

Key statistics on operating characteristics of import/export, wholesale and retail trades, and accommodation and food services sectors in 2017

According to the results of the 2017 Annual Survey of Economic Activities – Import/Export, Wholesale and Retail Trades, and Accommodation and Food Services Sectors released today (November 30) by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD), total receipts (i.e. sales and other receipts) of the import/export, wholesale and retail trades, and accommodation and food services sectors amounted to \$5,039.9 billion in 2017, representing an increase of 2.8% compared with 2016; on a per establishment basis, total receipts increased by 4.8% compared with 2016 to \$33.1 million in 2017.

Operating expenses, cost of goods sold and compensation of employees of the above sectors altogether amounted to \$4,661.4 billion in 2017, representing an increase of 2.7% compared with 2016; on a per establishment basis, they altogether increased by 4.7% compared with 2016 to \$30.6 million in 2017.

Gross surplus of the sectors, which is equal to total receipts less operating expenses, cost of goods sold and compensation of employees, increased by 3.3% compared with 2016 to \$378.4 billion in 2017; on a per establishment basis, gross surplus was \$2.5 million in 2017, which increased by 5.3% compared with 2016. For all these sectors taken together, gross surplus accounted for 7.5% of total receipts in 2017, which was similar to that in 2016.

Value added of the sectors, which is a measure of their total contribution to Hong Kong's Gross Domestic Product, amounted to \$645.7 billion in 2017, which increased by 5.3% compared with 2016; on a per establishment basis, value added was \$4.2 million in 2017, which increased by 7.3% compared with 2016.

According to the survey results, it was estimated that the aforementioned sectors comprised some 152 400 establishments and engaged about 1 092 600 persons, or an average of 7.2 persons per establishment, in 2017.

In the import/export trade, total receipts amounted to \$3,986.6 billion while operating expenses, cost of goods sold and compensation of employees totalled \$3,680.7 billion in 2017. Gross surplus increased from \$295.0 billion in 2016 to \$305.9 billion in 2017, accounting for 7.7% of total receipts in 2017. Value added increased by 5.2% compared with 2016 to \$457.6

billion.

In the wholesale trade, total receipts amounted to \$310.3 billion while operating expenses, cost of goods sold and compensation of employees totalled \$302.1 billion in 2017. Gross surplus decreased from \$8.2 billion in 2016 to \$8.1 billion in 2017, accounting for 2.6% of total receipts in 2017. Value added increased by 4.0% compared with 2016 to \$21.9 billion.

In the retail trade, total receipts amounted to \$552.3 billion while operating expenses, cost of goods sold and compensation of employees totalled \$513.1 billion in 2017. Gross surplus increased from \$39.0 billion in 2016 to \$39.2 billion in 2017, accounting for 7.1% of total receipts in 2017. Value added increased by 5.7% compared with 2016 to \$84.1 billion.

In the accommodation services sector which covers hotels, guesthouses, boarding houses and other establishments providing short term accommodation, total receipts amounted to \$45.2 billion while operating expenses, cost of goods sold and compensation of employees totalled \$30.4 billion in 2017. Gross surplus increased from \$14.3 billion in 2016 to \$14.7 billion in 2017, accounting for 32.6% of total receipts in 2017. Value added increased by 4.9% compared with 2016 to \$28.4 billion.

In the food services sector which mainly covers restaurants, total receipts amounted to \$145.5 billion while operating expenses, cost of goods sold and compensation of employees totalled \$135.1 billion in 2017. Gross surplus increased from \$10.1 billion in 2016 to \$10.5 billion in 2017, accounting for 7.2% of total receipts in 2017. Value added increased by 6.1% compared with 2016 to \$53.8 billion.

Selected statistics for the import/export, wholesale and retail trades, and accommodation and food services sectors in 2016 and 2017 are shown in the attached table.

More detailed survey results on the import/export, wholesale and retail trades, and accommodation and food services sectors will be given in the report "Key Statistics on Business Performance and Operating Characteristics of the Import/Export, Wholesale and Retail Trades, and Accommodation and Food Services Sectors in 2017". Users can download this report (in PDF format) free of charge at the website of C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp320.jsp?productCode=B1080014) as from end-December 2018.

Users who have enquiries about the survey results may contact the Distribution Services Statistics Section of C&SD (Tel: 3903 7399; email : asw@censtatd.gov.hk).

Key statistics on operating characteristics of information and communications, financing and insurance, professional and business services sectors in 2017

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released today (November 30) the results of the 2017 Annual Survey of Economic Activities – Information and Communications, Financing and Insurance, Professional and Business Services Sectors.

Amongst the industry sectors covered by the survey, the financing (except banking) industry recorded the largest total receipts (comprising business receipts and other income) in 2017, followed by the insurance industry and the banking industry. The other industry sectors in descending order in terms of total receipts were information and communications; administrative and support service activities; and professional, scientific and technical activities.

In the financing (except banking) industry, total receipts amounted to \$666.0 billion in 2017, representing an increase of 10.4% compared with 2016. On a per establishment basis, total receipts increased by 9.4% compared with 2016 to \$81.6 million in 2017. Operating expenses and compensation of employees together increased by 10.8% year-on-year to \$235.9 billion in 2017. Gross surplus, which is equal to total receipts less operating expenses, compensation of employees and (where applicable) value of purchases of goods for sale, increased from \$390.2 billion in 2016 to \$430.0 billion in 2017, accounting for 64.6% of total receipts in 2017. Value added, which provides a measure of the contribution of this industry to Hong Kong's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), increased by 9.6% compared with 2016 to \$94.8 billion in 2017. In 2017, the financing (except banking) industry comprised about 8 200 establishments and engaged about 86 200 persons, or an average of 10.6 persons per establishment.

In the insurance industry, total receipts increased by 15.5% over 2016 to \$592.8 billion in 2017. On a per establishment basis, total receipts increased by 14.2% compared with 2016 to \$222.1 million in 2017. Operating expenses and compensation of employees together increased by 7.7% year-on-year to \$67.6 billion in 2017. In 2017, the insurance industry comprised about 2 700 establishments and engaged about 83 700 persons, or an average of 31.4 persons per establishment.

In the banking industry, total receipts amounted to \$425.5 billion in 2017, representing an increase of 12.7% compared with 2016. On a per establishment basis, total receipts increased by 19.3% compared with 2016 to

\$1.8 billion in 2017. Operating expenses and compensation of employees together increased by 8.9% year-on-year to \$205.0 billion in 2017. In 2017, the banking industry comprised 239 establishments and engaged about 104 300 persons, or an average of 436.2 persons per establishment.

In compiling gross surplus and value added of the banking industry and the insurance industry, other data sources are required to supplement the data collected through this survey and these statistics are to be compiled under the framework of GDP. Statistics on value added of these two industries are released by the C&SD separately.

In the information and communications sector, total receipts edged up by 0.2% compared with 2016 to \$200.4 billion in 2017. On a per establishment basis, total receipts decreased by 3.7% compared with 2016 to \$18.9 million in 2017. Operating expenses and compensation of employees together decreased by 1.8% year-on-year to \$133.9 billion in 2017. Gross surplus increased from \$45.7 billion in 2016 to \$47.0 billion in 2017, accounting for 23.5% of total receipts in 2017. Value added increased by 3.4% compared with 2016 to \$85.5 billion in 2017. In 2017, the information and communications sector comprised about 10 600 establishments and engaged about 107 400 persons, or an average of 10.1 persons per establishment.

In the administrative and support service activities sector, total receipts amounted to \$150.3 billion in 2017, representing a decrease of 1.8% compared with 2016. On a per establishment basis, total receipts decreased by 2.8% compared with 2016 to \$12.6 million in 2017. Operating expenses and compensation of employees together decreased by 2.0% year-on-year to \$138.4 billion in 2017. Gross surplus increased from \$11.2 billion in 2016 to \$11.3 billion in 2017, accounting for 7.5% of total receipts in 2017. Value added increased by 5.5% compared with 2016 to \$53.9 billion in 2017. In 2017, the administrative and support service activities sector comprised about 11 900 establishments and engaged about 230 600 persons, or an average of 19.4 persons per establishment.

In the professional, scientific and technical activities sector, total receipts amounted to \$150.1 billion in 2017, representing an increase of 4.6% compared with 2016. On a per establishment basis, total receipts increased by 2.7% compared with 2016 to \$5.7 million in 2017. Operating expenses and compensation of employees together increased by 4.6% year-on-year to \$120.9 billion in 2017. Gross surplus increased from \$26.9 billion in 2016 to \$27.9 billion in 2017, and accounted for 18.6% of total receipts in 2017. Value added increased by 3.8% compared with 2016 to \$81.3 billion in 2017. In 2017, the professional, scientific and technical activities sector comprised about 26 500 establishments and engaged about 145 300 persons, or an average of 5.5 persons per establishment.

Selected statistics for the sectors mentioned above are shown in the attached table. More detailed statistics will be given in the report "Key Statistics on Business Performance and Operating Characteristics of the Information and Communications, Financing and Insurance, Professional and Business Services Sectors in 2017". Users can download this report (in PDF

format) free of charge at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp350.jsp?productCode=B1080013) as from end-December 2018.

For enquiries about the key statistics on business performance and operating characteristics of the information and communications, financing and insurance, professional and business services sectors, please contact the Business Services Statistics Section of the C&SD (Tel: 3903 7268 or email: business-services@censtatd.gov.hk).

Financial results for the seven months ended October 31, 2018

The Government announced today (November 30) its financial results for the seven months ended October 31, 2018.

There was a surplus of HK\$29.3 billion in the month of October, thereby bringing the cumulative year-to-date deficit down to HK\$46 billion. Expenditure for the seven-month period amounted to HK\$294.6 billion and revenue HK\$248.6 billion.

A government spokesperson said that the improved financial results in October were mainly due to the collection of profits tax.

The fiscal reserves stood at HK\$1,056.9 billion as at October 31, 2018.

Detailed figures are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

TABLE 1. CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT (Note 1)

	Month ended October 31, 2018 HK\$ million	Seven months ended October 31, 2018 HK\$ million
Revenue	72,800.8	248,551.3
Expenditure	(43,483.1)	(294,565.6)
Surplus/(Deficit)	29,317.7	(46,014.3)
Financing		
Domestic		

Sector	Banking (Note 2)	(29,108.2)	43,763.3
	Non-Banking Sector	(209.5)	2,251.0
	External	–	–
	Total	(29,317.7)	46,014.3

Government Debts as at October 31, 2018 (Note 3)

HK\$1,500 million

Debts Guaranteed by Government as at October 31, 2018 (Note 4)

HK\$23,898.3 million

TABLE 2. FISCAL RESERVES

	Month ended October 31, 2018 HK\$ million	Seven months ended October 31, 2018 HK\$ million
Fiscal Reserves at start of period	1,027,601.7	1,102,933.7
Consolidated Surplus/ (Deficit)	29,317.7	(46,014.3)
Fiscal Reserves at end of period (Note 5)	1,056,919.4	1,056,919.4

Notes:

1. This Account consolidates the General Revenue Account and the following eight Funds: Capital Works Reserve Fund, Capital Investment Fund, Civil Service Pension Reserve Fund, Disaster Relief Fund, Innovation and Technology Fund, Land Fund, Loan Fund and Lotteries Fund. It excludes the Bond Fund, the balance of which is not part of the fiscal reserves. The Bond Fund balance as at October 31, 2018, was HK\$138,910 million.

2. Includes transactions with the Exchange Fund and resident banks.

3. These were the outstanding institutional notes as at October 31, 2018, which were denominated in Hong Kong dollars with maturity in July 2019. They do not include the outstanding bonds with nominal value of HK\$100,395 million and alternative bonds with nominal value of US\$3,000 million (equivalent to HK\$23,535 million as at October 31, 2018) issued under the Government Bond Programme (with proceeds credited to the Bond Fund). Of these bonds under the Government Bond Programme (including Silver Bonds with nominal value of HK\$5,795 million, which may be redeemed before maturity upon request from bond holders), bonds with nominal value of HK\$26,077 million and alternative

bonds with nominal value of US\$1,000 million (equivalent to HK\$7,845 million as at October 31, 2018) will mature within the period from November 2018 to October 2019 and the rest within the period from November 2019 to March 2032.

4. Includes guarantees provided under the SME Loan Guarantee Scheme launched in 2001, the Special Loan Guarantee Scheme launched in 2008, the Special Concessionary Measures under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme launched in 2012, and a commercial loan of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation.

5. Includes HK\$219,730 million being the balance of the Land Fund held in the name of "Future Fund" as from January 1, 2016, for long-term investments initially up to December 31, 2025. As from July 1, 2016, the Future Fund also includes HK\$4,800 million, being one-third of the actual surplus in 2015-16 as top-up.

[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 (November 30) that the total assets of the Exchange Fund amounted to HK\$3,955.0 billion as at October 31, 2018, HK\$77.6 billion lower than that at the end of September 2018. Foreign currency assets decreased by HK\$44.5 billion and Hong Kong dollar assets decreased by HK\$33.1 billion.

The decline in foreign currency assets was mainly due to mark-to-market reduction in value of foreign currency portfolios. The decline in Hong Kong dollar assets was mainly due to the fall in market value of Hong Kong equities and a reduction in overnight liquidity provided under the Discount Window.

The Currency Board Account shows that the Monetary Base at the end of October 2018 was HK\$1,615.1 billion, decreased by HK\$4.6 billion, or 0.3 per cent, from the end of September 2018. The decline was mainly due to the decrease in the outstanding amount of Certificates of Indebtedness.

The amount of Backing Assets decreased by HK\$0.8 billion, or 0.05 per cent, to HK\$1,768.7 billion. The decrease was mainly attributable to the redemption of Certificates of Indebtedness, which was partly offset by revaluation gains and interest from investments. The backing ratio increased from 109.25 per cent at the end of September 2018 to 109.51 per cent at the end of October 2018.

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 November 2018, the scheduled dates for issuing the press releases are as follows:

November 7 (Issued)	SDDS International Reserves (Hong Kong's Latest Foreign Currency Reserve Assets Figures)
November 14 (Issued)	SDDS Analytical Accounts of the Central Bank (Analytical Accounts of the Exchange Fund)
November 30	SDDS Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity
November 30	Exchange Fund Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account

[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 (November 30) the analytical data on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's foreign currency reserves and foreign currency liquidity as at the end of October 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 November 2018, the scheduled dates for issuing the press releases are as follows:

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November 30	Exchange Fund Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account