

Residential Mortgage Survey Results for November 2018

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announced the results of the residential mortgage survey for November 2018.

The number of mortgage applications in November decreased month-on-month by 12.3 per cent to 9 431.

Mortgage loans approved in November decreased by 1.5 per cent compared with October to HK\$29.7 billion. Among these, mortgage loans financing primary market transactions increased by 8.9 per cent to HK\$8.7 billion and those financing secondary market transactions decreased by 13.6 per cent to HK\$8.8 billion. Mortgage loans for refinancing increased by 1.9 per cent to HK\$12.1 billion.

Mortgage loans drawn down during November decreased by 16.9 per cent compared with October to HK\$25.9 billion.

The ratio of new mortgage loans priced with reference to HIBOR decreased from 50.8 per cent in October to 40.4 per cent in November. The ratio of new mortgage loans priced with reference to best lending rates increased from 47.3 per cent in October to 57.7 per cent in November.

The outstanding value of mortgage loans increased month-on-month by 0.5 per cent to HK\$1,305.4 billion at end-November.

The mortgage delinquency ratio remained unchanged at 0.02 per cent and the rescheduled loan ratio remained unchanged at nearly 0 per cent.

Monetary Statistics for November 2018

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

According to statistics published today (December 31) by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, total deposits with authorised institutions grew by 0.6 per cent in November 2018. Hong Kong-dollar deposits decreased by 0.5 per cent during the month, mainly driven by declines in demand and time deposits. Overall foreign-currency deposits picked up by 1.7 per cent in November. Renminbi deposits in Hong Kong stayed virtually unchanged at RMB617.5 billion at the end of November. The total remittance of renminbi for cross-border

trade settlement amounted to RMB393.0 billion in November, compared with RMB335.8 billion in October.

Total loans and advances edged up by 0.1 per cent in November. Among the total, loans for use in Hong Kong (including trade finance) grew by 0.8 per cent from a month ago, while loans for use outside Hong Kong declined by 1.4 per cent. The Hong Kong-dollar loan-to-deposit ratio picked up to 86.2 per cent at the end of November from 85.3 per cent at the end of October, as Hong Kong-dollar deposits declined while Hong Kong-dollar loans increased.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, Hong Kong-dollar M1 increased by 0.9 per cent in November but decreased by 2.1 per cent year-on-year. Seasonally unadjusted Hong Kong-dollar M3 decreased by 0.5 per cent during the month but grew by 3.5 per cent from a year earlier.

International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) released today (December 31) the analytical data on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's foreign currency reserves and foreign currency liquidity as at the end of November 2018 (Annex). These data are published monthly in the Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity in accordance with the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standard.

At present, 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. For the month of December 2018, the scheduled dates for issuing the press releases are as follows:

December 7 (Issued)	SDDS International Reserves (Hong Kong's Latest Foreign Currency Reserve Assets Figures)
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December 14 (Issued)	SDDS Analytical Accounts of the Central Bank (Analytical Accounts of the Exchange Fund)
December 31	SDDS Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity
December 31	Exchange Fund Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account

[Exchange Fund Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announced today (December 31) that the total assets of the Exchange Fund amounted to HK\$3,984.8 billion as at November 30, 2018, HK\$29.8 billion higher than that at the end of October 2018. Foreign currency assets increased by HK\$17.3 billion and Hong Kong dollar assets increased by HK\$12.5 billion.

The rise in foreign currency assets was mainly due to mark-to-market gains on foreign currency portfolios and an increase in unsettled purchases of securities. The rise in Hong Kong dollar assets was mainly due to an increase in market value of Hong Kong equities.

The Currency Board Account shows that the Monetary Base at the end of November 2018 was HK\$1,617.0 billion, increased by HK\$1.9 billion, or 0.1 per cent, from the end of October 2018. The rise was mainly due to the increase in the outstanding amount of Certificates of Indebtedness.

The amount of Backing Assets increased by HK\$2.6 billion, or 0.1 per cent, to HK\$1,771.2 billion. The increase was mainly attributable to interest from investments and issuance of Certificates of Indebtedness, which were partly offset by the decline in the market value of investments. The backing ratio increased from 109.51 per cent at the end of October 2018 to 109.54 per cent at the end of November 2018.

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HAD opens temporary cold shelters

In view of the cold weather, the Home Affairs Department has opened 18 temporary shelters today (December 31) for people in need of the service.

The temporary shelters will remain open during the daytime tomorrow (January 1) while the cold weather warning is still in force.

To ensure that cold shelter users can rest in a quiet and undisturbed environment, members of the public or agencies wishing to make donations to shelter users are requested to register with the staff of the shelter first. Donors will then be directed to place the donation items at a specified indoor location. The staff will help notify the shelter users to collect the items themselves.

Anyone seeking temporary refuge or with any questions about the donation arrangement in the cold shelters may call the department's hotline 2835 1473 for more information.

The 18 temporary cold shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Districts:

Central and Western –
Sai Ying Pun Community Complex Community Hall
3/F, Sai Ying Pun Community Complex, 2 High Street, Sai Ying Pun

Eastern –
Causeway Bay Community Centre
7 Fook Yum Road, Causeway Bay

Southern –
Lei Tung Community Hall
Lei Tung Estate, Ap Lei Chau

Wan Chai –
Wan Chai Activities Centre
LG/F, Wan Chai Market, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai

Kowloon Districts:

Kowloon City –
Hung Hom Community Hall
1/F, Kowloon City Government Offices, 42 Bailey Street, Hung Hom

Kwun Tong –
Lam Tin (West) Estate Community Centre
71 Kai Tin Road, Lam Tin

Sham Shui Po –
Nam Cheong District Community Centre
1 Cheong San Lane, Sham Shui Po

Wong Tai Sin –
Tsz Wan Shan (South) Estate Community Centre
45 Wan Wah Street, Tsz Wan Shan

Yau Tsim Mong –
Henry G Leong Yaumatei Community Centre
60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei

New Territories:

Islands –
Tung Chung Community Hall
G/F, Tung Chung Municipal Services Building,
39 Man Tung Road, Tung Chung

Kwai Tsing –
Tai Wo Hau Estate Community Centre
15 Tai Wo Hau Road, Kwai Chung

North –
Cheung Wah Community Hall
Cheung Wah Estate, Fanling

Sai Kung –
Hang Hau Community Hall
G/F, Sai Kung Tseung Kwan O Government Complex,
38 Pui Shing Road, Hang Hau, Tseung Kwan O

Sha Tin –
Lung Hang Estate Community Centre
Lung Hang Estate, Sha Tin

Tai Po –
Tai Po Community Centre
2 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po

Tsuen Wan –
Lei Muk Shue Community Hall
G/F, Hong Shue House, Lei Muk Shue Estate, Tsuen Wan

Tuen Mun –
Butterfly Bay Community Centre
Butterfly Estate (near Tip Sum House), Tuen Mun

Yuen Long –
Long Ping Community Hall
Long Ping Estate, Yuen Long