

## KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

(June to August 2007)

4 Jun 2007	The HKMA announces the launch of a campaign to promote public awareness of the security features and handling characteristics of the Hong Kong ten-dollar polymer note, which is to be put into circulation gradually from 9 July.
20 Jun 2007	The HKMA announces the composite interest rate at the end of May 2007. The rate rose to 3.00% from 2.96% at the end of April.
25 Jun 2007	The monthly survey of residential mortgage lending shows that new mortgage loans drawn down during May increased by 29.6% to HK\$13.9 billion and new loans approved by the surveyed authorized institutions rose by 22.7% to HK\$17.7 billion.
18 Jul 2007	The HKMA announces its new policy of requiring NIBs to have no close association with any foreign government or foreign government controlled entity which either alone or with associates is entitled to exercise or control the exercise of 20% or more of the voting power at any general meeting of the bank or its holding company or either directly or indirectly influences or seeks to influence any aspect of the management or business of the bank
19 Jul 2007	The HKMA announces the composite interest rate at the end of June 2007. The rate rose to 3.09% from 3.00% at the end of May.
23 Jul 2007	The monthly survey of residential mortgage lending shows that new mortgage loans drawn down during June increased by 17.4% to HK\$16.4 billion and new loans approved by the surveyed authorized institutions fell by 2.4% to HK\$17.3 billion.
3 Aug 2007	The results of the latest survey on residential mortgage loans in negative equity shows that the number of such loans decreased by about 2,000 to around 4,700, with an aggregate value of HK\$8 billion in the second quarter of 2007. Compared with the peak of about 106,000 cases at the end of June 2003, the number has fallen by 96%.
10 Aug 2007	The HKMA announces the inaugural issue of 15-year Exchange Fund Notes on 28 August 2007.
15 Aug 2007	The survey on credit card lending for the second quarter of 2007 shows that total card receivables increased by 2.1% (or HK\$1.4 billion) in the quarter, after declining 6.3% in the previous one.
17 Aug 2007	The HKMA announces the composite interest rate at the end of July 2007. The rate fell to 2.98% from 3.09% at the end of June.
24 Aug 2007	The monthly survey of residential mortgage lending shows that new mortgage loans drawn down during July decreased by 13.5% to HK\$14.2 billion and new loans approved by the surveyed authorized institutions rose by 0.7% to HK\$17.4 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 (Analytical Accounts of the Exchange Fund)
- 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](http://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](http://www.info.gov.hk/hkma/eng/press/index.htm)