

## Suspicious mobile application (App) related to Bank of Singapore 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 Singapore Limited on suspicious App, 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 App concerned or has conducted any financial transactions through the App 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.

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## SHA to attend cultural meeting in Shenzhen

â€‹The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Lau Kong-wah, will depart for Shenzhen on Monday morning (January 21) to attend a meeting on cultural exchange and co-operation. Mr Lau will return to Hong Kong in the afternoon of the same day.

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## Business expectations for first quarter of 2019

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released today (January 18) the results of the Quarterly Business Tendency Survey for the first quarter (Q1) of 2019.

### Business situation

For all surveyed sectors taken together, the proportion of respondents expecting their business situation to be worse (21%) in Q1 2019 over Q4 2018 is higher than that expecting it to be better (9%).

When compared with the results of the Q4 2018 survey round, the proportion of respondents expecting a worse business situation in Q1 2019 as compared with the preceding quarter has increased to 21%, against the corresponding proportion of 12% in Q4 2018.

Analysed by sector, respondents in all of the surveyed sectors expect their business situation to be worse on balance in Q1 2019 as compared with Q4 2018. In particular, significantly more respondents in the construction; and import/export trade and wholesale sectors expect their business situation to be worse in Q1 2019 as compared with Q4 2018, relative to those expecting a better business situation.

A Government spokesman cautioned that the results of the survey should be interpreted with care. He said, "In this type of survey on expectations, the views collected in the survey are affected by the events in the community occurring around the time of enumeration, and it is difficult to establish precisely the extent to which respondents' perception of the future accords with the underlying trends." The enumeration period for this survey round was from December 4, 2018 to January 14, 2019.

#### Volume of business/output

Respondents in most of the surveyed sectors expect their volume of business/output to decrease on balance in Q1 2019 as compared with Q4 2018. In particular, more respondents in the import/export trade and wholesale; and transportation, storage and courier services sectors expect their volume of business/output to decrease, as compared to those expecting it to increase. On the other hand, slightly more respondents in the manufacturing sector expect their volume of output to increase, as compared to those expecting it to decrease.

#### Employment

Respondents in quite a number of the surveyed sectors expect their employment to increase on balance in Q1 2019 as compared with Q4 2018. More respondents in the financing and insurance; manufacturing; and transportation, storage and courier services sectors expect their employment to increase in Q1 2019 over Q4 2018. On the other hand, more respondents in the information and communications sector expect their employment to decrease, as compared to those expecting it to increase.

#### Selling price/service charge

Respondents in quite a number of the surveyed sectors expect their selling prices/service charges to go up on balance in Q1 2019 as compared with Q4 2018. In particular, more respondents in the manufacturing sector expect their selling prices to go up. On the other hand, more respondents in the construction sector expect the tender prices to go down, as compared to those expecting an increase in tender prices.

#### Further information

The survey gathers views on short-term business performance from the senior management of about 570 prominent establishments in various sectors in Hong Kong with a view to providing a quick reference, with minimum time lag, for predicting the short-term future economic performance of the local economy.

The survey covers 10 major sectors in Hong Kong, namely manufacturing; construction; import/export trade and wholesale; retail; accommodation and food services (mainly covering services rendered by hotels and restaurants); transportation, storage and courier services; information and communications; financing and insurance; real estate; and professional and business services sectors.

Views collected in the survey refer only to those of respondents on their own establishments rather than those on the respective sectors they are engaged in, and are limited to the expected direction of quarter-to-quarter change (e.g. "up", "same" or "down") but not the magnitude of change. In collecting views on the quarter-to-quarter changes, if the variable in question is subject to seasonal variations, respondents are asked to provide the expected changes after excluding the normal seasonal variations.

Survey results are generally presented as "net balance", i.e. the difference between the percentage of respondents choosing "up" and that choosing "down". The percentage distribution of respondents among various response categories (e.g. "up", "same" and "down") reflects how varied their business expectations are. The "net balance", with its appropriate sign, indicates the direction of expected change in the variable concerned. A positive sign indicates a likely upward trend while a negative sign indicates a likely downward trend. However, the magnitude of the "net balance" reflects only the prevalence of optimism or pessimism, but not the magnitude of expected change, since information relating to such magnitude is not collected in the survey.

Furthermore, owing to sample size constraint, care should be taken in interpreting survey results involving a small percentage (e.g. less than 10%) of respondents in individual sectors.

Chart 1 shows the views on expected changes in business situation for the period Q1 2018 to Q1 2019.

Table 1 shows the net balances of views on expectations in respect of different variables for Q1 2019.

The survey results are published in greater detail in the "Report on Quarterly Business Tendency Survey, Q1 2019". Users can download the publication free of charge at the website of the C&SD ([www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp300.jsp?productCode=B1110008](http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp300.jsp?productCode=B1110008)).

Users who have enquiries about the survey results may contact the Business Expectation Statistics Section of the C&SD (Tel: 3903 7263 or email: [business-prospects@censtatd.gov.hk](mailto:business-prospects@censtatd.gov.hk)).

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## Update on number of dengue fever cases

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (January 18) reported the latest number of cases of dengue fever (DF), and again urged the public to maintain strict environmental hygiene, mosquito control and personal protective measures both locally and during travel.

From January 11 to 17, the CHP recorded five imported DF cases. The patients had been to Thailand (two cases), Indonesia (one case), Maldives (one case) and the Philippines (one case) during the incubation period.

As of yesterday (January 17), 11 cases had been confirmed this year, all of which were imported cases. The cases were mainly imported from Malaysia (two), Maldives (two), the Philippines (two) and Thailand (two).

DF remains endemic in some areas of Asia and beyond. In Guangdong, there were 3 316 cases in 2018. The latest figures for 2019 revealed that 715 cases had been recorded in Thailand, 600 cases in Singapore (since December 30, 2018) and three in Japan.

The public should take heed of the following advice on mosquito control:

- Thoroughly check all gully traps, roof gutters, surface channels and drains to prevent blockage;
- Scrub and clean drains and surface channels with an alkaline detergent compound at least once a week to remove any deposited mosquito eggs;
- Properly dispose of refuse, such as soft drink cans, empty bottles and boxes, in covered litter containers;
- Completely change the water of flowers and plants at least once a week. The use of saucers should be avoided if possible;
- Level irregular ground surfaces before the rainy season;
- Avoid staying in shrubby areas; and
- Take personal protective measures such as wearing loose, light-coloured, long-sleeved tops and trousers and apply insect repellent containing DEET to clothing or exposed parts of the body when doing outdoor activities.

To reduce the risk of infections spread by mosquitoes, apart from [general measures](#), travellers returning from areas affected by DF and Zika virus infection should apply insect repellent for 14 days or at least 21 days respectively upon arrival in Hong Kong. If feeling unwell, seek medical advice promptly and provide travel details to the doctor. DEET-containing insect repellents are effective and the public should take heed of the tips below:

- Read the label instructions carefully first;
- Apply right before entering an area with risk of mosquito bites;
- Apply on exposed skin and clothing;
- Use DEET of up to 30 per cent for pregnant women and up to 10 per cent for children\*;
- Apply sunscreen first, then insect repellent; and
- Re-apply only when needed and follow the instructions.

\* For children who travel to countries or areas where mosquito-borne diseases are endemic or epidemic and where exposure is likely, those aged 2 months or above can use DEET-containing insect repellents with a DEET concentration of up to 30 per cent.

The public may refer to the CHP's [tips for using insect repellents](#) for details.

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## Special traffic arrangements on Hong Kong Island

Police will implement special traffic arrangements this Sunday (January 20) to facilitate a public order event to be held on Hong Kong Island.

The following roads will be intermittently closed from 2.15pm until the crowd has dispersed and traffic resumes normal:

- Eastbound Des Voeux Road Central between Ice House Street and Queensway;
- Eastbound Queensway between Des Voeux Road Central and Tamar Street;
- Northbound Tamar Street;
- Northbound Tim Mei Avenue;
- All lay-bys along Tim Mei Avenue and Lung Wui Road; and
- If necessary, the first right lane of Garden Road flyover.

Vehicles may not be permitted to access or leave car parks along the route during the road closure period.

Actual implementation of the traffic arrangements will be made depending on traffic and crowd conditions in the area. Motorists are advised to exercise tolerance and patience and take heed of instructions of the Police on site.