

[Update of Coin Cart service of Coin Collection Programme](#)

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

The service of Coin Cart No.1 at Wang Tau Hom Estate originally scheduled between February 24-March 1, 2020 will be cancelled. The Coin Cart will instead provide service at Block 6 of Tsui Chuk Garden in Wong Tai Sin between February 27-March 1.

The service of Coin Cart No.2 remains unchanged at Fu Wong House, Fu Cheong Estate in Sham Shui Po between February 24-27 and February 29-March 1.

Members of the public are advised to visit the HKMA website ([Link](#)) or social media channels for the latest information of Coin Cart services.

[Composite interest rate: End of January 2020](#)

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announced today (February 19) the composite interest rate at the end of January 2020. (Note 1)

The composite interest rate, which is a measure of the average cost of funds of banks, decreased by 8 basis points to 1.01 per cent at the end of January 2020, from 1.09 per cent at the end of December 2019 (see Chart 1 in the Annex). The decrease in composite interest rate reflected decreases in the weighted funding cost for both deposits and interbank funds during the month (see Chart 2 in the Annex). (Note 2)

The historical data of the composite interest rate from the end of the fourth quarter of 2003 to the end of January 2020 are available in the Monthly Statistical Bulletin on the HKMA website (www.hkma.gov.hk).

Note 1: The composite interest rate is a weighted average interest rate of all Hong Kong dollar interest-rate-sensitive liabilities, which include deposits from customers, amounts due to banks, negotiable certificates of deposit and other debt instruments, and all other liabilities that do not involve any formal payment of interest but the values of which are sensitive to interest rate movements (such as Hong Kong dollar non-interest bearing demand deposits) on the books of banks. Data from retail banks, which account for about 90% of the total customers' deposits in the banking sector, are

used in the calculation. It should be noted that the composite interest rate represents only average interest expenses. There are various other costs involved in the making of a loan, such as operating costs (e.g. staff and rental expenses), credit cost and hedging cost, which are not covered by the composite interest rate.

Note 2: Since June 2019, the composite interest rate and weighted deposit rate have been calculated based on the new local "Interest rate risk in the banking book" (IRRBB) framework. As such, these figures are not strictly comparable with those of previous months.

CSSA caseload for January 2020

The overall Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) caseload in January showed a drop of 498 cases, representing a decrease of 0.2 per cent compared with that of December 2019, according to the latest CSSA caseload statistics released by the Social Welfare Department today (February 19).

The total CSSA caseload at the end of January stood at 219 677 (see attached table), with a total of 310 714 recipients.

Analysed by case nature, low-earnings cases registered a month-to-month decrease of 1 per cent to 2 973 cases. Old age cases were down by 0.4 per cent to 135 507 cases. Single parent cases fell slightly by 0.2 per cent to 23 640 cases while permanent disability cases slightly slipped by 0.1 per cent to 16 908 cases.

Ill-health cases rose by 0.5 per cent to 24 047 cases. Unemployment cases increased slightly by 0.2 per cent to 12 589 cases.

Fraudulent websites related to Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited on fraudulent websites, which has been reported to the HKMA. Hyperlink to the press release is available on the [HKMA website](#) for ease of reference by members of the public.

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information to the websites concerned or has conducted any financial transactions through the websites should contact the bank concerned using the contact information provided in the press release, and report to the Police or contact the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 is 107.3 (same as yesterday's index).