

Rising demand for self-storage facilities

By **KELLY TAY**

WITH an increasingly affluent population, rising space constraints, and higher home prices and office space occupancy costs, more people are keeping their paraphernalia in self-storage facilities.

Assuming the trend continues, companies in the business of leasing storage space can expect demand for their services to rise.

This is according to findings from a survey by Colliers International, which polled 303 users of Lock + Store Self Storage from July

to August, so as to uncover the profiles, attitudes, practices, and requirements of self-storage users in Singapore.

Today, there are about eight self-storage operators with over 20 self-storage facilities, offering more than 1.3 million sq ft of net leasable space in Singapore.

Up to 80 different sizes of storage spaces are available, ranging from lockers of about nine sq ft, which cost \$40 per month, to 390 sq ft units, which cost \$1,200 per month.

Larger spaces of 530 sq

ft are also available.

Both individuals (68 per cent) and businesses (30 per cent) use self-storage facilities, with a growing group of hobbyists forming the remaining two per cent of users.

Said the Colliers International report: "Rising affluence has led to higher purchases on clothing, shoes, household items, and even collectables such as artwork, limited edition toys, and wines, which generally require storage space."

Indeed, for households, the need for storage space

is further compounded by the developing trend towards smaller residential units. As for businesses, rising occupancy costs of office spaces have led to companies turning to self-storage options to archive documents and store inventories in more cost-effective ways, without being tied down to leases.

Nine per cent of respondents indicated an intention to expand their storage space requirements in the next six to 12 months, which the report said bodes well for the industry.