

Exchange Fund Abridged Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2023
(Expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars)

	Notes	31 December 2023	30 November 2023
ASSETS			
Foreign currency assets	1	3,866,662	3,822,719
Hong Kong dollar assets	2	<u>151,172</u>	<u>149,686</u>
Total Assets		<u><u>4,017,834</u></u>	<u><u>3,972,405</u></u>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			
Certificates of Indebtedness	3, 6	593,235	581,742
Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation	3, 6	12,941	12,873
Balance of the banking system	3	44,950	47,999
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	3, 5	1,244,462	1,238,359
Placements by banks and other financial institutions		99,120	112,585
Placements by Fiscal Reserves		695,426	660,857
Placements by HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies		468,656	466,143
Placements by subsidiaries		31,186	30,492
Other liabilities	4	<u>174,699</u>	<u>213,438</u>
Total Liabilities		<u><u>3,364,675</u></u>	<u><u>3,364,488</u></u>
Accumulated surplus		652,388	607,146
Revaluation reserve		<u>771</u>	<u>771</u>
Total Equity		<u><u>653,159</u></u>	<u><u>607,917</u></u>
Total Liabilities and Equity		<u><u>4,017,834</u></u>	<u><u>3,972,405</u></u>

Notes:

- These include US dollar assets for backing the Monetary Base as presented in the Currency Board Account separately released.
- These include lending collateralised by Exchange Fund paper under the Discount Window. There are no such advances at 31 December 2023 (HK\$3.0 billion at 30 November 2023).
- A component of the Monetary Base.
- These include interest payable on Exchange Fund paper and accounts payable under Currency Board operations.
- In accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Hong Kong, for the purpose of balance sheet presentation, Exchange Fund Bills and Notes held as assets of the Exchange Fund are applied to offset the corresponding liabilities. As a result, the amount of Exchange Fund Bills and Notes in this Abridged Balance Sheet is smaller than that shown in the Currency Board Account by the amount offset.
- In accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Hong Kong, for the purpose of balance sheet presentation, Certificates of Indebtedness and Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation are stated at cost, which are the Hong Kong dollars equivalent of the US dollars required for their redemption at the exchange rate ruling at the balance sheet date. As a result, the figures for the Certificates of Indebtedness and Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation in the Abridged Balance Sheet are different from those shown in the Currency Board Account, which represent the Hong Kong dollar face value.

Exchange Fund
Currency Board Account
as at 31 December 2023
(Expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars)

	Notes	31 December 2023 (Market Value)	30 November 2023 (Market Value)
MONETARY BASE			
Certificates of Indebtedness		592,585	580,975
Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation		12,927	12,856
Balance of the banking system		44,950	47,999
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	3, 4	1,245,451	1,239,347
Interest payable on Exchange Fund Notes		126	107
Net accounts (receivable)/payable	3, 5, 7	241	(2,657)
Total	1, 3	1,896,280	1,878,627 (a)
BACKING ASSETS			
Investment in designated US dollar assets		2,098,273	2,073,631
Interest receivable on designated US dollar assets		6,941	4,633
Net accounts receivable/(payable)	6	(5,514)	(7,846)
Total	2	2,099,700	2,070,418 (b)
BACKING RATIO [(b) / (a)] * 100%	8	110.73%	110.21%

Notes :

1. Movements in the Monetary Base during the period were as follows:

	<u>HK\$ million</u>
Balance brought forward	1,878,627
Increase/(decrease) in Certificates of Indebtedness	11,610
Increase/(decrease) in Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation	71
Net issuance/(redemption) of Exchange Fund Bills and Notes	84
Accrued interest on Exchange Fund Notes	42
Settlement of accrued interest on Exchange Fund Notes	(23)
Amortised discount/(premium) on Exchange Fund Bills and Notes	4,839
Revaluation losses/(gains) relating to Exchange Fund Bills and Notes	1,181
Settlement of accrued interest income/(expense) on interest rate swaps	(13)
Net interest expense/(income) on interest rate swaps	23
Revaluation losses/(gains) relating to interest rate swaps	(113)
Increase/(decrease) in balance of the banking system other than due to Discount Window Operations	(48)
Balance carried forward	<u>1,896,280</u>

2. Movements in the Backing Assets during the period were as follows:

	<u>HK\$ million</u>
Balance brought forward	2,070,418
Increase/(decrease) in Certificates of Indebtedness	11,610
Increase/(decrease) in Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation	71
Interest from investments	7,953
Revaluation gains/(losses) relating to investments	9,648
Balance carried forward	<u><u>2,099,700</u></u>

3. Discount Window Operations:

- (i) Discount Window Operations involve Hong Kong dollar overnight advances made to banks by way of crediting their accounts maintained with the HKMA (which is part of the balance of the banking system) on discounting Exchange Fund Bills and Notes. In accordance with generally accepted accounting practice, the Exchange Fund Bills and Notes discounted with the HKMA are not accounted for as reductions in the liabilities of the HKMA but are regarded as securities held against the advances so made.
- (ii) For the purpose of this Account, the advances to banks secured on Exchange Fund Bills and Notes are shown as deductions in arriving at the Monetary Base. There were no such advances at 31 December 2023 (HK\$3.0 billion at 30 November 2023).

4. Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued:

- (i) Starting from 1 April 1999, interest payments on Exchange Fund Bills and Notes have been allowed to increase the amount of outstanding Exchange Fund paper.
 - (ii) Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued include Exchange Fund Bills and Notes held as assets of the Exchange Fund.
5. In accordance with the accounting policies adopted by the Exchange Fund, Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued on tender date but not yet settled are included in "Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued". For the purpose of this Account, the corresponding accounts receivable are shown as deductions in arriving at the Monetary Base. There were no such receivables at 31 December and 30 November 2023.
6. This represents the net amount of receivable and payable for unsettled transactions of investments and issuance/redemption of Certificates of Indebtedness.
7. Starting from June 2001, Hong Kong dollar interest rate swaps have been used as a means to manage the cost of issuing Exchange Fund Notes. For the purpose of this Account, interest payable/(receivable) and revaluation losses/(gains) on these interest rate swaps are shown as a component of the Monetary Base and are included in "Net accounts (receivable)/payable".
8. It should be noted that the whole of the Exchange Fund assets, not just the Backing Assets, are available for the purpose of defending the linked exchange rate.