Singapore) announced today as part of the industry’s results announcement for the first quarter of 2026.

Singapore’s life insurance industry fulfilled its promises to support individuals with 5,507 policies successfully claimed, and a total payout of S\$555m for critical illness, death and total permanent disability under individual life policies in Q1 2026. S\$4.52b was also paid out for the 87,402 policies that matured within the same quarter.

Policyholders of Integrated Shield Plan (IP) and IP riders received majority of the additional S\$712m¹ claims paid out under individual health policies in the first three months of the year, helping to ease the financial load of healthcare and hospitalisation bills for themselves and their families. The industry paid out S\$2.87b of health claims in 2025, helping policyholders access timely treatment through critical moments and reducing their out-of-pocket healthcare expenses.

More individuals and families in Singapore are actively taking steps to strengthen their financial resilience by enhancing their health coverage, addressing their overall protection gaps and pursuing wealth accumulation priorities amid the prevailing unpredictable macroeconomic climate.

Accordingly, Singapore’s life insurance industry recorded an overall year-on-year (YoY) growth of 12.9% in total weighted new business premiums² in Q1 2026 compared to the first quarter last year. This totaled S\$1.67b in the first three months of the year, an increase of approximately S\$191m from S\$1.48b in the corresponding period in 2025.

¹ Individual health claims in Q1 2026 totaled S\$712.1m, of which S\$678m was paid out for Integrated Shield Plans (IPs) and IP riders. Another S\$34.1m was paid out for other medical plans and riders, which are mostly non-IP plans that are sold to foreigners.

² Weighted new business premiums measures premiums collected on new policies by taking into account (1) 10 per cent of the value of single premium products, (2) all of a year’s premiums for annual premium products, and (3) adjusted value for products with premium payment durations of less than 10 years. The figure is calculated as follows: 10% Single Premium Insurance + 100% Annual Premium Insurance + Adjusted premium for Insurance with premium payment durations of less than 10 years.

Annual premium policies – policies where customers pay premiums on a regular frequency over a period of time – continue to account for the most significant proportion of total weighted new business premiums at S\$1.21b, up 5.9% from Q1 2025.

An increasing number of customers in Singapore have been purchasing single premium policies in the first three months of the year. Uptake of these plans, which require only a one-time premium payment from customers, saw a 36.5% YoY increase in total weighted new business premiums totaling S\$463.3m in Q1 2026. Take up of single premium policies in Q1 2026 increased by 1.2% compared to Q4 2025.

The increase in uptake of single premium policies at the start of the year may reflect seasonal patterns as individuals, having more available funds at the start of the year, are taking the opportunity to actively review their financial needs and adopting more disciplined, long-term financial planning habits.

Ms. Wong Sze Keed, President, LIA Singapore, commented, “Amid continual global uncertainty, we’re seeing individuals and families continue to take deliberate steps to strengthen their financial resilience. The higher level of claims payouts this quarter, alongside sustained growth in new business, reflects both the industry’s role in providing financial support at critical moments, and a growing recognition of the importance of protection. We’re also seeing an increase in proactive financial planning among individuals and families, with more people reviewing their needs and committing to longer-term solutions to better navigate an increasingly complex financial environment.”

More than 7 in 10 Singapore Residents now covered under Integrated Shield Plans (IPs)

Approximately 33,000 additional Singapore Residents took up IPs and/or IP riders in the first quarter of the year, ahead of regulatory changes to IP riders which was implemented on 1 April 2026³. The continual uptake reflects awareness about the importance of health insurance as well as proactiveness in reviewing their health coverage with qualified Financial Adviser (FA) Representatives.

New business premium⁴ for individual health policies increased by S\$20.6m in Q1 2026 compared to same quarter last year, totaling S\$61.2m in Q1 2026.

Overall, the industry recorded an increase of approximately S\$395m in in-force business premiums⁵ as at end March 2026 for IP and IP riders, as well as other medical plans and riders – primarily non-IPs purchased by non-locals – compared to Q1 2025.

“The strong uptake in Integrated Shield Plans and IP riders reflects growing awareness of the role that health insurance plays in long-term financial planning. As an industry, we have intensified efforts to support consumers through education, helping them make informed decisions based on their healthcare needs and financial circumstances now and into the future. We’re also seeing existing policyholders review their health insurance more carefully, taking a deliberate and balanced approach to ensure that they secure the coverage they need when the unexpected happens, while being mindful of long-term sustainability,” **Ms. Wong** shared.

³ New requirements for Integrated Shield Plan riders to strengthen sustainability of private health insurance and address rising healthcare costs, Ministry of Health. 26 November 2025. Available at: <https://www.moh.gov.sg/newsroom/new-requirements-for-integrated-shield-plan-riders-to-strengthen-sustainability-of-private-health-insurance-and-address-rising-healthcare-costs/>

⁴ This excludes incremental premiums from any repricing of plans and change in age-band of individual health policies (including IP & IP Riders and other Medical Plans & Riders). If including incremental premiums from any repricing of plans and change in age-band of the insureds, total new business premiums will be S\$194.8 million, a decrease of 3.2% compared to the same period last year (i.e., S\$201.3 million).

⁵ This refers to the total annual premium for policies that are currently being insured, which includes both the policies sold in the year, and also in the past.

Industry retaining and upskilling talent amid rise of AI

The industry remains committed to bringing the workforce along on its digital transformation journey, with life insurance companies focusing on retaining and upskilling employees as well as redesigning roles to better leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other new innovations.

Life insurers in Singapore are prioritising capability-building amongst staff to boost operational efficiencies and enhance customer experiences – from application to claims. Employment in the life insurance industry remained stable with the workforce consisting of 9,495 employees as at 31 March 2026.

Wealth accumulation for long-term financial resilience remains a priority

The first quarter of 2026 saw a 35.6% YoY increase in uptake of participating policies (par policies) as part of individuals' preference to take up wealth accumulation and protection plans that allows policyholders to receive "bonuses" or "dividends" from share of investment profits made by the life insurer. Totalling S\$446m, par policies accounted for approximately 27% of total weighted new business premiums in Q1 2026.

Investment-linked policies (ILPs) – another popular wealth accumulation tool in Singapore which provides the option of both insurance protection and investment returns – continued to account for the largest proportion of total weighted new business premiums at 43% totalling S\$713m in Q1 2026. This is a 7.2% increase as compared to the first quarter of 2025.

Financial Adviser Representatives and Tied Representatives remain key drivers in narrowing Singapore's underinsurance gap

Individuals and families in Singapore continue to prefer advisory-led channels when making insurance decisions, with FA Representatives⁶ and Tied Representatives supporting majority of customers in addressing their protection needs. Together, they accounted for 67.6% of the total S\$34.2b total sum assured in Q1 2026, up from S\$33.6b in the same period last year, reflecting how the population has put in place increased protection for themselves and their families upon doing financial reviews with their representatives.

Advisory channels also supported most customers in taking up new policies, with FA Representatives and Tied Representatives facilitating 241,629 new policies in Q1 2026, representing 78.3% of all new policies purchased in the first three months of the year.

While advisory remains the dominant distribution channel in Singapore, individuals and families are engaging across a mix of options depending on their needs. Bank Representatives accounted for 25.9% of total sum assured, while Online Direct Channels⁷ made up 5.7%, with the remaining 0.9% accounted for by other policies purchased without intermediaries.

Customers contributed the largest share of new business through banks, with S\$593m of total weighted business premiums in Q1 2026, accounting for 35.5% of the total amount of S\$1,671m. This was closely followed by FA Representatives at S\$576m (34.4%) and Tied Representatives at S\$447m (26.8%).

⁶ FA Representatives include representatives of "related FA firms". A related FA firm is a wholly-owned subsidiary of an insurance company.

⁷ Online Direct Channel is a new data point from January 2019, and it refers to "any web portal or application in the internet created, developed and maintained or operated by a life insurer, on which a client may purchase a life policy".

New business from the different channels is as follows:

Distribution Channel	By Weighted Premium (%)	By Number of Policies (%)	By Total Sum Assured (%)
Tied Representatives	26.8	40.0	28.9
Bank Representatives	35.5	11.1	25.9
FA Representatives	34.4	38.3	38.7
Online Direct Channel	1.2	8.3	5.7
Others (<i>products purchased without intermediaries</i>)	2.1	2.3	0.9

LOOKING FORWARD

Ms. Wong concluded, “Looking ahead, the life insurance industry remains anchored in a consumer-centric approach to everything we do. This means continuing to enhance consumer understanding and financial literacy, innovating purposefully in alignment with evolving consumer needs, and working closely with stakeholders to ensure a sustainable and accessible insurance ecosystem.

As healthcare needs and financial priorities evolve, our role is to empower individuals with the knowledge, tools and solutions to make confident decisions — so they can navigate life’s uncertainties with greater clarity and be better prepared for themselves and their loved ones at every stage.”

LIA Singapore and its member companies, in partnership with the Singapore College of Insurance (SCI), conducted the first of its financial literacy workshops for Gen Z students at ITE College Central in early April 2026.

More of these workshops – offered voluntarily by the industry – will be conducted for students across Singapore to boost their financial knowledge and confidence. The Association invites Institutes of Higher Learning to reach out for collaboration on bringing these workshops to their students, either on campus or at member companies’ corporate offices.

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Note to Editor: Details of the life insurance industry results for Q1 2026 are available at <https://www.lia.org.sg/news-room/industry-performance/>

IN SUMMARY

New Business Sales (Weighted Basis)

Comparison with Corresponding Period	Jan – Mar 2026 S\$ (million)	Jan – Mar 2025 S\$ (million)	Change (%)
Single Premium	463.3	339.5	36.5
Annual Premium	1,207.3	1,140.0	5.9
Total	1,670.6	1,479.5	12.9

Note: Figures in this media release are subject to rounding differences

Life Insurance Association, Singapore (LIA Singapore)

Established in 1962, the Life Insurance Association, Singapore (LIA Singapore) is the not-for-profit trade body of life insurance product providers and life reinsurance providers based in Singapore and licensed by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS).

Vision and Mission

The vision of member companies is *to provide individuals with peace of mind and to promote a society where every person is prepared for life's changing cycles and for those situations unforeseen.*

They are *committed to being a progressive life insurance industry by collectively enhancing consumer understanding, promoting industry best practices, and through the association fostering a spirit of collaboration and mutual respect with government and business leaders.*

Values underpinning the association and its members

- Unified** in our resolve to deliver innovative solutions where every individual's needs are best met.
- Professional** in the way we conduct ourselves and in the counsel we give.
- Ethical** in ensuring our policyholders' interests are managed with utmost integrity.
- Fair** in how we strive to provide favourable outcomes to both our policyholders and shareholders.
- Open & honest** in all that we do to build an environment of trust and transparency.
- Proactive** in the steps we take to give our people the skills and knowledge to provide sound solutions at all times.

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