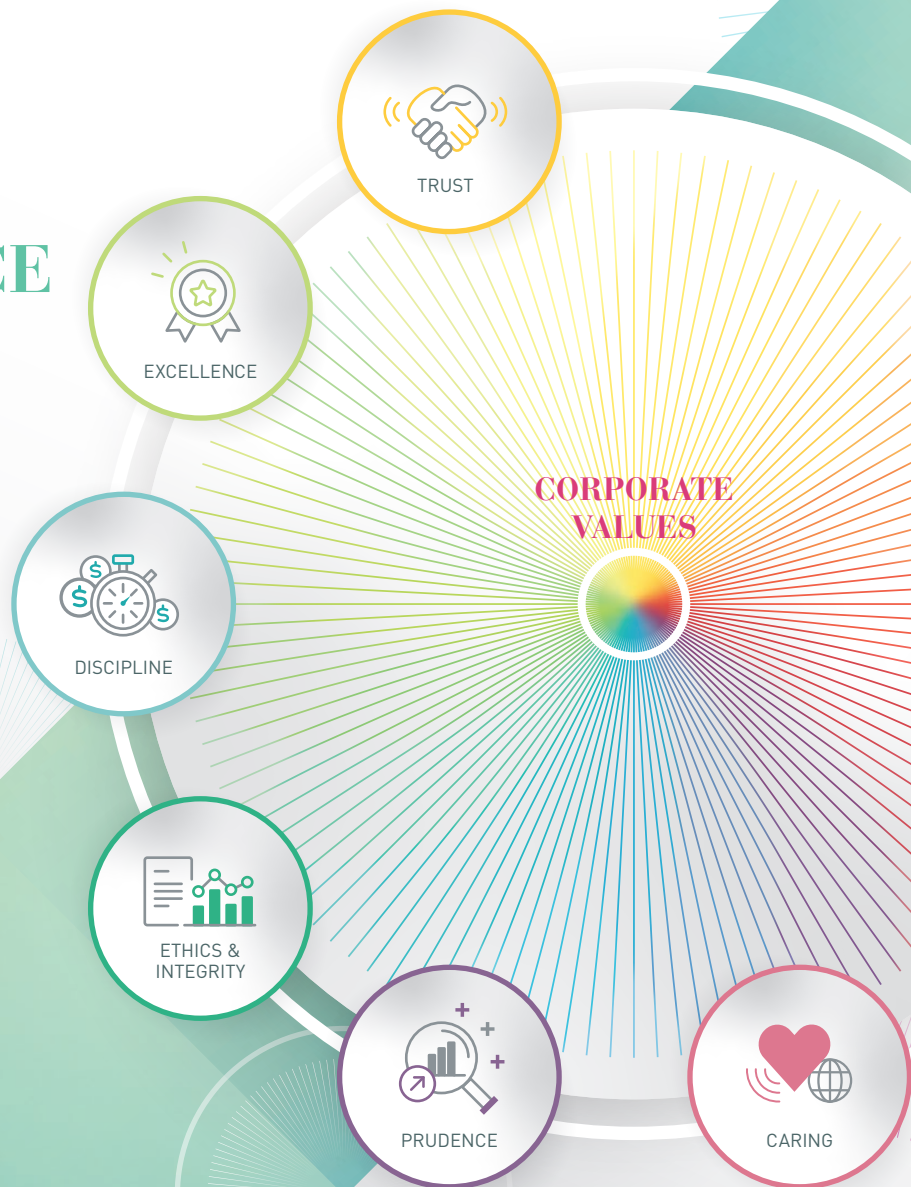


2018

ANNUAL REPORT

EXCELLENCE
is our Commitment



Corporate Information

Board of Directors

Non-Executive Chairman

Tan Sri Dato' Sri Dr. Teh Hong Piow (Chairman),
also Founder, Chairman Emeritus, Director
and Adviser of Public Bank Berhad

Executive Directors

Tan Yoke Kong
Chong Yam Kiang

Non-Executive Directors

Tan Sri Dato' Sri Tay Ah Lek
Quah Poh Keat
Dato' Chang Kat Kiam

Independent Non-Executive Directors

Lai Wan (Co-Chairman)
Lee Chin Guan
Tang Wing Chew

Company Secretary

Chan Sau Kuen

Registered Office and Head Office

2/F, Public Bank Centre
120 Des Voeux Road Central
Central, Hong Kong
Telephone : (852) 2541 9222
Facsimile : (852) 2541 0009
Website : www.publicbank.com.hk

Auditors

Ernst & Young
Certified Public Accountants

Legal Advisers

Charles Yeung Clement Lam Liu & Yip
Deacons
Siao, Wen and Leung
Stephenson Harwood

Principal Bankers

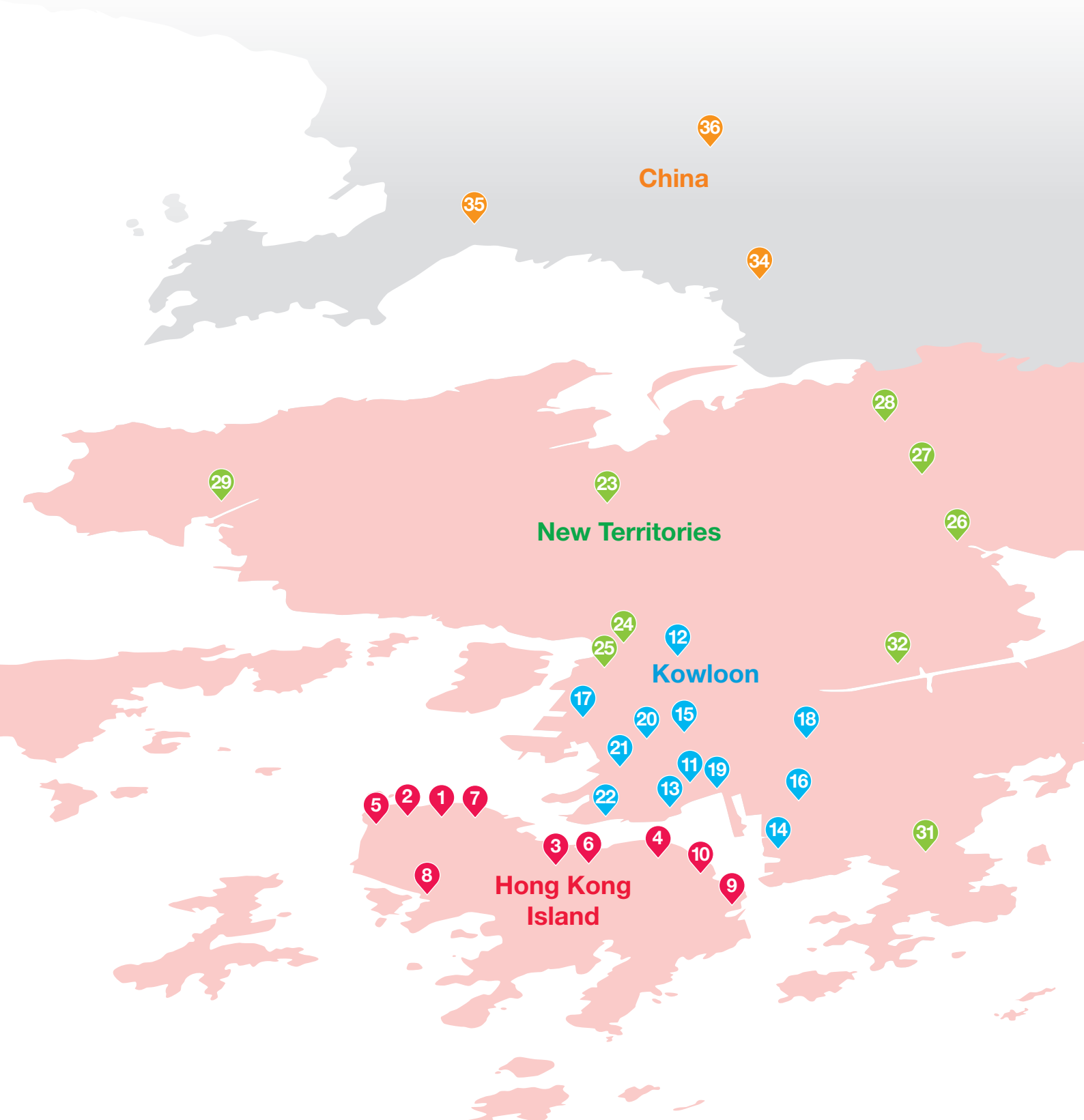
CIMB Bank Berhad
Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited
Public Bank Berhad
Public Bank (L) Ltd
Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited
The Bank of East Asia, Limited
The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
Limited

Public Bank (Hong Kong) Limited Annual Report 2018

Contents

2	Branch Network
4	Chairman's Statement
6	Our Corporate Family
10	Report of the Directors
13	Independent Auditor's Report
16	Consolidated Income Statement
17	Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income
18	Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
20	Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity
21	Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows
24	Notes to Financial Statements
129	Supplementary Financial Information

Public Bank (Hong Kong) Limited Branch Network



HEAD OFFICE AND BRANCHES

Head Office

2/F, Public Bank Centre, 120 Des Voeux Road Central
 Tel : 2541 9222 Telex : 73085 CBHK HKHH
 P.O. Box : G.P.O. Box 824 Fax : 2541 0009
 Website : www.publicbank.com.hk

HONG KONG ISLAND

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 Main Branch
G/F, Public Bank Centre
120 Des Voeux Road Central
Tel: 2541 9222 Fax: 2545 2866
Manager: Fong Fung Mei Marisa | 4 North Point Branch
Shop 2, G/F, Two Chinachem Exchange Square
338 King's Road
Tel: 2568 5141 Fax: 2567 0655
Manager: Louie Sze Ho, Eugene | 8 Aberdeen Branch
Shop B, G/F, Kong Kai Building
184 Aberdeen Main Road
Tel: 2871 0928 Fax: 2871 0383
Manager: Leung Siu Fong, Kennis |
| 2 Western Branch
Shop 2-3, G/F, Kam Kwan Building
163-173 Des Voeux Road West
Tel: 2858 2220 Fax: 2858 2638
Manager: Lau Ching Sang, Paul | 5 Shek Tong Tsui Branch
Shop B1, G/F, Hong Kong Plaza
188 Connaught Road West
Tel: 2546 2055 Fax: 2559 7962
Manager: Wong Hon Choi | 9 Shau Kei Wan Branch
Shop 2, G/F, Hong Tai Building
326-332 Shaukeiwan Road
Tel: 2884 3993 Fax: 2885 9283
Manager: Leung Yuen Fan, Maggie |
| 3 Wanchai Commercial Centre
Unit A, 9/F, China Overseas Building
139 Hennessy Road
Tel: 2891 4171 Fax: 2834 1012
Manager: Wong Chun Hoi, Wilson | 6 Causeway Bay Branch
G/F and M/F,
447 Hennessy Road
Tel: 2572 2363 Fax: 2572 3033
Manager: Lau Chi Kai, Thomas | 10 Quarry Bay Branch
Shop 8, G/F, Oceanic Mansion
1010-1026 King's Road
Tel: 2856 3880 Fax: 2856 0833
Manager: Wong Kei Man, Allison |
| | 7 Central Branch
Unit A, G/F, Wing On House
71 Des Voeux Road Central
Tel: 2147 2140 Fax: 2147 2244
Manager: Ting Lai May, May | |

KOWLOON

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 11 Yaumatei Branch
G/F, Ek Nam Building
486 Nathan Road
Tel: 2381 1678 Fax: 2395 6398
Manager: Chan Wai Cheong, Daniel | 15 Mongkok Branch
G/F, JCG Building
16 Mongkok Road
Tel: 2391 8393 Fax: 2391 6909
Manager: Chan Shiu Man, Ricky | 19 To Kwa Wan Branch
Shop Nos.109 & 120, G/F,
Block B, I-Feng Mansions,
No.237A To Kwa Wan Road
Tel: 2362 0238 Fax: 2362 3999 |
| 12 Kowloon City Branch
G/F, 15 Nga Tsin Wai Road
Tel: 2382 0147 Fax: 2718 4281
Manager: Wong Lik Kin, Lopsy | 16 San Po Kong Branch
Shop B, G/F, Perfect Industrial Building
31 Tai Yau Street
Tel: 2326 8318 Fax: 2326 9180
Manager: Kee Ka Wai | 20 Prince Edward Branch
G/F, 751 Nathan Road
Tel: 2397 3830 Fax: 2397 1006
Manager: Ngan Pui Shan, Sandy |
| 13 Hung Hom Branch
G/F, Hunghom Commercial Centre
37 Ma Tau Wai Road
Tel: 2363 9213 Fax: 2363 3195
Manager: Choi Kam Yee, Catalina | 17 Cheung Sha Wan Branch
Unit C2, G/F, 746 Cheung Sha Wan Road
Tel: 2786 9858 Fax: 2786 9506
Manager: Yam Oi Yin, Pauline | 21 Tai Kok Tsui Branch
Shop 2B, G/F, Tai Chuen Building
88-102 Ivy Street
Tel: 2392 1538 Fax: 2392 1101
Manager: Tsu Shuk Yi, Carmen |
| 14 Kwun Tong Branch
Unit 2310, Tower 1, Millennium City 1
388 Kwun Tong Road
Tel: 2389 9119 Fax: 2389 9969
Manager: Lee Wai Kwan, Luceta | 18 Wong Tai Sin Branch
Shop 641-642, 6/F,
Tsz Wan Shan Shopping Centre
Tel: 2328 7332 Fax: 2328 7991
Manager: Kwong Hon Wun, Peter | 22 Tsim Sha Tsui Branch
G/F, (Front Portion), 43 Mody Road
Tel: 2721 1218 Fax: 2721 1028
Manager: Lai Siu Yee, Flora |

NEW TERRITORIES

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 23 Yuen Long Branch
Shop 5, G/F, Fu Ho Building
3-7 Kau Yuk Road
Tel: 2479 4265 Fax: 2473 3934
Manager: Lam Wong Kan, Kent | 26 Tai Po Branch
Eastmost Shop on G/F,
Nos. 37/39 Po Yick Street
Tel: 2657 2861 Fax: 2657 7389
Manager: Yan Yi Kam, Patrick | 30 Sai Kung Branch
G/F, 16 Yi Chun Street
Tel: 2792 8588 Fax: 2791 0077
Manager: Yeung Chun Ming, Simpson |
| 24 Tsuen Wan Branch
G/F, Victory Court,
185-187 Castle Peak Road
Tel: 2490 4191 Fax: 2490 4811
Manager: Chui Pui Ching, Anny | 27 Fanling Branch
G/F, 11 Wo Lung Street
Luen Wo Market
Tel: 2669 1559 Fax: 2669 8780
Manager: Wong Kai Ip, Jimmy | 31 Tseung Kwan O Branch
G105-106, G/F, Metro City Plaza I
Tel: 2701 7688 Fax: 2701 7628
Manager: Chui King Yan, Connie |
| 25 Kwai Chung Branch
Shop 88B of Trendy Place
3/F, Kwai Chung Plaza, 7-11 Kwai Foo Road
Tel: 2480 0002 Fax: 2401 2367
Manager: Tang Wing Yi, Athena | 28 Sheung Shui Branch
G/F, 137 San Shing Avenue
Tel: 2639 0307 Fax: 3124 0091
Manager: Chong Mei Kuen, Joe | 32 Shatin Branch
Shop 4-6B,
Lucky Plaza Commercial Centre
Tel: 2601 6308 Fax: 2601 3686
Manager: Chow Wing Hung, Desmond |
| | 29 Tuen Mun Branch
Shop E, G/F, Kam Lai Building
Nos. 1-7 Kai Man Path
Tel: 2440 1298 Fax: 2440 1398
Manager: Chan Sau Ping, Rebecca | |

CHINA

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 33 Shenzhen Branch
Shop No. 1, G/F, Carrianna Friendship Square
Renminnan Road, Shenzhen
People's Republic of China
Tel : (86-755) 2518 2822
Fax : (86-755) 2518 2327
Manager : Ying Wei Jun, Yoyo | 35 Shekou Sub-branch
Shop No.155-156, Coastal Building (East Block)
Hai De San Dao, Nanshan District, Shenzhen
People's Republic of China
Tel : (86-755) 8627 1388
Fax : (86-755) 8627 0699
Manager : Qi Han Qiao, Ken | Shenyang Representative Office
Unit 1801, 18/F, Sunwah Hi-tech Building
No. 262 Shifu Road, Shenhe District, Shenyang
Liaoning Province, People's Republic of China
Tel : (86-24) 2279 1368
Fax : (86-24) 2279 1369
Representative : Li Yu Jie |
| 34 Futian Sub-branch
1-3 Jinrun Mansion, No. 6019 Shennan Road
Futian District, Shenzhen
People's Republic of China
Tel : (86-755) 8280 0026
Fax : (86-755) 8280 0016
Manager : Ye Jun Liang, Leo | 36 Longhua Sub-branch
No.110, Block 1, Laimeng Spring Garden
(Land No.: A818-0449), Minzhi Office, Longhua
New District, Shenzhen, People's Republic of China
Tel : (86-755) 2377 7601
Fax : (86-755) 2377 6919
Manager : Xiao Shi Yong, Ken | Shanghai Representative Office
Room I J, 24/F, Jin Sui Mansion
No. 379 South Pu Dong Road, Shanghai
People's Republic of China
Tel : (86-21) 5887 8851
Fax : (86-21) 5887 9951
Representative : Chen Li Hang |

Chairman's Statement



I have the pleasure to report the financial results of the Group for the year ended 31 December 2018.

Tan Sri Dato' Sri Dr. Teh Hong Piow
Chairman

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Public Bank (Hong Kong) Limited (the "Bank") and its subsidiaries (together the "Group") recorded a profit after tax of HK\$500.5 million for the year ended 31 December 2018, representing an increase of HK\$5.3 million or 1.1% when compared to the previous year. Total loans and advances (including trade bills) of the Group increased by HK\$403.5 million or 1.4% to HK\$29.71 billion as at 31 December 2018 from HK\$29.30 billion as at 31 December 2017. Customer deposits of the Group increased by HK\$1.2 billion or 3.5% to HK\$35.30 billion as at 31 December 2018 from HK\$34.09 billion as at 31 December 2017.

The Board of Directors (the "Board") had declared an interim dividend of HK\$8.391 (2017: HK\$7.803) per share in July 2018. The Board recommended the payment of a final dividend of HK\$7.797 (2017: HK\$8.424) per share, making a total dividend of HK\$16.188 (2017: HK\$16.227) per share for 2018. The total dividend declared and recommended for the year 2018 amounted to HK\$239.8 million.

For the year under review, the Group's interest income increased by HK\$122.1 million or 7.1% to HK\$1.85 billion mainly due to higher interest yield on loan portfolio and other interest bearing assets, whilst interest expense increased by HK\$85.6 million or 24.4% to HK\$436.3 million mainly due to higher cost of funding and increase in average balance of customer deposits. Consequently, the Group's net interest income increased by HK\$36.5 million or 2.6% to HK\$1.42 billion from HK\$1.38 billion in the previous year. Credit loss expenses increased by HK\$19.4 million or 13.0% to HK\$168.2 million as a result of recovery of few large impaired loans in the previous year. Total operating income of the Group increased by HK\$39.3 million or 2.5% to HK\$1.64 billion for the year 2018, contributed from the increase in net interest income and stockbroking fee income. Total operating expenses (before changes in fair value of investment properties) of the Group increased by HK\$20.2 million to HK\$872.7 million mainly due to increase in staff related costs. Gain from the changes in fair value of investment properties increased by HK\$4.2 million to HK\$9.8 million as compared to the previous year.

Chairman's Statement

LOANS AND CUSTOMER DEPOSITS

During the year under review, the Bank recorded an increase in total loans and advances (including trade bills) of HK\$66.5 million or 0.3% to HK\$23.65 billion as at 31 December 2018. Public Finance Limited ("Public Finance"), a subsidiary of the Bank, recorded an increase in total loans and advances of HK\$337.0 million or 5.9% to HK\$6.06 billion as at 31 December 2018.

During the year under review, the Bank recorded an increase in customer deposits of HK\$817.7 million or 2.8% to HK\$30.07 billion as at 31 December 2018. Public Finance recorded an increase in customer deposits of HK\$388.9 million or 7.7% to HK\$5.47 billion as at 31 December 2018.

The Group will continue to focus on expanding its retail and commercial banking and consumer loans businesses through the extensive branch network of the Group, offering products at competitive terms whilst providing premium customer service. The Group will continue to adopt prudent and flexible business strategies and adjust proactively to market and environmental changes accordingly in the expansion of its customer base and business segments.

The Group will also continue to improve its operating cost efficiency, and streamline the support services of the combined branch network of the Group.

BRANCH NETWORK

The Bank, which has a branch network of 32 branches in Hong Kong and 4 branches in Shenzhen in the People's Republic of China ("PRC"), continued to focus on providing a broad range of commercial and retail banking services to its targeted market segments. Public Finance, which has a branch network of 42 branches in Hong Kong, continued to focus on its core business in personal lendings. The Group has a combined network of 78 branches as at the end of 2018. The Group also undertakes securities trading business through two stockbroking subsidiaries.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On behalf of the Board, I wish to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the management and staff of the Group for their commitment, dedication and perseverance, and sincere gratitude to our customers for their invaluable patronage. I would also like to express our appreciation and gratitude to the Hong Kong Monetary Authority ("HKMA"), the Securities and Futures Commission ("SFC") and other relevant authorities for their invaluable advice, guidance and support.

Tan Sri Dato' Sri Dr. Teh Hong Piow
Chairman

Our Corporate Family Corporate Events & Recreational Activities



1. Senior management interacting with staff in the Q&A Dialogue Session of Public Bank (Hong Kong) Business Forum 2018.
2. A group photo of Heads of Departments/Business Units and Branch Managers with senior management of the Bank.
3. Staff singing the Public Bank's Corporate Song during the Business Forum held in April 2018.
4. Dancers performing "Can-Can Dance" at the Group's Annual Dinner in June 2018.
5. Staff performers dancing agilely in K-pop style at the Group's Annual Dinner.
6. Staff and guest performers taking photo with senior management and the Annual Dinner Organising Committee members.
7. Mr. Louis Cheung, a local singer and popular artiste, singing love songs during the Group's Annual Dinner.



8. A group photo of branch staff with senior management on the first day of business at the new location of Aberdeen Branch in June 2018.
9. The Bank's senior management and staff participating in the "Sales Rally 2018" event hosted by AIA Hong Kong.
10. A toast from senior management and senior managers of the Bank and AIA Hong Kong at the celebration party of the 5th anniversary of partnership.
11. Staff thumbs up to show their continued support to the Bank and AIA bancassurance partnership.
12. Winners of AIA Circle of Excellence Award 2017 and Million Dollar Round Table Award 2017 awarded the incentive trip to Macau in May 2018.
13. A relaxing trip to enjoy Chongqing-style BBQ in Tai Po organised by the Public Bank Group, Hong Kong Sports and Recreation Club for the staff and family members in March 2018.

Our Corporate Family Marketing & Promotions

大眾銀行(香港) PUBLIC BANK (HONG KONG)

大眾銀行(香港)「升息儲蓄投資組合」
令您財富增值更快捷

獨立儲蓄戶口¹
0.5% p.a.
 +
 獨立自動轉帳
 定期服務²
0.3% p.a.
 +
 獨立「高息」儲蓄戶口³
0.2% p.a.

- 優惠儲蓄利率高達**1%p.a.**
- 證券及自動轉帳出櫃服務，**2者兼得**
- 精選銀行服務費用可享折扣優惠高達**50%**⁴

1. 獨立儲蓄戶口：指由客戶自行開立，與任何大眾銀行(香港)其他戶口無直接關連，且不受任何大眾銀行(香港)其他戶口之限制。此類戶口之利率將根據本行不時公佈之利率表而定。2. 獨立自動轉帳定期服務：指由客戶自行開立，與任何大眾銀行(香港)其他戶口無直接關連，且不受任何大眾銀行(香港)其他戶口之限制。此類服務之利率將根據本行不時公佈之利率表而定。3. 獨立「高息」儲蓄戶口：指由客戶自行開立，與任何大眾銀行(香港)其他戶口無直接關連，且不受任何大眾銀行(香港)其他戶口之限制。此類戶口之利率將根據本行不時公佈之利率表而定。4. 精選銀行服務費用：指由客戶自行開立，與任何大眾銀行(香港)其他戶口無直接關連，且不受任何大眾銀行(香港)其他戶口之限制。此類服務之費用將根據本行不時公佈之服務費用表而定。

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大眾銀行(香港) PUBLIC BANK (HONG KONG)

「高息」儲蓄戶口
創建美滿將來

- 不設低結餘服務月費

另設港元/外幣定期存款服務，可享特高利息。

1. 獨立儲蓄戶口：指由客戶自行開立，與任何大眾銀行(香港)其他戶口無直接關連，且不受任何大眾銀行(香港)其他戶口之限制。此類戶口之利率將根據本行不時公佈之利率表而定。2. 獨立自動轉帳定期服務：指由客戶自行開立，與任何大眾銀行(香港)其他戶口無直接關連，且不受任何大眾銀行(香港)其他戶口之限制。此類服務之利率將根據本行不時公佈之利率表而定。3. 獨立「高息」儲蓄戶口：指由客戶自行開立，與任何大眾銀行(香港)其他戶口無直接關連，且不受任何大眾銀行(香港)其他戶口之限制。此類戶口之利率將根據本行不時公佈之利率表而定。4. 精選銀行服務費用：指由客戶自行開立，與任何大眾銀行(香港)其他戶口無直接關連，且不受任何大眾銀行(香港)其他戶口之限制。此類服務之費用將根據本行不時公佈之服務費用表而定。

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大眾銀行(香港) PUBLIC BANK (HONG KONG)

按揭貸款

助您置業安居 • 上車一族之選

大眾銀行(香港)深知您心，特別為您提供全國性的專業樓宇按揭服務。我們能夠為您訂立合適的按揭計劃，助您更快實現置業大計。

- 利率優惠
- 現金回贈
- 快捷易批

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大眾銀行(香港) PUBLIC BANK (HONG KONG)

大眾銀行(香港)低息汽車貸款
助您輕鬆成為車主
與心愛座駕於路上奔馳

不論購買新車或舊手車，大眾銀行(香港)為您提供一站式汽車貸款服務，助您輕鬆成為車主，盡享駕駛樂趣。

貸款額高達 特惠 還款期可長達
 車價之**90%** 利率 **60個月**

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大眾財務
公務員
低息私人貸款

為公務員
盡心而設

每月平均低至 **0.18%**
貸款額 **0.5%** 即時現金獎賞*
結餘轉戶可獲高達 **HK\$2,000** 超市購物券

貸款熱線 **2848 1888**
網上申請 www.publicfinance.hk/loan

大眾財務
大眾首選

* 0.18%起至0.28%不等，視乎客戶及貸款用途（已扣除全部手續費計算）；利率為：0.180%/0.20%（2個月）、0.174%/0.20%（3個月）、0.173%/0.21%（3個月）、實際利率以第一筆專項利率、半年內利率及半年以上利率的最低利率及其他費用計算。
* 只適用於成功申請及獲批公務員低息私人貸款的全數客戶，逾期客戶僅獲其於大眾財務有限公司（本公司）已獲批私人貸款戶口之客戶。
* 最高獲贈超市購物券金額為HK\$2,000，以成功申請及獲批貸款為準，逾期客戶僅獲其於本公司已獲批私人貸款戶口之客戶。

大眾財務有限公司 PUBLIC FINANCE LIMITED 專業理財 PUBLIFINANCE YOUR HELPING HAND 您定唔信？請睇到先好嘞！
高息定期存款、樓宇按揭貸款、分派、信託貸款、勞工貸款 PUBLIC BANK GROUP 大眾銀行

大眾財務
My Cash 循環貸款

循環現金優勢
夢想隨時實現

免年費
循環使用已償還借貸金額，無需再次申請

進修 電話指示提款 投資 購物 旅遊 買車

貸款熱線 **2848 1888**
網上申請 www.publicfinance.hk/loan

大眾財務
大眾首選

大眾My Cash循環貸款只適用於大眾財務有限公司（本公司）指定業務客戶，本產品之實際利率及條款，以該項本公司產品為準。

大眾財務有限公司 PUBLIC FINANCE LIMITED 專業理財 PUBLIFINANCE YOUR HELPING HAND 您定唔信？請睇到先好嘞！
高息定期存款、樓宇按揭貸款、分派、信託貸款、勞工貸款 PUBLIC BANK GROUP 大眾銀行

大眾財務送您新年大利是
轉戶大眾過肥年

貸款熱線 **2848 1888**
網上申請 www.publicfinance.hk/loan

迎新瑞犬
報豐年

高達 **HK\$1,000** 新年大利是*
貸款額高達 **HK\$80萬**
真冇客戶
更可享高達 **HK\$6,000** 即時現金獎賞*
每月平息低至 **0.16%**

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大眾財務
大眾首選

大眾財務有限公司 PUBLIC FINANCE LIMITED 專業理財 PUBLIFINANCE YOUR HELPING HAND 您定唔信？請睇到先好嘞！
高息定期存款、樓宇按揭貸款、分派、信託貸款、勞工貸款 PUBLIC BANK GROUP 大眾銀行



Report of the Directors

The Directors present their report and the audited financial statements of the Group for the year ended 31 December 2018.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the Group have not changed during the year and consisted of the provision of a comprehensive range of banking, financial and related services.

Details of the principal activities of the Bank's subsidiaries are set out in note 1 to the financial statements.

RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS

The Group's profit for the year ended 31 December 2018 and the Group's financial position as at that date are set out in the financial statements on pages 16 to 128.

Interim dividend of HK\$8.391 (2017: HK\$7.803) per ordinary share was declared and paid during the year. The Directors recommend the payment of a final dividend of HK\$7.797 (2017: HK\$8.424) per ordinary share for the year.

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, LAND HELD UNDER FINANCE LEASES AND INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

Details of movements in the property and equipment, land held under finance leases and investment properties of the Group during the year are set out in notes 23, 24 and 25 to the financial statements, respectively.

SHARE CAPITAL

There was no movement in the Bank's issued share capital during the year.

RESERVES

Details of movements in the reserves of the Group and of the Bank during the year are set out in notes 30 and 37(c) to the financial statements, respectively, and the consolidated statement of changes in equity.

DIRECTORS

The Directors of the Bank during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Non-Executive Directors:

Tan Sri Dato' Sri Dr. Teh Hong Piow, Chairman
Tan Sri Dato' Sri Tay Ah Lek
Quah Poh Keat
Dato' Chang Kat Kiam

Independent Non-Executive Directors:

Lai Wan, Co-Chairman
Lee Chin Guan
Tang Wing Chew

Executive Directors:

Tan Yoke Kong
Chong Yam Kiang

In accordance with Articles 109 and 110 of the Articles of Association of the Bank, Tan Sri Dato' Sri Dr. Teh Hong Piow, Tan Sri Dato' Sri Tay Ah Lek and Dato' Chang Kat Kiam shall retire by rotation and, being eligible, will offer themselves for re-election at the forthcoming annual general meeting ("AGM").

Report of the Directors

DIRECTORS (Continued)

The Directors of the subsidiaries of the Bank during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Tan Yoke Kong
Chong Yam Kiang
Lee Huat Oon
Chiu Chik Shang
Chan Sau Kuen
Chau Man Ching, Gladys
Ma Hin Lap

MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS

Save for employment contracts, no other contracts relating to the management and/or administration of the whole or any substantial part of the business of the Bank were entered into or subsisted during the year.

DIRECTORS' RIGHTS TO ACQUIRE SHARES AND DEBENTURES

At no time during the year or at the end of the year has been/was the Bank or any of its holding companies, subsidiaries or fellow subsidiaries a party to any arrangement to enable the Bank's Directors to acquire benefits by means of the acquisition of shares in, or debentures of, the Bank or any other body corporate.

EQUITY-LINKED AGREEMENTS

No equity-linked agreement that will or may result in the Bank issuing shares or that requires the Bank to enter into any agreements that will or may result in the Bank issuing shares was entered into by the Bank during the year or subsisted at the end of the year.

DIRECTORS' INTERESTS IN TRANSACTIONS, ARRANGEMENTS OR CONTRACTS

Except as detailed in note 33 to the financial statements, there has been no transaction, arrangement or contract of significance in relation to the Bank's business to which the Bank or any of its holding companies, subsidiaries or fellow subsidiaries was a party and in which a Director of the Bank or an entity connected with the Director is or was materially interested, either directly or indirectly, subsisting during or at the end of the year.

PERMITTED INDEMNITY PROVISION

Pursuant to Article 156 of the Bank's Articles of Association and subject to the provisions of the statutes, every Director, secretary or officer of the Bank shall be indemnified out of the funds of the Bank against all liability incurred by him as such Directors, secretary or officer of the Bank in or about the execution or holding of his office or otherwise in relation thereto. The Directors and officers liability insurance for the Bank was/is in force during the year and as at the date on which this Directors' Report is approved in accordance with section 391 of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.

COMPLIANCE WITH SUPERVISORY POLICY MANUAL

The Bank has complied with the Supervisory Policy Manual ("SPM") Module CG-1 "Corporate Governance of Locally Incorporated Authorised Institutions" issued by the HKMA.

The Bank has also complied with the Banking (Disclosure) Rules issued by the HKMA, and the capital requirements related to capital base and capital adequacy ratio stipulated by the HKMA.

Report of the Directors

DONATIONS

During the year, the Group made charitable donations totaling HK\$2,100 (2017: HK\$21,540).

AUDITORS

Ernst & Young retire and a resolution for their re-appointment as auditors of the Bank will be proposed at the forthcoming AGM.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Lai Wan

Director

17 January 2019

Tan Yoke Kong

Director

Independent Auditor's Report



To the members of Public Bank (Hong Kong) Limited

(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)

OPINION

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Public Bank (Hong Kong) Limited (the “Bank”) and its subsidiaries (the “Group”) set out on pages 16 to 128, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2018, and the consolidated income statement, the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, the consolidated statement of changes in equity and the consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the consolidated financial position of the Group as at 31 December 2018, and of its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (“HKFRSs”) issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (“HKICPA”) and have been properly prepared in compliance with the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing (“HKSAs”) issued by the HKICPA. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the HKICPA’s *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the “Code”), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

OTHER INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL REPORT

The directors of the Bank are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the consolidated financial statements and our auditor’s report thereon.

Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independent Auditor's Report

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The directors of the Bank are responsible for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA and the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, the directors of the Bank are responsible for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors of the Bank either intend to liquidate the Group or to cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors of the Bank are assisted by the Audit Committee in discharging their responsibilities for overseeing the Group's financial reporting process.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Our report is made solely to you, as a body, in accordance with section 405 of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance, and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of this report.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSAAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSAAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.

Independent Auditor's Report

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with the Audit Committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Ernst & Young
Certified Public Accountants
22/F CITIC Tower
1 Tim Mei Avenue
Central, Hong Kong

17 January 2019

Consolidated Income Statement

For the year ended 31 December 2018

	Notes	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Interest income	8	1,853,499	1,731,365
Interest expense	8	(436,345)	(350,691)
NET INTEREST INCOME		1,417,154	1,380,674
Other operating income	9	220,779	217,921
OPERATING INCOME		1,637,933	1,598,595
Operating expenses	10	(872,743)	(852,510)
Changes in fair value of investment properties		9,837	5,605
OPERATING PROFIT BEFORE CREDIT LOSS EXPENSES/IMPAIRMENT ALLOWANCES		775,027	751,690
Credit loss expenses/impairment allowances	11	(168,242)	(148,833)
OPERATING PROFIT AFTER CREDIT LOSS EXPENSES/IMPAIRMENT ALLOWANCES		606,785	602,857
Share of profit of a joint venture	20	–	102
PROFIT BEFORE TAX		606,785	602,959
Tax	13	(106,294)	(107,803)
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR		500,491	495,156
ATTRIBUTABLE TO:			
Owners of the Bank		500,491	495,156

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31 December 2018

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR	500,491	495,156
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		
Other comprehensive income to be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods:		
Exchange differences on translating foreign operations, net of tax	(46,826)	68,995
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	453,665	564,151
ATTRIBUTABLE TO:		
Owners of the Bank	453,665	564,151

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

31 December 2018

	Notes	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
ASSETS			
Cash and short term placements	15	3,953,045	4,871,536
Placements with banks and financial institutions maturing after one month but not more than twelve months	16	1,556,342	1,514,095
Derivative financial instruments		2,541	4,317
Loans and advances and receivables	17	29,594,033	29,304,483
Available-for-sale financial assets	18	–	6,804
Equity investments at fair value through other comprehensive income	18	6,804	–
Held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost	19	–	5,671,749
Held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost	19	6,202,949	–
Interest in a joint venture	20	–	–
Deferred tax assets	28	40,531	24,062
Tax recoverable		579	3
Intangible assets	22	718	718
Property and equipment	23	99,953	87,414
Land held under finance leases	24	147,611	100,820
Investment properties	25	115,930	111,692
Goodwill	26	242,342	242,342
Other assets	21	218,835	253,368
TOTAL ASSETS		42,182,213	42,193,403

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

31 December 2018

	Notes	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
LIABILITIES			
Deposits and balances of banks and other financial institutions at amortised cost		572,712	1,123,792
Derivative financial instruments		7,275	1,696
Customer deposits at amortised cost	27	35,297,868	34,094,775
Certificates of deposit issued at amortised cost		–	753,293
Current tax payable		15,826	39,568
Deferred tax liabilities	28	14,327	12,629
Other liabilities	21	445,000	450,746
TOTAL LIABILITIES		36,353,008	36,476,499
EQUITY ATTRIBUTABLE TO OWNERS OF THE BANK			
Share capital	29	2,854,045	2,854,045
Reserves	30	2,975,160	2,862,859
TOTAL EQUITY		5,829,205	5,716,904
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		42,182,213	42,193,403

Lai Wan
Director

Tan Yoke Kong
Director

Chong Yam Kiang
Director

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 31 December 2018

	Notes	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
TOTAL EQUITY			
As at 1 January (Reported)		5,716,904	5,366,177
Impact of adopting HKFRS 9	5	(92,233)	–
Restated opening balance under HKFRS 9		5,624,671	5,366,177
Profit for the year		500,491	495,156
Other comprehensive income in translation reserve		(46,826)	68,995
Total comprehensive income for the year		453,665	564,151
Dividends paid in respect of previous year	14	(124,810)	(97,815)
Dividends paid in respect of current year	14	(124,321)	(115,609)
Balance at the end of the year		5,829,205	5,716,904

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2018

Notes	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Profit before tax	606,785	602,959
Adjustments for:		
Dividend income from listed investments	9 (118)	(83)
Dividend income from unlisted investments	9 (700)	(700)
Depreciation of property and equipment and land held under finance leases	10 26,446	23,217
Increase in fair value of investment properties	25 (9,837)	(5,605)
Share of profit of a joint venture	20 –	(102)
Increase in credit loss expenses for loans and advances and receivables	3,205	–
Decrease in impairment allowances for loans and advances and receivables	–	(46,151)
Net (gains)/losses on disposal of property and equipment	(4)	115
Decrease in provisions for held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost and bank placements	(33)	–
Exchange differences	(46,914)	69,204
Profits tax paid	(127,035)	(67,167)
	451,795	575,687
Increase in operating assets:		
Decrease/(increase) in placements with banks and financial institutions	220,434	(908,267)
Decrease/(increase) in derivative financial instruments	1,776	(3,905)
Increase in loans and advances and receivables	(402,057)	(450,705)
Decrease in held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost	–	243,797
Increase in held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost	(321,296)	–
Decrease/(increase) in other assets	34,533	(124,373)
	(466,610)	(1,243,453)
(Decrease)/increase in operating liabilities:		
(Decrease)/increase in deposits and balances of banks and other financial institutions at amortised cost	(551,080)	194,400
Increase in customer deposits at amortised cost	1,203,093	215,427
Decrease in certificates of deposit issued at amortised cost	(753,293)	(319,485)
Increase/(decrease) in derivative financial instruments	5,579	(21,461)
(Decrease)/increase in other liabilities	(5,746)	48,574
	(101,447)	117,455
Net cash outflow from operating activities	(116,262)	(550,311)

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2018

	Notes	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchases of property and equipment	23	(33,088)	(18,361)
Purchase of an investment property	25	(47,100)	–
Sales proceeds of fixed assets		15	–
Distribution from a joint venture	20	–	1,708
Dividends received from listed investments		118	83
Dividends received from unlisted investments		700	700
Net cash outflow from investing activities		(79,355)	(15,870)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Dividends paid on shares		(249,131)	(213,424)
Net cash outflow from financing activities		(249,131)	(213,424)
NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		(444,748)	(779,605)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR		4,548,402	5,328,007
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR		4,103,654	4,548,402
ANALYSIS OF BALANCES OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS			
Cash and short term placements repayable on demand	35	1,109,389	1,176,544
Money at call and short notice with an original maturity within three months		2,483,734	3,150,173
Placements with banks and financial institutions with an original maturity within three months		78,319	–
Held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost with an original maturity within three months		–	221,685
Held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost with an original maturity within three months		432,212	–
		4,103,654	4,548,402

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2018

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
OPERATIONAL CASH FLOWS FROM INTEREST		
Interest paid	(366,608)	(304,746)
Interest received	1,853,639	1,709,890

RECONCILIATION OF LIABILITIES ARISING FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

The table below details changes in the Group's liabilities from financing activities, including both cash and non-cash changes. Liabilities arising from financing activities are liabilities for which cash flows were, or future cash flow will be, classified in the Group's consolidated statement of cash flows as cash flow from financing activities.

	Dividend payable HK\$'000
As at 1 January 2017	–
Dividends declared on ordinary shares	213,424
Changes from financing cash flows: Dividends paid on ordinary shares	(213,424)
As at 31 December 2017 and 1 January 2018	–
Dividends declared on ordinary shares	249,131
Changes from financing cash flows: Dividends paid on ordinary shares	(249,131)
As at 31 December 2018	–

Notes to Financial Statements

1. CORPORATE AND GROUP INFORMATION

The Bank is a limited liability company and its registered office is located at 2/F, Public Bank Centre, 120 Des Voeux Road Central, Central, Hong Kong. During the year, the Group's principal activities were the provision of a comprehensive range of commercial and retail banking, financial and related services.

The Bank is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Public Financial Holdings Limited ("PFHL"). In the opinion of the Directors, the ultimate holding company of the Bank is Public Bank Berhad, which is incorporated in Malaysia.

Particulars of the Bank's subsidiaries, which are incorporated and operate in Hong Kong, are as follows:

Name	Issued ordinary share capital HK\$	Percentage of equity attributable to the Bank		Principal activities
		Direct %	Indirect %	
Public Financial Securities Limited	48,000,000	100	–	Securities brokerage
Public Bank (Nominees) Limited	100,000	100	–	Provision of nominee services
Public Credit Limited	5,000,000	100	–	Dormant
Public Futures Limited	2	100	–	Dormant
Public Pacific Securities Limited	12,000,000	100	–	Dormant
Public Finance Limited	671,038,000	100	–	Deposit-taking and financing
Public Financial Limited	10,100,000	–	100	Investment holding
Public Securities Limited	10,000,000	–	100	Securities brokerage
Public Securities (Nominees) Limited	10,000	–	100	Provision of nominee services

2. BASIS OF PREPARATION

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with all applicable Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") (a collective term which includes all applicable individual HKFRSs, Hong Kong Accounting Standards ("HKASs") and Interpretations ("Int")) issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (the "HKICPA"), accounting principles generally accepted in Hong Kong and applicable requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance. They have also complied with the Banking (Disclosure) Rules issued by the HKMA.

Notes to Financial Statements

2. BASIS OF PREPARATION (Continued)

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified for the revaluation of investment properties, available-for-sale financial assets, financial assets and financial liabilities (including derivative financial instruments) at fair value through profit or loss ("FVPL") and equity investments at fair value through other comprehensive income ("FVOCI").

3. BASIS OF CONSOLIDATION

The consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of the Bank and its subsidiaries for the year ended 31 December 2018.

A subsidiary is an entity (including a structured entity), directly or indirectly, controlled by the Bank. Control is achieved when the Group is exposed, or has rights, to variable returns from its involvement with the investee and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the investee (i.e. existing rights that give the Group the current ability to direct the relevant activities of the investee).

When the Bank has, directly or indirectly, less than a majority of the voting or similar rights of an investee, the Group considers all relevant facts and circumstances in assessing whether it has power over an investee, including:

- (a) the contractual arrangement with the other vote holders of the investee;
- (b) rights arising from other contractual arrangements; and
- (c) the Group's voting rights and potential voting rights.

The financial statements of the subsidiaries are prepared for the same reporting period as the Bank, using consistent accounting policies. The results of subsidiaries are consolidated from the date on which the Group obtains control, and continue to be consolidated until the date that such control ceases.

Profit or loss and each component of other comprehensive income ("OCI") are attributed to the owners of the parent of the Group. All intra-group assets and liabilities, equity, income, expenses and cash flows relating to transactions between members of the Group are eliminated in full on consolidation.

The Group reassesses whether or not it controls an investee if facts and circumstances indicate that there are changes to one or more of the three elements of control described above. A change in the ownership interest of a subsidiary, without a loss of control, is accounted for as an equity transaction.

If the Group loses control over a subsidiary, it derecognises (i) the assets (including goodwill) and liabilities of the subsidiary, (ii) the carrying amount of any non-controlling interest and (iii) the cumulative translation differences recorded in equity; and recognises (i) the fair value of the consideration received, (ii) the fair value of any investment retained and (iii) any resulting surplus or deficit in profit or loss. The Group's share of components previously recognised in OCI is reclassified to profit or loss or retained profits, as appropriate, on the same basis as would be required if the Group had directly disposed of the related assets or liabilities.

Notes to Financial Statements

3. BASIS OF CONSOLIDATION (Continued)

The subsidiaries consolidated for accounting purposes are as follows:

Name	31 December 2018		31 December 2017		Principal activities
	Total assets HK\$	Total equity HK\$	Total assets HK\$	Total equity HK\$	
Public Financial Securities Limited	75,807,819	48,162,492	103,843,341	48,110,117	Securities brokerage
Public Bank (Nominees) Limited	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	Provision of nominee services
Public Credit Limited	2,471,985	2,471,985	2,471,985	2,471,985	Dormant
Public Futures Limited	1	1	1	1	Dormant
Public Pacific Securities Limited	4,749,254	4,749,254	4,779,023	4,779,023	Dormant
Public Finance Limited*	6,912,080,102	1,357,152,205	6,601,374,396	1,448,519,857	Deposit-taking and financing
Public Financial Limited	10,101,371	10,101,371	10,101,371	10,101,371	Investment holding
Public Securities Limited	208,268,064	170,761,740	234,291,502	159,911,431	Securities brokerage
Public Securities (Nominees) Limited	1,120,596	1,118,096	1,130,805	1,128,305	Provision of nominee services

* The financial entity specified by the HKMA to form the basis of consolidation for regulatory reporting purpose in respect of common equity tier 1 ("CET1") capital ratio, tier 1 capital ratio, total capital ratio, capital conservation buffer ("CCB") ratio, countercyclical capital buffer ("CCyB") ratio, leverage ratio and liquidity maintenance ratio.

4. BASIS OF CAPITAL DISCLOSURES

The Group has complied with the capital requirements during the reporting period related to capital base and the capital adequacy ratio as stipulated by the HKMA, and has also complied with the Banking (Disclosure) Rules.

Should the Group have not complied with the externally imposed capital requirements of the HKMA, capital management plans should be submitted to the HKMA for restoration of capital to the minimum required level as soon as possible.

The computation of the consolidated total capital ratio and other regulatory capital ratios of the Group is based on the consolidation of the Bank and Public Finance for regulatory reporting purposes.

There are no major restrictions or impediments on the transfer of capital or funds among the members of the Bank's consolidation group except that liquidity, capital and other performance indicators of Public Financial Securities Limited and Public Securities Limited should satisfy the minimum requirements of the Securities and Futures (Financial Resources) Rules issued by the SFC.

A portion of retained profits, based on a percentage of gross loans and advances, is set aside as a non-distributable regulatory reserve as part of CET1 capital and is included in the capital base pursuant to the HKMA capital requirements.

Notes to Financial Statements

4. BASIS OF CAPITAL DISCLOSURES (Continued)

The Group has adopted the provisions of the Banking (Amendment) Ordinance 2012 relating to the Basel III capital standards and the amended Banking (Capital) Rules (the “Capital Rules”). The Capital Rules outline the general requirements on regulatory capital ratios, the components of eligible regulatory capital as well as the levels of those ratios at which banking institutions are required to operate. The Capital Rules have been developed based on internationally-agreed standards on capital adequacy promulgated by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. Under the Capital Rules, the minimum capital ratio requirements are progressively increased during the period from 1 January 2013 to 1 January 2019, and include a phased introduction of a CCB ratio of 2.5%. Additional capital requirements, including a CCyB ratio ranging from 0% to 2.5%, have been implemented since 1 January 2016. The required CCyB ratio for 2018 and 2019 is 1.875% and 2.5%, respectively.

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Changes in accounting policies and disclosures

The HKICPA has issued a number of new and revised HKFRSs, which are generally effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018. The Group has adopted the following new and revised standards for the first time for the current year’s financial statements:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Amendments to HKFRS 2 | <i>Classification and Measurement of Share-based Payment Transactions</i> |
| • Amendments to HKFRS 4 | <i>Applying HKFRS 9 Financial Instruments with HKFRS 4 Insurance Contracts</i> |
| • HKFRS 9 | <i>Financial Instruments</i> |
| • HKFRS 15 | <i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i> |
| • Amendments to HKFRS 15 | <i>Clarifications to HKFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i> |
| • <i>Annual Improvements 2014-2016 Cycle</i> | Amendments to HKFRS 1 and HKAS 28 |
| • Amendments to HKAS 40 | <i>Transfers of Investment Property</i> |
| • HK(IFRIC)-Int 22 | <i>Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration</i> |

Except for the amendments included in Amendments to HKFRS 2, Amendments to HKFRS 4 and *Annual Improvements 2014-2016 Cycle*, which are not relevant to the preparation of the Group’s consolidated financial statements, the nature and impact of the amendments are described below.

The Group has adopted HKFRS 9 on 1 January 2018. HKFRS 9 introduces new requirements for classification and measurement, impairment and hedge accounting which have resulted in the following significant changes in accounting policies.

The Group has not restated comparative information for 2017 for financial instruments in the scope of HKFRS 9. Therefore, the comparative information for 2017 is reported under HKAS 39 and is not comparable to the information presented for 2018. Differences arising from the adoption of HKFRS 9 have been recognised directly in retained earnings, provisions/impairment allowances, deferred tax assets and other relevant statement of financial position items as of 1 January 2018.

With the exception of accounts receivables that do not contain a significant financing component or for which the Group has applied the practical expedient, the Group initially measures a financial asset at its fair value plus, in the case of a financial asset not at FVPL, transaction costs under HKFRS 9.

Under HKFRS 9, debt instruments are subsequently measured at FVPL, amortised cost, or FVOCI. The classification is based on two criteria: the Group’s business model for managing the assets; and whether the instruments’ contractual cash flows represent “solely payments of principal and interest” on the principal amount outstanding (the “SPPI criterion”).

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued) Changes in accounting policies and disclosures (Continued)

The new classification and measurement of the Group's financial assets are as follows:

- (a) Debt instruments at amortised cost for financial assets – that are held within a business model with the objective to hold the financial assets in order to collect contractual cash flows that meet the SPPI criterion. This category includes the Group's cash and placements with banks and financial institutions, loans and advances and receivables, held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost and other assets.
- (b) Equity investments at FVOCI – with no recycling of gains or losses to profit or loss on derecognition. This category only includes equity investments, which the Group intends to hold for the foreseeable future and which the Group has irrevocably elected to so classify upon initial recognition or transition. The Group classified its unquoted equity investments as equity investments at FVOCI. Equity investments at FVOCI are not subject to an impairment assessment under HKFRS 9. Under HKAS 39, the Group's unquoted equity investments were classified as available-for-sale financial assets.
- (c) Financial assets at FVPL – that include derivative instruments and debt instruments of which the cash flow characteristics fail the SPPI criterion or they are not held within a business model with the objective either to collect contractual cash flows, or to both collect contractual cash flows and sell; and equity investments which the Group has not irrevocably elected, at initial recognition or transition, to classify as FVOCI. This category includes derivative financial instruments held by the Group.
- (d) Debt instruments at FVOCI – with gains or losses recycled to profit or loss on derecognition. Financial assets in this category are debt instruments that meet the SPPI criterion and are held within a business model both to collect cash flows and to sell. The Group does not have any financial assets classified in this category.

The assessment of the Group's business model was made as of the date of initial application, i.e. 1 January 2018, and then applied retrospectively to those financial assets that were not derecognised before 1 January 2018. The assessment of whether the contractual cash flows on debt instruments are solely comprised of principal and interest was made based on the facts and circumstances as at the initial recognition of the assets.

The accounting for the Group's financial liabilities remains largely the same as it was under HKAS 39. Similar to the requirements of HKAS 39, HKFRS 9 requires contingent consideration liabilities to be treated as financial instruments measured at fair value, with the changes in fair value recognised in the income statement.

Under HKFRS 9, embedded derivatives are no longer separated from a host financial asset. Instead, financial assets are classified based on their contractual terms and the Group's business model. The accounting for derivatives embedded in financial liabilities and in non-financial host contracts has not been changed from that required by HKAS 39.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued) Changes in accounting policies and disclosures (Continued)

Changes to the provisions/impairment allowances calculation

The adoption of HKFRS 9 has fundamentally changed the Group's accounting for impairment losses for financial assets by replacing HKAS 39's incurred loss approach with a forward-looking expected credit loss ("ECL") approach. HKFRS 9 requires the Group to record provisions/impairment allowances for ECLs for all loans and other debt financial assets not held at FVPL, together with loan commitments and financial guarantee contracts. The allowances are based on the ECLs associated with the probability of default in the next twelve months unless there has been a significant increase in credit risk since origination. If the financial asset meets the definition of purchased or originated credit impaired, the allowances are based on the change in the ECLs over the life of the asset.

For accounts receivable, the Group has applied the standard simplified approach and has calculated ECLs based on lifetime ECLs. The Group has established a provision matrix that is based on the Group's historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic conditions.

For loans and advances, trade bills, accrued interest, loan commitments, financial guarantee contracts, cash and placements with banks and financial institutions, held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost or other debt instruments at amortised cost for financial assets, the ECL is based on the 12-month ECL. The 12-month ECL is the portion of lifetime ECLs that results from default events on a financial instrument that are possible within 12 months after the reporting date. However, when there has been a significant increase in credit risk since origination, the allowances will be based on the lifetime ECL.

In all cases, the Group considers that there has been a significant increase in credit risk when contractual payments are more than 30 days past due. The Group considers a financial asset in default when contractual payments are 90 days past due. However, in certain cases, the Group may also consider a financial asset to be in default when internal or external information indicates that the Group is unlikely to receive the outstanding contractual amounts in full before taking into account any credit enhancements held by the Group.

The adoption of the ECL requirements of HKFRS 9 resulted in increase in impairment allowances of the Group's debt financial assets. The increase in allowances resulted in adjustment to retained profits upon transition.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued) Changes in accounting policies and disclosures (Continued)

The transition effects arising from the adoption of HKFRS 9 are presented below.

The following tables analyse the impact, net of tax, of transition to HKFRS 9 on the statement of financial position of the Group.

	1 January 2018 HK\$'000
Cash and short term placements	
Closing balance under HKAS 39 at 31 December 2017	4,871,536
– Recognition of expected credit loss under HKFRS 9	(470)
	4,871,066
Opening balance under HKFRS 9 at 1 January 2018	
Placements with banks and financial institutions	
Closing balance under HKAS 39 at 31 December 2017	1,514,095
– Recognition of expected credit loss under HKFRS 9	(151)
	1,513,944
Opening balance under HKFRS 9 at 1 January 2018	
Held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost	
Closing balance under HKAS 39 at 31 December 2017	–
– Reclassification under HKFRS 9	5,671,749
– Recognition of expected credit loss under HKFRS 9	(570)
	5,671,179
Opening balance under HKFRS 9 at 1 January 2018	
Equity investments at fair value through other comprehensive income	
Closing balance under HKAS 39 at 31 December 2017	–
– Reclassification under HKFRS 9	6,804
	6,804
Opening balance under HKFRS 9 at 1 January 2018	
Loans and advances and receivables	
Closing balance under HKAS 39 at 31 December 2017	29,304,483
– Recognition of expected credit loss under HKFRS 9	(109,308)
	29,195,175
Opening balance under HKFRS 9 at 1 January 2018	

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)
Changes in accounting policies and disclosures (Continued)

	1 January 2018 HK\$'000
Deferred tax assets	
Closing balance under HKAS 39 at 31 December 2017	24,062
– Deferred tax effect arising from the recognition of expected credit loss under HKFRS 9	18,266
	42,328
Opening balance under HKFRS 9 at 1 January 2018	42,328
Regulatory reserves	
Closing balance under HKAS 39 at 31 December 2017	439,762
– Transfer to retained profits	(127,143)
	312,619
Opening balance under HKFRS 9 at 1 January 2018	312,619
Retained profits	
Closing balance under HKAS 39 at 31 December 2017	2,343,377
– Transfer from regulatory reserves	127,143
– Recognition of expected credit loss under HKFRS 9	(110,499)
– Deferred tax effect arising from the recognition of expected credit loss under HKFRS 9	18,266
	2,378,287
Opening balance under HKFRS 9 at 1 January 2018	2,378,287

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued) Changes in accounting policies and disclosures (Continued)

Statement of Financial Position	31 December 2017 HK\$'000	Reclassification HK\$'000	Provisions/ impairment allowances HK\$'000	1 January 2018 HK\$'000
Assets				
Cash and short term placements	4,871,536	-	(470)	4,871,066
Placements with banks and financial institutions maturing after one month but not more than twelve months	1,514,095	-	(151)	1,513,944
Derivative financial instruments	4,317	-	-	4,317
Loans and advances and receivables	29,304,483	-	(109,308)	29,195,175
Available-for-sale financial assets	6,804	(6,804)	-	-
Equity investments at fair value through other comprehensive income	-	6,804	-	6,804
Held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost	5,671,749	(5,671,749)	-	-
Held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost	-	5,671,749	(570)	5,671,179
Deferred tax assets	24,062	-	18,266	42,328
Tax recoverable	3	-	-	3
Intangible assets	718	-	-	718
Property and equipment	87,414	-	-	87,414
Land held under finance leases	100,820	-	-	100,820
Investment properties	111,692	-	-	111,692
Goodwill	242,342	-	-	242,342
Other assets	253,368	-	-	253,368
Total Assets	42,193,403	-	(92,233)	42,101,170

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)
Changes in accounting policies and disclosures (Continued)

Statement of Financial Position	31 December 2017 HK\$'000	Provisions/ impairment allowances HK\$'000	1 January 2018 HK\$'000
Equity and Liabilities			
Liabilities			
Deposits and balances of banks and other financial institutions at amortised cost	1,123,792	–	1,123,792
Derivative financial instruments	1,696	–	1,696
Customer deposits at amortised cost	34,094,775	–	34,094,775
Certificates of deposit issued at amortised cost	753,293	–	753,293
Current tax payable	39,568	–	39,568
Deferred tax liabilities	12,629	–	12,629
Other liabilities	450,746	–	450,746
Total Liabilities	36,476,499	–	36,476,499
Equity attributable to owners of the Bank			
Share capital	2,854,045	–	2,854,045
Reserves	2,862,859	(92,233)	2,770,626
Total Equity	5,716,904	(92,233)	5,624,671
Total Equity and Liabilities	42,193,403	(92,233)	42,101,170

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued) Changes in accounting policies and disclosures (Continued)

HKFRS 15 supersedes HKAS 11 *Construction Contracts*, HKAS 18 *Revenue* and related interpretation and it applies to all revenue arising from contracts with customers, unless those contracts are in the scope of other standards. The new standard establishes a five-step model to account for revenue arising from contracts with customers. Under HKFRS 15, revenue is recognised at an amount that reflects the consideration to which an entity expects to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods or services to a customer.

The standard requires entities to exercise judgement, taking into consideration all of the relevant facts and circumstances when applying each step of the model to contracts with their customers. The standard also specifies the accounting for the incremental costs of obtaining a contract and the costs directly related to fulfilling a contract. The adoption of HKFRS 15 does not have any material impact on the Group's consolidated financial statements.

Amendments to HKAS 40 clarify when an entity should transfer property, including property under construction or development into, or out of investment property. The amendments state that a change in use occurs when the property meets, or ceases to meet, the definition of investment property and there is evidence of the change in use. A mere change in management's intentions for the use of a property does not provide evidence of a change in use. These amendments do not have any impact on the Group's consolidated financial statements.

HK(IFRIC)-Int 22 clarifies that, in determining the spot exchange rate to use on initial recognition of the related asset, expenses or income (or part of it) on the derecognition of a non-monetary asset or non-monetary liability relating to advance consideration, the date of the transaction is the date on which an entity initially recognises the non-monetary asset or non-monetary liability arising from the advance consideration. If there are multiple payments or receipts in advance, then the entity must determine a date of the transactions of each payment or receipt of advance consideration. The interpretation does not have any impact on the Group's consolidated financial statements.

Issued but not yet effective HKFRSs

The Group has not applied the following new and revised HKFRSs, that are expected to be relevant to the Group and have been issued but are not yet effective, in these financial statements:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| • Amendments to HKFRS 9 | <i>Prepayment Features with Negative Compensation</i> ¹ |
| • HKFRS 16 | <i>Leases</i> ¹ |
| • HK(IFRIC)-Int 23 | <i>Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatments</i> ¹ |

¹ Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019

Further information about those HKFRSs that are expected to be relevant to the Group is as follows:

The HKICPA issued two amendments to HKFRS 9 in November 2017 and December 2017 respectively. The first amendment clarifies that prepayable financial assets with negative compensation can be measured at amortised cost or at FVOCI if specified conditions are met instead of at FVPL.

The second amendment clarifies, in the Basis for Conclusions, the accounting for a modification or exchange of a financial liability measured at amortised cost that does not result in derecognition. HKFRS 9 requires an entity to recalculate the amortised cost of the modified financial liability by discounting the modified contractual cash flows using the original effective interest rate. Any adjustments to the amortised cost of the financial liability would be recognised in profit or loss at the date of the modification or exchange. If entities apply a different accounting treatment for modifications of financial liabilities under HKAS 39, they are required to apply the amendments retrospectively on transition to HKFRS 9.

The amendments are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019. Early application is permitted. The amendments are not expected to have any significant impact on the Group's consolidated financial statements.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued) Issued but not yet effective HKFRSs (Continued)

HKFRS 16 replaces HKAS 17 *Leases*, HK(IFRIC)-Int 4 *Determining whether an Arrangement Contains a Lease*, HK(SIC)-Int 15 *Operating Leases – Incentives* and HK(SIC)-Int 27 *Evaluating the Substance of Transactions Involving the Legal Form of a Lease*. The standard sets out the principles for the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of leases and requires lessees to recognise assets and liabilities for most leases. The standard includes two elective recognition exemptions for lessees – leases of low-value assets and short-term leases. At the commencement date of a lease, a lessee will recognise a liability to make lease payments (i.e. the lease liability) and an asset representing the right to use the underlying asset during the lease term (i.e. the right-of-use asset). The right-of-use asset is subsequently measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses unless the right-of-use asset meets the definition of investment property in HKAS 40. The lease liability is subsequently increased to reflect the interest on the lease liability and reduced for the lease payments. Lessees will be required to separately recognise the interest expense on the lease liability and the depreciation expense on the right-of-use asset. Lessees will also be required to re-measure the lease liability upon the occurrence of certain events, such as change in the lease term and change in future lease payments resulting from a change in an index or rate used to determine those payments.

Lessees will generally recognise the amount of the re-measurement of the lease liability as an adjustment to the right-of-use asset. Lessor accounting under HKFRS 16 is substantially unchanged from the accounting under HKAS 17. Lessors will continue to classify all leases using the same classification principle as in HKAS 17 and distinguish between operating leases and finance leases. As at 31 December 2018, the Group had non-cancellable operating lease commitments of HK\$122,051,000 as set out in note 32(b) to the financial statements. The interest expense on the lease liability and the depreciation expense on the right-of-use asset under HKFRS 16 will replace the rental charge under HKAS 17. The operating lease commitments shown as off-balance sheet item will be replaced by “right-of-use asset” and “lease liability” in the statement of financial position of the Group.

Upon the initial adoption of HKFRS 16, the opening balances of right-of-use assets and the corresponding lease liabilities will be approximately HK\$148 million and HK\$155 million respectively, taking into account the effects of discounting, as at 1 January 2019. The impact on retained earnings on 1 January 2019 will be approximately HK\$7 million.

Other than the above, the Group does not anticipate that the application of this standard will have material impact on the consolidated financial statements of the Group.

HK(IFRIC)-Int 23 addresses the accounting for income taxes when tax treatments involve uncertainty that affects the application of HKAS 12 and does not apply to taxes or levies outside the scope of HKAS 12, nor does it specifically include requirements relating to interest and penalties associated with uncertain tax treatments. The interpretation specifically addresses the following:

- (a) whether an entity considers uncertain tax treatments separately;
- (b) the assumptions an entity makes about the examination of tax treatments by taxation authorities;
- (c) how an entity determines taxable profits (tax losses), tax bases, unused tax losses, unused tax credits and tax rates; and
- (d) how an entity considers changes in facts and circumstances.

An entity must determine whether to consider each uncertain tax treatment separately or together with one or more other uncertain tax treatments. The approach that better predicts the resolution of the uncertainty should be followed. The interpretation is effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019, but certain transition reliefs are available. The Group will apply this interpretation from its effective date. The Group expects that applying the interpretation may affect its consolidated financial statements and the required disclosures. In addition, the Group may need to establish processes and procedures to obtain information that is necessary to apply the interpretation on a timely basis.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued) Summary of significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below:

(1) Foreign currency translation

These financial statements are presented in Hong Kong dollars (“HKD”), which is the Bank’s functional currency. Each entity in the Group determines its own functional currency and items included in the financial statements of each entity are measured using that functional currency.

(i) Transactions and balances

Transactions in foreign currencies are initially recorded in the functional currency rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the functional currency rates of exchange ruling at the end of the reporting period. Differences arising on settlement or translation of monetary items are recognised in “Other operating income” or “Other operating expenses” in the consolidated income statement with the exception of differences on foreign currency borrowings that provide an effective hedge against a net investment in a foreign entity which is taken directly to equity until the disposal of the net investment, at which time they are recognised in the consolidated income statement. Tax charges and credits attributable to exchange differences on those borrowings are also recorded in OCI.

Non-monetary items that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates as at the dates of the initial transactions. Non-monetary items measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when the fair value was measured. The gain or loss arising on translation of a non-monetary item measured at fair value is treated in line with the recognition of the gain or loss on change in fair value of the item (i.e. translation difference on the item whose fair value gain or loss is recognised in OCI or profit or loss is also recognised in OCI or profit or loss, respectively).

Any goodwill arising on the acquisition of a foreign operation and any fair value adjustments to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities arising on the acquisition are treated as assets and liabilities of the foreign operation and translated at the closing rate.

(ii) Group companies

As at the reporting date, the assets and liabilities of subsidiaries and overseas branches and offices are translated into the Group’s presentation currency at the rates of exchange ruling at the end of the reporting period, and their statements of comprehensive income are translated at the weighted average exchange rates for the year. Exchange differences arising on translation are taken directly to a separate component of equity. On disposal of a foreign entity, the deferred cumulative amount recognised in equity relating to that particular foreign operation is recognised in the consolidated income statement as part of gain or loss on disposal.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued) Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

(2) Financial instruments – initial recognition and subsequent measurement

Policy applicable from 1 January 2018

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity.

(i) Financial assets

Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets are classified, at initial recognition, as subsequently measured at amortised cost, FVOCI, and FVPL.

The classification of financial assets at initial recognition depends on the financial asset's contractual cash flow characteristics and the Group's business model for managing them. With the exception of receivables that do not contain a significant financing component or for which the Group has applied the practical expedient, the Group initially measures a financial asset at its fair value plus, in the case of a financial asset not at FVPL, transaction costs. Receivables that do not contain a significant financing component or for which the Group has applied the practical expedient are measured at the transaction price determined under HKFRS 15.

In order for a financial asset to be classified and measured at amortised cost or FVOCI, it needs to give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding. This assessment is referred to as the solely payments of principal and interest test and is performed at an instrument level.

The Group's business model for managing financial assets refers to how it manages its financial assets in order to generate cash flows. The business model determines whether cash flows will result from collecting contractual cash flows, selling the financial assets, or both.

Purchases or sales of financial assets that require delivery of assets within a time frame established by regulation or convention in the market place (regular way trades) are recognised on the trade date, i.e., the date that the Group commits to purchase or sell the asset.

Subsequent measurement

For purposes of subsequent measurement, financial assets are classified in four categories:

- Financial assets at amortised cost (debt instruments)
- Financial assets at FVOCI with recycling of cumulative gains and losses (debt instruments)
- Financial assets designated at FVOCI with no recycling of cumulative gains and losses upon derecognition (equity instruments)
- Financial assets at FVPL

Financial assets at amortised cost (debt instruments)

This category is the most relevant to the Group. The Group measures financial assets at amortised cost if both of the following conditions are met:

- The financial asset is held within a business model with the objective to hold the financial assets in order to collect contractual cash flows; and
- The contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

(2) Financial instruments – initial recognition and subsequent measurement (Continued)

Policy applicable from 1 January 2018 (Continued)

(i) Financial assets (Continued)

Financial assets at amortised cost (debt instruments) (Continued)

Financial assets at amortised cost are subsequently measured using the effective interest method and are subject to impairment. Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss when the asset is derecognised, modified or impaired.

The Group's financial assets at amortised cost includes cash and short term placements, placements with banks and financial institutions, loans and advances and receivables, and held-to-collect debt securities.

Financial assets at FVOCI (debt instruments)

The Group measures debt instruments at FVOCI if both of the following conditions are met:

- The financial asset is held within a business model with the objective of both holding to collect contractual cash flows and selling; and
- The contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

For debt instruments at FVOCI, interest income, foreign exchange revaluation and impairment losses or reversals are recognised in the consolidated income statement and computed in the same manner as for financial assets measured at amortised cost. The remaining fair value changes are recognised in OCI. Upon derecognition, the cumulative fair value change recognised in OCI is recycled to profit or loss.

Financial assets designated at FVOCI (equity instruments)

Upon initial recognition, the Group can elect to classify irrevocably its equity investments as equity instruments designated at FVOCI when they meet the definition of equity under HKAS 32 *Financial Instruments: Presentation* and are not held for trading. The classification is determined on an instrument-by-instrument basis.

Gains and losses on these financial assets are never recycled to profit or loss. Dividends are recognised as other income in the consolidated income statement when the right of payment has been established, except when the Group benefits from such proceeds as a recovery of part of the cost of the financial asset, in which case, such gains are recorded in OCI. Equity instruments designated at FVOCI are not subject to impairment assessment.

The Group elected to classify irrevocably its non-listed equity investments under this category.

Financial assets at FVPL

Financial assets at FVPL include financial assets held for trading, financial assets designated upon initial recognition at FVPL, or financial assets mandatorily required to be measured at fair value. Financial assets are classified as held for trading if they are acquired for the purpose of selling or repurchasing in the near term. Derivatives, including separated embedded derivatives, are also classified as held for trading unless they are designated as effective hedging instruments. Financial assets with cash flows that are not solely payments of principal and interest are classified and measured at FVPL, irrespective of the business model. Notwithstanding the criteria for debt instruments to be classified at amortised cost or at FVOCI, as described above, debt instruments may be designated at FVPL on initial recognition if doing so eliminates, or significantly reduces, an accounting mismatch.

Financial assets at FVPL are carried in the statement of financial position at fair value with net changes in fair value recognised in the consolidated income statement.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued) Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

(2) Financial instruments – initial recognition and subsequent measurement (Continued)

Policy applicable from 1 January 2018 (Continued)

(i) *Financial assets (Continued)*

Financial assets at FVPL (Continued)

This category includes derivative instruments and listed equity investments which the Group had not irrevocably elected to classify at FVOCI. Dividends on listed equity investments are also recognised as “other operating income” in the consolidated income statement when the right of payment has been established.

A derivative embedded in a hybrid contract, with a financial liability or non-financial host, is separated from the host and accounted for as a separate derivative if: the economic characteristics and risks are not closely related to the host; a separate instrument with the same terms as the embedded derivative would meet the definition of a derivative; and the hybrid contract is not measured at FVPL. Embedded derivatives are measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss. Reassessment only occurs if there is either a change in the terms of the contract that significantly modifies the cash flows that would otherwise be required or a reclassification of a financial asset out of the FVPL category.

A derivative embedded within a hybrid contract containing a financial asset host is not accounted for separately. The financial asset host together with the embedded derivative is required to be classified in its entirety as a financial asset at FVPL.

(ii) *Financial liabilities*

Initial recognition and measurement

Financial liabilities are classified, at initial recognition, as financial liabilities at FVPL, loans and borrowings, payables, or as derivatives designated as hedging instruments in an effective hedge, as appropriate.

All financial liabilities are recognised initially at fair value and, in the case of loans and borrowings and payables, net of directly attributable transaction costs.

The Group’s financial liabilities include deposits and balances of banks and other financial institutions at amortised cost, customer deposits at amortised cost, certificates of deposit issued at amortised cost, unsecured bank loan at amortised cost, other liabilities and foreign exchange contracts.

Subsequent measurement

The measurement of financial liabilities depends on their classification, as described below:

Financial liabilities at FVPL

Financial liabilities at FVPL include financial liabilities held for trading and financial liabilities designated upon initial recognition as at FVPL.

Financial liabilities are classified as held for trading if they are incurred for the purpose of repurchasing in the near term. This category also includes derivative financial instruments entered into by the Group that are not designated as hedging instruments in hedge relationships as defined by HKFRS 9. Separated embedded derivatives are also classified as held for trading unless they are designated as effective hedging instruments.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

(2) Financial instruments – initial recognition and subsequent measurement (Continued)

Policy applicable from 1 January 2018 (Continued)

(ii) *Financial liabilities (Continued)*

Financial liabilities at FVPL (Continued)

Gains or losses on liabilities held for trading are recognised in the consolidated income statement.

Financial liabilities designated upon initial recognition at FVPL are designated at the initial date of recognition, and only if the criteria in HKFRS 9 are satisfied. The Group has not designated any financial liability as at FVPL.

Loans and borrowings

This is the category most relevant to the Group. After initial recognition, interest-bearing loans and borrowings are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss when the liabilities are derecognised as well as through the effective interest rate amortisation process.

Amortised cost is calculated by taking into account any discount or premium on acquisition and fees or costs that are an integral part of the effective interest rate. The effective interest rate amortisation is included as finance costs in the consolidated income statement.

This category generally applies to customer deposits at amortised cost and unsecured bank loans at amortised cost.

Policy applicable prior to 1 January 2018

(i) *Date of recognition*

Purchases or sales of financial assets that require delivery of assets within the time frame generally established by regulation or convention in the market place are recognised on the trade date, i.e. the date that the Group commits to purchase or sell the asset. Derivatives are recognised on the trade date basis.

(ii) *Initial recognition of financial instruments*

The classification of financial instruments at initial recognition depends on the purpose for which the financial instruments are acquired and their characteristics. All financial instruments are measured initially at their fair value plus, in the case of financial assets and financial liabilities not at FVPL, any directly attributable incremental costs of acquisition or issue.

(iii) *Derivative financial instruments*

Derivatives include interest rate swaps and futures, cross currency swaps, forward foreign exchange contracts and options on interest rates, foreign currencies and equities. Derivatives are recorded at fair value and carried as assets when their fair value is positive and as liabilities when their fair value is negative. Changes in the fair value of derivatives held for trading are included in “Net gain or loss on derivative financial instruments”.

Derivatives embedded in other financial instruments, such as the conversion option in an acquired convertible bond, are treated as separate derivatives and recorded at fair value if their economic characteristics and risks are not closely related to those of the host contract, and the host contract is not itself held for trading or designated at FVPL. The embedded derivatives separated from the host contract are carried at fair value in the trading portfolio with changes in fair value recognised in the consolidated income statement.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

(2) Financial instruments – initial recognition and subsequent measurement (Continued)

Policy applicable prior to 1 January 2018 (Continued)

(iv) Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

Financial assets classified in this category are held for trading or are designated by management on initial recognition when the following criteria are met:

- the designation eliminates or significantly reduces the inconsistent treatment that would otherwise arise from measuring the assets or liabilities or recognising gains or losses on them on a different basis; or
- the assets and liabilities are part of a group of financial assets, financial liabilities or both which are managed and their performance evaluated on a fair value basis, in accordance with a documented risk management or investment strategy; or
- the financial instrument contains an embedded derivative, unless the embedded derivative does significantly modify the cash flows or it is clear, with little or no analysis, that it would not be separately recorded.

Financial assets and financial liabilities at FVPL are recorded in the consolidated statement of financial position at fair value. Changes in fair value are recorded in “Net gain or loss on financial assets designated at FVPL”. Interest earned or incurred is accrued in interest income or expense, respectively, according to the terms of the contract, while dividend income is recorded in “Other operating income” when the right to the payment has been established.

(v) Held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost

Held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost measured at amortised cost are those which carry fixed or determinable payments and have fixed maturity and which the Group has the intention and ability to hold to maturity. After initial measurement, held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less allowance for impairment. Amortised cost is calculated by taking into account any discount or premium on acquisition and fees that are an integral part of the effective interest rate. The amortisation is included in “Interest income” in the consolidated income statement. The losses arising from impairment of such investments are recognised in the consolidated income statement as “Impairment allowances for held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost”.

(vi) Cash and short term placements, placements with banks and financial institutions, and loans and advances and receivables

Cash and short term placements, placements with banks and financial institutions, and loans and advances and receivables are categorised as loans and advances, and receivables. They are carried at amortised cost and are financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturities that are not quoted in an active market. They are not entered into with the intention of immediate or short-term resale. After initial measurement, amounts due from banks and loans and advances and receivables are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less allowance for impairment. Amortised cost is calculated by taking into account any discount or premium on acquisition and fees and costs that are an integral part of the effective interest rate. The amortisation is included in “Interest income” in the consolidated income statement. The losses arising from impairment are recognised in the consolidated income statement in “Impairment allowances for loans and advances and receivables”.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

(2) Financial instruments – initial recognition and subsequent measurement (Continued)

Policy applicable prior to 1 January 2018 (Continued)

(vii) Available-for-sale financial assets

Available-for-sale financial assets are those which are designated as such or do not qualify to be classified as at FVPL, held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost or loans and advances. They include equity instruments, investments in mutual funds and money markets and other debt instruments.

After initial measurement, available-for-sale financial assets are subsequently measured at fair value. Unrealised gains and losses are recognised directly in equity in the “Available-for-sale financial asset revaluation reserve”.

When the security is disposed of, the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in equity is recognised in the consolidated income statement in “Other operating income” or “Other operating expenses”. Where the Group holds more than one investment in the same security, they are deemed to be disposed of on a first-in, first-out basis. Interest earned whilst holding available-for-sale financial assets is reported as interest income using the effective interest rate method. Dividends earned whilst holding available-for-sale financial assets are recognised in the consolidated income statement as “Other operating income” when the right of the payment has been established. The losses arising from impairment of such investments are recognised in the consolidated income statement in “Impairment allowances for available-for-sale financial assets” and removed from the “Available-for-sale financial asset revaluation reserve”.

(viii) Certificates of deposit

Issued financial instruments or their components, which are not designated at FVPL, are classified as liabilities under “Certificates of deposit issued at amortised cost” where the substance of the contractual arrangement results in the Group having an obligation either to deliver cash or another financial asset to the holder, or to satisfy the obligation other than by the exchange of a fixed amount of cash or another financial asset for a fixed number of own equity shares. The components of compound financial instruments, that contain both liability and equity elements, are accounted for separately, with the equity component being assigned the residual amount after deducting from the instrument as a whole the amount separately determined as the fair value of the liability component on the date of issue.

After initial measurement, debt issued and other borrowings are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. Amortised cost is calculated by taking into account any discount or premium on the issue and costs that are an integral part of the effective interest rate.

(ix) Loans and borrowings

After initial recognition, interest-bearing loans and borrowings are subsequently measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost. Gains and losses are recognised in the consolidated income statement when the liabilities are derecognised as well as through the amortisation process using the effective interest rate method. Amortised cost is calculated by taking into account any discount or premium on acquisition and fees or costs that are an integral part of the effective interest rate. The effective interest rate amortisation is included in finance costs in the consolidated income statement.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued) Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

(3) Financial guarantees

In the ordinary course of business, the Group gives financial guarantees, consisting of letters of credit, guarantees and acceptances. Financial guarantees are initially recognised in the financial statements in “Other liabilities” at fair value less transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or issue of the financial guarantee contract, except when such contract is recognised at FVPL. Subsequent to initial recognition, the Group measures the financial guarantee contract at the higher of the amortised premium and the best estimate of expenditure required to settle any financial obligation arising as a result of the guarantee.

Any increase in the liability relating to financial guarantees is taken to the consolidated income statement. The premium received is recognised in the consolidated income statement in “Net fees and commission income” under “Other operating income” on a straight-line basis over the life of the guarantee.

(4) Derecognition of financial assets and financial liabilities

(i) Financial assets

A financial asset (or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is primarily derecognised (i.e. removed from the Group’s consolidated statement of financial position) when:

- the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired; or
- the Group has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset or has assumed an obligation to pay the received cash flows in full without material delay to a third party under a “pass-through” arrangement; and either (a) the Group has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, or (b) the Group has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, but has transferred control of the asset.

When the Group has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from an asset or has entered into a “pass-through” arrangement, it evaluates if and to what extent it has retained the risk and rewards of ownership of the asset. When it has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset nor transferred control of the asset, the Group continues to recognise the transferred asset to the extent of the Group’s continuing involvement. In that case, the Group also recognises an associated liability. The transferred asset and the associated liability are measured on a basis that reflects the rights and obligations that the Group has retained.

Continuing involvement that takes the form of a guarantee over the transferred asset is measured at the lower of the original carrying amount of the asset and the maximum amount of consideration that the Group could be required to repay.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

(4) Derecognition of financial assets and financial liabilities (Continued)

(ii) *Financial liabilities*

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged or cancelled, or expires. Where an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as a derecognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability, and the difference in the respective carrying amounts is recognised in the consolidated income statement.

(iii) *Offsetting of financial instruments*

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset and the net amount is reported in the statement of financial position if there is a currently enforceable legal right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or to realise the assets and settle the liabilities simultaneously.

(5) Fair value measurement

The Group measures its investment properties and derivative financial instruments at fair value at the end of each reporting period. Fair value is the price that will be received from selling an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement is based on the presumption that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either in the principal market for the asset or liability, or in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability. The principal or the most advantageous market must be accessible by the Group. The fair value of an asset or a liability is measured using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming that market participants act in their economic best interest.

A fair value measurement of a non-financial asset takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that will use the asset in its highest and best use.

The Group uses valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data are available to measure fair value, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

- Level 1: based on quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2: based on valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is observable, either directly or indirectly
- Level 3: based on valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable

For assets and liabilities that are recognised in the financial statements on a recurring basis, the Group determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by reassessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued) Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

(6) Impairment of financial assets

Policy applicable from 1 January 2018

The Group recognises an allowance for ECLs for all debt instruments not held at FVPL. ECLs are based on the difference between the contractual cash flows due in accordance with the contract and all the cash flows that the Group expects to receive, discounted at an approximation of the original effective interest rate. The expected cash flows will include cash flows from the sale of collateral held or other credit enhancements that are integral to the contractual terms.

ECLs are recognised in two stages. For credit exposures for which there has not been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, ECLs are provided for credit losses that result from default events that are possible within the next 12 months (a 12-month ECL). For those credit exposures for which there has been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, a loss allowance is required for credit losses expected over the remaining life of the exposure, irrespective of the timing of the default (a lifetime ECL). For credit cards and revolving facilities that include both the loan and undrawn commitments, financial guarantees and letters of credit, ECLs are calculated and presented together with the loan.

For accounts receivables from contracts with customers, the Group applies a simplified approach in calculating ECLs. Therefore, the Group does not track changes in credit risk, but instead recognises a loss allowance based on lifetime ECLs at each reporting date. The Group has established a provision matrix that is based on its historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic conditions.

For loan and advances, trade bills, accrued interests, loan commitments and financial guarantee contracts and letters of credit, the ECL is based on the 12-month ECL. The 12-month ECL is a portion of lifetime ECLs that results from default events on a financial instrument that are possible within 12 months after the reporting date. However, when there has been a significant increase in credit risk since origination, the allowances will be based on the lifetime ECL.

The Group considers that there has been a significant increase in credit risk (i.e. Stage 2 for ECL calculations) in all cases when contractual payments are more than 30 days past due. The Group considers a financial asset in default (i.e. Stage 3 (credit-impaired) for ECL calculations) in all cases when contractual payments are 90 days past due. However, in certain cases, the Group may also consider a financial asset to be in default when internal or external information indicates that the Group is unlikely to receive the outstanding contractual amounts in full before taking into account any credit enhancements held by the Group. A financial asset is written off when there is no reasonable expectation of recovering the contractual cash flows.

As a part of a qualitative assessment of whether a customer is in default, the Group also considers a variety of instances that may indicate unlikeliness to pay. When such events occur, the Group carefully considers whether the event should result in treating the customer as defaulted and therefore assessed as Stage 3 for ECL calculations or whether Stage 2 is appropriate. Such events include:

- Internal rating of the borrower indicating default or near-default
- The borrower requesting emergency funding from the Group
- The borrower having past due liabilities to public creditors or employees

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued) Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

(6) Impairment of financial assets (Continued)

Policy applicable from 1 January 2018 (Continued)

- The borrower is deceased
- A material decrease in the underlying collateral value where the recovery of the loan is expected from the sale of the collateral
- A material decrease in the borrower's turnover or the loss of a major customer
- A covenant breach not waived by the Group
- The debtor (or any legal entity within the debtor's group) filing for bankruptcy application/protection
- Debtor's listed debt or equity suspended at the primary exchange because of rumours or facts about financial difficulties

It is the Group's policy to consider a financial instrument as 'cured' and therefore reclassified out of Stage 3 when none of the default criteria have been present for at least six consecutive months. The decision whether to classify an asset as Stage 2 or Stage 1 once cured depends on the updated credit grade, at the time of the cure, and whether this indicates there has been a significant increase in credit risk compared to initial recognition.

All exposures attributed to the held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost/held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost were rated with a grading of A3 or above based on the credit rating of Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's"), an external credit agency, as at 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017. Over 90% (31 December 2017: over 90%) of the placements were deposited with banks and financial institutions rated with a grading of Baa2 or above based on the credit rating of Moody's. Therefore, they are considered to be low credit risk investments. It is the Group's policy to measure ECLs on such instruments on a 12-month basis. However, when there has been a significant increase in credit risk since origination, the allowance will be based on the lifetime ECL. The Group uses the ratings from the Moody's both to determine whether the debt instrument has significant increase in credit risk and to estimate ECLs.

Policy applicable prior to 1 January 2018

The Group assesses at the end of each reporting period whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or a group of financial assets is impaired. An impairment exists if one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the asset has/have an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset or the group of financial assets that can be reliably estimated. Evidence of impairment may include indications that a borrower or a group of borrowers is/are experiencing significant financial difficulty, default or delinquency in interest or principal payments, the probability that they will enter bankruptcy or other financial reorganisation and observable data indicating that there is a measurable decrease in the estimated future cash flows, such as changes in arrears or economic conditions that correlate with default.

- (i) *Placements with banks and financial institutions, and loans and advances and receivables*
For amounts due from banks and loans and advances to customers carried at amortised cost, the Group first assesses whether impairment exists individually for financial assets that are individually significant, or collectively for financial assets that are not individually significant. If the Group determines that no objective evidence of impairment exists for an individually assessed financial asset, whether significant or not, the asset is included in a group of financial assets with similar credit risk characteristics and the Group collectively assesses them for impairment. Assets that are individually assessed for impairment and for which an impairment loss is, or continues to be, recognised are not included in a collective assessment of impairment.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued) Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

(6) Impairment of financial assets (Continued)

Policy applicable prior to 1 January 2018 (Continued)

(i) *Placements with banks and financial institutions, and loans and advances and receivables (Continued)*

The amount of any impairment loss identified is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows (excluding future ECLs that have not yet been incurred). The carrying amount of the asset is reduced through the use of an allowance account and the loss is recognised in the consolidated income statement. Interest income continues to be accrued on the reduced carrying amount based on the original effective interest rate of the asset. Loans together with the associated allowance are written off when there is no realistic prospect of future recovery and all collateral had been realised or had been transferred to the Group. If, in a subsequent year, the amount of the estimated impairment loss increases or decreases because of an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the previously recognised impairment loss is increased or reduced by adjusting the allowance account. Any subsequent reversal of an impairment is recognised in the consolidated income statement, to the extent that the carrying value of the asset does not exceed its amortised cost at the reversal date. If a future write-off is later recovered, the recovery is credited to "Impairment losses and allowances" in the consolidated income statement.

The present value of the estimated future cash flows is discounted at the financial asset's original effective interest rate. The calculation of the present value of the estimated future cash flows of a collateralised financial asset reflects the cash flows that may result from foreclosure less costs for obtaining and selling the collateral, whether or not foreclosure is probable.

For the purpose of a collective evaluation of impairment, financial assets are grouped on the basis of the Group's internal credit risk-based system that considers credit risk characteristics such as asset type, industry, collateral type, economic factors and other relevant factors.

Future cash flows on a group of financial assets that are collectively evaluated for impairment are estimated on the basis of historical loss experience for assets with credit risk characteristics similar to those in the group. Historical loss experience is adjusted on the basis of current observable data to reflect the effects of current conditions that did not affect the years on which the historical loss experience is based and to remove the effects of conditions in the historical period that do not exist currently. Estimates of changes in future cash flows reflect, and are directionally consistent with, changes in related observable data from year to year (such as changes in unemployment rates, property prices, commodity prices, payment status, or other factors that are indicative of incurred losses in the group and their magnitude). The methodology and assumptions used for estimating future cash flows are reviewed regularly to reduce any differences between loss estimates and actual loss experience.

(ii) *Held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost*

For held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost, the Group assesses individually whether there is objective evidence of impairment. If there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows. The carrying amount of the asset is reduced and the amount of the loss is recognised in the consolidated income statement.

If, in a subsequent year, the amount of the estimated impairment loss decreases because of an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, any amounts formerly charged are credited to "Impairment allowances for held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost", to the extent that the carrying value of the asset does not exceed its amortised cost at the reversal date.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued) Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

(6) Impairment of financial assets (Continued)

Policy applicable prior to 1 January 2018 (Continued)

(iii) Available-for-sale financial assets

For available-for-sale financial assets, the Group assesses at the end of each reporting period whether there is objective evidence that an investment or a group of investments is impaired.

If an available-for-sale asset is impaired, an amount comprising the difference between its cost (net of any principal payment and amortisation) and its current fair value, less any impairment loss previously recognised in the consolidated income statement, is removed from OCI and recognised in the consolidated income statement.

In the case of equity investments classified as available-for-sale, objective evidence would include a significant or prolonged decline in the fair value of an investment below its cost. "Significant" is evaluated against the original cost of the investment and "prolonged" against the period in which the fair value has been below its original cost. Where there is evidence of impairment, the cumulative loss – measured as the difference between the acquisition cost and the current fair value, less any impairment loss on that investment previously recognised in the consolidated income statement – is removed from OCI and recognised in the consolidated income statement. Impairment losses on equity instruments classified as available-for-sale are not reversed through the consolidated income statement. Increases in their fair value after impairment are recognised directly in OCI.

The determination of what is "significant" or "prolonged" requires judgement. In making this judgement, the Group evaluates, among other factors, the duration or extent to which the fair value of an investment is less than its cost.

In the case of debt instruments classified as available-for-sale, impairment is assessed based on the same criteria as financial assets carried at amortised cost. However, the amount recorded for impairment is the cumulative loss measured as the difference between the amortised cost and the current fair value, less any impairment loss on that investment previously recognised in the consolidated income statement. Future interest income continues to be accrued based on the reduced carrying amount of the asset and is accrued using the rate of interest used to discount the future cash flows for the purpose of measuring the impairment loss. The interest income is recorded as part of finance income. Impairment losses on debt instruments are reversed through the consolidated income statement if the increase in fair value of the instruments can be objectively related to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised in the consolidated income statement.

(7) Leases

The determination of whether an arrangement is, or contains, a lease is based on the substance of the arrangement at the inception date: whether the fulfillment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of a specific asset or assets and the arrangement conveys a right to use the asset.

(i) Group as a lessee

Finance leases, which transfer to the Group substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of the leased item other than legal titles, are capitalised at the inception of the lease at the fair value of the leased property or, if lower, at the present value of the minimum lease payments and classified as "Property and equipment" but represented on a separate line with the corresponding liability to the lessor included in "Other liabilities". Lease payments are apportioned between the finance charges and reduction of the lease liability so as to achieve a constant rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability. Finance charges are charged directly against income in "Interest expense" in the consolidated income statement.

Capitalised leased assets are depreciated over the shorter of the estimated useful life of the asset and the lease term, if there is no reasonable certainty that the Group will obtain ownership by the end of the lease term.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued) Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

(7) Leases (Continued)

(i) *Group as a lessee (Continued)*

Operating lease payments are not recognised in the consolidated statement of financial position. Any rentals payable are accounted for on a straight-line basis over the lease term and are included in "Operating expenses".

Land held under finance leases are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment, and are depreciated over the remaining lease terms on a straight-line basis to the consolidated income statement.

Medium-term leases are leases with remaining lease period of more than 10 years but not more than 50 years. Long-term leases are leases with remaining lease period of more than 50 years.

(ii) *Group as a lessor*

Leases where the Group retains substantially all the risks and benefits of ownership of the asset are classified as operating leases. The Group leases out all of its investment properties as operating leases, thus generating rental income. Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating operating leases are added to the carrying amount of the leased asset and are recognised over the lease term on the same basis as rental income. Contingent rents are recognised as revenue in the period in which they are earned.

The amounts due from the lessees under finance leases are recorded in the consolidated statement of financial position as loans and advances to customers. The amount comprises the gross investment in the finance leases less gross earnings allocated to future accounting periods. The total gross earnings under finance leases are allocated to the accounting periods over the duration of the underlying agreements so as to produce an approximately constant periodic rate of return on the net cash investment for each accounting period.

(8) Recognition of revenue and expenditure

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Group and the revenue can be reliably measured. The following specific recognition criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised:

(i) *Interest income and expense*

For all financial instruments measured at amortised cost and interest-bearing financial instruments classified as available-for-sale financial assets, interest income or expense is recorded at the effective interest rate, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts over the expected life of the financial instrument or a shorter period, where appropriate, to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability. The calculation takes into account all contractual terms of the financial instrument (for example, prepayment options) and includes any fees or incremental costs that are directly attributable to the instrument and are an integral part of the effective interest rate, but not future credit losses. The carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability is adjusted if the Group revises its estimates of payments or receipts. The adjusted carrying amount is calculated based on the original effective interest rate and the change in the carrying amount is recorded as interest income or expense.

Once the value of a financial asset or a group of similar financial assets had been reduced due to an impairment loss, interest income continues to be recognised using the original effective interest rate applied to the new carrying amount.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

(8) Recognition of revenue and expenditure (Continued)

(ii) *Fee and commission income*

The Group earns fee and commission income from a diverse range of services it provides to its customers. Fee income can be divided into the following two categories:

- (a) Fee income earned from services that are provided over a certain period of time
Fees earned from the provision of services over a period of time are accrued over that period. These fees include commission income and asset management, custody and other management and advisory fees. Loan commitment fees for loans that are likely to be drawn down and other credit related fees are deferred (together with any incremental costs) and recognised as an adjustment to the effective interest rate on the loan.
- (b) Fee income from providing transaction services
Fees arising from negotiating or participating in the negotiation of a transaction for a third party, such as the arrangement of the acquisition of shares or other securities or the purchase or sale of businesses, are recognised on completion of the underlying transaction.

(iii) *Dividend income*

Dividend income is recognised when the Group's right to receive the payment is established.

(iv) *Net trading income*

Net trading income arising from trading activities includes all gains and losses from changes in fair value for financial assets and financial liabilities held for trading. Gains and losses on foreign exchange trading and other transactions are also reported as "Net trading income" except for those gains and losses on translation of foreign currencies recognised in the translation reserve.

(v) *Rental income*

Rental income arising on investment properties is accounted for on a straight-line basis over the lease terms on ongoing leases and is recorded in the consolidated income statement as "Other operating income".

(9) Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of consolidated statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand, amounts due from banks on demand or with original maturity within three months and held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost/held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost with original maturity within three months.

(10) Business combinations and goodwill

Business combinations are accounted for using the acquisition method. The consideration transferred is measured at the acquisition date fair value which is the sum of the acquisition date fair values of assets transferred by the Group, liabilities assumed by the Group to the former owners of the acquiree and the equity interests issued by the Group in exchange for control of the acquiree. For each business combination, the Group elects whether to measure the non-controlling interests in the acquiree that are present ownership interests and entitle their holders to a proportionate share of net assets in the event of liquidation at fair value or at the proportionate share of the acquiree's identifiable net assets. All other components of non-controlling interests are measured at fair value. Acquisition-related costs are expensed as incurred.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued) Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

(10) Business combinations and goodwill (Continued)

When the Group acquires a business, it assesses the financial assets and liabilities assumed for appropriate classification and designation in accordance with the contractual terms, economic circumstances and pertinent conditions as at the acquisition date. This includes the separation of embedded derivatives in host contracts of the acquiree.

If the business combination is achieved in stages, the previously held equity interest is re-measured at its acquisition date fair value and any resulting gain or loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Any contingent consideration to be transferred by the acquirer is recognised at fair value at the acquisition date. Contingent consideration classified as an asset or a liability is measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss. Contingent consideration that is classified as equity is not re-measured and subsequent settlement is accounted for within equity.

Goodwill is initially measured at cost, being the excess of the aggregate of the consideration transferred, the amount recognised for non-controlling interests and any fair value of the Group's previously held equity interests in the acquiree over the identifiable net assets acquired and liabilities assumed. If the sum of this consideration and other items is lower than the fair value of the net assets of the subsidiary acquired, the difference is, after reassessment, recognised in the consolidated income statement as a gain on bargain purchase.

After initial recognition, goodwill is measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. Goodwill is tested for impairment annually or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may be impaired. The Group performs its annual impairment test of goodwill as at 31 December. For the purpose of impairment testing, goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the Group's cash-generating units (the "CGU(s)"), or group of CGUs, that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the Group are assigned to those units or groups of units.

Impairment is determined by assessing the recoverable amount of the CGU (group of CGUs) to which the goodwill relates. Where the recoverable amount of the CGU (group of CGUs) is less than the carrying amount, an impairment loss is recognised. An impairment loss recognised for goodwill is not reversed in a subsequent period.

Where goodwill has been allocated to a CGU (or group of CGUs) and part of the operation within that unit is disposed of, the goodwill associated with the operation disposed of is included in the carrying amount of the operation when determining the gain or loss on the disposal. Goodwill disposed of in these circumstances is measured based on the relative values of the operation disposed of and the portion of the CGU retained.

(11) Joint ventures

The Group's investments in joint ventures are stated in the consolidated statement of financial position at the Group's share of net assets under the equity method of accounting, less any impairment loss.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued) Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

(12) Related parties

A party is considered to be related to the Group if:

- (a) the party is a person or a close member of that person's family and that person
 - (i) has control or joint control over the Group;
 - (ii) has significant influence over the Group; or
 - (iii) is a member of the key management personnel of the Group or of a parent of the Group;

or

- (b) the party is an entity where any of the following conditions applies:
 - (i) the entity and the Group are members of the same group;
 - (ii) one entity is an associate or joint venture of the other entity (or of a parent, subsidiary or fellow subsidiary of the other entity);
 - (iii) the entity and the Group are joint ventures of the same third party;
 - (iv) one entity is a joint venture of a third entity and the other entity is an associate of the third entity;
 - (v) the entity is a post-employment benefit plan for the benefit of employees of either the Group or an entity related to the Group;
 - (vi) the entity is controlled or jointly controlled by a person identified in (a);
 - (vii) a person identified in (a)(i) has significant influence over the entity or is a member of the key management personnel of the entity (or of a parent of the entity); and
 - (viii) the entity, or any member of a group of which it is a part, provides key management personal services to the Group or to the parent of the Group.

(13) Property and equipment, and depreciation

Property and equipment are stated at cost, except for certain buildings transferred from investment properties which are stated at deemed cost at the date of transfer, less accumulated depreciation and impairment. The cost of an asset comprises its purchase price and any directly attributable costs of bringing the asset to its working condition and location for its intended use. Expenditure incurred after items of property and equipment have been put into operation, such as repairs and maintenance, is normally charged to the consolidated income statement in the period in which it is incurred. In situations where it can be clearly demonstrated that the expenditure has resulted in an increase in the future economic benefits expected to be obtained from the use of an item of property and equipment, and where the cost of the item can be measured reliably, the expenditure is capitalised as an additional cost of that asset or as a replacement.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued) Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

(13) Property and equipment, and depreciation (Continued)

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis to write off the cost of each item of property and equipment to its residual value over its estimated useful life. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Buildings | Over the shorter of the remaining lease terms and 50 years |
| • Leasehold improvements: | |
| Own leasehold buildings | 3 to 5 years |
| Others | Over the shorter of the remaining lease terms and 7 years |
| • Furniture, fixtures, equipment and motor vehicles | 3 to 10 years |
| • Land held under finance leases | Over the lease term |

Where parts of an item of property and equipment have different useful lives, the cost of that item is allocated on a reasonable basis among the parts and each part is depreciated separately.

Residual values, useful lives and the depreciation method are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

An item of property and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal. Any gain or loss on disposal or retirement recognised in the consolidated income statement in the year the asset is derecognised is the difference between the net sales proceeds and the carrying amount of the relevant asset.

Land held under finance leases is stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment, and is depreciated over the remaining lease terms on a straight-line basis to the consolidated income statement.

Medium-term leases are leases with remaining lease periods of more than 10 years to 50 years. Long-term leases are leases with remaining lease periods of more than 50 years.

(14) Investment properties

Investment properties are interests in land and buildings held to earn rental income and/or for capital appreciation, rather than for use in the production or supply of goods or services or for administrative purposes; or for sale in the ordinary course of business. Such properties are measured initially at cost, including transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, investment properties are stated at fair value, which reflects market conditions at the end of the reporting period. Gains or losses arising from changes in the fair values of investment properties are included in the consolidated income statement in the year in which they arise.

Any gains or losses on the retirement or disposal of an investment property are recognised in the consolidated income statement in the year of retirement or disposal.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued) Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

(14) Investment properties (Continued)

For a transfer from investment properties to owner-occupied properties or inventories, the deemed cost of a property for subsequent accounting is its fair value at the date of change in use. If a property occupied by the Group as an owner-occupied property becomes an investment property, the Group accounts for such property in accordance with the policy stated under "Property and equipment, and depreciation" up to the date of change in use, and any difference at that date between the carrying amount and the fair value of the property is accounted for as a revaluation in accordance with the policy stated under "Property and equipment, and depreciation" above. For a transfer from inventories to investment properties, any difference between the fair value of the property at that date and its previous carrying amount is recognised in the consolidated income statement.

(15) Intangible assets (other than goodwill)

Intangible assets, representing eligibility rights to trade on or through Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, are stated at cost less impairment. The useful lives are assessed to be indefinite and they are reviewed annually to determine whether the indefinite life assessment continues to be supportable. If not, the change in the useful life assessment from indefinite to finite is accounted for on a prospective basis. The carrying amount of intangible assets is subject to an annual impairment test, and impairment, if any, is charged to the consolidated income statement.

(16) Impairment of non-financial assets

The Group assesses at each reporting date or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may be impaired, whether there is an indication that a non-financial asset may be impaired. If any such indication exists, or when annual impairment testing for an asset is required, the Group will make an estimate of the asset's recoverable amount. Where the carrying amount of an asset (or CGU) exceeds its recoverable amount, the asset (or CGU) that the Group considered impaired is written down to its recoverable amount.

For assets excluding goodwill and deferred tax assets, an assessment is made at each reporting date as to determine whether there is an indication that previously recognised impairment losses may no longer exist or may have decreased. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount is estimated. A previously recognised impairment loss is reversed only if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the asset's recoverable amount but not to an amount higher than the carrying amount that would have been determined (net of any depreciation/amortisation) had no impairment been recognised for the asset in prior years. A reversal of such an impairment loss is credited to the consolidated income statement in the period it arises.

(17) Repossessed assets and valuation of collateral

Collateral assets for loans and advances and receivables are repossessed by the Group when the borrowers are unable to service their repayments, and would be realised in satisfaction of outstanding debts. Advances with repossessed collateral assets will continue to be accounted for as customer advances, except for those where the Group has taken the legal title and control of the repossessed collateral assets, in which cases the repossessed assets are shown under other accounts at the predetermined value with a corresponding reduction in the related advances. Individual impairment allowance is made on the shortfall between the expected net realisable value of the repossessed assets and the outstanding advances.

Repossessed assets are recognised at the lower of the carrying amount of the related loans and advances and receivables and fair value less costs to sell.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued) Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

(18) Provisions

A provision is recognised when a present obligation (legal or constructive) has arisen as a result of a past event and it is probable that a future outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, provided that a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

When the effect of discounting is material, the amount recognised for a provision is the present value at the end of the reporting period of the future expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation. The increase in the discounted present value amount arising from the passage of time is included in "Operating expenses" in the consolidated income statement.

(19) Income tax

Income tax comprises current and deferred tax. Income tax is recognised in the consolidated income statement, or in equity if it relates to items that are recognised in the same or a different period directly in equity.

Current tax assets and liabilities are measured at the amount expected to be recovered from or paid to the taxation authorities.

Deferred tax is provided, using the liability method, on all temporary differences at the end of the reporting period between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts for financial reporting purposes.

Deferred tax liabilities are recognised for all taxable temporary differences, except:

- when the deferred tax liability arises from the initial recognition of an asset or a liability in a transaction that is not a business combination and, at the time of the transaction, affects neither the accounting profit nor taxable profit or loss; and
- in respect of taxable temporary differences associated with investments in subsidiaries and joint ventures, when the timing of the reversal of the temporary differences can be controlled and it is probable that the temporary differences will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

Deferred tax assets are recognised for all deductible temporary differences, the carryforward of unused tax credit and any unused tax losses. Deferred tax assets are recognised, to the extent that it is probable that taxable profit will be available against which the deductible temporary differences, and the carryforward of unused tax credit and unused tax losses can be utilised, except:

- when the deferred tax asset relating to the deductible temporary differences arises from the initial recognition of an asset or a liability in a transaction that is not a business combination and, at the time of the transaction, affects neither the accounting profit nor taxable profit or loss; and
- in respect of deductible temporary differences associated with investments in subsidiaries and joint ventures, deferred tax assets are only recognised to the extent that it is probable that the temporary differences will reverse in the foreseeable future and taxable profit will be available against which the temporary differences can be utilised.

Notes to Financial Statements

5. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued) Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

(19) Income tax (Continued)

The carrying amount of deferred tax assets is reviewed at the end of each reporting period and reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that sufficient taxable profit will be available to allow all or part of the deferred tax asset to be utilised. Unrecognised deferred tax assets are reassessed at the end of each reporting period and are recognised to the extent that it is probable that sufficient taxable profit will be available to allow all or part of the deferred tax asset to be recovered.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured at the tax rates that are expected to apply to the period when the asset is realised or the liability is settled, based on tax rates and tax laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the end of the reporting period.

Deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities are offset if a legally enforceable right exists to set off current tax assets against current tax liabilities and the deferred taxes relate to the same taxable entity and the same taxation authority.

(20) Employee benefits

(i) Retirement benefit schemes

The Group participates in two defined contribution retirement benefit schemes for those employees who are eligible to participate. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the Group in independently administered funds.

Contribution for Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) Scheme is made based on a percentage of the participating employees' relevant monthly income from the Group while contribution for Occupational Retirement Schemes Ordinance (ORSO) Scheme is made based on the participating employees' basic salary, and the contributions are charged to the consolidated income statement as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the respective schemes. When an employee leaves the Group prior to his/her interest in the Group's employer non-mandatory contributions vesting with the employee, the ongoing contributions payable by the Group may be reduced by the relevant amount of forfeited contributions. The Group's mandatory contributions vest fully with the employee.

(ii) Employee leave entitlements

The cost of accumulating compensated absences is recognised as an expense and measured based on the additional amount that the Group expects to pay as a result of the unused entitlement that has accumulated as at the end of the reporting period.

(21) Dividends

Final dividends proposed by the Directors will remain in retained profits within reserves in the consolidated statement of financial position, until they have been approved by the shareholders in a general meeting. Final dividends are recognised as a liability when they are approved by the shareholders in the general meeting.

Interim dividends and special dividends are simultaneously proposed and declared by the Directors. Consequently, interim dividends and special dividends are recognised directly as a liability when they are proposed and declared.

Notes to Financial Statements

6. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES

Estimation uncertainty

The key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year, are described below.

Impairment allowances on loans and advances and receivables

The measurement of impairment losses under both HKFRS 9 and HKAS 39 across all categories of financial assets requires judgement, in particular, the estimation of the amount and timing of future cash flows and collateral values when determining impairment losses and the assessment of a significant increase in credit risk. These estimates are driven by a number of factors, changes in which can result in different levels of allowances.

The Group's ECL calculations are outputs of complex models with a number of underlying assumptions regarding the choice of variable inputs and their interdependencies. Elements of the ECL models that are considered accounting judgements and estimates include:

- The Group's internal credit grading model, which assigns probabilities of default to the individual grades
- The Group's criteria for assessing if there has been a significant increase in credit risk and so allowances for financial assets should be measured on a lifetime ECL basis and the qualitative assessment
- The segmentation of financial assets based on risk characteristics of the customers and by product types when their ECL is assessed on a collective basis
- Development of ECL models, including the various formulas and the choice of inputs over determination of the period over which the entity is exposed to credit risk based on the behavioural life of the credit exposures, loss given default and collateral recovery of the credit exposures
- Determination of associations between macroeconomic scenarios and, economic inputs, such as unemployment levels and collateral values, and the effect on probabilities of default, exposures at default and losses given default
- Selection of forward-looking macroeconomic scenarios and their probability weightings, to derive the economic inputs into the ECL models

It has been the Group's policy to regularly review its models in the context of actual loss experience and adjust when necessary.

Impairment of goodwill

The Group determines whether goodwill is impaired at least on an annual basis. This requires an estimation of the value-in-use of the CGUs to which the goodwill is allocated. Estimating the value-in-use requires the Group to make an estimate of the expected future cash flows from the CGU and also to choose a suitable discount rate in order to calculate the present value of those cash flows. The carrying amount of goodwill as at 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017 was HK\$242,342,000. Further details are set out in note 26 to the financial statements.

Notes to Financial Statements

7. SEGMENT INFORMATION

Operating segment information

In accordance with the Group's internal financial reporting, the Group has identified operating segments based on similar economic characteristics, products and services and delivery methods. The operating segments are identified by senior management who is designated as the "Chief Operating Decision Maker" to make decisions about resources allocation to the segments and assess their performance. A summary of the operating segments is as follows:

- retail and commercial banking businesses segment mainly comprises the provision of deposit account services, the extension of mortgages and consumer lending, hire purchase and leasing, provision of financing to purchasers of licensed public vehicles such as taxis and public light buses, provision of services and financing activities for customers in trading, manufacturing and various business sectors, foreign exchange activities, centralised cash management for deposit taking and lending, interest rate risk management and the overall funding management of the Group;
- wealth management services, stockbroking and securities management segment comprises management of investments in debt securities and equities, securities dealing and receipt of commission income and the provision of authorised wealth management products and services; and
- other businesses segment comprise mainly the letting of investment properties.

The following table discloses the revenue and profit information for operating segments for the years ended 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017.

	Retail and commercial banking businesses		Wealth management services, stockbroking and securities management		Other businesses		Total	
	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Segment revenue								
External:								
Net interest income/(expenses)	1,417,392	1,380,902	(238)	(228)	-	-	1,417,154	1,380,674
Other operating income:								
Fees and commission income	151,431	148,478	46,334	44,193	-	-	197,765	192,671
Others	13,575	15,711	(8)	20	9,447	9,519	23,014	25,250
Operating income	1,582,398	1,545,091	46,088	43,985	9,447	9,519	1,637,933	1,598,595
Operating profit after credit loss expenses/impairment allowances	568,388	568,110	22,855	21,458	15,542	13,289	606,785	602,857
Share of profit of a joint venture							-	102
Profit before tax							606,785	602,959
Tax							(106,294)	(107,803)
Profit for the year							500,491	495,156
Other segment information								
Depreciation of property and equipment and land held under finance leases	(26,446)	(23,217)	-	-	-	-	(26,446)	(23,217)
Change in fair value of investment properties	-	-	-	-	9,837	5,605	9,837	5,605
Credit loss expenses/impairment allowances	(168,242)	(148,833)	-	-	-	-	(168,242)	(148,833)
Net gains/(losses) on disposal of property and equipment	4	(115)	-	-	-	-	4	(115)

Notes to Financial Statements

7. SEGMENT INFORMATION (Continued)

Operating segment information (Continued)

The following table discloses certain asset and liability information regarding operating segments as at 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017.

	Retail and commercial banking businesses		Wealth management services, stockbroking and securities management		Other businesses		Total	
	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Segment assets other than intangible assets and goodwill	41,472,558	41,443,857	309,555	370,729	115,930	111,692	41,898,043	41,926,278
Intangible assets	-	-	718	718	-	-	718	718
Goodwill	242,342	242,342	-	-	-	-	242,342	242,342
Segment assets	41,714,900	41,686,199	310,273	371,447	115,930	111,692	42,141,103	42,169,338
Unallocated assets: Deferred tax assets and tax recoverable							41,110	24,065
Total assets							42,182,213	42,193,403
Segment liabilities	36,230,027	36,261,448	89,378	159,502	3,450	3,352	36,322,855	36,424,302
Unallocated liabilities: Deferred tax liabilities and tax payable							30,153	52,197
Total liabilities							36,353,008	36,476,499
Other segment information								
Additions to non-current assets – capital expenditure	80,188	18,361	-	-	-	-	80,188	18,361

Notes to Financial Statements

7. SEGMENT INFORMATION (Continued) Geographical information

Geographical information is analysed by the Group based on the locations of the principal operations of the branches and subsidiaries which are responsible for reporting the results or booking the assets.

The following table discloses the segment revenue information for geographical segments for the years ended 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017.

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Segment revenue from external customers:		
Hong Kong	1,505,947	1,473,380
Mainland China	131,986	125,215
	1,637,933	1,598,595

Segment revenue is allocated to the reportable segments with reference to interest and fees and commission income generated by these segments.

The following table discloses the non-current assets information for geographical segments as at 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017.

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Non-current assets:		
Hong Kong	590,173	526,001
Mainland China	16,381	16,985
	606,554	542,986

Non-current assets consist of investment properties, property and equipment, land held under finance leases, interest in a joint venture, goodwill and intangible assets.

Operating income or revenue from major customers

Operating income or revenue from transactions with each external customer amounted to less than 10% (2017: less than 10%) of the Group's total operating income or revenue.

Notes to Financial Statements

8. INTEREST INCOME AND EXPENSE

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Interest income from:		
Loans and advances and receivables	1,626,440	1,529,321
Short term placements and placements with banks	125,236	120,597
Held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost	–	81,447
Held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost	101,823	–
	1,853,499	1,731,365
Interest expense on:		
Deposits from banks and financial institutions	10,064	7,182
Deposits from customers	425,894	343,173
Bank loans	387	336
	436,345	350,691

Interest income and interest expense for the year ended 31 December 2018, calculated using the effective interest method for financial assets and financial liabilities which are not designated at FVPL, amounted to HK\$1,853,499,000 and HK\$436,345,000 (2017: HK\$1,731,365,000 and HK\$350,691,000) respectively. Interest income on the impaired loans and advances for the year ended 31 December 2018 amounted to HK\$8,203,000 (2017: HK\$9,121,000).

Notes to Financial Statements

9. OTHER OPERATING INCOME

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Fees and commission income:		
Retail and commercial banking	152,794	149,833
Wealth management services, stockbroking and securities management	46,334	44,193
	199,128	194,026
Less: Fees and commission expenses	(1,363)	(1,355)
Net fees and commission income	197,765	192,671
Gross rental income	9,487	9,555
Less: Direct operating expenses	(40)	(36)
Net rental income	9,447	9,519
Gains less losses arising from dealing in foreign currencies	16,141	10,883
Net (losses)/gains on derivative financial instruments	(4,734)	2,621
	11,407	13,504
Net gains/(losses) on disposal of property and equipment	4	(115)
Dividend income from listed investments	118	83
Dividend income from unlisted investments	700	700
Others	1,338	1,559
	220,779	217,921

Direct operating expenses included repair and maintenance expenses arising from investment properties.

There were no net gains or losses arising from available-for-sale financial assets, held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost, loans and advances and receivables, financial assets and liabilities measured at amortised cost and financial assets and liabilities designated at FVPL for the year ended 31 December 2017. There were no net gains or losses arising from equity investments at FVOCI, held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost, loans and advances and receivables, financial assets and liabilities measured at amortised cost and financial assets and liabilities designated at FVPL for the year ended 31 December 2018.

All fees and commission income and expenses are related to financial assets or financial liabilities which are not designated at FVPL. No fees and commission income and expenses are related to trust and other fiduciary activities.

Notes to Financial Statements

10. OPERATING EXPENSES

	Notes	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Staff costs:			
Salaries and other staff costs		502,476	487,433
Pension contributions		23,176	20,969
Less: Forfeited contributions		(35)	(41)
Net contribution to retirement benefit schemes		23,141	20,928
		525,617	508,361
Other operating expenses:			
Operating lease rentals on leasehold buildings		65,909	65,696
Depreciation of property and equipment and land held under finance leases	23, 24	26,446	23,217
Auditors' remuneration		3,893	3,916
Administrative and general expenses		75,770	75,111
Others		175,108	176,209
		872,743	852,510

As at 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017, the Group had no material forfeited contributions available to reduce its contributions to the pension schemes in future years. The credits for the years ended 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017 arose in respect of staff who left the schemes during the years.

11. CREDIT LOSS EXPENSES/IMPAIRMENT ALLOWANCES

The following table shows the changes in ECL on financial instruments for the year recorded in the consolidated income statement.

	2018			Total HK\$'000
	12-months expected credit loss (Stage 1) HK\$'000	Lifetime expected credit loss not credit impaired (Stage 2) HK\$'000	Lifetime expected credit loss impaired (Stage 3) HK\$'000	
Net charge for/(write-back of) credit loss expenses:				
– loans and advances	3,950	(3,466)	167,851	168,335
– trade bills, accrued interest and other receivables	(13)	(8)	11	(10)
– cash and short term placements	(91)	–	–	(91)
– placements with banks and financial institutions	5	–	–	5
– held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost	53	–	–	53
– loan commitments	(45)	–	–	(45)
– financial guarantees and letters of credit	(5)	–	–	(5)
	3,854	(3,474)	167,862	168,242

Notes to Financial Statements

11. CREDIT LOSS EXPENSES/IMPAIRMENT ALLOWANCES (Continued)

	Individual impairment allowances HK\$'000	2017 Collective impairment allowances HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
Net charge for/(write-back of) impairment losses and allowances:			
– loans and advances	154,343	(3,183)	151,160
– trade bills, accrued interest and other receivables	(2,047)	(280)	(2,327)
	152,296	(3,463)	148,833
Of which:			
– new impairment losses and allowances (including any amount directly written off during the year)			302,215
– releases and recoveries			(153,382)
Net charge to the consolidated income statement			148,833

12. DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION

Directors' remuneration, disclosed pursuant to section 383(1)(a), (b), (c) and (f) of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance and Part 2 of the Companies (Disclosure of Information about Benefits of Directors) Regulation, is as follows:

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Fees	3,010	1,498
Other emoluments:		
Salaries, bonuses, allowances and benefits in kind	6,408	6,019
Retirement benefits contribution	390	368
	9,808	7,885

Notes to Financial Statements

13. TAX

	Note	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Current tax charge:			
Hong Kong		80,617	77,153
Overseas		23,964	25,148
(Over)/under-provisions in prior years		(500)	426
Deferred tax charge, net	28	2,213	5,076
		106,294	107,803

Hong Kong profits tax has been provided at the rate of 16.5% (2017: 16.5%) on the estimated assessable profits arising in Hong Kong during the year. Taxes on profits assessable overseas have been calculated at the rates of tax prevailing in the jurisdictions in which the Group operates, based on existing legislation, interpretations and practices in respect thereof.

A reconciliation of the tax expense applicable to profit before tax using the statutory tax rates for the jurisdictions in which the Bank, its subsidiaries and a joint venture are domiciled to the tax expense at the effective tax rates, and a reconciliation of the applicable rates (i.e. statutory tax rates) to the effective tax rates, are as follows:

	Hong Kong		2018 Mainland China		Total	
	HK\$'000	%	HK\$'000	%	HK\$'000	%
Profit before tax	505,400		101,385		606,785	
Tax at the applicable tax rate	83,391	16.5	25,346	25.0	108,737	17.9
Estimated tax losses from previous periods utilised	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated tax losses not recognised	5	-	-	-	5	-
Estimated tax effect of net income that are not taxable	(1,949)	(0.4)	1	-	(1,948)	(0.3)
Adjustment in respect of current tax of previous periods	(500)	(0.1)	-	-	(500)	(0.1)
Tax charge at the Group's effective rate	80,947	16.0	25,347	25.0	106,294	17.5

Notes to Financial Statements

13. TAX (Continued)

	Hong Kong		2017 Mainland China		Total	
	HK\$'000	%	HK\$'000	%	HK\$'000	%
Profit before tax	496,057		106,902		602,959	
Tax at the applicable tax rate	81,849	16.5	26,726	25.0	108,575	18.0
Estimated tax losses from previous periods utilised	(28)	–	–	–	(28)	–
Estimated tax losses not recognised	–	–	–	–	–	–
Estimated tax effect of net income that are not taxable	(826)	(0.2)	(344)	(0.3)	(1,170)	(0.2)
Adjustment in respect of current tax of previous periods	–	–	426	0.4	426	0.1
Tax charge at the Group's effective rate	80,995	16.3	26,808	25.1	107,803	17.9

14. DIVIDENDS

(a) Dividends approved and paid during the year

	2018 HK\$ per ordinary share	2017 HK\$ per ordinary share	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Interim dividend	8.391	7.803	124,321	115,609
Final dividend in respect of previous year	8.424	6.602	124,810	97,815
	16.815	14.405	249,131	213,424

Final dividend of 2017 was paid in 2018 with the consent of shareholders at the 2018 AGM.

Notes to Financial Statements

14. DIVIDENDS (Continued)

(b) Dividends attributable to the year

	2018 HK\$ per ordinary share	2017 HK\$ per ordinary share	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Interim dividend	8.391	7.803	124,321	115,609
Proposed final dividend	7.797	8.424	115,520	124,810
	16.188	16.227	239,841	240,419

The proposed final dividend was recommended after respective year end and had not been recognised as a liability at respective year end dates. The proposed final dividend of 2018 is subject to the approval of shareholders at the 2019 AGM.

15. CASH AND SHORT TERM PLACEMENTS

	Note	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Cash on hand		166,639	139,087
Placements with banks and financial institutions		942,750	1,037,457
Money at call and short notice		2,844,035	3,694,992
Gross cash and short term placements		3,953,424	4,871,536
Less: Provisions/impairment allowances for bank placements			
As at 31 December 2017 (Reported)		–	–
Impact of adopting HKFRS 9	5	(470)	–
Restated opening balance under HKFRS 9 as at 1 January 2018		(470)	–
Provisions released to the consolidated income statement during the year		91	–
		(379)	–
Cash and short term placements		3,953,045	4,871,536

Over 90% (31 December 2017: over 90%) of the placements were deposited with banks and financial institutions rated with a grading of Baa2 or above based on the credit rating of Moody's.

There were no overdue or rescheduled placements with banks and financial institutions and no specific provisions/impairment allowances for such placements accordingly.

Notes to Financial Statements

16. PLACEMENTS WITH BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS MATURING AFTER ONE MONTH BUT NOT MORE THAN TWELVE MONTHS

	Note	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Gross placements with banks and financial institutions		1,556,498	1,514,095
Less: Provisions/impairment allowances for placements with banks and financial institutions			
As at 31 December 2017 (Reported)		–	–
Impact of adopting HKFRS 9	5	(151)	–
Restated opening balance under HKFRS 9 as at 1 January 2018		(151)	–
Provisions charged to the consolidated income statement during the year		(5)	–
		(156)	–
Placements with banks and financial institutions		1,556,342	1,514,095

Over 90% (31 December 2017: over 90%) of the placements maturing after one month but not more than twelve months were deposited with banks and financial institutions rated with a grading of Baa2 or above based on the credit rating of Moody's.

There were no overdue or rescheduled placements with banks and financial institutions maturing after one month but not more than twelve months and no specific provisions/impairment allowances for such placements accordingly.

Notes to Financial Statements

17. LOANS AND ADVANCES AND RECEIVABLES

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Loans and advances to customers	29,678,111	29,270,390
Trade bills	29,724	33,958
Loans and advances, and trade bills	29,707,835	29,304,348
Accrued interest	77,363	77,855
Other receivables	1,317	2,255
Gross loans and advances and receivables	29,786,515	29,384,458
Less: Provisions/impairment allowances*		
– specifically assessed	(55,936)	(71,084)
– collectively assessed	(136,546)	(8,891)
	(192,482)	(79,975)
Loans and advances and receivables	29,594,033	29,304,483

Over 90% (31 December 2017: over 90%) of the loans and advances and receivables were unrated exposures. Over 90% (31 December 2017: over 90%) of the collateral for the secured loans and advances and receivables were customer deposits, properties, listed shares, taxi licences, public light bus licences and vehicles.

* The balances also include the provisions on off-balance sheet credit exposures.

Loans and advances and receivables are summarised as follows:

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Neither past due nor impaired loans and advances and receivables	29,141,861	28,694,288
Past due but not impaired loans and advances and receivables	446,299	555,135
Credit impaired loans and advances	195,517	133,360
Credit impaired receivables	2,838	1,675
Gross loans and advances and receivables	29,786,515	29,384,458

About 61% (31 December 2017: about 62%) of “Neither past due nor impaired loans and advances and receivables” were property mortgage loans and hire purchase loans secured by properties, taxi licences, public light bus licences and vehicles.

Notes to Financial Statements

17. LOANS AND ADVANCES AND RECEIVABLES (Continued)**(a) (i) Ageing analysis of overdue and impaired loans and advances**

	2018		2017	
	Gross amount HK\$'000	Percentage of total loans and advances %	Gross amount HK\$'000	Percentage of total loans and advances %
Loans and advances overdue for:				
Six months or less but over three months	93,180	0.31	56,869	0.20
One year or less but over six months	12,391	0.04	4,158	0.01
Over one year	4,352	0.02	14,459	0.05
Loans and advances overdue for more than three months	109,923	0.37	75,486	0.26
Rescheduled loans and advances overdue for three months or less	67,160	0.23	47,436	0.16
Impaired loans and advances overdue for three months or less	18,434	0.06	10,438	0.04
Total overdue and impaired loans and advances	195,517	0.66	133,360	0.46

(ii) Ageing analysis of overdue and impaired trade bills, accrued interest and other receivables

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Trade bills, accrued interest and other receivables overdue for:		
Six months or less but over three months	1,647	117
One year or less but over six months	472	152
Over one year	288	1,243
Trade bills, accrued interest and other receivables overdue for more than three months	2,407	1,512
Impaired trade bills, accrued interest and other receivables overdue for three months or less	431	163
Total overdue and impaired trade bills, accrued interest and other receivables	2,838	1,675

Impaired loans and advances and receivables are individually determined to be impaired after considering the overdue ageing analysis and other qualitative factors such as bankruptcy proceedings and individual voluntary arrangements.

Notes to Financial Statements

17. LOANS AND ADVANCES AND RECEIVABLES (Continued)

(b) Geographical analysis of overdue and impaired loans and advances and receivables, and provisions/impairment allowances

(i) Analysis of overdue loans and advances and receivables

	Hong Kong HK\$'000	2018 Mainland China HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
Loans and advances and receivables overdue for more than three months	83,666	28,664	112,330
Specific provisions based on lifetime expected credit loss	39,974	3	39,977
Current market value and fair value of collateral			118,970
	Hong Kong HK\$'000	2017 Mainland China HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
Loans and advances and receivables overdue for more than three months	62,993	14,005	76,998
Individual impairment allowances	42,093	–	42,093
Collective impairment allowances	–	1	1
Current market value and fair value of collateral			43,344

Notes to Financial Statements

17. LOANS AND ADVANCES AND RECEIVABLES (Continued)

(b) Geographical analysis of overdue and impaired loans and advances and receivables, and provisions/impairment allowances (Continued)

(ii) Analysis of impaired loans and advances and receivables

	Hong Kong HK\$'000	2018 Mainland China HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
Impaired loans and advances and receivables	161,452	36,903	198,355
Specific provisions based on lifetime expected credit loss	55,932	4	55,936
Current market value and fair value of collateral			157,257
	Hong Kong HK\$'000	2017 Mainland China HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
Impaired loans and advances and receivables	117,242	17,793	135,035
Individual impairment allowances	71,084	–	71,084
Collective impairment allowances	1	2	3
Current market value and fair value of collateral			61,493

Over 90% (31 December 2017: over 90%) of the Group's gross loans and advances and receivables were derived from operations carried out in Hong Kong. Accordingly, no geographical segment information of gross loans and advances and receivables is presented herein.

Notes to Financial Statements

17. LOANS AND ADVANCES AND RECEIVABLES (Continued)

(c) The value of collateral held in respect of the overdue loans and advances and the split between the portion of the overdue loans and advances covered by credit protection (covered portion) and the remaining portion (uncovered portion) are as follows:

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Current market value and fair value of collateral held against the covered portion of overdue loans and advances	118,970	43,344
Covered portion of overdue loans and advances	58,172	21,390
Uncovered portion of overdue loans and advances	51,751	54,096

The assets taken as collateral should satisfy the following criteria:

- The market value of the asset is readily determinable or can be reasonably established and verified.
- The asset is marketable and there exists a readily available secondary market for disposal of the asset.
- The Group's right to repossess the asset is legally enforceable without impediment.
- The Group is able to secure control over the asset if necessary.

The main types of guarantors for credit risk mitigation are as follows:

- Central governments with a grading of Aa3 or above
- Unrated public sector enterprises
- Banks with a grading of Baa2 or above
- Unrated corporations
- Individual shareholders and directors of corporate customers

(d) Repossessed assets

As at 31 December 2018, the total value of repossessed assets of the Group amounted to HK\$33,160,000 (31 December 2017: HK\$2,940,000).

Notes to Financial Statements

17. LOANS AND ADVANCES AND RECEIVABLES (Continued)
(e) Past due but not impaired loans and advances and receivables

	2018		2017	
	Gross amount HK\$'000	Percentage of total loans and advances %	Gross amount HK\$'000	Percentage of total loans and advances %
Loans and advances overdue for three months or less	443,414	1.49	552,640	1.89
Trade bills, accrued interest and other receivables overdue for three months or less	2,885		2,495	

(f) Provisions/impairment allowances on loans and advances and receivables and off-balance sheet credit exposures

An analysis of changes in the gross amount of loans and advances and receivables is as follows:

	2018			
	Stage 1 HK\$'000	Stage 2 HK\$'000	Stage 3 HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
Gross loans and advances and receivables as at 1 January 2018	29,065,881	183,542	135,035	29,384,458
New loans/financing originated	9,887,398	99	806	9,888,303
Loans/financing derecognised or repaid during the year (other than write-offs)	(9,120,367)	(42,245)	(23,372)	(9,185,984)
Transfer to 12-months expected credit loss (Stage 1)	58,413	(28,434)	(29,979)	-
Transfer to lifetime expected credit loss not credit impaired (Stage 2)	(120,688)	123,144	(2,456)	-
Transfer to lifetime expected credit loss credit impaired (Stage 3)	(354,797)	(63,786)	418,583	-
Total transfer between stages	(417,072)	30,924	386,148	-
Write-offs	-	-	(300,262)	(300,262)
As at 31 December 2018	29,415,840	172,320	198,355	29,786,515
Arising from:				
Loans and advances	29,311,436	171,158	195,517	29,678,111
Trade bills, accrued interest and other receivables	104,404	1,162	2,838	108,404
	29,415,840	172,320	198,355	29,786,515

Notes to Financial Statements

17. LOANS AND ADVANCES AND RECEIVABLES (Continued)**(f) Provisions/impairment allowances on loans and advances and receivables and off-balance sheet credit exposures (Continued)**

The amount outstanding on financial assets that were written off during the year and are still subject to enforcement action amounted to HK\$240,591,000.

An analysis of credit risk exposure by the Group's internal credit rating system is as follows:

	2018			Total HK\$'000
	Stage 1 HK\$'000	Stage 2 HK\$'000	Stage 3 HK\$'000	
Internal rating grades:				
Performing				
Pass	29,299,412	-	-	29,299,412
Special mention	116,428	172,320	-	288,748
Non-performing				
Substandard	-	-	128,882	128,882
Doubtful	-	-	64,730	64,730
Loss	-	-	4,743	4,743
Total	29,415,840	172,320	198,355	29,786,515

Notes to Financial Statements

17. LOANS AND ADVANCES AND RECEIVABLES (Continued)

(f) Provisions/impairment allowances on loans and advances and receivables and off-balance sheet credit exposures (Continued)

An analysis of changes in the corresponding ECL allowances is as follows:

	Note	2018			Total HK\$'000
		Stage 1 HK\$'000	Stage 2 HK\$'000	Stage 3 HK\$'000	
As at 31 December 2017 (Reported)					79,975
Impact of adopting HKFRS 9	5				109,308
Restated opening balance under HKFRS 9 as at 1 January 2018		103,097	33,042	53,144	189,283
New loans/financing originated		79,232	-	27	79,259
Loans/financing derecognised or repaid during the year (other than write-offs)		(67,240)	(7,765)	(141,227)	(216,232)
Transfer to 12-months expected credit loss (Stage 1)		4,070	(990)	(3,080)	-
Transfer to lifetime expected credit loss not credit impaired (Stage 2)		(1,918)	2,242	(324)	-
Transfer to lifetime expected credit loss credit impaired (Stage 3)		(8,856)	(23,613)	32,469	-
Total transfer between stages		(6,704)	(22,361)	29,065	-
Impact on year end expected credit loss of exposures transferred between stages during the year		(2,019)	26,651	258,637	283,269
Movements due to changes in credit risk		618	1	21,360	21,979
Recoveries		-	-	135,192	135,192
Write-offs		-	-	(300,262)	(300,262)
Exchange differences		(6)	-	-	(6)
As at 31 December 2018		106,978	29,568	55,936	192,482
Arising from:					
Loans and advances		105,187	29,565	55,871	190,623
Trade bills, accrued interest and other receivables		1,689	3	65	1,757
Loan commitments		99	-	-	99
Financial guarantees and letters of credit		3	-	-	3
		106,978	29,568	55,936	192,482

Notes to Financial Statements

17. LOANS AND ADVANCES AND RECEIVABLES (Continued)**(f) Provisions/impairment allowances on loans and advances and receivables and off-balance sheet credit exposures (Continued)**

The movements in impairment losses and allowances on loans and advances and receivables are as follows:

	Individual impairment allowances HK\$'000	2017 Collective impairment allowances HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
As at 1 January 2017	113,607	12,310	125,917
Amounts written off	(329,286)	–	(329,286)
Impairment losses and allowances charged to the consolidated income statement	302,054	161	302,215
Impairment losses and allowances released to the consolidated income statement	(149,758)	(3,624)	(153,382)
Net charge/(release) of impairment losses and allowances to the consolidated income statement	152,296	(3,463)	148,833
Loans and advances and receivables recovered	134,302	–	134,302
Exchange difference	165	44	209
As at 31 December 2017	71,084	8,891	79,975
Deducted from:			
Loans and advances	71,016	8,799	79,815
Trade bills, accrued interest and other receivables	68	92	160
	71,084	8,891	79,975

Notes to Financial Statements

18. EQUITY INVESTMENTS AT FAIR VALUE THROUGH OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/AVAILABLE-FOR-SALE FINANCIAL ASSETS

Below is an analysis of the Group's equity investments other than those measured at FVPL:

	Note	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Unlisted equity investments in corporate entity, at fair value: At the beginning and the end of the year		6,804	6,804
Available-for-sale financial assets	5	–	6,804
Equity investments at fair value through other comprehensive income		6,804	–

The unlisted investments issued by corporate entity are measured at fair value based on the present value of expected cash flows in the foreseeable future.

Notes to Financial Statements

19. HELD-TO-COLLECT DEBT SECURITIES AT AMORTISED COST/HELD-TO-MATURITY INVESTMENTS AT AMORTISED COST

	Note	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Certificates of deposit held		2,269,082	2,190,411
Treasury bills and government bonds (including Exchange Fund Bills)		2,307,321	1,664,246
Other debt securities		1,627,169	1,817,092
Gross held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost/ held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost		6,203,572	5,671,749
Less: Provisions/impairment allowances for held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost:			
As at 31 December 2017 (Reported)		–	–
Impact of adopting HKFRS 9	5	(570)	–
Restated opening balance under HKFRS 9 as at 1 January 2018		(570)	–
Provisions charged to the consolidated income statement during the year		(53)	–
		(623)	–
Held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost	5	–	5,671,749
Held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost		6,202,949	–
Listed or unlisted:			
– Listed in Hong Kong		1,785,576	1,601,770
– Listed outside Hong Kong		189,670	30,390
– Unlisted		4,228,326	4,039,589
		6,203,572	5,671,749
Analysed by types of issuers:			
– Central governments		2,307,321	1,664,246
– Public sector entities		299,914	299,846
– Banks and other financial institutions		3,596,337	3,707,657
		6,203,572	5,671,749

Notes to Financial Statements

19. HELD-TO-COLLECT DEBT SECURITIES AT AMORTISED COST/HELD-TO-MATURITY INVESTMENTS AT AMORTISED COST (Continued)

There were no specific provisions/impairment allowances made against held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost/held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost as at 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017.

There were neither impaired nor overdue held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost/held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost as at 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017.

All exposures attributed to the held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost/held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost were rated with a grading of A3 or above based on the credit rating of Moody's as at 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017.

20. INTEREST IN A JOINT VENTURE

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Share of net assets other than goodwill:		
At the beginning of the year	-	1,606
Share of profit	-	102
Distribution from a joint venture	-	(1,708)
	-	-
At the end of the year	-	-

The final meeting of Net Alliance Co. Limited (the "Joint Venture") was held on 31 October 2017 and the Joint Venture was dissolved on 8 February 2018. A cash distribution amounted to approximately HK\$1,708,000 was made to the Group on 16 October 2017 as part of the members' voluntary liquidation process, after which the Group no longer has any interest in the Joint Venture.

The following table illustrates the summarised financial information of the Group's interest in the Joint Venture which is accounted for using the equity method:

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Share of the Joint Venture's profit or loss:		
Total income	-	-
Total expenses	-	-
Reversal of provision and accruals	-	102
Profit after tax	-	102

Notes to Financial Statements

21. OTHER ASSETS AND OTHER LIABILITIES

Other assets

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Interest receivables from financial institutions	45,750	45,397
Other debtors, deposits and prepayments	152,101	207,971
Net amount of accounts receivable from Hong Kong Securities Clearing Company Limited ("HKSCC")	20,984	–
	218,835	253,368

There were no other overdue or rescheduled assets, and no impairment allowances for such other assets accordingly.

Other liabilities

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Interest payable	188,965	119,227
Creditors, accruals and other payables	243,666	270,401
Net amount of accounts payable to HKSCC	12,369	61,118
	445,000	450,746

Public Financial Securities Limited and Public Securities Limited maintain accounts with HKSCC through which they conduct securities trading transactions and settlement on a net basis.

In presenting the amounts due from and to HKSCC, the individual subsidiaries concerned have offset the gross amount of the accounts receivable from and the gross amount of the accounts payable to HKSCC. The amounts offset and the net balances are shown as follows:

	Gross amount HK\$'000	Amount offset HK\$'000	Net amount HK\$'000
Other assets			
2018			
Amount of accounts receivable from HKSCC	58,674	(37,690)	20,984
<hr/>			
2017			
Amount of accounts receivable from HKSCC	67,187	(67,187)	–
<hr/>			
Other liabilities			
2018			
Amount of accounts payable to HKSCC	(50,059)	37,690	(12,369)
<hr/>			
2017			
Amount of accounts payable to HKSCC	(128,305)	67,187	(61,118)
<hr/>			

Notes to Financial Statements

22. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Cost:		
At the beginning and the end of the year	1,923	1,923
Accumulated impairment:		
At the beginning and the end of the year	1,205	1,205
Net carrying amount:		
At the beginning and the end of the year	718	718

Intangible assets represent trading rights held by the Group. The trading rights are retained for stock trading and stockbroking activities, and have indefinite useful lives as the trading rights have no expiry date. They comprise five units (31 December 2017: five units) of Stock Exchange Trading Right and one unit (31 December 2017: one unit) of Futures Exchange Trading Right in Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited.

23. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

	Buildings HK\$'000	Leasehold improvements, furniture, fixtures, equipment and motor vehicles HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
Cost:			
As at 1 January 2018	18,443	267,222	285,665
Transfer to investment properties	(7)	–	(7)
Transfer from investment properties	2,230	–	2,230
Additions	–	33,088	33,088
Disposals/write-off	–	(2,180)	(2,180)
As at 31 December 2018	20,666	298,130	318,796
Accumulated depreciation:			
As at 1 January 2018	7,277	190,974	198,251
Provided during the year	430	22,337	22,767
Transfer to investment properties	(6)	–	(6)
Disposals/write-off	–	(2,169)	(2,169)
As at 31 December 2018	7,701	211,142	218,843
Net carrying amount:			
As at 31 December 2018	12,965	86,988	99,953

Notes to Financial Statements

23. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (Continued)

	Buildings HK\$'000	Leasehold improvements, furniture, fixtures, equipment and motor vehicles HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
Cost:			
As at 1 January 2017	18,443	259,551	277,994
Additions	–	18,361	18,361
Disposals/write-off	–	(10,690)	(10,690)
As at 31 December 2017	18,443	267,222	285,665
Accumulated depreciation:			
As at 1 January 2017	6,874	182,379	189,253
Provided during the year	403	19,170	19,573
Disposals/write-off	–	(10,575)	(10,575)
As at 31 December 2017	7,277	190,974	198,251
Net carrying amount:			
As at 31 December 2017	11,166	76,248	87,414

There were no provisions/impairment allowances made against the above items of property and equipment as at 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017. There were no movements in provisions/impairment allowances for the years ended 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017.

Notes to Financial Statements

24. LAND HELD UNDER FINANCE LEASES

	HK\$'000
Cost:	
As at 1 January 2017, 31 December 2017 and 1 January 2018	150,466
Transfer to investment properties	(125)
Transfer from investment properties	50,520
	<hr/>
As at 31 December 2018	200,861
	<hr/>
Accumulated depreciation and impairment:	
As at 1 January 2017	46,002
Depreciation provided during the year	3,644
	<hr/>
As at 31 December 2017 and 1 January 2018	49,646
Transfer to investment properties	(75)
Depreciation provided during the year	3,679
	<hr/>
As at 31 December 2018	53,250
	<hr/>
Net carrying amount:	
As at 31 December 2018	147,611
	<hr/>
As at 31 December 2017	100,820
	<hr/>

The Group's land held under finance leases at net carrying amount is held under the following lease terms:

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Leaseholds:		
Held in Hong Kong		
– On long-term leases	57,599	7,122
– On medium-term leases	77,242	80,373
Held outside Hong Kong		
– On medium-term leases	12,770	13,325
	<hr/>	
	147,611	100,820
	<hr/>	

Land leases are stated at the recoverable amount and are subject to an impairment test pursuant to HKAS 36, which is based on the higher of fair value less costs of disposal and value-in-use.

Notes to Financial Statements

25. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Carrying amount as at 1 January	111,692	106,087
Transfer to property and equipment	(2,230)	–
Transfer from property and equipment	1	–
Additions	47,100	–
Transfer to land held under finance leases	(50,520)	–
Transfer from land held under finance leases	50	–
Change in fair value recognised in the consolidated income statement	9,837	5,605
	115,930	111,692

The Group's investment properties are situated in Hong Kong and are held under medium-term and long-term leases in Hong Kong.

All investment properties were classified under Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy. During the year, there were no transfers of fair value measurements between Level 1 and Level 2 and no transfer into or out of Level 3 (2017: Nil). The Group has assessed that the highest and best use of its properties did not differ from their existing use.

As at 31 December 2018, investment properties were revalued according to the revaluation reports issued by C S Surveyors Limited, a firm of independent professionally qualified valuers. Finance and Control Department has discussions with the valuer on the valuation methodology and valuation results twice a year when the valuation is performed for interim and annual financial reporting.

The fair value of investment properties located in Hong Kong is determined using market comparison approach by reference to recent sales price of comparable properties on a price per square metre basis. Below is a summary of the significant inputs to the valuation of investment properties:

	2018		2017	
	Range HK\$	Weighted average HK\$	Range HK\$	Weighted average HK\$
Price per square metre	82,000 to 527,000	269,000	79,000 to 503,000	361,000

A significant increase/decrease in the price per square metre would result in a significant increase/decrease in the fair value of the investment properties.

The investment properties held by the Group are let under operating leases from which the Group earns rental income. Details of future annual rental receivables under operating leases are included in note 32(a) to the financial statements.

Notes to Financial Statements

26. GOODWILL

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Cost and net carrying amount:		
At the beginning and the end of the year	242,342	242,342

Impairment test of goodwill

There is a CGU, namely Public Finance, which represents an operating entity within the business segment "Retail and commercial banking businesses" identified by the Group. The recoverable amount of the CGU at each subsequent reporting date is determined based on the value-in-use using the present value of cash flows. The cash flow projections are based on financial budgets approved by management covering a 10-year period and assumed growth rates are used to extrapolate the cash flows in the following 40 years. The financial budgets are prepared based on a 10-year business plan which is appropriate after considering the sustainability of business growth, stability of core business developments, long-term economic cycle and achievement of business targets extrapolated from a track record of financial results. All cash flows are discounted at discount rates of 4% and 7% under baseline and stress scenarios, respectively. Management's financial model assumes an average growth rate of 5% to 6% per annum from the eleventh to fiftieth year taking into account long-term gross domestic product growth and other relevant economic factors. The discount rates used are based on the rates which reflect specific risks relating to the CGU.

No impairment loss has been recognised in respect of goodwill for the years ended 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017 as its value-in-use exceeded its carrying amount.

27. CUSTOMER DEPOSITS AT AMORTISED COST

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Demand deposits and current accounts	4,692,889	3,832,360
Savings deposits	6,809,824	7,723,798
Time, call and notice deposits	23,795,155	22,538,617
	35,297,868	34,094,775

Notes to Financial Statements

28. DEFERRED TAX

The movements in deferred tax assets and liabilities during the year are as follows:

Deferred tax assets:

	Note	Impairment allowances for loans and advances and receivables HK\$'000	Others HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
As at 1 January 2017		27,826	421	28,247
Deferred tax (charged)/credited to the consolidated income statement		(4,293)	108	(4,185)
As at 31 December 2017 (Reported)		23,533	529	24,062
Impact of adopting HKFRS 9	5	18,266	–	18,266
Restated opening balance under HKFRS 9 as at 1 January 2018		41,799	529	42,328
Deferred tax (charged)/credited to the consolidated income statement		(526)	11	(515)
Exchange difference		(1,256)	(26)	(1,282)
As at 31 December 2018		40,017	514	40,531

Deferred tax liabilities:

		Depreciation allowance in excess of related depreciation HK\$'000
As at 1 January 2017		11,738
Deferred tax charged to the consolidated income statement		891
As at 31 December 2017 and 1 January 2018		12,629
Deferred tax charged to the consolidated income statement		1,698
As at 31 December 2018		14,327

Notes to Financial Statements

29. SHARE CAPITAL

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Issued and fully paid: 14,816,000 (2017: 14,816,000) ordinary shares	2,854,045	2,854,045

30. RESERVES

	Notes	Group reconstruction reserve HK\$'000	Capital reserve HK\$'000	Regulatory reserve [#] HK\$'000	Retained profits HK\$'000	Translation reserve HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
As at 1 January 2017		3,065	17,660	438,738	2,062,669	(10,000)	2,512,132
Profit for the year		-	-	-	495,156	-	495,156
Other comprehensive income		-	-	-	-	68,995	68,995
Transfer from retained profits to regulatory reserve		-	-	1,024	(1,024)	-	-
Dividends paid in respect of previous year	14	-	-	-	(97,815)	-	(97,815)
Dividends paid in respect of current year	14	-	-	-	(115,609)	-	(115,609)
As at 31 December 2017 (Reported)		3,065	17,660	439,762	2,343,377	58,995	2,862,859
Impact of adopting HKFRS 9	5	-	-	(127,143)	34,910	-	(92,233)
Restated opening balance under HKFRS 9 as at 1 January 2018		3,065	17,660	312,619	2,378,287	58,995	2,770,626
Profit for the year		-	-	-	500,491	-	500,491
Other comprehensive income		-	-	-	-	(46,826)	(46,826)
Transfer from regulatory reserve to retained profits		-	-	(16,079)	16,079	-	-
Dividends paid in respect of previous year	14	-	-	-	(124,810)	-	(124,810)
Dividends paid in respect of current year	14	-	-	-	(124,321)	-	(124,321)
As at 31 December 2018		3,065	17,660	296,540	2,645,726	12,169	2,975,160

[#] The regulatory reserve is maintained to satisfy the provisions of the Hong Kong Banking Ordinance for prudential supervision purpose. It is held as a buffer of capital to absorb potential financial losses in excess of the accounting standards' requirements pursuant to the HKMA's guidelines.

Notes to Financial Statements

31. OFF-BALANCE SHEET EXPOSURE

(a) Contingent liabilities, commitments and derivatives

The following is a summary of the contractual amount of each significant class of contingent liabilities, commitments and derivatives of the Group outstanding at the end of the year:

	Contractual amount HK\$'000	Credit equivalent amount HK\$'000	2018 Credit risk-weighted amount HK\$'000	Positive fair value- assets HK\$'000	Negative fair value- liabilities HK\$'000
Direct credit substitutes	25,674	25,674	21,482	-	-
Transaction-related contingencies	7,249	3,624	-	-	-
Trade-related contingencies	34,272	6,854	6,559	-	-
Forward forward deposits placed	-	-	-	-	-
Forward asset purchases	-	-	-	-	-
	67,195	36,152	28,041	-	-
Derivatives held for trading:					
Foreign exchange rate contracts	756,298	10,104	2,021	2,541	7,275
Other commitments with an original maturity of:					
More than one year	-	-	-	-	-
Other commitments which are unconditionally cancellable or which provide for automatic cancellation due to deterioration of creditworthiness of the counterparties	3,110,113	-	-	-	-
	3,933,606	46,256	30,062	2,541	7,275
				2018 Contractual amount HK\$'000	

Capital commitments contracted for, but not provided in
the consolidated statement of financial position

28,711

The corresponding ECLs for the outstanding off-balance sheet exposures are included in the analysis of changes in ECL allowances in note 17(f) to the financial statements.

Notes to Financial Statements

31. OFF-BALANCE SHEET EXPOSURE (Continued)
(a) Contingent liabilities, commitments and derivatives (Continued)

	Contractual amount HK\$'000	Credit equivalent amount HK\$'000	2017 Credit risk-weighted amount HK\$'000	Positive fair value- assets HK\$'000	Negative fair value- liabilities HK\$'000
Direct credit substitutes	26,801	26,801	20,098	–	–
Transaction-related contingencies	11,806	5,903	1,121	–	–
Trade-related contingencies	37,546	7,510	7,016	–	–
Forward forward deposits placed	–	–	–	–	–
Forward asset purchases	–	–	–	–	–
	76,153	40,214	28,235	–	–
Derivatives held for trading:					
Foreign exchange rate contracts	1,310,892	17,429	3,486	4,317	1,696
Other commitments with an original maturity of:					
More than one year	18,737	9,368	9,368	–	–
Other commitments which are unconditionally cancellable or which provide for automatic cancellation due to deterioration of creditworthiness of the counterparties	2,996,905	–	–	–	–
	4,402,687	67,011	41,089	4,317	1,696

2017
Contractual
amount
HK\$'000

Capital commitments contracted for, but not provided in
the consolidated statement of financial position 9,372

The Group had not entered into any bilateral netting arrangements and accordingly the above amounts are shown on a gross basis. The credit risk-weighted amounts are calculated in accordance with the Capital Rules and guidelines issued by the HKMA. The amounts calculated are dependent upon the status of the counterparty and the maturity characteristics. The risk weights used range from 0% to 100% for contingent liabilities, commitments and derivatives.

As at 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017, the Group had no material outstanding contingent liabilities and commitments save as disclosed above.

Notes to Financial Statements

31. OFF-BALANCE SHEET EXPOSURE (Continued)

(b) Derivative financial instruments

The Group uses the following derivative financial instruments:

Currency forwards represent commitments to purchase foreign and domestic currencies, including undelivered spot transactions. Foreign currency and interest rate futures are contractual obligations to receive or pay a net amount based on changes in currency rates or interest rates, or to buy or sell a foreign currency or a financial instrument on a future date at a specified price, established in an organised financial market. The credit risk is negligible, as changes in the futures contract value are settled daily with the exchange. Forward rate agreements are individually negotiated interest rate futures that call for a cash settlement at a future date for the difference between a contracted rate of interest and the current market rate, based on a notional principal amount.

Interest rate swaps are commitments to exchange one set of cash flows for another. Swaps result in an exchange of interest rates (for example, fixed rate or floating rate). No exchange of principal takes place. The Group's credit risk represents the potential cost to replace the swap contracts if counterparties fail to perform their obligations. This risk is monitored on an ongoing basis with reference to the current fair value, a proportion of the notional amount of the contracts and the liquidity of the market. To control the level of credit risk taken, the Group assesses counterparties using the same techniques as used for its lending activities.

The notional amounts of certain types of financial instruments provide a basis for comparison with instruments recognised in the consolidated statement of financial position but do not necessarily indicate the amounts of future cash flows involved or the current fair value of the instruments and, therefore, do not indicate the Group's exposure to credit or price risk. The derivative financial instruments become favourable (assets) or unfavourable (liabilities) as a result of fluctuations in market interest rates or foreign exchange rates relative to their terms. The aggregate contractual or notional amount of derivative financial instruments on hand, the extent to which the instruments are favourable or unfavourable, and thus the aggregate fair values of derivative financial assets and liabilities, can fluctuate significantly from time to time.

Notes to Financial Statements

32. OPERATING LEASE ARRANGEMENTS

(a) As lessor

The Group leases its investment properties as described in note 25 under operating lease arrangements, and the terms of the leases range from 1 to 5 years.

As at 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017, the Group had total future minimum lease rental receivables under non-cancellable operating leases falling due as follows:

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Within one year	2,913	1,646
In the second to fifth years, inclusive	3,016	784
	5,929	2,430

(b) As lessee

The Group has entered into non-cancellable operating lease arrangements with landlords, and the terms of the leases range from 1 to 10 years.

As at 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017, the Group had total future minimum lease rental payables under non-cancellable operating leases falling due as follows:

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Within one year	68,987	92,581
In the second to fifth years, inclusive	52,637	67,826
Over five years	427	639
	122,051	161,046

Notes to Financial Statements

33. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year, the Group had the following major transactions with related parties in the normal course of business. In addition to those disclosed elsewhere in the financial statements, the details of related party transactions, related expenses and income for the year and outstanding balances as at the year end are as follows:

	Notes	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Related party transactions included in the consolidated income statement:			
Management fees and bank service charges from a fellow subsidiary	(a)	804	915
Management fees to the immediate holding company	(a)	1,305	1,740
Rent paid to the immediate holding company	(b)	35,973	37,695
Building management fee to the immediate holding company	(b)	83	83
Interest received from the immediate holding company	(j)	–	197
Interest paid to the ultimate holding company	(e)	12	–
Interest paid to fellow subsidiaries	(e)	78	47
Interest paid to key management personnel	(e)	20	17
Commission income from key management personnel	(k)	6	–
Commission and service fee paid to a fellow subsidiary	(f)	153	34
Commitment fee paid to the ultimate holding company and a fellow subsidiary	(i)	3,014	2,423
Key management personnel compensation:			
– Short term employee benefits	(g)	8,588	6,733
– Post-employment benefits	(g)	335	318
	Notes	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000

Related party transactions included in the consolidated statement of financial position:

Cash and short term funds with the ultimate holding company	(c)	2,210	294
Rental deposits and rent prepaid to the immediate holding company	(b)	52,956	25,997
Loans to key management personnel	(d)	209	135
Deposits from the ultimate holding company	(e)	11,075	15,578
Deposits from the immediate holding company	(e)	3,392	96,406
Deposits from fellow subsidiaries	(e)	16,873	20,371
Deposits from key management personnel	(e)	1,812	1,689
Interest payable to a fellow subsidiary	(e)	1	1
Interest payable to key management personnel	(e)	3	2
Amounts due from a fellow subsidiary included in other assets	(h)	626	885

Notes to Financial Statements

33. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (Continued)

Notes:

- (a) Management fees arose in respect of administrative services provided to a fellow subsidiary by the Group. They were charged based on costs incurred during the year. Bank service charges arose in respect of banking services provided to the fellow subsidiary by the Group during the year.

Management fees arose in respect of administrative services provided by the immediate holding company to the Group. They were charged based on costs incurred during the year.

- (b) Rent paid, rent prepaid, rental deposits and building management fee were related to properties rented from the immediate holding company as the Bank's offices during the year.

- (c) The Group placed deposits with the ultimate holding company. Interests were received/receivable from the ultimate holding company. The balances of the said deposits and interest receivable were included in cash and short term placements and other assets, respectively, in the consolidated statement of financial position.

- (d) These balances represented credit card receivables due from certain Directors of the Bank.

- (e) The ultimate holding company, the immediate holding company, fellow subsidiaries and key management personnel placed deposits with the Bank at the prevailing market rates. Interest expenses were paid/payable by the Bank for the year in respect of these placements. The balances were included in customer deposits in the consolidated statement of financial position. During the year, a revolving credit facility was granted by a fellow subsidiary to a subsidiary of the Group. Interest expense was paid/payable by the subsidiary for the year in respect of this facility.

- (f) The expenses represented commission and service fee paid to a fellow subsidiary for the referrals of taxi financing loans.

- (g) Further details of the Directors' remuneration are included in note 12 to the financial statements.

- (h) These balances include other receivables from a fellow subsidiary.

- (i) During the year, commitment fees were paid to the ultimate holding company in order to obtain standby facilities granted by the ultimate holding company to the Bank and a subsidiary.

During the year, commitment fee was paid to a fellow subsidiary in order to obtain revolving credit facilities granted by the fellow subsidiary to a subsidiary of the Group.

- (j) In 2017, a facility line to the immediate holding company in the normal course of business by the Bank was terminated. Interest was received from the immediate holding company in 2017.

- (k) Commission income was received from key management personnel of the Group for securities dealings through the Group companies.

Notes to Financial Statements

34. FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) Financial assets and financial liabilities not carried at fair value

The following describes the methodologies and assumptions used to determine fair values of financial instruments which are not carried at fair value in the financial statements.

Liquid or/and very short-term and variable rate financial instruments

Liquid or/and very short-term and variable rate financial instruments include loans and advances and receivables, held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost/held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost, customer deposits, certificates of deposit issued and unsecured bank loans. As these financial instruments are liquid or having a short-term maturity or at variable rate, the carrying amounts are reasonable approximations of their fair values. In the case of loans and unquoted debt securities, their fair values do not reflect changes in their credit quality as the impact of credit risk is recognised separately by deducting the amount of the impairment allowances.

Fixed rate financial instruments

Fixed rate financial instruments include placements with banks and financial institutions, loans and advances and receivables, held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost/held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost, deposits from banks and other financial institutions, customer deposits and certificates of deposit issued. The fair values of these fixed rate financial instruments carried at amortised cost are based on prevailing money-market interest rates or current interest rates offered for similar financial instruments appropriate for the remaining term to maturity. The carrying amounts of such financial instruments are not materially different from their fair values.

(b) Financial assets and financial liabilities carried at fair value

The following table shows an analysis of financial instruments carried at fair value by level of the fair value hierarchy:

	2018			Total HK\$'000
	Level 1 HK\$'000	Level 2 HK\$'000	Level 3 HK\$'000	
Financial assets:				
Derivative financial instruments	–	2,541	–	2,541
Equity investment at fair value through other comprehensive income	–	–	6,804	6,804
	–	2,541	6,804	9,345
Financial liabilities:				
Derivative financial instruments	–	7,275	–	7,275

Notes to Financial Statements

34. FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (Continued)

(b) Financial assets and financial liabilities carried at fair value (Continued)

	2017			Total HK\$'000
	Level 1 HK\$'000	Level 2 HK\$'000	Level 3 HK\$'000	
Financial assets:				
Derivative financial instruments	–	4,317	–	4,317
Available-for-sale financial assets	–	–	6,804	6,804
	–	4,317	6,804	11,121
Financial liabilities:				
Derivative financial instruments	–	1,696	–	1,696

Level 2 financial instruments comprise forward foreign exchange contracts and currency swaps. These instruments have been measured at fair value based on the forward foreign exchange rates that are quoted in an active market. As at 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017, the effects of discounting were considered insignificant for the Level 2 financial instruments.

Level 3 financial instruments are measured at fair value based on the present value of expected cash flows in the foreseeable future.

For financial instruments measured at fair value on a recurring basis, the Group determines whether transfer has occurred between levels in the hierarchy by reassessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period. Finance and Control Department performs the valuation of financial instruments required for financial reporting purposes, including Level 3 fair values, at the end of each reporting period. The impact due to changes in fair value of the Level 3 financial instruments is insignificant to the Group.

For the years ended 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017, there were no transfers amongst Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy.

For the years ended 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017, there were no issues and settlements related to the Level 3 financial instruments.

There was no gain or loss and no OCI reported in the consolidated income statement and consolidated statement of comprehensive income respectively related to the Level 3 financial instruments for the years ended 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017.

For fair value measurement at Level 3, changing one or more of the inputs to the reasonably possible alternative assumptions would not change the fair value significantly.

Notes to Financial Statements

35. MATURITY ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND FINANCIAL LIABILITIES

The table below shows an analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities (including key off-balance sheet items) analysed by principal according to the period that they are expected to be recovered or settled. The Group's contractual undiscounted repayment obligations are shown in the sub-section "Liquidity risk management" in note 36 to the financial statements.

	Repayable on demand HK\$'000	Up to 1 month HK\$'000	2018			Over 5 years HK\$'000	Repayable within an indefinite period HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
			Over 1 month but not more than 3 months HK\$'000	Over 3 months but not more than 12 months HK\$'000	Over 1 year but not more than 5 years HK\$'000			
Financial assets:								
Gross cash and short term placements	1,109,389	2,844,035	-	-	-	-	-	3,953,424
Gross placements with banks and financial institutions maturing after one month but not more than twelve months	-	-	789,889	766,609	-	-	-	1,556,498
Gross loans and advances and receivables	1,092,373	3,110,246	957,392	2,963,317	6,725,923	14,738,909	198,355	29,786,515
Equity investments at fair value through other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,804	6,804
Gross held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost	-	618,823	1,080,279	2,607,993	1,896,477	-	-	6,203,572
Other assets	123	73,497	16,736	60,616	10,020	-	57,843	218,835
Gross foreign exchange contracts	-	666,893	89,405	-	-	-	-	756,298
Total financial assets	2,201,885	7,313,494	2,933,701	6,398,535	8,632,420	14,738,909	263,002	42,481,946
Financial liabilities:								
Deposits and balances of banks and other financial institutions at amortised cost	82,592	230,120	240,000	20,000	-	-	-	572,712
Customer deposits at amortised cost	11,529,779	7,227,387	8,656,581	7,252,688	631,433	-	-	35,297,868
Certificates of deposit issued at amortised cost	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities	4,114	119,376	30,183	82,919	39,556	-	168,852	445,000
Gross foreign exchange contracts	-	669,297	91,735	-	-	-	-	761,032
Total financial liabilities	11,616,485	8,246,180	9,018,499	7,355,607	670,989	-	168,852	37,076,612
Net liquidity gap	(9,414,600)	(932,686)	(6,084,798)	(957,072)	7,961,431	14,738,909	94,150	5,405,334

Notes to Financial Statements

35. MATURITY ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND FINANCIAL LIABILITIES
(Continued)

	Repayable on demand HK\$'000	Up to 1 month HK\$'000	2017			Over 5 years HK\$'000	Repayable within an indefinite period HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
			Over 1 month but not more than 3 months HK\$'000	Over 3 months but not more than 12 months HK\$'000	Over 1 year but not more than 5 years HK\$'000			
Financial assets:								
Cash and short term placements	1,176,544	3,694,992	-	-	-	-	-	4,871,536
Placements with banks and financial institutions maturing after one month but not more than twelve months	-	-	772,667	741,428	-	-	-	1,514,095
Gross loans and advances and receivables	1,068,123	3,037,095	1,042,059	2,958,331	6,292,224	14,851,591	135,035	29,384,458
Available-for-sale financial assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,804	6,804
Held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost	-	480,115	1,056,466	2,004,538	2,130,630	-	-	5,671,749
Other assets	236	138,452	21,668	37,600	-	-	55,412	253,368
Gross foreign exchange contracts	-	1,155,332	155,560	-	-	-	-	1,310,892
Total financial assets	2,244,903	8,505,986	3,048,420	5,741,897	8,422,854	14,851,591	197,251	43,012,902
Financial liabilities:								
Deposits and balances of banks and other financial institutions at amortised cost	45,728	848,064	200,000	30,000	-	-	-	1,123,792
Customer deposits at amortised cost	11,550,619	7,302,196	8,062,858	6,153,066	1,026,036	-	-	34,094,775
Certificates of deposit issued at amortised cost	-	-	753,293	-	-	-	-	753,293
Other liabilities	1,449	172,674	31,355	36,262	33,905	-	175,101	450,746
Gross foreign exchange contracts	-	1,152,127	156,144	-	-	-	-	1,308,271
Total financial liabilities	11,597,796	9,475,061	9,203,650	6,219,328	1,059,941	-	175,101	37,730,877
Net liquidity gap	(9,352,893)	(969,075)	(6,155,230)	(477,431)	7,362,913	14,851,591	22,150	5,282,025

Notes to Financial Statements

36. RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

The Group's principal financial liabilities, other than derivatives, comprise customer deposits and deposits and balances of banks and other financial institutions. The main purpose of these financial liabilities is to raise finance for the Group's operations. The Group has various financial assets such as cash and short term placements, held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost/held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost, loans and advances and receivables, and equity investment at FVOCI/available-for-sale financial assets, which arise directly from its operations.

The Group also enters into derivative transactions, including principally forward currency contracts held for trading. The purpose is to manage or mitigate currency risk arising from the Group's operations.

The main risks arising from the Group's financial instruments are interest rate risk, market risk, credit risk, liquidity risk and operational risk.

The Group's business activities comprise retail and commercial banking services. These activities expose the Group to a variety of risks, mainly interest rate risk, market risk, credit risk, liquidity risk and operational risk. The respective Boards of the Bank and Public Finance review and approve policies for managing each of these risks and they are summarised below.

Risk management structure

The Group's risk management is underpinned by the Group's risk appetite and is subject to the respective Boards' oversight, through the Risk Management Committees ("RMCs") of the Bank and Public Finance, which are Board Committees overseeing the establishment of enterprise-wide risk management policies and processes. The RMCs are assisted by the specific risk committees including the Assets and Liabilities Management Committee ("ALCO"), Operational Risk Management Committee ("ORMC"), Credit Committee, Credit Risk Management Committee ("CRMC"), and Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-terrorist Financing (AML) and Compliance Committee or equivalent committees with similar functions of the Bank and Public Finance.

The Group has established systems, policies and procedures for the control and monitoring of interest rate risk, market risk, credit risk, liquidity risk and operational risk, which are approved by the respective Boards of the Bank and Public Finance and reviewed regularly by their management, and other designated committees or working groups. Material risks are identified and assessed by designated committees and/or working groups before the launch of new products or business activities, and are monitored, documented and controlled against applicable risk limits after the introduction of new products or services or implementation of new business activities. Internal auditors of the Bank and Public Finance also perform regular audits to ensure compliance with the policies and procedures.

Interest rate risk management

Interest rate risk is the risk that the Group's position may be adversely affected by a change of market interest rates. The Group's interest rate risk arises primarily from the timing difference in the maturity and the repricing of the Group's interest-bearing assets, liabilities and off-balance sheet commitments. The primary objective of interest rate risk management is to limit the potential adverse effects of interest rate movements in net interest income by closely monitoring the net repricing gap of the Group's assets and liabilities. Interest rate risk is daily managed by the Group's Treasury Department. Risk Management Departments of the Bank and Public Finance measure interest rate risk exposures in the banking book on monthly basis and the results are monitored by the respective ALCOs against limits approved by the respective Boards.

Notes to Financial Statements

36. RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued) Interest rate risk management (Continued)

Interest rate risk exposures in the banking book:

The relevant interest rate risk arises from repricing risk and basis risk.

Repricing risk is one of the sources of interest rate risk which arises from timing differences in interest rate changes and cash-flows that occur in the repricing and maturity of fixed and floating rate assets, liabilities and off-balance sheet financial instruments. Should the interest rate increase/decrease by 200 basis points and the positive net interest gap be HK\$3,433 million (31 December 2017: HK\$3,102 million) up to 12 months in 2018, profit before tax in 2018 would increase/decrease by HK\$99 million or 1.70% of equity (2017: HK\$91 million or 1.60% of equity). Profit before tax would increase/decrease by HK\$107 million or 1.83% of equity (31 December 2017: HK\$83 million or 1.45% of equity) for the next 12 months after the reporting date.

Based on the positive net interest gap of HK\$6,236 million (31 December 2017: HK\$5,801 million) up to five years, the economic value would increase by HK\$64 million (31 December 2017: HK\$81 million).

Basis risk is one of the sources of interest rate risk which arises from the difference in the changes of interest rates earned and paid on different financial instruments with similar repricing characteristics. The Group adopts two stress-testing scenarios for the sensitivity analysis:

- (i) Interest rates on managed-rate assets would decrease by 200 basis points whilst interest rates on other interest-bearing assets and interest-bearing liabilities would keep unchanged. Based on this scenario assumption, profit before tax in 2018 would decrease by HK\$367 million or 6.30% of equity (2017: HK\$340 million or 5.95% of equity). Profit before tax would decrease by HK\$397 million or 6.81% of equity (31 December 2017: HK\$362 million or 6.33% of equity) for the next 12 months after the reporting date.
- (ii) Interest rates on interest-bearing assets and liabilities, except for interest rates on fixed rate assets and managed-rate assets, would increase by 200 basis points. Based on this scenario assumption, profit before tax in 2018 would decrease by HK\$431 million or 7.39% of equity (2017: HK\$425 million or 7.43% of equity). Profit before tax would decrease by HK\$450 million or 7.73% of equity (31 December 2017: HK\$451 million or 7.88% of equity) for the next 12 months after the reporting date.

For measurement of the repricing risk and basis risk exposures, the Group slots its interest-sensitive assets, liabilities and off-balance sheet positions into different time bands according to their earliest interest repricing dates. The Group does not apply to the HKMA for the use of behavioural maturity, and contractual maturity of interest-sensitive assets and liabilities are used in its interest rate risk assessment. For instance, it is assumed that there are no loan prepayments and the interest rates on non-maturity deposits such as savings and demand deposits can be adjusted on the business day immediately following the reporting date.

Notes to Financial Statements

36. RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued)

Interest rate risk management (Continued)

The carrying amounts, or notional amounts if applicable, of financial instruments exposed to interest rate risk based on the earlier of maturity dates and contractual repricing as at 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017 are detailed as follows:

	1 year or less HK\$'000	Over 1 year but not more than 2 years HK\$'000	Over 2 years but not more than 3 years HK\$'000	Over 3 years but not more than 4 years HK\$'000	Over 4 years but not more than 5 years HK\$'000	Over 5 years HK\$'000	Non- interest- bearing HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
Assets:								
Fixed rate financial assets								
Gross cash and short term placements	2,844,035	-	-	-	-	-	1,109,389	3,953,424
Gross placements with banks and financial institutions maturing after one month but not more than twelve months	1,556,498	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,556,498
Gross loans and advances and receivables	2,816,822	1,109,434	589,260	241,731	56,796	31,189	142,943	4,988,175
Derivative financial instruments	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,541	2,541
Equity investment at fair value through other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,804	6,804
Gross held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost	4,240,697	1,293,598	143,917	-	-	-	-	5,678,212
	11,458,052	2,403,032	733,177	241,731	56,796	31,189	1,261,677	16,185,654
Floating rate financial assets								
Gross loans and advances and receivables	24,756,355	-	-	-	-	-	41,985	24,798,340
Gross held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost	525,360	-	-	-	-	-	-	525,360
	25,281,715	-	-	-	-	-	41,985	25,323,700
Less:								
Liabilities:								
Fixed rate financial liabilities								
Deposits and balances of banks and other financial institutions at amortised cost	490,119	-	-	-	-	-	82,593	572,712
Customer deposits at amortised cost	23,131,981	630,630	656	-	146	-	-	23,763,413
Certificates of deposit issued at amortised cost	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derivative financial instruments	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,275	7,275
	23,622,100	630,630	656	-	146	-	89,868	24,343,400
Floating rate financial liabilities								
Customer deposits at amortised cost	9,684,684	-	-	-	-	-	1,849,771	11,534,455
Certificates of deposit issued at amortised cost	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	9,684,684	-	-	-	-	-	1,849,771	11,534,455
Total interest sensitivity gap	3,432,983	1,772,402	732,521	241,731	56,650	31,189	(635,977)	5,631,499

Notes to Financial Statements

36. RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued)

Interest rate risk management (Continued)

	1 year or less HK\$'000	Over 1 year but not more than 2 years HK\$'000	Over 2 years but not more than 3 years HK\$'000	Over 3 years but not more than 4 years HK\$'000	2017 Over 4 years but not more than 5 years HK\$'000	Over 5 years HK\$'000	Non- interest- bearing HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
Assets:								
Fixed rate financial assets								
Cash and short term placements	3,694,992	-	-	-	-	-	1,176,544	4,871,536
Placements with banks and financial institutions maturing after one month but not more than twelve months	1,514,095	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,514,095
Gross loans and advances and receivables	2,806,561	1,029,677	557,575	240,262	57,261	8,252	125,959	4,825,547
Derivative financial instruments	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,317	4,317
Available-for-sale financial assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,804	6,804
Held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost	3,541,119	833,877	1,006,627	-	-	-	-	5,381,623
	11,556,767	1,863,554	1,564,202	240,262	57,261	8,252	1,313,624	16,603,922
Floating rate financial assets								
Gross loans and advances and receivables	24,558,911	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,558,911
Held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost	290,126	-	-	-	-	-	-	290,126
	24,849,037	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,849,037
Less:								
Liabilities:								
Fixed rate financial liabilities								
Deposits and balances of banks and other financial institutions at amortised cost	1,078,064	-	-	-	-	-	45,728	1,123,792
Customer deposits at amortised cost	21,477,024	363,054	662,734	249	-	-	-	22,503,061
Certificates of deposit issued at amortised cost	753,293	-	-	-	-	-	-	753,293
Derivative financial instruments	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,696	1,696
	23,308,381	363,054	662,734	249	-	-	47,424	24,381,842
Floating rate financial liabilities								
Customer deposits at amortised cost	9,995,662	-	-	-	-	-	1,596,052	11,591,714
Certificates of deposit issued at amortised cost	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	9,995,662	-	-	-	-	-	1,596,052	11,591,714
Total interest sensitivity gap	3,101,761	1,500,500	901,468	240,013	57,261	8,252	(329,852)	5,479,403

Notes to Financial Statements

36. RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued) Interest rate risk management (Continued)

The table below summarises the effective average interest rates as at 31 December for monetary financial instruments:

	2018 Rate %	2017 Rate %
Assets		
Cash and short term placements	2.69	1.75
Placements with banks and financial institutions	3.22	4.10
Loans and advances and receivables (including trade bills)	5.71	5.35
Held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost	–	1.55
Held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost	2.22	–
Liabilities		
Deposits and balances of banks and other financial institutions at amortised cost	2.50	1.44
Customer deposits at amortised cost	1.66	1.00
Certificates of deposit issued at amortised cost	–	1.82

Market risk management

(a) Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that the holding of foreign currencies will affect the Group's position as a result of a change in foreign currency exchange rates. The Group's foreign exchange risk positions arise from foreign exchange dealings, commercial banking operations and structural foreign currency exposures. All foreign exchange positions are managed by the Group's Treasury Department within limits approved by the Board of the Bank.

The Group's assets and liabilities are mainly denominated in HKD, United States dollars ("USD"), Renminbi ("RMB"), Australian dollars ("AUD"), New Zealand dollars ("NZD") and Canadian dollars ("CAD"). The Group has limited foreign currency risk as the Group's net foreign currency positions are small, except for net structural position of RMB denominated operating capital.

As at 31 December 2018, if RMB had strengthened or weakened by 100 basis points against HKD with all other variables held constant, the Group's equity would have increased or decreased by HK\$11 million (31 December 2017: HK\$12 million) mainly as a result of foreign exchange impact arising from the net structural position of RMB denominated operating capital.

Notes to Financial Statements

36. RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued)**Market risk management (Continued)****(a) Currency risk (Continued)**

Foreign currency exposures with a net position which constitutes not less than 10% of the total net position in all foreign currencies of the Bank are as follows:

	Spot assets HK\$'million	Spot liabilities HK\$'million	Forward purchases HK\$'million	Forward sales HK\$'million	Net long/ (short) position HK\$'million	Structural assets HK\$'million
As at 31 December 2018						
USD	5,405	4,775	63	695	(2)	-
RMB	1,737	1,731	1	2	5	1,139
AUD	951	1,023	93	25	(4)	-
NZD	149	413	263	-	(1)	-
CAD	107	108	1	-	-	-
Others	276	427	157	6	-	-
	8,625	8,477	578	728	(2)	1,139

	Spot assets HK\$'million	Spot liabilities HK\$'million	Forward purchases HK\$'million	Forward sales HK\$'million	Net long/ (short) position HK\$'million	Structural assets HK\$'million
As at 31 December 2017						
USD	4,712	4,287	439	867	(3)	-
RMB	2,016	1,999	1	2	16	1,199
AUD	991	994	5	5	(3)	-
NZD	262	468	220	15	(1)	-
Others	539	501	18	56	-	-
	8,520	8,249	683	945	9	1,199

Notes to Financial Statements

36. RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued) Market risk management (Continued)

(b) Price risk

Price risk is the risk to the Group's earnings and capital due to changes in the prices of securities, including debt securities and equities.

The Group monitors price risk principally by limits established for transactions and open positions. These limits are reviewed and approved by the respective Boards of the Bank and Public Finance and are monitored on a daily basis.

The Group did not actively trade in financial instruments and in the opinion of the Directors, the price risk related to trading activities to which the Group was exposed was not material. Accordingly, no quantitative market risk disclosures for price risk have been made.

Credit risk management

Credit risk is the risk that a customer or counterparty in a transaction may default. It arises from the lending, trade finance, treasury and other activities undertaken by the Group.

The Group has a credit risk management process to measure, monitor and control credit risk. Its credit policy defines the credit extension and measurement criteria, credit review, approval and monitoring processes, and the loan classification and provisioning systems. It has a hierarchy of credit authority which approves credit in compliance with the Group's credit policy. Credit risk exposures are measured and monitored against credit limits and other control limits (such as connected exposures, large exposures and risk concentration limits approved by respective Boards or dedicated committees). Segregation of duties in key credit functions is in place to ensure separate credit control and monitoring. Management and recovery of problem credits are handled by an independent work-out team.

The Group manages its credit risk within a conservative framework. Its credit policy is regularly revised, taking into account factors such as prevailing business and economic conditions, regulatory requirements and its capital resources. Its policy on connected lending exposure defines and states connected parties, statutory and applicable connected lending limits, types of connected transactions, the taking of collateral, the capital adequacy treatment, and detailed procedures and controls for monitoring connected lending exposures. In general, interest rates and other terms and conditions applying to connected lending should not be more favourable than those of the loans offered to non-connected borrowers under similar circumstances. The terms and conditions should be determined on normal commercial terms at arm's length and in the ordinary course of business of the Group.

Credit and compliance audits are periodically conducted by Internal Audit Departments of the Bank and Public Finance to evaluate the effectiveness of the credit review, approval and monitoring processes and to ensure that the established credit policies and procedures are complied with.

Notes to Financial Statements

36. RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued)

Credit risk management (Continued)

Compliance Departments of the Bank and Public Finance conduct compliance test at selected business units on identified high risk areas for adherence to regulatory and operational requirements and credit policies.

Credit Committees of the Bank and Public Finance monitor the quality of financial assets which are neither past due nor impaired by financial performance indicators (such as the loan-to-value ratio, debts servicing ratio, financial soundness of borrowers and personal guarantees) through meeting discussions and management reports. Loan borrowers subject to legal proceedings, negative comments from other counterparties and rescheduled arrangements are put under watch lists or under the “special mention” grade for management oversight.

Credit Committees of the Bank and Public Finance also monitor the quality of past due or impaired financial assets by internal grading comprising “substandard”, “doubtful” and “loss” accounts through meeting discussions and management reports. Impaired financial assets include those subject to personal bankruptcy petitions, corporate winding-up and rescheduled arrangements.

RMCs of the Bank and Public Finance are responsible for reviewing and assessing the adequacy of risk management framework for identifying, measuring, monitoring and controlling the credit risk of existing and new products. The Committees also review credit risk management policies and credit risk tolerance limits. The RMC of the Bank is assisted by CRMC for discharging its responsibilities on credit risk management issues.

The Group mitigates credit risk by credit protection provided by guarantors and by loan collateral such as customer deposits, properties, listed shares, taxi licences, public light bus licences and vehicles.

The “Neither past due nor impaired loans and advances and receivables” are shown in note 17 to the financial statements.

Loans and advances and receivables that were neither past due nor impaired were related to a large number of diversified customers for whom there was no recent history of default.

Maximum credit exposures for off-balance sheet items without taking into account the fair value of collateral are as follows:

	2018	2017
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Credit related contingent liabilities	67,195	76,153
Loan commitments and other credit related commitments	3,110,113	3,015,642

Notes to Financial Statements

36. RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued)

Liquidity risk management

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Group cannot meet its current obligations. Major sources of liquidity risk of the Group are the early or unexpected withdrawals of deposits in cash outflow and the delay in cash inflow from loan repayments. To manage liquidity risk, the Boards of the Bank and Public Finance has established a liquidity risk management framework which incorporates liquidity risk tolerance, management oversight on liquidity risk, liquidity risk and funding strategy, risk related metrics and tools for liquidity risk management, internal liquidity risk pricing, and the manner of reporting significant matters. The major objectives of liquidity risk management framework are to (i) specify the roles and responsibilities of relevant parties on liquidity risk management, (ii) identify, measure and control liquidity risk exposures with proper implementation of funding strategies, (iii) effectively report significant risk related matters for management oversight, and (iv) manage the liquidity profile within risk tolerance. The liquidity risk management framework is cascaded to all business lines to ensure a consistent liquidity risk strategy, policies and practices across the Group. Liquidity risk related policies are reviewed by senior management and dedicated committees, and significant changes in such policies are approved by the Boards of the Bank and Public Finance or committees delegated by the respective Boards.

ALCOs of the Bank and Public Finance monitor the liquidity position as part of the ongoing management of assets and liabilities, and set up trigger limits to monitor liquidity risk. They also closely monitor the liquidity of the subsidiaries on a periodic basis to ensure that the liquidity structure of the subsidiaries' assets, liabilities and commitments can meet their funding needs, and that internal liquidity trigger limits are complied with.

Treasury Department of the Bank and a dedicated department of Public Finance are responsible for the centralised implementation of the strategies and policies approved by the dedicated committees and the respective Boards, and developing operational procedures and controls to ensure the compliance with the aforesaid policies and to minimise operational disruptions in case of a liquidity crisis.

Risk Management Departments of the Bank and Public Finance are responsible for day-to-day monitoring of liquidity maintenance ratios, loans to deposits ratios, concentration risk related ratios and other liquidity risk related ratios coupled with the use of cash-flow projections, maturity ladder, stress-testing methodologies and other applicable risk assessment tools and metrics to detect early warning signals and identify vulnerabilities to potential liquidity risk on forward-looking basis with the objective of ensuring different types of liquidity risks of the Group are appropriately identified, measured, assessed and reported. They also carry out analysis based on risk-based management reports, summarise the data from those reports and present the key liquidity information of the Group and key business lines to the respective ALCOs on a regular (at least monthly) basis. In case of significant issues, such as serious limit excesses or breaches or early warning signals of potential severe impact on the Bank or Public Finance are identified from the aforesaid management reports or market information obtained from Treasury Department and business units, a designated ALCO member will convene a meeting (involving senior management members) to discuss risk related matters and propose actions to ALCO whenever necessary. A high level summary of the liquidity risk performance of the Bank or Public Finance will be presented by the respective ALCOs to their RMCs and the Boards.

Notes to Financial Statements

36. RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued) Liquidity risk management (Continued)

The examples of liquidity risk related metrics of the Bank and Public Finance include liquidity maintenance ratios (with internal risk tolerance higher than the statutory liquidity maintenance ratio); cash-flow mismatches under normal and different stress scenarios; concentration related limits of deposits and other funding sources, and maturity profile of major assets and liabilities (including on-balance sheet and off-balance sheet items). The systems and procedures are in place to measure and manage liquidity risk by cash-flow projections in both baseline and stressed scenario arising from off-balance sheet exposures and contingent funding obligations. In baseline scenario, expected cash outflow is derived from the aforesaid exposures and obligations including potential drawdowns of unused committed facilities; trade related contingencies; issued letters of credit and financial guarantee unrelated to trade related contingencies; and uncommitted facilities and other contingent obligations with regard to not only the contractual terms in agreements with customers but also the manner of past months' utilisation and genuine drawdowns of the credit facilities; customer relationships and reputational risk perspectives. In stressed scenario, the utilisation and drawdowns of credit facilities are expected to escalate to some extent.

The funding strategies of the Group are to (i) diversify funding sources for mitigating liquidity risk exposures; (ii) minimise disruptions due to operational issues such as transfer of liquidity across group entities; (iii) ensure contingency funding is available to the Group; and (iv) maintain sufficient liquidity cushion to meet critical liquidity needs such as loan commitments and deposit withdrawals in stressed situations. The Group has established concentration limits of funding sources taking into account the respective risk profiles of the Bank and Public Finance. For instance, intra-group funding and funding from the largest funding provider are restricted to be not more than 15% and 10% of total funding sources respectively to reduce reliance on single source of funding. Medium and long term funding is maintained at a level of at least 20% of total funding source to pursue stable funding structure.

Contingency funding plan is formulated to address liquidity needs at different stages including the mechanism for the detection of early warning signals of potential crisis at early stage and obtaining of emergency funding in bank-run scenario at later stage. Designated roles and responsibilities of Crisis Management Team, departments and business units and their emergency contact information are documented clearly in contingency funding plan as part of business continuity planning, and contingency funding measures are in place to set priorities of funding arrangements with counterparties, to set procedures for intraday liquidity risk management and intra-group funding support, to manage media relationship and to communicate with internal and external parties during a liquidity crisis. The stress-testing results are updated and reported to senior management regularly and the results such as survival period for positive cash-flow mismatches are used in contingency funding planning and determination of the required level of liquidity cushion. Based on the results of liquidity stress-testing, standby facilities and liquid assets are maintained to provide liquidity to meet unexpected and material cash outflows in stressed situations.

The Group maintains sufficient liquidity cushion comprising mainly bills, notes or bonds issued by eligible central governments in total amount of not less than HK\$1.5 billion to address critical and emergent liquidity needs on intraday basis and over other different time horizons. The Group is not subject to particular collateral arrangements or requirements in contracts in case there is a credit rating downgrade of entities within the Group.

Notes to Financial Statements

36. RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued) Liquidity risk management (Continued)

Apart from cash-flow projections under normal scenario to manage liquidity under different time horizons, different stress scenarios such as institution-specific stress scenario, the general market stress scenario and the combination of such scenarios with assumptions are set and reviewed by dedicated committees and approved by the respective Boards. Under the institution-specific stress scenario, loan repayments from some customers are assumed to be delayed. The projected cash inflow would be affected by the increased amount of rollover of banking facilities by some corporate customers and retail loan delinquencies. Regarding cash-outflow projection, part of undrawn banking facilities are not to be utilised by borrowers or honoured by the Group. The core deposits ratio would decrease as there would be early withdrawals of some fixed deposits before contractual maturity dates or there would be fewer renewals of fixed deposits on the contractual maturity dates. In the general market stress scenario, some undrawn banking facilities are not to be honoured upon drawdown as some bank counterparties will not have sufficient liquidity to honour their obligations in market. The Group may pledge or liquidate its liquid assets such as debt securities (including but not limited to treasury bills or notes or bonds issued by eligible central governments) to secure funding to address potential liquidity crisis. Liquidity stress-tests are conducted regularly (at least monthly) and the results are utilised for part of contingency funding plan or for providing insights to management about the latest liquidity position of the Group.

Regulatory liquidity ratios

The Group, the Bank and Public Finance are required to comply with the liquidity maintenance ratio requirement and core funding ratio requirement pursuant to section 97H of the Hong Kong Banking Ordinance and Rule 7 and 8D of the Banking (Liquidity) Rules.

	2018	2017
Liquidity Maintenance Ratio		
– The Group	45.4%	49.0%
– The Bank	44.7%	47.4%
– Public Finance	56.1%	72.9%
Core Funding Ratio		
– The Group	133.6%	N/A
– The Bank	131.3%	N/A

The Group calculates the average liquidity maintenance ratio and core funding ratio of each calendar month by reference to positions of specified days approved by the HKMA pursuant to Rule 48(2) and Rule 76(2) of the Banking (Liquidity) Rules.

The average liquidity maintenance ratio and core funding ratio are computed using the arithmetic mean of each calendar month's average ratio as reported in the return relating to the liquidity position submitted to the HKMA.

Notes to Financial Statements

36. RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued)

Liquidity risk management (Continued)

Liquidity exposures and funding needs are measured and assessed at the level of individual legal entities (i.e. the Bank and its core operating subsidiaries) and Mainland China Office (i.e. Shenzhen Branch and its sub-branches). Pursuant to the HKMA/SFC's requirements, the transferability of liquidity of the Bank and its operating subsidiaries takes into account the need of compliance with trigger points of liquidity related ratios and minimum liquidity capital level; and other legal and regulatory limitations such as limits of connected exposures and capital related ratios. Pursuant to the requirements of China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission, the Mainland China Office of the Bank is required to maintain regulatory liquidity ratios in RMB and foreign currencies of not less than 25%. Due to the foreign exchange controls imposed by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange ("SAFE") in China, cross-border funding flow to and from Mainland China is subject to the supervision and approval of SAFE. In view of the limitation on transferability of liquidity, Mainland China Office has maintained high and sufficient liquidity to meet its business needs. As at 31 December 2018, its liquidity ratios in RMB and foreign currencies of Shenzhen Branch were more than 100%.

Maturity analysis of financial liabilities, based on the contractual undiscounted cash-flows, is as follows:

	Repayable on demand HK\$'000	Up to 1 month HK\$'000	2018			Over 5 years HK\$'000	Repayable within an indefinite period HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
			Over 1 month but not more than 3 months HK\$'000	Over 3 months but not more than 12 months HK\$'000	Over 1 year but not more than 5 years HK\$'000			
Forward assets purchase	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forward forward deposits placed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gross foreign currency contracts	-	669,297	91,735	-	-	-	-	761,032
Credit related contingent liabilities	29,619	5,648	10,578	19,519	1,700	131	-	67,195
Loan commitments and other credit related commitments	2,870,337	199,050	-	-	40,726	-	-	3,110,113
Customer deposits at amortised cost	11,530,460	7,264,344	8,716,046	7,424,283	671,974	-	-	35,607,107
Deposits and balances of banks and other financial institutions at amortised cost	82,592	231,754	241,449	20,467	-	-	-	576,262
Certificates of deposit issued at amortised cost	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities	-	87,184	-	-	-	-	168,851	256,035
	14,513,008	8,457,277	9,059,808	7,464,269	714,400	131	168,851	40,377,744

Notes to Financial Statements

36. RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued) Liquidity risk management (Continued)

	Repayable on demand HK\$'000	Up to 1 month HK\$'000	2017			Over 5 years HK\$'000	Repayable within an indefinite period HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
			Over 1 month but not more than 3 months HK\$'000	Over 3 months but not more than 12 months HK\$'000	Over 1 year but not more than 5 years HK\$'000			
Forward assets purchase	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forward forward deposits placed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gross foreign currency contracts	-	1,152,127	156,144	-	-	-	-	1,308,271
Credit related contingent liabilities	34,467	7,138	9,437	24,979	-	132	-	76,153
Loan commitments and other credit related commitments	2,665,724	278,949	11,605	6,667	52,697	-	-	3,015,642
Customer deposits at amortised cost	11,551,988	7,320,574	8,101,047	6,223,954	1,058,052	-	-	34,255,615
Deposits and balances of banks and other financial institutions at amortised cost	45,728	849,114	200,667	30,330	-	-	-	1,125,839
Certificates of deposit issued at amortised cost	-	-	767,160	-	-	-	-	767,160
Other liabilities	-	156,418	-	-	-	-	175,101	331,519
	14,297,907	9,764,320	9,246,060	6,285,930	1,110,749	132	175,101	40,880,199

Operational risk management

Operational risk is defined as the risk of loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, human and system errors or from external events.

The Group has an operational risk management function in place to identify, measure, monitor and control operational risk. Its operational risk management policy defines the responsibilities of various committees, business units and supporting departments, and highlights key operational risk factors and categories with loss event types to facilitate the measurement and assessment of operational risks and their potential impact. Operational risk exposures are monitored by appropriate key risk indicators for tracking and escalation to management for providing early warning signals of increased operational risk or a breakdown in operational risk management. Regular operational risk management reports are received and consolidated from various parties and reported to the ORMC for the monitoring and control of operational risk.

Capital management

Capital of the Group for regulatory and risk management purposes includes share capital, reserves, retained profits, regulatory reserve and subordinated debts, if any. Finance and Control Department is responsible for monitoring the amount of the capital base and capital adequacy ratios against trigger limits and for risk exposures and ensuring compliance with relevant statutory limits, taking into account business growth, dividend payouts and other relevant factors.

The Group's policy is to maintain a strong capital base to support the development of the Group's businesses and to meet the statutory capital adequacy ratio and other regulatory capital requirements. Capital is allocated to various business activities of the Group depending on the risks taken by each business division and in accordance with the requirements of relevant regulatory bodies, taking into account current and future activities within a time frame of 3 years.

Notes to Financial Statements

36. RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued) Capital management (Continued)

Capital adequacy ratios

The consolidated capital adequacy ratios of the Group are computed in accordance with the provisions of the Banking (Amendment) Ordinance 2012 relating to Basel III capital standards and the amended Capital Rules. The Group has adopted the standardised approach for the calculation of credit risk-weighted exposures and market risk-weighted exposures. The Group has adopted the basic indicator approach and the standardised approach for the calculation of operational risk-weighted exposures of the Bank and Public Finance, respectively.

	31 December 2018	31 December 2017
Consolidated CET1 Capital Ratio	18.0%	18.0%
Consolidated Tier 1 Capital Ratio	18.0%	18.0%
Consolidated Total Capital Ratio	19.2%	19.2%

The above capital ratios are higher than the minimum capital ratios required by the HKMA.

Notes to Financial Statements

36. RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued)

Capital management (Continued)

Capital disclosures

The components of capital base include the following items:

	31 December 2018 HK\$'000	31 December 2017 HK\$'000
CET1 capital instruments	2,854,045	2,854,045
Retained earnings	2,516,840	2,225,752
Disclosed reserves	312,370	502,417
CET1 capital before deduction	5,683,255	5,582,214
Deduct:		
Cumulative fair value gains arising from the revaluation of land and buildings (covering both own-use and investment properties)	(42,107)	(32,270)
Regulatory reserve for general banking risk	(296,540)	(439,762)
Goodwill	(242,342)	(242,342)
Deferred tax assets in excess of deferred tax liabilities	(24,992)	(10,140)
CET1 capital after deduction	5,077,274	4,857,700
Additional Tier 1 capital	-	-
Tier 1 capital after deductions	5,077,274	4,857,700
Reserve attributable to fair value gains	18,948	14,522
Regulatory reserve for general banking risk	296,540	282,719
Collective provisions	10,719	8,891
	307,259	291,610
Tier 2 capital	326,207	306,132
Capital base	5,403,481	5,163,832
Total risk-weighted assets	28,184,838	26,913,775

Notes to Financial Statements

36. RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued)**Capital management (Continued)****Capital conservation buffer (CCB)**

The Group is subject to the 2.5% CCB ratio which has been phased-in from 2016. The applicable CCB ratio effective from 1 January 2018 is 1.875%. The Group has reserved a capital buffer for the implementation of CCB ratio for which the applicable CCB ratio will become fully effective on 1 January 2019.

Countercyclical capital buffer (CCyB)

The CCyB ratio is an additional layer of CET1 Capital which takes effect as an extension of the Basel III capital conservation buffer.

The Group has reserved a capital buffer for the implementation of CCyB ratio, inclusive of CCyB ratio of 1.875%, to the private sector credit exposures in Hong Kong.

The following table illustrates the geographical breakdown of risk-weighted amounts ("RWA") in relation to private sector credit exposures:

Jurisdiction ("J")	Applicable JCCyB ratio in effect %	Total RWA used in computation of CCyB ratio HK\$'000	CCyB ratio %	CCyB amount HK\$'000
As at 31 December 2018				
1. Hong Kong	1.875	18,720,870		
2. Mainland China	0.000	1,973,012		
Total		20,693,882	1.696	351,016
Jurisdiction ("J")	Applicable JCCyB ratio in effect %	Total RWA used in computation of CCyB ratio HK\$'000	CCyB ratio %	CCyB amount HK\$'000
As at 31 December 2017				
1. Hong Kong	1.250	17,683,570		
2. Mainland China	0.000	1,671,028		
Total		19,354,598	1.142	221,045

Notes to Financial Statements

36. RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued) Capital management (Continued)

Leverage ratio

The leverage ratio is introduced into the Basel III framework as a non-risk-based backstop limit to supplement risk-based capital requirements. It aims to constrain the build-up of excess leverage in the banking sector, and introducing additional safeguards against model risk and measurement errors. The ratio is a volume-based measure calculated as Basel III Tier 1 capital divided by total on-balance sheet and off-balance sheet exposures with reference to the Completion Instruction of the Quarterly Template on Leverage Ratio.

	31 December 2018 HK\$'000	31 December 2017 HK\$'000
Consolidated Tier 1 Capital	5,077,274	4,857,700
Consolidated Exposure Measure for Leverage Ratio	42,119,234	41,870,577
Consolidated Leverage Ratio	12.1%	11.6%

The disclosure on leverage ratio has been effective since 31 March 2015 and the relevant disclosures can be viewed in the Annual Disclosures under “Regulatory Disclosures” section on the Bank’s website at www.publicbank.com.hk on or before 30 April 2019.

Risk exposures

Class of exposures	2018					
	Rated# HK\$'000	Exposures* Unrated HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000	Risk-weighted amounts		
				Rated HK\$'000	Unrated HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
On-balance sheet:						
Sovereign	2,723,107	–	2,723,107	142,308	–	142,308
Public sector entity	304,300	48,027	352,327	60,860	9,605	70,465
Bank	8,520,204	290,042	8,810,246	3,306,595	136,046	3,442,641
Securities firm	–	433,747	433,747	–	216,874	216,874
Corporate	–	6,464,508	6,464,508	–	6,464,508	6,464,508
Cash items	–	1,414,476	1,414,476	–	229,302	229,302
Regulatory retail	–	10,360,777	10,360,777	–	7,770,583	7,770,583
Residential mortgage loan	–	9,282,813	9,282,813	–	3,840,593	3,840,593
Other non-past due	–	2,116,652	2,116,652	–	2,210,795	2,210,795
Past due	–	127,098	127,098	–	162,562	162,562
Off-balance sheet:						
Over-the-counter (“OTC”) derivative transactions – foreign exchange contracts	–	756,298	756,298	–	2,021	2,021
Other off-balance sheet items	–	3,177,308	3,177,308	–	28,041	28,041
	11,547,611	34,471,746	46,019,357	3,509,763	21,070,930	24,580,693

Notes to Financial Statements

36. RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued)**Capital management (Continued)****Risk exposures (Continued)**

Class of exposures	Rated [#] HK\$'000	Exposures* Unrated HK\$'000	2017			
			Total HK\$'000	Risk-weighted amounts		
				Rated HK\$'000	Unrated HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
On-balance sheet:						
Sovereign	2,173,861	–	2,173,861	101,946	–	101,946
Public sector entity	303,685	74,705	378,390	60,737	14,941	75,678
Bank	9,655,343	207,526	9,862,869	3,408,833	103,763	3,512,596
Securities firm	–	559,072	559,072	–	279,536	279,536
Corporate	–	5,175,996	5,175,996	–	5,175,996	5,175,996
Cash items	–	1,804,115	1,804,115	–	280,511	280,511
Regulatory retail	–	9,796,944	9,796,944	–	7,347,708	7,347,708
Residential mortgage loan	–	9,979,345	9,979,345	–	4,184,470	4,184,470
Other non-past due	–	2,160,965	2,160,965	–	2,255,108	2,255,108
Past due	–	57,025	57,025	–	74,177	74,177
Off-balance sheet:						
OTC derivative transactions						
– foreign exchange contracts	–	1,310,892	1,310,892	–	3,486	3,486
Other off-balance sheet items	–	3,091,795	3,091,795	–	37,603	37,603
	12,132,889	34,218,380	46,351,269	3,571,516	19,757,299	23,328,815

The Group did not enter into OTC derivative transactions other than foreign exchange contracts with counterparties during 2018 and 2017. The Group assigns internal capital and credit limits based on the methodology stipulated in the Capital Rules. Counterparties of those OTC derivative transactions are banks and the Group does not place collaterals to such counterparties. The credit exposures attributed to such transactions were considered insignificant.

* Principal amount or credit equivalent amount, net of individual impairment allowances before or after credit risk mitigation.

Exposures are rated by the Bank's External Credit Assessment Institutions ("ECAI"), Moody's with ECAI issue specific ratings or with ECAI inferred ratings. Risk weights are determined based on ECAI ratings pursuant to the Capital Rules.

Notes to Financial Statements

36. RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued) Capital management (Continued) Risk exposures (Continued)

	31 December 2018	
	Risk-weighted exposures HK\$'000	Capital requirements/ charge HK\$'000
Credit risk	24,580,693	1,966,455
Credit risk – credit valuation adjustment	1,263	101
Market risk – foreign exchange exposures	1,144,050	91,524
Operational risk	2,608,975	208,718
Deductions	(150,143)	
	28,184,838	
	31 December 2017	
	Risk-weighted exposures HK\$'000	Capital requirements/ charge HK\$'000
Credit risk	23,328,815	1,866,305
Credit risk – credit valuation adjustment	1,813	145
Market risk – foreign exchange exposures	1,215,025	97,202
Operational risk	2,542,913	203,433
Deductions	(174,791)	
	26,913,775	

For the years ended 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017, the Group has adopted the standardised approach for calculation of credit risk-weighted exposures and market risk-weighted exposures. The Group has adopted the basic indicator approach and the standardised approach for the calculation of operational risk-weighted exposures of the Bank and Public Finance respectively.

As at 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017, the Group had no securitisation exposures.

Principal subsidiaries and basis of consolidation

The basis of consolidation for financial accounting purposes is in accordance with HKFRSs, as described in note 3 to the financial statements.

The basis of consolidation for regulatory purposes is different from that for accounting purposes. Subsidiaries included in the consolidation for regulatory purposes are specified in a notice from the HKMA in accordance with section 3C(1) of the Capital Rules.

The subsidiaries not included in the computation of the consolidated capital adequacy ratios of the Group are Public Bank (Nominees) Limited, Public Credit Limited, Public Futures Limited, Public Pacific Securities Limited, Public Financial Securities Limited, Public Financial Limited, Public Securities Limited and Public Securities (Nominees) Limited.

Details of the Bank's subsidiaries are set out in note 1 to the financial statements.

Notes to Financial Statements

36. RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued) Capital management (Continued)

Capital instruments

To comply with the Banking (Disclosure) Rules, the Group will present all the information relating to the disclosure of regulatory capital instruments and the reconciliation to the Group's published financial statements in the Annual Disclosures under "Regulatory Disclosures" section on the Bank's website at www.publicbank.com.hk on or before 30 April 2019.

The disclosure will include the following information:

- a description of the main features and full terms and conditions of the Group's capital instruments;
- a detailed breakdown of the Group's CET1 capital, Additional Tier 1 capital, Tier 2 capital and regulatory deductions, using the standard disclosure template as specified by the HKMA; and
- a full reconciliation between the Group's accounting and regulatory balance sheets, using the standard disclosure template as specified by the HKMA.

The following is a summary of the Group's CET1 capital instruments:

	Note	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
CET1 capital instruments issued by the Bank			
Ordinary shares:			
14,816,000 issued and fully paid ordinary shares	29	2,854,045	2,854,045

Pillar 3 disclosures

Further disclosures with respect to capital adequacy and risk management were shown in the Pillar 3 disclosures templates as required by the Banking (Disclosure) Rules. The Group will publish the Annual Disclosures for the year ended 31 December 2018 under "Regulatory Disclosures" section on the Bank's website at www.publicbank.com.hk on or before 30 April 2019.

Notes to Financial Statements

37. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE BANK

Information about the statement of financial position of the Bank at the end of the reporting year is as follows:

	Note	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
ASSETS			
Cash and short term placements		3,705,445	4,619,436
Placements with banks and financial institutions maturing after one month but not more than twelve months		1,556,342	1,514,095
Derivative financial instruments		2,541	4,317
Loans and advances and receivables	37(a)	23,668,337	23,607,526
Available-for-sale financial assets		–	6,804
Equity investments at fair value through other comprehensive income		6,804	–
Held-to-maturity investments at amortised cost		–	5,651,796
Held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost		5,903,102	–
Investments in subsidiaries		1,755,896	1,755,896
Deferred tax assets		11,370	12,451
Tax recoverable		567	–
Property and equipment		82,907	74,354
Land held under finance leases		137,008	89,296
Investment properties		89,790	86,352
Other assets		171,920	187,394
TOTAL ASSETS		37,092,029	37,609,717

Notes to Financial Statements

37. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE BANK (Continued)

	Notes	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
LIABILITIES			
Deposits and balances of banks and other financial institutions at amortised cost		869,859	1,639,845
Derivative financial instruments		7,275	1,696
Customer deposits at amortised cost	37(b)	30,068,398	29,250,678
Certificates of deposit issued at amortised cost		–	753,293
Current tax payable		1,214	35,143
Deferred tax liabilities		10,796	9,669
Other liabilities		333,344	310,582
TOTAL LIABILITIES		31,290,886	32,000,906
EQUITY ATTRIBUTABLE TO OWNERS OF THE BANK			
Share capital		2,854,045	2,854,045
Reserves	37(c)	2,947,098	2,754,766
TOTAL EQUITY		5,801,143	5,608,811
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		37,092,029	37,609,717

Lai Wan
Director

Tan Yoke Kong
Director

Chong Yam Kiang
Director

Notes to Financial Statements

37. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE BANK (Continued)

(a) Loans and advances and receivables

Information about the loans and advances and receivables of the Bank at the end of the reporting year is as follows:

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Loans and advances to customers	23,616,055	23,545,334
Trade bills	29,724	33,958
Loans and advances, and trade bills	23,645,779	23,579,292
Accrued interest	32,453	31,482
Other receivables	23,678,232 1,317	23,610,774 2,255
Gross loans and advances and receivables	23,679,549	23,613,029
Less: Provisions/impairment allowances*		
– specifically assessed	(3,823)	(2,378)
– collectively assessed	(7,389)	(3,125)
	(11,212)	(5,503)
Loans and advances and receivables	23,668,337	23,607,526

Over 90% (31 December 2017: over 90%) of the loans and advances and receivables were unrated exposures. Over 90% (31 December 2017: over 90%) of the collateral for the secured loans and advances and receivables were customer deposits, properties, listed shares, taxi licences, public light bus licences and vehicles.

* The balances also include the provisions on off-balance sheet credit exposures.

Loans and advances and receivables are summarised as follows:

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Neither past due nor impaired loans and advances and receivables	23,313,396	23,306,612
Past due but not impaired loans and advances and receivables	286,807	272,674
Credit impaired loans and advances	76,599	32,068
Credit impaired receivables	2,747	1,675
Gross loans and advances and receivables	23,679,549	23,613,029

About 68% (31 December 2017: about 69%) of “Neither past due nor impaired loans and advances and receivables” were property mortgage loans and hire purchase loans secured by properties, taxi licences, public light bus licences and vehicles.

Notes to Financial Statements

37. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE BANK (Continued)**(a) Loans and advances and receivables (Continued)****(i) a) Ageing analysis of overdue and impaired loans and advances**

	2018 Gross amount HK\$'000	Percentage of total loans and advances %	2017 Gross amount HK\$'000	Percentage of total loans and advances %
Loans and advances overdue for:				
Six months or less but over three months	45,058	0.19	4,582	0.02
One year or less but over six months	11,407	0.05	3,167	0.01
Over one year	1,612	0.01	14,459	0.06
Loans and advances overdue for more than three months	58,077	0.25	22,208	0.09
Rescheduled loans and advances overdue for three months or less	2,995	0.01	839	0.01
Impaired loans and advances overdue for three months or less	15,527	0.06	9,021	0.04
Total overdue and impaired loans and advances	76,599	0.32	32,068	0.14

b) Ageing analysis of overdue and impaired trade bills, accrued interest and other receivables

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Trade bills, accrued interest and other receivables overdue for:		
Six months or less but over three months	1,647	117
One year or less but over six months	472	152
Over one year	197	1,243
Trade bills, accrued interest and other receivables overdue for more than three months	2,316	1,512
Impaired trade bills, accrued interest and other receivables overdue for three months or less	431	163
Total overdue and impaired trade bills, accrued interest and other receivables	2,747	1,675

Impaired loans and advances and receivables are individually determined to be impaired after considering the overdue ageing analysis and other qualitative factors such as bankruptcy proceedings and individual voluntary arrangements.

Notes to Financial Statements

37. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE BANK (Continued)

(a) Loans and advances and receivables (Continued)

(ii) Geographical analysis of overdue and impaired loans and advances and receivables, and provisions/impairment allowances

a) Analysis of overdue loans and advances and receivables

	Hong Kong HK\$'000	2018 Mainland China HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
Loans and advances and receivables overdue for more than three months	31,729	28,664	60,393
Specific provisions based on lifetime expected credit loss	2,742	3	2,745
Current market value and fair value of collateral			111,930
	Hong Kong HK\$'000	2017 Mainland China HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
Loans and advances and receivables overdue for more than three months	9,715	14,005	23,720
Individual impairment allowances	899	–	899
Collective impairment allowances	–	1	1
Current market value and fair value of collateral			43,344

Notes to Financial Statements

37. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE BANK (Continued)**(a) Loans and advances and receivables (Continued)****(ii) Geographical analysis of overdue and impaired loans and advances and receivables, and provisions/impairment allowances (Continued)****b) Analysis of impaired loans and advances and receivables**

	Hong Kong HK\$'000	2018 Mainland China HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
Impaired loans and advances and receivables	42,443	36,903	79,346
Specific provisions based on lifetime expected credit loss	3,819	4	3,823
Current market value and fair value of collateral			150,217
	Hong Kong HK\$'000	2017 Mainland China HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
Impaired loans and advances and receivables	15,950	17,793	33,743
Individual impairment allowances	2,378	–	2,378
Collective impairment allowances	1	2	3
Current market value and fair value of collateral			61,493

Over 90% (2017: over 90%) of the Bank's gross loans and advances and receivables were derived from operations carried out in Hong Kong. Accordingly, no geographical segment information of gross loans and advances and receivables is presented herein.

Notes to Financial Statements

37. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE BANK (Continued)

(a) Loans and advances and receivables (Continued)

- (iii) The value of collateral held in respect of the overdue loans and advances and the split between the portion of the overdue loans and advances covered by credit protection (covered portion) and the remaining portion (uncovered portion) are as follows:

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Current market value and fair value of collateral held against the covered portion of overdue loans and advances	111,930	43,344
Covered portion of overdue loans and advances	55,432	21,390
Uncovered portion of overdue loans and advances	2,645	818

The assets taken as collateral should satisfy the following criteria:

- The market value of the asset is readily determinable or can be reasonably established and verified.
- The asset is marketable and there exists a readily available secondary market for disposal of the asset.
- The Bank's right to repossess the asset is legally enforceable without impediment.
- The Bank is able to secure control over the asset if necessary.

The main types of guarantors for credit risk mitigation are as follows:

- Central governments with a grading of Aa3 or above
- Unrated public sector enterprises
- Banks with a grading of Baa2 or above
- Unrated corporations
- Individual shareholders and directors of corporate customers

(iv) Repossessed assets

As at 31 December 2018, the total value of repossessed assets of the Bank amounted to HK\$26,120,000 (2017: HK\$2,940,000).

Notes to Financial Statements

37. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE BANK (Continued)**(a) Loans and advances and receivables (Continued)****(v) Past due but not impaired loans and advances and receivables**

	2018	Percentage of total	2017	Percentage of total
	Gross amount HK\$'000	loans and advances %	Gross amount HK\$'000	loans and advances %
Loans and advances overdue for three months or less	284,054	1.20	270,532	1.15
Trade bills, accrued interest and other receivables overdue for three months or less	2,753		2,142	

(b) Customer deposits at amortised cost

The information of the composition of customer deposits of the Bank is as follows:

	2018 HK\$'000	2017 HK\$'000
Demand deposits and current accounts	4,913,999	4,051,250
Savings deposits	6,809,824	7,723,798
Time, call and notice deposits	18,344,575	17,475,630
	30,068,398	29,250,678

Notes to Financial Statements

37. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE BANK (Continued)

(c) Reserves

Information on the movement of the reserves of the Bank during the reporting year is as follows:

	Other reserves				Total HK\$'000
	Capital reserve HK\$'000	Regulatory reserve (Note) HK\$'000	Retained profits HK\$'000	Translation reserve HK\$'000	
As at 1 January 2017	3,660	333,854	2,112,785	(10,000)	2,440,299
Profit for the year	-	-	458,896	-	458,896
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	68,995	68,995
Transfer from regulatory reserve to retained profits	-	(11,585)	11,585	-	-
Dividends paid in respect of previous year	-	-	(97,815)	-	(97,815)
Dividends paid in respect of current year	-	-	(115,609)	-	(115,609)
As at 31 December 2017 (Reported)	3,660	322,269	2,369,842	58,995	2,754,766
Impact of adopting HKFRS 9	-	(4,960)	(542)	-	(5,502)
Restated opening balance under HKFRS 9 as at 1 January 2018	3,660	317,309	2,369,300	58,995	2,749,264
Profit for the year	-	-	493,791	-	493,791
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	(46,826)	(46,826)
Transfer from regulatory reserve to retained profits	-	(14,872)	14,872	-	-
Dividends paid in respect of previous year	-	-	(124,810)	-	(124,810)
Dividends paid in respect of current year	-	-	(124,321)	-	(124,321)
As at 31 December 2018	3,660	302,437	2,628,832	12,169	2,947,098

Note:

The regulatory reserve is maintained to satisfy the provisions of the Hong Kong Banking Ordinance for prudential supervision purpose. It was held as a buffer of capital to absorb potential financial losses in excess of the accounting standards' requirements pursuant to HKMA's guidelines.

38. KEY ELEMENTS OF DISCLOSURE POLICY

The Disclosure Policy of the Bank sets out the approach used by the Bank to (i) determine the content, appropriateness and frequency of the information it discloses to the general public relating to its state of affairs including its profit and loss and its financial resources (including capital/liquidity resources); and (ii) describe its own risk profile as required by the Banking (Disclosure) Rules. Further details of key elements of the Disclosure Policy will be shown under "Regulatory Disclosures" section on the Bank's website at www.publicbank.com.hk on or before 30 April 2019.

39. APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 17 January 2019.

Supplementary Financial Information (Unaudited)

(A) ADVANCES TO CUSTOMERS BY INDUSTRY SECTORS

Gross and impaired loans and advances to customers, provisions/impairment allowances, impaired loans and advances written off and collateral are analysed by industry sectors pursuant to the HKMA's guidelines as follows:

Group	31 December 2018								
	Gross loans and advances HK\$'000	General provisions HK\$'000	Specific provisions HK\$'000	New provisions for loans charged to income statement HK\$'000	Amount of impaired loans and advances written off HK\$'000	Collateral HK\$'000	Percentage of gross advances covered by collateral %	Impaired loans and advances HK\$'000	Loans and advances overdue for more than three months HK\$'000
Loans and advances for use in Hong Kong									
Manufacturing	492,056	517	-	144	23	479,807	97.5	-	-
Building and construction, property development and investment									
Property development	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Property investment	6,609,583	660	3	206	-	6,609,583	100.0	6,565	2,632
Civil engineering works	226,345	225	-	140	-	134,382	59.4	-	-
Electricity and gas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recreational activities	129,458	19	-	8	-	129,080	99.7	-	-
Information technology	3,482	1	-	-	-	3,482	100.0	-	-
Wholesale and retail trade	264,157	813	31	525	-	224,122	84.8	31	31
Transport and transport equipment	4,597,741	3,191	2,833	454	326	4,328,075	94.1	8,772	8,460
Hotels, boarding houses and catering	144,088	132	-	117	-	139,860	97.1	-	-
Financial concerns	992,369	99	-	1	-	991,642	99.9	-	-
Stockbrokers									
Margin lending	433,582	43	-	38	-	433,582	100.0	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-stockbroking companies and individuals for the purchase of shares									
Margin lending	48,267	5	-	-	-	48,267	100.0	-	-
Others	130,231	35	-	8	-	130,231	100.0	-	-
Professional and private individuals									
Loans for the purchase of flats covered by the guarantees issued by the Housing Authority under the Home Ownership Scheme, Private Sector Participation Scheme and Tenant Purchase Scheme	44,923	5	-	-	-	44,923	100.0	-	-
Loans for the purchase of other residential properties	7,522,045	749	2	167	25	7,522,045	100.0	24,718	21,501
Loans for credit card advances	10,612	40	12	13	36	-	-	12	-
Loans for other business purposes	13,810	1	-	-	-	13,810	100.0	-	-
Loans for other private purposes	4,416,414	126,990	52,842	76,642	298,479	233,585	5.3	117,592	49,817
Trade finance	796,324	107	14	52	-	757,478	95.1	2,385	-
Other loans and advances	103,963	17	-	2	-	102,989	99.1	-	-
Sub-total	26,979,450	133,649	55,737	78,517	298,889	22,326,943	82.8	160,075	82,441
Loans and advances for use outside Hong Kong	2,698,661	1,103	134	704	1,373	2,623,252	97.2	35,442	27,482
Total loans and advances (excluding trade bills and other receivables)	29,678,111	134,752	55,871	79,221	300,262	24,950,195	84.1	195,517	109,923

Supplementary Financial Information (Unaudited)

(A) ADVANCES TO CUSTOMERS BY INDUSTRY SECTORS (Continued)

Bank	31 December 2018								
	Gross loans and advances HK\$'000	General provisions HK\$'000	Specific provisions HK\$'000	New provisions for loans charged to income statement HK\$'000	Amount of impaired loans and advances written off HK\$'000	Collateral HK\$'000	Percentage of gross advances covered by collateral %	Impaired loans and advances HK\$'000	Loans and advances overdue for more than three months HK\$'000
Loans and advances for use in Hong Kong									
Manufacturing	485,332	400	-	36	-	479,807	98.9	-	-
Building and construction, property development and investment									
Property development	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Property investment	6,568,257	656	3	201	-	6,568,257	100.0	6,565	2,632
Civil engineering works	214,915	26	-	12	-	134,382	62.5	-	-
Electricity and gas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recreational activities	129,080	13	-	1	-	129,080	100.0	-	-
Information technology	3,482	1	-	-	-	3,482	100.0	-	-
Wholesale and retail trade	222,584	22	31	5	-	222,332	99.9	31	31
Transport and transport equipment	3,858,650	3,107	2,833	428	326	3,589,545	93.0	8,772	8,460
Hotels, boarding houses and catering	144,088	132	-	117	-	139,860	97.1	-	-
Financial concerns	992,369	99	-	1	-	991,642	99.9	-	-
Stockbrokers									
Margin lending	433,582	43	-	38	-	433,582	100.0	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-stockbroking companies and individuals for the purchase of shares									
Margin lending	48,267	5	-	-	-	48,267	100.0	-	-
Others	130,231	35	-	8	-	130,231	100.0	-	-
Professional and private individuals									
Loans for the purchase of flats covered by the guarantees issued by the Housing Authority under the Home Ownership Scheme, Private Sector Participation Scheme and Tenant Purchase Scheme	44,923	5	-	-	-	44,923	100.0	-	-
Loans for the purchase of other residential properties	6,514,288	649	2	91	25	6,514,288	100.0	21,978	18,761
Loans for credit card advances	10,612	40	12	13	36	-	-	12	-
Loans for other business purposes	13,810	1	-	-	-	13,810	100.0	-	-
Loans for other private purposes	223,938	1,672	858	827	648	194,405	86.8	1,570	867
Trade finance	796,324	107	14	52	-	757,478	95.1	2,385	-
Other loans and advances	103,963	17	-	2	-	102,989	99.1	-	-
Sub-total	20,938,695	7,030	3,753	1,832	1,035	20,498,360	97.9	41,313	30,751
Loans and advances for use outside Hong Kong	2,677,360	270	5	85	-	2,623,252	98.0	35,286	27,326
Total loans and advances (excluding trade bills and other receivables)	23,616,055	7,300	3,758	1,917	1,035	23,121,612	97.9	76,599	58,077

Supplementary Financial Information (Unaudited)

(A) ADVANCES TO CUSTOMERS BY INDUSTRY SECTORS (Continued)

Group	31 December 2017								
	Gross loans and advances HK\$'000	Collective impairment allowances HK\$'000	Individual impairment allowances HK\$'000	New impairment allowances charged to income statement HK\$'000	Amount of impaired loans and advances written off HK\$'000	Collateral HK\$'000	Percentage of gross advances covered by collateral %	Impaired loans and advances HK\$'000	Loans and advances overdue for more than three months HK\$'000
Loans and advances for use in Hong Kong									
Manufacturing	650,953	92	17	21	-	638,857	98.1	23	23
Building and construction, property development and investment									
Property development	166,434	22	-	88	89	166,434	100.0	-	-
Property investment	5,556,793	764	-	15	399	5,556,793	100.0	-	-
Civil engineering works	146,519	30	-	-	-	53,279	36.4	-	-
Electricity and gas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recreational activities	136,711	18	-	15	-	136,691	100.0	-	-
Information technology	4,311	1	-	-	-	4,311	100.0	-	-
Wholesale and retail trade	251,875	63	42	76	122	218,048	86.6	42	42
Transport and transport equipment	4,345,028	558	850	600	384	4,294,713	98.8	947	380
Hotels, boarding houses and catering	145,913	20	-	-	-	142,018	97.3	-	-
Financial concerns	1,342,484	180	-	64	-	1,337,484	99.6	-	-
Stockbrokers									
Margin lending	558,715	75	-	20	-	477,526	85.5	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-stockbroking companies and individuals for the purchase of shares									
Margin lending	47,759	6	-	-	-	47,759	100.0	-	-
Others	57,660	8	-	-	-	57,660	100.0	-	-
Professional and private individuals									
Loans for the purchase of flats covered by the guarantees issued by the Housing Authority under the Home Ownership Scheme, Private Sector Participation Scheme and Tenant Purchase Scheme	52,314	7	-	-	-	52,314	100.0	-	-
Loans for the purchase of other residential properties	8,006,746	1,046	-	2	-	8,006,746	100.0	12,792	8,385
Loans for credit card advances	10,292	1	35	120	117	-	-	87	23
Loans for other business purposes	13,981	2	-	-	-	13,981	100.0	-	-
Loans for other private purposes	4,428,472	5,462	69,434	298,366	313,955	486,735	11.0	102,075	52,931
Trade finance	785,789	106	-	-	-	751,667	95.7	-	-
Other loans and advances	110,930	15	-	2	-	109,868	99.0	-	-
Sub-total	26,819,679	8,476	70,378	299,389	315,066	22,552,884	84.1	115,966	61,784
Loans and advances for use outside Hong Kong	2,450,711	323	638	2,792	12,248	2,275,681	92.9	17,394	13,702
Total loans and advances (excluding trade bills and other receivables)	29,270,390	8,799	71,016	302,181	327,314	24,828,565	84.8	133,360	75,486

Supplementary Financial Information (Unaudited)

(A) ADVANCES TO CUSTOMERS BY INDUSTRY SECTORS (Continued)

Bank	31 December 2017								
	Gross loans and advances HK\$'000	Collective impairment allowances HK\$'000	Individual impairment allowances HK\$'000	New impairment allowances charged to income statement HK\$'000	Amount of impaired loans and advances written off HK\$'000	Collateral HK\$'000	Percentage of gross advances covered by collateral %	Impaired loans and advances HK\$'000	Loans and advances overdue for more than three months HK\$'000
Loans and advances for use in Hong Kong									
Manufacturing	646,568	87	-	4	-	638,857	98.8	-	-
Building and construction, property development and investment									
Property development	166,434	22	-	88	89	166,434	100.0	-	-
Property investment	5,531,418	743	-	-	399	5,531,418	100.0	-	-
Civil engineering works	134,006	18	-	-	-	53,279	39.8	-	-
Electricity and gas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recreational activities	136,691	18	-	15	-	136,691	100.0	-	-
Information technology	4,311	1	-	-	-	4,311	100.0	-	-
Wholesale and retail trade	216,960	29	42	-	-	216,565	99.8	42	42
Transport and transport equipment	3,568,346	480	850	593	384	3,518,125	98.6	947	380
Hotels, boarding houses and catering	145,913	20	-	-	-	142,018	97.3	-	-
Financial concerns	1,342,484	180	-	64	-	1,337,484	99.6	-	-
Stockbrokers									
Margin lending	558,715	75	-	20	-	477,526	85.5	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-stockbroking companies and individuals for the purchase of shares									
Margin lending	47,759	6	-	-	-	47,759	100.0	-	-
Others	57,660	8	-	-	-	57,660	100.0	-	-
Professional and private individuals									
Loans for the purchase of flats covered by the guarantees issued by the Housing Authority under the Home Ownership Scheme, Private Sector Participation Scheme and Tenant Purchase Scheme	52,314	7	-	-	-	52,314	100.0	-	-
Loans for the purchase of other residential properties	7,097,725	954	-	-	-	7,097,725	100.0	12,792	8,385
Loans for credit card advances	10,292	1	35	120	117	-	-	87	23
Loans for other business purposes	13,981	2	-	-	-	13,981	100.0	-	-
Loans for other private purposes	484,195	65	1,383	1,273	1,573	441,440	91.2	1,643	513
Trade finance	785,789	106	-	-	-	751,667	95.7	-	-
Other loans and advances	110,930	15	-	2	-	109,868	99.0	-	-
Sub-total	21,112,491	2,837	2,310	2,179	2,562	20,795,122	98.5	15,511	9,343
Loans and advances for use outside Hong Kong	2,432,843	283	-	8	9,012	2,275,681	93.5	16,557	12,865
Total loans and advances (excluding trade bills and other receivables)	23,545,334	3,120	2,310	2,187	11,574	23,070,803	98.0	32,068	22,208

Supplementary Financial Information (Unaudited)

(A) ADVANCES TO CUSTOMERS BY INDUSTRY SECTORS (Continued)

The advances to customers are classified by industry sectors based on the industry in which the granted loans are used. In those cases where loans cannot be classified with reasonable certainty, they are classified according to the known principal activities of the borrowers or by reference to the assets financed according to the loan documentation.

(B) INTERNATIONAL CLAIMS

The information of international claims discloses exposures to foreign counterparties on which the ultimate risk lies, and is derived according to the location of the counterparties taking into account any recognised risk transfer. In general, recognised risk transfer from one country to another is recognised if the claims against a counterparty are guaranteed by another party in a different country or if the claims are on an overseas branch of a bank whose head office is located in a different country.

The following tables illustrate the international claims on individual countries or areas taking into account the recognised risk transfer, amounting to 10% or more of the aggregate international claims.

	Banks HK\$'million	Official sector HK\$'million	Non-bank financial institutions HK\$'million	Non- financial private sector HK\$'million	Total HK\$'million
As at 31 December 2018					
1. Developed countries*	2,138	8	–	500	2,646
2. Offshore centres, of which	793	4	315	3,165	4,277
– Hong Kong	610	4	117	2,291	3,022
3. Developing Asia-Pacific, of which	4,146	86	–	1,371	5,603
– China	2,574	86	–	1,296	3,956

	Banks HK\$'million	Official sector HK\$'million	Non-bank financial institutions HK\$'million	Non- financial private sector HK\$'million	Total HK\$'million
As at 31 December 2017					
1. Developed countries*	3,068	5	–	308	3,381
2. Offshore centres, of which	750	3	249	3,280	4,282
– Hong Kong	306	3	128	2,478	2,915
3. Developing Asia-Pacific, of which	3,801	39	18	1,151	5,009
– China	2,150	39	18	1,066	3,273

* There were no exposures to the five "PIIGs" countries namely Portugal, Italy, Ireland, Greece and Spain.

Supplementary Financial Information (Unaudited)

(C) MAINLAND ACTIVITIES

The following table illustrates the disclosure required to be made in respect of the Bank's Mainland China exposures to non-bank counterparties:

Types of counterparties	On-balance sheet exposure HK\$'million	Off-balance sheet exposure HK\$'million	Total HK\$'million
As at 31 December 2018			
Central government, central government-owned entities and their subsidiaries and joint ventures ("JVs")	348	–	348
PRC nationals residing in Mainland China or other entities incorporated in Mainland China and their subsidiaries and JVs	545	948	1,493
PRC nationals residing outside Mainland China or entities incorporated outside Mainland China where the credit is granted for use in Mainland China	40	–	40
Other counterparties where the exposures are considered by the Group to be non-bank Mainland China exposures	1,827	–	1,827
Total	2,760	948	3,708
Total assets after provision	37,103		
On-balance sheet exposures as percentage of total assets	7.44%		
Types of counterparties	On-balance sheet exposure HK\$'million	Off-balance sheet exposure HK\$'million	Total HK\$'million
As at 31 December 2017			
Central government, central government-owned entities and their subsidiaries and JVs	409	–	409
PRC nationals residing in Mainland China or other entities incorporated in Mainland China and their subsidiaries and JVs	656	1,224	1,880
PRC nationals residing outside Mainland China or entities incorporated outside Mainland China where the credit is granted for use in Mainland China	7	–	7
Other counterparties where the exposures are considered by the Group to be non-bank Mainland China exposures	1,444	–	1,444
Total	2,516	1,224	3,740
Total assets after provision	37,618		
On-balance sheet exposures as percentage of total assets	6.69%		

Note:

The analysis of non-bank Mainland China exposures is disclosed with reference to the Banking (Disclosure) Rules and Completion Instruction for the HKMA Return of Mainland Activities.

Supplementary Financial Information (Unaudited)

(D) DISCLOSURE OF THE REMUNERATION SYSTEM Remuneration Committee

The Bank has established its Remuneration Committee with written terms of reference in compliance with the requirements of the SPM Module CG-5 on “Guideline on a Sound Remuneration System” (the “Remuneration Guideline”) issued by the HKMA. As at 31 December 2018, there were five members in the Remuneration Committee and three of them were Independent Non-Executive Directors. The Remuneration Committee was chaired by Mr. Lai Wan, the Independent Non-Executive Co-Chairman of the Bank. The other members were Tan Sri Dato’ Sri Tay Ah Lek, Mr. Lee Chin Guan, Mr. Tang Wing Chew and Mr. Quah Poh Keat.

The Remuneration Committee meets at least once a year to review and make recommendations to the Board of the Bank on the overall remuneration policy (the “Remuneration Policy”), specific remuneration packages and compensation arrangement relating to the termination or appointment of Directors, Chief Executive, senior management and key personnel, and for the formulation and implementation of the Remuneration Policy applicable to all employees of the Bank and its subsidiaries other than Public Finance and its subsidiaries.

A meeting was held in 2018. The attendance of each member in 2018 is set out below:

Name of members	Number of meetings attended in 2018	Attendance rate
Mr. Lai Wan, Chairman of the Committee	1/1	100%
Tan Sri Dato’ Sri Tay Ah Lek	1/1	100%
Mr. Lee Chin Guan	1/1	100%
Mr. Tang Wing Chew	1/1	100%
Mr. Quah Poh Keat	1/1	100%

During the year, Directors’ fees, annual salary review, allocation of annual discretionary bonus, annual review of terms of reference of the Remuneration Committee and annual review of the Remuneration Policy and system in compliance with the Remuneration Guideline of the HKMA were reviewed and noted.

Remuneration of the Executive Directors, Chief Executive, senior management and key personnel is determined by reference to factors including the level of workload, responsibilities and commitments, performance and remuneration packages. No individual Director or any of his associates is involved in deciding his own remuneration.

Supplementary Financial Information (Unaudited)

(D) DISCLOSURE OF THE REMUNERATION SYSTEM (Continued) Remuneration of Directors

The scales of Directors' fees of the Bank for the years 2018 and 2017 are set out as follows:

Board of Directors	2018 Range HK\$	2017 Range HK\$
Chairman/Co-Chairman	202,500 to 205,000	100,000 to 102,500
Other Directors	150,000 to 202,500	75,000 to 100,000

No remuneration was paid to members of the Remuneration Committee for the years 2018 and 2017 except the aforesaid Directors' fees.

Design and structure of the remuneration processes

The Board of the Bank oversees the formulation, maintenance and implementation of the Remuneration Policy.

The Remuneration Committee of the Bank reviews and recommends the remuneration packages of key senior management personnel of the Group (excluding Public Finance and its subsidiaries which had established their own Remuneration Committee and adopted their own Remuneration Policy) in accordance with the authorities and responsibilities as stipulated in its terms of reference to the Board of the Bank for approval.

Remuneration review is submitted to the Board of the Bank by the Remuneration Committee for approval each year.

The Remuneration Committee of the Bank also works closely with the Human Resources Committee, Nomination Committee, Audit Committee, Risk Management Committee and other dedicated committees and departments to (i) review if there are any material non-compliance issues in relation to internal policy and statutory requirements and make adjustments to payments of remuneration whenever necessary, and (ii) decide upon the appraisal system which fairly measures the performance of each key personnel, and make changes to the system when necessary to meet the changing needs of the Bank.

Regular compliance monitoring is imposed to review the management and operation of the remuneration system.

Human Resources Department continues to take initiatives on all human resources matters while Human Resources Committee continues to function in accordance with its terms of reference.

Recommendations related to Heads of Internal Audit Department, Compliance Department and Risk Management Department are submitted to the Audit Committee and Risk Management Committee, where applicable, for endorsement. Discussions and recommendations related to other employees at managerial level made in the meetings of Human Resources Committee are submitted to the Group Human Resources Committee of Public Bank Berhad, the ultimate holding company of the Bank, and where appropriate, to the Remuneration Committee of the Bank for endorsement while discussions and decisions related to non-managerial employees made in the meetings are normally noted in the Board Executive Committee of the Bank.

Supplementary Financial Information (Unaudited)

(D) DISCLOSURE OF THE REMUNERATION SYSTEM (Continued) The Remuneration Policy of the Bank Group

The Bank adopted the Remuneration Policy in compliance with the Remuneration Guideline. The Remuneration Policy covers the Bank (including all branches and representative offices of the Bank) and its subsidiaries which are subject to the HKMA's consolidated supervision except Public Finance, Public Financial Limited and Public Securities Limited (the "Bank Group"), which have their own remuneration policy. The Remuneration Policy was initiated by the Human Resources Committee and approved by the Board. The Human Resources Committee also reviews and keeps abreast of the legal and regulatory requirements from time to time, and liaises with risk control units including risk management, financial management and compliance functions to strike a balance among sufficient staff motivation, sound remuneration packages and prudent risk management. Any findings and recommendations to be incorporated into the Remuneration Policy will be put forth to the Remuneration Committee for consideration. Having discussed and agreed upon at the Remuneration Committee, the revisions to the Remuneration Policy will be recommended to the Board for approval. The Remuneration Policy is subject to an annual review.

The Bank's Remuneration Policy encourages employee behaviour that supports the Bank's risk tolerance, risk management framework and long-term financial soundness. The policy is established and implemented in line with the objectives, business strategies and long-term goals of the Bank and formulated in a way that will not encourage excessive risks taking by employees but allows the Bank to attract and retain employees with relevant skills, knowledge and expertise to discharge their specific functions. The Bank has considered the risks, including market risk, credit risk, liquidity risk and operational risk, when implementing the remuneration measures, which are closely monitored by various management committees and working groups. The Bank considers and reviews the audit reports and various kinds of performance reports to take account of these risks in the remuneration process. Audit reports cover information on asset quality, credit risk management and operational risk management whilst performance reports state various kinds of business performance indicators such as delinquent rate, net impairment ratio, customer deposit, business growth, etc., which are useful for identification of current and future risks. The employees' performances in controlling these current and future risks are linked with their remuneration rewards. The Board will take the overall performance of the Bank Group, risk management, market trends, and other non-financial measures when deciding the performance bonus pool. This will be adjusted as and when the Bank considers appropriate. There is no change of remuneration measures over the past year.

Basically, the remuneration package consists of fixed and variable remuneration which are offered in cash. Fixed remuneration refers to basic salary, the year end double pay, and other fixed income while variable remuneration refers to discretionary bonus, sales commission and other variable income. The remuneration packages are determined by taking into consideration the evaluation of the job's responsibilities and contribution, the market pay levels for benchmark positions, and employee's performance. The level of remuneration and the proportion of variable remuneration to fixed remuneration of senior management and key personnel are linked to their level of responsibility undertaken and contribution to business performance and enhancements of efficiency and effectiveness of operations.

When the amount of variable remuneration payout exceeds a predetermined percentage or amount of the annual fixed remuneration of the employee, a deferment period of 3 years will be imposed in order to align the incentive awards to be granted to an individual employee with the long-term value creation and the time horizons of risk. The deferred remuneration will be vested gradually over the 3-year deferment period and no faster than on a pro-rata basis. To conform to the spirit of the Remuneration Guideline and not to undermine the risk management advantage by applying deferment of variable remuneration, if there is any deferred remuneration, hedging exposures in respect of the unvested portion of deferred remuneration by any trading, investment or other financial activities will be restricted.

Supplementary Financial Information (Unaudited)

(D) **DISCLOSURE OF THE REMUNERATION SYSTEM (Continued)** **The Remuneration Policy of the Bank Group (Continued)**

Subject to the decision of the Remuneration Committee in accordance with the internal guidelines, the deferred remuneration will be forfeited and/or clawed back when it is later established that the data on which the performance measurement for a particular year was based is subsequently proven to have been manifestly misstated; or it is later established that the employee concerned has committed fraud or other malfeasance, or violated any legislation, code or internal control policies of the Bank Group; or there has been a significant downward restatement of the financial performance of the Bank Group; or the employment of the employee is terminated.

The award of variable remuneration to the senior management, key personnel and risk taking employees is subject to the aforesaid deferral mechanism which will be reviewed by the Remuneration Committee at least annually and subject to change when necessary.

The remuneration of the employees within the risk control function, including those performing risk management, accounts, audit, compliance and credit management functions, etc., is determined by the performance of individual employees and is independent of the business they oversee. The performance factors of the appraisees in carrying out their core job responsibilities under their respective job functions are assessed in the performance appraisals. Appropriate remuneration will be recommended based on the results of the appraisals annually.

The Bank uses a comprehensive performance measurement framework that incorporates both financial and non-financial performance in determining the size and allocation of variable remuneration. The financial metrics link the variable remuneration to the profits, revenue and other performance measures of the Bank as a whole, and the contribution of business units or departments and an individual employee to the Bank as well. The applicable and material risks associated with the activities of employees, the cost and quantity of capital required to support the risks taken, and the cost and quantity of liquidity risk in the conduct of business are also taken into consideration. The non-financial metrics capture the performance on qualitative aspects such as the compliance with risk management policies, adherence to legal, regulatory and ethical standards; customer satisfaction; and effectiveness and efficiency of supporting operations. Given the importance in both financial achievements and non-financial factors, poor performance will result in reduction of or elimination to the variable remuneration. Adverse performance in non-financial factors will override outstanding financial achievement, and thus, the employee's performance can be assessed comprehensively.

Annual review of remuneration system and policy

An annual review of the remuneration system and the Remuneration Policy of the Bank Group was conducted by the Remuneration Committee at the end of 2018. The review concludes that the remuneration system and the Remuneration Policy are consistent with the principles set out in the Remuneration Guideline.

Supplementary Financial Information (Unaudited)

(D) DISCLOSURE OF THE REMUNERATION SYSTEM (Continued)

Remuneration of senior management and key personnel

The aggregate quantitative information on remuneration for the Bank's senior management (including the two Executive Directors who also hold the positions of Chief Executive and Alternative Chief Executive respectively) and key personnel is set out below.

- (i) The amount of remuneration for the financial years 2018 and 2017, split into fixed and variable remuneration, is set out below:

Remuneration for senior management*:

	2018 (5 beneficiaries)		2017 (6 beneficiaries)	
	Non-deferred HK\$	Deferred HK\$	Non-deferred HK\$	Deferred HK\$
Fixed remuneration				
Cash	9,173,241	–	9,486,614	–
Variable remuneration				
Cash	3,782,259	–	3,730,666	–

* Senior management comprises Chief Executive, two Alternate Chief Executives, Financial Controller and Head of Treasury

Remuneration for key personnel#:

	2018 (10 beneficiaries)		2017 (10 beneficiaries)	
	Non-deferred HK\$	Deferred HK\$	Non-deferred HK\$	Deferred HK\$
Fixed remuneration				
Cash	9,865,788	–	9,462,961	–
Variable remuneration				
Cash	2,673,552	–	2,393,538	–

Key personnel comprises (1) individual employees whose duties or activities in the course of employment involve the assumption of material risks or the taking on material exposures on behalf of the Bank Group; (2) the key personnel within risk control functions; and (3) other personnel who plays a pivotal role within the Bank

- (ii) No variable remuneration in shares or share-linked instruments was granted during the financial years 2018 and 2017.
- (iii) There was no deferred remuneration awarded, paid out and reduced through performance adjustments and there was no outstanding deferred remuneration during the financial years 2018 and 2017.
- (iv) No senior management or key personnel had been awarded new sign-on or severance payments or paid guaranteed bonuses during the financial years 2018 and 2017.

Supplementary Financial Information (Unaudited)

(E) CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Bank is committed to high standards of corporate governance and complies with the guidelines issued by the HKMA in the SPM Module CG-1 on “Corporate Governance of Locally Incorporated Authorised Institutions”. To accomplish this, the Bank exercises corporate governance through the following Committees:

1. Board Executive Committee

Board Executive Committee consists of Executive and Non-Executive Directors and is responsible for the management of the businesses of the Bank in all aspects and the implementation of strategic business plans and policies approved and formulated by the Board. The minutes of Board Executive Committee meetings are tabled to the Board for noting. The present members comprise Tan Sri Dato’ Sri Dr. Teh Hong Piow (Chairman of Board Executive Committee), Tan Sri Dato’ Sri Tay Ah Lek, Mr. Quah Poh Keat, Dato’ Chang Kat Kiam, Mr. Tan Yoke Kong and Mr. Chong Yam Kiang.

2. Risk Management Committee

RMC is responsible for overseeing the overall management of all risks covering market risk management, liquidity risk management, credit risk management, operational risk management and compliance risk management. It reviews and approves major risk related policies and major risk tolerance limits and reviews and assesses the adequacy of risk management policies and framework in identifying, measuring, monitoring and controlling risk and the extent to which these are operating effectively. It also conducts review of the compliance functions to ensure adequate resources and independence of Compliance Department. The minutes of RMC meetings are tabled to the Board for noting and further action, where appropriate. The present members comprise Mr. Lee Chin Guan (Chairman of RMC), Mr. Lai Wan, Mr. Tang Wing Chew, Mr. Quah Poh Keat and Dato’ Chang Kat Kiam.

3. Audit Committee

Audit Committee reviews internal control issues identified by Internal Audit Department, external auditors, regulatory authorities and management, and evaluates the adequacy and effectiveness of the Group’s risk management and internal control systems. It also conducts review of the internal audit functions with particular emphasis on the scope of audits, quality of internal audits and independence of Internal Audit Department. The minutes of Audit Committee meetings are tabled to the Board for noting and further action, where appropriate. The Chief Executive and Head of Internal Audit normally attend the meetings. The members of Audit Committee shall be appointed by the Board from amongst the Non-Executive Directors of the Bank and shall consist of not less than three members. The present members comprise Mr. Tang Wing Chew (Chairman of Audit Committee), Tan Sri Dato’ Sri Tay Ah Lek, Mr. Lee Chin Guan, Mr. Lai Wan and Mr. Quah Poh Keat.

4. Remuneration Committee

Remuneration Committee is responsible for reviewing and recommending to the Board the overall Remuneration Policy and remuneration packages of the Executive Directors, Chief Executive, senior management and key personnel, and the Remuneration Policy applicable to all employees of the Bank Group. The minutes of Remuneration Committee meetings are tabled to the Board for noting. The members of Remuneration Committee comprise Non-Executive Directors appointed by the Board, and the majority of them shall be Independent Non-Executive Directors, and shall consist of not less than three members. The present members comprise Mr. Lai Wan (Chairman of Remuneration Committee), Tan Sri Dato’ Sri Tay Ah Lek, Mr. Lee Chin Guan, Mr. Tang Wing Chew and Mr. Quah Poh Keat.

Supplementary Financial Information (Unaudited)

(E) CORPORATE GOVERNANCE (Continued)

5. Nomination Committee

Nomination Committee was established in 2018 to review the structure, size and composition of the Board and make recommendations of any proposed changes to the Board to complement their corporate strategy; to make recommendations on the appointment, nomination policy, succession planning and any related matters for Directors, Chief Executive, Alternate Chief Executive(s) and senior management. The minutes of Nomination Committee meetings are tabled to the Board for noting. The members of Nomination Committee comprise Non-Executive Directors appointed by the Board, and the majority of them shall be Independent Non-Executive Directors, and shall consist of not less than three members. The present members comprise Mr. Lai Wan (Chairman of Nomination Committee), Tan Sri Dato' Sri Tay Ah Lek, Mr. Lee Chin Guan, Mr. Tang Wing Chew and Mr. Quah Poh Keat.

6. Bank Culture Committee

Bank Culture Committee is established by the Board to develop and promote a sound corporate culture and behavioural standards that promote prudent risk-taking and fair treatment of customers within the Bank and its subsidiaries. The minutes of Bank Culture Committee meetings are tabled to the Board for noting. The present members comprise Mr. Lai Wan (Chairman of Bank Culture Committee), Tan Sri Dato' Sri Tay Ah Lek, Mr. Lee Chin Guan, Mr. Tang Wing Chew, Mr. Quah Poh Keat and Dato' Chang Kat Kiam.

7. Management Committee

Management Committee is established by the Board to ensure the effectiveness of the daily operations and that the operations are in accordance with the corporate objectives, strategies and the annual budget as well as the policies and business directions that have been approved. The members of the Committee comprise the Chief Executive, two Alternate Chief Executives, Head of Treasury, Head of Branch Banking, Head of Credit, Head of China Business, Head of Commercial Banking, Head of Hire Purchase and Leasing and Financial Controller.

8. Credit Committee

Credit Committee is responsible for making decisions on applications for all types of credit facilities within its limits set out in the Credit Policy and in particular, monitoring the lending portfolio for managing the overall credit risk of the Bank. The members of the Committee comprise the Chief Executive, Alternate Chief Executive, Head of Branch Banking, Head of Commercial Banking, Head of Credit, Head of Credit Analysis and Credit Manager.

9. Assets and Liabilities Management Committee

ALCO reviews and assesses the risk profile and consolidated statement of financial position structure of the Bank, sets out the objectives for the assets and liabilities management function and implements relevant risk management strategy. The Committee monitors and manages the aforesaid matters within a framework of approved policies and limits, and reports to the RMC. The members of ALCO comprise the Chief Executive, two Alternate Chief Executives, Head of Treasury, Financial Controller and Head of Risk Management.

10. Human Resources Committee

Human Resources Committee assists the Board in formulating and implementing human resources policies including staff recruitment, promotion, career development, performance appraisal and remuneration package of all staff. The members of the Committee comprise the Chief Executive, two Alternate Chief Executives and Head of Human Resources.

11. Information Technology Steering Committee

Information Technology Steering Committee is responsible for establishing policies and strategies for the computerisation of the Bank, recommending to the Board on major acquisitions of computer hardware and software, and monitoring the progress of the implementation of all information technology related projects. The members of the Committee comprise the Chief Executive, two Alternate Chief Executives, Heads of Business Units, Head of Internal Audit, two Heads of Operations, Financial Controller and Head of Information Technology.

Supplementary Financial Information (Unaudited)

(E) CORPORATE GOVERNANCE (Continued)

12. Finance Committee

Finance Committee assists the Board in the financial planning and budgeting process of the business of the Bank and the review of the business performance, medium-term financial strategic business plan, statutory and half-year accounts. The members of the Committee comprise the Chief Executive, Alternate Chief Executive, Head of Branch Banking, Head of Credit and Financial Controller.

13. Operational Risk Management Committee

ORMC is responsible for the implementation of the operational risk management framework approved by the Board, and the development of specific policies, processes and procedures for managing operational risk in the material products, activities, processes and systems. The members of ORMC comprise the Chief Executive, two Alternate Chief Executives, Head of Information Technology, Assistant General Manager – China Business & Other Operations, Financial Controller, Head of Risk Management, Head of Compliance and two Heads of Operations.

14. Anti-money Laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing (AML) and Compliance Committee

AML and Compliance Committee is responsible for overseeing Compliance Department to carry out compliance functions, including prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing, providing guidance on compliance related issues raised by Compliance Department or other units of the Bank and reporting material compliance related issues to the RMC, other relevant committees, senior management and Heads of relevant departments/units. The members of the Committee comprise the Chief Executive, two Alternate Chief Executives, Financial Controller, Head of Risk Management, Head of Branch Banking and Head of Compliance.

15. Credit Risk Management Committee

CRMC is responsible for establishing the framework for identifying, measuring, monitoring and controlling credit risk of the existing and new products. The Committee reviews credit risk management policies and credit risk tolerable limits, and reports to RMC. The members of CRMC comprise the Chief Executive, two Alternate Chief Executives, Financial Controller, Head of Treasury and Head of Risk Management.

16. Business Strategy Steering Committee

Business Strategy Steering Committee is responsible for establishing effective business strategies to meet corporate goals and objectives taking into account operating conditions in the market and formulating strategic business plans to achieve growth and return, efficiency and competitive advantage in the financial industry. The members of the Committee comprise the Chief Executive, two Alternate Chief Executives, Financial Controller, Head of Treasury and Heads of Business Units.

17. Business Continuity Committee

Business Continuity Committee is responsible for managing the overall formulation, implementation and maintenance of the Business Resumption Continuity Plan (“BRCP”) of the Bank. It plans for BRCP testing at least once a year and ensures the necessary measures for BRCP are taken for meeting the regulatory and business requirements. The members of the Committee comprise the Chief Executive, two Alternate Chief Executives, Head of Branch Banking, Head of Information Technology, Head of Credit, Head of Human Resources, two Heads of Operations, Head of General Affairs, Financial Controller and Assistant General Manager – China Business & Other Operations.