

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

(June to August 2005)

15 June 2005	The HKMA announces the results of the second part of the comprehensive review conducted by authorized institutions of their terms and conditions of banking services.
24 June 2005	The monthly survey of residential mortgage lending shows that new mortgage loans drawn down during May increased by 2.6% to HK\$18.3 billion. However, new loans approved by the surveyed authorized institutions decreased by 24.1% to HK\$17.0 billion.
6 July 2005	The Legislative Council passes the Banking (Amendment) Ordinance 2005. The main purpose of the Ordinance is to amend the Banking Ordinance to put in place a legislative framework for the implementation in Hong Kong of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision's revised capital adequacy standards for banks, commonly known as "Basel II".
25 July 2005	The monthly survey of residential mortgage lending shows that new mortgage loans drawn down during June decreased by 8.5% to HK\$16.7 billion, the first decline in five months. New loans approved by the surveyed authorized institutions also decreased, by 12.6% to HK\$14.8 billion.
28 July 2005	The HKMA publishes the unaudited balance sheet of the Exchange Fund for the end of June 2005. During the first half of 2005, the Accumulated Surplus increased by HK\$5.1 billion to HK\$428.5 billion, the total assets decreased by HK\$3.9 billion to HK\$1,058.0 billion, and the investment income amounted to HK\$11.5 billion.
5 August 2005	The survey on residential mortgage loans in negative equity shows that the number of such loans declined by 38% from the end of March 2005 to some 8,700 cases with an aggregate value of HK\$15 billion at the end of June.
10 August 2005	The results of the HKMA's survey on credit card lending for the second quarter of 2005 show that the charge-off amount was little changed, at HK\$0.47 billion or 0.82% of average receivables, compared with HK\$0.46 billion or 0.80% in the previous quarter. The annualised charge-off ratio increased marginally from 3.18% to 3.27%.
10 August 2005	The HKMA announces that HK\$238 million of subscription money from retail investors for the retail non-competitive subscription of the two-year Exchange Fund Note under the refined Retail Exchange Fund Note Programme has been received.
25 August 2005	The monthly survey of residential mortgage lending shows that the value of new mortgage loans drawn down during July fell for the second consecutive month, by a third, to HK\$11.0 billion. New loans approved by the surveyed authorized institutions also decreased by a third to HK\$9.9 billion.

Four press releases relating to the Exchange Fund's data are issued by the HKMA each month. Three of these releases are issued to disseminate monetary data in accordance with the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS). The fourth press release, on the Exchange Fund's Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account, is made in accordance with the HKMA's policy of maintaining a high level of transparency. The order of issue of the press releases each month is as follows:

- SDDS International Reserves (Hong Kong's Latest Foreign Currency Reserve Assets Figures)
- SDDS Analytical Accounts of the Central Bank (Exchange Fund Balance Sheet Data)
- Exchange Fund Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account
- SDDS Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity

The above press releases on the Exchange Fund data may be found on the HKMA's website at www.info.gov.hk/hkma/eng/press/category/exchange_index.htm

Other latest press releases may also be found at www.info.gov.hk/hkma/eng/press/index.htm