

Credit card lending survey results for first quarter 2021

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority published today the credit card lending survey results for the first quarter of 2021.

Total card receivables decreased by 4.0 per cent in the first quarter to HK\$119.8 billion at end-March 2021, as the effects of festive spending and salaries tax payment that had driven an increase of 3.9 per cent in the previous quarter subsided.

The combined delinquent and rescheduled ratio edged up to 0.36 per cent at end-March 2021 from 0.35 per cent at the previous quarter-end. The quarterly charge-off ratio decreased slightly to 0.52 per cent from 0.54 per cent in the previous quarter.

Pharmacy group convicted of supplying and possessing for sale disinfectant alcohol with false trade descriptions

Five companies of a pharmacy group were convicted and fined \$7,000 to \$31,000 today (May 14) at Tuen Mun Magistrates' Courts for supplying and possessing for sale disinfectant alcohol with false trade descriptions applied, in contravention of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (TDO).

Hong Kong Customs received information in February last year alleging the sale of disinfectant alcohol with suspected false descriptions of composition at a pharmacy in Tuen Mun. Customs officers later test-purchased the disinfectant alcohol concerned labelled as "75% ethanol" and "1 litre" and sent samples to the Government Laboratory for examination. Test results revealed that the ethanol content and actual volume of the disinfectant alcohol were different from its product descriptions, in contravention of the TDO.

Customs reminds traders to comply with the requirements of the TDO. Consumers should also purchase disinfectant alcohol with recognised brands from reputable shops.

In view of the development of the COVID-19 epidemic, Customs has conducted a territory-wide operation codenamed "Guardian" since January 27

last year to conduct spot checks and enforcement operations on common protective items to ensure that those items sold in the market comply with relevant ordinances. The operation is ongoing and law enforcement action will be taken immediately if any suspected violations are detected.

Under the TD0, any person who supplies goods with a false trade description in the course of trade or business, or is in possession of any goods for sale with a false trade description, commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for five years.

Members of the public may report any suspected violations of the TD0 to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).

[Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at 9am today (May 14), five COVID-19 confirmed patients were discharged from hospital in the last 24 hours. So far, a total of 11 516 patients with confirmed or probable infection have been discharged.

At present, there are 616 negative pressure rooms in public hospitals with 1 155 negative pressure beds activated. A total of 61 confirmed patients are currently hospitalised in 14 public hospitals and the North Lantau Hospital Hong Kong Infection Control Centre, among which two patients are in critical condition, one is in serious condition and the remaining 58 patients are in stable condition.

The Hospital Authority will maintain close contact with the Centre for Health Protection to monitor the latest developments and to inform the public and healthcare workers on the latest information in a timely manner.

The case numbers of the discharged, critical and serious patients are as follows:

Discharged	11407, 11746, 11759, 11761, 11809
Critical	6794, 9907
Serious	10358

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (May 14) released the latest grading of water quality for 38 gazetted beaches (see Note 1) and one non-gazetted beach (i.e. Discovery Bay, see Note 2).

Twenty-nine beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), nine as Fair (Grade 2) and one as Poor (Grade 3).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Approach Beach	Kwun Yam Beach
Big Wave Bay Beach*	Lo So Shing Beach
Butterfly Beach*	Lower Cheung Sha Beach
Cafeteria New Beach	Pui O Beach
Cafeteria Old Beach	Repulse Bay Beach*
Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach*	Shek O Beach*
Chung Hom Kok Beach	Silver Mine Bay Beach*
Clear Water Bay First Beach	Silverstrand Beach*
Clear Water Bay Second Beach*	South Bay Beach
Deep Water Bay Beach*	St Stephen's Beach
Golden Beach*	Tong Fuk Beach
Hap Mun Bay Beach*	Trio Beach
Hung Shing Yeh Beach*	Turtle Cove Beach
Kadoorie Beach	Upper Cheung Sha Beach
Kiu Tsui Beach	

Grade 2 beaches are:

Casam Beach*	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach*
Castle Peak Beach	Middle Bay Beach
Discovery Bay	Stanley Main Beach*
Hoi Mei Wan Beach	Ting Kau Beach
Lido Beach*	

Grade 3 beach is:

Anglers' Beach

Compared with the grading released last week, Silver Mine Bay Beach has been upgraded from Grade 2 to Grade 1, and Lido Beach from Grade 3 to Grade 2. Ting Kau Beach has been changed from Grade 1 to Grade 2, and Anglers' Beach from Grade 2 to Grade 3.

"The changes are generally within the normal range of fluctuation of the bacteriological water quality of the beaches," an EPD spokesman said.

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades, namely Good (Grade 1), Fair (Grade 2), Poor (Grade 3) and Very Poor (Grade 4), according to the level of E. coli in the water. Grades are calculated on the basis of the geometric mean of the E. coli counts on the five most recent sampling occasions.

A summary of beach grades is published weekly before the weekend. The latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the EPD's website on Beach Water Quality (www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.

Note 1: The Leisure and Cultural Services Department has resumed lifeguard services at 16 gazetted beaches, marked with an asterisk above, from April 16.

Note 2: Discovery Bay is a non-gazetted beach without lifeguard service.

[Draft Stanley Outline Zoning Plan approved](#)

The Chief Executive in Council has approved the draft Stanley Outline Zoning Plan (OZP).

"The approved OZP provides a statutory land use planning framework to guide the development and redevelopment in the Stanley area," a spokesman for the Town Planning Board said today (May 14).

The planning scheme area, covering about 393 hectares of land, is located at the southern end of Hong Kong Island and is bounded by Tai Tam Country Park to the north, and comprises the entire Stanley Peninsula and the Chung Hom Kok area.

Stanley is an area mainly for residential use with commercial and recreational uses. It is also a popular tourist spot with rich historical culture.

The approved OZP has incorporated amendments made to the draft OZP No. S/H19/13, which mainly involved the rezoning of the Maryknoll House site from

"Government, Institution or Community" ("G/IC") to "Other Specified Uses" ("OU") annotated "Residential Development with Historic Building Preserved" and reflect the latest as-built condition of Ma Hang Park and Blake Pier.

Other zonings shown in the OZP include "Commercial", "Residential (Group A)", "Residential (Group C)", "G/IC", "Open Space", "OU" annotated "Composite Signals Organization Station Complex", "OU" annotated "Cemetery", "OU" annotated "Multi-storey Public Car Park to Include Bus Terminus", "OU" annotated "Historical Building Preserved for Cultural, Community and Commercial Uses", "OU" annotated "Pier", "Green Belt" and "Coastal Protection Area".

The approved Stanley OZP No. S/H19/14 is now available for public inspection during office hours at the Secretariat of the Board, the Planning Enquiry Counters of the Planning Department in North Point and Sha Tin, the Hong Kong District Planning Office and the Southern Home Affairs Enquiry Centre.

Copies of the approved OZP are available for sale at the Map Publications Centres in North Point and Yau Ma Tei. The electronic version of the plan can be viewed at the Board's website (www.info.gov.hk/tpb).