Hui estimates. “Businesses past three years, Assoc Prof each year, down from Singapore’s workforce 33,000 foreigners joining translates into an estimated this decade. grow far less for the rest of 2020 implies that the pool projected growth in the overall that the 1-2 per cent pro-

Public Policy associate pro-

selves lack”, Mr Lee said. experiences that we our-

MRT lines, take care of our ans, build our flats and to retire, not permanently”, Mr Tharman said. work here for a while, not to own, not permanent;" who will “serve Singaporep-

curbs are “fairly likely” this Budget but may be more industry-specific and not to productivity gains enhanced in response to

Additional foreign work-

curbs likely: economists

More foreign worker curbs likely: economists

Further measures to boost productivity also expected in Budget

In an article on the head-

lines with Singapore’s pro-

ductivity output for 2013 did not see the drop in employment gains same – the first since 2003 and likely due to tightening introduced in Dec 2012, the OCBC economists think that “in light of class voters, political con-

further tightening is equipping-

ability criteria for employment. Most economists are of the view that firms need to reallocate the labor pool of approximately 1-2 per cent of total workforce.” They have been less accommodative in increasing profits by increasing scale and raising head- counts to secure cheap foreign labor. They are looking at a potential easing window for the coming years if they need to hit productivity

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Time for more inputs of cheap labor, Page 9

prime mover Don-

small and medium enter-

pore vice-presidents Don-

pore Commons, PR
dividuals to avoid a negative

hike in overall workforce. The target stated in the White Paper is to in-

began raising the White Paper to moderate demand. The government has already hinted that it may phase in grad-

The government has row of such moves on Budg-

they will be phased in grad-

in workforce growth loud-

nesses made their concerns

controls on foreign workers can therefore expect tighter

small and medium enter-

firms still grew 3.9 per cent

The government has not yet made clear how and where such moves will be announced as soon as

But the White Paper, issued in Parliament last


economists Kit Wei Zheng

the targets stated in the White Paper, are to be

Some believe these may

they have in recent months promised help for

Mines and others say more

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citizen and they have

By

TEH SHI NING

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