

Credit Card Lending Survey Results for Second Quarter 2018

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority published today (August 15) the credit card lending survey results for the second quarter of 2018.

Total card receivables increased by 3.0% in the second quarter to HK\$124.3 billion at end-June 2018, after declining by 8.1% in the previous quarter.

The combined delinquent and rescheduled ratio remained steady at 0.33% at end-June 2018.

The charge-off amount decreased by HK\$13 million during the quarter to HK\$504 million, while the quarterly charge-off ratio remained stable at 0.41%.

World-class pianist Evgeny Kissin to perform in October

Widely recognised as one of the world's greatest living pianists, Evgeny Kissin will return to Hong Kong in October for an exhilarating recital.

The programme will include a selection of exuberant and colouristic preludes by Russian composer Rachmaninov, as well as the grandest sonata Beethoven had ever written, "Sonata No. 29, Op. 106 'Hammerklavier'" which is considered a monumental masterpiece by Beethoven for its sheer scale and technical difficulty. The recital will be staged at 8pm on October 24 (Wednesday) at the Concert Hall of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

Born in Moscow in 1971, Evgeny Kissin began to play by ear on the piano at the age of 2 and entered a special school for gifted children, Moscow's Gnessin School of Music, at the age of 6. He came to international attention in March 1984 when he performed Chopin's piano concertos 1 and 2 in the Grand Hall of the Moscow Conservatory with the Moscow State Philharmonic. In 1990, Kissin made his first appearance at the BBC Promenade Concerts in London and, in the same year, made his North American debut, performing both Chopin piano concertos with the New York Philharmonic.

Musical awards and tributes from around the world have been showered on

Kissin. He was a special guest at the 1992 Grammy Awards ceremony and three years later became Musical America's youngest Instrumentalist of the Year. In 1997 he received the prestigious Triumph Award for his outstanding contribution to Russian culture, one of the highest cultural honours to be awarded in Russia.

"Encore Series: Piano Recital by Evgeny Kissin" is presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and sponsored by FANCL. Tickets priced at \$250, \$400, \$550, \$700 and \$880 are now available at URB TIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7321 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/music/programs_471.html.

A pre-concert talk entitled "Pianism from Beethoven to Rachmaninov" (to be conducted in Cantonese) will be held at 6.45pm at the Foyer Reception Area, 4/F, Auditoria Building, Hong Kong Cultural Centre. The speaker will be Ernest Wan. Admission is free with limited seats available on a first-come, first-served basis.

August 2018 issue of "Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics" now available

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) published today (August 15) the August 2018 issue of the "Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics" (HKMDS).

Apart from providing up-to-date statistics, this issue also contains two feature articles entitled "Business Performance and Operating Characteristics of the Transportation, Storage and Courier Services Sector, 2007 to 2016" and "Composite Employment Estimates 2017".

"Business Performance and Operating Characteristics of the Transportation, Storage and Courier Services Sector, 2007 to 2016"

Transport plays an important role in the sustainable development of an economy. The transportation, storage and courier services sector continues to play a significant role in our economy. In 2016, this sector accounted for 6.2% of the Gross Domestic Product at current basic prices.

This feature article presents statistics on the business performance and operating characteristics of the transportation, storage and courier services sector during the period 2007 to 2016, mainly based on the findings of the Annual Survey of Economic Activities. Reference is also made to relevant

statistics from other sources for 2017.

For enquiries about this feature article, please contact the Logistics and Producer Prices Statistics Section, C&SD (Tel: 3903 7255; email: transport@censtatd.gov.hk).

"Composite Employment Estimates 2017"

In studies of employment statistics, the issue of discrepancies observed between the employment data obtained from establishment-based surveys which refer to occupied posts in firms, and those data obtained from household surveys which refer to persons employed, is common. To tackle this, the C&SD has been compiling a set of Composite Employment Estimates (CEE) which reconcile, under a designated statistical framework, the results obtained from the household-based General Household Survey and the establishment-based Quarterly Survey of Employment and Vacancies since 1997.

This feature article provides the CEE figures in individual industries for 2012 to 2017. It also gives an account of the characteristics of CEE and briefly discusses the differences and usage of the CEE vis-à-vis the other employment figures.

For enquiries about this feature article, please contact the Employment Statistics and Central Register of Establishments Section, C&SD (Tel: 2582 4751; email: employment@censtatd.gov.hk).

Published in bilingual form, the HKMDS is a compact volume of official statistics containing about 140 tables. It collects up-to-date statistical series on various aspects of the social and economic situation of Hong Kong. Topics include population; labour; external trade; National Income and Balance of Payments; prices; business performance; energy; housing and property; government accounts, finance and insurance; and transport, communications and tourism. For selected key statistical items, over 20 charts depicting the annual trend in the past decade and quarterly or monthly trend in the recent two years are also available. Users can download the Digest free of charge at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp460.jsp?productCode=B1010002).

Enquiries about the contents of the Digest can be directed to the Statistical Information Services Section of the C&SD (Tel: 2582 4738; email: gen-enquiry@censtatd.gov.hk).

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Wednesday, August 15, 2018 is 105 (up 0.3 against yesterday's index).

SWD invites eligible elderly persons to apply for fourth batch of vouchers under Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) today (August 15) invited eligible elderly persons to apply for the fourth batch of vouchers under the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher (RCSV) for the Elderly.

A spokesman for the SWD said that letters will be sent to eligible elderly persons to invite them to join the Scheme. Elderly persons who have been assessed as moderately impaired under the SWD's Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services and waitlisted for care-and-attention (C&A) places under the Central Waiting List (CWL) for Subsidised Long Term Care Services for the Elderly with application dates on or before the end of December 2017 (not including those who are RCSV holders, and those whose status on the CWL is "inactive" or who are offered subvented/subsidised placement) are eligible to apply for the fourth batch of RCSVs. The closing date for applications is September 11. Successful applicants will be issued with RCSVs from the end of September onwards.

The spokesman said, "Adopting the 'money-following-the-user' principle, the Scheme provides an additional choice for elderly persons in need of residential care service by allowing them to choose the residential care services provided by eligible residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) under the Scheme according to their needs. The Scheme is being implemented in three phases with the first phase and second phase launched in March 2017 and September 2017 respectively. There are, as of today, 93 RCHEs participating as Recognised Service Providers (RSPs) offering beds which accept RCSV holders. The RSPs are RCHEs providing non-subsidised residential care places in subvented homes, contract homes, self-financing homes and EA1 private RCHEs under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS). The third phase will be extended to cover all RCHEs meeting the requirements. The SWD has earlier invited RCHEs to join the third phase of the Scheme. Successful RSPs joining the third phase will offer service to RCSV holders in September 2018 at the earliest, and the numbers of RSPs and residential care places available for RCSV holders are expected to increase gradually."

Under the principle of "users pay in accordance with affordability", the Scheme adopts a sliding scale of co-payment at eight levels (Level 0 to Level 7). Elderly persons are assessed on an individual basis in the means test in which both income and assets will be taken into account in determining the co-payment level. The payment percentages of the elderly users range from 0 per cent at the lowest to 75 per cent at the highest. The current voucher

value under the Scheme is \$12,609 per month while voucher value will be adjusted to \$13,287 per month with effect from October 1. The RSPs has to provide a "standard service package" under the voucher value for RCSV holders. The scope of the package is comparable to that of subsidised C&A places under the EBPS.

The spokesman added that the Residential Care Service Voucher Office of the SWD will assist RCSV holders to select suitable RSPs and provide follow-up support for them after admission, such as regular visits and assistance with change of RSPs when necessary. If elderly persons or their carers/family members have enquiries about application, they may contact the above-mentioned office on 3107 3280 or 3107 3290. The telephone lines will be operating from 9.30am to 1pm and 2.30pm to 5pm on Mondays to Fridays, except for public holidays.

For details of the Scheme and the list of RSPs, citizens may visit the SWD website (www.swd.gov.hk). The SWD will update the list of RSPs in the website from time to time. Citizens may also browse the SWD Elderly Information Website (elderlyinfo.swd.gov.hk) to get more details such as information on manpower and facilities for each of the RSPs.