The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

Annual Report and Accounts 2024

HSBC

Contents

Certain defined terms

This document comprises the Annual Report and Accounts 2024 for The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited ('the Bank') and its subsidiaries (together 'the group'). References to 'HSBC', 'the Group' or 'the HSBC Group' within this document mean HSBC Holdings plc together with its subsidiaries. Within this document the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China is referred to as 'Hong Kong'. The abbreviations 'HK$m' and 'HK$bn' represent millions and billions (thousands of millions) of Hong Kong dollars respectively.

Cautionary statement regarding forward-looking statements

This Annual Report and Accounts 2024 contains certain forward-looking statements with respect to the financial condition, environmental, social and governance ('ESG')-related matters, results of operations and business of the group, including the strategic priorities; financial, investment and capital targets; and the group's ability to contribute to the Group's (including the group's) ESG ambitions, targets and commitments described herein.

Statements that are not historical facts, including statements about the group's beliefs and expectations, are forward-looking statements. Words such as 'expects', 'anticipates', 'intends', 'plans', 'believes', 'seeks', 'estimates', 'potential' and 'reasonably possible', variations of these words and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements are based on current plans, estimates and projections, and therefore no undue reliance should be placed on them. Forward-looking statements apply only as of the date they are made. The group makes no commitment to revise or update any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances occurring or existing after the date of any forward-looking statement.

Forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties. Readers are cautioned that a number of factors, including ESG-related factors, could cause actual results to differ, in some instances materially, from those anticipated or implied in any forward-looking statement.

Please see pages 137 to 138 for the additional cautionary statement regarding ESG and climate-related data, metrics and forward-looking statements.

Chinese translation

A Chinese translation of the Annual Report and Accounts 2024 is available upon request from: Communications (Asia), Level 32, HSBC Main Building, 1 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong. The report is also available, in English and Chinese, on the Bank's website at www.hsbc.com.hk.

本《年報及賬目》備有中譯本，如有需要可向下列部門索取：香港皇后大道中1號滙豐總行大廈32樓企業傳訊部（亞太區）。本年報之中英文本亦載於本行之網站 www.hsbc.com.hk。

Financial Highlights

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
For the year		
Net operating income before change in expected credit losses and other credit impairment charges	**265,695**	249,679
Profit before tax	**153,932**	121,443
Profit attributable to shareholders	**122,363**	90,747
At the year-end		
Total shareholders' equity	**819,049**	812,726
Total equity	**878,008**	872,586
Total capital[1]	**643,455**	631,701
Customer accounts	**6,564,606**	6,261,051
Total assets	**10,948,940**	10,500,393
Ratios	**%**	%
Return on average ordinary shareholders' equity	**15.3**	11.3
Return on tangible equity ('ROTE')[2]	**18.2**	13.5
Post-tax return on average total assets	**1.2**	0.9
Cost efficiency ratio	**44.3**	44.1
Net interest margin	**1.63**	1.81
Advances-to-deposits ratio	**53.2**	56.8
Capital ratios		
Common Equity Tier 1 ('CET1') capital	**16.3**	15.8
Tier 1 capital	**18.4**	17.5
Total capital	**20.3**	19.7

1 Capital is calculated in accordance with the Banking (Capital) Rules issued by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority ('HKMA') under section 97C(1) of the Banking Ordinance.
2 The group's ROTE is calculated as part of the Group ROTE framework and is based on IFRS financials.

Established in Hong Kong and Shanghai in 1865, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited is the founding member of the HSBC Group – one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations. It is the largest bank incorporated in Hong Kong and one of Hong Kong's three note-issuing banks. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc, the holding company of the HSBC Group, which has an international network covering Europe, Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, North America and Latin America.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited
Incorporated in the Hong Kong SAR with limited liability
Registered Office and Head Office: HSBC Main Building, 1 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong
Telephone: (852) 2822 1111   Web: www.hsbc.com.hk.

Report of the Directors

Principal Activities

The group provides a comprehensive range of domestic and international banking and related financial services, principally in the Asia–Pacific region.

Asia Strategy

The Asia region has strong and sustained underlying fundamentals of economic growth, trade, and wealth creation. HSBC's strategy in Asia builds on 160 years of experience in the region. Our strategy is aligned to the biggest opportunities to create further shareholder value. Our ambition is to be the leading international wealth, corporate and institutional bank by market share across Asia. We are well positioned to further extend the strengths of our leading Hong Kong franchise into other key growth markets, including mainland China, India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations ('ASEAN') region. We continue to invest in our people and technology. We remain focused on connecting Asian markets to each other and the world through HSBC's global network, supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy through sustainable finance solutions, and improving customer experience while continually streamlining our organisation to realise greater operating efficiencies through technology.

Consolidated Financial Statements

The consolidated financial statements of the group are set out on pages 71 to 135.

Subordinated Liabilities, Share Capital and Other Equity Instruments

Details on subordinated liabilities issued by the group are set out in Notes 31. Details on share capital and other equity instruments of the Bank are set out in Notes 23 and 24 on the consolidated financial statements.

Dividends

The interim dividends paid in respect of 2024 are set out in Note 6 on the consolidated financial statements.

Directors

The Directors at the date of this report are set out below:

Dr Peter Tung Shun WONG, GBS, JP

Non-executive Chairman (since June 2021)

He is also an advisor to the Group Chairman and the Group Chief Executive of HSBC Holdings plc. He holds a Bachelor of Arts, a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Science from Indiana University, a Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, from the Hang Seng University of Hong Kong and a Doctor of Business Administration, honoris causa, from Lingnan University.

Before his retirement as an HSBC employee in June 2021, he was an executive Director, Chief Executive and Deputy Chairman of the Bank. He was also a non-executive Director of Hang Seng Bank Limited.

David Gordon ELDON, GBS, CBE, JP

Independent* non-executive Deputy Chairman (since June 2021)

He holds an Honorary Doctor of Business Administration from City University of Hong Kong and is a Fellow of the UK Chartered Institute of Bankers and the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers.

Before his retirement as an HSBC employee in 2005, he was an executive Director, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Bank. He was also non-executive Chairman of Hang Seng Bank Limited and a Director of HSBC Holdings plc. He was non-executive Chairman of HSBC Bank Middle East Limited from 2011 to 2021. He was non-executive Chairman and a Director of Octopus Holdings Limited, Octopus Cards Limited and Octopus Cards Client Funds Limited from 2016 to 2022.

* He was re-designated from a non-executive Director to an independent non-executive Director with effect from 29 November 2024.

David Yi Chien LIAO, JP

Co-Chief Executive Officer (since June 2021)

He is also a member of the Group Operating Committee of HSBC Holdings plc, Chairman and a non-executive Director of HSBC Bank (China) Company Limited, and a non-executive Director of Hang Seng Bank Limited and Bank of Communications Co., Ltd. With effect from 1 January 2025, his management responsibilities within the HSBC Group were expanded to include oversight of the Middle East. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (major in Japanese and Economics) from the University of London.

He has previously held a number of senior positions within the Group, including the Head of Global Banking Coverage for Asia-Pacific and a Director and Chief Executive Officer of HSBC Bank (China) Company Limited.

Surendranath Ravi ROSHA

Co-Chief Executive Officer (since June 2021)

He is also a member of the Group Operating Committee of HSBC Holdings plc and an executive Director of HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad. With effect from 1 January 2025, his management responsibilities within the HSBC Group were expanded to include oversight of the Middle East. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Sydenham College of Commerce & Economics, Bombay University and a Master of Business Administration from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

He has previously held a number of senior positions within the Group, including the Chief Executive Officer of HSBC India and Regional Head of Financial Institutions Group, Asia-Pacific.

Paul Jeremy BROUGH

Independent non-executive Director (since June 2023)

He is also an independent non-executive Director of Guoco Group Limited and Vitasoy International Holdings Limited. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Business Studies from Nottingham Trent University, and is an Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

He was previously an independent non-executive Director of Habib Bank Zurich (Hong Kong) Limited from October 2013 to February 2023. He worked at KPMG Hong Kong for around 30 years and left the firm in 2012 as Senior Regional Partner.

Judy Lai Kun CHAU

Independent non-executive Director (since April 2024)

She is also a Board member of Christian Action in Hong Kong. She holds a Diploma in Public Administration, a Master of Business Administration from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and a Bachelor of Laws from University of Wolverhampton.

She was Managing Director of the Group Compliance Regulatory and Governance Department for UBS AG Hong Kong before her retirement in September 2023. She previously held various senior positions in Ernst & Young and Goldman Sachs. She also served on various committees of the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong during 2006 to 2023, including the Academic and Accreditation Advisory Committee, Takeovers and Mergers Panel and Takeovers Appeal Committee.

Edward Wai Sun CHENG, GBS, JP

Independent non-executive Director (since May 2023)

He is also Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive of Wing Tai Properties Limited and Chairman of Lanson Place Hospitality Management Limited. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Economics and Politics) from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, and a Bachelor of Arts in Jurisprudence and a Master of Arts from the University of Oxford. He is qualified as a solicitor in England and Wales as well as in Hong Kong.

He was previously a non-executive Director of the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong, and an independent non-executive Director of Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited. He was also the former Chairman of the Urban Renewal Authority and the University Grants Committee of Hong Kong.

Sonia Chi Man CHENG

Independent non-executive Director (since November 2020)

She is also the Chief Executive Officer of Rosewood Hotel Group. She is the Vice-Chairman and executive Director of Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group Limited, an executive Director of New World Development Company Limited and a Director of New World China Land Limited. She holds a Bachelor of Arts with a field of concentration in Applied Mathematics from Harvard University.

Yiu Kwan CHOI

Independent non-executive Director (since October 2017)

He holds a higher certificate in Accountancy from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and is a Fellow member of The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers.

He was an independent non-executive Director of HSBC Bank (China) Company Limited from December 2016 to December 2022 and Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Asia) Limited from January 2013 to September 2017. He was Deputy Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority ('HKMA') in charge of Banking Supervision when he retired in January 2010. Before this, he was Deputy Chief Executive of the HKMA in charge of Monetary Policy and Reserves Management from June 2005 to August 2007 and held various senior positions in the HKMA including Executive Director (Banking Supervision), Head of Administration, and Head of Banking Policy from 1993 to 2005.

Andrea Lisa DELLA MATTEA

Independent non-executive Director (since March 2022)

She is also the Asia-Pacific President of Microsoft Operations Pte Ltd. She holds a Bachelor of Engineering and an Honorary Doctor of Engineering from James Cook University of North Queensland, Australia.

She has previously held senior leadership roles at Insight Enterprises, Inc from 2007 to 2017, including Asia-Pacific Managing Director, and at Software Spectrum Inc from 1996 to 2006.

Manveen KAUR (known as Pam KAUR)

Non-executive Director (since November 2023)

She was appointed Group Chief Financial Officer and an executive Director of HSBC Holdings plc effective January 2025. She is also a member of the Group Operating Committee of HSBC Holdings plc. During 2024, she was the Group Chief Risk and Compliance Officer. She also serves as an independent non-executive Director of abrdn plc. She holds an MBA in Finance, and a BCom (Hons) from Panjab University in India, and is a Fellow member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

She was previously an independent non-executive Director of Centrica plc. She joined HSBC in April 2013. Apart from the roles noted above, she has previously held the roles of Group Head of Internal Audit and Head of Wholesale Market and Credit Risk. She previously held senior leadership roles at Deutsche Bank, Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc, Lloyds TSB and Citigroup.

Rajnish KUMAR

Independent non-executive Director (since August 2021)

He is also non-executive Chairman of Resilient Innovations Pvt. Ltd., non-executive Director and Chairman of Mastercard India Services Private Limited, an independent Director of Larsen and Toubro Limited and Brookprop Management Services Private Limited, an independent non-executive Director of Hero MotoCorp Limited and Ambuja Cements Limited, a Director of Lighthouse Communities Foundation, and Chairman of Board of Governors of Management Development Institute in India. He is also a senior adviser to EQT AB. He holds a Master of Science in Physics from Meerut University and a Post Graduate Certificate in Business Management from XLRI Jamshedpur in India. He is an Associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers.

He was previously Chairman of the State Bank of India until he retired in October 2020.

Beau Khoon Chen KUOK

Independent non-executive Director (since August 2020)

He is also Chairman and Managing Director of Kerry Group Limited. He holds a Bachelor of Economics from Monash University.

He was previously Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Shangri-La Asia Limited, Chairman of Kerry Properties Limited, and a non-executive Director of Wilmar International Limited.

Irene Yun-lien LEE

Independent non-executive Director (since October 2013)

She is also executive Chairman of Hysan Development Company Limited, independent non-executive Chairman of Hang Seng Bank Limited and an independent non-executive Director of Alibaba Group Holding Limited. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Distinction) in History of Art from Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, USA. She is also a member of the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn, UK and a Barrister-at-Law in England and Wales.

She was an independent non-executive Director of HSBC Holdings plc from 2015 to 2022.

Annabelle Yu LONG

Independent non-executive Director (since August 2022)

She is also the Founding and Managing Partner of BAI Capital Fund I, L.P. and a Group Management Committee Member of Bertelsmann SE & Co. KGaA. She is an independent Director of Tapestry Inc., LexinFintech Holdings Ltd., Nio Inc. and Linmon Media Limited. She holds a Master in Business Administration from Stanford Graduate School of Business, United States and a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from University of Electronic Science and Technology, China.

During the year, Judy Lai Kun Chau was appointed an independent non-executive Director with effect from 5 April 2024. Kevin Anthony Westley retired as a Director with effect from 20 May 2024, being the date of passing the written resolutions of the Bank's shareholder in lieu of holding the 2024 Annual General Meeting ('AGM'). Save for the above, all the Directors served throughout the year.

A list of the directors of the Bank's subsidiary undertakings (consolidated in the financial statements) during the period from 1 January 2024 to the date of this report will be available on the Bank's website www.hsbc.com.hk/legal/regulatory-disclosures/.

Secretary

Paul Stafford is the Corporation Secretary.

Permitted Indemnity Provision

The Bank's Articles of Association provide that the Directors and other officers of the Bank shall be indemnified out of the Bank's assets against any liability incurred by them or any of them as the holder of any such office or appointment to a person other than the Bank or an associated company of the Bank in connection with any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the Bank or associated company. In addition, the Bank's ultimate holding company, HSBC Holdings plc, has maintained directors' and officers' liability insurance providing appropriate cover for the directors and officers within the Group, including the Directors of the Bank and its subsidiaries.

Directors' Interests in Transactions, Arrangements or Contracts

No transactions, arrangements or contracts that were significant in relation to the Bank's business and in which a Director or his or her connected entities had, directly or indirectly, a material interest were entered into by or subsisted with the Bank, its holding companies, its subsidiaries or subsidiaries of its holding companies during the year.

Directors' Rights to Acquire Shares or Debentures

To help align the interests of employees with shareholders, executive Directors of the Bank are eligible to be granted conditional awards over ordinary shares in HSBC Holdings plc by that company (being the ultimate holding company) under the HSBC Share Plan 2011 and the HSBC International Employee Share Purchase Plan.

Executive Directors of the Bank and HSBC Holdings plc are eligible to receive an annual incentive award based on the outcome of the performance measures (financial and non-financial) set out in their annual performance scorecard. Annual incentive awards are normally delivered in cash and/or shares, and these generally have a deferral rate of 60% or 40% if the annual incentive award is below GBP500,000. The period over which annual incentive awards would be deferred is determined in accordance with the requirements of the Prudential Regulation Authority ('PRA') Remuneration Rules, i.e. seven years for Senior Managers (individuals in PRA and Financial Conduct Authority ('FCA') designated Senior Management Functions), five years for Risk Managers, and four years for other Material Risk Takers ('MRTs'). All share awards granted to MRTs are subject to a minimum retention period of one year as opposed to six months previously. However, for certain individuals whose variable pay awards will be deferred for at least five years and who are not considered to be members of senior management, their retention period may be kept at six months.

To incentivise sustainable long-term performance and alignment with shareholder interests, Senior Management of Holdings plc including the Co-Chief Executives of the Bank are eligible to receive Long-Term Incentive ('LTI') Share Award. These awards which have been made to executive Directors of Holdings plc are subject to three-year forward-looking performance measures and a seven-year vesting period with a one-year post-vesting retention period, which is not accelerated on departure. The weighted average holding period of an LTI award within HSBC is therefore six years, in excess of the five-year holding period typically implemented by FTSE-listed companies. When the individual ceases employment, if they are treated as a good leaver under our policy, any LTI awards granted will continue to be released over a period of up to eight years, subject to the outcome of performance conditions. For more details on the operation of the plan, please refer to HSBC Holdings plc annual report and accounts.

All unvested deferred awards made under the HSBC Share Plan 2011 are subject to the application of malus, i.e. the cancellation and reduction of unvested deferred awards. All paid or vested variable pay awards made to identified staff and MRTs will be subject to clawback for a period of seven years from the date of award. For Senior Managers, this may be extended to 10 years in the event of an ongoing internal or regulatory investigation at the end of the seven-year period.

Executive Directors and other senior executives of HSBC Holdings plc are subject to Group minimum shareholding requirements. Individuals are given five years from 2014 or (if later) their appointment to build up the recommended levels of shareholding. HSBC operates an anti-hedging policy for Group, sectorial and local MRTs including executive Directors in accordance with the PRA Rules, who are required to certify each year via the Bank's Global Personal Account Dealing system that they have not entered into any personal hedging strategies in relation to their holdings of HSBC shares as part of the Global Personal Account Dealing Certification.

The HSBC International Employee Share Purchase Plan is an employee share purchase plan offered to employees in Hong Kong since 2013 and has been extended to further countries in the HSBC Group. For every three shares in HSBC Holdings plc purchased by an employee ('Investment Shares'), a conditional award to acquire one share is granted ('Matching Shares'). The employee becomes entitled to the Matching Shares subject to continued employment with HSBC and retention of the Investment Shares until the third anniversary of the start of the relevant plan year. HSBC Holdings Savings-Related Share Option Plan (UK) is an all employee share plan under which eligible employees may be granted options to acquire HSBC Holdings ordinary shares. Employees may make monthly contributions, up to a maximum defined limit, over a period of three or five years and shares are exercisable within six months following either the third or fifth anniversary of the commencement. The exercise price is set at a 20% discount to the market value immediately preceding the date of invitation.

During the year, Pam Kaur, Surendra Rosha and David Liao acquired or were awarded shares of HSBC Holdings plc under the terms of the HSBC Share Plan 2011.

Apart from these arrangements, at no time during the year was the Bank, its holding companies, its subsidiaries or any fellow subsidiaries a party to any arrangements to enable the Directors to acquire benefits by means of the acquisition of shares in or debentures of the Bank or any other body corporate.

Donations

Donations made by the group during the year amounted to HK$339m (2023: HK$318m).

Compliance with the Banking (Disclosure) Rules

The Directors are of the view that the Annual Report and Accounts 2024 and Banking Disclosure Statements 2024 fully comply with the Banking (Disclosure) Rules made under section 60A of the Banking Ordinance and the Financial Institutions (Resolution) (Loss-absorbing Capacity Requirements – Banking Sector) Rules ('LAC Rules') made under section 19(1) of the Financial Institutions (Resolution) Ordinance ('FIRO').

Auditor

The consolidated financial statements have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers ('PwC'). A resolution to reappoint PwC as auditor of the Bank will be proposed at the forthcoming AGM.

Corporate Governance

The Bank is committed to high standards of corporate governance. As an Authorised Institution, the Bank is subject to and complies with the HKMA Supervisory Policy Manual CG-1 'Corporate Governance of Locally Incorporated Authorised Institutions' ('SPM CG-1') except that the membership of the Bank's Nomination Committee comprised an equal number of independent non-executive Directors and non-executive Directors during 2024, rather than a majority of independent non-executive Directors, until the re-designation of David Eldon (a member of the Nomination Committee) as an independent non-executive Director as detailed in the later section on 'Independent non-executive Directors' of this Report.

As a principal subsidiary of the HSBC Group, the Bank operates in accordance with the Group's Subsidiary Accountability Framework including its responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the framework for all of its subsidiaries. The Subsidiary Accountability Framework sets out high-level principles to promote effective governance and improve communications and connectivity between HSBC Holdings plc and its subsidiaries.

Board of Directors

The Board, led by the Chairman, provides entrepreneurial leadership of the Bank within a framework of prudent and effective controls which enables risks to be assessed and managed. The Board is collectively responsible for the long-term success of the Bank and delivery of sustainable value to shareholders. The Board is responsible for the overall strategy and risk appetite for the group and approves the financial and operating plans presented by management for the achievement of the strategic objectives it has set.

The Board has appointed Justin Siu Chung Chan (former Head of Markets and Securities Services, Greater China, HSBC) and Kevin Anthony Westley (a former independent non-executive Director of the Bank) as advisers to the Board with effect from 25 July 2023 and 1 January 2025 respectively.

Directors

The Bank has a unitary Board. The authority of each Director is exercised in Board meetings where the Board acts collectively. As at the date of this report, the Board comprises: the non-executive Chairman; the independent non-executive Deputy Chairman; two executive Directors who are the co-Chief Executive Officers; one other non-executive Director; and ten other independent non-executive Directors.

Independent non-executive Directors

Independent non-executive Directors do not participate in the daily business management of the Bank. They bring an external perspective, constructively challenge and help develop proposals on strategy, scrutinise the performance of management in meeting agreed goals and objectives, and monitor the risk profile and reporting of performance of the Bank. The independent non-executive Directors bring experience from a number of industries and business sectors, including the leadership of large complex multinational enterprises. The Board has determined that there are eleven independent non-executive Directors. In making these determinations, it was agreed that there are no relationships or circumstances likely to affect the judgement of the independent non-executive Directors, with any relationships or circumstances that could appear to do so not considered to be material. During 2024, David Eldon was re-designated an independent non-executive Director. The assessment of his independence followed a three-year period since he stepped down from the boards of HSBC subsidiaries in the Middle East.

Chairman and co-Chief Executive Officers

The roles of the Chairman and co-Chief Executive Officers are separate and held respectively by an experienced non-executive Director and two full-time employees of the HSBC Group. There is a clear division of responsibilities between leading the Board and the executive responsibility for running the Bank’s business.

The Chairman provides leadership to the Board in promoting the overall effectiveness of the Bank, in particular the development of strategy and monitoring of the execution and delivery of Board approved strategies and plans by the co-Chief Executive Officers and management. The Chairman’s role includes promoting an open and inclusive culture on the Board to facilitate open and critical discussion and challenge. The Chairman's role also leads the Board in setting an appropriate ‘tone from the top’ and in the oversight of the Bank’s corporate culture. The Chairman leads an annual evaluation of the performance of the Board, its Committees and individual Directors. The role also involves maintaining external relationships with key stakeholders and communicating their views to the Board.

The co-Chief Executive Officers are individually and jointly responsible for ensuring implementation of the strategy and policies as established by the Board and the day-to-day running of operations. The co-Chief Executive Officers are co-Chairmen of the Executive Committee. The heads of Global Businesses and Global Functions and market Chief Executive Officers in Asia-Pacific report to the co-Chief Executive Officers. For the purposes of section 74 of the Banking Ordinance, David Liao (co-Chief Executive Officer) is the Chief Executive, and Surendranath Rosha (co-Chief Executive Officer), Philip Fellowes (Chief Commercial Officer), Darren Furnarello (Chief Compliance Officer), David Grimme (Chief Operating Officer), Martin Haythorne (Chief Risk Officer) and Ming Lau (Chief Financial Officer) are Alternate Chief Executives.

Role profiles for the Chairman and co-Chief Executive Officers have been approved by the Board.

Deputy Chairman

The role of the Deputy Chairman is to deputise formally for the Chairman of the Board in his absence and support the Chairman in the exercise of his responsibilities. The Deputy Chairman also acts as an intermediary for other non-executive Directors when necessary and leads the non-executive directors in the annual performance evaluation of the Chairman and in ensuring a clear division of responsibility between the Chairman and co-Chief Executive Officers. The role also involves maintaining external relationships with key stakeholders and communicating their views to the Board.

The role profile for the Deputy Chairman has been approved by the Board.

Board Committees

The Board has established various committees consisting of Directors and senior management. The committees include the Executive Committee, Audit Committee, Risk Committee, Nomination Committee, Remuneration Committee and Chairman's Committee. The co-Chairmen of the Executive Committee and the Chairman of each Board committee that includes independent non-executive Directors report to each subsequent Board meeting on the relevant committee’s proceedings.

The Board has also established an Asset, Liability and Capital Management Committee and a Risk Management Meeting. The Executive Committee has the delegated authority to approve any changes in the membership and terms of reference of the Asset, Liability and Capital Management Committee and the Risk Management Meeting. During 2025, an Operating Committee framework will be introduced consistent with the revised approach to executive governance being implemented across the HSBC Group.

The Board and each Board committee have terms of reference to document their responsibilities and governance procedures. The key roles of the Board committees are described in the paragraphs below.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is responsible for the exercise of all of the powers, authorities and discretions of the Board in so far as they concern the management, operations and day-to-day running of the group, in accordance with such policies and directions as the Board may from time to time determine, with power to sub-delegate. A schedule of items that require the approval of the Board is maintained.

The Bank’s co-Chief Executive Officers, David Liao and Surendranath Rosha, are co-Chairmen of the Committee. The members of the Committee during 2024 were the heads of Global Businesses in Asia-Pacific and selected market Chief Executive Officers and heads of Global Functions in Asia-Pacific. The Committee met eleven times in 2024. In between Committee meetings, there were periodic ‘check-in’ sessions held by the Committee co-Chairmen with members to discuss urgent or important matters and to support effective communication.

Asset, Liability and Capital Management Committee

The Asset, Liability and Capital Management Committee (‘ALCO’) is an advisory committee to provide recommendations and advice to support the Chief Financial Officer's individual accountability for the efficient management of the Bank’s assets, liabilities and capital within the constraints of risk appetite, regulatory and other limits set for liquidity and funding, capital, and key balance sheet risks such as interest rate risk, non-traded banking book foreign exchange risk and equity risk. The Committee also has responsibilities for the review of the Bank's recovery and resolution planning activities, and the oversight and escalation of treasury sustainability related matters in support of the Group’s sustainability objectives.

The Committee is chaired by the Chief Financial Officer. The current members are the co-Chief Executive Officers, the Chief Risk Officer, the key treasury management heads and other senior executives of the Bank most of whom are members of the Executive Committee. The Committee met ten times in 2024.

Risk Management Meeting

The Risk Management Meeting is a formal governance forum established to support the Chief Risk Officer’s individual accountability for the oversight of enterprise risk and provide recommendations and advice to the Chief Risk Officer on enterprise-wide management of all risks, including key policies and frameworks for the management of risk within the Bank.

The Risk Management Meeting is chaired by the Chief Risk Officer. The current members are the co-Chief Executive Officers, the Head of Global Internal Audit, Asia-Pacific, the Chief Executive Officer of Hang Seng Bank Limited, the Chief Credit Officer, Wholesale and Head of Wholesale Credit and Market Risk, Asia-Pacific and other senior executives of the Bank most of whom are members of the Executive Committee. The Risk Management Meeting met six times in 2024.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee has non-executive responsibility for oversight of and advice to the Board on matters relating to financial reporting and internal controls. The current members of the Committee, all being independent non executive directors, are Paul Brough (Chairman of the Committee), Judy Chau, Yiu Kwan Choi, David Eldon and Rajnish Kumar. The Committee met seven times in 2024.

The Audit Committee monitors the integrity of the consolidated financial statements, banking disclosure statements, and disclosures relating to financial performance, the effectiveness of the internal audit function and the external audit process, and the effectiveness of internal control systems. During 2025, the Committee’s responsibilities will expand to include reviewing the effectiveness of internal control systems, subject to input from the Risk Committee. The Committee reviews the adequacy of resources and expertise as well as succession planning for the finance function. It reviews, and considers changes to, the Bank’s accounting policies. The Committee advises the Board on the appointment, re-appointment, or removal of the external auditor and reviews and monitors the external auditor’s independence and objectivity. The Committee reviews matters escalated for its attention by subsidiaries’ audit committees and receives minutes of meetings of the ALCO.

Risk Committee

The Risk Committee has non-executive responsibility for oversight of and advice to the Board on risk-related matters and the enterprise risks impacting the Bank and its subsidiaries, and risk governance. The current members of the Committee, all being independent non-executive directors, are Yiu Kwan Choi (Chairman of the Committee), Paul Brough, Judy Chau, Edward Cheng, David Eldon, Rajnish Kumar and Annabelle Long. The Committee met five times in 2024.

All of the Bank’s activities involve, to varying degrees, the identification, assessment, monitoring and management of risk or combinations of risks. The Board, advised by the Risk Committee, requires and encourages a strong risk culture which shapes the Bank’s attitude to risk. The Bank’s risk governance is supported by the Group’s risk management framework which provides a clear policy of risk ownership and accountability of all staff for identifying, assessing and managing risks within the scope of their assigned responsibilities. This personal accountability, reinforced by clear and consistent employee communication on risk that sets the tone from senior leadership, the governance structure, mandatory learning and remuneration policy, helps to foster a disciplined and constructive culture of risk management and control throughout the group.

The Board and the Risk Committee oversee the maintenance and development of a strong risk management framework by continually monitoring the risk environment, top and emerging risks facing the group and mitigating actions planned and taken. The Risk Committee reviews certain Group risk management policies and procedures at least annually and advises the Board if these are appropriate for the circumstances of the Bank. It also reviews local risk management policies at least annually and approves or recommends any changes to the Board for approval.

The Committee reviews any revisions to the group’s risk appetite statement at least annually and recommends any proposed changes to the Board for approval. The Committee reviews management’s assessment of risk against the risk appetite statement and provides scrutiny of management’s proposed mitigating actions. The Committee monitors the risk profiles for all of the risk categories within the group’s business. The Committee also monitors the effectiveness of the Bank’s enterprise risk management framework and internal control systems. Regular reports from the Risk Management Meeting are also presented at each Risk Committee meeting to report on the ongoing monitoring, assessment and management of the risk environment and the effectiveness of the risk management framework. The Committee reviews matters escalated for its attention by subsidiaries’ risk committees and receives minutes of meetings of the Risk Management Meeting.

Nomination Committee

The Nomination Committee is responsible for leading the process for Board appointments and for identifying and approving, or nominating for the approval of the Board, candidates for appointment to the Board and certain senior management roles. Appointments to the Board and certain senior management roles are subject to the approval of the HKMA. The Committee considers plans for orderly succession to the Board and the appropriate balance of skills, knowledge and experience on the Board, and undertakes an annual review of the time commitment and any potential conflicts of interests of each Director. The Committee also reviews the board succession plans of certain subsidiaries of the Bank and considers and endorses appointments to boards of directors of specified subsidiaries.

The current members of the Committee are Beau Kuok (Chairman of the Committee), Peter Wong (Chairman of the Board), David Eldon (Deputy Chairman of the Board) and Sonia Cheng. Except for Peter Wong, who is a non-executive Director, all members are independent non-executive Directors. The Committee met six times in 2024.

A rigorous selection process, overseen by the Nomination Committee and based upon agreed requirements using an external search consultancy when appropriate, is followed in relation to the appointment of non-executive Directors. Before recommending an appointment of a Director to the Board, the Committee evaluates the Board composition including the balance of skills, knowledge and experience, as well as diversity and the role and capabilities required. In identifying suitable Board candidates, the Committee considers candidates’ backgrounds, knowledge and experience to promote diversity of views, and takes into account the required time commitment and any potential conflicts of interest.

Chairman’s Committee

The Chairman’s Committee acts on behalf of the Board either in accordance with authority delegated by the Board from time to time or as specifically set out within its terms of reference. The Committee meets with such frequency and at such times as it may determine and can implement previously agreed strategic decisions by the full Board, approve specified matters subject to their prior review by the full Board, and act exceptionally on urgent matters within its terms of reference.

The current members of the Committee comprise the Chairman of the Board, the Deputy Chairman of the Board, the co-Chief Executive Officers and the Chairmen of the Audit and Risk Committees. The Committee met two times in 2024.

Remuneration Committee

The Group Remuneration Committee is responsible for setting the principles, parameters and governance framework for the Group's Remuneration Strategy applicable to all Group employees, which is adopted by the Bank. The Remuneration Committee of the Bank is responsible for the oversight of matters related to remuneration impacting the Bank and its subsidiaries, in particular, overseeing the implementation and operation of the Group's Remuneration Strategy and satisfying itself that the remuneration framework complies with local laws, rules or regulations; is in line with the risk appetite, business strategy, culture and values, and long-term interests of the Bank; and is appropriate to attract, retain and motivate employees to support the success of the Bank. The current members of the Committee, all being independent non-executive Directors, are Irene Lee (Chairman of the Committee), Beau Kuok, Edward Cheng and Sonia Cheng.

The Committee met six times in 2024.

The following is a summary of the Committee's key activities during 2024:

Details of the Committee's key activities

Senior Management*

– Reviewed and approved senior management's remuneration and pay proposals
– Reviewed and approved the performance scorecards for the Co-Chief Executive and Executive Committee members of the Bank

All employees

– Approved 2023/2024 performance year pay review matters
– Reviewed remuneration framework effectiveness
– Received updates on notable events and regulatory and corporate governance matters
– Reviewed and approved 2024 Material Risk Taker ('MRT') identification approaches and outcomes
– Received updates and approval of reward and benefit changes to address regulatory updates and to enhance the employee values proposition in the markets we operate
– Approved 2024 remuneration related regulatory submissions

* Senior Management includes the Co-Chief Executives of the Bank, Chief Executive of Hang Seng Bank Limited, Executive Committee members, Alternate Chief Executives and Managers as registered with HKMA.

Our Remuneration Strategy

Our goal is to deliver a unique and exceptional experience to energise colleagues to perform at their best. This is critical to strengthening our ability to attract, retain and motivate the people we need in competitive markets where employee expectations continue to evolve.

Our performance and pay framework is underpinned by our Group's Remuneration Strategy and Principles. Our reward principles and commitments guide our approach to workforce reward and are set out below. They support our focus on being a great place to work, provide clarity on our proposition and ensure prioritisation in the right areas.

– We will reward our colleagues responsibly through fixed pay security and protection through core benefits, a competitive total compensation opportunity, pay equity, and a more inclusive and sustainable benefits proposition over time.
– We will recognise colleagues' success through our performance culture and routines, including feedback and recognition, pay for performance, and all employee share ownership opportunities.
– We will support our colleagues to grow through our proposition beyond pay, with a focus on future skills and development, mental, physical, social and financial well-being, and flexibility.

In 2024, we made several significant changes to improve our proposition to unlock our performance edge:

– We introduced performance routines to help ensure colleagues know what is expected of them, how they are doing and how they can improve. This is achieved by setting ambitious goals, discussing performance frequently through the year, regularly exchanging feedback and recognising outstanding performance via our simplified performance assessment;
– We introduced "Target Variable Pay" to majority of our junior to mid-level employees, helping to improve fairness and consistency in reward outcomes, and providing more clarity and transparency on how we make pay decisions and the impact of Group, business and individual performance on variable pay; and
– We continued to improve our wellbeing offering by enhancing country Employee Assistance Programmes, increasing the number of mental health champions in our Mindfulness Network, developed new financial wellbeing support and running activity challenges to improve employees' physical activity.

More details of the Bank's remuneration strategy are contained within the Annual Report and Accounts 2024 of HSBC Holdings plc.

The Bank as an Authorised Institution under the Banking Ordinance is required by HKMA Supervisory Policy Manual CG-5 'Guideline on a Sound Remuneration System' (the Guideline) to assess whether their existing remuneration systems and policy are in line with the principles in the Guideline, independently of management and at least annually. The annual review for 2023 was commissioned externally to Deloitte LLP and the results were approved by the Remuneration Committee in April 2024. The review confirmed that the Bank's remuneration strategy as adopted from the Group is consistent with the principles set out in the Guideline.

Recovery and Resolution Planning

The group is subject to recovery and resolution requirements in many of the jurisdictions in which it operates. In Hong Kong, the Banking Ordinance and Financial Institutions (Resolution) Ordinance sets out requirements for recovery and resolution planning.

Recovery

The group maintains recovery plans designed to outline credible management actions that could be implemented in the event of severe stress in order to restore capital, liquidity and its business to a stable and sustainable condition. The Bank typically submits a recovery plan on an annual basis to the HKMA and submits local recovery plans to other host regulators where local requirements are in place. The Bank's recovery plans are continually re-appraised to meet regulatory and internal feedback, including through regular stress testing and 'fire drill' tests.

Resolution

In general terms, resolution refers to the exercise of statutory powers where a financial institution and/or its parent or other group company is deemed by its regulators to be failing, or likely to fail and it is not reasonably likely that recovery action could be taken that would result in the institution recovering.

In view of the HSBC Group's corporate structure, which comprises a group of locally regulated operating banks, the preferred resolution strategy for the HSBC Group, as confirmed by its regulators, is a multiple point of entry ('MPE') bail-in strategy. This provides flexibility for HSBC to be resolved either (i) through a bail-in at the HSBC Holdings level, which enables the recapitalisation of operating bank subsidiaries in the HSBC Group (as required) while restructuring actions are undertaken, with the HSBC Group remaining together; or (ii) at a local subsidiary level pursuant to the application of statutory resolution powers by local resolution authorities.

The group is part of the HSBC Group-wide Resolvability Assessment Framework ('RAF') implementation along with continued bilateral engagement with the HKMA and the other principal Asian regulators in addressing any identified impediments to resolvability of the group, ensuring resolvability capabilities being developed are in line with the local requirements and regulatory expectations. The group has put in place capabilities to enhance the bank's resolvability, taking into account the various components of the resolution standards as they come into effect.

Since 1 January 2022, the HSBC Group, including the group, has been required to have capabilities to achieve the resolvability outcome: (i) have adequate resources in resolution; (ii) be able to continue business through resolution and restructuring; and (iii) be able to co-ordinate its resolution and communicate effectively with stakeholders. The RAF requires HSBC to prepare a report on the HSBC Group's assessment of its resolvability, which must be submitted to the BoE on a biennial basis. HSBC Group submitted its second report to the BoE in October 2023. In August 2024, HSBC made its second public disclosure on its resolvability, which summarised the key findings from the second RAF Self-assessment. HSBC continues to engage with the BoE, PRA, the HKMA and its global regulators in other jurisdictions to help ensure that it meets current and future recovery and resolution requirements.

Business Review

The Bank is exempt from the requirement to prepare a business review under section 388(3) of the Companies Ordinance Cap. 622 since it is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc.

On behalf of the Board

Peter Wong, Chairman

19 February 2025

Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (unaudited)

The group continues to work to incorporate environmental, social and governance ('ESG') principles throughout the organisation, and to embed sustainability into the way the group operates.

Approach to climate reporting

The information set out in this Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures ('TCFD'), taken together with other information relating to climate issues included in the Annual Report and Accounts 2024, provides key climate information and data relevant to the group's operations for the year ended 31 December 2024. The data is compiled for the financial year 1 January to 31 December 2024 unless otherwise specified. Measurement techniques and calculations are explained next to data tables where necessary.

The group has considered its 'comply or explain' obligation under the Hong Kong Monetary Authority's ('HKMA') Supervisory Policy Manual ('SPM') GS-1 on 'Climate Risk Management' issued in December 2021. The group has made disclosures consistent with the TCFD Recommendations and Recommended Disclosures, issued in July 2017 and its updated guidance in October 2021, in this Annual Report and Accounts save for certain items which are described on pages 136 to 137. Further details have been included in this section and the Risk Review section on pages 56 to 58. TCFD disclosures are highlighted with the following symbol: TCFD.

The group aims to continue to evolve its reporting to recognise market developments, such as the International Sustainability Standards Board ('ISSB'), and support the efforts to harmonise the disclosures.

Understanding HSBC's climate reporting

The Group engages with standard setters to support the development of transparent and consistent climate-related industry standards in areas such as product labelling, sustainability disclosures, sustainable finance taxonomy and emissions accounting.

The effective measurement, governance, and reporting of progress against the Group's climate ambition relies heavily on the availability and quality of both internal and external data. Newer data sources and topics may be difficult to assure using traditional verification techniques. This, coupled with diverse external data sources and complex structures, further complicates data consolidation.

The Group continues to invest in the development of data and analytics capabilities to support the Group's net-zero transition. This includes sourcing more reliable data from external providers. The Group is also developing its processes, systems, controls, and governance to meet the demands of future ESG reporting.

How climate is governed TCFD

The Board has primary responsibility for the oversight of the approach to managing climate risks and opportunities including approval of climate related strategies and the oversight of executive management in developing the approach, execution, risk management and associated reporting. The group's developments in relation to its climate risk and strategy were reviewed through Board discussions at five meetings in 2024. In addition, Board members received briefings on Asia-Pacific clean energy transition and climate related global and regional trends and developments as part of their ongoing training and development. The 2024 annual incentive scorecards of the group Co-Chief Executive Officers and most of the Executive Committee members include outcomes linked to realisation of different ESG goals such as customer satisfaction, employee sentiment, carbon reduction of the group's own operations and sustainable finance measures. Senior management of the group has engaged with the Board throughout 2024 on the key climate issues, such as climate strategy, client transition engagement and climate risk management.

Given the wide-ranging remit of climate matters, governance activities are managed through a combination of specialist governance infrastructure and regular meetings and committees, as appropriate. These include certain Board committees, including the Executive Committee, the Audit Committee, the Risk Committee and the Risk Management Meeting; and certain management committees, including the Sustainability Committee, the Disclosure and Controls Committee and the Environmental Risk Oversight Forum.

The Risk Committee oversees and advises the Board on risk-related matters, comprising both financial and non-financial risks (including Environmental, Social and Governance risk, which incorporates climate risk). In addition, the Executive Committee reviews the annual financial plan for sustainable finance and, on a quarterly basis, an ESG dashboard summarising key metrics such as sustainable finance and own operations emissions. The Sustainability Committee, chaired by the group Co-Chief Executive Officers, oversees the group's contribution to the Group's net zero transition plan. The group Environmental Risk Oversight Forum, chaired by the group's Head of ESG Risk and Chief Risk Officer, GBM & CMB, is a sub-committee of the Risk Management Meeting, established to provide oversight of all risk activities relating to the group's approach to environmental risk management. For further details of the group's governance structure, see pages 5 to 8.

Transition to net zero TCFD

In 2020, the Group set an ambition to become a net zero bank by 2050, which is motivated by the need to seize the economic opportunity that exists in financing the clients' investment needs in the transition, help mitigate the rising financial and wider societal risks associated with climate change, and to help shape the understanding, policies, market structures and standards needed to achieve a just transition while maintaining sound economies.

The Group's net zero transition plan published in January 2024, provides an overview of the Group's approach to net zero and actions needed to meet the ambition. The Group continues to take steps to implement the Group's transition plan, through supporting its customers, embedding net zero into the way it operates, and partnering for systemic change. The Group takes a risk-based approach when identifying transactions and clients to which the Group's sustainability risk policies apply, and when reporting on relevant exposures, adopting approaches proportionate to risk and materiality.

Supporting our customers TCFD

The Group aims to help its customers transition to net zero and a sustainable future by providing and facilitating between $750bn and $1tn of sustainable finance and investment by 2030. Its sustainable finance and investment ambition aims to help promote green, sustainable and socially-focused business and sustainable investment products and solutions.

The group's sustainable finance and investment progress is set out below, with detailed definitions available in the Group's Sustainable Finance and Investment Data Dictionary 2024 (see www.hsbc.com/who-we-are/esg-and-responsible-business/esg-reporting-centre). Continued progress towards achieving the Group's sustainable finance and investment ambition is dependent on market demand for the products and services set out in the Group's Sustainable Finance and Investment Data Dictionary 2024.

The Group defines sustainable finance and investment as any form of financial service that integrates ESG criteria into business or investment decisions. This includes financing, investing and related activities that support the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including but not limited to the aims of the Paris Agreement on climate change. The Group's Sustainable Finance and Investment Data Dictionary sets out its approach for classifying financing and investment as sustainable for the purpose of tracking and disclosing its performance against the sustainable finance and investment ambition.

The Group updates its data dictionary annually, including reviewing the product definitions, adding new qualifying products and removing products that no longer qualify, making enhancements to its internal standards, and developing its reporting and governance. This year, the Group also indicates for the first time, the types of eligible environmental and social activities it intends to consider going forward when qualifying certain use of proceeds financing for inclusion towards its sustainable finance and investment ambition including climate solutions, nature, adaptation and social-related activities.

The Group engages in industry initiatives to develop its understanding and approach to 'transition finance'. However, it does not currently plan to introduce transition finance as a product label or stand-alone category in the data dictionary and reporting. The Group will continue to monitor industry guidance as it develops.

Sustainable finance summary[1]

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Balance sheet-related transactions provided[2]	**187,724**	168,464
Capital markets/advisory (facilitated)	**50,322**	55,048
ESG and sustainable investing (net new flows)[3]	**(1,084)**	(250)
Total contribution	**236,962**	223,262

1 The 2024 data in this table has been prepared in accordance with HSBC Sustainable Finance and Investment Data Dictionary 2024, which includes green, social and sustainability activities. The amounts provided and facilitated include: the limits agreed for balance sheet-related transactions provided (including drawn and undrawn amounts), the proportional share of facilitated capital markets/advisory activities and ESG and sustainable investing net new flows of both HSBC-owned (Asset Management) sustainable investment funds and Wealth and Global Private Banking investments.
2 In 2024 only 9 months of WPB green/energy efficient mortgages were included as this was the first time of reporting. Whereas future years will include 12 months of transaction.
3 The net total for 2024 and 2023 was an outflow.

Working with customers

The Group is focused on three key areas that play to its strengths as an organisation and can help deliver an impact on decarbonisation in the global economy, particularly in Asia-Pacific where the need for financing at scale is most critical. This year, HSBC was named the world's best bank for sustainable finance and Asia's best bank for sustainable finance in the Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2024.

Transitioning industry

The group supports its clients in emissions intensive industries with their transition goals by engaging with them on their transition plans and by providing financing solutions. In 2024, the group refreshed transition plan assessments for major clients in the oil and gas, power and utilities and coal mining sectors, and began assessing major clients in the automotive, aviation, cement, steel and aluminium sectors, to better understand their objectives and identify opportunities to enable their decarbonisation strategies.

Scaling infrastructure finance plays an important role in meeting global decarbonisation objectives. In 2024, the Group launched HSBC Infrastructure Finance ('HIF'), which brings together its infrastructure finance, export finance, and debt/ project finance capabilities to increase its capacity to realise opportunities in the transition to a low carbon economy.

Pentagreen Capital, the Group's joint venture with Singapore investment company Temasek targets marginally bankable clean energy and adaptation projects in Southeast Asia to support them to commercial scale, with the aim of accelerating the transition to a low carbon economy. Pentagreen Capital completed its second deal in 2024: a green loan for BE C&I Solutions to catalyse the construction of distributed sustainable bioenergy projects across Southeast Asia and India. It was also announced at COP29 that Pentagreen Capital will manage the Green Investments partnership, one of the blended finance programmes under Financing Asia's Transition Partnership ('FAST-P') launched by the Monetary Authority of Singapore ('MAS'). This partnership aims to address climate finance gaps in developing Asia.

Catalysing the new economy

The Group aims to support clean industrial development and the scaling of entrepreneurial new economy companies at all stages of financing across the markets it operates in. The Group does this through direct financing and investment as well as through catalytic partnerships.

Decarbonising trade and supply chains

The Group is focused on helping to decarbonise trade flows and supply chains through its green trade finance and sustainable trade instruments, sustainable supply chain financing and sustainability-linked lending for trade. Mid-market and smaller businesses make up a large proportion of global supply chains. In 2024, the group expanded its sustainable finance capabilities with the launch of a sustainability improvement loan ('SIL') for businesses of this size in Hong Kong, India and Singapore, broadening the sustainable finance options available in the region. The group recently completed its first SIL transaction in Asia-Pacific with Opal Cosmetics, a manufacturer and seller of personal care and beauty products headquartered in Hong Kong and with a global supply chain. The proceeds from the facility will support the company's general working capital needs and ongoing research and development activities.

Partnering for systemic change

The group focuses on building strategic partnerships that can help to create an enabling environment for mobilising finance, and support development and scaling-up of solutions for the net zero transition. It also continues to participate in several sustainability-related cross-industry alliances and initiatives to stimulate industry engagement on climate and nature-related issues, and to improve global financial standards, guidance, and frameworks to mobilise finance and accelerate action. Through its philanthropy, the group partners with a range of non-governmental organisations to develop thought leadership, spur innovation, build capacity and test and scale climate solutions.

A selection of partnerships that HSBC supported in 2024 include:

- The Transition Credits Coalition ('TRACTION'), convened by MAS and comprised of more than 30 members and knowledge partners, aims to develop transition credits as a viable market solution. HSBC co-leads a workstream and contributes to TRACTION's work, including the interim report launched at COP29.
- The Capacity-building Alliance for Sustainable Investment ('CASI'), which aims to deliver quality and impactful sustainable finance capacity building in emerging markets and developing economies ('EMDEs') by leveraging the institutional knowledge and dissemination networks of its members. Over the past year CASI has expanded its membership to 67 institutions and launched the CASI Academy whose service offerings include online e-learning courses. HSBC is one of the founding member, providing philanthropic funding to support CASI's operations.
- Strategic investment in sustainable aviation fuel ('SAF') through a one-time purchase agreement for approximately 1.2m US gallons of SAF produced by Eco Ceres, which will be used to refuel Cathay Pacific aircraft at Hong Kong International Airport.
- Support to Apparel Impact Institute's ('Aii') Fashion Climate Fund, which aims to mobilise US$2bn in blended finance to halve carbon missions from the apparel sector by 2030. The Group has leveraged its trade finance expertise to provide insights and help inform Aii's 'Brand Playbook for Financing Decarbonisation' and the 'Landscape and Opportunities to Finance the Decarbonisation of India's Apparel Manufacturing Sector'.
- Five-year Climate Solutions Partnership with the World Resources Institute, which continues to support nature-based solutions and energy transition in Asia. Since 2020, US$105m in funding has been deployed to the Group's NGO partners. The nature programmes supported the Asia Sustainable Palm Oil Links programme, focused on promoting sustainable palm oil production, consumption and trade across Asia, and an open-access Environmental Crimes Financial Toolkit to help financial institutions detect and monitor activities related to environmental and financial crimes. The first set of tools focuses on commodity-driven deforestation and land conversion.

Embedding net zero TCFD

Net zero in our own operations

The group contributes to the HSBC Group's climate ambitions. For details of HSBC Group's climate ambitions, see HSBC Holdings plc's Annual Report and Accounts at www.hsbc.com/investors/results-and-announcements/annual-report.

The Group's guiding approach is, and will continue to be to reduce, replace and remove emissions from its own operations and supply chain. The Group plans to first focus on reducing carbon emissions from consumption, and then replaces remaining emissions with low-carbon alternatives in line with the Paris Agreement. The Group will reduce emissions through the purchase of 100% renewables and plan to add investments in sustainable aviation fuel to replace traditional fuel and reduce emissions from its travel over time.

Energy and water consumption

In 2024 the group reduced its energy consumption. This has been achieved through optimising the use of its real estate portfolio and carrying out a reduction in its office space. The group continues to optimise its assets to ensure greater efficiency and capitalise on new energy technologies. Also, the group increased its purchase of electricity from renewable sources. The Group aims to achieve 100% renewable electricity across the Group's operations by 2030.

The group has implemented consumption reduction measures, including installation of water efficient taps, flow restrictors, auto-taps and low or zero flush sanitary fittings.

Business travel

The group has analysed its travel patterns to identify areas where it can reduce emissions.

Engaging with supply chain

The Group's supply chain contributes most of its operational emissions. In 2024 the Group incorporated an additional supply chain data source to complement data from CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project). The Group aims to deepen collaboration with suppliers and increase its focus on those without public disclosures or emissions reduction plans, supporting them through education and incentivisation.

Emissions calculations approach

The group's emissions report adheres to the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, which incorporates the scope 2 market-based emissions methodology. The group reports greenhouse gas emissions associated with the energy used in its premises and employees' business travel in tonnes of CO2 equivalent. As a financial services organisation, carbon dioxide is the main type of greenhouse gas applicable to the group's operations, however, this current reporting also incorporates methane and nitrous oxide for completeness, although deemed immaterial.

Based on its operational control boundary, in 2024 the group collected data on energy use and business travel for its operations in 17 markets it operates in.

Greenhouse gas emissions in tonnes CO_2e[1,2,3]

	2024	2023
Scope 1 - direct	**1,135**	1,204
Scope 2 - indirect (market based)	**30,151**	103,272
Scope 3 - indirect (upstream activities - category 6: business travel)	**41,390**	31,990
Total	**72,676**	136,466
Greenhouse gas emissions in tonnes CO_2e per full-time equivalent staff	**1.20**	2.29

Environmental key facts[1,2]

	2024	2023
Total energy consumption (kWh in 000s)	**241,333**	251,747
Total water consumption (thousand m^3)	**488**	528
Total waste disposed (tonnes)	**2,109**	3,426

1 Data is based on the 12-month period to 30 September.
2 The data of the group's operations in some countries and territories where it has operational control and a small presence may have not been included due to the data collection challenges.
3 CO2e refers to carbon dioxide equivalent.

Managing climate risk TCFD

Climate risk relates to the financial and non-financial impacts that may arise as a result of climate change and the move to a net zero economy. The group manages climate risk across all its businesses and is incorporating climate considerations within its traditional risk types in line with the Group-wide risk management framework.

The group’s material exposure to climate risk relates to wholesale and retail client financing activity within its banking portfolio. The group is also exposed to climate risk in relation to asset ownership by its insurance business. Its clients are exposed to climate related investment risk in its asset management businesses.

For further details of the group's approach to climate risk, see 'Climate risk' on page 56.

Banking

The group’s banking business is well positioned to support its customers managing their own climate risk through financing. For its most material wholesale customers, the group uses the Group's transition engagement questionnaire to understand clients' climate strategies and risks. The Group has set out a suite of policies to guide the management of climate risk. The group continues to develop its climate risk appetite and metrics to help manage climate exposures in its wholesale and retail portfolios. The group uses climate scenario analysis to gain insights into the long-term effects of transition and physical risks across its wholesale and retail portfolios (for further details, see pages 13 to 14).

Asset management

HSBC Asset Management recognises that climate-related risks may impact the operational and financial performance of investee companies. The impact of these risks will vary depending on characteristics such as asset class, sector, business model and geography. HSBC Asset Management continues to integrate climate analysis into its actively managed product offerings and seeks to assess climate-related risks that could impact investment performance, where applicable and relevant.

As part of its stewardship activities, HSBC Asset Management engages with investee companies on a priority list as defined in its Stewardship Plan on climate change issues. HSBC Asset Management makes independent engagement decisions in the interests of its clients.

Insurance

In 2024, the Group's insurance business enhanced its stress testing modelling capability to assess the solvency resilience of its insurance entities under prescribed climate scenarios.

Insights from climate scenario analysis TCFD

Introduction

Climate scenario analysis supports the group’s strategy by assessing its potential exposures to risks and vulnerabilities under a range of climate scenarios. It is one of the key tools used to support the evaluation of portfolios in line with Group’s net zero ambition.

In 2024, the Asia-Pacific region produced several climate stress tests for regulators in the region, including the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (‘HKMA’).

The group analyses how climate risks impact principal risk types within the organisation, including credit and traded risks, non-financial risks, and pension risk.

HKMA Climate Scenarios

Climate risk is a long-term challenge, as the efficacy of climate policies take time to materialise. Thus, following the 2023 Short-Term Climate Risk Stress Test ('ST-CRST') exercise, the HKMA has developed three Long-Term CRST ('LT-CRST') scenarios spanning 28 years from 2023 to 2050. The LT-CRST serves to explore and evaluate the climate resilience of the banking sector in Hong Kong over the long run and to enhance the capabilities of participating banks in managing climate-related risks.

The HKMA mandates three scenarios for the LT-CRST which are all sourced from the Network for Greening the Financial System ('NGFS') Phase III, aimed at establishing a consistent industry-wide framework for climate risk stress testing.

The scenarios are designed to explore physical and transition risks across a wide range of potential outcomes: ranging from highest physical risk to highest transition risk.

- Current Policies scenario ('CP'), where transition policies in effect before the end of 2022 are maintained, with no new measures being introduced. Emissions are projected to continue rising until 2080, resulting in global warming exceeding 3°C by 2100 and a significant escalation in physical risk. The HKMA mandates a 1-in-200 year extreme weather event in 2050 to explore the severe impact of physical risks.
- Below 2°C scenario ('B2C'), where immediate collective global actions aimed at reducing emissions to limit global warming to below 2°C relative to pre-industrial levels by 2100 are undertaken. Carbon prices are projected to rise gradually from 2023 to 2050. With early and systematic policy interventions, both physical and transition risks remain relatively contained.
- Delayed Transition scenario ('DT'), where new climate policies are postponed until 2030, meaning robust and aggressive measures are necessary to achieve the goal of limiting global warming to below 2°C by 2100. This leads to a sharp increase in carbon prices and a deceleration in economic growth.

Our methodology

Climate scenario analysis allows the group to model how different potential climate pathways may impact the resilience of its customers and its portfolios. The group’s models continue to incorporate a range of climate-specific metrics that could potentially impact its customers, including expected production volumes, revenue, costs, and capital expenditure.

The group assesses how these metrics interplay with economic factors such as carbon prices, which represent the cost effects of climate-related policies that aim to discourage carbon-emitting activities and encourage low-carbon solutions. The expected result of higher carbon prices is a reduction in emissions as high-emission activities become uneconomical.

For the group's real estate portfolios, physical risk assessments focus on direct impacts caused by climate events, i.e. perils specific to property locations when assessing the overall climate risk impact to the portfolio.

How climate change is impacting our portfolios

Overall, based on the three HKMA climate scenarios analysed, customers within the group's wholesale lending portfolio in higher emitting sectors continue to be most exposed to larger climate-related losses. The group's commercial real estate and retail mortgage portfolios remain resilient to climate risk. This is also evident in Hong Kong, a market which has material physical risk exposure to wind and flooding due to strong tropical cyclones. The impact on prospective credit losses remains low as the properties are protected from cyclonic winds and flooding due to high building standards, high elevation, and protection from coastal defences in this region, such as rainstorm impacts being muted due to the positive impact of new drainage tunnels and tanks in the city.

For details on forward-looking metrics for physical risk, please refer to the section "How climate change is impacting our retail mortgage portfolio" in the HSBC Group Annual Report and Accounts 2024. The results are approved in line with the HKMA Supervisory Policy Manual: IC-1 Risk Management Framework requirements, where HSBC's corporate governance originates with the Board of Directors who are supported by both management and a hierarchy of governance and management committees.

Conclusion to insights from climate scenario analysis

Climate scenario analysis is an evolving process and there are data and modelling limitations due to the information and expertise available in the current market. Physical risk modelling is nascent and currently the group is only able to model direct climate peril impacts on real estate. Limited considerations are made to pricing implications of new green products and clients that are likely to emerge over the time horizon.

The group continues to enhance its climate scenario analysis exercises so that the group can have a more comprehensive understanding of climate headwinds, risks and opportunities to support its strategic planning, actions and risk management.

The scenario analysis results are used to support the group's internal capital adequacy assessment ('ICAAP'), ensuring the group holds sufficient capital to operate the business on a going concern basis.

Financial Review

Results for 2024

(Unaudited)

Profit before tax for 2024 reported by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited ('the Bank') and its subsidiaries (together 'the group') increased by HK$32,489m, or 27%, to HK$153,932m.

Consolidated income statement by reportable segments

(Audited)

	Wealth and Personal Banking HK$m	Commercial Banking HK$m	Global Banking HK$m	Markets and Securities Services HK$m	Corporate Centre[1] HK$m	Other (GBM-other)[2] HK$m	Total HK$m
Year ended 31 Dec 2024							
Net interest income/(expense)	**80,480**	**59,528**	**24,408**	**6,352**	**(55,004)**	**1,873**	**117,637**
Net fee income/(expense)	**24,042**	**10,827**	**5,318**	**2,020**	**318**	**(8)**	**42,517**
Net income from financial instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss	**42,243**	**4,240**	**187**	**28,010**	**53,110**	**164**	**127,954**
Insurance finance income/(expense)	**(35,684)**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**21**	**—**	**(35,663)**
Insurance service result	**8,142**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**(11)**	**—**	**8,131**
Other operating income/(expense)	**2,439**	**501**	**429**	**1,505**	**504**	**(259)**	**5,119**
Net operating income/(expense) before change in expected credit losses and other credit impairment charges	**121,662**	**75,096**	**30,342**	**37,887**	**(1,062)**	**1,770**	**265,695**
– of which: external	**63,994**	**75,783**	**41,673**	**77,604**	**(18,256)**	**24,897**	**265,695**
inter-segment	**57,668**	**(687)**	**(11,331)**	**(39,717)**	**17,194**	**(23,127)**	**—**
Change in expected credit losses and other credit impairment charges	**(2,770)**	**(6,863)**	**(2,142)**	**—**	**(165)**	**(6)**	**(11,946)**
Net operating income/(expense)	**118,892**	**68,233**	**28,200**	**37,887**	**(1,227)**	**1,764**	**253,749**
Operating expenses	**(54,524)**	**(23,647)**	**(11,601)**	**(16,338)**	**(9,297)**	**(2,185)**	**(117,592)**
Operating profit/(loss)	**64,368**	**44,586**	**16,599**	**21,549**	**(10,524)**	**(421)**	**136,157**
Share of profit in associates and joint ventures	**261**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**17,514**	**—**	**17,775**
Profit/(loss) before tax	**64,629**	**44,586**	**16,599**	**21,549**	**6,990**	**(421)**	**153,932**
Balance sheet data at 31 Dec 2024							
Loans and advances to customers (net)	**1,541,986**	**1,134,555**	**782,831**	**31,096**	**972**	**2,858**	**3,494,298**
Customer accounts	**3,812,451**	**1,754,192**	**759,249**	**224,938**	**14**	**13,762**	**6,564,606**
Year ended 31 Dec 2023							
Net interest income/(expense)	79,737	60,964	24,299	6,411	(42,064)	1,433	130,780
Net fee income/(expense)	19,426	10,664	5,038	2,652	270	(7)	38,043
Net income from financial instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss	53,950	4,247	47	23,606	41,223	321	123,394
Insurance finance expense	(48,798)	—	—	—	—	—	(48,798)
Insurance service result	6,589	—	—	—	(31)	—	6,558
Other operating income/(expense)	(1,212)	(638)	584	1,975	575	(1,582)	(298)
Net operating income/(expense) before change in expected credit losses and other credit impairment charges	109,692	75,237	29,968	34,644	(27)	165	249,679
– of which: external	60,744	80,293	40,051	66,318	(19,895)	22,168	249,679
inter-segment	48,948	(5,056)	(10,083)	(31,674)	19,868	(22,003)	—
Change in expected credit losses and other credit impairment charges	(2,113)	(9,378)	(1,360)	(26)	2	32	(12,843)
Net operating income/(expense)	107,579	65,859	28,608	34,618	(25)	197	236,836
Operating expenses	(50,664)	(22,205)	(10,825)	(15,653)	(8,382)	(2,264)	(109,993)
Operating profit/(loss)	56,915	43,654	17,783	18,965	(8,407)	(2,067)	126,843
Share of profit in associates and joint ventures	390	—	—	—	18,165	—	18,555
Impairment of interest in associate	—	—	—	—	(23,955)	—	(23,955)
Profit/(loss) before tax	57,305	43,654	17,783	18,965	(14,197)	(2,067)	121,443
Balance sheet data at 31 Dec 2023							
Loans and advances to customers (net)	1,567,893	1,154,648	791,061	37,366	1,178	4,930	3,557,076
Customer accounts	3,618,894	1,685,876	740,881	209,511	30	5,859	6,261,051

1 Includes inter-segment elimination.
2 Mainly comprises other business activities which are jointly managed by GB and Markets and Securities Services ('MSS').

Financial Review

(Unaudited)

The commentary in this financial review compares the group's financial performance for the year ended 31 December 2024 with the year ended 31 December 2023.

Results Commentary

(Unaudited)

The group reported profit before tax of HK$153,932m, an increase of HK$32,489m, or 27%.

Net interest income decreased by HK$13,143m, or 10%. Excluding the unfavourable foreign exchange impact, net interest income decreased by HK$12,297m, or 9%, due to a reduction in net interest margin from higher funding costs in relation to customer deposits, and a less favourable deposit mix. The reduction in net interest income also reflected the increased cost of funding to the trading and fair value net assets, where the associated revenue is reported in 'Net income from financial instruments held for trading or managed on a fair value basis'. The decrease was partly offset by higher yields on financial investments.

Net fee income increased by HK$4,474m, or 12%. Excluding the unfavourable foreign exchange impact, net fee income increased by HK$4,775m, or 13%, mainly from higher unit trust sales, securities brokerage volumes and higher funds under management driven by market sentiment and an expanded customer base.

Net income from financial instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss increased by HK$4,560m, or 4% due to an increase in net income from financial instruments held for trading or managed on a fair value basis of HK$17,495m, benefitting from higher volumes and interest rate movements.

The increase was offset by a decrease in net income from assets and liabilities of insurance businesses, including related derivatives, measured at fair value through profit or loss of HK$12,935m. This primarily reflected the reduction in fair value gains on financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss which back insurance and investment contracts due to rate movements in 2024 compared to 2023. This movement resulted in a corresponding reduction in insurance finance expense, which has an offsetting impact for the related liabilities to policyholders.

Insurance finance expense decreased by HK$13,135m, or 27%, reflecting the extent to which the investment income earned on underlying assets supporting insurance contracts is shared with the policyholders, which moves inversely with 'net income from assets and liabilities of insurance businesses, including related derivatives, measured at fair value through profit or loss'.

Insurance service result increased by HK$1,573m, or 24%, reflecting an increase to the release of contractual service margin ('CSM') of HK$1,363m as a result of an increase in new business written during the year, updates to actuarial assumptions, and the impact of interest rates on the CSM duration profile.

Other operating income was HK$5,119m, compared with an expense of HK$298m in 2023, and included the recovery of operating expenses from other Group companies and gains from reinsurance contracts. 2023 represented losses on disposal of treasury bonds of HK$3,695m and from updates to valuation estimates in relation to insurance of HK$2,043m.

Change in expected credit losses and other credit impairment charges decreased by HK$897m or 7%. While default levels increased by value against the prior year (HK$68bn compared with HK$28bn in 2023), defaults were concentrated in well collateralised exposures, which resulted in lower expected credit loss ('ECL') charges.

Total operating expenses increased by HK$7,599m, or 7%. Excluding the favourable foreign exchange impact, operating expenses increased by HK$8,191m, or 7%, primarily reflecting inflation and continued investment in technology and people to support business growth.

Share of profit in associates and joint ventures decreased by HK$780m, or 4%. Excluding the unfavourable foreign exchange impact, the share of profit in associates and joint ventures decreased by HK$364m, or 2%, primarily from lower net profits from Bank of Communications Co., Ltd ('BoCom').

Impairment of interest in associate was nil (HK$23,955m in 2023), reflecting no further impairment in the current year.

Analysis by country / territory

(Unaudited)

Profit before tax by country/territory

	2024	2023
	HK$m	HK$m
Hong Kong	**86,191**	78,765
Mainland China[1]	**23,177**	1,800
India	**10,189**	9,003
Singapore	**10,729**	8,474
Australia	**4,751**	4,431
Malaysia	**3,906**	3,560
Taiwan	**3,116**	2,788
Indonesia	**1,724**	1,626
Other	**10,149**	10,996
Total	**153,932**	121,443

1 In 2024, there was no impairment charge (2023: HK$24.0bn) on the group's investment in BoCom.

Net interest income

(Unaudited)

	2024	2023
	HK$m	HK$m
Net interest income	117,637	130,780
Average interest-earning assets	7,229,251	7,220,536
	%	%
Net interest spread	1.56	1.64
Contribution from net free funds	0.07	0.17
Net interest margin	1.63	1.81

Interest in associate

(Unaudited)

In relation to our investment in BoCom, at 31 December 2024 we concluded that there was no indication of further impairment (or indication that an impairment may no longer exist or may have decreased significantly) since 31 December 2023 where an impairment of HK$23,955m was recognised.

Further details can be found in Note 14 'Interests in associates and joint ventures'.

Balance sheet commentary compared with 31 December 2023

(Unaudited)

The consolidated balance sheet as at 31 December 2024 is set out in the consolidated financial statements.

Gross loans and advances to customers decreased by HK$66bn, or 2%. Excluding the favourable foreign exchange translation effects of HK$4bn, gross loans and advances to customers decreased by HK$70bn or 2%. This was driven by a decrease in corporate and commercial lending of HK$54bn, or 3%, primarily in Hong Kong. The residential mortgage book decreased by HK$27bn or 2%, mainly in Singapore, China and Australia.

Total gross impaired loans and advances as a percentage of gross loans and advances stood at 2.79% at the end of 2024 (2023: 1.75%). The change in expected credit losses as a percentage of average gross customer advances was 0.34% (2023: 0.36%) reflecting the limited impact from defaults in the Hong Kong commercial real estate sector, driven by the high level of collateralisation in the portfolio, particularly in relation to loans with lower credit ratings.

Customer deposits increased by HK$304bn, or 5%, to HK$6,565bn. Excluding the unfavourable foreign exchange translation effects of HK$91bn, customer deposits increased by HK$395bn, or 6%. The advances-to-deposits ratio was 53.2% at the end of the year (2023: 56.8%).

Shareholders' equity grew by HK$6bn to HK$819bn at 31 December 2024, mainly reflecting the current year's profit, net of dividend payments. These were partly offset by a decrease in foreign exchange reserves due to depreciation of various foreign currencies against the Hong Kong dollar.

Loans and advances, deposits by currency

	At					
	31 Dec 2024			31 Dec 2023		
HK$m	HKD	USD	Others	HKD	USD	Others
Loans and advances to customers	1,580,178	603,742	1,310,378	1,663,563	605,656	1,287,857
Customer accounts	2,451,257	2,085,725	2,027,624	2,376,789	1,869,813	2,014,449

Information by business and key countries

(Unaudited)

Wealth and Personal Banking

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Revenue[1]	**121,662**	109,692
– of which: Hong Kong	**92,177**	84,522
Mainland China	**4,386**	4,337
Singapore	**10,180**	7,166
India	**2,111**	1,774
Profit before tax	**64,629**	57,305
– of which: Hong Kong	**57,933**	53,033
Singapore	**4,468**	1,826
India	**178**	18
Loans and advances to customers	**1,541,986**	1,567,893
– of which: Hong Kong	**1,083,394**	1,085,238
Mainland China	**53,136**	64,109
Customer accounts	**3,812,451**	3,618,894
– of which: Hong Kong	**2,981,606**	2,838,115
Mainland China	**164,199**	137,756

Commercial Banking

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Revenue[1]	**75,096**	75,237
– of which: Hong Kong	**43,056**	43,564
Mainland China	**5,797**	6,312
Singapore	**5,097**	5,034
India	**5,044**	4,288
Australia	**4,029**	3,598
Malaysia	**1,844**	1,867
Profit before tax	**44,586**	43,654
– of which: Hong Kong	**25,061**	23,242
Mainland China	**1,826**	2,650
Singapore	**2,932**	3,411
India	**3,495**	3,120
Loans and advances to customers	**1,134,555**	1,154,648
– of which: Hong Kong	**590,305**	614,145
Mainland China	**166,773**	152,514
Customer accounts	**1,754,192**	1,685,876
– of which: Hong Kong	**1,109,104**	1,049,481
Mainland China	**164,921**	148,363

1 Revenue (defined as 'Net operating income before change in expected credit losses and other impairment charges') is attributable to countries based on the location of the principal operations of the branch, subsidiary, associate or joint venture.

Risk

Our approach to risk

(Unaudited)

Our risk appetite

Our risk appetite defines the level and types of risk that we are willing to take, while informing the financial planning process and guiding strategic decision making. Our risk appetite is defined as the aggregate level of risk that the bank is comfortable to take to achieve its strategic objectives. Risk appetite also provides a mechanism for non-executive directors and executive directors to collectively establish the bank's willingness to engage in certain activities and assess these activities.

Enterprise-wide application

Our risk appetite is expressed holistically through various risk management mechanisms and activities, in both quantitative and qualitative terms.

The Board reviews and approves the group's risk appetite regularly to make sure it remains fit for purpose. The group's risk appetite is considered, developed and enhanced through the following principles:

- alignment with our strategy, purpose, values, external risk environment, reputational and customer needs;
- compliance with applicable laws, regulations and regulatory priorities;
- forward-looking insights into future risk exposure;
- sufficiency of available capital, liquidity and balance sheet leverage to absorb risks;
- capacity and capabilities of people to manage the risk landscape;
- functionality, capacity and resilience of available systems to manage the risk landscape;
- effectiveness of the applicable control environment to mitigate risk; and
- internally and externally disclosed commitments.

We formally articulate our risk appetite through our risk appetite statement ('RAS'), which is approved by the Board on the recommendation of the group Risk Committee ('RC'). Setting out our risk appetite helps ensure that we agree a suitable level of risk for our strategy. In this way, risk appetite informs our financial planning process and helps senior management to allocate capital to business activities, services and products.

At a group level, performance against the RAS is reported to the group Risk Management Meeting ('RMM') alongside key risk indicators to support targeted insight and discussion on breaches of risk appetite and any associated mitigating actions. This reporting allows risks to be promptly identified and mitigated, and informs risk-adjusted remuneration to drive a strong risk culture.

Coverage of subsidiaries and material banking entities is monitored through a RAS, which helps ensure they remain aligned with the group's RAS. Each RAS and business activity is guided and underpinned by qualitative principles and/or quantitative metrics.

Risk management

We recognise that the primary role of risk management is to help protect our customers, business, colleagues, shareholders and the communities that we serve, while ensuring we are able to support our strategy and provide sustainable growth. This is supported through our three lines of defence model described on page 21.

In addition, we recognise the importance of a strong culture, which refers to our shared attitudes, beliefs, values and standards that shape behaviours including those related to risk awareness, risk taking and risk management. All our people are responsible for the management of risk, with ultimate supervisory oversight residing with the Board.

The implementation of our business strategy remains a key focus. As we implement change initiatives, we actively manage execution risks. We also perform periodic risk assessments, including against strategies, to help ensure retention of key personnel for our continued effective operation.

We aim to use a comprehensive risk management approach across the organisation and across all risk types, underpinned by the group's culture and values. This is outlined in our risk management framework, including the key principles and practices that we employ in managing material risks, both financial and non-financial.

The framework fosters continual monitoring, promotes risk awareness and a positive risk culture. It encourages a sound operational and strategic decision making and escalation process. It also supports a consistent approach to identifying, assessing, managing and reporting the risks we accept and incur in our activities, with clear accountabilities. We actively review and enhance our risk management framework and our approach to managing risk.

Group Risk and Compliance is independent from the global businesses, including our sales and trading functions. It provides challenge, oversight and appropriate balance in risk/return decisions.

Our risk management framework

The following diagram and descriptions summarise key aspects of the risk management framework, including governance, structure, risk management tools and our culture, which together help align employee behaviour with risk appetite.

Key components of our risk management framework

HSBC values and risk culture

Risk governance	Non-executive risk governance	The Board approves the group's risk appetite, plans and performance targets. It sets the 'tone from the top' and is advised by the group's Risk Committee.
	Executive risk governance	Our executive risk governance structure is responsible for the enterprise-wide management of all risks, including key policies and frameworks for the management of risk within the group.
Roles and responsibilities	Three lines of defence model	Our 'three lines of defence' model defines roles and responsibilities for risk management. An independent Risk and Compliance function helps ensure the necessary balance in risk/return decisions.
Processes and tools	Risk appetite	The group has processes in place to identify, assess, monitor, manage and report risks to help ensure we remain within our risk appetite.
	Enterprise-wide risk management tools	
	Active risk management: identification/assessment, monitoring, management and reporting	
Internal controls	Policies and procedures	Policies and procedures define the minimum requirements for the controls required to manage our risks.
	Control activities	Operational and resilience risk management defines minimum standards and processes for managing operational risks and internal controls.
	Systems and infrastructure	The group has systems and processes that support the identification, capture and exchange of information to support risk management activities.

Risk governance

The Board has ultimate supervisory responsibility for the effective management of risk and approves our risk appetite. It is advised on risk-related matters by the RC. The RC reviews the effectiveness of the group's risk management framework and internal controls systems and oversees the group's approach to conduct, fairness and prevention of financial crime. Through review and independent challenge of reports presented by management at RC meetings, the committee oversees the effectiveness of monitoring, assessment and management of the risk environment as well as the risk management framework.

The group's Chief Risk Officer, supported by members of the RMM, holds executive accountability for the ongoing monitoring, assessment and management of the risk environment and the effectiveness of the risk management framework.

The management of regulatory compliance risk and financial crime risk resides with the group's Chief Compliance Officer. Oversight is maintained by the group's Chief Risk Officer, in line with his enterprise-wide risk oversight responsibilities, through the RMM.

Day-to-day responsibility for risk management is delegated to senior managers with individual accountability for decision making. All our people have a role to play in risk management. These roles are defined using the three lines of defence model, which takes into account the group's business and functional structures as described in the following commentary, 'Our responsibilities'.

We use a defined executive risk governance structure to help ensure there is appropriate oversight and accountability of risk, which facilitates reporting and escalation to the RMM. This structure is summarised in the following table.

Governance structure for the management of risk

Authority	Membership	Responsibilities include:
Risk Management Meeting of the group	group Chief Risk Officer group General Counsel group Co-Chief Executive Officers group Chief Financial Officer group Chief Compliance Officer group Head of Internal Audit Chief Executive Officer of Hang Seng Bank Limited All other group Executive Committee members	– Supporting the group Chief Risk Officer in exercising Board-delegated risk management authority. – Overseeing the implementation of risk appetite and the risk management framework. – Forward-looking assessment of the risk environment, analysing possible risk impacts and taking appropriate action. – Monitoring all categories of risk and determining appropriate mitigating action. – Promoting a supportive Group culture in relation to risk management and conduct.
Global business/ Market risk management meetings	Global business/Market Chief Risk and Compliance Officers/Market Chief Risk Officers Global business/Market Chief Executive Officers Global business/Market Chief Financial Officers Global business/Market heads of global functions[1]	– Supporting the group Chief Risk Officer in exercising Board-delegated risk management authority. – Forward-looking assessment of the risk environment, analysing possible risk impacts and taking appropriate action. – Implementation of risk appetite and the risk management framework. – Monitoring all categories of risk and determining appropriate mitigating actions. – Embedding a supportive culture in relation to risk management and controls.

1 This category includes Global business/Market Chief Compliance Officers, where applicable.

The Board committees with responsibility for oversight of risk-related matters are set out on page 6.

Our responsibilities

All our people are responsible for identifying and managing risk within the scope of their roles. Roles are defined using the three lines of defence model, which takes into account our business and functional structures as described below.

Three lines of defence

To create a robust control environment to manage risks, we use an activity-based three lines of defence model. This model delineates management accountabilities and responsibilities for risk management and the control environment.

The model underpins our approach to risk management by clarifying responsibility and encouraging collaboration, as well as enabling efficient coordination of risk and control activities.

The three lines of defence are summarised below:

- The first line of defence owns the risks and is responsible for identifying, recording, reporting and managing them in line with risk appetite, and ensuring that the right controls and assessments are in place to mitigate them.
- The second line of defence challenges the first line of defence on effective risk management, and provides advice, guidance and assurance of the first line of defence to ensure it is managing risk effectively.
- The third line of defence is our Global Internal Audit function, which provides independent assurance that our risk management approach and processes are designed and operating effectively.

Risk and Compliance function

The group's Risk sub-function, headed by the group's Chief Risk Officer, is responsible for the group's risk management framework. This responsibility includes establishing and monitoring of risk profiles, and identifying and managing forward-looking risk. The group's Risk sub-function is made up of sub-functions covering all risks to our business. Forming part of the second line of defence, the group's Risk sub-function is independent from the global businesses, including sales and trading functions. It provides challenge, appropriate oversight and balance in risk/return decisions.

Responsibility for minimising both financial and non-financial risk, including regulatory compliance and financial crime, lies with our people. They are required to manage the risks of the business and operational activities for which they are responsible. We maintain adequate oversight of our risks through our various specialist risk stewards and the collective accountability held by our Chief Risk Officers at markets and global businesses.

We have continued to strengthen the control environment and our approach to the management of risks, as set out in our risk management framework. Our ongoing focus is on helping to ensure more effective oversight and better end-to-end identification and management of financial and non-financial risks. This is overseen by the Enterprise Risk sub-function, headed by the group Head of Enterprise Risk Management.

Stress testing and recovery planning

Our stress testing programme assesses our capital and liquidity strength through a rigorous examination of our resilience to external shocks, which forms part of our risk management and capital and liquidity planning. As well as undertaking regulatory-driven stress tests, we conduct our own internal stress tests in order to understand the nature and level of all material risks, quantify the impact of such risks and develop plausible mitigating actions. The outcome of a stress testing provides management with key insights into the impact of severely adverse events on the group, and provides confidence to regulators on the group's financial stability.

Internal stress tests

Our internal capital assessment uses a range of stress scenarios that explore risks identified by management. They include potential adverse macroeconomic, geopolitical, climate and operational risk events, as well as other potential events that are specific to the group.

The selection of stress scenarios is based upon the output of our identified top and emerging risks and our risk appetite. Stress testing analysis helps management understand the nature and extent of vulnerabilities to which the group is exposed. Using this information, management decides whether risks can or should be mitigated through management actions or, if they were to crystallise, be absorbed through capital and liquidity. This in turn informs decisions about preferred capital and liquidity levels and allocations.

During 2024, we completed a Group-wide Internal Stress Test alongside testing of the bank's strategy, otherwise known as the corporate plan to test and inform our strategy and assumptions. The stress scenario explored the potential impact of two contrasting scenarios depicting severe macroeconomic conditions over a five-year period. These scenarios reflected the uncertain inflation and interest rate environment, heightened geopolitical tensions, banking sector challenges, and global economic stress.

In addition to the group-wide stress testing scenarios, each major subsidiary conducts regular macroeconomic and event-driven scenario analysis specific to its region. They also participate, as required, in the regulatory stress testing programmes of the locations in which they operate, such as stress tests required by the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority and those required by the HKMA.

We also conduct reverse stress tests each year at a group level and, where required, at subsidiary entity level to understand potential extreme conditions that would make our business model non-viable. Reverse stress testing identifies potential stresses and vulnerabilities we might face, and helps inform early warning triggers, management actions and contingency plans designed to mitigate risks.

The group stress testing programme is overseen by the RC and results are reported, where appropriate, to the RMM and RC.

Recovery and resolution plans

Recovery and resolution plans form part of the integral framework safeguarding the group's financial stability under severe stress. The group's recovery plan, together with stress testing, helps us to generate business insights to identify credible recovery options that can be implemented under a range of idiosyncratic and market-wide stress scenarios. The aim is to mitigate the potential shortfall in capital and liquidity pressures.

Key developments in 2024

In 2024, we have continued to manage risks related to macroeconomic and geopolitical uncertainties and develop risk management capabilities through the continued enhancement of the risk management framework. We also retained our focus on risk transformation and financial crime and continued to assess the group's operational resilience capability whilst prioritising the most significant enterprise risks. We continue to develop capabilities to address key risks.

More specifically, we sought to enhance our risk management in the following areas:

- We made progress on our comprehensive regulatory reporting programme, which seeks to strengthen our processes, enhance consistency and improve controls across regulatory reports. This programme remains a top priority and continues to enhance data, transform the reporting systems and uplift the control environment over the report production process.
- We continued to embed our Regulatory management systems focused on regulatory horizon scanning, regulation mapping, and regulatory content for our inventory.
- We continue to maintain a focus on our technology and cybersecurity controls to improve the resilience and security of our technology services in response to the heightened external threat environment.
- We have improved the quality of our strategic change investment cases and control monitoring, and are transitioning to value streams and an integrated future state architecture to enhance our delivery of complex transformation portfolios and initiatives.

- We continue to enhance our model risk framework in response to changes in regulation and external factors. AI and machine learning models remain a key focus. Progress has been made in enhancing governance activity in this area with particular focus on generative AI due to the pace of technological change and regulatory and wider interest in adoption and usage.
- We enhanced our processes, framework and controls to improve the oversight of our material third parties with respect to financial stability to better manage our supply chain and operational resilience. We will continue to assess and manage our operational resilience.
- Through our climate risk programme, we made progress on embedding climate considerations throughout the organisation, including through risk policy updates. We also developed risk metrics to monitor and manage exposures, and further enhanced our internal climate scenario analysis. We will continue with our climate risk programme to complete our annual materiality assessment and make changes to our policies, processes and capabilities to better embed climate considerations throughout the organisation.
- We deployed industry-leading technology and advanced analytics capabilities into more of the markets we operate in to improve our ability to identify suspicious activities and prevent financial crime. We will continue to evaluate technological solutions to improve our capabilities in the detection and prevention of financial crime.
- We continued to enhance our frameworks, policies and governance processes to embed Consumer Protection requirements.

Top and emerging risks

(Unaudited)

We use a top and emerging risks process to provide a forward-looking view of issues with the potential to threaten the execution of our strategy or operations over the medium to long term. Top risks are those that have the potential to have a material adverse impact on the financial results, reputation or business model of the group. We actively manage and take actions to mitigate our top risks. Emerging risks are those that, while they could have a material impact on our risk profile were they to occur, are not considered immediate and are not under active management.

We proactively assess the internal and external risk environment, as well as review the themes identified across our region and global businesses, for any risks that may require global escalation. Our suite of top and emerging risks is subject to regular review by senior governance forums and are updated as necessary. We continue to monitor closely the identified risks and ensure management actions are in place, as required.

Our current top and emerging risks are as follows:

Risk	Trend	Description
Externally driven		
Geopolitical and macroeconomic risks	▲	Our operations and portfolios are subject to risks associated with political instability, civil unrest and military conflict. We are also subject to cyclical and idiosyncratic macroeconomic risks which can be significant, although at year-end 2024, global growth was supported by increasing monetary and fiscal policy support by governments in various jurisdictions. Following elections in the US and other markets in 2024, a recalibration of economic and trade policies is underway and uncertainty has increased, widening the distribution of economic risk.
Technology and cybersecurity risk	▲	There is a risk of service disruption or loss of data resulting from technology failures or malicious activities from internal or external threats. We continue to monitor changes to the threat landscape, including those arising from ongoing geopolitical and macroeconomic events and the impact this may have on third-party risk management. We operate a continuous improvement programme to help support the resilience and stability of our technology operations and counter a fast-evolving and heightened cyber threat environment.
Environmental, social and governance ('ESG') risks	▲	We are subject to ESG risks, including in relation to climate change, nature and human rights. These risks have increased owing to the pace and volume of regulatory developments globally, signs of diverging national agendas, increasing frequency of severe weather events, which require careful monitoring, and may impact financial and non-financial risks due to stakeholders placing more emphasis on financial institutions' actions and investment decisions in respect of ESG matters. Failure to meet these evolving expectations may result in financial and non-financial risks, including reputational, legal and regulatory compliance risks.
Financial crime risk	▲	We are exposed to financial crime risk from our customers, staff and third parties engaging in criminal activity. The financial crime risk environment is heightened due to increasingly complex geopolitical challenges, the macroeconomic outlook, the complex and dynamic nature of sanctions compliance, evolving financial crime regulations, rapid technological developments, an increasing number of national data privacy requirements and the increasing sophistication of fraud. As a result, we will continue to face the possibility of regulatory enforcement and reputational risk.
Digitalisation and technological advances	▲	Developments in technology and changes in regulations continue to enable new entrants to the banking industry as well as new products and services offered by competitors. This challenges us to continue to innovate with new digital capabilities and evolve our products, to attract, retain and best serve our customers. Along with opportunities, new technology, including generative AI, can introduce risks and disruption. We seek to ensure technology developments are managed with appropriate controls and oversight.
Evolving regulatory environment risk	▶	The regulatory and compliance risk environment remains complex. There continues to be an intense regulatory focus on ESG matters, including on 'green' products. Regulatory scrutiny of financial institutions following recent banking failures may result in new or additional regulatory requirements, impacting the group in the short to medium term.

Risk	Trend	Description
Internally driven		
Data risk	▶	We use data to serve our customers and run our operations, often in real-time within digital experiences and processes. If our data is not accurate and timely, our ability to serve customers, operate with resilience or meet regulatory requirements could be impacted. We seek to ensure that non-public data is kept confidential, and that we comply with the growing number of regulations that govern data privacy and cross-border movement of data.
Risks arising from the receipt of services from third parties	▶	We procure goods and services from a range of third parties. Due to the current macroeconomic and geopolitical climate, the risk of service disruption in our supply chain has heightened. We continue to strengthen our controls, oversight and risk management policies and processes to select and manage third parties, including our third parties' own supply chains, particularly for key activities that could affect our operational resilience.
Model risk	▲	Model risk arises whenever business decision making includes reliance on models. We use models in both financial and nonfinancial contexts, as well as in a range of business applications. Evolving regulatory requirements are driving material changes to the way model risk is managed across the banking industry, with a particular focus on capital models. New technologies, including AI and generative AI, are driving a need for enhanced model risk controls.
Change execution risk	▶	Delivering change effectively enables us to meet rapidly evolving customer and stakeholder needs, and helps us achieve our strategy. We understand the risks associated with change execution, and deliver complex change in line with established risk management processes, prioritising sustainable outcomes, and understanding the associated risks. We focus on meeting industry and regulatory expectations and fulfilling our obligations to customers and the marketplace we operate in.
Risks associated with workforce capability, capacity and environmental factors with potential impact on growth	▲	Our businesses, functions and markets are exposed to risks associated with employee retention and talent availability, changing skills requirements of our workforce, and compliance with employment laws and regulations. Attrition across the group remains stable, but failure to manage these risks may impact the delivery of our strategic objectives or lead to regulatory sanctions or legal claims, and the risks are heightened during the current period of fundamental organisational change.

▲ Risk heightened during 2024 ▶ Risk remained at the same level as full year 2023 ▼ Risk decreased during 2024

Our material banking risks

(Unaudited)

The material risk types associated with our banking and insurance manufacturing operations are described in the following tables:

Description of risks – banking operations

Risks	Arising from	Measurement, monitoring and management of risk
Credit risk		
Credit risk is the risk of financial loss if a customer or counterparty fails to meet an obligation under a contract.	Credit risk arises principally from direct lending, trade finance and leasing business, but also from other products such as guarantees and derivatives.	Credit risk is: – measured as the amount that could be lost if a customer or counterparty fails to make repayments; – monitored using various internal risk management measures and within limits approved by individuals within a framework of delegated authorities; and – managed through a robust risk control framework, which outlines clear and consistent policies, principles and guidance for risk managers, and by setting limits and appetite across geographical markets, portfolios or sectors.
Treasury risk		
Treasury risk is the risk of having insufficient capital, liquidity or funding resources to meet financial obligations and satisfy regulatory requirements, including the risk of adverse impact on earnings or capital due to structural and transactional foreign exchange exposures and changes in market interest rates, together with pension and insurance risk.	Treasury risk arises from changes to the respective resources and risk profiles driven by customer behaviour, management decisions, or the external environment.	Treasury risk is: – measured through risk appetite and more granular limits, set to provide an early warning of increasing risk, minimum ratios of relevant regulatory metrics, and metrics to monitor the key risk drivers impacting treasury resources; – monitored and projected against appetites and by using operating plans based on strategic objectives together with stress and scenario testing; and – managed through control of resources in conjunction with risk profiles, strategic objectives and cash flows.
Market risk		
Market risk is the risk of an adverse financial impact on trading activities arising from changes in market parameters such as interest rates, foreign exchange rates, asset prices, volatilities, correlations and credit spreads.	Market risk arises from both trading portfolios and non-trading portfolios. Market risk for non-trading portfolios is discussed in the Treasury risk section on page 49. Market risk exposures arising from our insurance operations are discussed on page 61.	Market risk is: – measured using sensitivities, value at risk ('VaR') and stress testing, giving a detailed picture of potential gains and losses for a range of market movements and scenarios, as well as tail risks over specified time horizons; – monitored using VaR, stress testing and other measures; and – managed using risk limits approved by the Board for the group and the various global businesses.

Description of risks – banking operations

Risks	Arising from	Measurement, monitoring and management of risk
Climate risk		
Climate risk relates to the financial and non-financial impacts that may arise as a result of climate change and the move to a net zero economy.	Climate risk is likely to materialise through: – physical risk, which arises from the increased frequency and severity of weather events; – transition risk, which arises from the process of moving to a low-carbon economy; – net zero alignment risk, which arises from failing to meet the Group's net zero commitments or to meet external expectations related to net zero because of inadequate ambition and/or plans, poor execution, or inability to adapt to changes in the external environment; and – greenwashing risk, which arises from the act of knowingly or unknowingly making inaccurate, unclear, misleading or unsubstantiated claims regarding sustainability to stakeholders.	Climate risk is: – measured using risk metrics and stress testing; – monitored against risk appetite statements; and – managed through adherence to risk appetite thresholds, through specific policies, and through enhancements to processes and development of tools including the development of product market controls to manage the risk of greenwashing and the development of portfolio steering capabilities to manage our net zero targets.
Resilience risk		
Resilience risk is the risk of sustained and significant business disruption from execution, delivery or physical security or safety events, causing the inability to provide critical services to our customers, affiliates and counterparties.	Resilience risk arises from failures or inadequacies in processes, people, systems or external events.	Resilience risk is: – measured through a range of metrics and against our agreed risk appetite; – monitored through oversight of enterprise processes, risks, controls and strategic change programmes; and – managed by continual monitoring and thematic reviews.
Regulatory compliance risk		
Regulatory compliance risk is the risk associated with breaching our duty to clients and other counterparties, inappropriate market conduct (including unauthorised trading) and breaching related financial services regulatory standards.	Regulatory compliance risk arises from the failure to observe the relevant laws, codes, rules and regulations and can manifest itself in poor market or customer outcomes and lead to fines, penalties and reputational damage to our business.	Regulatory compliance risk is: – measured by reference to risk appetite, identified metrics, incident assessments, regulatory feedback and the judgement and assessment of our regulatory compliance teams; – monitored against the first line of defence risk and control assessments, the results of the monitoring and control assurance activities of the second line of defence functions, and the results of internal and external audits and regulatory inspections; and – managed by establishing and communicating appropriate policies and procedures, training employees in them, and monitoring activity to help ensure their observance. Proactive risk control and/or remediation work is undertaken where required.
Financial crime risk		
Financial crime risk is the risk that HSBC's products and services will be exploited for criminal activity. This includes fraud, bribery and corruption, tax evasion, sanctions and export control violations, money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.	Financial crime risk arises from day-to-day banking operations involving customers, third parties and employees.	Financial crime risk is: – measured by reference to risk appetite, identified metrics, incident assessments, regulatory feedback and the judgement and assessment of our financial crime risk teams; – monitored against the first line of defence risk and control assessments, the results of the monitoring and control assurance activities of the second line of defence functions, and the results of internal and external audits and regulatory inspections; and – managed by establishing and communicating appropriate policies and procedures, training employees in them and monitoring activity to help ensure their observance. Proactive risk control and/or remediation work is undertaken where required.
Model risk		
Model risk is the potential for adverse consequences from model errors or the inappropriate use of modelled outputs to inform business decisions.	Model risk arises in both financial and non-financial contexts whenever business decision making includes reliance on models.	Model risk is: – measured by reference to model performance tracking and the output of detailed technical reviews, with key metrics including model review statuses and findings; – monitored against model risk appetite statements, insight from the independent validations completed by the model risk management team, feedback from internal and external audits, and regulatory reviews; and – managed by creating and communicating appropriate policies, procedures and guidance, training colleagues in their application, and supervising their adoption to ensure operational effectiveness.

Our insurance manufacturing subsidiaries have additional regulations than those of our banking operations. Risks in the insurance entities are managed using methodologies and processes that are subject to oversight at group level. Our insurance operations are also subject to many of the same risks as our banking operations, and these are covered by the group's risk management processes. However, there are specific risks inherent to the insurance operations as noted below.

Description of risks – insurance manufacturing operations

Risks	Arising from	Measurement, monitoring and management of risk
Financial risk		
For insurance entities, financial risk includes the risk of not being able to match liabilities arising under insurance contracts with appropriate investments and that the expected sharing of financial performance with policyholders under certain contracts is not possible.	Exposure to financial risk arises from: – market risk affecting the fair values of financial assets or their future cash flows; – credit risk; and – liquidity risk of entities being unable to make payments to policyholders as they fall due.	Financial risk is: – measured (i) for credit risk, in terms of economic capital and the amount that could be lost if a counterparty fails to make repayments; (ii) for market risk, in terms of economic capital, internal metrics and fluctuations in key financial variables; and (iii) for liquidity risk, in terms of internal metrics including stressed operational cash flow projections; – monitored through a framework of approved limits and delegated authorities; and – managed through a robust risk control framework, which outlines clear and consistent policies, principles and guidance. This includes using product design, asset liability matching and bonus rates.
Insurance risk		
Insurance risk is the risk that, over time, the cost of insurance policies written, including claims and benefits, may exceed the total amount of premiums and investment income received.	The cost of claims and benefits can be influenced by many factors, including mortality and morbidity experience, as well as lapse and surrender rates.	Insurance risk is: – measured in terms of life insurance liabilities and economic capital allocated to insurance underwriting risk; – monitored through a framework of approved limits and delegated authorities; and – managed through a robust risk control framework which outlines clear and consistent policies, principles and guidance. This includes using product design, underwriting, reinsurance and claims-handling procedures.

Credit risk

Overview

(Audited)

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss if a customer or counterparty fails to meet an obligation under a contract. Credit risk arises principally from direct lending, trade finance and leasing business, but also from other products, such as guarantees and credit derivatives.

Credit risk management

Key developments in 2024

(Unaudited)

There were no material changes to the policies and practices for the management of credit risk in 2024. We continued to apply the requirements of HKFRS 9 'Financial Instruments' within the Credit Risk sub-function.

We actively managed the risks related to macroeconomic uncertainties, including interest rates, inflation, fiscal and monetary policy, broader geopolitical uncertainties and conflicts.

For further details, see 'Top and emerging risks' on page 22.

Governance and structure

(Unaudited)

We have established credit risk management and related HKFRS 9 processes. We continue to assess the impact of economic developments in key markets on specific customers, customer segments or portfolios. As credit conditions change, we take mitigating actions, including the revision of risk appetites or limits and tenors, as appropriate. In addition, we continue to evaluate the terms under which we provide credit facilities within the context of individual customer requirements, the quality of the relationship, local regulatory requirements, market practices and our local market position.

Credit risk sub-function

(Audited)

Credit approval authorities are delegated by the Board to the Co-Chief Executives together with the authority to sub-delegate them. The Credit Risk sub-function in Global Risk and Compliance is responsible for the key policies and processes for managing credit risk, which include formulating group credit policies and risk rating frameworks, guiding the group's appetite for credit risk exposures, undertaking independent reviews and objective assessment of credit risk, and monitoring performance and management of portfolios.

The principal objectives of our credit risk management are:

- to maintain across HSBC a strong culture of responsible lending, and robust risk policies and control frameworks;
- to both partner and challenge our businesses in defining, implementing and continually re-evaluating our risk appetite under actual and scenario conditions; and
- to ensure there is independent, expert scrutiny of credit risks, their costs and their mitigation.

Key risk management processes

HKFRS 9 'Financial Instruments' process

(Unaudited)

The HKFRS 9 process comprises three main areas: modelling and data; implementation; and governance.

Modelling, data and forward economic guidance

(Unaudited)

We have established HKFRS 9 modelling and data processes in various geographies, which are subject to internal model risk governance including independent review of significant model developments.

We have a centralised process for generating unbiased and independent global economic scenarios. Scenarios are subject to a process of review and challenge by a dedicated central team and individually for each region. Each quarter, the scenarios and probability weights are reviewed and checked for consistency with the economic conjuncture and current economic and financial risks. These are subject to final review and approval by senior management in a Forward Economic Guidance Global Business Impairment Committee.

Implementation

(Unaudited)

A centralised impairment engine performs the expected credit losses calculation using data, which is subject to a number of validation checks and enhancements, from a variety of client, finance and risk systems. Where possible, these checks and processes are performed in a globally consistent and centralised manner.

Governance

(Unaudited)

Management review forums are established in key sites and group level in order to review and approve the impairment results.

Management review forums have representatives from Credit Risk and Finance. The key site and group level approvals at the group Impairment Committee are reported up to the relevant global business impairment committee for final approval of the Group's ECL for the period. Required members of the group Impairment Committee are the group's Chief Risk Officer, Wholesale Chief Credit Officer, Wealth and Personal Banking Chief Risk Officer, as well as the group's Chief Financial Officer and Financial Controller.

Concentration of exposure

(Audited)

Concentrations of credit risk arise when a number of counterparties or exposures have comparable economic characteristics, or such counterparties are engaged in similar activities or operate in the same geographical areas or industry sectors so that their collective ability to meet contractual obligations is uniformly affected by changes in economic, political or other conditions. We use a number of controls and measures to minimise undue concentration of exposure in our portfolios across industries, countries and global businesses. These include portfolio and counterparty limits, approval and review controls, and stress testing.

Credit quality of financial instruments

(Audited)

Our risk rating system facilitates the internal ratings-based approach under the Basel framework adopted by the group to support the calculation of our minimum credit regulatory capital requirement. The five credit quality classifications encompass a range of granular internal credit rating grades assigned to wholesale and retail customers, and the external ratings attributed by external agencies to debt securities.

For debt securities and certain other financial instruments, external ratings have been aligned to the five quality classifications based upon the mapping of related customer risk rating ('CRR') to external credit rating.

Wholesale lending

(Unaudited)

The CRR 10-grade scale summarises a more granular underlying 23-grade scale of obligor probability of default ('PD'). All corporate customers are rated using the 10 or 23-grade scale, depending on the degree of sophistication of the Basel approach adopted for the exposure.

Each CRR band is associated with an external rating grade by reference to long-run default rates for that grade, represented by the average of issuer-weighted historical default rates. This mapping between internal and external ratings is indicative and may vary over time.

Retail lending

(Unaudited)

Retail lending credit quality is based on a 12-month point-in-time probability-weighted PD.

Credit quality classification

(Unaudited)

	Sovereign debt securities and bills	Other debt securities and bills	Wholesale lending and derivatives		Retail lending	
	External credit rating	External credit rating	Internal credit rating	12-month Basel probability of default %	Internal credit rating	12 month probability-weighted PD %
Quality classification[1,2]						
Strong	BBB and above	A- and above	CRR 1 to CRR 2	0 – 0.169	Band 1 and 2	0.000 – 0.500
Good	BBB- to BB	BBB+ to BBB-	CRR 3	0.170 – 0.740	Band 3	0.501 – 1.500
Satisfactory	BB- to B and unrated	BB+ to B and unrated	CRR 4 to CRR 5	0.741 – 4.914	Band 4 and 5	1.501 – 20.000
Sub-standard	B- to C	B- to C	CRR 6 to CRR 8	4.915 – 99.999	Band 6	20.001 – 99.999
Credit impaired	Default	Default	CRR 9 to CRR 10	100	Band 7	100

1 Customer risk rating ('CRR').
2 12-month Point-in-time ('PIT') Probability of Default ('PD').

Quality classification definitions

- 'Strong' exposures demonstrate a strong capacity to meet financial commitments, with negligible or low probability of default and/or low levels of expected loss.
- 'Good' exposures require closer monitoring and demonstrate a good capacity to meet financial commitments, with low default risk.
- 'Satisfactory' exposures require closer monitoring and demonstrate an average-to-fair capacity to meet financial commitments, with moderate default risk.
- 'Sub-standard' exposures require varying degrees of special attention and default risk is of greater concern.
- 'Credit-impaired' exposures have been assessed as described in Note 1.2(i) on the consolidated financial statements.

Forborne loans and advances

(Audited)

Forbearance measures consist of concessions towards an obligor that is experiencing or is about to experience difficulties in meeting its financial commitments.

We continue to class loans as forborne when we modify the contractual payment terms due to having concerns about the borrowers' ability to meet contractual payments when they are due. Our definition of forborne captures non-payment-related concessions, such as covenant waivers.

For details of our policy on forbearance, see Note 1.2(i) in the financial statements.

Credit quality of forborne loans

(Unaudited)

For wholesale lending, where payment-related forbearance measures result in a diminished financial obligation, or if there are other indicators of impairment, the loan will be classified as credit impaired if it is not already so classified. All facilities with a customer, including loans that have not been modified, are considered credit impaired following the identification of a payment-related forborne loan. For retail lending, where a material payment-related concession has been granted, the loan will be classified as credit impaired. In isolation, non-payment forbearance measures may not result in the loan being classified as credit impaired unless combined with other indicators of credit impairment. These are classified as performing forborne loans for both wholesale and retail lending.

Wholesale and retail lending forborne loans are classified as credit-impaired until there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate a significant reduction in the risk of non-payment of future cash flows, observed over a minimum one-year period, and there are no other indicators of impairment. Any forborne loans not considered credit impaired will remain forborne for a minimum of two years from the date that credit impairment no longer applies. For wholesale and retail lending, any forbearance measures granted on a loan already classed as forborne results in the customer being classed as credit impaired.

Forborne loans and recognition of expected credit losses

(Audited)

Forborne loans expected credit loss assessments reflect the higher rates of losses typically experienced with these types of loans such that they are in stage 2 and stage 3. The higher rates are more pronounced in unsecured retail lending requiring further segmentation. For wholesale lending, forborne loans are typically assessed individually. Credit risk ratings are intrinsic to the impairment assessments. The individual impairment assessment takes into account the higher risk of the future non-payment inherent in forborne loans.

Impairment assessment

(Audited)

For details of our impairment policies on loans and advances and financial investments, see Note 1.2(i) on the financial statements.

Write-off of loans and advances

(Audited)

Under HKFRS9, write-off should occur when there is no reasonable expectation of recovering further cash flows from the financial asset.

This principle does not prohibit early write-off which is defined in local policies to ensure effectiveness in the management of customers in the collections process.

Unsecured personal facilities, including credit cards, are generally written off at between 150 and 210 days past due. The standard period runs until the end of the month in which the account becomes 180 days contractually delinquent. However, in exceptional circumstances, to avoid unfair customer outcomes, deliver customer duty or meet regulatory expectations, the period may be extended further.

For secured facilities, write-off should occur upon repossession of collateral, receipt of proceeds via settlement, or determination that recovery of the collateral will not be pursued. Where these assets are maintained on the balance sheet beyond 60 months of consecutive delinquency-driven default, the prospect of recovery is re-assessed.

Recovery activity, on both secured and unsecured assets, may continue after write-off.

Any unsecured exposures that are not written off at 180 days past due, and any secured exposures that are in 'default' status for 60 months or greater but are not written off, are subject to additional monitoring via the appropriate governance forums.

Summary of credit risk

The following disclosure presents the gross carrying/nominal amount of financial instruments to which the impairment requirements in HKFRS 9 are applied and the associated allowance for ECL.

Summary of financial instruments to which the impairment requirements in HKFRS 9 are applied

(Audited)

	2024		2023	
	Gross carrying/ nominal amount	**Allowance for ECL[1]**	Gross carrying/ nominal amount	Allowance for ECL[1]
At 31 Dec	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	HK$m	HK$m
Loans and advances to customers at amortised cost	**3,529,958**	**(35,660)**	3,595,929	(38,853)
Loans and advances to banks	**480,779**	**(39)**	563,852	(51)
Other financial assets measured at amortised cost	**2,257,430**	**(392)**	2,309,109	(393)
– cash and balances at central banks	**211,047**	**—**	232,988	(1)
– Hong Kong Government certificates of indebtedness	**328,454**	**—**	328,304	—
– reverse repurchase agreements – non-trading	**816,102**	**—**	831,186	—
– financial investments	**632,781**	**(40)**	618,995	(57)
– prepayments, accrued income and other assets[2]	**269,046**	**(352)**	297,636	(335)
Amounts due from Group companies	**133,576**	**—**	131,071	—
Total gross carrying amount on-balance sheet	**6,401,743**	**(36,091)**	6,599,961	(39,297)
Loans and other credit related commitments	**2,027,320**	**(700)**	1,978,328	(841)
Financial guarantee	**52,988**	**(62)**	46,325	(54)
Total nominal amount off-balance sheet[3]	**2,080,308**	**(762)**	2,024,653	(895)
	8,482,051	**(36,853)**	8,624,614	(40,192)

	Fair value	**Allowance for ECL**	Fair value	Allowance for ECL
At 31 Dec	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	HK$m	HK$m
Debt instruments measured at Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income ('FVOCI')[4]	**1,698,374**	**(103)**	1,404,323	(93)

1 The total ECL is recognised in the loss allowance for the financial asset unless the total ECL exceeds the gross carrying amount of the financial asset, in which case the ECL is recognised as a provision.
2 Includes only those financial instruments that are subject to the impairment requirements of HKFRS 9. 'Prepayments, accrued income and other assets', as presented within the consolidated balance sheet on page 73, comprises both financial and non-financial assets, including cash collateral and settlement accounts, It also includes 'Items in the course of collection from other banks' which was presented separately in 2023.
3 Represents the maximum amount at risk should the contracts be fully drawn upon and client defaults.
4 Debt instruments measured at FVOCI continue to be measured at fair value with the allowance for ECL as a memorandum item. Change in ECL is recognised in 'Change in expected credit losses and other credit impairment charges' in the consolidated income statement.

The following table provides an overview of the group's credit risk by stage and industry, and the associated ECL coverage. The financial assets recorded in each stage have the following characteristics:

- Stage 1: These financial assets are unimpaired and without significant increase in credit risk on which a 12-month allowance for ECL is recognised.
- Stage 2: A significant increase in credit risk has been experienced on these financial assets since initial recognition for which a lifetime ECL is recognised.
- Stage 3: There is objective evidence of impairment and the financial assets are therefore considered to be in default or otherwise credit impaired on which a lifetime ECL is recognised.
- POCI: Financial assets that are purchased or originated at a deep discount are seen to reflect the incurred credit losses on which a lifetime ECL is recognised.

Summary of credit risk (excluding debt instruments measured at FVOCI) by stage distribution and ECL coverage by segment

(Audited)

	Gross carrying/nominal amount[1]					Allowance for ECL					ECL coverage %				
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	POCI	Total	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	POCI	Total	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	POCI	Total
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	%	%	%	%	%
Loans and advances to customers	3,178,662	252,726	98,267	303	3,529,958	(2,629)	(8,242)	(24,577)	(212)	(35,660)	0.1	3.3	25.0	70.0	1.0
– personal	1,488,104	42,863	9,084	—	1,540,051	(1,344)	(2,988)	(1,282)	—	(5,614)	0.1	7.0	14.1	—	0.4
– corporate[2]	1,397,664	201,657	87,771	303	1,687,395	(1,105)	(5,183)	(22,573)	(212)	(29,073)	0.1	2.6	25.7	70.0	1.7
– financial institutions[3]	292,894	8,206	1,412	—	302,512	(180)	(71)	(722)	—	(973)	0.1	0.9	51.1	—	0.3
Loans and advances to banks	480,356	423	—	—	480,779	(38)	(1)	—	—	(39)	—	0.2	—	—	—
Other financial assets	2,245,780	11,262	388	—	2,257,430	(242)	(22)	(128)	—	(392)	—	0.2	33.0	—	—
Loans and other credit-related commitments	1,990,634	35,807	879	—	2,027,320	(418)	(239)	(43)	—	(700)	—	0.7	4.9	—	—
– personal	1,466,778	9,043	266	—	1,476,087	(31)	—	(15)	—	(46)	—	—	5.6	—	—
– corporate[2]	389,225	24,718	613	—	414,556	(352)	(230)	(25)	—	(607)	0.1	0.9	4.1	—	0.1
– financial institutions[3]	134,631	2,046	—	—	136,677	(35)	(9)	(3)	—	(47)	—	0.4	—	—	—
Financial guarantee	48,736	4,094	158	—	52,988	(35)	(11)	(16)	—	(62)	0.1	0.3	10.1	—	0.1
– personal	6,749	1	—	—	6,750	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
– corporate[2]	35,822	4,062	158	—	40,042	(32)	(11)	(16)	—	(59)	0.1	0.3	10.1	—	0.1
– financial institutions[3]	6,165	31	—	—	6,196	(3)	—	—	—	(3)	—	—	—	—	—
At 31 Dec 2024	**7,944,168**	**304,312**	**99,692**	**303**	**8,348,475**	**(3,362)**	**(8,515)**	**(24,764)**	**(212)**	**(36,853)**	**—**	**2.8**	**24.8**	**70.0**	**0.4**

The above table does not include balances due from Group companies.

1 Represents the maximum amount at risk should the contracts be fully drawn upon and clients default.
2 Includes corporate and commercial.
3 Includes non-bank financial institutions.

Unless identified at an earlier stage, all financial assets are deemed to have suffered a significant increase in credit risk when they are 30 days past due ('DPD') and are transferred from stage 1 to stage 2. The following disclosure presents the ageing of stage 2 financial assets by those less than 30 DPD and greater than 30 DPD and therefore presents those financial assets classified as stage 2 due to ageing (30 DPD) and those identified at an earlier stage (less than 30 DPD).

Stage 2 days past due analysis for loans and advances to customers

(Audited)

	Gross carrying amount				Allowance for ECL				ECL coverage %			
	Stage 2	of which: Up-to-date	of which: 1 to 29 DPD[1,2]	of which: 30 and > DPD[1,2]	Stage 2	of which: Up-to-date	of which: 1 to 29 DPD[1,2]	of which: 30 and > DPD[1,2]	Stage 2	of which: Up-to-date	of which: 1 to 29 DPD	of which: 30 and > DPD
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	%	%	%	%
At 31 Dec 2024												
Loans and advances to customers at amortised cost	252,726	241,557	7,454	3,715	(8,242)	(7,481)	(252)	(509)	3.3	3.1	3.4	13.7
– personal	42,863	33,930	5,659	3,274	(2,988)	(2,282)	(206)	(500)	7.0	6.7	3.6	15.3
– corporate and commercial	201,657	199,505	1,711	441	(5,183)	(5,130)	(44)	(9)	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.0
– non-bank financial institutions	8,206	8,122	84	—	(71)	(69)	(2)	—	0.9	0.8	2.4	—

1 Days past due ('DPD').
2 The DPD amounts presented above are on a contractual basis and include the benefit of any customer relief payment holidays granted.

Summary of credit risk (excluding debt instruments measured at FVOCI) by stage distribution and ECL coverage by segment (continued)

(Audited)

	Gross carrying/nominal amount[1]					Allowance for ECL					ECL coverage %				
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	POCI	Total	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	POCI	Total	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	POCI	Total
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	%	%	%	%	%
Loans and advances to customers	3,180,483	352,477	62,679	290	3,595,929	(2,681)	(8,575)	(27,433)	(164)	(38,853)	0.1	2.4	43.8	56.6	1.1
– personal	1,495,142	60,473	7,406	—	1,563,021	(1,285)	(3,142)	(1,265)	—	(5,692)	0.1	5.2	17.1	—	0.4
– corporate[2]	1,405,747	280,699	54,613	290	1,741,349	(1,187)	(5,396)	(25,839)	(164)	(32,586)	0.1	1.9	47.3	56.6	1.9
– financial institutions[3]	279,594	11,305	660	—	291,559	(209)	(37)	(329)	—	(575)	0.1	0.3	49.8	—	0.2
Loans and advances to banks	563,647	205	—	—	563,852	(50)	(1)	—	—	(51)	—	0.5	—	—	—
Other financial assets	2,296,216	12,497	396	—	2,309,109	(277)	(11)	(105)	—	(393)	—	0.1	26.5	—	—
Loans and other credit-related commitments	1,929,040	47,175	2,113	—	1,978,328	(455)	(285)	(101)	—	(841)	—	0.6	4.8	—	—
– personal	1,416,939	19,362	1,742	—	1,438,043	(25)	(1)	—	—	(26)	—	—	—	—	—
– corporate[2]	381,803	25,661	371	—	407,835	(399)	(273)	(101)	—	(773)	0.1	1.1	27.2	—	0.2
– financial institutions[3]	130,298	2,152	—	—	132,450	(31)	(11)	—	—	(42)	—	0.5	—	—	—
Financial guarantee	42,828	3,244	253	—	46,325	(20)	(10)	(24)	—	(54)	—	0.3	9.5	—	0.1
– personal	4,654	6	—	—	4,660	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
– corporate[2]	33,169	3,131	253	—	36,553	(19)	(10)	(24)	—	(53)	0.1	0.3	9.5	—	0.1
– financial institutions[3]	5,005	107	—	—	5,112	(1)	—	—	—	(1)	—	—	—	—	—
At 31 Dec 2023	8,012,214	415,598	65,441	290	8,493,543	(3,483)	(8,882)	(27,663)	(164)	(40,192)	—	2.1	42.3	56.6	0.5

The above table does not include balances due from Group companies.

1 Represents the maximum amount at risk should the contracts be fully drawn upon and clients default.
2 Includes corporate and commercial.
3 Includes non-bank financial institutions.

Stage 2 days past due analysis for loans and advances to customers (continued)

(Audited)

	Gross carrying amount				Allowance for ECL				ECL coverage %			
	Stage 2	of which: Up-to-date	of which: 1 to 29 DPD[1,2]	of which: 30 and > DPD[1,2]	Stage 2	of which: Up-to-date	of which: 1 to 29 DPD[1,2]	of which: 30 and > DPD[1,2]	Stage 2	of which: Up-to-date	of which: 1 to 29 DPD	of which: 30 and > DPD
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	%	%	%	%
At 31 Dec 2023												
Loans and advances to customers at amortised cost	352,477	341,171	7,436	3,870	(8,575)	(7,844)	(299)	(432)	2.4	2.3	4.0	11.2
– personal	60,473	50,725	6,289	3,459	(3,142)	(2,507)	(220)	(415)	5.2	4.9	3.5	12.0
– corporate and commercial	280,699	279,144	1,146	409	(5,396)	(5,300)	(79)	(17)	1.9	1.9	6.9	4.2
– non-bank financial institutions	11,305	11,302	1	2	(37)	(37)	—	—	0.3	0.3	—	—

1 Days past due ('DPD').
2 The DPD amounts presented above are on a contractual basis and include the benefit of any customer relief payment holidays granted.

Credit exposure

(Audited)

Maximum exposure to credit risk

This section provides information on the maximum exposure to credit risk associated with balance sheet items as well as loan and other credit-related commitments.

'Maximum exposure to credit risk' table

The following table presents our maximum exposure to credit risk before taking account of any collateral held or other credit enhancements (unless such enhancements meet accounting offsetting requirements). The table excludes financial instruments whose carrying amount best represents the net exposure to credit risk, and it excludes equity securities as they are not subject to credit risk. For financial assets recognised on the balance sheet, maximum exposure to credit risk equals their carrying amount and is net of allowance for ECL. For financial guarantees and other guarantees granted, it is the maximum amount that we would have to pay if the guarantees were called upon. For loan commitments and other credit-related commitments, it is generally the full amount of the committed facilities.

Other credit risk mitigants

There are arrangements in place that reduce our maximum exposure to credit risk. These include a charge over collateral on borrowers' specific assets, such as residential properties, collateral held in the form of financial instruments that are not held on the balance sheet and short positions in securities. In addition, for financial assets held as part of linked insurance/investment contracts the risk is predominantly borne by the policyholder.

Collateral available to mitigate credit risk is disclosed in the Collateral section on pages 45-48.

Maximum exposure to credit risk before collateral held or other credit enhancements

	2024	2023
	HK$m	HK$m
Cash and balances at central banks	**211,047**	232,987
Hong Kong Government certificates of indebtedness	**328,454**	328,304
Trading assets	**626,722**	565,660
Derivatives	**505,260**	409,253
Financial assets designated at fair value	**506,512**	484,593
Reverse repurchase agreements – non-trading	**816,102**	831,186
Loans and advances to banks	**480,740**	563,801
Loans and advances to customers	**3,494,298**	3,557,076
Financial investments	**2,331,114**	2,023,263
Amounts due from Group companies	**175,004**	158,592
Other assets	**268,556**	297,966
Total on-balance sheet exposure to credit risk	**9,743,809**	9,452,681
Total off-balance sheet	**3,917,953**	3,845,103
Financial guarantees and other similar contracts	**440,814**	434,030
Loan and other credit-related exposure	**3,477,139**	3,411,073
At 31 Dec	**13,661,762**	13,297,784

Total exposure to credit risk remained broadly unchanged in 2024 with loans and advances continuing to be the largest element.

Credit deterioration of financial instruments

A summary of our current policies and practices regarding the identification, treatment and measurement of stage 1, stage 2, stage 3 (credit impaired) and POCI financial instruments can be found in Note 1.2(i) on the consolidated financial statements.

Measurement uncertainty and sensitivity analysis of ECL estimates

(Audited)

The recognition and measurement of ECL involves the use of significant judgement and estimation. We form multiple economic scenarios, apply these forecasts to credit risk models to estimate future credit losses, and probability-weight the results to determine an unbiased ECL estimate.

Management assessed the current economic environment, reviewed the latest forecasts and discussed key risks before selecting the appropriate economic scenarios and their weightings.

The Central scenario is constructed to reflect the latest macroeconomic expectations. Outer scenarios incorporate the crystallisation of economic and geopolitical risks.

In the fourth quarter of 2024, the four economic scenarios were modified to reflect heightened policy uncertainty following the US election and to overcome any lags in consensus forecasts. An adjustment factor based on more recent views of expected tariffs and other policy changes was modelled and then applied to each of the economic scenarios. The effect was to lower growth expectations in our major markets, while the impact on inflation and interest rates was varied.

Management judgemental adjustments are used where modelled ECL does not fully reflect the identified risks and related uncertainty, or to capture significant late breaking events.

At 31 December 2024, there was an overall reduction in management judgemental adjustments compared with 31 December 2023, as modelled outcomes better reflected the key risks at 31 December 2024.

Methodology

At 31 December 2024, four scenarios were used to capture the latest economic expectations and to articulate management's view of the range of risks and potential outcomes. Each scenario is updated with the latest economic forecasts and distributional estimates every quarter.

Three scenarios, the Upside, Central and Downside are drawn from consensus forecasts, market data and distributional estimates of the entire range of economic outcomes. The fourth scenario, the Downside 2, represents management's view of severe downside risks. Consensus estimates are deployed as conditioning variables in a proprietary expansion of the scenario variables.

The Central scenario is deemed the 'most likely' scenario, and usually attracts the largest probability weighting. It is created using consensus forecasts, which is the average of a panel of external forecasts.

The outer scenarios represent the tails of the distribution and are less likely to occur. The Consensus Upside and Downside scenarios are created with reference to forecast probability distributions for select markets that capture economists' views of the entire range of economic outcomes. In the later years of those scenarios, projections revert to long-term consensus trend expectations. Reversion to trend expectations is done with reference to historically observed quarterly changes in the values of macroeconomic variables.

The fourth scenario, the Downside 2, is designed to represent management's view of severe downside risks. It is a globally consistent, narrative-driven scenario that explores a more extreme economic outcome than those captured by the consensus scenarios. In this scenario, variables do not, by design, revert to long-term trend expectations and may instead explore alternative states of equilibrium, where economic variables move permanently away from past trends.

The consensus Downside and the consensus Upside scenarios are each calibrated to be consistent with a 10% probability. The Downside 2 is calibrated to a 5% probability. The Central scenario is assigned the remaining 75% probability. This weighting scheme is deemed appropriate for the unbiased estimation of ECL in most circumstances. However, management may depart from this probability-based scenario weighting approach when the economic outlook and forecasts are determined to be particularly uncertain and risks are elevated.

For the fourth quarter of 2024, we assessed that consensus forecasts and distributional estimates did not adequately reflect the consequences of the US election on the global economic outlook. Forecasts lag and there is increased uncertainty as to how economic policy will change and how tariffs will be implemented. Scenarios were constructed using the standard methodology, as described, before an adjustment to account for policy changes was subsequently applied. The adjustment is based on a modelled update to the Central scenario and incorporated a detailed narrative of US economic policy proposals, including specific tariff rates. The modelled results were then layered onto the Central Scenario. To quantify the impact, the adjustment reduces GDP growth in our key markets by between 30bps and 50bps in the first two years of the Central scenario forecast. Outer scenarios have been shifted in parallel.

The scenario adjustment entailed no change in scenario probability weights, which remained in-line with the Forward Economic Guidance ('FEG') framework. Uncertainty relating to the policy outlook have been addressed in the scenarios directly. Measures of dispersion and uncertainty have remained low but may reflect lags in the consensus economic forecasting process.

Scenarios produced to calculate ECL are aligned to HSBC's top and emerging risks.

Description of economic scenarios

The economic assumptions presented in this section have been formed by HSBC with reference to external forecasts and estimates, specifically for the purpose of calculating ECL.

Forecasts may change and remain subject to uncertainty. Outer scenarios are designed to capture potential crystallisation of key economic and financial risks and alternative paths for economic variables.

In our key markets, the Central scenario incorporates potential impacts from anticipated changes to US economic and trade policy, including higher tariffs. The overall effect of the adjustment in our key markets is to lower GDP and raise inflation and unemployment estimates, relative to the consensus. Consequently, GDP growth and unemployment forecasts have deteriorated in the fourth quarter of 2024, compared with the fourth quarter of 2023. With regard to monetary policy, the expected path for interest rates in our many of our market are based on market futures.

At the end of 2024, risks to the economic outlook included a number of significant geopolitical issues. Within our downside scenarios, the economic consequences from the crystallisation of those risks are captured by higher commodity and goods prices, the re-acceleration of inflation, a further rise in interest rates and a global recession.

The scenarios used to calculate ECL in the Annual Report and Accounts 2024 are described below.

The consensus Central scenario

HSBC's Central scenario reflects expectations for slower growth and high inflation and unemployment across our key markets.

Expectations of lower GDP growth in many markets in 2025 are driven by the assumed effects of higher tariffs, which impede trade flows and deter investment. In the scenario, the US applies tariffs on key trading partners, focusing on mainland China at the outset of the new administration's term, before moving attention to other trading partners. Countries are expected to respond in-kind. As a direct consequence of tariffs, trade growth is reduced, which in turn weighs on GDP growth. Mainland China and Hong Kong experience the greatest negative consequences given the interlinkages with the US economy. Indirect consequences from tariffs dampen growth elsewhere. Tariffs, or the threat of them, increases uncertainty, leading to lower confidence and reduced investment.

Global GDP is expected to grow by 2.6% in 2025 in the Central scenario, and the average rate of global GDP growth is forecast to be 2.6% over the five-year forecast period. This is below the average growth rate over the five-year period prior to the onset of the pandemic of 2.9%.

The key features of our Central scenario are:

- GDP growth rates in our key markets are expected to slow in 2025 and 2026, due to the implementation of higher tariffs as well as underlying structural weaknesses in some economies. The most significant slowdowns in activity are expected to occur in the markets with the highest trade dependence with the US. Elevated interest rates and higher price levels are also expected to continue to weigh on some consumer and corporate segments.
- In most markets, unemployment is forecast to rise moderately as economic activity slows, although it remains low by historical standards.
- In Hong Kong and mainland China, inflation is expected to remain subdued, despite higher tariffs, due to weak domestic demand.
- Price weakness in housing markets is expected to persist in Hong Kong and mainland China. High inventory levels remains the biggest drag on Hong Kong and mainland China residential property and is expected to lead to another year of price declines in 2025, before recovering gradually from 2026.
- Challenging conditions are also forecast to continue in certain segments of the commercial property sector in our key markets. Structural changes to demand in the office segment in particular have driven lower valuations.
- Policy interest rates in key markets are forecast to gradually decline further in 2025. In the longer term, they are expected to remain at a higher level than in recent years.
- The Brent crude oil price is forecast to average around USD69 per barrel over the projection period.

The Central scenario was created with forecasts available in late November, and reviewed continually until end-December 2024. In accordance with HSBC's scenario framework, a probability weight of 75% has been assigned to the Central scenario across all major markets.

The following table describes key macroeconomic variables in the consensus Central scenario.

Central scenario 2025-2029 (as at 4Q24)

	Hong Kong	Mainland China
	%	%
GDP growth (annual average rate)		
2025	**1.7**	**4.0**
2026	**1.8**	**3.7**
2027	**3.5**	**4.3**
2028	**3.1**	**3.9**
2029	**2.7**	**3.7**
5 year average[1]	**2.6**	**3.9**
Unemployment rate		
2025	**3.3**	**5.2**
2026	**3.7**	**5.4**
2027	**3.3**	**5.2**
2028	**3.0**	**5.0**
2029	**2.9**	**5.0**
5 year average[1]	**3.2**	**5.2**
House price growth (annual average rate)		
2025	**(0.5)**	**(5.9)**
2026	**2.4**	**(0.7)**
2027	**3.0**	**3.2**
2028	**2.7**	**4.1**
2029	**2.7**	**2.9**
5 year average[1]	**2.1**	**0.7**
Inflation rate (annual average growth rate)		
2025	**1.4**	**0.3**
2026	**1.9**	**1.0**
2027	**2.2**	**1.5**
2028	**2.2**	**1.7**
2029	**2.3**	**1.6**
5 year average[1]	**2.0**	**1.2**
Central bank policy rate (annual average, %)[2]		
2025	**4.5**	**2.9**
2026	**4.1**	**2.9**
2027	**4.0**	**3.0**
2028	**4.0**	**3.2**
2029	**4.0**	**3.3**
5 year average[1]	**4.1**	**3.1**

1 The five-year average is calculated over a projected period of 20 quarters from 1Q25 to 4Q29.
2 For mainland China, rate shown is the Loan Prime Rate.

The consensus Upside scenario

Compared with the Central scenario, the consensus Upside scenario features stronger economic activity in the near term, before converging to long-run trend expectations. It also incorporates a faster fall in the rate of inflation than incorporated in the Central scenario.

The scenario is consistent with a number of key upside risk themes. These include only limited increases in tariffs, a faster fall in the rate of inflation that allows central banks to reduce interest rates more quickly. The Upside scenario would also be consistent with a de-escalation in geopolitical tensions, where the Russia-Ukraine war moves quickly towards a conclusion, tensions in the Middle East subside and US-China relations are more cordial.

The following table describes key macroeconomic variables in the consensus Upside scenario.

Consensus Upside scenario 2025-2029 (as at 4Q24)

	Hong Kong	Mainland China
	%	%
GDP level (%, start-to-peak)[1]	**21.4 (4Q29)**	**27.5 (4Q29)**
Unemployment rate (%, min)[2]	**2.9 (4Q29)**	**4.9 (4Q26)**
House price index (%, start-to-peak)[1]	**25.3 (4Q29)**	**9.8 (4Q29)**
Inflation rate (YoY % change, min)[3]	**(0.1) (4Q25)**	**(1.0) (4Q25)**
Central bank policy rate (%, Min)[2]	**4.0 (1Q29)**	**2.7 (1Q26)**

1 Cumulative change to the highest level of the series during the 20-quarter projection.
2 The lowest projected unemployment or policy rate in the scenario. For mainland China, Central bank policy rate shown is the Loan Prime Rate.
3 The lowest projected year-on-year percentage change in inflation in the scenario.

Downside scenarios

Downside scenarios explore the intensification and crystallisation of a number of key economic and financial risks. These include a more material escalation of tariff policies and geopolitical tensions, which disrupt key commodity and goods markets, causing inflation and interest rates to rise, and creating a global recession.

As the geopolitical environment remains volatile and complex, risks include:

– an increase in protectionist policies, as countries increasingly impose retaliatory tariffs. This lowers investment, complicates international supply chains, and impedes trade flows;

– a broader and more prolonged conflict in the Middle East and between Russia and Ukraine, which further disrupts energy, fertiliser and food supplies; and

– continued differences between the US and China, which could affect economic confidence, the global goods trade and supply chains for critical technologies.

High inflation and higher interest rates also remain key risks. Should tariffs increase significantly and geopolitical tensions escalate, energy and food prices could rise and increase pressure on household budgets and firms' costs.

Higher inflation and labour supply shortages could also trigger a wage-price spiral and put sustained pressure on household incomes and corporate margins. In turn, it raises the risk that central banks react more forcefully, leading to higher defaults and a deep economic recession.

The consensus Downside scenario

In the consensus Downside scenario, economic activity is weaker compared with the Central scenario. In this scenario, GDP declines, unemployment rates rise, and asset prices fall. The scenario features an increase in tariffs over and above those assumed in the Central scenario and an escalation of geopolitical tensions, which causes a rise in inflation, as supply chain constraints intensify and energy prices rise. The scenario also features a temporary increase in interest rates above the Central scenario, before the effects of weaker consumption demand begin to dominate and commodity prices and inflation fall again.

The following table describes key macroeconomic variables in the consensus Downside scenario.

Consensus Downside scenario 2025-2029 (as at 4Q24)

	Hong Kong	Mainland China
	%	%
GDP level (%, start-to-trough)[1]	**(4.5) (4Q25)**	**(2.5) (3Q25)**
Unemployment rate (%, max)[2]	**5.1 (2Q26)**	**6.9 (4Q26)**
House price index (%, start-to-trough)[1]	**(1.9) (2Q26)**	**(12.8) (3Q26)**
Inflation rate (YoY % change, max)[3]	**3.1 (1Q26)**	**2.0 (1Q26)**
Central bank policy rate (%, Max)[2]	**5.2 (1Q25)**	**3.0 (1Q25)**

1 Cumulative change to the lowest level of the series during the 20-quarter projection.
2 The highest projected unemployment or policy rate in the scenario. For mainland China, Central bank policy rate shown is the Loan Prime Rate.
3 The highest projected year-on-year percentage change in inflation in the scenario.

Downside 2 scenario

The Downside 2 scenario features a deep global recession and reflects management's view of the tail of the economic distribution. It incorporates the crystallisation of a number of risks simultaneously, including significant increases in tariffs globally, where the US imposes tariffs of 60% on imports from mainland China, and a further escalation of geopolitical crises, which creates severe supply disruptions to goods and energy markets. In the scenario, as inflation surges and central banks tighten monetary policy further, consumer confidence evaporates. However, this impulse is expected to prove short-lived, as recession takes hold, causing a sharp fall in demand, leading commodity prices to correct sharply and global price inflation to fall.

The following table describes key macroeconomic variables in the Downside 2 scenario.

Downside 2 scenario 2025-2029 (as at 4Q24)

	Hong Kong	Mainland China
	%	%
GDP level (%, start-to-trough)[1]	**(10.1) (4Q25)**	**(8.7) (4Q25)**
Unemployment rate (%, max)[2]	**7.1 (1Q26)**	**7.1 (4Q26)**
House price index (%, start-to-trough)[1]	**(34.4) (3Q27)**	**(30.5) (4Q26)**
Inflation rate (YoY % change, max)[3]	**3.6 (1Q26)**	**3.8 (4Q25)**
Central bank policy rate (%, Max)[2]	**5.9 (1Q25)**	**3.5 (3Q25)**

1 Cumulative change to the lowest level of the series during the 20-quarter projection.
2 The highest projected unemployment/policy rate in the scenario. For mainland China, Central bank policy rate shown is the Loan Prime Rate.
3 The highest projected year-on-year percentage change in inflation in the scenario.

Scenario weighting

Scenario weightings are calibrated to probabilities that are determined with reference to consensus forecast probability distributions. Management may then choose to vary weights if they assess that the calibration lags more recent events, or does not reflect their view of the distribution of economic and geopolitical risk. Management's view of the scenarios and weights takes into consideration the relationship of the consensus scenarios to both internal and external assessments of risk.

In assessing the economic environment and the level of risk and uncertainty, management has considered both global and country-specific factors.

In the fourth quarter of 2024, key considerations around uncertainty focused on:

- US import tariffs and bilateral tariff escalations globally, and the impact on trade and manufacturing supply chains;
- the extent to which authorities in mainland China can support economic growth and the real estate market;
- prospects for recovery in the Hong Kong residential property market;
- the impacts of ongoing volatility in interest rate expectations on household finances and businesses, and the implications of changes to monetary policy expectations on growth and employment; and
- risks of an asset price correction given already elevated valuations across different asset classes.

Although these factors are significant, management assessed that the adjusted Central scenario reflected their most likely future outcome and that outer scenarios were sufficiently well calibrated to address the crystallisation of more severe risks.

This led management to assign scenario probabilities that are aligned to the standard scenario probability calibration framework. The Central scenario was assigned a 75% probability weighting in our major markets. The consensus Upside scenario was assigned a 10% weighting, and the consensus Downside scenario was given 10%. The Downside 2 was assigned a 5% weighting.

In support of the decision, it was noted that the effect of higher tariffs would be most negative in mainland China and Hong Kong, as it would restrict trade growth (a significant growth driver in 2024) substantially and lead to weaker domestic demand. The adjustment to the Central scenario reflected this assumption.

The following table describes the probabilities assigned in each scenario.

Scenario weightings, %

	Standard weights	Hong Kong	Mainland China
4Q24			
Upside	10.0	10.0	10.0
Central	75.0	75.0	75.0
Downside	10.0	10.0	10.0
Downside 2	5.0	5.0	5.0

At 31 December 2024, the consensus Upside and Central scenarios for all markets had a combined weighting of 85%, unchanged as at 31 December 2023. Weightings assigned to the Downside scenarios also remained unchanged.

Critical estimates and judgements

The calculation of ECL under HKFRS 9 involved significant judgements, assumptions and estimates at 31 December 2024. These included:

- the selection and configuration of economic scenarios, given the constant change in economic conditions and distribution of economic risks; and
- estimating the economic effects of those scenarios on ECL, where similar observable historical conditions cannot be captured by the credit risk models.

How economic scenarios are reflected in ECL calculations

Models are used to reflect economic scenarios on ECL estimates. As described above, modelled assumptions and linkages based on historical information could not alone produce relevant information under the conditions experienced in 2024, and management judgemental adjustments were still required to support modelled outcomes.

We have developed globally consistent methodologies for the application of forward economic guidance into the calculation of ECL for wholesale and retail credit risk. These standard approaches are described below, followed by the management judgemental adjustments made, including those to reflect the circumstances experienced in 2024.

For our wholesale portfolios, a global methodology is used for the estimation of the term structure of probability of default ('PD') and loss given default ('LGD'). For PDs, we consider the correlation of forward economic guidance to default rates for a particular industry in a country. For LGD calculations we consider the correlation of forward economic guidance to collateral values and realisation rates for a particular country and industry. PDs and LGDs are estimated for the entire term structure of each instrument.

For impaired loans, allowance for ECL estimates are derived based on discounted cash flow ('DCF') calculations for internal forward-looking scenarios specific to individual borrower circumstances [see page 84]. Probability-weighted outcomes are applied, and depending on materiality and status of the borrower, the number of scenarios considered will change. Where relevant for the case being assessed, forward economic guidance is incorporated as part of these scenarios. LGD-driven proxy and modelled estimates are used for certain less material cases.

For our retail portfolios, the models are predominantly based on historical observations and correlations with default rates and collateral values.

For PD, the impact of economic scenarios is modelled for each portfolio, using historical relationships between default rates and macroeconomic variables. These are included within HKFRS 9 ECL estimates using either economic response models or models that contain internal, external and macroeconomic variables. The macroeconomic impact on PD is modelled over the period equal to the remaining maturity of the underlying assets.

For LGD, the impact is modelled for mortgage portfolios by forecasting future loan-to-value profiles for the remaining maturity of the asset, using market level house price index forecasts and applying the corresponding LGD expectation relative to the updated forecast collateral values.

For unsecured retail portfolios historically observed recovery rates are leveraged to measure loss. For both mortgages and unsecured portfolios, a limited number of portfolios utilise a macroeconomic dependent stressed LGD applied to the Alternative downside scenario.

Management judgemental adjustments

In the context of HKFRS 9, management judgemental adjustments are typically short-term increases or decreases to the modelled allowance for ECL at either a customer, segment or portfolio level where management believes allowances do not sufficiently reflect the credit risk/expected credit losses at the reporting date. These can relate to risks or uncertainties that are not reflected in the models and/or to any late breaking events with significant uncertainty, subject to management review and challenge.

This includes refining model inputs and outputs and using adjustments to ECL based on management judgement and quantitative analysis for impacts that are difficult to model.

The effects of management judgmental adjustments are considered for both balances and allowance for ECL when determining whether or not a significant increase in credit risk has occurred and is allocated to a stage where appropriate. This is in accordance with the internal adjustments framework.

Management judgmental adjustments are reviewed under the governance process for HKFRS 9 (as detailed in the section 'Credit risk management' on page 25). Review and challenge focuses on the rationale and quantum of the adjustments with a further review carried out by the second line of defence where significant. For some management judgemental adjustments, internal frameworks establish the conditions under which these adjustments should no longer be required and as such are considered as part of the governance process. This internal governance process allows management judgemental adjustments to be reviewed regularly and, where possible, to reduce the reliance on these through model recalibration or redevelopment, as appropriate.

The drivers of management judgemental adjustments continue to evolve with the economic environment, and as new risks emerge.

In addition to management judgemental adjustments there are also other adjustments which are made to address process limitations and data/model deficiencies and can also include where appropriate, the impact of new models where governance has sufficiently progressed to allow an accurate estimate of ECL allowance to be incorporated into the total reported ECL.

Management judgemental adjustments and other adjustments constitute the total value of adjustments to modelled allowance for ECL. For the wholesale portfolio, defaulted exposures are assessed individually and management judgemental adjustments are made only to the performing portfolio.

At 31 December 2024, management judgement adjustments reduced by HK$0.6bn compared with 31 December 2023.

Management judgemental adjustments made in estimating the scenario-weighted reported allowance for ECL at 31 December 2024 are set out in the following table.

Management judgemental adjustments to ECL as at 31 December 2024[1]

	Retail	Wholesale[2]	Total
	HK$bn	HK$bn	HK$bn
Modelled ECL (A)[3]	5.4	6.2	11.6
Corporate lending adjustments	—	0.5	0.5
Total management judgemental adjustments (B)[4]	—	0.5	0.5
Other adjustments (C)[5]	0.2	0.8	1.0
Final ECL (A + B + C)[6]	5.6	7.5	13.1

Management judgemental adjustments to ECL as at 31 December 2023[1]

	Retail	Wholesale[2]	Total
	HK$bn	HK$bn	HK$bn
Modelled ECL (A)[3]	4.9	7.7	12.6
Corporate lending adjustments	—	0.3	0.3
Other credit judgements	0.8	—	0.8
Total management judgemental adjustments (B)[4]	0.8	0.3	1.1
Other adjustments (C)[5]	—	(0.1)	(0.1)
Final ECL (A + B + C)[6]	5.7	7.9	13.6

1 Management judgemental adjustments presented in the table reflect increases or (decreases) to ECL, respectively.
2 The wholesale portfolio corresponds to adjustments to the performing portfolio (stage 1 and stage 2).
3 Modelled ECL (A) refers to probability-weighted allowance for ECL before any adjustments are applied.
4 Total management judgemental adjustments (B) refers to adjustments that are applied where management believes allowance for ECL does not sufficiently reflect the credit risk/ expected credit losses of any given portfolio at the reporting date. These can relate to risks or uncertainties that are not reflected in the model and/ or to any late breaking events.
5 Other adjustments (C) refers to adjustments to allowance for ECL made to address process limitations and data/model deficiencies and can also include where appropriate, the impact of new models where governance has sufficiently progressed to allow an accurate estimate of ECL allowance to be incorporated into the total reported ECL.
6 As presented within our internal credit risk governance (see page 26).

At 31 December 2024, wholesale management judgemental adjustments were an increase to allowance for ECL of HK$0.5bn. These were mainly to corporate exposures to reflect heightened uncertainty in the real estate sector in Hong Kong and China.

At 31 December 2024, retail management judgemental adjustments decreased by HK$0.8bn. The reduction in adjustments compared with 31 December 2023 is driven by decrease in Other credit judgements due to reductions in economic uncertainty and model redevelopments which captured macroeconomic risks more effectively.

Economic scenarios sensitivity analysis of ECL estimates

Management considered the sensitivity of the ECL outcome against the economic forecasts as part of the ECL governance process by recalculating the allowance for ECL under each scenario described above for selected portfolios, applying a 100% weighting to each scenario in turn. The weighting is reflected in both the determination of a significant increase in credit risk and the measurement of the resulting allowances. The allowance for ECL calculated for the Upside and Downside scenarios should not be taken to represent the upper and lower limits of possible ECL outcomes. The impact of defaults that might occur in the future under different economic scenarios is captured by recalculating allowance for loans at the balance sheet date.

There is a particularly high degree of estimation uncertainty in numbers representing tail risk scenarios when assigned a 100% weighting.

For wholesale credit risk exposures, the sensitivity analysis excludes allowance for ECL and financial instruments related to defaulted (stage 3) obligors. The measurement of stage 3 ECL is relatively more sensitive to credit factors specific to the obligor than future economic scenarios, and therefore the effects of macroeconomic factors are not necessarily the key consideration when performing individual assessments of allowance for obligors in default. Loans to defaulted obligors are a small portion of the overall wholesale lending exposure, even if representing the majority of the allowance for ECL. Due to the range and specificity of the credit factors to which the ECL is sensitive, it is not possible to provide a meaningful alternative sensitivity analysis for a consistent set of risks across all defaulted obligors.

For retail mortgage exposures, the sensitivity analysis includes allowance for ECL for defaulted obligors of loans and advances. This is because the retail ECL for secured mortgage portfolios including loans in all stages is sensitive to macroeconomic variables.

Wholesale and retail sensitivity

The wholesale and retail sensitivity tables present the 100% weighted results. These exclude portfolios held by the insurance business and small portfolios, and as such cannot be directly compared with personal and wholesale lending presented in other credit risk tables. In both the wholesale and retail analysis, the comparative period results for Downside 2 scenarios are also not directly comparable with the current period, because they reflect different risks relative to the consensus scenarios for the period end.

The wholesale and retail sensitivity analysis is stated inclusive of management judgemental adjustments, as appropriate to each scenario.

For both retail and wholesale portfolios, the gross carrying amount of financial instruments are the same under each scenario. For exposures with similar risk profile and product characteristics, the sensitivity impact is therefore largely the result of changes in macroeconomic assumptions.

Wholesale analysis

HKFRS 9 ECL sensitivity to future economic conditions[1]

	Hong Kong	Mainland China
ECL coverage of financial instruments subject to significant measurement uncertainty at 31 Dec 2024[2]	**HK$m**	**HK$m**
Reported ECL	**5,126**	**1,383**
Consensus scenarios ECL		
Central scenario	**4,793**	**1,099**
Upside scenario	**3,619**	**652**
Downside scenario	**7,048**	**2,559**
Alternative (Downside 2) scenario ECL	**11,642**	**6,898**

HKFRS 9 ECL sensitivity to future economic conditions[1]

	Hong Kong	Mainland China
ECL coverage of financial instruments subject to significant measurement uncertainty at 31 Dec 2023[2]	HK$m	HK$m
Reported ECL	4,758	2,018
Consensus scenarios ECL		
Central scenario	4,422	1,697
Upside scenario	3,378	1,106
Downside scenario	6,304	3,237
Alternative (Downside 2) scenario ECL	10,881	7,384

1 Excludes ECL and financial instruments relating to defaulted obligors.
2 Includes off-balance sheet financial instruments that are subject to significant measurement uncertainty.

Compared with 31 December 2023, the Downside 2 ECL impact was higher in Hong Kong reflecting increasing uncertainty on real estate sector.

Retail analysis

HKFRS 9 ECL sensitivity to future economic conditions[1]

	At 31 December 2024[2]				
	Reported ECL	**Central Scenario**	**Upside Scenario**	**Downside Scenario**	**Alternative (Downside 2) scenario ECL**
ECL coverage of loans and advances to customers	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	**HK$m**
Hong Kong	**3,137**	**2,963**	**2,895**	**3,192**	**7,991**

HKFRS 9 ECL sensitivity to future economic conditions[1]

	At 31 December 2023[2]				
	Reported ECL	Central Scenario	Upside Scenario	Downside Scenario	Alternative (Downside 2) scenario ECL
ECL coverage of loans and advances to customers	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Hong Kong	3,115	2,658	2,370	4,079	8,973

1 ECL sensitivities exclude portfolios using less complex modelling approaches.
2 ECL sensitivity includes only on-balance sheet financial instruments to which HKFRS 9 impairment requirements are applied.

At 31 December 2024, the most significant level of ECL sensitivity was observed in Hong Kong driven by the relative size of the portfolio in retail.

Reconciliation of changes in gross carrying/nominal amount and allowances for loans and advances to banks and customers, including loan commitments and financial guarantees

(Unaudited)

The following disclosure provides a reconciliation by stage of the group's gross carrying/nominal amount and allowances for loans and advances to banks and customers, including loan commitments and financial guarantees.

Movements are calculated on a quarterly basis and therefore fully capture stage movements between quarters. If movements were calculated on a year-to-date basis they would only reflect the opening and closing position of the financial instrument.

The transfers of financial instruments represents the impact of stage transfers upon the gross carrying/nominal amount and associated allowance for ECL.

The net remeasurement of ECL arising from transfer of stage represents the increase or decrease due to these transfers, for example, moving from a 12-month (stage 1) to a lifetime (stage 2) ECL measurement basis. Net remeasurement excludes the underlying customer risk rating ('CRR')/probability of default ('PD') movements of the financial instruments transferring stage. This is captured, along with other credit quality movements in the 'changes to risk parameters – credit quality' line item.

Changes in 'Net new and further lending/repayments' represents the impact from volume movements within the Group's lending portfolio and includes 'New financial assets originated or purchased', 'assets derecognised (including final repayments)' and 'changes to risk parameters – further lending/repayment'.

Reconciliation of changes in gross carrying/nominal amount and allowances for loans and advances to banks and customers, including loan commitments and financial guarantees

(Audited)

	Stage 1		Stage 2		Stage 3		POCI		Total	
	Gross carrying/ nominal amount	Allowance for ECL	Gross carrying/ nominal amount	Allowance for ECL	Gross carrying/ nominal amount	Allowance for ECL	Gross carrying/ nominal amount	Allowance for ECL	Gross carrying/ nominal amount	Allowance for ECL
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
At 1 Jan 2024	5,712,679	(3,208)	403,099	(8,871)	65,050	(27,557)	289	(163)	6,181,117	(39,799)
Transfers of financial instruments:	(93,712)	(1,874)	27,752	6,918	65,960	(5,044)	—	—	—	—
– transfers from stage 1 to stage 2	(332,172)	695	332,172	(695)	—	—	—	—	—	—
– transfers from stage 2 to stage 1	249,053	(2,553)	(249,053)	2,553	—	—	—	—	—	—
– transfers to stage 3	(10,866)	14	(57,022)	5,187	67,888	(5,201)	—	—	—	—
– transfers from stage 3	273	(30)	1,655	(127)	(1,928)	157	—	—	—	—
Net remeasurement of ECL arising from transfer of stage	—	1,205	—	(1,045)	—	(72)	—	—	—	88
Changes due to modifications not derecognised	—	—	—	—	(194)	—	—	—	(194)	—
Net new and further lending/ repayments	180,702	(165)	(132,184)	1,776	(18,124)	3,345	(9)	16	30,385	4,972
Changes in risk parameters – credit quality	—	592	—	(6,749)	—	(9,931)	—	(43)	—	(16,131)
Changes to model used for ECL calculation	—	209	—	(595)	—	9	—	—	—	(377)
Assets written off	—	—	—	—	(17,598)	17,598	—	—	(17,598)	17,598
Credit-related modifications that resulted in derecognition	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Foreign exchange	(114,927)	114	(5,617)	68	(737)	175	—	—	(121,281)	357
Others	(2,774)	8	—	4	4,948	(3,159)	22	(22)	2,196	(3,169)
At 31 Dec 2024	5,681,968	(3,119)	293,050	(8,494)	99,305	(24,636)	302	(212)	6,074,625	(36,461)
ECL income statement charge for the year		1,841		(6,613)		(6,649)		(27)		(11,448)
Recoveries										857
Modification losses on contractual cash flows that did not result in derecognition										(240)
Others										(1,058)
Total ECL income statement charge for the year										(11,889)

Reconciliation of changes in gross carrying/nominal amount and allowances for loans and advances to banks and customers, including loan commitments and financial guarantees (continued)

	At 31 Dec 2024		Year ended 31 Dec 2024
	Gross carrying/ nominal amount	Allowance for ECL	ECL charge
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
As above	**6,074,625**	**(36,461)**	**(11,889)**
Other financial assets measured at amortised cost	**2,257,430**	**(392)**	**(17)**
Non-trading reverse repurchase agreement commitments	**16,420**	**—**	**—**
Performance and other guarantees not considered for HKFRS 9	**N/A**	**N/A**	**8**
Amounts due from Group companies	**133,576**	**—**	**—**
Summary of financial instruments to which the impairment requirements in HKFRS 9 are applied/Summary consolidated income statement	**8,482,051**	**(36,853)**	**(11,898)**
Debt instruments measured at FVOCI	**1,698,374**	**(103)**	**(48)**
Total allowance for ECL/total income statement ECL charge for the year	**N/A**	**(36,956)**	**(11,946)**

Reconciliation of changes in gross carrying/nominal amount and allowances for loans and advances to banks and customers, including loan commitments and financial guarantees

(Audited)

	Stage 1		Stage 2		Stage 3		POCI		Total	
	Gross carrying/ nominal amount	Allowance for ECL	Gross carrying/ nominal amount	Allowance for ECL	Gross carrying/ nominal amount	Allowance for ECL	Gross carrying/ nominal amount	Allowance for ECL	Gross carrying/ nominal amount	Allowance for ECL
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
At 1 Jan 2023	5,574,139	(3,212)	533,242	(11,605)	68,585	(25,881)	623	(191)	6,176,589	(40,889)
Transfers of financial instruments:	(64,485)	(1,974)	38,388	6,944	26,097	(4,970)	—	—	—	—
– transfers from stage 1 to stage 2	(422,711)	888	422,711	(888)	—	—	—	—	—	—
– transfers from stage 2 to stage 1	361,014	(2,808)	(361,014)	2,808	—	—	—	—	—	—
– transfers to stage 3	(4,009)	85	(24,460)	5,289	28,469	(5,374)	—	—	—	—
– transfers from stage 3	1,221	(139)	1,151	(265)	(2,372)	404	—	—	—	—
Net remeasurement of ECL arising from transfer of stage	—	1,147	—	(1,175)	—	(218)	—	—	—	(246)
Net new and further lending/ repayments	213,347	(222)	(166,049)	2,286	(15,378)	3,604	(332)	15	31,588	5,683
Changes in risk parameters – credit quality	—	1,143	—	(5,451)	—	(14,174)	—	208	—	(18,274)
Changes to model used for ECL calculation	—	(121)	—	109	—	43	—	—	—	31
Assets written off	—	—	—	—	(13,856)	13,856	(2)	2	(13,858)	13,858
Credit-related modifications that resulted in derecognition	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Foreign exchange	(4,522)	21	(2,366)	12	(341)	173	—	—	(7,229)	206
Others	(5,800)	10	(116)	9	(57)	10	—	(197)	(5,973)	(168)
At 31 Dec 2023	5,712,679	(3,208)	403,099	(8,871)	65,050	(27,557)	289	(163)	6,181,117	(39,799)
ECL income statement charge for the year										(12,806)
Recoveries										864
Modification losses on contractual cash flows that did not result in derecognition										(6)
Others										(1,118)
Total ECL income statement charge for the year										(13,066)

	At 31 Dec 2023		Year ended 31 Dec 2023
	Gross carrying/ nominal amount	Allowance for ECL	ECL charge
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
As above	6,181,117	(39,799)	(13,066)
Other financial assets measured at amortised cost	2,309,109	(393)	(44)
Non-trading reverse repurchase agreement commitments	3,317	—	—
Performance and other guarantees not considered for HKFRS 9	N/A	N/A	(106)
Amounts due from Group companies	131,071	—	—
Summary of financial instruments to which the impairment requirements in HKFRS 9 are applied/Summary consolidated income statement	8,624,614	(40,192)	(13,216)
Debt instruments measured at FVOCI	1,404,323	(93)	373
Total allowance for ECL/total income statement ECL charge for the year	N/A	(40,285)	(12,843)

Credit quality

Credit quality of financial instruments

(Audited)

We assess the credit quality of all financial instruments that are subject to credit risk. The credit quality of financial instruments is a point-in-time assessment of PD, whereas stages 1 and 2 are determined based on relative deterioration of credit quality since initial recognition for the majority of portfolios. Accordingly, for non-credit-impaired financial instruments, there is no direct relationship between the credit quality assessment and stage 1 and 2, although typically the lower credit quality bands exhibit a higher proportion in stage 2.

The five credit quality classifications provided below each encompass a range of granular internal credit rating grades assigned to wholesale and personal lending businesses and the external ratings attributed by external agencies to debt securities, as shown in the table on page 26.

Distribution of financial instruments by credit quality at 31 December 2024

(Audited)

	Gross carrying/notional amount							
	Strong	Good	Satisfactory	Sub-standard	Credit impaired	Total	Allowance for ECL	Net
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
In-scope for HKFRS 9 impairment								
Loans and advances to customers held at amortised cost	2,076,438	650,088	640,507	64,355	98,570	3,529,958	(35,660)	3,494,298
– personal	1,323,609	118,374	85,651	3,333	9,084	1,540,051	(5,614)	1,534,437
– corporate and commercial	561,394	473,222	505,702	59,003	88,074	1,687,395	(29,073)	1,658,322
– non-bank financial institutions	191,435	58,492	49,154	2,019	1,412	302,512	(973)	301,539
Loans and advances to banks	473,448	4,800	1,589	942	—	480,779	(39)	480,740
Cash and balances at central banks	206,159	4,882	6	—	—	211,047	—	211,047
Hong Kong Government certificates of indebtedness	328,454	—	—	—	—	328,454	—	328,454
Reverse repurchase agreements – non-trading	435,956	214,899	164,933	314	—	816,102	—	816,102
Financial investments held at amortised cost	602,351	28,572	1,855	3	—	632,781	(40)	632,741
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets	172,734	50,523	42,365	3,036	388	269,046	(352)	268,694
Debt instruments measured at fair value through other comprehensive income[1]	1,616,296	69,505	20,252	2,255	—	1,708,308	(103)	1,708,205
Out-of-scope for HKFRS 9 impairment						—		—
Trading assets	530,534	64,535	30,941	672	40	626,722	—	626,722
Other financial assets designated and otherwise mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss	406,037	73,560	19,047	1,020	85	499,749	—	499,749
Derivatives	280,832	41,574	29,936	441	—	352,783	—	352,783
Total gross carrying amount on-balance sheet	7,129,239	1,202,938	951,431	73,038	99,083	9,455,729	(36,194)	9,419,535
Percentage of total credit quality	75%	13%	10%	1%	1%	100%		
Loans and other credit related commitments	2,109,067	778,750	564,381	22,008	2,757	3,476,963	(700)	3,476,263
Financial guarantee and similar contracts	183,877	154,322	72,874	5,004	735	416,812	(379)	416,433
Total nominal off-balance sheet amount	2,292,944	933,072	637,255	27,012	3,492	3,893,775	(1,079)	3,892,696

The above table does not include balances due from Group companies.

1 For the purposes of this disclosure, gross carrying value is defined as the amortised cost of a financial asset, before adjusting for any loss allowance. As such the gross carrying value of debt instruments at FVOCI as presented above will not reconcile to the balance sheet as it excludes fair value gains and losses.

Distribution of financial instruments by credit quality at 31 December 2023 (continued)

(Audited)

	Gross carrying/notional amount							
	Strong	Good	Satisfactory	Sub-standard	Credit impaired	Total	Allowance for ECL	Net
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
In-scope for HKFRS 9 impairment								
Loans and advances to customers held at amortised cost	2,074,847	688,167	698,123	71,823	62,969	3,595,929	(38,853)	3,557,076
– personal	1,336,990	128,108	85,097	5,420	7,406	1,563,021	(5,692)	1,557,329
– corporate and commercial	571,741	499,109	549,653	65,943	54,903	1,741,349	(32,586)	1,708,763
– non-bank financial institutions	166,116	60,950	63,373	460	660	291,559	(575)	290,984
Loans and advances to banks	553,184	7,768	758	2,142	—	563,852	(51)	563,801
Cash and balances at central banks	227,259	5,607	122	—	—	232,988	(1)	232,987
Hong Kong Government certificates of indebtedness	328,304	—	—	—	—	328,304	—	328,304
Reverse repurchase agreements – non-trading	478,404	138,719	214,004	59	—	831,186	—	831,186
Financial investments held at amortised cost	586,404	29,796	2,792	3	—	618,995	(57)	618,938
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets	191,152	65,365	39,610	1,113	396	297,636	(335)	297,301
Debt instruments measured at fair value through other comprehensive income[1]	1,317,382	69,918	26,535	462	39	1,414,336	(93)	1,414,243
Out-of-scope for HKFRS 9 impairment						—		—
Trading assets	464,264	69,240	30,605	529	1,022	565,660	—	565,660
Other financial assets designated and otherwise mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss	385,170	79,763	14,346	39	49	479,367	—	479,367
Derivatives	247,409	38,615	9,865	358	—	296,247	—	296,247
Total gross carrying amount on-balance sheet	6,853,779	1,192,958	1,036,760	76,528	64,475	9,224,500	(39,390)	9,185,110
Percentage of total credit quality	74%	13%	11%	1%	1%	100%		
Loans and other credit related commitments	2,059,689	793,540	525,376	29,092	3,295	3,410,992	(841)	3,410,151
Financial guarantee and similar contracts	186,629	142,828	72,758	3,339	883	406,437	(405)	406,032
Total nominal off-balance sheet amount	2,246,318	936,368	598,134	32,431	4,178	3,817,429	(1,246)	3,816,183

The above table does not include balances due from Group companies.

1 For the purposes of this disclosure, gross carrying value is defined as the amortised cost of a financial asset, before adjusting for any loss allowance. As such the gross carrying value of debt instruments at FVOCI as presented above will not reconcile to the balance sheet as it excludes fair value gains and losses.

Distribution of financial instruments to which the impairment requirements in HKFRS 9 are applied, by credit quality and stage allocation

(Audited)

	Gross carrying/notional amount							
	Strong	Good	Satisfactory	Sub-standard	Credit impaired	Total	Allowance for ECL	Net
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Loans and advances to banks	473,448	4,800	1,589	942	—	480,779	(39)	480,740
– stage 1	473,169	4,761	1,589	837	—	480,356	(38)	480,318
– stage 2	279	39	—	105	—	423	(1)	422
– stage 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
– POCI	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Loans and advances to customers at amortised cost	2,076,438	650,088	640,507	64,355	98,570	3,529,958	(35,660)	3,494,298
– stage 1	2,059,563	609,398	502,130	7,571	—	3,178,662	(2,629)	3,176,033
– stage 2	16,875	40,690	138,377	56,784	—	252,726	(8,242)	244,484
– stage 3	—	—	—	—	98,267	98,267	(24,577)	73,690
– POCI	—	—	—	—	303	303	(212)	91
Other financial assets measured at amortised cost	1,745,654	298,876	209,159	3,353	388	2,257,430	(392)	2,257,038
– stage 1	1,744,493	294,357	205,176	1,754	—	2,245,780	(242)	2,245,538
– stage 2	1,161	4,519	3,983	1,599	—	11,262	(22)	11,240
– stage 3	—	—	—	—	388	388	(128)	260
– POCI	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Loans and other credit-related commitments	1,529,908	324,742	164,739	7,052	879	2,027,320	(700)	2,026,620
– stage 1	1,526,488	313,865	145,416	4,865	—	1,990,634	(418)	1,990,216
– stage 2	3,420	10,877	19,323	2,187	—	35,807	(239)	35,568
– stage 3	—	—	—	—	879	879	(43)	836
– POCI	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Financial guarantees	26,409	11,550	13,895	976	158	52,988	(62)	52,926
– stage 1	26,314	11,335	10,605	482	—	48,736	(35)	48,701
– stage 2	95	215	3,290	494	—	4,094	(11)	4,083
– stage 3	—	—	—	—	158	158	(16)	142
– POCI	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
At 31 Dec 2024	**5,851,857**	**1,290,056**	**1,029,889**	**76,678**	**99,995**	**8,348,475**	**(36,853)**	**8,311,622**
Debt instruments at FVOCI[1]								
– stage 1	1,616,296	69,505	20,252	—	—	1,706,053	(82)	1,705,971
– stage 2	—	—	—	2,255	—	2,255	(21)	2,234
– stage 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
– POCI	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
At 31 Dec 2024	**1,616,296**	**69,505**	**20,252**	**2,255**	**—**	**1,708,308**	**(103)**	**1,708,205**

The above table does not include balances due from Group companies.

1 For the purposes of this disclosure, gross carrying value is defined as the amortised cost of a financial asset, before adjusting for any loss allowance. As such the gross carrying value of debt instruments at FVOCI as presented above will not reconcile to the balance sheet as it excludes fair value gains and losses.

Distribution of financial instruments to which the impairment requirements in HKFRS 9 are applied, by credit quality and stage allocation (continued)

(Audited)

	Gross carrying/notional amount							
	Strong	Good	Satisfactory	Sub-standard	Credit impaired	Total	Allowance for ECL	Net
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Loans and advances to banks	553,184	7,768	758	2,142	—	563,852	(51)	563,801
– stage 1	553,088	7,737	758	2,064	—	563,647	(50)	563,597
– stage 2	96	31	—	78	—	205	(1)	204
– stage 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
– POCI	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Loans and advances to customers at amortised cost	2,074,847	688,167	698,123	71,823	62,969	3,595,929	(38,853)	3,557,076
– stage 1	2,051,644	624,138	498,644	6,057	—	3,180,483	(2,681)	3,177,802
– stage 2	23,203	64,029	199,479	65,766	—	352,477	(8,575)	343,902
– stage 3	—	—	—	—	62,679	62,679	(27,433)	35,246
– POCI	—	—	—	—	290	290	(164)	126
Other financial assets measured at amortised cost	1,811,523	239,487	256,528	1,175	396	2,309,109	(393)	2,308,716
– stage 1	1,810,577	233,634	251,694	311	—	2,296,216	(277)	2,295,939
– stage 2	946	5,853	4,834	864	—	12,497	(11)	12,486
– stage 3	—	—	—	—	396	396	(105)	291
– POCI	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Loans and other credit-related commitments	1,498,322	320,777	150,205	6,911	2,113	1,978,328	(841)	1,977,487
– stage 1	1,495,419	303,188	126,282	4,151	—	1,929,040	(455)	1,928,585
– stage 2	2,903	17,589	23,923	2,760	—	47,175	(285)	46,890
– stage 3	—	—	—	—	2,113	2,113	(101)	2,012
– POCI	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Financial guarantees	23,190	12,723	9,532	627	253	46,325	(54)	46,271
– stage 1	23,132	11,992	7,493	211	—	42,828	(20)	42,808
– stage 2	58	731	2,039	416	—	3,244	(10)	3,234
– stage 3	—	—	—	—	253	253	(24)	229
– POCI	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
At 31 Dec 2023	5,961,066	1,268,922	1,115,146	82,678	65,731	8,493,543	(40,192)	8,453,351
Debt instruments at FVOCI[1]								
– stage 1	1,317,382	69,918	26,535	—	—	1,413,835	(66)	1,413,769
– stage 2	—	—	—	462	—	462	(16)	446
– stage 3	—	—	—	—	39	39	(11)	28
– POCI	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
At 31 Dec 2023	1,317,382	69,918	26,535	462	39	1,414,336	(93)	1,414,243

The above table does not include balances due from Group companies.

1 For the purposes of this disclosure, gross carrying value is defined as the amortised cost of a financial asset, before adjusting for any loss allowance. As such the gross carrying value of debt instruments at FVOCI as presented above will not reconcile to the balance sheet as it excludes fair value gains and losses.

Commercial real estate

Commercial real estate ('CRE') lending includes the financing of corporate, institutional and high net worth customers who are investing primarily in income-producing assets and, to a lesser extent, in their construction and development.

In the tables below, we have disclosed CRE exposures for Asia-Pacific and Hong Kong which are reported on the balance sheet under loans and advances to customers. We have also provided additional information related to exposures booked in Hong Kong excluding exposures to mainland China borrowers by stage and credit quality. These exposures mostly comprise lending to Hong Kong borrowers and, to a lesser degree, borrowers overseas.

Commercial real estate lending by stage

(Audited)

	The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited	Hong Kong	Other	of which: Hong Kong excluding exposure to mainland China borrowers
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Gross loans and advances				
Stage 1	**266,659**	**175,850**	**90,809**	**171,874**
Stage 2	**70,698**	**59,167**	**11,531**	**50,599**
Stage 3	**50,103**	**46,340**	**3,763**	**35,369**
POCI	**142**	**142**	**—**	**—**
31 Dec 2024	**387,602**	**281,499**	**106,103**	**257,842**
Allowance for ECL	**(12,638)**	**(11,009)**	**(1,629)**	**(3,149)**
Gross loans and advances				
Stage 1	322,704	225,358	97,346	215,310
Stage 2	103,351	81,053	22,298	67,817
Stage 3	27,893	25,203	2,690	4,500
POCI	117	117	—	—
31 Dec 2023	454,065	331,731	122,334	287,627
Allowance for ECL	(18,751)	(16,505)	(2,246)	(2,316)

Commercial real estate lending by credit quality

(Audited)

	The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited	Hong Kong	Other	of which: Hong Kong excluding exposure to mainland China borrowers
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Gross loans and advances				
Strong	**70,716**	**35,116**	**35,600**	**34,825**
Good	**125,138**	**80,928**	**44,210**	**75,752**
Satisfactory	**105,276**	**84,262**	**21,014**	**83,213**
Sub-standard	**36,227**	**34,710**	**1,517**	**28,682**
Credit impaired	**50,245**	**46,483**	**3,762**	**35,370**
31 Dec 2024	**387,602**	**281,499**	**106,103**	**257,842**
Gross loans and advances				
Strong	96,819	50,995	45,824	47,794
Good	138,883	93,780	45,103	87,980
Satisfactory	152,413	127,261	25,152	123,121
Sub-standard	37,940	34,375	3,565	24,232
Credit impaired	28,010	25,320	2,690	4,500
31 Dec 2023	454,065	331,731	122,334	287,627

(Unaudited)

The Hong Kong CRE portfolio (excluding exposure to mainland China borrowers) saw negative credit migration in 2024 as a result of higher interest rates, high inventory levels and weak demand. This was predominantly driven by a deterioration in the secured portfolio as borrowers sought payment deferrals to accommodate debt serviceability challenges.

Secured exposures account for 54% of the total portfolio (31 December 2023: 54%), with collateral values regularly updated in line with our existing practice. The trend of loan right-sizing and borrower deleveraging within the secured portfolio has supported good collateral coverage levels that continue to provide headroom in the event of a further softening of property valuations. As at 31 December 2024, the weighted average LTV:

– of performing exposures rated 'sub-standard' was 46% (31 December 2023: 54%);

– of 'credit impaired' exposures was 58% (31 December 2023: 71%). This has driven relatively low levels of stage 3 allowance for ECL. The reduction in LTV reflects the significantly smaller 'credit impaired' portfolio at 31 December 2023.

The unsecured portfolio remained stable in size and quality, with very limited levels of default and close to 90% rated Strong or Good.

Unsecured exposures are typically granted to strong, listed Hong Kong CRE developers, which commonly are members of conglomerate group with diverse cashflows.

We continue to closely assess and manage the risk in the portfolio, including through portfolio reviews and stress testing. Vulnerable borrowers, including those with debt serviceability challenges and higher LTV levels, are subject to heightened monitoring and management.

Market conditions remain challenging, particularly for commercial property as a result of continued weakness in demand. The performance of the residential market remains mixed, with some initial improvement in sentiment and transaction levels observed in the fourth quarter of 2024, driven by a further easing of real estate regulatory policies in October and improved end-user affordability as prices and interest rates fell. Nevertheless, property price pressure is likely to persist in the near term and until economic conditions and sentiment improve. Given the more uncertain interest rate outlook, we expect broader market fundamentals to remain subdued and challenges in this sector to continue.

Mainland China commercial real estate

The following table presents the group's exposure to borrowers classified in the CRE sector where the ultimate parent is based in mainland China, as well as all CRE exposures booked on mainland China balance sheets. In addition to CRE as defined in our primary CRE disclosure above, this table includes financing provided to a corporate or financial entity for the purchase or financing of a property which supports the overall operations of the business. This provides a more comprehensive view of our mainland China CRE exposures. The exposures at 31 December 2024 are split by country/territory and credit quality including allowances for ECL by stage.

Mainland China CRE exposure

(Audited)	At 31 Dec 2024			
	Hong Kong	**Mainland China**	**Rest of Asia-Pacific**	**Total**
	HK$m	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	**HK$m**
Loans and advances to customers[1]	**24,553**	**28,683**	**72**	**53,308**
Guarantees issued and others[2]	**621**	**128**	**40**	**789**
Total mainland China CRE exposure	**25,174**	**28,811**	**112**	**54,097**
Distribution of mainland China CRE exposure by credit quality				
– Strong	**917**	**14,125**	**95**	**15,137**
– Good	**4,491**	**4,616**	**8**	**9,115**
– Satisfactory	**1,522**	**6,978**	**—**	**8,500**
– Sub-standard	**6,028**	**1,057**	**9**	**7,094**
– Credit Impaired	**12,216**	**2,035**	**—**	**14,251**
	25,174	**28,811**	**112**	**54,097**
Allowance for ECL by credit quality				
– Strong	**—**	**(37)**	**—**	**(37)**
– Good	**(2)**	**(21)**	**—**	**(23)**
– Satisfactory	**(2)**	**(101)**	**—**	**(103)**
– Sub-standard	**(2,029)**	**(234)**	**(2)**	**(2,265)**
– Credit Impaired	**(5,826)**	**(627)**	**—**	**(6,453)**
	(7,859)	**(1,020)**	**(2)**	**(8,881)**
Allowance for ECL				
ECL Stage 1	**(2)**	**(73)**	**—**	**(75)**
ECL Stage 2	**(2,031)**	**(320)**	**(2)**	**(2,353)**
ECL Stage 3	**(5,772)**	**(627)**	**—**	**(6,399)**
ECL POCI	**(54)**	**—**	**—**	**(54)**
	(7,859)	**(1,020)**	**(2)**	**(8,881)**
ECL Coverage %	**31.2**	**3.5**	**1.8**	**16.4**
	At 31 Dec 2023			
Loans and advances to customers[1]	47,133	38,410	3,518	89,061
Guarantees issued and others[2]	1,993	518	86	2,597
Total mainland China CRE exposure	49,126	38,928	3,604	91,658
Distribution of mainland China CRE exposure by credit quality				
– Strong	6,100	13,458	57	19,615
– Good	4,719	7,445	3,283	15,447
– Satisfactory	5,308	13,313	84	18,705
– Sub-standard	10,142	2,557	180	12,879
– Credit Impaired	22,857	2,155	—	25,012
	49,126	38,928	3,604	91,658
Allowance for ECL by credit quality				
– Strong	—	(27)	—	(27)
– Good	(2)	(39)	(8)	(49)
– Satisfactory	(21)	(212)	—	(233)
– Sub-standard	(518)	(682)	(45)	(1,245)
– Credit Impaired	(13,484)	(977)	—	(14,461)
	(14,025)	(1,937)	(53)	(16,015)
Allowance for ECL				
ECL Stage 1	(4)	(77)	(8)	(89)
ECL Stage 2	(537)	(883)	(45)	(1,465)
ECL Stage 3	(13,484)	(977)	—	(14,461)
	(14,025)	(1,937)	(53)	(16,015)
ECL Coverage %	28.5	5.0	1.5	17.5

1 Amounts represent gross carrying amount.
2 Amounts represent nominal amount for guarantees and other contingent liabilities.

(Unaudited)

The mainland China commercial real estate portfolio continues to face challenges as market fundamentals remain weak and refinancing risks continue. The portfolio remains closely managed, with reductions in exposures driven by a combination of de-risking measures, repayments by performing customers and write-offs in the 'credit impaired' category.

The portfolio of mainland China CRE loans booked in Hong Kong remains relatively higher risk, with allowances for ECL substantially against unsecured exposures. For secured exposures, allowances for ECL are minimal, reflecting the nature and value of the security held.

Approximately half of the performing exposure in the mainland China CRE portfolio booked in Hong Kong is lending to state-owned enterprises and relatively strong privately-owned enterprises. This is reflected in the relatively low allowances for ECL in this part of the portfolio.

Mainland China real estate market activity remains depressed with continued weakness in underlying buyer demand for housing. Various government stimulus measures were introduced in 2024 to underpin market confidence. Despite some early signs of price stabilisation in certain cities, these measures have not yet triggered a meaningful recovery in transaction levels. Financing conditions and liquidity for borrowers operating in the real estate sector therefore remains constrained, particularly for privately-owned enterprises. A market recovery is likely to be protracted and contingent on further government support.

The Group has additional exposures to mainland China commercial real estate as a result of lending to multinational corporates booked outside of mainland China, which is not incorporated in the table above.

Credit-impaired loans

(Audited)

We determine that a financial instrument is credit impaired and in stage 3 by considering relevant objective evidence, primarily whether:

- contractual payments of either principal or interest are past due for more than 90 days;
- there are other indications that the borrower is unlikely to pay, such as when a concession has been granted to the borrower for economic or legal reasons relating to the borrower's financial condition; and
- the loan is otherwise considered to be in default. If such unlikeliness to pay is not identified at an earlier stage, it is deemed to occur when an exposure is 90 days past due, even where regulatory rules permit default to be defined based on 180 days past due. Therefore, the definitions of credit impaired and default are aligned as far as possible so that stage 3 represents all loans that are considered defaulted or otherwise credit impaired.

Collateral and other credit enhancements

(Audited)

Although collateral can be an important mitigant of credit risk, it is the group's practice to lend on the basis of the customer's ability to meet their obligations out of cash flow resources rather than placing primary reliance on collateral and other credit risk enhancements. Depending on the customer's standing and the type of product, facilities may be provided without any collateral or other credit enhancements. For other lending, a charge over collateral is obtained and considered in determining the credit decision and pricing. In the event of default, the bank may utilise the collateral as a source of repayment.

Depending on its form, collateral can have a significant financial effect in mitigating our exposure to credit risk. Where there is sufficient collateral, an expected credit loss is not recognised. This is the case for reverse repurchase agreements and for certain loans and advances to customers where the loan to value ('LTV') is very low.

Mitigants may include a charge on borrowers' specific assets, such as real estate or financial instruments. Other credit risk mitigants include short positions in securities and financial assets held as part of linked insurance/investment contracts where the risk is predominantly borne by the policyholder.

Additionally, risk may be managed by employing other types of collateral and credit risk enhancements, such as second charges, other liens and unsupported guarantees. Guarantees are normally taken from corporates and export credit agencies. Corporates would normally provide guarantees as part of a parent/subsidiary relationship and span a number of credit grades. The export credit agencies will normally be investment grade.

Certain credit mitigants are used strategically in portfolio management activities. While single name concentrations arise in portfolios managed by Global Banking and Commercial Banking, it is only in Global Banking that their size requires the use of portfolio level credit mitigants. Across Global Banking, risk limits and utilisations, maturity profiles and risk quality are monitored and managed proactively. This process is key to the setting of risk appetite for these larger, more complex, geographically distributed customer groups. While the principal form of risk management continues to be at the point of exposure origination, through the lending decision-making process, Global Banking also utilises loan sales and credit default swap ('CDS') hedges to manage concentrations and reduce risk. These transactions are the responsibility of a dedicated Global Banking portfolio management team. Hedging activity is carried out within agreed credit parameters, and is subject to market risk limits and a robust governance structure. Where applicable, CDSs are entered into directly with a central clearing house counterparty. Otherwise, our exposure to CDS protection providers is diversified among mainly banking counterparties with strong credit ratings.

CDS mitigants are held at portfolio level and are not included in the expected credit loss calculations. CDS mitigants are not reported in the presentation below.

Collateral on loans and advances

(Audited)

Collateral held is analysed separately for commercial real estate and for other corporate, commercial and financial (non-bank) lending. The following tables include off-balance sheet loan commitments, primarily undrawn credit lines.

The collateral measured in the following tables consists of fixed first charges on real estate, and charges over cash and marketable financial instruments. The values in the tables represent the expected market value on an open market basis; no adjustment has been made to the collateral for any expected costs of recovery. Marketable securities are measured at their fair value.

Other types of collateral such as unsupported guarantees and floating charges over the assets of a customer's business are not measured in the following tables. While such mitigants have value, often providing rights in insolvency, their assignable value is not sufficiently certain and they are therefore assigned no value for disclosure purposes.

The LTV ratios presented are calculated by directly associating loans and advances with the collateral that individually and uniquely supports each facility. When collateral assets are shared by multiple loans and advances, whether specifically or, more generally, by way of an all monies charge, the collateral value is pro-rated across the loans and advances protected by the collateral.

For credit-impaired loans, the collateral values cannot be directly compared with impairment allowances recognised. The LTV figures use open market values with no adjustments.

Impairment allowances are calculated on a different basis, by considering other cash flows and adjusting collateral values for costs of realising collateral.

Personal lending

(Unaudited)

The following table provides a quantification of the value of fixed charges we hold over specific assets where we have a history of enforcing, and are able to enforce, collateral in satisfying a debt in the event of the borrower failing to meet its contractual obligations, and where the collateral is cash or can be realised by sale in an established market.

The collateral valuation excludes any adjustments for obtaining and selling the collateral and, in particular, loans shown as not collateralised or partially collateralised may also benefit from other forms of credit mitigants.

Residential mortgages including loan commitments by level of collateral

(Audited)

	2024		2023	
	Gross carrying/ nominal amount	**ECL coverage**	Gross carrying/ nominal amount	ECL coverage
	HK$m	**%**	HK$m	%
Stage 1				
Fully collateralised	**1,140,466**	**—**	1,182,015	—
LTV ratio:				
– less than 70%	**865,626**	**—**	909,167	—
– 71% to 90%	**177,936**	**—**	175,712	—
– 91% to 100%	**96,904**	**—**	97,136	—
Partially collateralised (A):	**91,264**	**—**	70,126	—
– collateral value on A	**85,738**		66,696	
Total	**1,231,730**	**—**	1,252,141	—
Stage 2				
Fully collateralised	**20,096**	**0.5**	25,573	0.3
LTV ratio:				
– less than 70%	**11,857**	**0.3**	17,326	0.2
– 71% to 90%	**6,456**	**0.7**	7,438	0.5
– 91% to 100%	**1,783**	**1.1**	809	0.6
Partially collateralised (B):	**824**	**0.5**	703	1.3
– collateral value on B	**769**		660	
Total	**20,920**	**0.5**	26,276	0.3
Stage 3				
Fully collateralised	**5,992**	**4.3**	4,555	4.0
LTV ratio:				
– less than 70%	**4,513**	**3.4**	3,477	3.5
– 71% to 90%	**1,249**	**5.5**	942	5.1
– 91% to 100%	**230**	**14.4**	136	11.0
Partially collateralised (C):	**241**	**17.9**	105	21.9
– collateral value on C	**212**		93	
Total	**6,233**	**4.8**	4,660	4.4
At 31 Dec	**1,258,883**	**—**	1,283,077	—

Other personal lending

(Unaudited)

Other personal lending consists primarily of personal loans, overdrafts and credit cards, all of which are generally unsecured, except lending to private banking customers which are generally secured.

Commercial real estate loans and advances

(Unaudited)

The value of commercial real estate collateral is determined by using a combination of external and internal valuations and physical inspections. For commercial real estate, where the facility exceeds regulatory threshold requirements, group policy requires an independent review of the valuation at least every three years, or more frequently as the need arises. In Hong Kong, market practice is typically for lending to major property companies to be either secured by guarantees or unsecured.

Commercial real estate loans and advances including loan commitments by level of collateral

(Audited)

	2024		2023	
	Gross carrying nominal amount	**ECL coverage**	Gross carrying/ nominal amount	ECL coverage
	HK$m	**%**	HK$m	%
Stage 1				
Not collateralised	**217,174**	**—**	217,922	—
Fully collateralised	**179,049**	**0.1**	206,940	0.1
Partially collateralised (A):	**8,929**	**0.2**	33,909	0.1
– collateral value on A	**4,916**		21,536	
Total	**405,152**	**0.1**	458,771	—
Stage 2				
Not collateralised	**21,564**	**12.6**	27,679	4.8
Fully collateralised	**56,135**	**1.7**	81,164	2.8
Partially collateralised (B):	**614**	**1.5**	7,487	1.4
– collateral value on B	**411**		5,558	
Total	**78,313**	**4.7**	116,330	3.2
Stage 3				
Not collateralised	**11,782**	**48.4**	17,904	77.7
Fully collateralised	**34,868**	**6.8**	10,034	8.7
Partially collateralised (C):	**4,428**	**17.8**	508	21.1
– collateral value on C	**3,138**		355	
Total	**51,078**	**17.4**	28,446	52.4
POCI				
Not collateralised	**—**	**—**	—	—
Fully collateralised	**—**	**—**	—	—
Partially collateralised (D):	**142**	**38.1**	117	—
– collateral value on D	**24**		65	
Total	**142**	**38.1**	117	—
At 31 Dec	**534,685**	**2.4**	603,664	3.1

Other corporate, commercial and non-bank financial institutions lending

(Unaudited)

Other corporate, commercial and non-bank financial institutions loans are analysed separately in the following table. For financing activities in other corporate and commercial lending, collateral value is not strongly correlated to principal repayment performance.

Collateral values are generally refreshed when an obligor's general credit performance deteriorates and we have to assess the likely performance of secondary sources of repayment should it prove necessary to rely on them.

Accordingly, the following table reports values only for customers with CRR 8–10, recognising that these loans and advances generally have valuations that are comparatively recent.

Other corporate, commercial and non-bank financial institutions loans and advances including loan commitments by level of collateral

(Audited)

	2024		2023	
	Gross carrying/ nominal amount	ECL coverage	Gross carrying/ nominal amount	ECL coverage
	HK$m	%	HK$m	%
Stage 1				
Not collateralised	2,412,898	—	2,260,409	0.1
Fully collateralised	297,063	0.1	348,895	0.1
Partially collateralised (A):	269,830	—	260,554	—
– collateral value on A	97,843		96,226	
Total	2,979,791	—	2,869,858	0.1
Stage 2				
Not collateralised	259,784	0.3	297,925	0.3
Fully collateralised	56,995	1.8	83,629	1.3
Partially collateralised (B):	24,671	0.4	39,338	0.4
– collateral value on B	9,563		15,892	
Total	341,450	0.5	420,892	0.5
Stage 3				
Not collateralised	16,304	54.8	12,895	65.1
Fully collateralised	15,481	6.5	7,736	8.8
Partially collateralised (C):	9,298	48.5	7,675	33.7
– collateral value on C	5,380		3,618	
Total	41,083	35.2	28,306	41.2
POCI				
Not collateralised	—	—	—	—
Fully collateralised	162	98.1	173	94.8
Partially collateralised (D):	—	—	—	—
– collateral value on D	—		—	
Total	162	98.1	173	94.8
At 31 Dec	3,362,486	0.5	3,319,229	0.5

Other credit risk exposures

(Unaudited)

In addition to collateralised lending described above, other credit enhancements are employed and methods used to mitigate credit risk arising from financial assets. These are summarised below:

– Some securities issued by governments, banks and other financial institutions benefit from additional credit enhancements provided by government guarantees that cover the assets.

– Debt securities issued by banks and financial institutions include asset-backed securities ('ABSs') and similar instruments, which are supported by underlying pools of financial assets. Credit risk associated with ABSs is reduced through the purchase of credit default swap ('CDS') protection.

– The group's maximum exposure to credit risk includes financial guarantees and similar contracts granted, as well as loan and other credit-related commitments. Depending on the terms of the arrangement, we may use additional credit mitigation if a guarantee is called upon or a loan commitment is drawn and subsequently defaults.

Derivatives

(Unaudited)

We participate in transactions exposing us to counterparty credit risk. Counterparty credit risk is the risk of financial loss if the counterparty to a transaction defaults before satisfactorily settling it. It arises principally from over-the-counter ('OTC') derivatives and securities financing transactions and is calculated in both the trading and non-trading books. Transactions vary in value by reference to market factors such as an interest rate, exchange rate or asset price.

The counterparty risk from derivatives transactions is taken into account when reporting the fair value of derivative positions. The adjustment to the fair value is known as the credit valuation adjustment ('CVA').

Treasury Risk

Overview

(Unaudited)

Treasury risk is the risk of having insufficient capital, liquidity or funding resources to meet financial obligations and satisfy regulatory requirements, including the risk of adverse impact on earnings or capital due to foreign exchange exposures, as well as changes in market interest rates, together with pension risk.

Treasury risk arises from changes to the respective resources and risk profiles driven by customer behaviour, management decisions or the external environment.

Approach and policy

Our objective in the management of treasury risk is to maintain appropriate levels of capital, liquidity, funding, foreign exchange and market risk to support our business strategy, and meet our regulatory and stress testing-related requirements.

Our approach to treasury management is driven by our strategic and organisational requirements, taking into account the regulatory, economic and commercial environment. We aim to maintain a strong capital and liquidity base to support the risks inherent in our business and invest in accordance with our strategy, meeting both group and local regulatory requirements at all times.

Our policy is underpinned by our risk management framework. The risk management framework incorporates a number of measures aligned to our assessment of risks for both internal and regulatory purposes. These risks include credit, market, operational, pensions, structural and transactional foreign exchange risk, and interest rate risk in the banking book.

Treasury risk management

Key developments in 2024

(Unaudited)

- Initiatives and readiness activities were undertaken to prepare for the implementation of the HKMA's Basel III Reform package in Hong Kong from 1 January 2025. Our Structural FX risk management strategy was revisited accordingly under the new regulatory regime.
- Continued to increase the stabilisation of our net interest income ('NII') as interest rate expectations fluctuated, driven by geo-political risks, central bank rate cut expectations and a reassessment of the trajectory of inflation in major economies.
- Continued to enhance the group's recovery and resolution capabilities, in line with the Group's preferred resolution strategy and regulatory expectations.
- Initiatives taken to strengthen our regulatory reporting process through enhancing consistency and improving controls. This multifaceted programme includes data enhancement, transformation of the reporting systems and uplift to the control environment over the report production process.

Governance and structure

(Unaudited)

The Board approves the policy and risk appetite for capital risk, liquidity and funding risk, and Interest Rate Risk in the Banking Book ('IRRBB'). It is supported and advised by the RC.

The Global Treasury sub-function manages capital, liquidity and funding risk and structural foreign exchange risk on an on-going basis and provides support to the Asset and Liability Management Committee ('ALCO'), and is overseen by the Treasury Risk Management sub-function ('TRM') and the RMM.

The Global Treasury sub-function also manages interest rate risk in the banking book, maintaining the transfer pricing framework and informing the regional and local ALCOs of the group and site's overall banking book interest rate exposure. Banking book interest rate positions may be transferred to be managed by the Global Treasury sub-function, within the market risk limits approved by the RMM.

Pension risk is managed through a network of local governance forums. The regional Pension Risk Management Meeting oversees all pension plans sponsored by HSBC in the group, and is chaired by the Regional Head of Traded and Treasury Risk Management.

The Treasury Risk Management sub-function carries out independent review, challenge and assurance of the appropriateness of the risk management activities undertaken by Global Treasury. Global Internal Audit provides independent assurance that risk is managed effectively.

Capital risk

Overview

(Audited)

Our approach to capital management is driven by our strategic and organisational requirements, taking into account the regulatory, economic and commercial environment in which we operate.

It is our objective to maintain a strong capital base to support the risks inherent in our business, to invest in accordance with our strategy and to meet regulatory capital requirements at all times. To achieve this, our policy is to hold capital in a range of different forms and all capital raising is agreed with major subsidiaries as part of their individual and the group's capital management processes.

Framework

(Audited)

Our capital management approach is underpinned by a Global Capital Risk Policy and supporting frameworks for Recovery and Resolution Planning and Stress Testing. The policy sets out our approach to determining key capital risk appetites for CET1, Tier1, Total capital, Loss Absorbing Capacity ('LAC') and the Leverage Ratio, which enables us to manage our capital in a consistent manner. Regulatory capital and economic capital are the two primary measures used for the management and control of capital.

Capital measures:

- regulatory capital is the capital which we are required to hold in accordance with the rules established by regulators; and
- economic capital is the internally calculated capital requirement to support risks to which we are exposed and forms a core part of the internal capital adequacy assessment process ('ICAAP').

Our ICAAP is an assessment of the group's capital position, outlining both regulatory and internal capital resources and requirements resulting from our business model, strategy, risk profile and management, performance and planning, risks to capital, and implications of stress testing. Our assessment of capital adequacy is driven by an assessment of risks. These risks include credit, market, operational, pensions, insurance, structural foreign exchange and interest rate risk in the banking book. Climate risk is also considered as part of the ICAAP, and we continue to develop our approach for climate risk management.

The group's ICAAP supports the determination of the capital risk appetite and target ratios, as well as enables the assessment and determination of capital requirements by regulators. Banking subsidiaries prepare ICAAPs in line with global guidance, while considering their local regulatory regimes to determine their own risk appetites and ratios.

Our capital management process is articulated in our annual capital plan which is approved by the Board. The plan is designed with the objective of maintaining both an appropriate amount of capital and an optimal mix between the different components of capital. Capital and Risk-Weighted Assets ('RWAs') are monitored and managed against the plan, with capital forecasts reported to relevant governance committees. Each subsidiary manages its own capital to support its planned business growth and meet its local regulatory requirements within the context of the approved annual group capital plan. In accordance with our capital management objectives, capital generated by subsidiaries in excess of planned requirements is returned to the Bank, normally by way of dividends.

The Bank is the primary provider of capital and LAC resources to its subsidiaries. These investments are substantially funded by the Bank's own capital, issuance and profit retention. As part of its capital management process, the Bank seeks to maintain a prudent balance between the composition of its capital and that of its investment in subsidiaries.

The principal forms of capital are included in the following balances on the consolidated balance sheet: share capital, other equity instruments, retained earnings, other reserves and subordinated liabilities.

Regulatory capital requirements

(Audited)

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority ('HKMA') supervises the group on both a consolidated and solo-consolidated basis and therefore receives information on the capital adequacy of, and sets capital requirements for, the group as a whole and on a solo-consolidated basis. Individual banking subsidiaries and branches are directly regulated by their local banking supervisors, who set and monitor their capital adequacy requirements. In most jurisdictions, non-banking financial subsidiaries are also subject to the supervision and capital requirements of local regulatory authorities.

In accordance with the Banking (Capital) Rules under Basel III effective as of 31 December 2024, the group used the advanced internal ratings-based approach to calculate its credit risk for the majority of its non-securitisation exposures. For collective investment scheme exposures, the group used the look-through approach and mandate-based approach to calculate the risk-weighted amount. For securitisation exposures, the group used the securitisation internal ratings-based approach, securitisation external ratings-based approach or securitisation standardised approach to determine credit risk for its banking book securitisation exposures. For counterparty credit risk, the group used both the standardised (counterparty credit risk) approach and the internal models (counterparty credit risk) approach to calculate its default risk exposures for derivatives, and the comprehensive approach for securities financing transactions. For market risk, the group used an internal models method approach ('IMM') to calculate its general market risk for the risk categories of interest rate and foreign exchange (including gold) exposures, and equity exposures. The group also used an IMM approach to calculate its market risk in respect of specific risk for interest rate exposures and equity exposures. The group used the standardised (market risk) approach for calculating other market risk positions, as well as trading book securitisation exposures, and the standardised (operational risk) approach to calculate its operational risk.

During the year, the group complied with all the capital requirements of HKMA on both a consolidated and solo-consolidated basis.

Basel III

(Unaudited)

The Banking (Capital) Rules under Basel III set out the minimum CET1 capital requirement of 4.5% and total capital requirement of 8%. At 31 December 2024, the capital buffers applicable to the group include the Capital Conservation Buffer ('CCB'), the Countercyclical Capital Buffer ('CCyB') and the Higher Loss Absorbency ('HLA') requirement for Domestic Systemically Important Banks ('D-SIB'). The CCB is 2.5% and is designed to ensure banks build up capital outside periods of stress. The CCyB is set on an individual country/territory basis and is built up during periods of excess credit growth to protect against future losses. The CCyB for Hong Kong and the list of D-SIB are regularly reviewed and last announced by the HKMA on 18 October 2024 and 31 December 2024 respectively. In its announcements on the referenced dates, the HKMA reduced the CCyB for Hong Kong from 1.0% to 0.5% and maintained the D-SIB designation as well as HLA requirement at 2.5% for the group.

The group is classified as a material subsidiary under the Financial Institutions (Resolution) (Loss-absorbing Capacity Requirements – Banking Sector) Rules ('LAC Rules') and therefore is subject to the LAC requirements to maintain its internal LAC risk-weighted ratio and the internal LAC leverage ratio at or above specified minimums.

Leverage ratio

(Unaudited)

Basel III introduces a simple non risk-based leverage ratio as a complementary measure to the risk-based capital requirements. It aims to constrain the build-up of excess leverage in the banking sector, introducing additional safeguards against model risk and measurement errors. The ratio is a volume-based measure calculated as Tier 1 capital divided by total exposures (both on-balance sheet and off-balance sheet).

	At	
	31 Dec 2024	31 Dec 2023
	%	%
Leverage ratio	**5.8**	5.8
Capital and leverage ratio exposure measure	**HK$m**	HK$m
Tier 1 capital	**581,944**	562,454
Total exposure measure	**10,038,018**	9,672,960

The leverage ratio as at 31 December 2024 is stable compared with the position as at 31 December 2023.

Further details regarding the group's leverage position can be viewed in the Banking Disclosure Statement at 31 December 2024, which will be available in the Regulatory Disclosure Section of our website: www.hsbc.com.hk.

Capital adequacy at 31 December 2024

(Unaudited)

The following tables show the capital ratios, RWAs and capital base as contained in the 'Capital Adequacy Ratio' return submitted to the HKMA on a consolidated basis under the requirements of section 3C(1) of the Banking (Capital) Rules.

The basis of consolidation for financial accounting purposes is described in Note 1 on the consolidated financial statements and differs from that used for regulatory purposes. Further information on the regulatory consolidation basis and a full reconciliation between the group's accounting and regulatory balance sheets can be viewed in the Banking Disclosure Statement 2024. Subsidiaries not included in the group's consolidation for regulatory purposes are primarily securities and insurance companies. The capital invested by the group in these companies is deducted from regulatory capital, subject to threshold.

The Bank and its banking subsidiaries maintain regulatory reserves to satisfy the provisions of the Banking Ordinance and local regulatory requirements for prudential supervision purposes.

At 31 December 2024, the effect of this regulatory reserve requirement is to reduce the amount of reserves which can be distributed to shareholders by HK$15,736m (31 December 2023: HK$19,045m).

Basel III Reforms

(Unaudited)

We closely monitor and consider future regulatory change and continue to evaluate the impact upon our capital requirements of regulatory developments. The Basel III Reforms package was implemented in Hong Kong on 1 January 2025, covering credit risk, operational risk, market risk, credit valuation adjustment and the output floor. The approaches outlined in the above Regulatory capital requirements and Basel III sub-sections will be updated to align with the new standards. A Programme was established to facilitate implementation, and existing risk management frameworks are used to ensure our compliance with these new regulatory requirements.

The standardized Risk-Weighted Asset ('RWA') output floor under the Basel III Reforms will be phased in over five years from initial implementation. Any impact from the output floor would be towards the end of the phase in period.

Capital ratios

(Unaudited)

	At	
	31 Dec 2024	31 Dec 2023
	%	%
Common Equity Tier 1 ('CET1') capital ratio	**16.3**	15.8
Tier 1 capital ratio	**18.4**	17.5
Total capital ratio	**20.3**	19.7

Risk-weighted assets by risk type

(Unaudited)

	At	
	31 Dec 2024	31 Dec 2023
	HK$m	HK$m
Credit risk	**2,426,160**	2,536,239
Counterparty credit risk	**147,479**	136,866
Market risk	**149,946**	158,707
Operational risk	**443,567**	380,575
Sovereign concentration risk	**—**	—
Total	**3,167,152**	3,212,387

Capital base

(Unaudited)

The following table sets out the composition of the group's capital base under Basel III at 31 December 2024.

Capital base

(Unaudited)

	At	
	31 Dec 2024	31 Dec 2023
	HK$m	HK$m
Common Equity Tier 1 ('CET1') capital		
Shareholders' equity	**733,239**	733,940
– shareholders' equity per balance sheet	**819,049**	812,726
– revaluation reserve capitalisation issue	**(1,454)**	(1,454)
– other equity instruments	**(64,677)**	(52,465)
– unconsolidated subsidiaries	**(19,679)**	(24,867)
Non-controlling interests	**32,708**	28,330
– non-controlling interests per balance sheet	**58,959**	59,860
– non-controlling interests in unconsolidated subsidiaries	**(2,584)**	(2,437)
– surplus non-controlling interests disallowed in CET1	**(23,667)**	(29,093)
Regulatory deductions to CET1 capital	**(249,826)**	(253,666)
– valuation adjustments	**(3,069)**	(2,291)
– goodwill and intangible assets	**(35,050)**	(33,949)
– deferred tax assets net of deferred tax liabilities	**(2,249)**	(3,754)
– cash flow hedging reserve	**(815)**	(2,018)
– changes in own credit risk on fair valued liabilities	**4,709**	2,264
– defined benefit pension fund assets	**(315)**	(50)
– significant Loss-absorbing Capacity ('LAC') investments in unconsolidated financial sector entities	**(134,235)**	(127,173)
– property revaluation reserves[1]	**(63,066)**	(67,650)
– regulatory reserve	**(15,736)**	(19,045)
Total CET1 capital	**516,121**	508,604
Additional Tier 1 ('AT1') capital		
Total AT1 capital before regulatory deductions	**65,841**	53,850
– perpetual subordinated loans	**64,677**	52,465
– allowable non-controlling interests in AT1 capital	**1,164**	1,385
Regulatory deductions to AT1 capital	**(18)**	—
– significant LAC investments in unconsolidated financial sector entities	**(18)**	—
Total AT1 capital	**65,823**	53,850
Total Tier 1 capital	**581,944**	562,454
Tier 2 capital		
Total Tier 2 capital before regulatory deductions	**64,590**	72,391
– term subordinated debt	**29,825**	26,060
– property revaluation reserves[1]	**29,034**	31,097
– impairment allowances and regulatory reserve eligible for inclusion in Tier 2 capital	**4,330**	14,260
– allowable non-controlling interests in Tier 2 capital	**1,401**	974
Regulatory deductions to Tier 2 capital	**(3,079)**	(3,144)
– significant LAC investments in unconsolidated financial sector entities	**(3,079)**	(3,144)
Total Tier 2 capital	**61,511**	69,247
Total capital	**643,455**	631,701

1 Includes the revaluation surplus on investment properties which is reported as part of retained earnings and adjustments made in accordance with the Banking (Capital) Rules issued by the HKMA.

A detailed breakdown of the group's CET1 capital, AT1 capital, Tier 2 capital and regulatory deductions can be viewed in the Banking Disclosure Statement 2024.

Non-trading book foreign exchange exposures

Structural foreign exchange exposures

(Unaudited)

Structural foreign exchange exposures arise from the capital invested or net assets in a foreign operation. A foreign operation is an entity that is a subsidiary, associate, joint arrangement or branch of a reporting entity, the activities of which are based or conducted in a country or currency other than those of the reporting entity. An entity's functional reporting currency is normally that of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates.

Exchange differences on structural exposures are recognised in other comprehensive income ('OCI'). We use Hong Kong dollar as our presentation currency in our consolidated financial statements. Therefore, our consolidated balance sheet is affected by exchange differences between Hong Kong dollar and all the non-Hong Kong dollar functional currencies of underlying foreign operations.

Our structural foreign exchange exposures are managed with the primary objective of ensuring, where practical, that our consolidated capital ratios and the capital ratios of individual banking subsidiaries and foreign branches subject to minimum regulatory capital requirements are largely protected from the effect of changes in exchange rates.

We hedge structural foreign exchange positions where it is capital efficient to do so, and subject to approved limits. Hedging positions are monitored and rebalanced periodically to manage RWA or downside risks associated with the group's foreign currency investments.

The group had the following net structural foreign currency exposures that were not less than 10% of the total net structural foreign currency exposures:

	Local Currency (m)	Equivalent (HK$m)
At 31 Dec 2024		
Renminbi	**243,434**	**259,002**
US dollars	**11,356**	**88,192**
At 31 Dec 2023		
Renminbi	232,642	255,961
US dollars	11,176	87,314

Transactional foreign exchange exposures

(Unaudited)

Transactional foreign exchange exposures arise from transactions in the banking book generating profit and loss or OCI reserves in a currency other than the reporting currency of the operating entity. Transactional foreign exchange exposure generated through profit and loss is periodically transferred to Markets and Securities Services and managed within limits with the exception of limited residual foreign exchange exposure arising from timing differences or for other reasons. Transactional foreign exchange exposure generated through OCI reserves is managed by the Global Treasury sub-function within an agreed limit framework.

Liquidity and funding risk

Overview

(Audited)

Liquidity Risk is the risk that an entity does not have sufficient resources to meet its financial obligations when they fall due, or can only secure them at excessive cost. This may cause potential breaches in regulatory or internal metrics such as the Liquidity Coverage Ratio ('LCR') or the Internal Liquidity Metrics ('ILM'). Funding Risk is the risk that an entity does not have sufficiently stable and diverse sources of funding or the funding structure is inefficient. This may cause potential breaches in regulatory or internal metrics such as the Net Stable Funding Ratio ('NSFR').

The group has comprehensive policies, metrics and controls to manage liquidity and funding risk. The group manages liquidity and funding risk at an operating entity level to make sure that obligations can be met in the jurisdiction where they fall due, generally without reliance on other parts of the group.

Operating entities are required to meet internal and applicable regulatory requirements at all times. These requirements are assessed through the ILAAP, which ensures that operating entities have robust strategies, processes and systems for the identification, measurement, management and monitoring of liquidity and funding risk over appropriate set of time horizons, including intra-day. The ILAAP supports determination of liquidity and funding risk appetite and assesses capability to manage liquidity and funding effectively in each major entity. Liquidity and funding risk metrics are set and managed locally but are subject to global review and challenge to ensure consistency of approach and application of the Group's policies and controls.

Framework

(Unaudited)

The Global Treasury sub-function is responsible for the application of policies and controls at a local operating entity level. The elements of liquidity and funding risk management framework are underpinned by a robust governance framework, with the two major elements being:

- Asset and Liability Management Committees ('ALCOs') at the group and entity level; and
- annual ILAAP support determination of risk appetite.

All operating entities are required to prepare an ILAAP document at appropriate frequency. Compliance with liquidity and funding requirements is monitored and reported to ALCO, RMM and Executive Committee on a regular basis.

Liquidity and Funding Risk management processes include:

- maintaining compliance with relevant regulatory requirements of the operating entity;
- projecting cash flows under various stress scenarios and considering the level of liquid assets necessary in relation thereto;
- monitoring liquidity and funding ratios against internal and regulatory requirements;
- maintaining a diverse range of funding sources with adequate back-up facilities;
- managing the concentration and profile of term funding;
- managing contingent liquidity commitment exposures within pre-determined limits;
- maintaining debt financing plans;
- monitoring of depositor concentration in order to avoid undue reliance on large individual depositors and ensuring a satisfactory overall funding mix; and
- maintaining liquidity and funding contingency plans. These plans identify early indicators of stress conditions and describe actions to be taken during stress, while minimising adverse long-term implications for the business.

Management of liquidity and funding risk

(Audited)

Funding and liquidity plans form part of the financial resource plan that is approved by the Board. The Board-level risk appetite measures are the LCR, ILM and NSFR. An appropriate funding and liquidity profile is managed through a wider set of measures:

- a minimum LCR requirement;
- a minimum NSFR requirement or other appropriate metric;
- an ILM requirement;
- a minimum liquidity requirement in material currencies;
- a legal entity depositor concentration limit;
- cumulative term funding maturity concentrations limit;

- intra-day liquidity;
- the application of liquidity funds transfer pricing; and
- forward-looking funding assessments.

Sources of funding

(Unaudited)

Our primary sources of funding are customer current accounts, customer savings deposits payable on demand or at short notice and term deposits. We issue wholesale securities (secured and unsecured) to supplement our customer deposits and change the currency mix, maturity profile or location of our liabilities.

Currency mismatch

(Unaudited)

Group policy requires all operating entities to manage currency mismatch risks for material currencies. Limits are set to ensure that outflows can be met, given assumptions on stressed capacity in the FX swap markets.

Additional collateral obligations

(Unaudited)

Under the terms of our current collateral obligations of derivative contracts (which are International Swaps and Derivatives Association ('ISDA') compliant credit support annex ('CSA') contracts), the additional collateral required to post in the event of one-notch and two-notch downgrade in credit ratings is immaterial.

Liquidity and funding risk in 2024

(Unaudited)

The group is required to calculate its LCR and NSFR on a consolidated basis in accordance with rule 11(1) of The Banking (Liquidity) Rules ('BLR'), and is required to maintain both LCR and NSFR of not less than 100%.

The average LCR of the group for the period are as follows:

	Quarter ended	
	31 Dec 2024	31 Dec 2023
	%	%
Average LCR	**162.2**	168.9

The 3-month average LCR decreased by 6.7 percentage points from 168.9% for the quarter ended 31 December 2023 to 162.2% for the quarter ended 31 December 2024. During this period the LCR liquidity surplus, i.e. weighted amount of HQLAs held above net cash outflows remained stable. The reduction in ratio resulted from smaller proportionate increase of weighted HQLAs as compared to net cash outflows, from the deployment of higher customer deposit balances.

The majority of high quality liquid assets ('HQLA') included in the LCR are Level 1 assets as defined in the BLR, which consist mainly of government debt securities.

The total weighted amount of HQLA of the group for the period are as follows:

	Weighted amount (average value) at quarter ended	
	31 Dec 2024	31 Dec 2023
	HK$m	HK$m
Level 1 assets	**1,878,908**	1,789,314
Level 2A assets	**108,641**	87,633
Level 2B assets	**76,689**	61,953
Total	**2,064,238**	1,938,900

The NSFR of the group for the period are as follows:

	Quarter ended	
	31 Dec 2024	31 Dec 2023
	%	%
Net stable funding ratio	**152.2**	156.0

The NSFR decreased by 3.8 percentage points from 156.0% for the quarter ended 31 December 2023 to 152.2% for the quarter ended 31 December 2024.

Interdependent assets and liabilities included in the group's NSFR are certificates of indebtedness held and legal tender notes issued.

Interest Rate Risk in the Banking Book

(Unaudited)

Assessment and risk appetite

Interest rate risk in the banking book is the risk of an adverse impact to earnings or capital due to changes in market interest rates. It is generated by our non-traded assets and liabilities, specifically loans, deposits and financial instruments that are not held for trading intent or in order to hedge positions held with trading intent. Interest rate risk that can be economically hedged is transferred to the Global Treasury sub-function. Hedging is generally executed through interest rate derivatives or fixed-rate government bonds. Any interest rate risk that Global Treasury sub-function cannot economically hedge is not transferred and remains within the global business where the risk originates.

The Global Treasury sub-function uses a number of measures to monitor and control interest rate risk in the banking book, including:

- net interest income ('NII') sensitivity;
- economic value of equity sensitivity;
- hold-to-collect-and-sell value at risk ('VAR'); and
- hold-to-collect-and-sell present value of a basis point ('PV1B').

Net interest income sensitivity

A principal part of our management of non-traded interest rate risk is to monitor the sensitivity of expected NII under varying interest rate scenarios (i.e. simulation modelling), where all other economic variables are held constant. This monitoring is undertaken at an entity level, where a range of interest rate scenarios are monitored on a one-year basis.

NII sensitivity figures represent the effect of pro forma movements in projected yield curves based on a static balance sheet size and structure. The exception to this is where the size of the balances or repricing is deemed interest rate sensitive, for example, early prepayment of mortgages. These sensitivity calculations do not incorporate actions that would be taken by Global Treasury sub-function or in the business that originates the risk to mitigate the effect of interest rate movements.

The NII sensitivity calculations assume that interest rates of all maturities move by the same amount in the 'up-shock' scenario. The sensitivity calculations in the 'down-shock' scenarios reflect no floors to the shocked market rates. However, customer product-specific interest rate floors are recognised where applicable.

Economic value of equity sensitivity

Economic value of equity ('EVE') measures the present value of our banking book assets and liabilities excluding equity, based on a run-off balance sheet. Economic value of equity sensitivity measures the impact to EVE from a movement in interest rates, including the assumed term profile of non-maturing deposits having adjusted for stability and price sensitivity. It is measured and reported as part of our internal risk metrics, regulatory rules (including the Supervisory Outlier Test) and external Pillar 3 disclosures. Operating entities are required to monitor EVE sensitivities as a percentage of capital resources.

Further details of HSBC's risk management of interest rate risk in the banking book can be found in the Pillar 3 Disclosures at 31 December 2024.

Market Risk

Overview

(Unaudited)

Market risk is the risk of an adverse financial impact on trading activities arising from changes in market parameters such as interest rates, foreign exchange rates, asset prices, volatilities, correlations and credit spreads.

Market risk management

Key developments in 2024

(Unaudited)

There were no material changes to our policies and practices for the management of market risk in 2024.

Governance and structure

(Unaudited)

The following diagram summarises the main business areas where trading market risks reside and the market risk measures used to monitor and limit exposures.

Risk types	**Trading risk** – Foreign exchange and commodities – Interest rates – Credit spreads – Equities
Global business	GB & MSS
Risk measure	Value at risk | Sensitivity | Stress testing

The objective of our risk management policies and measurement techniques is to manage and control market risk exposures to optimise return on risk while maintaining a market profile consistent with our established risk appetite.

Market risk is managed and controlled through limits approved by the group's Board of Directors. These limits are allocated across business lines and to the group's legal entities. The group has an independent market risk management and control sub-function, which is responsible for measuring, monitoring and reporting market risk exposures against limits on a daily basis. Each operating entity is required to assess the market risks arising in its business and to transfer them either to its local Markets and Securities Services or Market Treasury unit for management, or to separate books managed under the supervision of the local ALCO. The Traded Risk sub-function enforces the controls around trading in permissible instruments approved for each site as well as changes that follow completion of the new product approval process. Trading Risk also restricts trading in the more complex derivatives products to offices with appropriate levels of product expertise and control systems.

Key risk management processes

Monitoring and limiting market risk exposures

(Audited)

Our objective is to manage and control market risk exposures while maintaining a market profile consistent with our risk appetite.

We use a range of tools to monitor and limit market risk exposures including sensitivity analysis, value at risk ('VaR') and stress testing.

Sensitivity analysis

(Unaudited)

Sensitivity analysis measures the impact of movements in individual market factor on specific instruments or portfolios, including interest rates, foreign exchange rates and equity prices. We use sensitivity measures to monitor the market risk positions within each risk type. Granular sensitivity limits are set for trading desks with consideration of market liquidity, customer demand and capital constraints, among other factors.

Value at risk

(Audited)

VaR is a technique for estimating potential losses on risk positions as a result of movements in market rates and prices over a specified time horizon and to a given level of confidence. The use of VaR is integrated into market risk management and calculated for all trading positions regardless of how we capitalise them. Where we do not calculate VaR explicitly, we use alternative tools as summarised in the 'Stress testing' section below.

Our models are predominantly based on historical simulation that incorporates the following features:

– historical market rates and prices, which are calculated with reference to foreign exchange rates, commodity prices, interest rates, equity prices and the associated volatilities;

– potential market movements that are calculated with reference to data from the past two years; and

– calculations to a 99% confidence level and using a one-day holding period.

The models also incorporate the effect of option features on the underlying exposures. The nature of the VaR models means that an increase in observed market volatility will lead to an increase in VaR without any changes in the underlying positions.

VaR model limitations

(Audited)

Although a valuable guide to risk, VaR is used with awareness of its limitations. For example:

– the use of historical data as a proxy for estimating future market moves may not encompass all potential market events, particularly those that are extreme in nature. As the model is calibrated on the last 500 business days, it does not adjust instantaneously to a change in the market regime.

– the use of a one-day holding period for risk management purposes of trading books assumes that this short period is sufficient to hedge or liquidate all positions.

– the use of a 99% confidence level by definition does not take into account losses that might occur beyond this level of confidence.

– VaR is calculated on the basis of exposures outstanding at the close of business and therefore does not reflect intra-day exposures.

Risk not in VaR framework

(Unaudited)

The risks not in VaR ('RNIV') framework captures and capitalises material market risks that are not adequately covered in the VaR model.

Risk factors are reviewed on a regular basis and are either incorporated directly in the VaR models, where possible, or quantified through either the VaR-based RNIV approach or a stress test approach within the RNIV framework. While VaR-based RNIVs are calculated by using historical scenarios, stress-type RNIVs are estimated on the basis of stress scenarios whose severity is calibrated to be in line with the capital adequacy requirements. The outcome of the VaR-based RNIV approach is included in the overall VaR calculation but excluded from the VaR measure used for regulatory back-testing. Stress-type RNIVs include a deal contingent derivatives capital charge to capture risk for these transactions.

Stress testing

(Unaudited)

Stress testing is an important procedure that is integrated into our market risk management framework to evaluate the potential impact on portfolio values of more extreme, although plausible, events or movements in a set of financial variables. In such scenarios, losses can be much greater than those predicted by VaR modelling. Stress testing and reverse stress testing provide senior management with insights regarding the 'tail risk' beyond VaR.

Stress testing is implemented at legal entity, group and overall Group levels. A set of scenarios is used consistently across all regions within the Group. The market risk stress testing incorporates both historical and hypothetical events. Market risk reverse stress tests are designed to identify vulnerabilities in our portfolios by looking for scenarios that lead to loss levels considered severe for the relevant portfolio. These scenarios may be local or idiosyncratic in nature and complement the systematic top-down stress testing.

The risk appetite around potential stress losses for the group is set and monitored against limits.

Trading portfolios

(Audited)

Trading portfolios comprise positions held for client servicing and market-making, with the intention of short-term resale and/or to hedge risks resulting from such positions.

Back-testing

(Audited)

We routinely validate the accuracy of our VaR models by back-testing the VaR metric against both actual and hypothetical profit and loss. Hypothetical profit and loss excludes non-modelled items such as fees, commissions and revenue of intra-day transactions. The hypothetical profit and loss reflects the profit and loss that would be realised if positions were held constant from the end of one trading day to the end of the next.

The number of hypothetical loss back-testing exceptions, together with a number of other indicators, are used to assess model performance and to consider whether enhanced internal monitoring of a VaR model is required. We back-test our VaR at set levels of our group entity hierarchy.

Market risk in 2024

(Unaudited)

It was a busy year on the political agenda, with the November US election being the main event. Geopolitics remained prominent amid ongoing tensions of political instability and military conflict in some regions.

Central banks began their easing cycles in 2024, with the US Federal Reserve cutting its policy rate by 1% since September. In contrast, the Bank of Japan raised its overnight rate, marking the end of a prolonged period of negative interest rates and abandoning yield curve control in March.

Throughout the year, government bond yields generally trended upward, except during the third quarter, largely driven by volatile inflation figures and shifting central bank expectations. In China, the yields of Chinese government bonds slipping to decade lows driven by expectations of aggressive policy easing and demand for haven assets. Global equities reached multiple record highs in the US and Europe, buoyed by strong corporate earnings and positive sentiment in the technology sector.

Global markets rebounded from a short period of volatility in August, triggered by the unwinding of carry trades due to rising Japanese government bond yields, US recession concerns, and equity market valuations. In foreign exchange markets, the trend of a strengthening US dollar continued against most developed and emerging market currencies. The Euro approached parity with the US dollar, while the Yen weakened to multi-decade lows. Credit markets performed positively throughout the year, with a more pronounced tightening of high-yield credit spreads compared to investment-grade spreads, despite a broad widening of spreads in August.

We continued to manage market risk prudently during 2024. Sensitivity exposures and VaR remained within appetite as the business pursued its core market-making activity in support of our customers. Market risk was managed using a complementary set of risk measures and limits, including stress testing and scenario analysis.

Trading portfolios

(Audited)

Value at risk of the trading portfolios

Trading VaR was predominantly generated by the Markets and Securities Services business. Trading VaR was lower as at 31 December 2024 compared to 31 December 2023, mainly driven by decrease in VaR exposed to interest rate risk and equity risk, and by increase in portfolio diversification across different asset class VaRs, partially offset by increase in VaR from foreign exchange risk, and credit spread risk.

The trading VaR for the year is shown in the table below.

Trading value at risk, 99% 1 day[1]

(Audited)

	Foreign exchange and commodity HK$m	Interest rate HK$m	Equity HK$m	Credit spread HK$m	Portfolio diversification[2] HK$m	Total[3] HK$m
At 31 Dec 2024						
Year end	**103**	**185**	**49**	**24**	**(201)**	**160**
Average	**70**	**241**	**55**	**21**		**241**
Maximum	**136**	**440**	**88**	**45**		**425**
At 31 Dec 2023						
Year end	70	206	70	15	(114)	247
Average	67	223	110	24		266
Maximum	118	311	201	36		444

1 Trading portfolios comprise positions arising from the market-making and warehousing of customer-derived positions.
2 Portfolio diversification is the market risk dispersion effect of holding a portfolio containing different risk types. It represents the reduction in unsystematic market risk that occurs when combining a number of different risk types, for example, interest rate, equity and foreign exchange, together in one portfolio. It is measured as the difference between the sum of the VaR by individual risk type and the combined total VaR. A negative number represents the benefit of portfolio diversification. As the maximum and minimum occur on different days for different risk types, it is not meaningful to calculate a portfolio diversification benefit for these measures.
3 The total VaR is non-additive across risk types due to diversification effects.

Climate risk TCFD

(Unaudited)

Overview

The Group's climate risk approach identifies two primary drivers of climate risk:

– physical risk, which arises from the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events, such as typhoons and floods, or chronic gradual shifts in weather patterns or rises in sea level; and

– transition risk, which arises from the process of moving to a net zero economy, including changes in government policy and legislation, technology, market demand, and reputational implications triggered by a change in stakeholder expectations, actions or inaction.

In addition, the Group has also identified the following thematic issues related to climate risk, which are most likely to materialise in the form of reputational, regulatory compliance and litigation risks:

– net zero alignment risk, which arises from the risk of HSBC failing to meet its net zero ambition or failing to meet external expectations related to net zero; and

– the risk of greenwashing, which arises from the act of knowingly or unknowingly making inaccurate, unclear, misleading or unsubstantiated claims regarding sustainability to the group's stakeholders.

Approach

The group recognises that the physical impacts of climate change and the transition to net zero economy can create significant financial risks for companies, investors and the financial system. The group may be affected by climate risks either directly or indirectly through its relationships with customers, which could result in both financial and non-financial impacts.

The Group's climate risk approach aims to effectively manage the material climate risks that could impact the Group's operations, financial performance and stability, and reputation. The approach is informed by the evolving expectations of the Group's regulators.

Climate considerations and the thematic issues of net zero alignment risk and the risk of greenwashing are incorporated within the group's traditional risk types in line with the Group-wide risk management framework.

The group continues to develop its climate risk capabilities across its businesses, by prioritising sectors, portfolios and counterparties with the highest impacts, and recognises that this is a long-term iterative process.

This includes increasing coverage and incorporating mature data, climate analytics, frameworks and tools, as well as responding to emerging industry best practice and climate risk regulations as well as reflecting on how climate risk continues to evolve in the real world, and improving how the Group embeds climate risk factors into strategic planning, transactions and decision-making across its businesses. For example, the Group's merger and acquisition process considers potential climate and sustainability-related targets, net zero transition plans and climate strategy and how this relates to HSBC.

The Group's climate risk approach is aligned to the Group-wide risk management framework and three lines of defence model, which sets out how the group identifies, assesses and manages its risks. For further details of the three lines of defence framework, see page 21.

The group's annual climate risk materiality assessment helps it to understand how climate risk may impact HSBC's risk taxonomy. The assessment considers short-term (up to 2026), medium-term (2027-2035) and long-term (2036-2050) periods.

In addition to this assessment, the group also considers climate risk in its emerging risk reporting and scenario analysis (for further details, see 'Top and emerging risks' on pages 22 to 23).

The table below provides an overview of the climate risk drivers considered within HSBC's climate risk approach.

Climate risk – primary risk drivers		Details	Potential Impacts	Time horizons
Physical	**Acute**	Increased frequency and severity of weather events causing disruption to business operations.	– Decreased real estate values or stranded assets – Decreased household income and wealth – Increased costs of legal and compliance – Increased public scrutiny – Decreased profitability – Lower asset performance	Short term Medium term Long term
	Chronic	Longer-term shifts in climate patterns (e.g. sustained higher temperatures, sea level rise, shifting monsoons or chronic heat waves).		
Transition	**Policy and legal**	Mandates on, and regulation of products and services and/or policy support for low carbon alternatives. Litigation from parties who have suffered loss and damage from climate impacts.		
	Technology	Replacement of existing products with lower emissions options.		
	End-demand (market)	Changing consumer demand from individuals and corporates.		
	Reputational	Increased scrutiny following a change in stakeholder perceptions of climate-related action or inaction.		

The table below provides a summary of how climate risk may impact a subset of HSBC's principal risks.

Climate risk drivers	Credit risk	Traded risk	Reputational risk[1]	Regulatory compliance risk[1]	Resilience risk	Other financial and non-financial risk types
Physical risk	◆	◆			◆	◆
Transition risk	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆

1 The Group's climate risk approach identifies thematic issues such as net zero alignment risk and the risk of greenwashing, which are most likely to materialise in the form of reputational, regulatory compliance and litigation risks.

Climate risk management

Key developments in 2024

The group's climate risk programme continues to support the development of its climate risk management capabilities. The following outlines key developments in 2024:

- The group has started to enhance its approach to assessing the impact of climate change on capital, focusing on credit, market and operational risk.
- The group expanded its climate-related metrics to assess the impact of physical risk on the group's retail mortgage portfolio in India and Malaysia, in addition to Australia, Hong Kong, mainland China and Singapore.
- The group rolled-out the transition engagement questionnaire to its key wholesale customers and enhanced climate risk considerations in its credit risk assessments.
- The group completed the HKMA long-term climate risk scenario analysis. For further details of scenario analysis, see pages 13 to 14.
- The group has started to embed the Group's enhanced approach for managing and mitigating the risk of greenwashing.
- The group provided climate-related training for Board and senior management, and supported staff upskilling through climate risk related professional certifications as well as internal training.

While the group has made progress, further work remains, including the need to develop additional metrics and tools to measure the group's exposure to climate-related risks.

Governance and structure

The Board takes overall supervisory responsibility for the group's climate strategy, overseeing executive management in developing the approach, execution and associated reporting.

The group Chief Risk Officer is responsible for the management of climate risk, which involves holding overall accountability for the group's climate risk programme.

The group Environmental Risk Oversight Forum provides oversight of environmental risk.

The group Risk Management Meeting and the group Risk Committee receive regular updates on the group's climate risk profile and the progress of its climate risk programme.

Risk appetite

The group's climate risk appetite forms part of the group's risk appetite statement and supports the business in delivering the group's climate strategy effectively and sustainably.

The group's climate risk appetite statement is approved and overseen by the group Board. Climate risk indicators are reported for oversight by the group Risk Management Meeting and the group Risk Committee.

Policies, processes and controls

The Group continues to integrate climate risk into policies, processes and controls across many areas of the organisation, and it will continue to update these as its climate risk management capabilities mature over time.

For further details of how the group manages climate risk across its global businesses, see page 13.

Embedding the Group's climate risk approach

The table below provides further details of how the group has embedded the management of climate risk across key risk types.

Risk type	Details
Wholesale Credit Risk	The group has metrics in place to monitor the exposure of its wholesale corporate lending portfolio to six high transition risk sectors which are: automotive; chemicals; construction, contacting and building materials; metals and mining; oil and gas; and power and utilities. The group's relationship managers engage with their key wholesale customers through a transition engagement questionnaire ('TEQ'). In 2024, the TEQ was expanded to cover all geographies. The TEQ helps to gather information and assess the alignment of the wholesale customers' business models to net zero and their exposure to physical and transition risks. The group uses the responses to the questionnaire to risk-assess its key wholesale customers. The Group's credit policies require that relationship managers comment on climate risk factors in credit applications for new money requests and annual credit reviews. The credit policies also require manual credit risk rating overrides if climate is deemed to have a material impact on credit risk under 12 months if not already captured under the original credit risk rating. Key developments to the group's framework in 2024 included expansion of the TEQ, as set out above, and additionally the development of climate risk guidelines for relationship managers to further embed climate risk considerations into credit risk assessments. Key challenges for further embedding climate risk into credit risk management relate to the availability of adequate physical risk data to assess impacts on the group's wholesale customers.
Retail Credit Risk	Climate risk may impact retail credit risk through an increase in credit losses on its global retail mortgage portfolio, primarily due to the impact of physical risk. The Group's current climate assessment, in line with last year's assessment, indicates that its retail mortgage portfolio remains resilient to climate risk, with impact severity muted at a portfolio level given that its book has diversified property locations, with insurance coverage being a key loan covenant. The Group's retail credit risk mortgage policy requires that every mortgage market conducts an annual review of their climate risk management procedures, to ensure they remain fit for purpose. Within the group's mortgage portfolios, properties or areas with potential heightened physical risk are identified and assessed locally with exposure monitored using risk indicators. A reduction in property value, higher insurance costs and insurance availability are potential future negative financial impacts for higher risk properties. The group has set risk appetite metrics in six key markets in the region namely Australia, Hong Kong, India, mainland China, Malaysia and Singapore, further enhancing its ability to manage the financial risks from climate change in line with its risk appetite. Additionally, the group has released the guidance for physical risk assessment at mortgage origination with implementation planned for 2025.

Risk type	Details
Treasury Risk	Climate risk may impact Treasury Risk through increased regulatory requirements and from changes to customer behaviours, which may result in increased deposit outflows. From a capital risk perspective, climate risk has been considered as part of the internal capital adequacy assessment ('ICAAP') in 2024. Treasury portfolios were included within scope of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority's Climate Risk Stress Test ('CRST'), the impacts of which were considered as part of the ICAAP. Internal Liquidity Adequacy Assessment Process ('ILAAP') included assessment of how climate risk may impact the key liquidity risk drivers and identify potential impact of climate risk exposures. In October 2024, the Group published its Green Financing Framework, in alignment with the International Capital Market Association Green Bond Principles. This framework promotes transparency, forming part of the Group's sustainability strategy and helping to further the Group's aim of supporting its clients in transitioning to a net zero future. **Pension Risk** Climate risk could result in additional costs within the Group's defined benefit pension plans, due to changes in the pension plans' investment performance or through having to meet evolving regulatory requirements. The Group's global policies on the oversight of pension investments explicitly reflect climate considerations. Training has been provided to local management on how to consider ESG risk in pension investments. The Group also conducts an annual exercise to estimate the exposure of its largest pension plans to climate risk.
Traded Risk	Climate risk may result in trading losses due to increases in market volatility and widening spreads from the macro and microeconomic impacts of transition and physical risk. The Group has implemented climate risk limits in global and regional trading mandates to monitor exposure to climate-sensitive sectors and countries across different asset classes in the Markets and Securities Services (‘MSS’) business. The Group’s market risk policies include specific climate risk control requirements, which ensure that the Group’s climate risk limits and utilisations are monitored in the same way as market and traded credit risk exposures. The Group conducts monthly stress testing to understand the vulnerabilities of its trading portfolio to various climate scenarios, which are refined on annual basis, with the results reported to global and regional senior management.
Reputational Risk	The group manages the reputational impact of climate risk through its broader reputational risk framework, supported by its sustainability risk policies and metrics. The Group's sustainability risk policies set out its appetite for financing activities in certain sectors. The Group's thermal coal phase-out and energy policies aim to drive down greenhouse gas emissions while supporting a just transition. The group's regional network of sustainability risk managers provides policy guidance to relationship managers for the oversight of policy compliance and in support of implementation across the group's wholesale banking activities.
Regulatory compliance risk	Regulatory Compliance is responsible for the oversight and management of climate-related risks that could cause breaches of its regulatory duties to customers and inappropriate market conduct. The Group has updated its policies to incorporate considerations for ESG and climate risks, particularly in relation to new and ongoing product management, sales outcomes, and product marketing. To support its key policies, the Group also enhanced the underlying control frameworks and processes. This includes the integration of greenwashing risk and controls considerations in the design of new products and changes to them, as well as in relation to marketing materials. From a product sales perspective, the Group has established key control principles, encompassing the sales journey design, training and competence, supervision, sales quality, and governance. The Group Regulatory Compliance function operates an ESG and climate risk working group tasked with tracking and monitoring the integration of ESG and climate risk stewardship across its operations. This group also monitors regulatory and legislative developments related to the ESG and climate agenda. In Asia-Pacific, a dedicated working group continues to coordinate the regional implementation of climate and ESG risk-related enhancements within the Regulatory Compliance function.
Resilience Risk	Resilience risks may potentially crystallise through physical climate risk impacts to the group's buildings supporting service provision, or through physical and/or transition disruption to the group's third-party supply chain relationships. The Group has developed metrics to assess how physical risk may impact its critical properties and to monitor progress against its own operations' net zero ambitions. The Group's resilience risk policies are subject to continuous improvement to remain relevant to evolving climate risks.
Model Risk	Model risk in the ESG context refers to the uncertainties and complexities inherent in the modelling of the financial impact translation of climate-related changes and scenarios. Climate risk models are used for climate scenario analysis, risk management, and emissions reporting among other use cases. Climate risk modelling is at a nascent stage, with challenges - including limitations in data availability, consistency and quality - shared across the financial industry. The Group has developed procedures that set out the minimum control requirements for identifying, measuring and managing model risk for climate-related models. All the identified climate-related models are subject to HSBC’s model lifecycle controls and policy.

Challenges

While the group has continued to develop its climate risk capabilities, its remaining challenges include:

– the diverse range of internal and external data sources and data structures needed for climate related reporting, which introduces data accuracy and reliability risks;

– data limitations on customer assets and supply chains, and methodology gaps, which hinder the group's ability to assess physical risks accurately;

– industry-wide data gaps on customer emissions and transition plan and methodology gaps, which limit its ability to assess transition risks accurately; and

– limitations in the management of net zero alignment risk, which is undertaken at a Group level and supported by actions within Asia, due to known and unknown factors, including the limited accuracy and reliability of data, merging methodologies, and the need to develop new tools to better inform decision making.

Resilience risk

(Unaudited)

Overview

Resilience risk is the risk of sustained and significant business disruption from execution, delivery, physical security or safety events, causing the inability to provide critical services to our customers, affiliates, and counterparties. Resilience risk arises from failures or inadequacies in processes, people, systems or external events.

Resilience risk management

Key developments in 2024

During the year, we conducted several initiatives to keep pace with geopolitical, regulatory and technology changes and strengthened the management of resilience risk:

– We continued to recognise that our customers are impacted by service disruptions, responded to these urgently and aimed to recover with minimum delay. We continued to initiate post-incident review processes to prevent recurrence. Where we identified that investment is required to further enhance the group's operational resilience capabilities, findings are fed into the Group's financial planning, helping to ensure we continue to meet the expectations of our customers and our regulators.

– We continued to monitor markets affected by the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas wars, as well as other geopolitical events, for any potential impact they may have on our colleagues and operations.

– We provided analysis and easy-to-access risk and control information and metrics to enable management to focus on non-financial risks in their decision-making and appetite setting.

– We further strengthened our non-financial risk governance and senior leadership.

We prioritise our efforts on material risks and areas undergoing strategic growth, aligning our location strategy to this need.

Governance and structure

The Enterprise Risk Management target operating model provides a globally consistent view across resilience risks, strengthening our risk management oversight while operating effectively as part of a simplified non-financial risk structure.

We view resilience risk across seven sub-risk types related to: third party risk; technology and cyber security risk; transaction processing risk; business interruption and incident risk; data risk; change execution risk; and facilities availability, safety and security risk.

Risk appetite and key escalations for resilience risk are reported to the group Risk Management Meeting, chaired by the group Chief Risk Officer, with an escalation path to the Group Non-Financial Risk Management Board ('NFRMB'), chaired by the Group Chief Risk and Compliance Officer.

Operational Resilience

Operational resilience is our ability to anticipate, prevent, adapt, respond to, recover and learn from operational disruption while minimising customer, firm and market impact. Resilience is determined by assessing whether we can continue to provide our important business services, within an agreed impact tolerance. We accept we will not be able to prevent all disruption, but we must prioritise investment to continually improve the response and recovery strategies for our important business services and important group business services to meet the expectations of our customers, regulators and markets in which we participate.

Regulatory compliance risk

(Unaudited)

Overview

Regulatory compliance risk is the risk associated with breaching our duty to clients and other counterparties, inappropriate market conduct (including unauthorised trading) and breaching related financial services regulatory standards. Regulatory compliance risk arises from the failure to observe relevant laws, codes, rules and regulations and can manifest itself in poor market or customer outcomes and lead to fines, penalties and reputational damage to our business.

Regulatory compliance risk management

Key developments in 2024

Regulatory horizon scanning and mapping capabilities continue to evolve with a focus on enhanced connectivity to Risk management systems to support better traceability of regulatory obligations. We have enhanced our processes, framework, and governance capabilities to improve the controls and oversight of regulatory compliance risks. Work is underway to transition from event driven technology to incorporate Cloud and analytics capability to enhance our oversight abilities in areas such as surveillance.

Governance and structure

The Group Head of Regulatory Compliance reports to the Group Chief Risk and Compliance Officer. The group Chief Compliance Officer is also the group Head of Regulatory Compliance. Regulatory Compliance and Financial Crime teams work together and with relevant stakeholders to achieve good conduct outcomes, and provide enterprise-wide support on the compliance risk agenda in close collaboration with colleagues from the Group Risk and Compliance function.

Key risk management processes

The Global Regulatory Compliance capability is responsible for setting global policies, standards and risk appetite to guide the Group's management of regulatory compliance risk. It also devises the required frameworks, support processes and tooling to protect against regulatory compliance risks. The Group capability provides oversight, review and challenge of the global market, regional and line of business teams to help them identify, assess and mitigate regulatory compliance risks, where required. The Group's regulatory compliance risk policies are regularly reviewed. Global policies and procedures require the identification and escalation of any actual or potential regulatory breaches, and relevant events and issues are escalated to group Risk Management Meeting and group Risk Committee, as appropriate. The group Chief Compliance Officer co-chairs with the group Chief Risk Officer the group Risk and Compliance Executive Committee and is a member of the group Risk Management Meeting and an attendee to the group Risk Committee.

Financial crime risk

(Unaudited)

Overview

Financial crime risk is the risk that HSBC's products and services will be exploited for criminal activity. This includes fraud, bribery and corruption, tax evasion, sanctions and export control violations, money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing. Financial crime risk arises from day-to-day banking operations involving customers, third parties and employees.

Financial crime risk management

Key developments in 2024

We regularly review the effectiveness of our financial crime risk management framework, which includes continued consideration of the complex and dynamic nature of sanctions compliance and export control risk. We continued to respond to the financial sanctions and trade restrictions that have been imposed on Russia, including methods used to limit sanctions evasion.

We continued to make progress with several key financial crime risk management initiatives, including:

- deployment of our intelligence-led, dynamic risk assessment capability for customer account monitoring in additional entities and global businesses;
- deployment of a next generation capability to increase our monitoring coverage on correspondent banking activity in additional markets;
- enhancing our fraud controls and continuing to invest in, and monitor, technological developments; and
- enhancements in response to the rapidly evolving and complex global payments landscape and refinement of our digital assets and currencies strategy.

Governance and structure

The structure of the Financial Crime function remained substantively unchanged in 2024. The Regional Head of Financial Crime reports to the Group Head of Financial Crime while remaining accountable to the Regional Chief Compliance Officer, and the Regional Risk Committee retains oversight of matters relating to financial crime.

Key risk management processes

We will not tolerate knowingly conducting business with individuals or entities believed to be engaged in criminal activity. We require everybody in HSBC to play their role in maintaining effective systems and controls to prevent and detect financial crime. Where we believe we have identified suspected criminal activity or vulnerabilities in our control framework, we will take appropriate mitigating action.

We manage financial crime risk because it is the right thing to do to protect our customers, shareholders, staff, the communities in which we operate, as well as the integrity of the financial system on which we all rely. We operate in a highly regulated industry in which these same policy goals are codified in law and regulation.

We are committed to complying with the laws and regulations of all the markets in which we operate and apply a consistently high financial crime standard globally.

Model Risk

(Unaudited)

Overview

Model risk is the risk of the potential for adverse consequences from model errors or the inappropriate use of modelled outputs to inform business decisions.

Model risk arises in both financial and non-financial contexts whenever business decision making includes reliance on models.

Key developments in 2024

In 2024, we continued to make improvements in our model risk management processes amid regulatory changes in model risk management requirements.

Initiatives during the year included:

- updated our Model Risk Management Framework to meet the enhanced regulatory requirements, where a programme of work was initiated to adopt these changes across our model landscape;
- completed a full review of Model Tiering across the organisation, assessing the materiality and complexity of all models, which will drive the level of oversight required at model level;
- introduced a new framework to govern and manage the risks associated with Deterministic Quantitative Methods, these are complex and material calculators which present similar risks as models;
- following feedback from the PRA and HKMA on a number of our model submissions for internal ratings-based ('IRB') models, a programme of work was delivered to address and redevelop a number of the IRB models for wholesale credit;
- completed independent validation of models being submitted for regulatory approval including the first tranche of models for the Fundamental Review of the Trading Book;
- enhanced our process for independent validation of models, accounting for new generative Artificial Intelligence ('AI') techniques; and
- worked closely with the Businesses and Functions in developing a governance framework to manage the range of risks Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning techniques can introduce.

Governance

The group's Model Risk Committee ('MRC') provides oversight of models used in the group and focuses on local delivery and requirements. The Committee is chaired by the group Chief Risk Officer and the Regional Heads of Businesses, senior executives from Risk, Finance and Compliance are members in these meetings. Authorised sub-forums operating under the remit of the group MRC oversee model risk management activities based on associated types of models.

Key risk management processes

A variety of modelling approaches, including regression, simulation, sampling, machine learning and judgemental scorecards were used for a range of business applications. These include customer selection, product pricing, financial crime transaction monitoring, creditworthiness evaluation and financial reporting.

Our model risk management policies and procedures were regularly reviewed, and required the First Line of Defence to demonstrate comprehensive and effective controls based on a library of model risk controls provided by Model Risk Management.

Model Risk Management also reports on model risk to senior management and the Board Risk Committee on a regular basis through the use of the risk map, risk appetite, top and emerging risks, and regular key updates.

The effectiveness of these processes, including the Regional model oversight structure, were regularly assessed to ensure clear authority, coverage and escalations. This contributed to fostering appropriate understanding and ownership of model risk within in the Businesses and Functions.

Insurance manufacturing operations risk

Overview

(Unaudited)

The key risks for our insurance manufacturing operations are market risks, in particular interest rate and equity, credit risks and insurance underwriting. These have a direct impact on the financial results and capital positions of the insurance operations.

The group's insurance business

(Unaudited)

We sell insurance products through a range of channels including our branches, insurance sales forces, direct channels and third-party distributors. The majority of sales are through an integrated bancassurance model that provides insurance products principally for customers with whom we have a banking relationship, although the proportion of sales through other sources such as independent financial advisers, tied agents and digital platforms is increasing.

For the insurance products we manufacture, the majority of sales are of savings, universal life and protection contracts.

We choose to manufacture these insurance products in HSBC subsidiaries based on an assessment of operational scale and risk appetite. Manufacturing insurance allows us to retain the risks and rewards associated with writing insurance contracts by keeping part of the underwriting profit and investment income within the group.

We have life insurance manufacturing operations in Hong Kong, Singapore and mainland China. We also hold an interest in a life insurance manufacturing associate in India.

Where we do not have the risk appetite or operational scale to be an effective insurance manufacturer, we engage with a small number of leading external insurance companies in order to provide insurance products to our customers. These arrangements are generally structured with our exclusive strategic partners and earn the group a combination of commissions, fees and a share of profits.

Insurance products are sold predominantly by WPB through our branches and direct channels.

This section focusses only on the risks relating to the insurance products we manufacture.

Insurance manufacturing operations risk management

Key developments in 2024

(Unaudited)

The insurance manufacturing subsidiaries follow the group's risk management framework. In addition, there are specific policies and practices relating to the risk management of insurance contracts, which did not change materially over 2024. During the year there has been continued market volatility observed across interest rates, equity markets and foreign exchange rates. This has been predominantly driven by geopolitical factors and wider inflationary concerns. Other areas of focus have been the ongoing integration of the insurance business that was acquired in 2022, AXA Insurance Pte Limited ('AXA Singapore'), into the group's risk management framework and controls supporting HKFRS 17.

Governance and structure

(Unaudited)

Insurance risks are managed to a defined risk appetite, which is aligned to the group's risk appetite and risk management framework, including the group's 'Three lines of defence' model. The Global Insurance Risk Management Meeting oversees the risk and control framework for insurance business in the group.

The monitoring of the risks within our insurance operations is carried out by insurance risk teams. The Bank's risk stewardship sub-functions support the insurance risk teams in their respective areas of expertise.

Stress and scenario testing

(Unaudited)

Stress testing forms a key part of the risk management framework for the insurance business. We participate in local and group-wide regulatory stress tests, as well as internally developed stress and scenario tests, including group internal stress test exercises. The results of these stress tests and the adequacy of management action plans to mitigate these risks are considered in the group ICAAP and the entities' regulatory Own Risk and Solvency Assessments which are produced by all material entities.

Key risk management processes

Market risk

(Audited)

All our insurance manufacturing subsidiaries have market risk mandates that specify the investment instruments in which they are permitted to invest and the maximum quantum of market risk that they may retain. They manage market risk by using, amongst others, some or all of the techniques listed below, depending on the nature of the contracts written:

– We are able to adjust bonus rates to manage the liabilities to policyholders for products with participating features. The effect is that a significant portion of the market risk is borne by the policyholder;
– We use asset and liability matching where asset portfolios are structured to support projected liability cash flows. The group manages its assets using an approach that considers asset quality, diversification, cash flow matching, liquidity, volatility and target investment return. We use models to assess the effect of a range of future scenarios on the values of financial assets and associated liabilities, and ALCOs employ the outcomes in determining how best to structure asset holdings to support liabilities;
– We use derivatives to protect against adverse market movements; and
– We design new products to mitigate market risk.

Credit risk

(Audited)

Our insurance manufacturing subsidiaries also have credit risk mandates and limits within which they are permitted to operate, which consider the credit risk exposure, quality and performance of their investment portfolios. Our assessment of the creditworthiness of issuers and counterparties is based primarily upon internationally recognised credit ratings and other publicly available information.

Stress testing is performed on investment credit exposures using credit spread sensitivities and default probabilities.

We use a number of tools to manage and monitor credit risk. These include a credit report containing a watch-list of investments with current credit concerns, primarily investments that may be at risk of future impairment or where high concentrations to counterparties are present in the investment portfolio. Sensitivities to credit spread risk are assessed and monitored regularly.

Capital and liquidity risk

(Audited)

Capital risk for our insurance manufacturing subsidiaries is assessed in the ICAAP based on their financial capacity to support the risks to which they are exposed. Capital adequacy is assessed on both the group's economic capital basis, and the relevant local insurance regulatory basis.

Risk appetite buffers are set to ensure that the operations are able to remain solvent, allowing for business-as-usual volatility and extreme but plausible stress events.

Liquidity risk is managed by cash flow matching and maintaining sufficient cash resources, investing in high credit-quality investments with deep and liquid markets, monitoring investment concentrations and restricting them where appropriate, establishing committed contingency borrowing facilities and stress testing to understand the impact on liquidity in the event of a mass lapse.

Insurance manufacturing subsidiaries also complete quarterly liquidity risk reports and an annual review of the liquidity risks to which they are exposed.

Insurance underwriting risk

(Unaudited)

Our insurance manufacturing subsidiaries primarily use the following frameworks and processes to manage and mitigate insurance underwriting risks:

- a formal approval process for launching new products or making changes to products;
- a product pricing and profitability framework which requires initial and ongoing assessment of the adequacy of premiums charged on new insurance contracts to meet the risks associated with them;
- a framework for customer underwriting;
- reinsurance, which cedes risks to third party reinsurers to keep risks within risk appetite, reduce volatility and improve capital efficiency; and
- oversight by financial reporting committees and actuarial review committees in each of our entities of the methodology and assumptions that underpin HKFRS 17 reporting.

Insurance manufacturing operations risk in 2024

Measurement

(Unaudited)

The tables below show the composition of assets and liabilities by contract type. 87% (2023: 88%) of both assets and liabilities are derived from Hong Kong.

Balance sheet of insurance manufacturing subsidiaries by type of contract[1]

(Audited)

	Life direct participating and investment DPF contracts[2]	Life other contracts[3]	Other contracts[4]	Shareholders' assets and liabilities	Total
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
At 31 Dec 2024					
Financial assets	727,937	32,337	32,143	41,676	834,093
– financial assets designated and otherwise mandatorily measured at fair value	699,267	30,809	21,440	1,810	753,326
– derivatives	1,561	54	9	1	1,625
– financial investments measured at amortised cost	4,235	684	8,233	33,617	46,769
– financial investments measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	—	—	48	41	89
– other financial assets[5]	22,874	790	2,413	6,207	32,284
Insurance contract assets	107	113	—	—	220
Reinsurance contract assets	—	37,655	—	—	37,655
Other assets and investment properties	13,898	472	284	13,916	28,570
Total assets at 31 Dec 2024	741,942	70,577	32,427	55,592	900,538
Liabilities under investment contracts designated at fair value	—	—	29,343	—	29,343
Insurance contract liabilities	764,423	29,696	—	—	794,119
Reinsurance contract liabilities	—	5,098	—	—	5,098
Deferred tax	—	—	—	10	10
Other liabilities	—	—	—	29,223	29,223
Total liabilities	764,423	34,794	29,343	29,233	857,793
Total equity	—	—	—	42,745	42,745
Total liabilities and equity at 31 Dec 2024	764,423	34,794	29,343	71,978	900,538

Balance sheet of insurance manufacturing subsidiaries by type of contract[1] (continued)

	Life direct participating and investment DPF contracts[2]	Life other contracts[3]	Other contracts[4]	Shareholders' assets and liabilities	Total
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
At 31 Dec 2023					
Financial assets	675,860	26,482	34,021	40,415	776,778
– financial assets designated and otherwise mandatorily measured at fair value	649,932	25,348	21,426	580	697,286
– derivatives	1,099	76	3	—	1,178
– financial investments measured at amortised cost	8,388	523	8,996	37,106	55,013
– financial investments measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	—	—	36	—	36
– other financial assets[5]	16,441	535	3,560	2,729	23,265
Insurance contract assets	98	798	—	—	896
Reinsurance contract assets	—	36,633	—	—	36,633
Other assets and investment properties	14,258	524	275	11,487	26,544
Total assets at 31 Dec 2023	690,216	64,437	34,296	51,902	840,851
Liabilities under investment contracts designated at fair value	—	—	29,885	—	29,885
Insurance contract liabilities	700,691	25,505	—	—	726,196
Reinsurance contract liabilities	—	6,079	—	—	6,079
Deferred tax	—	9	—	—	9
Other liabilities	—	—	—	31,306	31,306
Total liabilities	700,691	31,593	29,885	31,306	793,475
Total equity	—	—	—	47,376	47,376
Total liabilities and equity at 31 Dec 2023	700,691	31,593	29,885	78,682	840,851

1 Balance sheet of insurance manufacturing operations is shown before elimination of inter-company transactions with HSBC non-insurance operations.
2 'Life direct participating and investment DPF' contracts are life direct participating contracts and investment contracts with discretionary participating features. These are substantially measured under the variable fee approach measurement model.
3 'Life other' contracts are measured under the general measurement model and mainly includes protection insurance contracts as well as reinsurance contracts. The reinsurance contracts primarily provide diversification benefits over life direct participating and investment DPF contracts.
4 'Other contracts' includes investment contracts for which HSBC does not bear significant insurance risk.
5 'Other financial assets' comprise mainly loans and advances to banks, cash and inter-company balances with other non-insurance legal entities.

Key risk types

Market risk

(Audited)

Description and exposure

Market risk is the risk of changes in market factors affecting capital or profit. Market factors include interest rates, equity and growth assets, credit spreads and foreign exchange rates.

Our exposure varies depending on the type of contract issued. Our most significant life insurance products are contracts with participating features. These products typically include some form of capital guarantee or guaranteed return on the sums invested by the policyholders, to which discretionary bonuses are added if allowed by the overall performance of the funds. These funds are primarily invested in fixed interest assets, with a proportion allocated to other asset classes to provide customers with the potential for enhanced returns.

Participating products expose the group to the risk of variation in asset returns, which will impact our participation in the investment performance.

For unit-linked contracts, market risk is substantially borne by the policyholders, but some market risk exposure typically remains as fees earned are related to the market value of the linked assets.

Sensitivities

(Unaudited)

The following table provides the impacts on the contractual service margin ('CSM'), profit after tax and equity of our insurance manufacturing subsidiaries from reasonably possible effects of changes in selected interest rate, credit spreads, equity price, growth assets and foreign exchange rate scenarios for the year. These sensitivities are prepared in accordance with current HKFRSs and are based on changing one assumption at a time with other variables being held constant, recognising that in practice such variables could be correlated.

Due in part to the impact of the cost of guarantees and hedging strategies, which may be in place, the relationship between the CSM profit after tax and total equity and the risk factors is non-linear. Therefore, the results disclosed should not be extrapolated to measure sensitivities to different levels of stress. For the same reason, the impact of the stress is not necessarily symmetrical on the upside and downside. The sensitivities are stated before allowance for management actions, which may mitigate the effect of changes in the market environment.

The method used for deriving sensitivity information and significant market risk factors remain unchanged except for updates made to the foreign exchange rates risk methodology which now limits the impacts to within more recent historical ranges. 2023 comparative sensitivities have been updated to reflect this change.

In 2023, due to a lower CSM level, some portfolios generated onerous contracts in the 100bps up scenarios for interest rate and credit spread sensitivities, generating income statement losses and equity reductions in those scenarios. This was less prevalent in 2024 as the base CSMs were higher from changing market conditions and changes in lapse rate assumptions.

Sensitivity of the group's insurance manufacturing subsidiaries to market risk factors

(Audited)

	2024			2023		
	Effect on CSM	**Effect on profit after tax[1]**	**Effect on total equity**	Effect on CSM	Effect on profit after tax[1]	Effect on total equity
	HK$m	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
+100 basis point parallel shift in yield curves	**(1,695)**	**578**	**578**	(779)	453	453
-100 basis point parallel shift in yield curves	**(828)**	**(1,551)**	**(1,551)**	(2,413)	(964)	(964)
+100 basis point shift in credit spreads	**(6,882)**	**(610)**	**(610)**	(6,564)	(48)	(48)
-100 basis point shift in credit spreads	**6,730**	**432**	**432**	5,931	772	772
10% increase in growth assets[2]	**3,002**	**362**	**362**	2,762	289	289
10% decrease in growth assets[2]	**(3,383)**	**(403)**	**(403)**	(3,325)	(338)	(338)
10% appreciation in US dollar exchange rate against local functional currency[3]	**525**	**127**	**127**	191	(18)	(18)
10% depreciation in US dollar exchange rate against local functional currency[3]	**(175)**	**(19)**	**(19)**	(273)	(13)	(13)

1 'Effect on profit after tax' in respect for the year.
2 'Growth assets' primarily comprise equity securities and investment properties. Variability in growth asset fair value constitutes a market risk to insurance manufacturing subsidiaries.
3 The 10% sensitivity range applies to all currencies except for the Hong Kong dollar, where the extent of change is limited by the impact of the HKD to USD peg.

Credit risk

(Audited)

Description and exposure

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss if a customer or counterparty fails to meet their obligation under a contract. It arises in two main risks for our insurance manufacturers:

- the risk associated with credit spread volatility and default by debt security counterparties after investing premiums to generate a return for policyholders and shareholders; and
- the risk of default by reinsurance counterparties and non-reimbursement for claims made after ceding insurance risk.

The amounts outstanding at the balance sheet date in respect of these items are shown in the table on page 62.

The credit quality of the reinsurers' share of liabilities under insurance contracts is assessed as 'strong' or 'good' (as defined on page 26), with none of the exposure being either past due or impaired (2023: none).

Credit risk on assets supporting unit-linked liabilities is predominantly borne by the policyholders. Therefore our exposure is primarily related to liabilities under non-linked insurance and investment contracts and shareholders' funds. The credit quality of insurance financial assets is included in the table on page 39.

The risk associated with credit spread volatility is to a large extent mitigated by holding debt securities to maturity, and sharing a degree of credit spread experience with policyholders.

Liquidity risk

(Audited)

Description and exposure

Liquidity risk is the risk that an insurance operation, though solvent, either does not have sufficient financial resources available to meet its obligations when they fall due, or can secure them only at excessive cost. Liquidity risk may be able to be shared with policyholders for products with participating features.

The remaining maturity of insurance contract liabilities is included in Note 3 on page 95.

The amounts of insurance contract liabilities that are payable on demand are set out by the product grouping below:

Amounts Payable on Demand

(Audited)

	2024		2023	
	Amounts Payable on Demand	**Carrying Amount for these Contracts**	Amounts Payable on Demand	Carrying Amount for these Contracts
	HK$m	**HK$m**	HK$m	HK$m
Life direct participating and investment DPF contracts	**731,066**	**764,423**	654,981	700,691
Life other contracts	**21,548**	**29,696**	20,021	25,505
At 31 Dec	**752,614**	**794,119**	675,002	726,196

Insurance underwriting risk

Description and exposure

(Unaudited)

Insurance underwriting risk is the risk of loss through adverse experience, in either timing or amount, of insurance underwriting parameters (non-economic assumptions). These parameters include mortality, morbidity, longevity, lapses and expense rates. Lapse risk exposure on products with premium financing has increased over the year as rising interest rates have led to an increase in the cost of financing for customers.

The principal risk we face is that, over time, the cost of the contract, including claims and benefits may exceed the total amount of premiums and investment income received.

The table on page 62 analyses our life insurance underwriting risk exposures by type of contract.

The insurance underwriting risk profile and related exposures remain largely consistent with those observed at 31 December 2023.

Sensitivities

(Audited)

The table below shows the sensitivity of the CSM, profit and total equity to reasonably foreseeable changes in non-economic assumptions across all our insurance manufacturing subsidiaries.

Sensitivity to lapse rates depends on the type of contracts being written. An increase in lapse rates typically has a negative effect on CSM (and therefore expected future profits) due to the loss of future income on the lapsed policies. However, some contract lapses have a positive effect on profit due to the existence of policy surrender charges.

Mortality and morbidity risk is typically associated with life insurance contracts. During the year we have revised the sensitivity to mortality and morbidity rates from 10% to 5% to align with reasonably foreseeable changes, and the comparatives have been restated accordingly. The effect on profit of an increase in mortality or morbidity depends on the type of business being written.

Expense rate risk is the exposure to a change in the allocated cost of administering insurance contracts. To the extent that increased expenses cannot be passed on to policyholders, an increase in expense rates will have a negative effect on our profits. The risk is generally greatest for our smaller entities.

The impact of changing insurance underwriting risk factors is primarily absorbed within the CSM, unless contracts are onerous in which case the impact is directly to profit. The impact of changes to the CSM is released to profits over the life of the related insurance contracts.

Sensitivity of the group's insurance manufacturing subsidiaries to insurance underwriting risk factors[1]

(Audited)

At 31 Dec 2024	Effect on CSM HK$m	Effect on profit after tax[2] HK$m	Effect on total equity HK$m
10% increase in lapse rates	**(1,595)**	**(98)**	**(170)**
10% decrease in lapse rates	**1,665**	**105**	**210**
5% increase in mortality and/or morbidity rates	**(543)**	**(105)**	**(141)**
5% decrease in mortality and/or morbidity rates	**613**	**88**	**160**
10% increase in expense rates	**(207)**	**(47)**	**(76)**
10% decrease in expense rates	**229**	**53**	**82**
At 31 Dec 2023			
10% increase in lapse rates	(1,500)	(100)	(100)
10% decrease in lapse rates	1,555	119	119
5% increase in mortality and/or morbidity rates[3]	(490)	(69)	(69)
5% decrease in mortality and/or morbidity rates[3]	491	81	81
10% increase in expense rates	(236)	(26)	(26)
10% decrease in expense rates	242	37	37

1 The sensitivities impacts are provided after considering the impacts of reinsurance contracts held as risk mitigation.
2 'Effect on profit after tax' in respect for the year.
3 During the year the sensitivity to mortality and morbidity rates have been changed from 10% to 5% and the comparatives have been restated accordingly.

Independent Auditor’s Report

To the Shareholder of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)

Opinion

What we have audited

The consolidated financial statements of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (the 'Bank’) and its subsidiaries (the 'group’), which are set out on pages 71 to 135, comprise:

- the consolidated balance sheet as at 31 December 2024;
- the consolidated income statement for the year then ended;
- the consolidated statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended;
- the consolidated statement of changes in equity for the year then ended;
- the consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the notes[1] on the consolidated financial statements, comprising material accounting policies and other explanatory information.

1 Certain required disclosures as described in Note 1.1(d) on the consolidated financial statements have been presented elsewhere in the Annual Report and Accounts 2024, rather than in the notes on the consolidated financial statements. These are cross-referenced from the consolidated financial statements and marked as ‘Audited’.

Our opinion

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 2024, 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 believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

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.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Key audit matters identified in our audit are summarised as follows:

- Allowances for expected credit losses on loans and advances to customers
- Impairment assessment of investment in associate – Bank of Communications Co., Ltd (‘BoCom’)

Allowances for expected credit losses on loans and advances to customers

Nature of the Key Audit Matter

At 31 December 2024, the group recorded allowances for expected credit losses ('ECL') on loans and advances to customers of HK$35.7bn.

The determination of the ECL on non-credit-impaired loans and advances to customers requires the use of complex credit risk methodologies that are applied in models using the group's historic experience of the correlations between defaults and losses, borrower creditworthiness, segmentation of customers or portfolios and economic conditions.

The determination of the ECL on non-credit-impaired loans and advances to customers also requires the determination of assumptions which involve estimation uncertainty. The assumptions used for ECL that we focused on for non-credit-impaired loans and advances to customers included those with greater levels of management judgement and for which variations have the most significant impact on ECL on loans and advances to customers. Specifically, these included economic scenarios and their likelihood. Likewise, there is inherent uncertainty with the consensus economic forecast data from external economists. Significant assumptions also include customer risk ratings.

Impacts related to the mainland China commercial real estate sector, and uncertainty of current macroeconomic conditions affect the inherent risk and estimation uncertainty involved in determining the ECL on loans and advances to customers.

The above ongoing conditions continue to result in significant credit-impaired corporate exposures related to the unsecured offshore mainland China commercial real estate sector. The assumptions with the most significant impact here are those applied in estimating the recoverability of these exposures.

Matters discussed with the Audit Committee

We discussed the appropriateness of the methodologies, their application, significant assumptions and related disclosures with the Audit Committee, giving consideration to the current macroeconomic conditions. This included economic scenarios and their likelihood, management judgemental adjustments made to derive the ECL on loans and advances to customers, and future recoverability of certain significant credit-impaired wholesale exposures.

How our audit addressed the Key Audit Matter

We tested controls in place relating to the methodologies, their application, significant assumptions and data used to determine the ECL on loans and advances to customers. These included controls relating to:

- Model development, validation and monitoring;
- Approval of economic scenarios;
- Approval of the probability weightings assigned to economic scenarios;
- Assigning customer risk ratings; and
- Review of input and assumptions applied in estimating the recoverability of credit-impaired wholesale exposures.

We performed substantive audit procedures over the compliance of ECL methodologies with the requirements of HKFRS 9. We engaged professionals with experience in ECL modelling to assess the appropriateness of methodologies and related models.

We further performed the following to assess the significant assumptions and data:

- We challenged the appropriateness of the significant assumptions and obtained corroborating evidence;
- We involved our economic experts in assessing the reasonableness of the severity and likelihood of certain economic scenarios;
- We tested a sample of customer risk ratings assigned to wholesale exposures; and
- We tested a sample of critical data used to determine ECL.

For a sample of credit-impaired wholesale exposures, we challenged the appropriateness of these and assessed the ECL determined.

We further considered whether the judgements made in selecting the significant assumptions and credit-impaired wholesale exposures, would give rise to indicators of possible management bias.

We assessed the adequacy of the disclosures in relation to ECL on loans and advances to customers made in the consolidated financial statements in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.

Based on our procedures performed, we found the allowances for ECL on loans and advances to customers to be reasonable.

Relevant references in the consolidated financial statements

Risk: Credit risk, as cross-referenced from the consolidated financial statements (only information identified as audited), page 25 to 48.

Note 1.2 (i) on the consolidated financial statements: Basis of preparation and material accounting policies – Summary of material accounting policies – Impairment of amortised cost and FVOCI financial assets, page 81 to 84.

Note 2 (e) on the consolidated financial statements: Operating profit – Change in expected credit losses and other credit impairment charges, page 89.

Note 10 on the consolidated financial statements: Loans and advances to customers, page 104 to 105.

Impairment assessment of investment in associate – Bank of Communications Co., Ltd ('BoCom')

Nature of the Key Audit Matter

2024 is the first annual reporting period after the group impaired its investment in BoCom, the carrying value of which amounted to HK$174.2bn at 31 December 2024. The estimation uncertainty related to the investment remained high in 2024 and further policy announcements were made in relation to fiscal stimulus packages by the government in China.

The carrying value is required to be assessed for indicators of potential further impairment and reversal of previous impairment. No indicators of further impairment or reversal of previous impairment in the investment in BoCom have been identified at 31 December 2024.

Management's assessment of impairment or reversal of previous impairment indicators is supported by an estimation of the recoverable amount using a value in use ('VIU') model. The VIU model estimates future cash flows expected to be derived from the investment in BoCom in its current condition and does not reflect the impact of future capital transactions. The VIU model continues to be a permissible method to estimate the recoverable amount.

The methodology applied in the VIU model is dependent on various assumptions, both short-to-medium term and long-term in nature. These assumptions, which are subject to estimation uncertainty, are derived from a combination of management's judgement, analysts' forecasts, market data or other relevant information.

The assumptions that we focused our audit on were those with greater levels of management judgement and subjectivity, and for which variations had the most significant impact on the VIU. Specifically, these significant assumptions included:

– The discount rate;
– Short-to-medium term assumptions for operating income growth rate, loans and advances to customers growth rate, cost-income ratio, and expected credit losses as a percentage of loans and advances to customers;
– Long-term assumptions for profit growth rate, asset growth rate, expected credit losses as a percentage of loans and effective tax rate; and
– Capital related assumptions for capital adequacy ratio, tier 1 capital adequacy ratio and risk-weighted assets as a percentage of total assets.

Matters discussed with the Audit Committee

We discussed the appropriateness of the methodology, the consistency of its application period over period and significant assumptions with the Audit Committee. This included management's approach to ongoing impairment monitoring including whether there are indicators of further impairment or reversal to previous impairment, the appropriateness of significant assumptions used in the VIU, and the disclosures made in relation to investment in BoCom, including the use of sensitivity analysis to explain estimation uncertainty.

How our audit addressed the Key Audit Matter

We tested controls in place relating to significant assumptions, the methodology and its application used in the impairment indicator assessment. In relation to the VIU we assessed the appropriateness of the methodology used and its application. In respect of the significant assumptions used in the VIU, we performed the following:

– Challenged the appropriateness of the significant assumptions and, where relevant, their interrelationships;
– Obtained corroborating evidence for data supporting significant assumptions which as relevant included past experience, external market information, third-party sources including analyst reports, information from BoCom management and historical publicly available BoCom financial information. Considered any inconsistencies between the corroborating evidence and the significant assumptions;
– Determined an independent reasonable range for the discount rate assumption, with the assistance of our valuation experts, and compared it to the discount rate used by management; and
– Assessed whether the judgements made in selecting the significant assumptions would give rise to indicators of possible management bias.

We observed meetings between management and BoCom management to identify facts and circumstances impacting significant assumptions relevant to the determination of the VIU.

Representations were obtained from the Bank that assumptions used were consistent with information currently available to the Bank.

We assessed the adequacy of the disclosures in relation to investment in BoCom made in the consolidated financial statements in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.

Overall, we found management's approach to ongoing impairment monitoring and assessment of impairment is acceptable.

Relevant references in the consolidated financial statements

Note 1.2 (a) on the consolidated financial statements: Basis of preparation and material accounting policies – Summary of material accounting policies – Consolidation and related policies, page 78.

Note 14 on the consolidated financial statements: Interests in associates and joint ventures, page 107-110.

Other Information

The directors of the Bank are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises all of the information included in the Annual Report and Accounts 2024, Banking Disclosure Statement at 31 December 2024 and List of the directors of the Bank's subsidiary undertakings (during the period from 1 January 2024 to 19 February 2025) other than the consolidated financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. We have obtained some of the other information including Certain defined terms, Cautionary statement regarding forward-looking statements, Chinese translation, Financial Highlights, Report of the Directors, Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures, Financial Review, Risk and Additional information sections of the Annual Report and Accounts 2024 prior to the date of this auditor's report. The remaining other information, including Banking Disclosure Statement at 31 December 2024 and List of the directors of the Bank's subsidiary undertakings (during the period from 1 January 2024 to 19 February 2025), is expected to be made available to us after that date. The other information does not include the specific information presented therein that is identified as being an integral part of the consolidated financial statements and, therefore, covered by our audit opinion on the consolidated financial statements.

Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not and will 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 identified above 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 on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, 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.

When we read the remaining other information, if we conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, we are required to communicate the matter to the Audit Committee and take appropriate action considering our legal rights and obligations.

Responsibilities of Directors and the Audit Committee 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 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 either intend to liquidate the group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Audit Committee is responsible 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. We report our opinion 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 HKSAs 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 HKSAs, 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.
- 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.
- Plan and perform the group audit to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business units within the group as a basis for forming an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and review of the audit work performed for purposes 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.

We also provide the Audit Committee with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

From the matters communicated with the Audit Committee, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is Yip Siu Foon Linda.

PricewaterhouseCoopers
Certified Public Accountants
Hong Kong, 19 February 2025

Consolidated Financial Statements

Consolidated income statement

for the year ended 31 December

	Notes	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Net interest income	2a	**117,637**	130,780
– interest income		**315,868**	295,212
– interest expense		**(198,231)**	(164,432)
Net fee income	2b	**42,517**	38,043
– fee income		**56,219**	51,025
– fee expense		**(13,702)**	(12,982)
Net income from financial instruments held for trading or managed on a fair value basis	2c	**91,930**	74,435
Net income from assets and liabilities of insurance businesses, including related derivatives, measured at fair value through profit or loss	2c	**36,024**	48,959
Insurance finance expense		**(35,663)**	(48,798)
Insurance service result	3	**8,131**	6,558
– Insurance revenue		**16,533**	13,007
– Insurance service expense		**(8,402)**	(6,449)
Other operating income/(expense)	2d	**5,119**	(298)
Net operating income before change in expected credit losses and other credit impairment charges		**265,695**	249,679
Change in expected credit losses and other credit impairment charges	2e	**(11,946)**	(12,843)
Net operating income		**253,749**	236,836
Employee compensation and benefits	4	**(40,028)**	(38,547)
General and administrative expenses	2f	**(57,967)**	(54,538)
Depreciation and impairment of property, plant and equipment	2g	**(10,925)**	(9,724)
Amortisation and impairment of intangible assets		**(8,672)**	(7,184)
Total operating expenses		**(117,592)**	(109,993)
Operating profit		**136,157**	126,843
Share of profit in associates and joint ventures	14	**17,775**	18,555
Impairment of interest in associate	14	**—**	(23,955)
Profit before tax		**153,932**	121,443
Tax expense	5	**(24,681)**	(23,916)
Profit for the year		**129,251**	97,527
Attributable to:			
– ordinary shareholders of the parent company		**118,787**	87,191
– other equity holders		**3,576**	3,556
– non-controlling interests		**6,888**	6,780
Profit for the year		**129,251**	97,527

Consolidated statement of comprehensive income

for the year ended 31 December

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Profit for the year	**129,251**	97,527
Other comprehensive income/(expense)		
Items that will be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss when specific conditions are met:		
Debt instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income	**(183)**	7,953
– fair value gains	**173**	6,256
– fair value (gains)/losses transferred to the income statement	**(52)**	3,799
– expected credit (recoveries)/losses recognised in the income statement	**49**	(372)
– income taxes	**(353)**	(1,730)
Cash flow hedges	**(1,156)**	3,605
– fair value gains	**15,398**	7,581
– fair value gains reclassified to the income statement	**(16,764)**	(3,282)
– income taxes	**210**	(694)
Share of other comprehensive income of associates and joint ventures	**2,978**	736
Exchange differences	**(18,086)**	(9,043)
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Property revaluation	**(203)**	4,496
– fair value gains/(losses)	**(271)**	5,330
– income taxes	**68**	(834)
Equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income	**790**	(899)
– fair value gains/(losses)	**974**	(895)
– income taxes	**(184)**	(4)
Changes in fair value of financial liabilities designated at fair value upon initial recognition arising from changes in own credit risk	**(2,365)**	(5,410)
– before income taxes	**(2,831)**	(6,457)
– income taxes	**466**	1,047
Remeasurement of defined benefit asset/liability	**685**	21
– before income taxes	**812**	26
– income taxes	**(127)**	(5)
Other comprehensive income/(expense) for the year, net of tax	**(17,540)**	1,459
Total comprehensive income for the year	**111,711**	98,986
Attributable to:		
– ordinary shareholders of the parent company	**101,367**	88,289
– other equity holders	**3,576**	3,556
– non-controlling interests	**6,768**	7,141
Total comprehensive income for the year	**111,711**	98,986

Consolidated balance sheet

at 31 December

	Notes	**31 Dec 2024 HK$m**	31 Dec 2023 HK$m
Assets			
Cash and balances at central banks		**211,047**	232,987
Hong Kong Government certificates of indebtedness		**328,454**	328,304
Trading assets	7	**1,085,321**	941,250
Derivatives	8	**505,260**	409,253
Financial assets designated and otherwise mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss	9	**781,210**	707,573
Reverse repurchase agreements – non-trading		**816,102**	831,186
Loans and advances to banks		**480,740**	563,801
Loans and advances to customers	10	**3,494,298**	3,557,076
Financial investments	11	**2,337,844**	2,029,212
Amounts due from Group companies	31	**175,004**	158,592
Interests in associates and joint ventures	14	**178,330**	170,206
Goodwill and intangible assets	15	**41,308**	38,923
Property, plant and equipment	16	**120,774**	129,675
Deferred tax assets	5	**10,307**	9,315
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets[1]	17	**382,941**	393,040
Total assets		**10,948,940**	10,500,393
Liabilities			
Hong Kong currency notes in circulation		**328,454**	328,304
Repurchase agreements – non-trading		**624,784**	521,984
Deposits by banks		**183,612**	182,146
Customer accounts	18	**6,564,606**	6,261,051
Trading liabilities	19	**86,557**	103,050
Derivatives	8	**473,488**	450,216
Financial liabilities designated at fair value	20	**178,739**	170,728
Debt securities in issue	21	**64,362**	87,745
Retirement benefit liabilities	4	**805**	1,362
Amounts due to Group companies	31	**396,356**	465,476
Accruals and deferred income, other liabilities and provisions[1]	22	**339,713**	285,649
Insurance contract liabilities	3	**799,443**	730,829
Current tax liabilities		**7,096**	15,344
Deferred tax liabilities	5	**22,917**	23,923
Total liabilities		**10,070,932**	9,627,807
Equity			
Share capital	23	**180,181**	180,181
Other equity instruments	24	**64,677**	52,465
Other reserves		**102,993**	117,214
Retained earnings		**471,198**	462,866
Total shareholders' equity		**819,049**	812,726
Non-controlling interests		**58,959**	59,860
Total equity		**878,008**	872,586
Total liabilities and equity		**10,948,940**	10,500,393

1 In 2023 'Items in the course of collection from other banks' HK$22bn were presented on the face of the balance sheet but are now reported within 'Prepayments, accrued income and other assets' in the Annual Report and Accounts 2024. Similarly, 'Items in the course of transmission to other banks' HK$28bn are now presented within 'Accruals, deferred income and other liabilities'.

Consolidated statement of changes in equity

for the year ended 31 December

	Share capital[1]	Other equity instruments	Retained earnings	Other reserves: Property revaluation reserve	Other reserves: Financial assets at FVOCI reserve	Other reserves: Cash flow hedge reserve	Other reserves: Foreign exchange reserve	Other reserves: Other[4]	Total share-holders' equity	Non-controlling interests	Total equity
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
At 1 Jan 2024	180,181	52,465	462,866	65,279	(2,546)	1,851	(47,899)	100,529	812,726	59,860	872,586
Profit for the year	—	—	122,363	—	—	—	—	—	122,363	6,888	129,251
Other comprehensive income/(expense) (net of tax)	—	—	(1,796)	23	2,962	(1,140)	(17,493)	24	(17,420)	(120)	(17,540)
– debt instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income	—	—	—	—	(289)	—	—	—	(289)	106	(183)
– equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income	—	—	—	—	605	—	—	—	605	185	790
– cash flow hedges	—	—	—	—	—	(1,136)	—	—	(1,136)	(20)	(1,156)
– changes in fair value of financial liabilities designated at fair value upon initial recognition arising from changes in own credit risk	—	—	(2,364)	—	—	—	—	—	(2,364)	(1)	(2,365)
– property revaluation	—	—	—	23	—	—	—	—	23	(226)	(203)
– remeasurement of defined benefit asset/ liability	—	—	561	—	—	—	—	—	561	124	685
– share of other comprehensive income of associates and joint ventures	—	—	7	—	2,947	—	—	24	2,978	—	2,978
– exchange differences	—	—	—	—	(301)	(4)	(17,493)	—	(17,798)	(288)	(18,086)
Total comprehensive income/(expense) for the year	—	—	120,567	23	2,962	(1,140)	(17,493)	24	104,943	6,768	111,711
Other equity instruments issued[2]	—	27,873	—	—	—	—	—	—	27,873	—	27,873
Other equity instruments redeemed[3]	—	(15,661)	—	—	—	—	—	—	(15,661)	—	(15,661)
Dividends to shareholders[5]	—	—	(109,776)	—	—	—	—	—	(109,776)	(4,844)	(114,620)
Movement in respect of share-based payment arrangements	—	—	(212)	—	—	—	—	(252)	(464)	10	(454)
Transfers and other movements[6]	—	—	(2,247)	(4,098)	8	(1)	—	5,746	(592)	(2,835)	(3,427)
At 31 Dec 2024	180,181	64,677	471,198	61,204	424	710	(65,392)	106,047	819,049	58,959	878,008

Consolidated statement of changes in equity (continued)

for the year ended 31 December

	Share capital[1]	Other equity instruments	Retained earnings	Other reserves: Property revaluation reserve	Financial assets at FVOCI reserve	Cash flow hedge reserve	Foreign exchange reserve	Other[4]	Total share-holders' equity	Non-controlling interests	Total equity
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
At 1 Jan 2023	180,181	52,386	466,148	65,148	(11,186)	(1,487)	(38,470)	94,832	807,552	56,828	864,380
Profit for the year	—	—	90,747	—	—	—	—	—	90,747	6,780	97,527
Other comprehensive income/(expense) (net of tax)	—	—	(5,415)	4,186	7,840	3,342	(8,698)	(157)	1,098	361	1,459
– debt instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income	—	—	—	—	7,784	—	—	—	7,784	169	7,953
– equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income	—	—	—	—	(689)	—	—	—	(689)	(210)	(899)
– cash flow hedges	—	—	—	—	—	3,334	—	—	3,334	271	3,605
– changes in fair value of financial liabilities designated at fair value upon initial recognition arising from changes in own credit risk	—	—	(5,413)	—	—	—	—	—	(5,413)	3	(5,410)
– property revaluation	—	—	—	4,186	—	—	—	—	4,186	310	4,496
– remeasurement of defined benefit asset/ liability	—	—	(7)	—	—	—	—	—	(7)	28	21
– share of other comprehensive income/ (expense) of associates and joint ventures	—	—	5	—	888	—	—	(157)	736	—	736
– exchange differences	—	—	—	—	(143)	8	(8,698)	—	(8,833)	(210)	(9,043)
Total comprehensive income/(expense) for the year	—	—	85,332	4,186	7,840	3,342	(8,698)	(157)	91,845	7,141	98,986
Other equity instruments issued[2]	—	7,850	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,850	—	7,850
Other equity instruments redeemed[3]	—	(7,771)	(406)	—	—	—	—	—	(8,177)	—	(8,177)
Dividends to shareholders[5]	—	—	(86,356)	—	—	—	—	—	(86,356)	(3,843)	(90,199)
Movement in respect of share-based payment arrangements	—	—	(99)	—	—	—	—	(208)	(307)	12	(295)
Transfers and other movements[6]	—	—	(1,753)	(4,055)	800	(4)	(731)	6,062	319	(278)	41
At 31 Dec 2023	180,181	52,465	462,866	65,279	(2,546)	1,851	(47,899)	100,529	812,726	59,860	872,586

1 Ordinary share capital includes preference shares which have been redeemed or bought back via payments out of distributable profits in previous years.
2 The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited issued SG$1,500m additional tier 1 capital in June 2024 with an issuance cost of SG$15m, and a further US$2,500m additional tier 1 capital in September 2024 with an issuance cost of US$25m.
During 2023, an additional tier 1 capital instrument amounting to US$1,000m was issued for which there were no issuance costs.
3 During 2024, an additional tier 1 capital instrument was redeemed at par (US$2,000m).
During 2023, an additional tier 1 capital instrument was redeemed at fair value (US$1,041m).
4 The other reserves mainly comprise share of associates' other reserves, purchase premium arising from transfer of business from fellow subsidiaries, property revaluation reserve relating to transfer of properties to a fellow subsidiary and the share-based payment reserve. The share-based payment reserve is used to record the amount relating to share awards and options granted to employees of the group directly by HSBC Holdings plc.
5 Including distributions paid on perpetual subordinated loans classified as equity under HKFRS.
6 The movements include transfers from retained earnings to other reserves in associates according to local regulatory requirements, and from the property revaluation reserve to retained earnings in relation to depreciation of revalued properties.

Consolidated statement of cash flows

for the year ended 31 December

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Profit before tax	**153,932**	121,443
Adjustments for non-cash items:		
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	**19,597**	16,908
Net loss from investing activities	**1,022**	4,247
Share of profit in associates and joint ventures	**(17,775)**	(18,555)
Impairment of interest in associate	**—**	23,955
Gain on disposal of associate	**—**	(4)
Change in expected credit losses gross of recoveries and other credit impairment charges	**12,803**	13,707
Provisions	**584**	369
Share-based payment expense	**968**	976
Other non-cash items included in profit before tax	**(32,152)**	(26,335)
Elimination of exchange differences	**44,740**	(3,505)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		
Change in net trading securities and derivatives	**(233,299)**	(288,737)
Change in loans and advances to banks and customers	**74,347**	76,084
Change in reverse repurchase agreements – non-trading	**(32,957)**	55,259
Change in financial assets designated and otherwise mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss	**(77,256)**	(51,239)
Change in other assets	**(32,822)**	(77,121)
Change in deposits by banks and customer accounts	**302,457**	130,580
Change in repurchase agreements – non-trading	**102,800**	170,891
Change in debt securities in issue	**(23,383)**	(13,164)
Change in financial liabilities designated at fair value	**8,011**	2,985
Change in other liabilities	**62,226**	149,791
Dividends received from associates	**5,930**	5,878
Contributions paid to defined benefit plans	**(332)**	(628)
Tax paid	**(34,908)**	(15,725)
Net cash from operating activities	**304,533**	278,060
Purchase of financial investments	**(2,883,041)**	(3,563,846)
Proceeds from the sale and maturity of financial investments	**2,569,243**	3,270,020
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	**(2,077)**	(2,176)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment and assets held for sale	**37**	36
Proceeds from disposal of customer loan portfolios	**—**	967
Net investment in intangible assets	**(10,765)**	(9,641)
Net cash inflow from purchase of business and joint venture	**4,821**	—
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from disposal of businesses and associate	**(1,750)**	4,869
Net cash outflow on purchase of subsidiaries	**(345)**	—
Net cash from investing activities	**(323,877)**	(299,771)
Issue of other equity instruments	**27,873**	7,850
Redemption of other equity instruments	**(15,661)**	(8,177)
Net cash outflow from change in stake of subsidiary	**(3,006)**	(159)
Subordinated loan capital issued[1]	**4,398**	66,521
Subordinated loan capital repaid[1]	**(9,733)**	(74,277)
Dividends paid to shareholders of the parent company and non-controlling interests	**(114,620)**	(90,199)
Net cash from financing activities	**(110,749)**	(98,441)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	**(130,093)**	(120,152)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 Jan	**996,638**	1,121,695
Exchange differences in respect of cash and cash equivalents	**(43,296)**	(4,905)
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 Dec[2]	**823,249**	996,638
Cash and cash equivalents comprise		
– cash and balances at central banks	**211,047**	232,987
– loans and advances to banks of one month or less	**295,345**	355,725
– net settlement accounts, cash collateral and items in course of collection from/transmission to other banks	**(3,901)**	49,566
– reverse repurchase agreements with banks of one month or less	**166,961**	223,563
– treasury bills, other bills and certificates of deposit less than three months	**153,797**	134,797
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 Dec[2]	**823,249**	996,638

Interest received was HK$323,758m (2023: HK$294,111m), interest paid was HK$211,163m (2023: HK$157,280m) and dividends received were HK$11,232m (2023: HK$8,261m).

1 Changes in subordinated loan capital (including those issued to Group companies) during the year included amounts from issuance and repayments as presented above, and non-cash changes from foreign exchange gain of HK$2,466m in 2024 (2023: exchange gain of HK$216m) and fair value gain after hedging of HK$1,105m in 2024 (2023: HK$9,899m loss). These balances are presented under 'Amounts due to Group companies' in the consolidated balance sheet.
2 At 31 December 2024, HK$137,500m (2023: HK$150,537m) was not available for use by the group due to a range of restrictions, including currency exchange and other restrictions.

Notes on the Consolidated Financial Statements

1 Basis of preparation and material accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

(a) Compliance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards

The consolidated financial statements of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited ('the Bank') and its subsidiaries (together 'the group') have been prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ('HKFRSs') as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ('HKICPA') and accounting principles generally accepted in Hong Kong. These consolidated financial statements also comply with the requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622) which are applicable to the preparation of the financial statements.

Standards adopted during the year ended 31 December 2024

There were no new standards, amendments to standards or interpretations that had an effect on these financial statements.

(b) Future accounting developments

Minor amendments to HKFRSs

The HKICPA has published minor amendments to HKFRSs that are effective from 1 January 2025, including Lack of Exchangeability (Amendments to HKAS 21). The group expects they will have an insignificant effect, when adopted, on the consolidated financial statements.

HKFRS 9 'Financial Instruments' and HKFRS 7 'Financial Instruments: Disclosures'

In August 2024, the HKICPA issued amendments to HKFRS 9 'Financial Instruments' and HKFRS 7 'Financial Instruments: Disclosures', effective for annual reporting periods beginning on, or after, 1 January 2026. In addition to guidance as to when certain financial liabilities can be deemed settled when using an electronic payment system, the amendments also provide further clarification regarding the classification of financial assets that contain contractual terms that change the timing or amount of contractual cash flows, including those arising from ESG-related contingencies, and financial assets with certain non-recourse features. The group is undertaking an assessment of the potential impact.

HKFRS 18 'Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements'

In July 2024, the HKICPA issued HKFRS 18 'Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements', effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2027. The new accounting standard aims to give users of financial statements more transparent and comparable information about an entity's financial performance. It will replace HKAS 1 'Presentation of Financial Statements' but carries over many requirements from that HKAS unchanged. In addition, there are three sets of new requirements relating to the structure of the income statement, management-defined performance measures and the aggregation and disaggregation of financial information.

While HKFRS 18 will not change recognition criteria or measurement bases, it may have an impact on presenting information in the financial statements, in particular the income statement and to a lesser extent the cash flow statement. The group is currently assessing the impacts and data readiness before developing a more detailed implementation plan.

(c) Foreign currencies

Items included in each of the group's entities are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates (the 'functional currency'). The group's consolidated financial statements are presented in Hong Kong dollars.

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of exchange on the date of the transaction. Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange at the balance sheet date except non-monetary assets and liabilities measured at historical cost which are translated using the rate of exchange at the initial transaction date. Exchange differences are included in other comprehensive income ('OCI') or in the income statement depending on where the gain or loss on the underlying item is recognised.

In the consolidated financial statements, the assets and liabilities of foreign operations whose functional currency is not Hong Kong dollars are translated into the group's presentation currency at the rate of exchange at the balance sheet date, while their results are translated into Hong Kong dollars at the average rates of exchange for the reporting period. Exchange differences arising are recognised in OCI. On disposal of a foreign operation, exchange differences previously recognised in OCI are reclassified to the income statement.

(d) Presentation of information

Certain disclosures have been presented elsewhere in this Annual Report and Accounts, rather than in the notes to the financial statements. These are market as ('Audited') as follows:

- Consolidated income statement and balance sheet data by reportable segments are included in the 'Financial Review' on page 15 as specified as 'Audited'.
- Disclosures concerning the nature and extent of risks relating to banking and insurance activities are included in the 'Risk' section on pages 25 to 55 and pages 61 to 65 as specified as 'Audited'.
- Capital disclosures are included in the 'Treasury Risk' section on pages 49 to 53 as specified as 'Audited'.

In accordance with the group's policy to provide disclosures that help stakeholders understand the group's performance, financial position and changes to them, the information provided in the Risk section goes beyond the minimum levels required by accounting standards, statutory and regulatory requirements. In addition, the group assesses good practice recommendations issued from time to time by relevant regulators and standard setters and will assess the applicability and relevance of such guidance, enhancing disclosures where appropriate.

(e) Critical estimates and judgements

The preparation of financial information requires the use of estimates and judgements about future conditions. In view of the inherent uncertainties and the high level of subjectivity involved in the recognition or measurement of items highlighted as the critical estimates and judgements in Note 1.2 below, it is possible that the outcomes in the next financial year could differ from those on which management's estimates are based. This could result in materially different estimates and judgements from those reached by management for the purposes of the consolidated financial statements. Management's selection of the group's accounting policies that contain critical estimates and judgements reflects the materiality of the items to which the policies are applied and the high degree of judgement and estimation uncertainty involved.

Management has considered the impact of climate-related risks on the group's financial position and performance. While the effects of climate change are a source of uncertainty, as at 31 December 2024 management did not consider there to be a material impact on our critical judgements and estimates from the physical, transition and other climate-related risks in the short to medium term. In particular, management has considered the known and observable potential impacts of climate-related risks of associated judgements and estimates in our value in use ('VIU') calculations.

(f) Going concern

The consolidated financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, as the Directors are satisfied that the group has the resources to continue in business for the foreseeable future. In making this assessment, the Directors have considered a wide range of information relating to present and future conditions, including future projections of profitability, cash flows, capital requirements and capital resources.

These considerations include stressed scenarios that reflect the uncertainty in the macroeconomic environment following disrupted supply chains, slower economic activity and ongoing geopolitical tensions. They also considered other top and emerging risks, including climate change, as well as the related impacts on profitability, capital and liquidity.

1.2 Summary of material accounting policies

(a) Consolidation and related policies

Investments in subsidiaries

Where an entity is governed by voting rights, the group consolidates when it holds, directly or indirectly, the necessary voting rights to pass resolutions by the governing body. In all other cases, the assessment of control is more complex and requires judgement of other factors, including having exposure to variability of returns, power to direct relevant activities and whether power is held as agent or principal.

Business combinations are accounted for using the acquisition method. The amount of non-controlling interest is measured either at fair value or at the non-controlling interest's proportionate share of the acquiree's identifiable net assets. This election is made for each business combination.

The Bank's investments in subsidiaries are stated at cost less impairment losses.

Goodwill

Goodwill is allocated to cash-generating units ('CGU') for the purpose of impairment testing, which is undertaken at the lowest level at which goodwill is monitored for internal management purposes. Impairment testing is performed at least once a year, or whenever there is an indication of impairment, by comparing the recoverable amount of a CGU with its carrying amount.

Interests in associates

The group classifies investments in entities over which it has significant influence, and that are neither subsidiaries nor joint arrangements, as associates.

Investments in associates are recognised using the equity method. The attributable share of the results and reserves of associates is included in the consolidated financial statements of the group based on either financial statements made up to 31 December or amounts adjusted for any material transactions or events occurring between the date the financial statements are available and 31 December.

Investments in associates are assessed at each reporting date and tested for impairment when there is an indication that the investment may be impaired, by comparing the recoverable amount of the relevant investment to its carrying amount. Goodwill on acquisitions of interests in associates is not tested separately for impairment, but is assessed as part of the carrying amount of the investment. Previously recognised impairments are assessed for reversal when there are indicators that they may no longer exist or have decreased. Any reversal, which may arise only from changes in estimates used to determine the prior impairment loss, is recognised to the extent that it does not increase the carrying amount above that had no impairment loss been previously recognised.

Critical estimates and judgements

The most significant critical estimates relate to the assessment of impairment or its reversal of our investment in Bank of Communications Co., Limited ('BoCom'), which involves estimations of value in use.

Judgements	Estimates
	– The value in use calculation uses discounted cash flow projections based on management's best estimate of future earnings available to ordinary shareholders prepared in accordance with HKAS 36 'Impairment of Assets'. Those cash flows use estimates based on BoCom's current condition and so do not include estimated cash flows arising from uncommitted future actions that may affect the performance of the investment which will be considered at the relevant time should they arise. – Key assumptions are used in estimating BoCom's value in use and the sensitivity of the value in use calculations to different assumptions are described in Note 14.

(b) Income and expense

Operating income

Interest income and expense

Interest income and expense for all financial instruments, excluding those classified as held for trading or designated at fair value, are recognised in 'Interest income' and 'Interest expense' in the income statement using the effective interest method. However, as an exception to this, interest on debt instruments issued by the group for funding purposes that are designated under the fair value option to reduce an accounting mismatch and on derivatives managed in conjunction with those debt instruments is included in interest expense.

Interest on credit-impaired financial assets is recognised by applying the effective interest rate to the amortised cost (i.e. gross carrying amount of the asset less allowance for expected credit losses ('ECL')).

Non-interest income and expense

The group generates fee income from services provided over time, such as account service and card fees, or when the group delivers a specific transaction at a point in time such as broking services and import/export services. With the exception of certain fund management and performance fees, all other fees are generated at a fixed price. Fund management and performance fees can be variable depending on the size of the customer portfolio and the group's performance as fund manager. Variable fees are recognised when all uncertainties are resolved. Fee income is generally earned from short term contracts with payment terms that do not include a significant financing component.

The group acts as principal in the majority of contracts with customers, with the exception of broking services. For brokerage trades where the group acts as an agent in the transaction it recognises broking income net of fees payable to other parties in the arrangement.

The group recognises fees earned on transaction-based arrangements at a point in time when it has fully provided the service to the customer. Where the contract requires services to be provided over time, income is recognised on a systematic basis over the life of the agreement.

Where the group offers a package of services that contains multiple non-distinct performance obligations, such as those included in account service packages, the promised services are treated as a single performance obligation. If a package of services contains distinct performance obligations, the corresponding transaction price is allocated to each performance obligation based on the estimated stand-alone selling prices.

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

Net income/(expense) from financial instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss includes the following:

- 'Net income from financial instruments held for trading or managed on a fair value basis': This comprises net trading activities, which includes all gains and losses from changes in the fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities held for trading and other financial instruments managed on a fair value basis, together with the related interest income, interest expense and dividend income, excluding the effect of changes in the credit risk of liabilities managed on a fair value basis. It also includes all gains and losses from changes in the fair value of derivatives that are managed in conjunction with financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value through profit or loss.
- 'Net income/(expense) from assets and liabilities of insurance businesses, including related derivatives, measured at fair value through profit or loss': This includes all gains and losses from changes in the fair value, together with related interest income, interest expense and dividend income in respect of financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value through profit or loss, and those derivatives managed in conjunction with the above that can be separately identifiable from other trading derivatives.
- 'Changes in fair value of designated debt instruments and related derivatives': Interest paid on debt instruments and interest cash flows on related derivatives is presented in interest expense where doing so reduces an accounting mismatch.
- 'Changes in fair value of other financial instruments mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss': This includes interest on instruments that fail the solely payments of principal and interest ('SPPI') test. See (d) below.

The accounting policies for insurance service result and insurance finance income/(expense) are disclosed in Note 1.2(j).

(c) Valuation of financial instruments

All financial instruments are initially recognised at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value of a financial instrument on initial recognition is generally its transaction price (that is, the fair value of the consideration given or received). However, if there is a difference between the transaction price and the fair value of financial instruments whose fair value is based on a quoted price in an active market or a valuation technique that uses only data from observable markets, the group recognises the difference as a trading gain or loss at inception ('a day 1 gain or loss'). In all other cases, the entire day 1 gain or loss is deferred and recognised in the income statement over the life of the transaction until the transaction matures, is closed out, the valuation inputs become observable or the group enters into an offsetting transaction.

The fair value of financial instruments is generally measured on an individual basis. However, in cases where the group manages a group of financial assets and liabilities according to its net market or credit risk exposure, the fair value of the group of financial instruments is measured on a net basis but the underlying financial assets and liabilities are presented separately in the consolidated financial statements, unless they satisfy the HKFRSs offsetting criteria. Financial instruments are classified into one of three fair value hierarchy levels, described in Note 32 'Fair values of financial instruments carried at fair value'.

Critical estimates and judgements

The majority of valuation techniques employ only observable market data. However, certain financial instruments are classified on the basis of valuation techniques that feature one or more significant market inputs that are unobservable, and for them, the measurement of fair value is more judgemental.

Judgements	Estimates
– An instrument in its entirety is classified as valued using significant unobservable inputs if, in the opinion of management, greater than 5% of the instrument's valuation is driven by unobservable inputs. – 'Unobservable' in this context means that there is little or no current market data available from which to determine the price at which an arm's length transaction would be likely to occur. It generally does not mean that there is no data available at all upon which to base a determination of fair value (consensus pricing data may, for example, be used).	– Details on the group's level 3 financial instruments and the sensitivity of their valuation to the effect of applying reasonably possible alternative assumptions in determining their fair value are set out in Note 32.

(d) Financial instruments measured at amortised cost

Financial assets that are held to collect the contractual cash flows and which contain contractual terms that give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest are measured at amortised cost. Such financial assets include most loans and advances to banks and customers and some debt securities. In addition, most financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost. The group accounts for regular way amortised cost financial instruments using trade date accounting. The carrying amount of these financial assets at initial recognition includes any directly attributable transactions costs.

The group may commit to underwriting loans on fixed contractual terms for specified periods of time. When the loan arising from the lending commitment is expected to be sold shortly after origination, the commitment to lend is recorded as a derivative. When the group intends to hold the loan, the loan commitment is included in the impairment calculations set out below.

Non-trading reverse repurchase, repurchase and similar agreements

When debt securities are sold subject to a commitment to repurchase them at a predetermined price ('repos'), they remain on the balance sheet and a liability is recorded in respect of the consideration received. Securities purchased under commitments to resell ('reverse repos') are not recognised on the balance sheet and an asset is recorded in respect of the initial consideration paid. Non-trading repos and reverse repos are measured at amortised cost. The difference between the sale and repurchase price, or between the purchase and resale price, is treated as interest and recognised in net interest income over the life of the agreement.

Contracts that are economically equivalent to reverse repo or repo agreements (such as sales or purchases of debt securities entered into together with total return swaps with the same counterparty) are accounted for similarly to, and presented together with, reverse repo or repo agreements.

(e) Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income ('FVOCI')

Financial assets managed within a business model that is achieved by both collecting contractual cash flows and selling and which contain contractual terms that give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest are measured at FVOCI. These comprise primarily debt securities. They are recognised on trade date when the group enters into contractual arrangements to purchase and are generally derecognised when they are either sold or redeemed. They are subsequently remeasured at fair value with changes therein (except for those relating to impairment, interest income and foreign currency exchange gains and losses) recognised in OCI until the assets are sold. Upon disposal, the cumulative gains or losses in OCI are recognised in the income statement within 'Other operating income' as 'Gains less losses from financial investments'. Financial assets measured at FVOCI are included in the impairment calculations set out below and impairment is recognised in the income statement.

(f) Equity securities measured at fair value with fair value movements presented in OCI

The equity securities for which fair value movements are shown in OCI are business facilitation and other similar investments where the group holds the investments other than to generate a capital return. Dividends from such investments are recognised in the income statement. Gains or losses on the derecognition of these equity securities are not transferred to the income statement. Otherwise, equity securities are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

(g) Financial instruments designated at fair value through profit or loss

Financial instruments, other than those held for trading, are classified in this category if they meet one or more of the criteria set out below and are so designated irrevocably at inception:

- The use of the designation removes or significantly reduces an accounting mismatch.
- A group of financial assets and liabilities or a group of financial liabilities is managed and its performance is evaluated on a fair value basis, in accordance with a documented risk management or investment strategy.
- The financial liability contains one or more non-closely related embedded derivatives.

Designated financial assets are recognised when the group enters into contracts with counterparties, which is generally on trade date, and are normally derecognised when the rights to the cash flows expire or are transferred. Designated financial liabilities are recognised when the group enters into contracts with counterparties, which is generally on settlement date, and are normally derecognised when extinguished. Subsequent changes in fair values are recognised in the income statement in 'Net income from financial instruments held for trading or managed on a fair value basis' or 'Net income/(expense) from assets and liabilities of insurance businesses, including related derivatives, measured at fair value through profit or loss' or within 'Other operating income' as 'Changes in fair value of designated debts and related derivatives' except for the effect of changes in the liabilities' credit risk which is presented in OCI, unless that treatment would create or enlarge an accounting mismatch in profit or loss.

Under the above criteria, the main classes of financial instruments designated by the group are:

- Debt instruments for funding purposes that are designated to reduce an accounting mismatch: The interest and/or foreign exchange exposure on certain fixed rate debt securities issued has been matched with the interest and/or foreign exchange exposure on certain swaps as part of a documented risk management strategy.
- Financial assets and financial liabilities under unit-linked and non-linked investment contracts: A contract under which the group does not accept significant insurance risk from another party is not classified as an insurance contract, other than investment contracts with discretionary participation features ('DPF'), but is accounted for as a financial liability. Customer liabilities under linked and certain non-linked investment contracts issued by insurance subsidiaries are determined based on the fair value of the assets held in the linked funds or by a valuation method. The related financial assets and liabilities are managed and reported to management on a fair value basis. Designation at fair value of the financial assets and related liabilities allows changes in fair values to be recorded in the income statement and presented in the same line.
- Financial liabilities that contain both deposit and derivative components: These financial liabilities are managed and their performance evaluated on a fair value basis.

(h) Derivatives

Derivatives are financial instruments that derive their value from the price of underlying items such as equities, interest rates or other indices. Derivatives are recognised initially and are subsequently measured at fair value through profit or loss. Derivatives are classified as assets when their fair value is positive or as liabilities when their fair value is negative. This includes embedded derivatives in financial liabilities which are bifurcated from the host contract when they meet the definition of a derivative on a stand-alone basis.

Where the derivatives are managed with debt securities issued by the group that are designated at fair value where doing so reduces an accounting mismatch, the contractual interest is shown in 'Interest expense' together with the interest payable on the issued debt.

Hedge accounting

When derivatives are not part of fair value designated relationships, if held for risk management purposes they are designated in hedge accounting relationships where the required criteria for documentation and hedge effectiveness are met. The group uses these derivatives or, where allowed, other non-derivative hedging instruments in fair value hedges, cash flow hedges or hedges of net investments in foreign operations as appropriate to the risk being hedged.

Fair value hedge

Fair value hedge accounting does not change the recording of gains and losses on derivatives and other hedging instruments, but results in recognising changes in the fair value of the hedged assets or liabilities attributable to the hedged risk that would not otherwise be recognised in the income statement. If a hedge relationship no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting, hedge accounting is discontinued and the cumulative adjustment to the carrying amount of the hedged item for which the effective interest rate method is used is amortised to the income statement on a recalculated effective interest rate, unless the hedged item has been derecognised, in which case it is recognised in the income statement immediately.

Cash flow hedge

The effective portion of gains and losses on hedging instruments is recognised in OCI and the ineffective portion of the change in fair value of derivative hedging instruments that are part of a cash flow hedge relationship is recognised immediately in the income statement within 'Net income from financial instruments held for trading or managed on a fair value basis'. The accumulated gains and losses recognised in OCI are reclassified to the income statement in the same periods in which the hedged item affects profit or loss. When a hedge relationship is discontinued, or partially discontinued, any cumulative gain or loss recognised in OCI remains in equity until the forecast transaction is recognised in the income statement. When a forecast transaction is no longer expected to occur, the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in OCI is immediately reclassified to the income statement.

Derivatives that do not qualify for hedge accounting

Non-qualifying hedges are derivatives entered into as economic hedges of assets and liabilities for which hedge accounting was not applied.

(i) Impairment of amortised cost and FVOCI financial assets

Expected credit losses are recognised for loans and advances to banks and customers, non-trading reverse repurchase agreements, other financial assets held at amortised cost, debt instruments measured at FVOCI, and certain loan commitments and financial guarantee contracts. At initial recognition, an allowance (or provision in the case of some loan commitments and financial guarantees) is recognised for ECL resulting from possible default events within the next 12 months or less, where the remaining life is less than 12 months ('12-month ECL'). In the event of a significant increase in credit risk, an allowance (or provision) is recognised for ECL resulting from all possible default events over the expected life of the financial instrument ('lifetime ECL'). Financial assets where 12-month ECL is recognised are considered to be 'stage 1'; financial assets which are considered to have experienced a significant increase in credit risk are in 'stage 2'; and financial assets for which there is objective evidence of impairment, and so are considered to be in default or otherwise credit-impaired are in 'stage 3'. Purchased or originated credit-impaired financial assets ('POCI') are treated differently as set out below.

Credit-impaired (stage 3)

The group determines that a financial instrument is credit-impaired and in stage 3 by considering relevant objective evidence, primarily whether contractual payments of either principal or interest are past due for more than 90 days, there are other indications that the borrower is unlikely to pay such as that a concession has been granted to the borrower for economic or legal reasons relating to the borrower's financial condition, or the loan is otherwise considered to be in default.

If such unlikeliness to pay is not identified at an earlier stage, it is deemed to occur when an exposure is 90 days past due. Therefore, the definitions of credit-impaired and default are aligned as far as possible so that stage 3 represents all loans that are considered defaulted or otherwise credit-impaired.

Interest income is recognised by applying the effective interest rate to the amortised cost (i.e. gross carrying amount less allowance for ECL).

Write-off
Financial assets (and the related impairment allowances) are normally written off, either partially or in full, when there is no realistic prospect of recovery. Where loans are secured, this is generally after receipt of any proceeds from the realisation of security. In circumstances where the net realisable value of any collateral has been determined and there is no reasonable expectation of further recovery, write-off may be earlier.

Forbearance
Loans are identified as forborne and classified as either performing or non-performing when the group modifies the contractual terms due to financial difficulty of the borrower. Non-performing forborne loans are stage 3 and classified as non-performing until they meet the cure criteria, as specified by applicable credit risk policy (for example, when the loan is no longer in default and no other indicators of default have been present for at least 12 months). Any amount written off as a result of any modification of contractual terms upon entering forbearance would not be reversed.

The group applies the EBA Guidelines on the application of definition of default for our retail portfolios, which affect credit risk policies and our reporting in respect of the status of loans as credit impaired principally due to forbearance (or curing thereof). Further details are provided under ‘Forborne loans and advances’ on page 26.

Performing forborne loans are initially stage 2 and remain classified as forborne until they meet applicable cure criteria (for example, they continue to not be in default and no other indicators of default are present for a period of at least 24 months). At this point, the loan is either stage 1 or stage 2 as determined by comparing the risk of a default occurring at the reporting date (based on the modified contractual terms) and the risk of a default occurring at initial recognition (based on the original, unmodified contractual terms).

A forborne loan is derecognised if the existing agreement is cancelled and a new agreement is made on substantially different terms, or if the terms of an existing agreement are modified such that the forborne loan is a substantially different financial instrument. Any new loans that arise following derecognition events in these circumstances would generally be classified as POCI and will continue to be disclosed as forborne.

Loan modifications other than forborne loans
Loan modifications that are not identified as forborne are considered to be commercial restructurings. Where a commercial restructuring results in a modification (whether legalised through an amendment to the existing terms or the issuance of a new loan contract) such that the group’s rights to the cash flows under the original contract have expired, the old loan is derecognised and the new loan is recognised at fair value. The rights to cash flows are generally considered to have expired if the commercial restructure is at market rates and no payment-related concession has been provided. Modifications of certain higher credit risk wholesale loans are assessed for derecognition having regard to changes in contractual terms that either individually or in combination are judged to result in a substantially different financial instrument. Mandatory and general offer loan modifications that are not borrower specific, for example market-wide customer relief programmes, generally do not result in derecognition, but their stage allocation is determined considering all available and supportable information under our ECL impairment policy. Changes made to these financial instruments that are economically equivalent and required by interest rate benchmark reform do not result in the derecognition or a change in the carrying amount of the financial instrument, but instead require the effective interest rate to be updated to reflect the change of the interest rate benchmark.

Significant increase in credit risk (stage 2)
An assessment of whether credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition is performed at each reporting period by considering the change in the risk of default occurring over the remaining life of the financial instrument. The assessment explicitly or implicitly compares the risk of default occurring at the reporting date compared with that at initial recognition, taking into account reasonable and supportable information, including information about past events, current conditions and future economic conditions. The assessment is unbiased, probability-weighted, and to the extent relevant, uses forward-looking information consistent with that used in the measurement of ECL. The analysis of credit risk is multifactor. The determination of whether a specific factor is relevant and its weight compared with other factors depends on the type of product, the characteristics of the financial instrument and the borrower, and the geographical region. Therefore, it is not possible to provide a single set of criteria that will determine what is considered to be a significant increase in credit risk and these criteria will differ for different types of lending, particularly between retail and wholesale.

However, unless identified at an earlier stage, all financial assets are deemed to have suffered a significant increase in credit risk when 30 days past due. In addition, wholesale loans that are individually assessed, which are typically corporate and commercial customers, and included on a watch or worry list are included in stage 2.

For wholesale portfolios, the quantitative comparison assesses default risk using a lifetime probability of default (‘PD') which encompasses a wide range of information including the obligor’s customer risk rating ('CRR'), macroeconomic condition forecasts and credit transition probabilities. For origination CRRs up to 3.3, significant increase in credit risk is measured by comparing the average PD for the remaining term estimated at origination with the equivalent estimation at the reporting date.

The quantitative measure of significance varies depending on the credit quality at origination as follows:

Origination CRR	Significance trigger – PD to increase by
0.1–1.2	15bps
2.1– 3.3	30bps

For CRRs greater than 3.3 that are not impaired, a significant increase in credit risk is considered to have occurred when the origination PD has doubled. The significance of changes in PD was informed by expert credit risk judgement, referenced to historical credit migrations and to relative changes in external market rates.

For loans originated prior to the implementation of HKFRS 9, the origination PD does not include adjustments to reflect expectations of future macroeconomic conditions since these are not available without the use of hindsight. In the absence of this data, origination PD must be approximated assuming through-the-cycle PDs and through-the-cycle migration probabilities, consistent with the instrument's underlying modelling approach and the CRR at origination. For these loans, the quantitative comparison is supplemented with additional CRR deterioration based thresholds as set out in the table below:

Origination CRR	**Additional significance criteria – number of CRR grade notches deterioration required to identify as significant credit deterioration (stage 2) (> or equal to)**
0.1	5 notches
1.1– 4.2	4 notches
4.3 – 5.1	3 notches
5.2 – 7.1	2 notches
7.2 – 8.2	1 notch
8.3	0 notch

Further information about the 23-grade scale used for CRR can be found on page 26.

For retail portfolios, default risk is assessed using a reporting date 12-month PD derived from internal models, which incorporate all available information about the customer. This PD is adjusted for the effect of macroeconomic forecasts for periods longer than 12 months and is considered to be a reasonable approximation of a lifetime PD measure. Retail exposures are first segmented into homogenous portfolios, generally by country, product and brand. Within each portfolio, the stage 2 accounts are defined as accounts with an adjusted 12-month PD greater than the average 12-month PD of loans in that portfolio 12 months before they become 30 days past due. The expert credit risk judgement is that no prior increase in credit risk is significant. This portfolio-specific threshold therefore identifies loans with a PD higher than would be expected from loans that are performing as originally expected and higher than that which would have been acceptable at origination. It therefore approximates a comparison of origination to reporting date PDs.

As additional data becomes available, the retail transfer criteria approach continues to be refined to utilise a more relative approach for certain portfolios. These enhancements take advantage of the increase in origination related data in the assessment of significant increases in credit risk by comparing remaining lifetime PD to the comparable remaining term lifetime PD at origination based on portfolio-specific origination segments.

Unimpaired and without significant increase in credit risk (stage 1)
ECL resulting from default events that are possible within the next 12 months ('12-month ECL') is recognised for financial instruments that remain in stage 1.

Purchased or originated credit-impaired ('POCI')
Financial assets that are purchased or originated at a deep discount that reflects the incurred credit losses are considered to be POCI. This population includes new financial instruments recognised in most cases following the derecognition of forborne loans. The amount of change in lifetime ECL for a POCI loan is recognised in profit or loss until the POCI loan is derecognised, even if the lifetime ECL are less than the amount of ECL included in the estimated cash flows on initial recognition.

Movement between stages
Financial assets can be transferred between the different categories (other than POCI) depending on their relative increase in credit risk since initial recognition. Financial instruments are transferred out of stage 2 if their credit risk is no longer considered to be significantly increased since initial recognition based on the assessments described above. In the case of non-performing forborne loans, such financial instruments are transferred out of stage 3 when they no longer exhibit any evidence of credit impairment and meet the curing criteria as described above.

Measurement of ECL
The assessment of credit risk, and the estimation of ECL, are unbiased and probability-weighted, and incorporate all available information which is relevant to the assessment including information about past events, current conditions and reasonable and supportable forecasts of future events and economic conditions at the reporting date. In addition, the estimation of ECL should take into account the time value of money and considers other factors such as climate-related risks.

In general, the group calculates ECL using three main components, a PD, a loss given default ('LGD') and the exposure at default ('EAD').

The 12-month ECL is calculated by multiplying the 12-month PD, LGD, and EAD. Lifetime ECL is calculated using the lifetime PD instead. The 12-month and lifetime PDs represent the probability of default occurring over the next 12 months and the remaining maturity of the instrument respectively.

The EAD represents the expected balance at default, taking into account the repayment of principal and interest from the balance sheet date to the default event together with any expected drawdowns of committed facilities. The LGD represents expected losses on the EAD given the event of default, taking into account, among other attributes, the mitigating effect of collateral value at the time it is expected to be realised and the time value of money.

The group makes use of the regulatory internal ratings-based ('IRB') framework where possible, with recalibration to meet the differing HKFRS 9 requirements as set out in the following table:

Model	Regulatory capital	HKFRS 9
PD	– Represents long-run average PD throughout a full economic cycle (for mortgage portfolios a hybrid approach, which sits between the extremes of point in time and through the cycle, is used for calculating long-run averages as required by the PRA). – Default backstop of 90+ days past due for all portfolios (includes unlikeliness to pay (UTP) criteria in line with internal policy). – May be subject to a sovereign cap.	– Represents current portfolio quality and performance, adjusted for the impact of multiple forward-looking macro-economic scenarios. – Default backstop of 90+ days past due for all portfolios (includes UTP criteria in line with internal policy).
EAD	– Cannot be lower than current balance.	– Amortisation captured for term products. – Future drawdown captured for revolving products.
LGD	– Downturn LGD (consistent with losses we would expect to suffer during a severe but plausible economic downturn). – Regulatory floors may apply to mitigate risk of underestimating downturn LGD due to lack of historical data. – Discounted using appropriate index (minimum 9%). – All collection costs included.	– LGD based on recent portfolio performance data and includes the expected impact of future economic conditions such as change in the value of collateral. – No floors applied, discounted using the original effective interest rate. – Only costs associated with selling collateral and certain third party costs are included.
Other		– Discounted back from point of default to balance sheet date.

While 12-month PDs are recalibrated from IRB models where possible, the lifetime PDs are determined by projecting the 12-month PD using a term structure. For the wholesale methodology, the lifetime PD also takes into account credit migration, i.e. a customer migrating through the CRR bands over its life.

The ECL for wholesale stage 3 is determined primarily on an individual basis using a discounted cash flow ('DCF') methodology. The expected future cash flows are based on estimates as of the reporting date, reflecting reasonable and supportable assumptions and projections of future recoveries and expected future receipts of interest.

Collateral is taken into account if it is likely that the recovery of the outstanding amount will include realisation of collateral based on its estimated fair value of collateral at the time of expected realisation, less costs for obtaining and selling the collateral.

The cash flows are discounted at a reasonable approximation of the original effective interest rate. For significant cases, cash flows under up to four different scenarios are probability-weighted by reference to the status of the borrower, economic scenarios applied more generally by the group and judgement in relation to the likelihood of the work-out strategy succeeding or receivership being required. For less significant cases where an individual assessment is undertaken, the effect of different economic scenarios and work-out strategies results in an ECL calculation based on a most likely outcome which is adjusted to capture losses resulting from less likely but possible outcomes. For certain less significant cases, the group may use an LGD-based modelled approach to ECL assessment, which factors in a range of economic scenarios.

Period over which ECL is measured

ECL is measured from the initial recognition of the financial asset. The maximum period considered when measuring ECL (be it 12-month or lifetime ECL) is the maximum contractual period over which the group is exposed to credit risk. However, where the financial instrument includes both a drawn and undrawn commitment and the contractual ability to demand repayment and cancel the undrawn commitment does not serve to limit the group's exposure to credit risk to the contractual notice period, the contractual period does not determine the maximum period considered. Instead, ECL is measured over the period the group remains exposed to credit risk that is not mitigated by credit risk management actions. This applies to retail overdrafts and credit cards, where the period is the average time taken for stage 2 exposures to default or close as performing accounts, determined on a portfolio basis and ranging from between two and six years. In addition, for these facilities it is not possible to identify the ECL on the loan commitment component separately from the financial asset component. As a result, the total ECL is recognised in the loss allowance for the financial asset unless the total ECL exceeds the gross carrying amount of the financial asset, in which case the ECL is recognised as a provision. For wholesale overdraft facilities, credit risk management actions are taken no less frequently than on an annual basis.

Forward-looking economic inputs

The group applies multiple forward-looking global economic scenarios determined with reference to external forecast distributions representative of its view of forecast economic conditions. This approach is considered sufficient to calculate unbiased expected credit losses in most economic environments. In certain economic environments, additional analysis may be necessary and may result in additional scenarios or adjustments, to reflect a range of possible economic outcomes sufficient for an unbiased estimate. The detailed methodology is disclosed in 'Measurement uncertainty and sensitivity analysis of ECL estimates' on pages 31 to 36.

Critical estimates and judgements

The calculation of the group's ECL under HKFRS 9 requires the group to make a number of judgements, assumptions and estimates. The most significant are set out below:

Judgements	Estimates
– Defining what is considered to be a significant increase in credit risk. – Determining the lifetime and point of initial recognition of overdrafts and credit cards. – Selecting and calibrating the PD, LGD and EAD models, which support the calculations, including making reasonable and supportable judgements about how models react to current and future economic conditions. – Selecting model inputs and economic forecasts, including determining whether sufficient and appropriately weighted economic forecasts are incorporated to calculate unbiased expected credit losses. – Making management adjustments to account for late breaking events, model and data limitations and deficiencies, and expert credit judgements. – Selecting applicable recovery strategies for certain wholesale credit-impaired loans.	– The section 'Measurement uncertainty and sensitivity analysis of ECL estimates' marked as audited from pages 31 to 36, set out the assumptions used in determining ECL and provides an indication of the sensitivity of the result to the application of different weightings being applied to different economic assumptions.

(j) Insurance contracts

A contract is classified as an insurance contract where the group accepts significant insurance risk from another party by agreeing to compensate that party if it is adversely affected by a specified uncertain future event. An insurance contract may also transfer financial risk, but is accounted for as an insurance contract if the insurance risk is significant. In addition, the group issues investment contracts with discretionary participation features ('DPF'), which are also accounted under HKFRS 17 'Insurance Contracts'.

Aggregation of insurance contracts

Individual insurance contracts that are managed together and subject to similar risks are identified as a portfolio. Contracts that are managed together usually belong to the same product group, and have similar characteristics such as being subject to a similar pricing framework or similar product management, and are issued by the same legal entity. If a contract is exposed to more than one risk, the dominant risk of the contract is used to assess whether the contract features similar risks. Each portfolio is further separated by the contract's expected profitability. The portfolios are split by their profitability into: (i) contracts that are onerous at initial recognition; (ii) contracts that at initial recognition have no significant possibility of becoming onerous subsequently; and (iii) the remaining contracts. These profitability groups are then divided by issue date, with contracts the group issues after the transition date being grouped into calendar quarter cohorts. For multi-currency groups of contracts, the group considers its groups of contracts as being denominated in a single currency.

The measurement of the insurance contract liability is based on groups of insurance contracts as established at initial recognition, and will include fulfilment cash flows as well as the CSM representing the unearned profit. The group's accounting policy is to update the estimates used in the measurement on a year-to-date basis.

Fulfilment cash flows

The fulfilment cash flows comprise the following:

Best estimates of future cash flows

The cash flows within the contract boundary of each contract in the group include amounts expected to be collected from premiums and payouts for claims, benefits and expenses, and are projected using a range of scenarios and assumptions in an unbiased way based on the group's demographic and operating experience along with external mortality data where the group's own experience data is not sufficiently large in size to be credible.

Adjustment for the time value of money and financial risks associated with the future cash flows

The estimates of future cash flows are adjusted to reflect the time value of money (i.e. discounting) and the financial risks to derive an expected present value. The group generally makes use of stochastic modelling techniques in the estimation for products with options and guarantees.

A bottom-up approach is used to determine the discount rate to be applied to a given set of expected future cash flows. This is derived as the sum of the risk-free yield and an illiquidity premium. The risk-free yield is determined based on observable market data, where such markets are considered to be deep, liquid and transparent. When information is not available, management judgement is applied to determine the appropriate risk-free yield. Illiquidity premiums reflect the liquidity characteristics of the associated insurance contracts.

Risk adjustment for non-financial risk

The risk adjustment reflects the compensation required for bearing the uncertainty about the amount and timing of future cash flows that arises from non-financial risk. It is calculated as a 75th percentile level of stress over a one-year period. The level of the stress is determined with reference to external regulatory stresses and internal economic capital stresses.

For the main insurance manufacturing entity in the group, the one-year 75th percentile level of stress corresponds to 60th percentile (2023: 60th percentile) based on an ultimate view of risk over all future years.

The group does not disaggregate changes in the risk adjustment between insurance service result (comprising insurance revenue and insurance service expense) and insurance finance income or expenses. All changes are included in the insurance service result.

Measurement models

The variable fee approach ('VFA') measurement model is used for most of the contracts issued by the group, which is mandatory upon meeting the following eligibility criteria at inception:

a. the contractual terms specify that the policyholder participates in a share of a clearly identified pool of underlying items;
b. the group expects to pay to the policyholder a substantial share of the fair value returns on the underlying items. The group considers that a substantial share is a majority of returns; and
c. the group expects a substantial proportion of any change in the amounts to be paid to the policyholder to vary with the change in fair value of the underlying items. The group considers that a substantial proportion is a majority proportion of change on a present value probability-weighted average of all scenarios.

The risk mitigation option is used for a number of economic offsets against the instruments that meet specific requirements.

The remaining contracts issued and the reinsurance contracts held are accounted for under the general measurement model ('GMM').

CSM and coverage units

The CSM represents the unearned profit and results in no income or expense at initial recognition when the group of contracts is profitable. The CSM is adjusted at each subsequent reporting period for changes in fulfilment cash flows relating to future service (e.g. changes in non-economic assumptions, including mortality and morbidity rates). For initial recognition of onerous groups of contracts and when groups of contracts become onerous subsequently, losses are recognised in insurance service expense immediately.

For groups of contracts measured using the VFA, changes in the group's share of the underlying items, and economic experience and economic assumption changes adjust the CSM, whereas these changes do not adjust the CSM under the GMM, but are recognised in profit or loss as they arise. However, under the risk mitigation option for VFA contracts, the changes in the fulfilment cash flows and the changes in the group's share in the fair value return on underlying items that the instruments mitigate are not adjusted in CSM but recognised in profit or loss. The risk mitigating instruments are primarily reinsurance contracts held.

The CSM is systematically recognised in insurance revenue to reflect the insurance contract services provided, based on the coverage units of the group of contracts. Coverage units are determined by the quantity of benefits and the expected coverage period of the contracts.

The group identifies the quantity of the benefits provided as follows:

– Insurance coverage: This is based on the expected net policyholder insurance benefit at each period after allowance for decrements, where net policyholder insurance benefit refers to the amount of sum assured less the fund value or surrender value.

– Investment services (including both investment-return service and investment-related service): This is based on a constant measure basis which reflects the provision of access for the policyholder to the facility.

For contracts that provide both insurance coverage and investment services, coverage units are weighted according to the expected present value of the future cash outflows for each service.

Insurance service result
Insurance revenue reflects the consideration to which the group expects to be entitled in exchange for the provision of coverage and other insurance contract services (excluding any investment components). Insurance service expenses comprise the incurred claims and other incurred insurance service expenses (excluding any investment components), and losses on onerous groups of contracts and reversals of such losses.

Insurance finance income and expenses
Insurance finance income or expenses comprise the change in the carrying amount of the group of insurance contracts arising from the effects of the time value of money, financial risk and changes therein. For VFA contracts, changes in the fair value of underlying items (excluding additions and withdrawals) are recognised in insurance finance income or expenses.

Critical estimates and judgements

The measurement of insurance contract liabilities under HKFRS 17 involves significant judgements that are set out below:

Judgements	Estimates
– The VFA measurement model is used for most of the contracts issued by the group. In applying the VFA eligibility criteria as described above under the accounting policies for insurance contracts, the group determined that for criterion (b) a substantial share is a majority of the returns, and for criterion (c) a substantial proportion is a majority proportion of the change on a present value probability-weighted average of all scenarios. – The CSM is systematically recognised in insurance revenue based on the coverage units of the group of contracts. The group determined that the coverage unit basis that best reflects the provision of investment services is the availability of the facility over time, and therefore the quantity of benefit selected is a constant measure. The coverage units are reviewed and updated at each reporting date.	

(k) Property

Land and buildings
Land and buildings held for own use are carried at their revalued amount, being the fair value at the date of the revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Revaluations are performed by professional qualified valuers, on a market basis, with sufficient regularity to ensure that the net carrying amount does not differ materially from the fair value. Surpluses arising on revaluation are credited firstly to the income statement, to the extent of any deficits arising on revaluation previously charged to the income statement in respect of the same land and buildings, and are thereafter taken to the 'Property revaluation reserve'. Deficits arising on revaluation are first set off against any previous revaluation surpluses included in the 'Property revaluation reserve' in respect of the same land and buildings, and are thereafter recognised in the income statement.

Leasehold land and buildings are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the unexpired terms of the leases or the remaining useful lives.

The Government of Hong Kong owns all the land in Hong Kong and permits its use under leasehold arrangements. Similar arrangements exist in mainland China. The group accounts for its interests in own use leasehold land and land use rights in accordance with HKFRS 16 but discloses these as owned assets when the right of use are considered sufficient to constitute control.

Investment properties
The group holds certain properties as investments to earn rentals or for capital appreciation, or both, and those investment properties are included on balance sheet at fair value with changes in fair value being recognised in the income statement.

(l) Employee compensation and benefits

Post-employment benefit plans
The group operates a number of pension schemes including defined benefit, defined contribution, and other post-employment benefit schemes.

Payments to defined contribution schemes are charged as an expense as the employees render service.

Defined benefit pension obligations are calculated using the projected unit credit method. The net charge to the income statement mainly comprises the service cost and the net interest on the net defined benefit asset or liability, and is presented in operating expenses.

Remeasurements of the net defined benefit asset or liability, which comprise actuarial gains and losses, return on plan assets (excluding interest) and the effect of the asset ceiling (if any, excluding interest), are recognised immediately in OCI. The net defined benefit asset or liability represents the present value of defined benefit obligations reduced by the fair value of plan assets, after applying the asset ceiling test, where the net defined benefit surplus is limited to the present value of available refunds and reductions in future contributions to the plan.

(m) Tax

Income tax comprises current tax and deferred tax. Income tax is recognised in the income statement except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in OCI or directly in equity, in which case the tax is recognised in the same statement as the related item appears.

Current tax is the tax expected to be payable on the taxable profit for the year and on any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous years. The group provides for potential current tax liabilities that may arise on the basis of the amounts expected to be paid to the tax authorities.

Deferred tax is recognised on temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities in the balance sheet, and the amounts attributed to such assets and liabilities for tax purposes. Deferred tax is calculated using the tax rates expected to apply in the periods in which the assets will be realised or the liabilities settled.

In assessing the probability and sufficiency of future taxable profit, management considers the availability of evidence to support the recognition of deferred tax assets, taking into account the inherent risks in long-term forecasting, including climate change-related, and drivers of recent history of tax losses where applicable. Management also considers the future reversal of existing taxable temporary differences and tax planning strategies, including corporate reorganisations.

Current and deferred tax are calculated based on tax rates and laws enacted, or substantively enacted, by the balance sheet date.

(n) Provisions, contingent liabilities and guarantees

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle a present legal or constructive obligation that has arisen as a result of past events and for which a reliable estimate can be made.

Contingent liabilities and guarantees

Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities, which include certain guarantees and letters of credit pledged as collateral security, and contingent liabilities related to legal proceedings or regulatory matters, are not recognised in the consolidated financial statements but are disclosed unless the probability of settlement is remote.

Financial guarantee contracts

Liabilities under financial guarantee contracts that are not classified as insurance contracts are recorded initially at their fair value, which is generally the fee received or present value of the fee receivable.

(o) Impairment of non-financial assets

Software under development is tested for impairment at least annually. Other non-financial assets such as property, plant and equipment, intangible assets (excluding goodwill) and right-of-use assets are tested for impairment at the individual asset level when there is indication of impairment at that level, or at the CGU level for assets that do not have a recoverable amount at the individual asset level. In addition, impairment is also tested at the CGU level when there is indication of impairment at that level. For this purpose, CGUs are considered to be the principal operating legal entities and branches divided in a similar manner as the group's operating segments.

Impairment testing compares the carrying amount of the non-financial asset or CGU with its recoverable amount, which is the higher of the fair value less costs of disposal or the value in use. The carrying amount of a CGU comprises the carrying amount of its assets and liabilities, including non-financial assets that are directly attributable to it and non-financial assets that can be allocated to it on a reasonable and consistent basis. Non-financial assets that cannot be allocated to an individual CGU are tested for impairment at an appropriate grouping of CGUs. The recoverable amount of the CGU is the higher of the fair value less costs of disposal of the CGU, which is determined by independent and qualified valuers where relevant, and the value in use, which is calculated based on appropriate inputs.

When the recoverable amount of a CGU is less than its carrying amount, an impairment loss is recognised in the income statement to the extent that the impairment can be allocated on a pro-rata basis to the non-financial assets by reducing their carrying amounts to the higher of their respective individual recoverable amount or nil. Impairment is not allocated to the financial assets in a CGU.

Impairment losses recognised in prior periods for non-financial assets are reversed when there has been a change in the estimate used to determine the recoverable amount. The impairment loss is reversed to the extent that the carrying amount of the non-financial assets would not exceed the amount that would have been determined (net of amortisation or depreciation) had no impairment loss been recognised in prior periods.

2 Operating profit

(a) Net interest income

Net interest income includes:

	2024	2023
	HK$m	HK$m
Interest income recognised on impaired financial assets	**2,893**	1,753
Interest income recognised on financial assets measured at amortised cost	**253,022**	247,908
Interest income recognised on financial assets measured at FVOCI	**62,947**	47,431
Interest expense on financial instruments, excluding interest on financial liabilities held for trading or designated or otherwise mandatorily measured at fair value[1]	**(182,450)**	(149,496)

1 Includes interest expenses on lease liabilities of HK$256m (2023: HK$272m).

(b) Net fee income

Net fee income by reportable segments

	Wealth and Personal Banking HK$m	Commercial Banking HK$m	Global Banking HK$m	Markets and Securities Services HK$m	Corporate Centre[1] HK$m	Other (GBM-other) HK$m	Total HK$m
Account services	**830**	**1,109**	**350**	**112**	**—**	**—**	**2,401**
Funds under management	**5,490**	**499**	**10**	**1,729**	**—**	**—**	**7,728**
Cards	**9,495**	**317**	**80**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**9,892**
Credit facilities	**183**	**1,335**	**1,017**	**34**	**—**	**—**	**2,569**
Broking income	**3,387**	**51**	**—**	**772**	**—**	**—**	**4,210**
Imports/exports	**—**	**2,271**	**973**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**3,244**
Unit trusts	**7,240**	**75**	**7**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**7,322**
Underwriting	**—**	**—**	**436**	**256**	**—**	**—**	**692**
Remittances	**291**	**2,062**	**805**	**4**	**—**	**—**	**3,162**
Global custody	**874**	**46**	**33**	**3,005**	**—**	**—**	**3,958**
Insurance agency commission	**1,836**	**116**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**1,952**
Other	**4,203**	**3,433**	**2,937**	**4,601**	**(5,247)**	**(838)**	**9,089**
Fee income	**33,829**	**11,314**	**6,648**	**10,513**	**(5,247)**	**(838)**	**56,219**
Fee expense	**(9,787)**	**(487)**	**(1,330)**	**(8,493)**	**5,565**	**830**	**(13,702)**
Year ended 31 Dec 2024	**24,042**	**10,827**	**5,318**	**2,020**	**318**	**(8)**	**42,517**
Account services	809	1,092	351	75	—	—	2,327
Funds under management	4,741	459	16	1,765	—	—	6,981
Cards	9,055	313	56	—	—	—	9,424
Credit facilities	310	1,360	1,173	24	—	—	2,867
Broking income	2,650	46	—	601	—	—	3,297
Imports/exports	—	2,326	790	2	—	—	3,118
Unit trusts	4,831	78	5	—	—	—	4,914
Underwriting	1	1	384	262	—	—	648
Remittances	265	1,959	755	4	—	—	2,983
Global custody	814	40	41	2,979	—	—	3,874
Insurance agency commission	1,510	117	—	—	—	—	1,627
Other	3,242	3,237	2,644	4,024	(3,601)	(581)	8,965
Fee income	28,228	11,028	6,215	9,736	(3,601)	(581)	51,025
Fee expense	(8,802)	(364)	(1,177)	(7,084)	3,871	574	(12,982)
Year ended 31 Dec 2023	19,426	10,664	5,038	2,652	270	(7)	38,043

1 Includes inter-segment elimination.

Net fee income includes:

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Fees earned on financial assets that are not at fair value through profit and loss (other than amounts included in determining the effective interest rate)	**8,968**	9,110
– fee income	**16,353**	15,927
– fee expense	**(7,385)**	(6,817)
Fee earned on trust and other fiduciary activities	**9,207**	8,861
– fee income	**11,182**	10,374
– fee expense	**(1,975)**	(1,513)

(c) Net income from financial instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss[1]

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Net income/(expense) arising on:		
Net trading activities	**98,138**	80,700
Other instruments managed on a fair value basis	**(6,208)**	(6,265)
Net income from financial instruments held for trading or managed on a fair value basis	**91,930**	74,435
Financial assets held to meet liabilities under insurance and investment contracts	**37,476**	49,907
Liabilities to customers under investment contracts	**(1,452)**	(948)
Net income from assets and liabilities of insurance businesses, including related derivatives, measured at fair value through profit or loss	**36,024**	48,959
Year ended 31 Dec	**127,954**	123,394

1 Excludes 'Changes in fair value of designated debt issued and related derivatives' of HK$117m loss (2023: HK$8m gain) and 'Changes in fair value of other financial instruments mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss' of HK$631m (2023: HK$252m) which are presented under note 2(d) Other operating income/(expense).

(d) Other operating income/(expense)

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Losses on investment properties	**(1,046)**	(35)
Changes in fair value of designated debt issued and related derivatives[1]	**(117)**	8
Losses on disposal of property, plant and equipment and assets held for sale	**(32)**	(421)
Gain on disposal of associate	**—**	4
Gains less losses from financial investments	**56**	(3,791)
Dividend income	**220**	283
Rental income from investment properties	**524**	502
Changes in fair value of other financial instruments mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss	**631**	252
Other[2,3]	**4,883**	2,900
Year ended 31 Dec	**5,119**	(298)

1 Includes debt instruments which are issued for funding purposes and are designated under the fair value option to reduce an accounting mismatch.
2 Includes the gain on disposal of loans and receivables of HK$101m (2023: HK$40m).
3 Includes the recovery of operating expenses from other Group companies.

(e) Change in expected credit losses and other credit impairment charges

Change in expected credit losses and other credit impairment charges arising from the following asset categories:

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Loans and advances to banks and customers	**12,019**	13,163
– new allowances net of allowance releases	**12,636**	14,021
– recoveries of amounts previously written off	**(857)**	(864)
– modification losses and other movements	**240**	6
Loan commitments and guarantees	**(138)**	9
Other financial assets	**65**	(329)
Year ended 31 Dec	**11,946**	12,843

Change in expected credit losses as a percentage of average gross customer advances was 0.34% for 2024 (2023: 0.36%).

(f) General and administrative expenses

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Premises and equipment	**2,416**	2,358
Marketing and advertising expenses	**2,367**	2,226
Other administrative expenses[1]	**53,184**	49,954
Year ended 31 Dec	**57,967**	54,538

1 Includes recharges from fellow group entities. Further details are set out in Note 31.

Included in operating expenses were direct operating expenses of HK$67m (2023: HK$60m) arising from investment properties that generated rental income in the year. Direct operating expenses arising from investment properties that did not generate rental income amounted to HK$7m (2023: HK$8m).

(g) Depreciation and impairment of property, plant and equipment

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Owned property, plant and equipment	**8,174**	7,361
Other right-of-use assets	**2,751**	2,363
Year ended 31 Dec	**10,925**	9,724

(h) Auditors' remuneration

Auditors' remuneration amounted to HK$195m (2023: HK$199m).

3 Insurance business

Insurance service result

	Year ended 31 Dec 2024			Year ended 31 Dec 2023		
	Life direct participating and Investment DPF contracts[1]	Life other contracts[2]	Total	Life direct participating and Investment DPF contracts[1]	Life other contracts[2]	Total
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Insurance revenue						
Amounts relating to changes in liabilities for remaining coverage	12,053	2,433	14,486	10,167	1,669	11,836
– contractual service margin recognised for services provided	8,102	612	8,714	6,772	398	7,170
– change in risk adjustment for non-financial risk for risk expired	271	79	350	108	43	151
– expected incurred claims and other insurance service expenses	3,674	1,742	5,416	3,289	1,228	4,517
– other	6	—	6	(2)	—	(2)
Recovery of insurance acquisition cash flows	1,493	554	2,047	867	304	1,171
Total insurance revenue	13,546	2,987	16,533	11,034	1,973	13,007
Insurance service expenses						
Incurred claims and other insurance service expenses	(3,353)	(2,222)	(5,575)	(3,274)	(1,305)	(4,579)
Losses and reversal of losses on onerous contracts	(395)	(498)	(893)	(173)	(515)	(688)
Amortisation of insurance acquisition cash flows	(1,493)	(554)	(2,047)	(867)	(304)	(1,171)
Adjustments to liabilities for incurred claims	(50)	163	113	(8)	(3)	(11)
Total insurance service expenses	(5,291)	(3,111)	(8,402)	(4,322)	(2,127)	(6,449)
Total insurance service result	8,255	(124)	8,131	6,712	(154)	6,558

1 'Life direct participating and investment DPF contracts' are substantially measured under the variable fee approach measurement model.
2 'Life other contracts' are measured under the general measurement model.

Net investment return[1]

	Year ended 31 Dec 2024			Year ended 31 Dec 2023		
	Life direct participating and Investment DPF contracts	Life other contracts	Total	Life direct participating and Investment DPF contracts	Life other contracts	Total
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Total investment return[2]	32,851	1,991	34,842	46,474	1,318	47,792
Net finance expense						
Changes in fair value of underlying items of direct participating contracts	(32,922)	—	(32,922)	(46,491)	—	(46,491)
Effect of risk mitigation option	451	—	451	(271)	—	(271)
Interest accreted	—	(812)	(812)	—	(981)	(981)
Effect of changes in interest rates and other financial assumptions	—	(2,363)	(2,363)	(96)	(944)	(1,040)
Effect of measuring changes in estimates at current rates and adjusting the CSM at rates on initial recognition	—	(17)	(17)	—	(15)	(15)
Total net finance expense from insurance contracts	(32,471)	(3,192)	(35,663)	(46,858)	(1,940)	(48,798)
Total net investment return	380	(1,201)	(821)	(384)	(622)	(1,006)

1 All items are recognised in the income statement.
2 Investment returns of HK$34,842m gain (2023: $47,792m gain) on underlying assets supporting insurance liabilities are reported in 'Net income from assets and liabilities of insurance businesses, including related derivatives, measured at fair value through profit or loss'.

Movements in carrying amounts of insurance contracts - Analysis by remaining coverage and incurred claims

	Year ended 31 Dec 2024								
	Life direct participating and Investment DPF contracts				Life other contracts				
	Liabilities for remaining coverage:				Liabilities for remaining coverage:				
	Excluding loss component	Loss component	Incurred claims	Total	Excluding loss component	Loss component	Incurred claims	Total	Total
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Opening assets	(109)	5	6	(98)	(874)	(159)	40	(993)	(1,091)
Opening liabilities	701,783	848	3,113	705,744	23,229	1,365	491	25,085	730,829
Net opening balance at 1 Jan 2024	701,674	853	3,119	705,646	22,355	1,206	531	24,092	729,738
Changes in the consolidated income statement and statement of comprehensive income[1]									
Insurance revenue									
Contracts under the fair value approach[2]	(4,801)	—	—	(4,801)	(472)	—	—	(472)	(5,273)
Other contracts[3]	(8,745)	—	—	(8,745)	(2,055)	—	—	(2,055)	(10,800)
Total insurance revenue	(13,546)	—	—	(13,546)	(2,527)	—	—	(2,527)	(16,073)
Insurance service expenses									
Incurred claims and other insurance service expenses	—	(52)	3,405	3,353	—	(368)	2,132	1,764	5,117
Amortisation of insurance acquisition cash flows	1,493	—	—	1,493	544	—	—	544	2,037
Losses and reversal of losses on onerous contracts	—	395	—	395	—	498	—	498	893
Adjustments to liabilities for incurred claims	—	—	50	50	—	—	(162)	(162)	(112)
Total insurance service expenses	1,493	343	3,455	5,291	544	130	1,970	2,644	7,935
Investment components	(45,995)	—	45,995	—	(7,559)	—	7,559	—	—
Insurance service result	(58,048)	343	49,450	(8,255)	(9,542)	130	9,529	117	(8,138)
Net finance expense from insurance contracts	32,492	—	—	32,492	3,179	22	—	3,201	35,693
Other movements recognised in the statement of profit or loss	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Effect of movements in exchange rates	(5,692)	(35)	(32)	(5,759)	(459)	(2)	(15)	(476)	(6,235)
Total changes in the consolidated income statement and statement of comprehensive income[1]	(31,248)	308	49,418	18,478	(6,822)	150	9,514	2,842	21,320
Cash flows									
Premiums received	103,285	—	—	103,285	11,516	—	—	11,516	114,801
Claims, other insurance service expenses paid and other cash flows	253	—	(50,946)	(50,693)	12	—	(9,621)	(9,609)	(60,302)
Insurance acquisition cash flows	(6,298)	—	—	(6,298)	(1,576)	—	—	(1,576)	(7,874)
Total cash flows	97,240	—	(50,946)	46,294	9,952	—	(9,621)	331	46,625
Other movements	250	(63)	—	187	376	94	780	1,250	1,437
Net closing balance at 31 Dec 2024	767,916	1,098	1,591	770,605	25,861	1,450	1,204	28,515	799,120
Closing assets	(122)	5	10	(107)	(229)	(186)	199	(216)	(323)
Closing liabilities	768,038	1,093	1,581	770,712	26,090	1,636	1,005	28,731	799,443
Net closing balance at 31 Dec 2024	767,916	1,098	1,591	770,605	25,861	1,450	1,204	28,515	799,120

Movements in carrying amounts of insurance contracts - Analysis by remaining coverage and incurred claims (continued)

	Year ended 31 Dec 2023								
	Life direct participating and Investment DPF contracts				Life other contracts				
	Liabilities for remaining coverage:				Liabilities for remaining coverage:				
	Excluding loss component	Loss component	Incurred claims	Total	Excluding loss component	Loss component	Incurred claims	Total	Total
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Opening assets	(35)	—	—	(35)	(480)	163	7	(310)	(345)
Opening liabilities	626,367	812	2,949	630,128	23,443	757	594	24,794	654,922
Net opening balance at 1 Jan 2023	626,332	812	2,949	630,093	22,963	920	601	24,484	654,577
Changes in the consolidated income statement and statement of comprehensive income[1]									
Insurance revenue									
Contracts under the fair value approach[2]	(3,105)	—	—	(3,105)	(369)	—	—	(369)	(3,474)
Other contracts[3]	(7,929)	—	—	(7,929)	(1,159)	—	—	(1,159)	(9,088)
Total insurance revenue	(11,034)	—	—	(11,034)	(1,528)	—	—	(1,528)	(12,562)
Insurance service expenses									
Incurred claims and other insurance service expenses	—	(43)	3,317	3,274	—	(178)	1,077	899	4,173
Amortisation of insurance acquisition cash flows	867	—	—	867	295	—	—	295	1,162
Losses and reversal of losses on onerous contracts	—	173	—	173	—	508	—	508	681
Adjustments to liabilities for incurred claims	—	—	8	8	—	—	3	3	11
Total insurance service expenses	867	130	3,325	4,322	295	330	1,080	1,705	6,027
Investment components	(44,797)	—	44,797	—	(5,824)	—	5,824	—	—
Insurance service result	(54,964)	130	48,122	(6,712)	(7,057)	330	6,904	177	(6,535)
Net finance expense from insurance contracts	46,858	—	—	46,858	1,917	23	—	1,940	48,798
Other movements recognised in the profit or loss	3,899	7	(610)	3,296	(18)	5	(88)	(101)	3,195
Effect of movements in exchange rates	948	—	(255)	693	(9)	(12)	5	(16)	677
Total changes in the consolidated income statement and statement of comprehensive income[1]	(3,259)	137	47,257	44,135	(5,167)	346	6,821	2,000	46,135
Cash flows									
Premiums received	82,050	—	—	82,050	6,188	—	—	6,188	88,238
Claims, other insurance service expenses paid and other cash flows	374	—	(47,087)	(46,713)	4	—	(6,891)	(6,887)	(53,600)
Insurance acquisition cash flows	(3,919)	—	—	(3,919)	(1,693)	—	—	(1,693)	(5,612)
Total cash flows	78,505	—	(47,087)	31,418	4,499	—	(6,891)	(2,392)	29,026
Other movements	96	(96)	—	—	60	(60)	—	—	—
Net closing balance at 31 Dec 2023	701,674	853	3,119	705,646	22,355	1,206	531	24,092	729,738
Closing assets	(109)	5	6	(98)	(874)	(159)	40	(993)	(1,091)
Closing liabilities	701,783	848	3,113	705,744	23,229	1,365	491	25,085	730,829
Net closing balance at 31 Dec 2023	701,674	853	3,119	705,646	22,355	1,206	531	24,092	729,738

1 'Total changes in the consolidated income statement and statement of comprehensive income' do not include income and expenses with HSBC Group entities.
2 On transition to HKFRS 17 the group applied the full retrospective approach to new business written from 2018 at the earliest. Where applying the full retrospective approach was impracticable, the group applied the fair value approach.
3 'Other contracts' are those contracts measured by applying HKFRS 17 from inception of the contracts. These include contracts measured under the full retrospective approach at transition and contracts incepted after transition.

Movements in carrying amounts of insurance contracts - Analysis by measurement component

	Year ended 31 Dec 2024								
	Life direct participating and investment discretionary participating contracts				Life other contracts				
	Estimates of present value of future cash flows and risk adjustment	Contractual service margin			Estimates of present value of future cash flows and risk adjustment	Contractual service margin			
		Contracts under the fair value approach[1]	Other contracts[2]	Total		Contracts under the fair value approach[1]	Other contracts[2]	Total	Total
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Opening assets	(233)	25	110	(98)	(924)	62	(131)	(993)	(1,091)
Opening liabilities	631,309	35,955	38,480	705,744	21,908	1,730	1,447	25,085	730,829
Net opening balance at 1 Jan 2024	631,076	35,980	38,590	705,646	20,984	1,792	1,316	24,092	729,738
Changes in the consolidated income statement and statement of comprehensive income[3]									
Changes that relate to current services									
Contractual service margin recognised for services provided	—	(3,640)	(4,462)	(8,102)	—	(219)	(373)	(592)	(8,694)
Change in risk adjustment for non-financial risk expired	(271)	—	—	(271)	(64)	—	—	(64)	(335)
Experience adjustments	(321)	—	—	(321)	437	—	—	437	116
Other movements recognised in insurance service result	—	403	(409)	(6)	—	—	—	—	(6)
Changes that relate to future services									
Contracts initially recognised in the year	(18,094)	—	18,212	118	(924)	—	1,071	147	265
Changes in estimates that adjust contractual service margin	(7,560)	1,923	5,637	—	(8)	92	(84)	—	—
Changes in estimates that result in losses and reversal of losses on onerous contracts	277	—	—	277	351	—	—	351	628
Changes that relate to past services									
Adjustments to liabilities for incurred claims	50	—	—	50	(162)	—	—	(162)	(112)
Insurance service result	(25,919)	(1,314)	18,978	(8,255)	(370)	(127)	614	117	(8,138)
Net finance expense from insurance contract	32,492	—	—	32,492	3,111	43	47	3,201	35,693
Other movements recognised in the statement of profit or loss	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Effect of movements in exchange rates	(5,454)	213	(518)	(5,759)	(412)	(10)	(54)	(476)	(6,235)
Total changes in the consolidated income statement and statement of comprehensive income[3]	1,119	(1,101)	18,460	18,478	2,329	(94)	607	2,842	21,320
Cash flows									
Premiums received	103,285	—	—	103,285	11,516	—	—	11,516	114,801
Claims, other insurance service expenses paid and other cash flows	(50,693)	—	—	(50,693)	(9,609)	—	—	(9,609)	(60,302)
Insurance acquisition cash flows	(6,298)	—	—	(6,298)	(1,576)	—	—	(1,576)	(7,874)
Total cash flows	46,294	—	—	46,294	331	—	—	331	46,625
Other movements	186	1	—	187	1,235	1	14	1,250	1,437
Net closing balance at 31 Dec 2024	678,675	34,880	57,050	770,605	24,879	1,699	1,937	28,515	799,120
Closing assets	(210)	24	79	(107)	(1,308)	379	713	(216)	(323)
Closing liabilities	678,885	34,856	56,971	770,712	26,187	1,320	1,224	28,731	799,443
Net closing balance at 31 Dec 2024	678,675	34,880	57,050	770,605	24,879	1,699	1,937	28,515	799,120

Movements in carrying amounts of insurance contracts - Analysis by measurement component (continued)

	Year ended 31 Dec 2023								
	Life direct participating and investment discretionary participating contracts				Life Other contracts				
	Estimates of present value of future cash flows and risk adjustment	Contractual service margin: Contracts under the fair value approach[1]	Contractual service margin: Other contracts[2]	Total	Estimates of present value of future cash flows and risk adjustment	Contractual service margin: Contracts under the fair value approach[1]	Contractual service margin: Other contracts[2]	Total	Total
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Opening assets	(137)	26	76	(35)	(875)	413	152	(310)	(345)
Opening liabilities	569,705	33,138	27,285	630,128	22,631	1,429	734	24,794	654,922
Net opening balance at 1 Jan 2023	569,568	33,164	27,361	630,093	21,756	1,842	886	24,484	654,577
Changes in the consolidated income statement and statement of comprehensive income[3]									
Changes that relate to current services									
Contractual service margin recognised for services provided	—	(1,351)	(5,421)	(6,772)	—	(154)	(227)	(381)	(7,153)
Change in risk adjustment for non-financial risk expired	(108)	—	—	(108)	(28)	—	—	(28)	(136)
Experience adjustments	(15)	—	—	(15)	75	—	—	75	60
Other movements recognised in insurance service result	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Changes that relate to future services									
Contracts initially recognised in the year	(11,966)	—	12,062	96	(638)	—	891	253	349
Changes in estimates that adjust contractual service margin	(7,206)	2,954	4,252	—	273	(1)	(272)	—	—
Changes in estimates that result in losses and reversal of losses on onerous contracts	77	—	—	77	256	—	—	256	333
Changes that relate to past services									
Adjustments to liabilities for incurred claims	8	—	—	8	2	—	—	2	10
Insurance service result	(19,208)	1,603	10,893	(6,712)	(60)	(155)	392	177	(6,535)
Net finance expense from insurance contracts	46,858	—	—	46,858	1,869	40	31	1,940	48,798
Other movements recognised in the statement of profit or loss	2,007	1,146	143	3,296	(164)	57	6	(101)	3,195
Effect of movements in exchange rates	433	67	193	693	(25)	10	(1)	(16)	677
Total changes in the consolidated income statement and statement of comprehensive income[3]	30,090	2,816	11,229	44,135	1,620	(48)	428	2,000	46,135
Cash flows									
Premiums received	82,050	—	—	82,050	6,188	—	—	6,188	88,238
Claims, other insurance service expenses paid and other cash flows	(46,713)	—	—	(46,713)	(6,887)	—	—	(6,887)	(53,600)
Insurance acquisition cash flows	(3,919)	—	—	(3,919)	(1,693)	—	—	(1,693)	(5,612)
Total cash flows	31,418	—	—	31,418	(2,392)	—	—	(2,392)	29,026
Other movements	—	—	—	—	—	(2)	2	—	—
Net closing balance at 31 Dec 2023	631,076	35,980	38,590	705,646	20,984	1,792	1,316	24,092	729,738
Closing assets	(233)	25	110	(98)	(924)	62	(131)	(993)	(1,091)
Closing liabilities	631,309	35,955	38,480	705,744	21,908	1,730	1,447	25,085	730,829
Net closing balance at 31 Dec 2023	631,076	35,980	38,590	705,646	20,984	1,792	1,316	24,092	729,738

1 On transition to HKFRS 17 the group applied the full retrospective approach to new business written from 2018 at the earliest. Where applying the full retrospective approach was impracticable, the group applied the fair value approach.
2 'Other contracts' are those contracts measured by applying HKFRS 17 from inception of the contracts. These include contracts measured under the full retrospective approach at transition and contracts incepted after transition.
3 'Changes in the consolidated income statement and statement of comprehensive income' do not include income and expenses with HSBC Group entities.

Effect of contracts initially recognised in the year

	Year ended 31 Dec 2024			Year ended 31 Dec 2023		
	Profitable contracts issued	Onerous contracts issued	Total	Profitable contracts issued	Onerous contracts issued	Total
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Life direct participating and investment DPF contracts						
Estimates of present value of cash outflows	**111,395**	**3,588**	**114,983**	82,899	1,532	84,431
– insurance acquisition cash flows	**6,146**	**297**	**6,443**	4,603	165	4,768
– claims and other insurance service expenses payable	**105,249**	**3,291**	**108,540**	78,296	1,367	79,663
Estimates of present value of cash inflows	**(129,901)**	**(3,484)**	**(133,385)**	(95,191)	(1,447)	(96,638)
Risk adjustment for non-financial risk	**294**	**14**	**308**	230	11	241
Contractual service margin	**18,212**	**—**	**18,212**	12,062	—	12,062
Losses recognised on initial recognition	**—**	**(118)**	**(118)**	—	(96)	(96)
Life other contracts						
Estimates of present value of cash outflows	**9,459**	**3,678**	**13,137**	6,392	3,529	9,921
– insurance acquisition cash flows	**737**	**509**	**1,246**	762	388	1,150
– claims and other insurance service expenses payable	**8,722**	**3,169**	**11,891**	5,630	3,141	8,771
Estimates of present value of cash inflows	**(10,659)**	**(3,552)**	**(14,211)**	(7,387)	(3,314)	(10,701)
Risk adjustment for non-financial risk	**129**	**21**	**150**	104	38	142
Contractual service margin	**1,071**	**—**	**1,071**	891	—	891
Losses recognised on initial recognition	**—**	**(147)**	**(147)**	—	(253)	(253)

Present value of expected future cash flows of insurance contract liabilities and contractual service margin

	less than 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-20 years	Over 20 years	Total
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Insurance liability future cash flows									
Life direct participating and investment DPF contracts	**(27,934)**	**(3,940)**	**18,316**	**22,151**	**23,964**	**82,963**	**164,159**	**396,429**	**676,108**
Life other contracts	**3,561**	**(1,127)**	**1,677**	**483**	**685**	**721**	**854**	**19,063**	**25,917**
Insurance liability future cash flows at 31 Dec 2024	**(24,373)**	**(5,067)**	**19,993**	**22,634**	**24,649**	**83,684**	**165,013**	**415,492**	**702,025**
Remaining contractual service margin									
Life direct participating and investment DPF contracts	**8,061**	**7,401**	**6,777**	**6,241**	**5,744**	**22,298**	**22,787**	**12,621**	**91,930**
Life other contracts	**495**	**362**	**319**	**277**	**238**	**796**	**721**	**428**	**3,636**
Remaining contractual service margin at 31 Dec 2024	**8,556**	**7,763**	**7,096**	**6,518**	**5,982**	**23,094**	**23,508**	**13,049**	**95,566**
Insurance liability future cash flows									
Life direct participating and investment DPF contracts	(26,475)	(10,266)	11,783	12,531	20,017	70,271	181,383	368,698	627,942
Life other contracts	6,507	1,862	(420)	(387)	530	503	576	12,374	21,545
Insurance liability future cash flows at 31 Dec 2023	(19,968)	(8,404)	11,363	12,144	20,547	70,774	181,959	381,072	649,487
Remaining contractual service margin									
Life direct participating and investment DPF contracts	6,404	5,915	5,458	5,032	4,640	18,102	18,556	10,463	74,570
Life other contracts	706	406	289	274	234	400	503	296	3,108
Remaining contractual service margin at 31 Dec 2023	7,110	6,321	5,747	5,306	4,874	18,502	19,059	10,759	77,678

Discount rates

The discount rates applied to expected future cash flows are determined through a bottom-up approach as set out in Note 1.2(j) 'Summary of material accounting policies – Insurance contracts' on page 85. The blended average of discount rates used within our most material manufacturing entities are as follows:

	HSBC Life (International) Ltd		Hang Seng Insurance Co Ltd	
	HK$	US$	HK$	US$
At 31 Dec 2024				
10 year discount rate (%)	**4.32**	**5.16**	**4.43**	**5.25**
20 year discount rate (%)	**4.42**	**5.51**	**4.53**	**5.60**
At 31 Dec 2023				
10 year discount rate (%)	4.02	4.47	4.16	4.62
20 year discount rate (%)	4.21	4.91	4.34	5.06

4 Employee compensation and benefits

	2024	2023
	HK$m	HK$m
Wages and salaries[1]	**36,442**	35,021
Social security costs	**1,359**	1,352
Post-employment benefits	**2,227**	2,174
– defined contribution pension plans	**1,875**	1,748
– defined benefit pension plans	**352**	426
Year ended 31 Dec	**40,028**	38,547

1 'Wages and salaries' includes the effect of share-based payments arrangements of HK$1,110m (2023: HK$1,101m).

Post-employment benefit plans

The group operates a number of post-employment benefit plans for its employees. Some of these plans are defined benefit plans, of which the largest plan is The HSBC Group Hong Kong Local Staff Retirement Benefit Scheme (the 'Principal Plan').

The group's balance sheet includes the net surplus or deficit, being the difference between the fair value of plan assets and the discounted value of scheme liabilities at the balance sheet date for each plan. Surpluses are only recognised to the extent that they are recoverable through reduced contributions in the future or through potential future refunds from the schemes. In assessing whether a surplus is recoverable, the group has considered its current right to obtain a future refund or a reduction in future contributions.

Defined benefit pension plans

Net asset/(liability) under defined benefit pension plans

	Fair value of plan assets	Present value of defined benefit obligations	Net defined benefit liability
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
At 1 Jan 2024	**8,333**	**(9,642)**	**(1,309)**
Service cost	**—**	**(302)**	**(302)**
– current service cost	**—**	**(336)**	**(336)**
– past service cost and gains from settlements	**—**	**34**	**34**
Net interest income/(expense) on the net defined benefit asset/(liability)	**261**	**(304)**	**(43)**
Re-measurement effects recognised in other comprehensive income	**498**	**314**	**812**
– return on plan assets (excluding interest income)	**498**	**—**	**498**
– actuarial gains	**—**	**314**	**314**
Contributions by the group	**331**	**—**	**331**
Benefits paid	**(935)**	**986**	**51**
Exchange differences and other movements	**(76)**	**85**	**9**
At 31 Dec 2024	**8,412**	**(8,863)**	**(451)**
Retirement benefit liabilities recognised on the balance sheet			**(805)**
Retirement benefit assets recognised on the balance sheet (within 'Prepayments, accrued income and other assets')			**354**
At 1 Jan 2023	8,266	(9,889)	(1,623)
Service cost	—	(362)	(362)
– current service cost	—	(360)	(360)
– past service cost and gains from settlements	—	(2)	(2)
Net interest income/(expense) on the net defined benefit asset/(liability)	292	(349)	(57)
Re-measurement effects recognised in other comprehensive income	243	(217)	26
– return on plan assets (excluding interest income)	243	—	243
– actuarial losses	—	(217)	(217)
Contributions by the group	628	—	628
Benefits paid	(1,053)	1,132	79
Exchange differences and other movements	(43)	43	—
At 31 Dec 2023	8,333	(9,642)	(1,309)
Retirement benefit liabilities recognised on the balance sheet			(1,362)
Retirement benefit assets recognised on the balance sheet (within 'Prepayments, accrued income and other assets')			53

Fair value of plan assets by asset classes

	At 31 Dec 2024			At 31 Dec 2023		
	Value	**Quoted market price in active market**	**Thereof HSBC**	Value	Quoted market price in active market	Thereof HSBC
	HK$m	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Fair value of plan assets	**8,412**	**8,412**	**101**	8,333	8,333	177
– equities	**1,302**	**1,302**	**—**	1,187	1,187	—
– bonds	**4,986**	**4,986**	**—**	4,458	4,458	—
– alternative investments	**1,762**	**1,762**	**—**	2,268	2,268	—
– other[1]	**362**	**362**	**101**	420	420	177

1 Other mainly consists of cash and cash deposits.

The Principal Plan

In Hong Kong, the HSBC Group Hong Kong Local Staff Retirement Benefit Scheme, the Principal Plan, covers employees of the group and HSBC Global Services (Hong Kong) Limited (the 'ServCo'), which is a fellow subsidiary of the group set up in Hong Kong as part of the recovery and resolution planning to provide functional support services to the group, as well as certain other local employees of the Group. The Principal Plan comprises a funded defined benefit scheme (which provides a lump sum benefit on retirement and is now closed to new members) and a defined contribution scheme. The latter was established on 1 January 1999 for new employees, and the group has been providing defined contribution plans to all new employees. Since the defined benefit scheme of the Principal Plan is a final salary lump sum scheme, its exposure to longevity risk and interest rate risk is limited compared to a scheme that provides annuity payments.

The Principal Plan is a funded plan with assets which are held in trust funds separate from the group. The investment strategy of the defined benefit scheme of the Principal Plan is to hold the majority of assets in fixed income investments, with a smaller portion in equities. The target asset allocation for the portfolio is as follows: Fixed income investments 75% and Equity 25%. Each investment manager has been assigned a benchmark applicable to their respective asset class. The actuarial funding valuation of the Principal Plan is conducted at least on a triennial basis in accordance with the local practice and regulations. The actuarial assumptions used to conduct the actuarial funding valuation of the Principal Plan vary according to the economic conditions.

The trustee, which is a subsidiary of the Bank, assumes the overall responsibility for the Principal Plan and the group has established a management committee and a number of sub-committees to broaden the governance and manage the concomitant issues.

Both the group and ServCo participate in the Principal Plan that shares risks between the entities which are under common control of the Group. As agreed between the group and ServCo, the net defined benefit cost of the defined benefit scheme of the Principal Plan shall be charged separately. Details on the defined benefit scheme of the Principal Plan are disclosed below.

Net asset/(liability) under the defined benefit scheme of the Principal Plan

	Included within the group			Included within ServCo		
	Fair value of plan assets	**Present value of defined benefit obligations**	**Net defined benefit liability**	**Fair value of plan assets**	**Present value of defined benefit obligations**	**Net defined benefit liability**
	HK$m	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	**HK$m**
At 1 Jan 2024	**3,491**	**(3,894)**	**(403)**	**3,039**	**(3,218)**	**(179)**
Service cost	**—**	**(125)**	**(125)**	**—**	**(104)**	**(104)**
– current service cost	**—**	**(125)**	**(125)**	**—**	**(104)**	**(104)**
Net interest income/(expense) on the net defined benefit asset/(liability)	**96**	**(111)**	**(15)**	**88**	**(91)**	**(3)**
Re-measurement effects recognised in other comprehensive income	**276**	**117**	**393**	**238**	**120**	**358**
– return on plan assets (excluding interest income)	**276**	**—**	**276**	**238**	**—**	**238**
– actuarial gains	**—**	**117**	**117**	**—**	**120**	**120**
Contributions	**164**	**—**	**164**	**105**	**—**	**105**
Benefits paid	**(396)**	**396**	**—**	**(392)**	**392**	**—**
Exchange differences and other movements	**(12)**	**12**	**—**	**8**	**(13)**	**(5)**
At 31 Dec 2024	**3,619**	**(3,605)**	**14**	**3,086**	**(2,914)**	**172**
Retirement benefit liabilities recognised on the balance sheet			**—**			**—**
At 1 Jan 2023	3,585	(3,902)	(317)	3,170	(3,265)	(95)
Service cost	—	(128)	(128)	—	(110)	(110)
– current service cost	—	(128)	(128)	—	(110)	(110)
Net interest income/(expense) on the net defined benefit asset/(liability)	118	(131)	(13)	110	(111)	(1)
Re-measurement effects recognised in other comprehensive income	50	(170)	(120)	41	(123)	(82)
– return on plan assets (excluding interest income)	50	—	50	41	—	41
– actuarial losses	—	(170)	(170)	—	(123)	(123)
Contributions	173	—	173	114	—	114
Benefits paid	(406)	406	—	(422)	422	—
Exchange differences and other movements	(29)	31	2	26	(31)	(5)
At 31 Dec 2023	3,491	(3,894)	(403)	3,039	(3,218)	(179)
Retirement benefit liabilities recognised on the balance sheet			(403)			(179)

The group expects to make HK$158m of contributions to the defined benefit scheme of the Principal Plan during 2025 (during 2024: HK$168m) and ServCo expects to make HK$96m contributions to the defined benefit scheme of the Principal Plan during 2025 (during 2024: HK$105m). These expected contributions are determined separately by the group and ServCo by reference to the actuarial funding valuation carried out by the Principal Plan's local actuary.

Benefits expected to be paid from the defined benefit scheme of the Principal Plan over each of the next five years, and in aggregate for the five years thereafter, are as follows:

Benefits expected to be paid from the defined benefit scheme of the Principal Plan[1]

	Within one year	**One to two years**	**Two to three years**	**Three to four years**	**Four to five years**	**Five to ten years**
As at 31 December 2024 as reported by:	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	**HK$m**
– The group	**265**	**371**	**393**	**355**	**358**	**2,174**
– ServCo	**249**	**263**	**315**	**313**	**309**	**1,820**
As at 31 December 2023 as reported by:						
– The group	275	376	363	408	374	2,002
– ServCo	244	322	255	308	331	1,809

1 The duration of the defined benefit obligation is six years for the Principal Plan under the disclosed assumptions (2023: six years).

Fair value of plan assets of the defined benefit scheme of the Principal Plan by asset classes

	At 31 Dec 2024			At 31 Dec 2023		
	Value	**Quoted market price in active market**	**Thereof HSBC**	Value	Quoted market price in active market	Thereof HSBC
	HK$m	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Fair value of plan assets	**6,705**	**6,705**	**(87)**	6,530	6,530	59
– equities	**1,723**	**1,723**	**—**	1,691	1,691	—
– bonds	**3,668**	**3,668**	**—**	3,467	3,467	—
– alternative investments	**1,401**	**1,401**	**—**	1,313	1,313	—
– other	**(87)**	**(87)**	**(87)**	59	59	59

The Principal Plan's key actuarial financial assumptions

The group and ServCo determine the discount rate to be applied to the defined benefit scheme's obligations in consultation with the Principal Plan's local actuary, on the basis of the current average yields of Hong Kong Government Bonds and Hong Kong Exchange Fund Notes, with maturities consistent with that of the defined benefit obligations.

The key actuarial assumptions used to calculate the group's obligations for the defined benefit scheme of the Principal Plan for the year, and used as the basis for measuring the expenses were as follows:

Key actuarial assumptions for the defined benefit scheme of the Principal Plan

	Discount rate	Rate of pay increase
	% p.a.	**% p.a.**
At 31 Dec 2024	**3.55**	**3.00**
At 31 Dec 2023	2.95	3.00

Actuarial assumption sensitivities

The discount rate and rate of pay increase are sensitive to changes in market conditions arising during the reporting period. The following table shows the financial impact of assumption changes on the defined benefit scheme of the Principal Plan at year end:

The effect of changes in key assumptions on the defined benefit scheme of the Principal Plan

	Impact on HSBC Group Hong Kong Local Staff Retirement Benefit Scheme obligation			
	Impact to obligation of increase		Impact to obligation of decrease	
	2024	2023	**2024**	2023
	HK$m	HK$m	**HK$m**	HK$m
Discount rate – increase/decrease of 0.25%	**(89)**	(106)	**91**	108
Rate of pay increase – increase/decrease of 0.25%	**92**	109	**(90)**	(107)

Directors' emoluments

The aggregate emoluments of the Directors of the Bank disclosed pursuant to section 4 of the Companies (Disclosure of Information about Benefits of Directors) Regulation were HK$117m (2023: HK$115m). This comprises fees (which represent the aggregate emoluments paid to or receivable by directors in respect of their services as a director) of HK$38m (2023: HK$37m) and other emoluments of HK$79m (2023: HK$78m) which includes contributions to pension schemes of HK$3m (2023: HK$3m). Non-cash benefits which are included in other emoluments mainly relate to share-based payment awards, and the provision of housing and furnishings.

Details on loans to directors are set out in Note 31.

5 Tax

The Bank and its subsidiaries in Hong Kong have provided for Hong Kong profits tax at the rate of 16.5% (2023: 16.5%) on the profits for the year assessable in Hong Kong. Overseas branches and subsidiaries have similarly provided for tax in the countries in which they operate at the appropriate rates of tax in force in 2024. Deferred taxation is provided for in accordance with the group's accounting policy in Note 1.2(m) 'Summary of material accounting policies – Tax' on page 87.

Tax expense

	2024	2023
	HK$m	HK$m
Current tax	26,686	25,764
– Hong Kong taxation – on current year profit	12,444	11,157
– Hong Kong taxation – adjustments in respect of prior years	(75)	(37)
– overseas taxation – on current year profit	14,458	14,596
– overseas taxation – adjustments in respect of prior years	(141)	48
Deferred tax	(2,005)	(1,848)
– origination and reversal of temporary differences	(1,555)	(1,631)
– adjustments in respect of prior years	(450)	(217)
Year ended 31 Dec	**24,681**	23,916

Tax reconciliation

The tax charged to the income statement differs from the tax charge that would apply if all profits had been taxed at the applicable tax rates in the countries concerned as follows:

Reconciliation between taxation charge and accounting profit at applicable tax rates

	2024	2023
	HK$m	HK$m
Profit before tax	153,932	121,443
Notional tax on profit before tax, calculated at the rates applicable to profits in the countries concerned	29,835	24,403
Effects of profits in associates and joint ventures	(2,923)	(3,072)
Effects of impairment of interest in associate	—	3,953
Non-taxable income and gains	(5,602)	(5,059)
Local taxes and overseas withholding taxes	2,935	2,336
Permanent disallowables	1,380	836
Others	(944)	519
Year ended 31 Dec	**24,681**	23,916

In July 2023, legislation was enacted in the UK, the jurisdiction of the Bank's ultimate parent entity, HSBC Holdings plc, to introduce the 'Pillar Two' Global Minimum Tax model rules (the 'model rules') of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development ('OECD') under the Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting ('BEPS') and a Qualified Domestic Minimum top-up tax ('QDMTT'), with effect from 1 January 2024.

Under these rules, a top-up tax liability arises where the effective tax rate of the group's operations in a jurisdiction, calculated based on principles set out in the OECD's Pillar Two model rules is below 15%. Any top-up tax arising in relation to jurisdictions in which a QDMTT applies will be payable to the tax authority in that jurisdiction. Where there is no QDMTT, the top-up tax is payable by HSBC Holdings plc, being the group's ultimate parent, to the UK tax authority.

In response to the OECD's Pillar Two model rules, many national governments have introduced or announced their intention to introduce QDMTT rules that are closely aligned to the OECD's Pillar Two model rules. Where such QDMTT rules are introduced, they may be expected to have the effect of increasing the local tax rate to a minimum of 15%.

In Asia-Pacific, tax legislation has been enacted to implement a QDMTT in Australia and Vietnam effective from 1 January 2024, and in Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand effective from 1 January 2025. In Mauritius, the main legislation to implement a QDMTT has been enacted, whilst the effective date remains to be confirmed by subsidiary legislation. Based on the financial results for the year ended 31 December 2024 and the Group's forecasts for the year ending 31 December 2025, no material top-up tax liability is expected to arise in these jurisdictions for 2024 or 2025.

The government of Hong Kong has issued draft Pillar Two legislations including a QDMTT on 27 December 2024 which shall be effective from 1 January 2025 if substantively enacted during 2025. In Hong Kong, a top-up tax liability is expected to arise due to the current effective tax rate, driven primarily by non-taxation of dividends and income on government bonds in Hong Kong.

The tax impact arising from the application of the Pillar Two global minimum tax rules and the introduction of QDMTT, if enacted, is dependent upon the ongoing evolution of rules and guidance in the relevant tax jurisdictions.

Movements of deferred tax assets and liabilities

	Accelerated capital allowances	Insurance business	Expense provisions	Impairment allowance on financial instruments	Revaluation of properties	Other[2]	Total
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Assets	**115**	**5,783**	**1,329**	**2,877**	**—**	**2,880**	**12,984**
Liabilities	**(491)**	**—**	**(31)**	**—**	**(14,785)**	**(12,285)**	**(27,592)**
At 1 Jan 2024	**(376)**	**5,783**	**1,298**	**2,877**	**(14,785)**	**(9,405)**	**(14,608)**
Exchange and other adjustments	**(16)**	**17**	**(60)**	**(76)**	**89**	**(31)**	**(77)**
Charge/(credit) to income statement	**(62)**	**2,462**	**(59)**	**(233)**	**1,077**	**(1,180)**	**2,005**
Charge/(credit) to other comprehensive income	**—**	**—**	**—**	**(1)**	**64**	**7**	**70**
At 31 Dec 2024	**(454)**	**8,262**	**1,179**	**2,567**	**(13,555)**	**(10,609)**	**(12,610)**
Assets[1]	**47**	**8,262**	**1,179**	**2,567**	**—**	**3,310**	**15,365**
Liabilities[1]	**(501)**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**(13,555)**	**(13,919)**	**(27,975)**
Assets	112	4,059	1,192	3,289	—	1,004	9,656
Liabilities	(467)	(189)	(30)	—	(14,823)	(8,477)	(23,986)
At 1 Jan 2023	(355)	3,870	1,162	3,289	(14,823)	(7,473)	(14,330)
Exchange and other adjustments	1	111	(31)	(26)	38	(36)	57
Charge/(credit) to income statement	(22)	1,802	167	(519)	830	(410)	1,848
Charge/(credit) to other comprehensive income	—	—	—	133	(830)	(1,486)	(2,183)
At 31 Dec 2023	(376)	5,783	1,298	2,877	(14,785)	(9,405)	(14,608)
Assets[1]	115	5,783	1,329	2,877	—	2,880	12,984
Liabilities[1]	(491)	—	(31)	—	(14,785)	(12,285)	(27,592)

1 After netting off balances within countries, the balances as disclosed in the consolidated financial statements are as follows: deferred tax assets HK$10,307m (2023: HK$9,315m); and deferred tax liabilities HK$22,917m (2023: HK$23,923m).
2 Other includes deferred tax liability of HK$6,874m (2023: HK$6,402m) provided in respect of distributable reserves or post-acquisition reserves of associates that, on distribution, would attract withholding tax.

The amount of unused tax losses for which no deferred tax asset is recognised in the balance sheet is HK$6,275m (2023: HK$4,898m). Of this amount, HK$3,091m (2023: HK$1,906m) has no expiry date and the remaining will expire within 10 years.

Deferred tax is not recognised in respect of the group's investments in subsidiaries and branches where remittance or other realisation is not probable, and for those associates and interests in joint ventures where it has been determined that no additional tax will arise.

6 Dividends

Dividends to shareholders of the parent company

	2024		2023	
	Per share	**Total**	Per share	Total
	HK$	**HK$m**	HK$	HK$m
Dividends paid on ordinary shares				
In respect of previous year:				
– fourth interim dividend	**0.41**	**20,300**	0.27	13,500
In respect of current year:				
– first interim dividend paid	**0.43**	**21,200**	0.44	22,000
– first special dividend paid	**0.16**	**7,800**	0.16	7,800
– second interim dividend paid	**0.41**	**20,500**	0.43	21,500
– third interim dividend paid	**0.42**	**20,800**	0.36	18,000
– second special dividend paid	**0.31**	**15,600**	—	—
Total	**2.14**	**106,200**	1.66	82,800
Distributions on other equity instruments		**3,576**		3,556
Dividends to shareholders		**109,776**		86,356

On 11 February 2025, the Directors declared a fourth interim dividend in respect of the financial year ended 31 December 2024 of HK$0.411 per ordinary share (HK$20,400m) (2023: HK$0.409 per ordinary share (HK$20,300m)) and a third special dividend for 2024 of HK$0.16 per ordinary share (HK$7,800m).

Total coupons on other equity instruments

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
US$900m Fixed rate perpetual subordinated loan (interest rate fixed at 6.510%)	**455**	459
US$900m Fixed rate perpetual subordinated loan (interest rate fixed at 6.030%)[1]	**423**	425
US$1,000m Fixed rate perpetual subordinated loan (interest rate fixed at 6.090%)	**475**	478
US$1,200m Fixed rate perpetual subordinated loan (interest rate fixed at 6.172%)	**578**	581
US$600m Fixed rate perpetual subordinated loan (interest rate fixed at 5.910%)	**277**	277
US$1,100m Fixed rate perpetual subordinated loan (interest rate fixed at 6.000%)[2]	**515**	516
US$1,000m Floating rate perpetual subordinated loan (Interest rate at compounded SOFR plus 5.090%)[3]	**—**	545
US$1,000m Fixed rate perpetual subordinated loan (interest rate fixed at 8.000%)	**625**	275
SG$1,500m Fixed rate perpetual subordinated loan (interest rate fixed at 5.250%)[4]	**228**	—
Total	**3,576**	3,556

1 This subordinated loan was repaid in the second half of 2024 and distributions were made on repayment.
2 This subordinated loan was repaid in the first half of 2024 and distributions were made on repayment.
3 This subordinated loan was early repaid in the first half of 2023 and no distributions in 2024.
4 This subordinated loan was issued in June 2024.

7 Trading assets

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Treasury and other eligible bills	**183,248**	132,659
Debt securities	**372,617**	351,734
Equity securities	**458,599**	375,590
Reverse repurchase agreements and other similar secured lending	**53,408**	62,710
Other[1]	**17,449**	18,557
At 31 Dec	**1,085,321**	941,250

1 'Other' includes term lending and other accounts with customers and banks.

8 Derivatives

Notional contract amounts and fair values of derivatives by product contract type

	Notional contract amount		Fair value – Assets			Fair value – Liabilities		
	Trading HK$m	Hedging HK$m	Trading HK$m	Hedging HK$m	Total HK$m	Trading HK$m	Hedging HK$m	Total HK$m
Foreign Exchange	**23,555,745**	**297,726**	**295,424**	**13,610**	**309,034**	**253,752**	**101**	**253,853**
Interest rate	**40,728,068**	**494,373**	**366,893**	**12,706**	**379,599**	**391,379**	**6,494**	**397,873**
Equity	**1,051,731**	**—**	**11,286**	**—**	**11,286**	**16,217**	**—**	**16,217**
Credit	**362,342**	**—**	**2,185**	**—**	**2,185**	**2,066**	**—**	**2,066**
Commodity and other	**262,274**	**—**	**6,500**	**—**	**6,500**	**6,823**	**—**	**6,823**
Gross total	**65,960,160**	**792,099**	**682,288**	**26,316**	**708,604**	**670,237**	**6,595**	**676,832**
Offset					**(203,344)**			**(203,344)**
At 31 Dec 2024					**505,260**			**473,488**
Foreign Exchange	20,216,483	166,680	201,790	6,640	208,430	218,927	1,382	220,309
Interest rate	32,976,189	452,160	401,534	12,898	414,432	438,882	4,160	443,042
Equity	879,049	—	16,464	—	16,464	15,246	—	15,246
Credit	446,998	—	2,277	—	2,277	2,889	—	2,889
Commodity and other	179,417	—	3,011	—	3,011	4,091	—	4,091
Gross total	54,698,136	618,840	625,076	19,538	644,614	680,035	5,542	685,577
Offset					(235,361)			(235,361)
At 31 Dec 2023					409,253			450,216

The notional contract amounts of derivatives held for trading purposes and derivatives designated in hedge accounting relationships indicate the nominal value of transactions outstanding at the balance sheet date. They do not represent amounts at risk.

Use of derivatives

The group transacts derivatives for three primary purposes: to create risk management solutions for clients, to manage the portfolio risk arising from client business, and to manage and hedge the group's own risks. Derivatives (except for derivatives which are designated as effective hedging instruments) are held for trading. Within the held for trading classification are two types of derivative instruments: those used in sales and trading activities, and those used for risk management purposes but which for various reasons do not meet the qualifying criteria for hedge accounting. The second category includes derivatives managed in conjunction with financial instruments designated at fair value. These activities are described more fully below.

The group's derivative activities give rise to significant open positions in portfolios of derivatives. These positions are managed constantly to ensure that they remain within acceptable risk levels. When entering into derivative transactions, the group employs the same credit risk management framework to assess and approve potential credit exposures that it uses for traditional lending.

Trading derivatives

Most of the group's derivative transactions relate to sales and trading activities. Sales activities include the structuring and marketing of derivative products to customers to enable them to take, transfer, modify or reduce current or expected risks. Trading activities include market-making and risk management. Market-making entails quoting bid and offer prices to other market participants for the purpose of generating revenues based on spread and volume. Risk management activity is undertaken to manage the risk arising from client transactions, with the principal purpose of retaining client margin. Other derivatives classified as held for trading include non-qualifying hedging derivatives.

Derivatives valued using models with unobservable inputs

Any initial gain or loss on financial instruments where the valuation is dependent on unobservable parameters is deferred over the life of the contract or until the instrument is redeemed, transferred, sold or the fair value becomes observable. All derivatives that are part of qualifying hedging relationships have valuations based on observable market parameters.

The aggregate unobservable inception profit yet to be recognised in the income statement is immaterial.

Hedge accounting derivatives

The group applies hedge accounting to manage interest rate and foreign exchange risk. The group uses derivatives (principally interest rate and currency swaps) for hedging purposes in the management of its own asset and liability portfolios and structural positions. This enables the group to optimise its overall costs of accessing debt capital markets, and to mitigate the market risk which would otherwise arise from structural imbalances in the maturity and other profiles of its assets and liabilities. The accounting treatment of hedging transactions varies according to the nature of the instrument hedged and the type of hedging transaction. Derivatives may qualify as hedges for accounting purposes if they are fair value hedges, or cash flow hedges.

Hedged risk components

The group designates a portion of cash flows of a financial instrument or a group of financial instruments for a specific interest rate or foreign currency risk component in a fair value or cash flow hedge. The designated risks and portions are either contractually specified or otherwise separately identifiable components of the financial instrument that are reliably measurable. Risk-free or benchmark interest rates generally are regarded as being both separately identifiable and reliably measurable provided the group reasonably expects it will meet the requirement within 24 months from the first designation date. The designated risk component accounts for a significant portion of the overall changes in fair value or cash flows of the hedged item(s).

Fair value hedges

The group enters into to fixed-for-floating-interest-rate swaps to manage the exposure to changes in fair value due to movements in market interest rates on certain fixed rate financial instruments which are not measured at fair value through profit or loss, including debt securities held and issued.

HSBC hedging instrument by hedged risk

	Hedging instrument				
		Carrying amount			
	Notional amount[1,3]	Assets	Liabilities	Balance sheet	Change in fair value[2]
Hedged risk	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	presentation	HK$m
Interest rate	**257,251**	**9,490**	**5,983**	**Derivatives**	**(593)**
At 31 Dec 2024	**257,251**	**9,490**	**5,983**		**(593)**
Interest rate	240,001	9,293	3,700	Derivatives	(3,259)
At 31 Dec 2023	240,001	9,293	3,700		(3,259)

1 The notional contract amounts of derivatives designated in qualifying hedge accounting relationships indicate the nominal value of transactions outstanding at the balance sheet date. They do not represent amounts at risk.
2 Used in effectiveness testing, which uses the full fair value change of the hedging instrument not excluding any component.
3 The notional amount of non-dynamic fair value hedges is equal to US$4,500m (2023: US$4,500m), of which the weighted-average maturity date is December 2030 and the weighted-average swap rate is 2.67% (2023: 2.67%).

HSBC hedged item by hedged risk

	Hedged item						Ineffectiveness	
	Carrying amount		Accumulated fair value hedge adjustments included in carrying amount[2]			Change in	Recognised in profit	
	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities	Balance sheet	fair value[1]	and loss	Profit and loss
Hedged risk	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	presentation	HK$m	HK$m	presentation
Interest rate	**210,022**		**(4,274)**		**Financial investments**	**(223)**	**(98)**	**Net income from financial instruments held for trading or managed on a fair value basis**
	—		**—**		**Loans and advances to customers**	**220**		
		31,954		**(2,381)**	**Subordinated liabilities[3]**	**498**		
At 31 Dec 2024	**210,022**	**31,954**	**(4,274)**	**(2,381)**		**495**	**(98)**	

HSBC hedged item by hedged risk (continued)

	Hedged item						Ineffectiveness	
	Carrying amount		Accumulated fair value hedge adjustments included in carrying amount[2]					
	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities	Balance sheet presentation	Change in fair value[1]	Recognised in profit and loss	Profit and loss presentation
Hedged risk	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m		HK$m	HK$m	
Interest rate	190,469		(4,791)		Financial investments	3,135	(245)	Net income from financial instruments held for trading or managed on a fair value basis
	6,449		(210)		Loans and advances to customers	242		
		32,484		(1,898)	Subordinated liabilities[3]	(363)		
At 31 Dec 2023	196,918	32,484	(5,001)	(1,898)		3,014	(245)	

1 Used in effectiveness testing, which comprise an amount attributable to the designated hedged risk that can be a risk component.
2 The accumulated amount of fair value adjustments remaining in the statement of financial position for hedged items that have ceased to be adjusted for hedging gains and losses were liabilities of HK$502m (2023: liabilities of HK$396m) for FVOCI assets, and assets of HK$882m (2023: HK$1,067m) for subordinated liabilities.
3 Represents Loss Absorbing Capacity ('LAC') instruments issued by the Bank to HSBC Asia Holdings Limited, the balance of which is included in 'amounts due to Group companies'.

Sources of hedge ineffectiveness may arise from basis risk including but not limited to the discount rates used for calculating the fair value of derivatives, hedges using instruments with a non-zero fair value and notional and timing differences between the hedged items and hedging instruments.

The interest rate risk of the group's fixed rate debt securities issued is managed in a non-dynamic risk management strategy.

Cash flow hedges

The group's cash flow hedging instruments consist principally of interest rate swaps and cross-currency swaps that are used to manage the variability in future interest cash flows of non-trading financial assets and liabilities, arising due to changes in market interest rates and foreign-currency basis.

The group applies macro cash flow hedging for interest-rate risk exposures on portfolios of replenishing current and forecasted issuances of non-trading assets and liabilities that bear interest at variable rates, including rolling such instruments. The amounts and timing of future cash flows, representing both principal and interest flows, are projected for each portfolio of financial assets and liabilities on the basis of their contractual terms and other relevant factors, including estimates of prepayments and defaults. The aggregate cash flows representing both principal balances and interest cash flows across all portfolios are used to determine the effectiveness and ineffectiveness. Macro cash flow hedges are considered to be dynamic hedges.

The group also hedges the variability in future cash-flows on foreign-denominated financial assets and liabilities arising due to changes in foreign exchange market rates with cross-currency swaps; these are considered dynamic hedges.

Hedging instrument by hedged risk

	Hedging instrument				**Hedged item**	**Ineffectiveness**	
	Carrying amount						
	Notional amount[1]	**Derivative assets**	**Derivative liabilities**	**Change in fair value[2]**	**Change in fair value[3]**	**Recognised in profit and loss**	**Profit and loss presentation**
Hedged risk	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	
Foreign currency	**294,017**	**13,570**	**99**	**16,057**	**16,057**	**—**	**Net income from financial instruments held for trading or managed on a fair value basis**
Interest rate	**237,122**	**3,216**	**511**	**(2,455)**	**(2,463)**	**8**	
At 31 Dec 2024	**531,139**	**16,786**	**610**	**13,602**	**13,594**	**8**	
Foreign currency	166,680	6,640	1,382	5,422	5,422	—	Net income from financial instruments held for trading or managed on a fair value basis
Interest rate	212,159	3,605	460	1,834	1,803	31	
At 31 Dec 2023	378,839	10,245	1,842	7,256	7,225	31	

1 The notional contract amounts of derivatives designated in qualifying hedge accounting relationships indicate the nominal value of transactions outstanding at the balance sheet date. They do not represent amounts at risk.
2 Used in effectiveness testing; comprising the full fair value change of the hedging instrument not excluding any component.
3 Used in effectiveness assessment; comprising amount attributable to the designated hedged risk that can be a risk component.

Sources of hedge ineffectiveness may arise from basis risk, including but not limited to timing differences between the hedged items and hedging instruments, and hedges using instruments with a non-zero fair value.

Reconciliation of equity and analysis of other comprehensive income by risk type

	Interest rate HK$m	Foreign currency HK$m
Cash flow hedging reserve at 1 Jan 2024	**1,898**	**(46)**
Fair value gains/(losses)	**(2,463)**	**16,057**
Fair value (gains)/losses reclassified from the cash flow hedge reserve to the income statement in respect of:		
Hedged items that have affected profit or loss[1]	**1,193**	**(16,129)**
Income taxes	**194**	**12**
Others	**(5)**	**(1)**
Cash flow hedging reserve at 31 Dec 2024	**817**	**(107)**
Cash flow hedging reserve at 1 Jan 2023	(338)	(1,149)
Fair value gains	1,803	5,422
Fair value (gains)/losses reclassified from the cash flow hedge reserve to the income statement in respect of:		
Hedged items that have affected profit or loss[1]	856	(4,107)
Income taxes	(423)	(217)
Others	—	5
Cash flow hedging reserve at 31 Dec 2023	1,898	(46)

1 Hedged items that have affected profit or loss are primarily recorded within interest income.

9 Financial assets designated and otherwise mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss

	2024			2023		
	Designated at fair value HK$m	**Mandatorily measured at fair value HK$m**	**Total HK$m**	Designated at fair value HK$m	Mandatorily measured at fair value HK$m	Total HK$m
Treasury and other eligible bills	**—**	**2,884**	**2,884**	2	5,565	5,567
Debt securities	**12,110**	**458,420**	**470,530**	12,128	444,653	456,781
Equity securities	**—**	**274,699**	**274,699**	—	222,980	222,980
Reverse repurchase agreements and other similar secured lending	**—**	**193**	**193**	—	514	514
Other[1]	**7,022**	**25,882**	**32,904**	2,900	18,831	21,731
At 31 Dec	**19,132**	**762,078**	**781,210**	15,030	692,543	707,573

1 'Other' includes term lending to customers and banks, and default fund contribution.

10 Loans and advances to customers

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Gross loans and advances to customers	**3,529,958**	3,595,929
Expected credit loss allowances	**(35,660)**	(38,853)
At 31 Dec	**3,494,298**	3,557,076

The following table provides an analysis of gross loans and advances to customers by industry sector based on the Statistical Classification of economic activities in the European Community ('NACE').

Analysis of gross loans and advances to customers

	2024	2023
	HK$m	HK$m
Residential mortgages	**1,196,883**	1,224,325
Credit card advances	**105,808**	101,257
Other personal	**237,360**	237,440
Total personal	**1,540,051**	1,563,022
Real estate & Construction	**470,730**	537,393
Wholesale and retail trade	**349,187**	350,492
Manufacturing	**354,947**	359,914
Transportation and storage	**104,502**	96,789
Other	**408,029**	396,760
Total corporate and commercial	**1,687,395**	1,741,348
Non-bank financial institutions	**302,512**	291,559
At 31 Dec	**3,529,958**	3,595,929
By geography[1]		
Hong Kong	**2,140,455**	2,211,592
Mainland China	**348,169**	349,116
Australia	**295,298**	294,502
Singapore	**245,040**	238,537
India	**169,409**	143,657
Taiwan	**85,894**	90,396
Malaysia	**81,545**	81,898
Indonesia	**29,949**	30,141
Other	**134,199**	156,090

1 The geographical information shown above is classified by the location of the principal operations of the subsidiary or the branch responsible for advancing the funds.

Finance lease receivables and hire purchase contracts

The group leases a variety of assets to third parties under finance leases. At the end of lease terms, assets may be sold to third parties or leased for further terms. Rentals are calculated to recover the cost of assets less their residual value, and earn finance income. Loans and advances to customers include receivables under finance leases and hire purchase contracts having the characteristics of finance leases.

Net investment in finance leases and hire purchase contracts

	2024			2023		
	Total future minimum payments	Unearned finance income	Present value	Total future minimum payments	Unearned finance income	Present value
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Amounts receivable						
– within one year	**2,300**	**(849)**	**1,451**	2,395	(963)	1,432
– one to two years	**2,346**	**(778)**	**1,568**	2,310	(876)	1,434
– two to three years	**2,266**	**(714)**	**1,552**	2,360	(828)	1,532
– three to four years	**2,061**	**(648)**	**1,413**	2,285	(782)	1,503
– four to five years	**1,971**	**(599)**	**1,372**	2,134	(736)	1,398
– after five years	**23,738**	**(4,623)**	**19,115**	25,740	(5,725)	20,015
	34,682	**(8,211)**	**26,471**	37,224	(9,910)	27,314
Expected credit loss allowances			**(610)**			(274)
At 31 Dec			**25,861**			27,040

11 Financial investments

	2024	2023
	HK$m	HK$m
Financial investments measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	**1,705,104**	1,410,271
– treasury and other eligible bills	**763,269**	700,863
– debt securities	**935,105**	703,459
– equity securities	**6,730**	5,949
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	**632,740**	618,941
– treasury and other eligible bills	**68,964**	52,758
– debt securities	**563,776**	566,183
At 31 Dec	**2,337,844**	2,029,212

Equity instruments measured at fair value through other comprehensive income

	2024		2023	
	Fair value	**Dividends recognised**	Fair value	Dividends recognised
Type of equity instruments	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	HK$m	HK$m
Business facilitation	**6,184**	**217**	5,435	267
Investments required by central institutions	**434**	**3**	400	5
Others	**112**	**—**	114	—
At 31 Dec	**6,730**	**220**	5,949	272

12 Assets pledged, assets transferred and collateral received

Assets pledged

Financial assets pledged to secure liabilities

	2024	2023
	HK$m	HK$m
Treasury bills and other eligible securities	**101,305**	119,861
Loans and advances to banks	**3,360**	3,019
Loans and advances to customers	**16,218**	17,710
Debt securities	**443,823**	343,226
Equity securities	**48,227**	78,246
Cash collateral included in other assets	**124,112**	118,633
Assets pledged at 31 Dec	**737,045**	680,695
Amount of liabilities secured	**561,033**	514,795

The table above shows assets where a charge has been granted to secure liabilities on a legal and contractual basis. These transactions are conducted under terms that are usual and customary to collateralised transactions including repurchase agreements, securities lending, derivative margining, and include assets pledged to cover short positions and to facilitate settlement processes with clearing houses as well as swaps of equity and debt securities. The group places both cash and non-cash collateral in relation to derivative transactions.

Hong Kong currency notes in circulation are secured by the deposit of funds in respect of which the Hong Kong Government certificates of indebtedness are held.

Financial assets pledged as collateral which the counterparty has the right to sell or repledge was HK$434,537m (2023: HK$373,138m).

Assets transferred

Transferred financial assets not qualifying for full derecognition and associated financial liabilities

	2024		2023	
	Carrying amount of:		Carrying amount of:	
	Transferred assets	**Associated liabilities**	Transferred assets	Associated liabilities
	HK$m	**HK$m**	HK$m	HK$m
Repurchase agreements	**433,533**	**394,880**	364,502	330,073
Securities lending agreements	**67,823**	**273**	87,227	1,187
	501,356	**395,153**	451,729	331,260

The assets pledged include transfers to third parties that do not qualify for derecognition, notably secured borrowings such as debt securities held by counterparties as collateral under repurchase agreements and equity securities lent under securities lending agreements, as well as swaps of equity and debt securities. For secured borrowings, the transferred asset collateral continues to be recognised in full while a related liability, reflecting the group's obligation to repurchase the assets for a fixed price at a future date, is also recognised on the balance sheet. Where securities are swapped, the transferred asset continues to be recognised in full. There is no associated liability as the non-cash collateral received is not recognised on the balance sheet. The group is unable to use, sell or pledge the transferred assets for the duration of the transaction, and remains exposed to interest rate risk and credit risk on these pledged assets.

Collateral received

Assets accepted as collateral relate primarily to standard securities borrowing, reverse repurchase agreements, swaps of securities and derivative margining. The group is obliged to return equivalent securities. These transactions are conducted under terms that are usual and customary to standard securities borrowing, reverse repurchase agreements and derivative margining.

Fair value of collateral accepted as security for assets

	2024	2023
	HK$m	HK$m
Fair value of collateral permitted to sell or repledge in the absence of default	**1,242,421**	1,307,234
Fair value of collateral actually sold or repledged	**510,336**	482,415

13 Investments in subsidiaries

Main subsidiaries of the Bank

	Place of incorporation	Principal activity	The group's interest in issued share capital/ registered or charter capital at 31 Dec 2024
Hang Seng Bank Limited[1,2]	Hong Kong	Banking	63.12%
HSBC Bank (China) Company Limited	Mainland China	Banking	100%
HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad	Malaysia	Banking	100%
HSBC Bank Australia Limited[3]	Australia	Banking	100%
HSBC Bank (Taiwan) Limited[3]	Taiwan	Banking	100%
HSBC Bank (Singapore) Limited	Singapore	Banking	100%
HSBC Life (International) Limited[3]	Bermuda	Retirement benefits and life insurance	100%

1 In addition to the strategic holding disclosed above, the group held 0.06% (2023: 0.09%) shareholding as part of its trading books.
2 Based on the latest corporate substantial shareholding notice filed with Hong Kong Exchange and Clearing Limited on 21 June 2024, the group's shareholding in Hang Seng Bank Limited on 18 June 2024 was 62.83%. Movements in shareholding since 18 June 2024 are reflected in the above table.
3 Held indirectly.

All of the above subsidiaries are included in the group's consolidated financial statements. These subsidiaries make their financial statements up to 31 December.

The principal places of business are the same as the places of incorporation except for HSBC Life (International) Limited which operates mainly in Hong Kong.

The proportion of voting rights held is the same as the proportion of ownership interest held.

The main subsidiaries are regulated banking and insurance entities in the Asia-Pacific region and, as such, are required to maintain certain minimum levels of capital and liquid assets to support their operations. The effect of these regulatory requirements is to limit the extent to which the subsidiaries may transfer funds to the Bank in the form of repayment of shareholder loans or cash dividends.

Subsidiary with significant non-controlling interest

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Hang Seng Bank Limited		
Proportion of ownership interests and voting rights held by non-controlling interests (%)[1]	**36.88**	37.86
Profit attributable to non-controlling interests	**6,831**	6,730
Accumulated non-controlling interests of the subsidiary	**58,203**	59,115
Dividends paid to non-controlling interests	**4,836**	3,836
Summarised financial information (before intra-group eliminations):		
– total assets	**1,795,196**	1,692,094
– total liabilities	**1,625,632**	1,523,910
– net operating income before change in expected credit losses and other credit impairment charges	**40,955**	40,789
– profit for the year	**18,369**	17,838
– other comprehensive income/(expense) for the year, net of tax	**(225)**	1,215
– total comprehensive income for the year	**18,144**	19,053

1 This includes the group's shareholding held under trading books 0.06% (2023: 0.09%).

14 Interests in associates and joint ventures

Associates and joint ventures

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Interests in associates	**178,304**	170,196
Interests in joint ventures	**26**	10
Interests in associates and joint ventures	**178,330**	170,206

Principal associate

	Place of incorporation	The group's interest in issued share capital
Bank of Communications Co., Ltd	Mainland China	19.03%

Bank of Communications Co., Ltd. is listed on recognised stock exchanges. The fair value represents valuation based on the quoted market price of the shares held (Level 1 in the fair value hierarchy) and amounted to HK$90,327m at 31 December 2024 (2023: HK$68,841m).

Bank of Communications Co., Ltd. ('BoCom')

The group maintains a 19.03% interest in Bank of Communications Co., Limited ('BoCom'). The group's investment in BoCom is classified as an associate. Significant influence in BoCom was established with consideration of all relevant factors, including representation on BoCom's Board of Directors and participation in a resource and experience sharing agreement ('RES'). Under the RES, HSBC staff have been seconded to assist in the maintenance of BoCom's financial and operating policies. Investments in associates are recognised using the equity method of accounting in accordance with HKAS 28, whereby the investment is initially recognised at cost and adjusted thereafter for the post-acquisition change in the group's share of associate's net assets. An impairment test is required if there is any indication of impairment or reversal.

At 31 December 2023, the group performed an impairment test on the carrying amount, which resulted in an impairment of HK$24.0bn, as the recoverable amount as determined by a value in use ('VIU') calculation was lower than the carrying amount. No further impairment was required for the year ended 31 December 2024.

If the group did not have significant influence in BoCom, the investment would be carried at fair value rather than the current carrying amount.

On 24 September 2024, the People's Bank of China, National Financial Regulatory Administration and China Securities Regulatory Commission announced several policies aimed at promoting growth and economic development. These included monetary stimulus, property market support and capital market strengthening measures, as well as measures to recapitalise the largest commercial banks. In the absence of further details on how the recapitalisation of the largest commercial banks may be enacted, there is no change to the impairment test result at 31 December 2024. As further details become available, the impairment test will be updated to reflect their impact and may result in a change to the carrying value of our investment in BoCom. These developments have the potential to impact on the group's reported profits, but are unlikely to have an impact on the group's capital or capital ratios.

We remain supportive of our relationship with BoCom and will consider any broader implications on the carrying value of our investment as further details become available.

Impairment testing

At 31 December 2024, the carrying amount of the investment was HK$174.2bn (2023: HK$166.2bn) with fair value of HK$90.3bn (2023: HK$68.8bn). The group concluded there is no indication of further impairment (or indication that an impairment may no longer exist or may have decreased) since 31 December 2023. As part of this assessment, the group updated the VIU calculation which supported that there was no significant change to the 31 December 2023 impairment position. As a result, no additional impairment to the carrying amount (or reversal of impairment) was made at 31 December 2024.

Basis of recoverable amount

The VIU calculation uses discounted cash flow projections based on management's best estimates of future earnings available to ordinary shareholders prepared in accordance with HKAS 36. Those cash flows used estimates based on BoCom's current condition and so do not include estimated cash flows arising from uncommitted future actions that may affect the performance of the investment which will be considered at the relevant time should they arise. Significant management judgement is required in arriving at the best estimate.

The VIU may increase or decrease depending on the effect of changes to model inputs. The main model inputs are described below and are based on factors observed at period-end. The factors that could result in increases or reductions in the VIU include changes in BoCom's short-term performance, a change in regulatory capital requirements or revisions to the forecast of BoCom's future profitability.

There are two main components to the VIU calculation. The first component is management's best estimate of BoCom's earnings. Forecast earnings growth over the short to medium term continues to be lower than recent (within the last five years) actual growth and reflects the impact of recent macroeconomic, policy and industry factors in mainland China. As a result of management's intent to continue to retain its investment for the long term, earnings beyond the short to medium term are extrapolated into perpetuity using a long-term growth rate to derive a terminal value, which comprises the majority of the VIU. The second component is the capital maintenance charge ('CMC'), which is management's forecast of the earnings that need to be withheld in order for BoCom to meet capital requirements over the forecast period, meaning that CMC is deducted when arriving at management's estimate of future earnings available to ordinary shareholders. The CMC reflects the revised capital requirements arising from revisions of the ratio of risk-weighted assets to total assets assumption. The principal inputs to the CMC calculation include estimates of asset growth, the ratio of risk-weighted assets to total assets and the expected capital requirements. An increase in the CMC as a result of a change to these principal inputs would reduce VIU. Additionally, management considers other qualitative factors, to ensure that the inputs to the VIU calculation remain appropriate.

Key assumptions in value in use calculation

We used a number of assumptions in our VIU calculation, in accordance with the requirements of HKAS 36:

- Long-term profit growth rate: 3.00% (2023: 3.00%) for periods after 2028, which does not exceed forecast GDP growth in mainland China and is similar to forecasts by external analysts.
- Long-term asset growth rate: 3.25% (2023: 3.00%) for periods after 2028, which is the rate that assets are expected to grow to achieve long-term profit growth of 3.00%. The increase of long-term asset growth rate was supported by historical data, which is expected to continue.
- Discount rate: 8.53% (2023: 9.00%), which is based on a capital asset pricing model ('CAPM'), using market data. The discount rate used is within the range of 7.1% to 8.8% (2023: 7.9% to 9.7%) indicated by the CAPM, and decreased as a consequence of a market-driven reduction in the risk-free rate.
- Expected credit losses ('ECL') as a percentage of loans and advances to customers: ranges from 0.74% to 0.93% (2023: 0.80% to 0.97%) in the short to medium term, reflecting reported credit experience in mainland China. For periods after 2028, the ratio is 0.97% (2023: 0.97%), which is higher than BoCom's average ECL as a percentage of loans and advances to customers in recent years prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Risk-weighted assets as a percentage of total assets: ranges from 62.0% to 62.5% (2023: 62.0% to 63.7%) in the short to medium term, reflecting higher risk-weights in the short term followed by an expected reversion to recent historical levels. For periods after 2028, the ratio is 62.0% (2023: 62.0%), which continues to be similar to BoCom's actual results in recent years.
- Loans and advances to customers growth rate: ranges from 7.5% to 9.5% (2023: 9.0% to 10.0%) in the short to medium term, which is similar to BoCom's actual results in recent years. Changes in the forecast growth rate of loans and advances to customers are likewise reflected in the forecast ECL.
- Operating income growth rate: ranges from 0.1% to 9.9% (2023: -0.4% to 9.7%) in the short to medium term, which is similar to BoCom's actual results in recent years, and is impacted by projections of net interest income in the short term as a consequence of recent macroeconomic, policy and industry factors in mainland China.

- Cost-income ratio: ranges from 34.6% to 39.8% (2023: 35.5% to 39.8%) in the short to medium term. These ratios are similar to BoCom's actual results in recent years.
- Long-term effective tax rate: 15.0% (2023: 15.0%) for periods after 2028, which is higher than the recent historical average, and aligned to the minimum tax rate as proposed by the OECD/Group of 20 ('G20') Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.
- Capital requirements: capital adequacy ratio of 12.5% (2023: 12.5%) and tier 1 capital adequacy ratio of 9.5% (2023: 9.5%), based on BoCom's capital risk appetite and capital requirements respectively.

The changes in VIU would impact the carrying amount if there is an indication of further impairment (or indication that an impairment may no longer exist or may have decreased, to the extent of impairment loss previously recognised). The following table illustrates the impact on the carrying amount of reasonably possible changes to key assumptions used in the VIU calculation. This reflects the sensitivity of each key assumption on its own and it is possible that more than one favourable and/or unfavourable change may occur at the same time. The selected rates of reasonably possible changes to key assumptions are based on external analysts' forecasts, statutory requirements and other relevant external data sources, which can change period to period. Unless specified, favourable and unfavourable changes are consistently applied throughout short-to-medium and long-term forecast years, based on a straight-line average of the base case assumption.

Sensitivity of the carrying amount to the key VIU assumptions

	Favourable change		Unfavourable change	
		Reversal of impairment / VIU headroom		Impairment
	bps	HK$bn	bps	HK$bn
At 31 Dec 2024				
Long-term profit growth rate	**55**	**31.3**	**(96)**	**(41.6)**
Long-term asset growth rate	**(121)**	**67.4**	**30**	**(21.9)**
Discount rate	**(143)**	**41.5**	**287**	**(50.2)**
Expected credit losses as a percentage of loans and advances to customers	**2024 to 2028: 66 2029 onwards: 91**	**31.2**	**2024 to 2028: 108 2029 onwards: 104**	**(33.3)**
Risk-weighted assets as a percentage of total assets	**(132)**	**6.3**	**234**	**(13.1)**
Loans and advances to customers growth rate	**(217)**	**26.9**	**340**	**(47.4)**
Operating income growth rate	**76**	**21.6**	**(81)**	**(25.7)**
Cost-income ratio	**(190)**	**1.7**	**380**	**(55.1)**
Long-term effective tax rate	**(426)**	**13.1**	**1000**	**(30.6)**
Capital requirements – capital adequacy ratio	**—**	**—**	**372**	**(110.9)**
Capital requirements – tier 1 capital adequacy ratio	**—**	**—**	**270**	**(51.5)**
At 31 Dec 2023				
Long-term profit growth rate	58	25.2	(79)	(27.3)
Long-term asset growth rate	(79)	34.9	58	(31.7)
Discount rate	(110)	34.5	280	(48.4)
Expected credit losses as a percentage of loans and advances to customers	2023 to 2027: 78 2028 onwards: 91	22.1	2023 to 2027: 120 2028 onwards: 104	(34.8)
Risk-weighted assets as a percentage of total assets	(150)	6.2	216	(12.8)
Loans and advances to customers growth rate	(213)	24.6	207	(23.4)
Operating income growth rate	57	19.7	(81)	(20.7)
Cost-income ratio	(212)	5.3	99	(23.4)
Long-term effective tax rate	(426)	12.0	1,000	(28.1)
Capital requirements – capital adequacy ratio	—	—	215	(59.5)
Capital requirements – tier 1 capital adequacy ratio	—	—	248	(29.2)

Considering the interrelationship of the changes set out in the table above, management estimates that the reasonably possible range of VIU is HK$105.2bn to HK$239.4bn (2023: HK$102.3bn to HK$225.2bn), acknowledging that the fair value of the group's investment has ranged from HK$52.6bn to HK$90.3bn over the last five years as at the date of the impairment tests. The possible range of VIU is based on impacts set out in the table above arising from the favourable/unfavourable change in the earnings in the short to medium term, the expected credit losses as a percentage of loans and advances to customers, and a 50bps increase/decrease in the discount rate. All other long-term assumptions, and the basis of the CMC have been kept unchanged when determining the reasonably possible range of the VIU.

Selected financial information of BoCom

The statutory accounting reference date of BoCom is 31 December. For the year ended 31 December 2024, the group included the associate's results on the basis of financial statements made up for the 12 months to 30 September 2024, but taking into account the financial effect of known significant transactions or events in the period from 1 October 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Selected balance sheet information of BoCom

	At 30 Sep 2024	At 30 Sep 2023
	HK$m	HK$m
Cash and balances with central banks	773,999	881,237
Due from and placements with banks and other financial institutions	952,187	784,860
Loans and advances to customers	8,764,901	8,496,811
Other financial assets	4,564,329	4,593,262
Other assets	477,215	465,521
Total assets	15,532,631	15,221,691
Due to and placements from banks and other financial institutions	2,537,529	2,281,718
Deposits from customers	9,285,130	9,504,593
Other financial liabilities	2,197,000	1,962,818
Other liabilities	295,752	287,310
Total liabilities	14,315,411	14,036,439
Total equity	1,217,220	1,185,252
Equity attributable to Shareholders	1,204,616	1,172,516

Reconciliation of BoCom's net assets to carrying amount in the group's consolidated financial statements

	At 30 Sep	
	2024	2023
	HK$m	HK$m
Equity attributable to Shareholders	1,204,616	1,172,516
Other equity Instruments	(185,975)	(192,311)
Equity attributable to Shareholders less other equity instruments	1,018,641	980,205
The Group's Share of equity[1]	197,402	190,204
Impairment[2]	(23,165)	(23,955)
Carrying amount	174,237	166,249

1 This balance includes goodwill originally arising on acquisition.
2 This balance includes the impact of foreign exchange movements on the HK$23,955m impairment booked at in the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

Selected income statement information of BoCom

	For the 12 months ended 30 Sep	
	2024	2023
	HK$m	HK$m
Net interest income	180,865	183,444
Net fee and commission income	41,468	48,702
Credit and impairment losses	(57,816)	(63,404)
Depreciation and amortisation	(20,204)	(20,038)
Tax expense	(6,516)	(7,883)
– profit for the year	100,828	103,427
– other comprehensive income/(expense)	10,621	5,368
Total comprehensive income	111,449	108,795
Dividends received from BoCom	5,812	5,762

Using the latest period for which BoCom has disclosed this information (at 30 June 2024), the group's share of associate's contingent liabilities was HK$469,744m (2023: HK$463,564m).

15 Goodwill and intangible assets

Goodwill and intangible assets include goodwill arising on business combinations and other intangible assets.

	2024	2023
	HK$m	HK$m
Goodwill	7,026	6,817
Other intangible assets[1]	34,282	32,106
At 31 Dec	41,308	38,923

1 Included within other intangible assets is internally generated software with a net carrying value of HK$31,388m (2023: HK$29,370m). During the year, capitalisation of internally generated software was HK$10,693m (2023: HK$9,391m), the amortisation charge was HK$8,270m (2023: HK$6,922m) and the impairment charge was HK$255m (2023: HK$122m).

16 Property, plant and equipment

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Owned property, plant and equipment[1]	**115,143**	123,301
Other right-of-use assets	**5,631**	6,374
At 31 Dec	**120,774**	129,675

1 Included leasehold land and buildings of HK$104,140m (2023: HK$112,308m) for which the right of use are considered sufficient to constitute control. They are therefore presented as owned assets.

Movement in owned property, plant and equipment

	2024				2023			
	Land and buildings HK$m	**Investment properties HK$m**	**Equipment HK$m**	**Total HK$m**	Land and buildings HK$m	Investment properties HK$m	Equipment HK$m	Total HK$m
Cost or valuation								
At 1 Jan	**101,271**	**16,211**	**17,215**	**134,697**	101,427	16,199	16,659	134,285
Exchange and other adjustments	**(483)**	**(13)**	**(290)**	**(786)**	(326)	(13)	(52)	(391)
Additions	**86**	**15**	**1,976**	**2,077**	674	57	1,705	2,436
Disposals	**(1)**	**—**	**(646)**	**(647)**	(22)	—	(1,087)	(1,109)
Elimination of accumulated depreciation on revalued land and buildings	**(5,897)**	**—**	**—**	**(5,897)**	(5,723)	—	—	(5,723)
Surplus/(deficit) on revaluation	**(271)**	**(1,046)**	**—**	**(1,317)**	5,330	(35)	—	5,295
Reclassifications	**(141)**	**76**	**(1)**	**(66)**	(89)	3	(10)	(96)
At 31 Dec	**94,564**	**15,243**	**18,254**	**128,061**	101,271	16,211	17,215	134,697
Accumulated depreciation								
At 1 Jan	**233**	**—**	**11,163**	**11,396**	91	—	10,703	10,794
Exchange and other adjustments	**(29)**	**—**	**(151)**	**(180)**	(5)	—	(29)	(34)
Charge for the year	**6,656**	**—**	**1,518**	**8,174**	5,876	—	1,485	7,361
Disposals	**(1)**	**—**	**(574)**	**(575)**	(6)	—	(996)	(1,002)
Elimination of accumulated depreciation on revalued land and buildings	**(5,897)**	**—**	**—**	**(5,897)**	(5,723)	—	—	(5,723)
At 31 Dec	**962**	**—**	**11,956**	**12,918**	233	—	11,163	11,396
Net book value at 31 Dec	**93,602**	**15,243**	**6,298**	**115,143**	101,038	16,211	6,052	123,301

The carrying amount of land and buildings, had they been stated at cost less accumulated depreciation, would have been as follows:

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Cost less accumulated depreciation	**16,808**	18,297

Valuation of land and buildings and investment properties

The group's land and buildings and investment properties were revalued as at 31 December 2024. The basis of valuation for land and buildings and investment properties was open market value. The resultant values are Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy. The fair values for land and buildings are determined by using a direct comparison approach which values the properties in their respective existing states and uses, assuming sale with immediate vacant possession and by making reference to comparable sales evidence. The valuations take into account the characteristics of the properties (unobservable inputs) which include the location, size, shape, view, floor level, year of completion and other factors collectively. The premium or discount applied to the characteristics of the properties is within minus 20% and plus 20%. In determining the open market value of investment properties, expected future cash flows have been discounted to their present values. The net book value of 'Land and buildings' includes HK$6,919m (2023: HK$7,253m) in respect of properties which were valued using the depreciated replacement cost method.

Valuation of land and buildings and investment properties in Hong Kong, Macau and mainland China were largely carried out by Cushman & Wakefield Limited, who have recent experience in the location and type of properties and who are members of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors. This represents 92% by value of the group's properties subject to valuation. Other properties were valued by different independent professionally qualified valuers.

17 Prepayments, accrued income and other assets

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Prepayments and accrued income	**44,779**	42,613
Bullion	**71,712**	52,544
Acceptances and endorsements	**54,048**	53,389
Insurance contract assets	**323**	1,092
Reinsurance contract assets	**36,626**	36,214
Current tax assets	**2,414**	2,145
Settlement accounts and items in course of collection from other banks	**53,874**	76,805
Cash collateral and margin receivables	**82,698**	78,194
Other assets	**36,467**	50,044
At 31 Dec	**382,941**	393,040

Prepayments, accrued income and other assets included HK$268,556m (2023: HK$297,966m) of financial assets, the majority of which were measured at amortised cost.

18 Customer accounts

Customer accounts by country/territory

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Hong Kong	**4,466,634**	4,246,041
Singapore	**595,951**	574,574
Mainland China	**490,579**	437,542
Australia	**248,137**	250,550
India	**211,234**	190,439
Malaysia	**131,999**	123,487
Taiwan	**132,544**	132,410
Indonesia	**43,162**	43,744
Other	**244,366**	262,264
At 31 Dec	**6,564,606**	6,261,051

19 Trading liabilities

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Net short positions in securities	**63,586**	70,592
Repurchase agreements and other similar secured lending	**22,875**	32,360
Customer accounts	**96**	98
At 31 Dec	**86,557**	103,050

20 Financial liabilities designated at fair value

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Deposits by banks and customer accounts	**98,609**	89,604
Debt securities in issue	**50,787**	51,239
Liabilities to customers under investment contracts	**29,343**	29,885
At 31 Dec	**178,739**	170,728

The carrying amount of financial liabilities designated at fair value was HK$393m higher than the contractual amount at maturity (2023: HK$456m higher). The cumulative gain in fair value attributable to changes in credit risk was HK$20m (2023: HK$45m gain).

21 Debt securities in issue

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Bonds and medium-term notes	**89,049**	83,903
Other debt securities in issue	**26,100**	55,081
Total debt securities in issue	**115,149**	138,984
Included within:		
– financial liabilities designated at fair value (Note 20)	**(50,787)**	(51,239)
At 31 Dec	**64,362**	87,745

22 Accruals and deferred income, other liabilities and provisions

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Accruals and deferred income	**46,512**	49,176
Acceptances and endorsements	**54,106**	53,441
Settlement accounts and items in course of transmission to other banks	**95,662**	60,487
Cash collateral and margin payables	**74,830**	50,461
Reinsurance contract liabilities	**5,098**	6,079
Share-based payment liability to HSBC Holdings plc	**2,220**	1,883
Lease liabilities	**5,938**	6,830
Other liabilities[1]	**52,502**	55,259
Provisions for liabilities and charges	**2,845**	2,033
At 31 Dec	**339,713**	285,649

1 Principally includes marginal deposit on letter of credit and credit card settlement account.

Accruals and deferred income, other liabilities and provisions included HK$321,344m (2023: HK$267,315m) of financial liabilities which were measured at amortised cost.

Movement in provisions

Provisions (excluding contractual commitments)	**Restructuring costs HK$m**	**Other HK$m**	**Total HK$m**
At 31 Dec 2023	**186**	**598**	**784**
Additions	**423**	**1,026**	**1,449**
Amounts utilised	**(94)**	**(201)**	**(295)**
Unused amounts reversed	**(90)**	**(123)**	**(213)**
Exchange and other movements	**(37)**	**78**	**41**
At 31 Dec 2024	**388**	**1,378**	**1,766**
Contractual commitments[1]			
At 31 Dec 2023			**1,249**
Net change in expected credit loss provision and other movements			**(170)**
At 31 Dec 2024			**1,079**
Total Provisions at 31 Dec 2024			**2,845**
At 31 Dec 2022	271	481	752
Additions	204	298	502
Amounts utilised	(188)	(148)	(336)
Unused amounts reversed	(102)	(31)	(133)
Exchange and other movements	1	(2)	(1)
At 31 Dec 2023	186	598	784
Contractual commitments[1]			
At 31 Dec 2022			1,159
Net change in expected credit loss provision and other movements			90
At 31 Dec 2023			1,249
Total Provisions at 31 Dec 2023			2,033

1 Contractual commitments include provisions for contingent liabilities measured under HKFRS 9 'Financial Instruments' in respect of financial guarantees and expected credit loss provisions in relation to off-balance sheet guarantees and commitments.

23 Share capital

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Paid up share capital in HK$	**123,949**	123,949
Paid up share capital in US$[1]	**56,232**	56,232
At 31 Dec	**180,181**	180,181

Ordinary shares issued and fully paid

	2024		2023	
	HK$m	**Number**	HK$m	Number
At 31 Dec	**180,181**	**49,579,391,798**	180,181	49,579,391,798

1 Paid up share capital in US$ represents preference shares which were redeemed or bought back via payment out of distributable profits and for which the amount was transferred from retained earnings to share capital in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Ordinance.

There were no new ordinary shares issued during 2024 (2023: nil). The holder of the ordinary shares is entitled to receive dividends as declared from time to time, rank equally with regard to the Bank's residual assets and are entitled to one vote per share at shareholder meetings of the Bank.

24 Other equity instruments

Other equity instruments comprise additional tier 1 capital instruments in issue which are accounted for as equity.

		2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
US$1,000m	Fixed rate perpetual subordinated loan, callable from Mar 2025[1]	**7,834**	7,834
US$900m	Fixed rate perpetual subordinated loan, callable from Sep 2026[2]	**7,063**	7,063
US$700m	Fixed rate perpetual subordinated loan, callable from Mar 2025[3]	**5,467**	5,467
US$500m	Fixed rate perpetual subordinated loan, callable from Mar 2025[3]	**3,905**	3,905
US$600m	Fixed rate perpetual subordinated loan, callable from May 2027[4]	**4,685**	4,685
US$1,100m	Fixed rate perpetual subordinated loan, callable from Jun 2024[5]	**—**	8,617
US$900m	Fixed rate perpetual subordinated loan, callable from Sep 2024[6]	**—**	7,044
US$1,000m	Fixed rate perpetual subordinated loan, callable from Mar 2028[7]	**7,850**	7,850
SG$1,500m	Fixed rate perpetual subordinated loan, callable from Jun 2029[8]	**8,574**	—
US$1,350m	Fixed rate perpetual subordinated loan, callable from Sep 2029[9]	**10,421**	—
US$1,150m	Fixed rate perpetual subordinated loan, callable from Mar 2034[10]	**8,878**	—
At 31 Dec		**64,677**	52,465

1 Interest rate fixed at 6.090%.
2 Interest rate fixed at 6.510%.
3 Interest rate fixed at 6.172%.
4 Interest rate fixed at 5.910%.
5 This subordinated loan was repaid in the first half of 2024.
6 This subordinated loan was repaid in the second half of 2024.
7 Interest rate fixed at 8.000%.
8 Interest rate fixed at 5.250%.
9 Interest rate fixed at 6.875%.
10 Interest rate fixed at 6.950%.

The additional tier 1 capital instruments above are held by HSBC Asia Holdings Limited. These are perpetual subordinated loans on which coupon payments may be cancelled at the sole discretion of the Bank. The subordinated loans will be written down at the point of non-viability on the occurrence of a trigger event as defined in the Banking (Capital) Rules. They rank higher than ordinary shares in the event of a wind-up.

25 Maturity analysis of assets and liabilities

The following tables provides an analysis of consolidated total assets and liabilities by residual contractual maturity at the balance sheet date. These balances are included in the maturity analysis as follows:

- Trading assets and liabilities (including trading derivatives but excluding reverse repos, repos and debt securities in issue) are included in the 'Due not more than 1 month' time bucket because trading balances are typically held for short periods of time.
- Financial assets and liabilities with no contractual maturity (such as equity securities) are included in the 'Due over 5 years' time bucket. Undated or perpetual instruments are classified based on the contractual notice period, which the counterparty of the instrument is entitled to give. Where there is no contractual notice period, undated or perpetual contracts are included in the 'Due over 5 years' time bucket.
- Financial instruments included within assets and liabilities of disposal groups held for sale are classified on the basis of the contractual maturity of the underlying instruments and not on the basis of the disposal transaction.
- Non-financial assets and liabilities with no contractual maturity are included in the 'Due over 5 years' time bucket.
- Liabilities under insurance contracts included in 'non-financial liabilities' are irrespective of contractual maturity included in the 'Due over 5 years' time bucket in the maturity table provided below. An analysis of the present value of expected future cash flows of insurance contract liabilities and contractual service margin is provided on page 95.

Maturity analysis of assets and liabilities

	Due not more than 1 month	Due over 1 month but not more than 3 months	Due over 3 months but not more than 6 months	Due over 6 months but not more than 9 months	Due over 9 months but not more than 1 year	Due over 1 year but not more than 2 years	Due over 2 years but not more than 5 years	Due over 5 years	Total
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Financial assets									
Cash and balances at central banks	211,047	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	211,047
Hong Kong Government certificates of indebtedness	328,454	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	328,454
Trading assets	1,081,470	2,158	983	710	—	—	—	—	1,085,321
Derivatives	489,247	2,597	4,532	2,626	1,000	2,278	2,339	641	505,260
Financial assets designated and otherwise mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss	10,088	10,168	9,413	6,265	9,113	29,801	86,768	619,594	781,210
Reverse repurchase agreements – non-trading	540,928	153,653	51,841	15,017	6,242	35,159	13,262	—	816,102
Loans and advances to banks	270,588	112,357	24,404	31,501	14,819	12,563	14,121	387	480,740
Loans and advances to customers	534,432	361,700	280,303	175,600	175,056	330,593	560,443	1,076,171	3,494,298
Financial investments	185,570	469,399	308,923	98,612	93,043	264,088	706,842	211,367	2,337,844
Amounts due from Group companies	73,378	7,063	22,600	3,532	22,880	28,641	4,132	1	162,227
Accrued income and other financial assets	193,960	40,304	25,905	3,674	2,809	742	551	611	268,556
Financial assets at 31 Dec 2024	3,919,162	1,159,399	728,904	337,537	324,962	703,865	1,388,458	1,908,772	10,471,059
Non-financial assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	477,881	477,881
Total assets at 31 Dec 2024	3,919,162	1,159,399	728,904	337,537	324,962	703,865	1,388,458	2,386,653	10,948,940
Financial liabilities									
Hong Kong currency notes in circulation	328,454	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	328,454
Repurchase agreements – non-trading	575,380	43,808	4,080	—	—	—	—	1,516	624,784
Deposits by banks	179,660	1,683	1,784	421	64	—	—	—	183,612
Customer accounts	5,043,710	1,021,931	305,414	81,302	66,316	31,696	14,233	4	6,564,606
Trading liabilities	85,781	776	—	—	—	—	—	—	86,557
Derivatives	472,563	11	1	18	10	150	571	164	473,488
Financial liabilities designated at fair value	41,972	38,852	18,416	10,153	12,998	16,218	10,978	29,152	178,739
Debt securities in issue	1,010	13,202	5,451	6,868	3,695	4,883	21,472	7,781	64,362
Amounts due to Group companies	125,329	19,450	675	67	217	31,611	112,738	106,080	396,167
Accruals and other financial liabilities	227,963	49,318	27,167	3,883	3,976	3,752	4,414	871	321,344
Financial liabilities at 31 Dec 2024	7,081,822	1,189,031	362,988	102,712	87,276	88,310	164,406	145,568	9,222,113
Non-financial liabilities	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	848,819	848,819
Total liabilities at 31 Dec 2024	7,081,822	1,189,031	362,988	102,712	87,276	88,310	164,406	994,387	10,070,932

Maturity analysis of assets and liabilities (continued)

	Due not more than 1 month	Due over 1 month but not more than 3 months	Due over 3 months but not more than 6 months	Due over 6 months but not more than 9 months	Due over 9 months but not more than 1 year	Due over 1 year but not more than 2 years	Due over 2 years but not more than 5 years	Due over 5 years	Total
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Financial assets									
Cash and balances at central banks	232,987	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	232,987
Hong Kong Government certificates of indebtedness	328,304	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	328,304
Trading assets	936,087	4,606	246	311	—	—	—	—	941,250
Derivatives	401,888	995	1,030	528	243	2,135	1,592	842	409,253
Financial assets designated and otherwise mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss	10,922	4,784	4,567	3,532	3,942	34,442	90,413	554,971	707,573
Reverse repurchase agreements – non-trading	535,819	160,830	76,520	23,052	9,977	24,755	233	—	831,186
Loans and advances to banks	326,805	135,883	33,392	19,308	20,237	19,192	8,984	—	563,801
Loans and advances to customers	532,822	334,021	279,076	212,426	160,823	389,969	540,929	1,107,010	3,557,076
Financial investments	252,730	411,275	278,073	87,712	91,225	236,575	488,372	183,250	2,029,212
Amounts due from Group companies	68,894	35,486	6,440	3,395	3,674	25,877	2,350	1	146,117
Accrued income and other financial assets	225,412	39,520	23,853	2,990	3,119	709	918	1,445	297,966
Financial assets at 31 Dec 2023	3,852,670	1,127,400	703,197	353,254	293,240	733,654	1,133,791	1,847,519	10,044,725
Non-financial assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	455,668	455,668
Total assets at 31 Dec 2023	3,852,670	1,127,400	703,197	353,254	293,240	733,654	1,133,791	2,303,187	10,500,393
Financial liabilities									
Hong Kong currency notes in circulation	328,304	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	328,304
Repurchase agreements – non-trading	494,630	18,078	5,392	2,344	1,540	—	—	—	521,984
Deposits by banks	165,535	954	14,988	537	132	—	—	—	182,146
Customer accounts	4,768,955	805,337	467,986	92,664	59,839	37,514	28,749	7	6,261,051
Trading liabilities	100,324	2,726	—	—	—	—	—	—	103,050
Derivatives	448,517	60	50	66	278	267	488	490	450,216
Financial liabilities designated at fair value	47,717	30,532	20,425	8,748	7,702	16,845	8,781	29,978	170,728
Debt securities in issue	5,244	4,824	19,662	11,492	5,897	16,443	20,668	3,515	87,745
Amounts due to Group companies	186,851	17,171	1,653	77	174	9,666	117,754	131,907	465,253
Accruals and other financial liabilities	167,735	50,862	28,258	5,046	4,256	3,924	5,475	1,759	267,315
Financial liabilities at 31 Dec 2023	6,713,812	930,544	558,414	120,974	79,818	84,659	181,915	167,656	8,837,792
Non-financial liabilities	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	790,015	790,015
Total liabilities at 31 Dec 2023	6,713,812	930,544	558,414	120,974	79,818	84,659	181,915	957,671	9,627,807

26 Analysis of cash flows payable under financial liabilities by remaining contractual maturities

	Due not more than 1 month	Due over 1 month but not more than 3 months	Due between 3 and 12 months	Due between 1 and 5 years	Due after 5 years	Total
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
At 31 Dec 2024						
Hong Kong currency notes in circulation	**328,454**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**328,454**
Repurchase agreements – non-trading	**576,859**	**43,772**	**4,158**	**—**	**1,523**	**626,312**
Deposits by banks	**179,875**	**1,694**	**2,292**	**—**	**—**	**183,861**
Customer accounts	**5,052,552**	**1,034,325**	**466,325**	**54,206**	**4**	**6,607,412**
Trading liabilities	**86,557**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**86,557**
Derivatives	**474,389**	**75**	**99**	**735**	**852**	**476,150**
Financial liabilities designated at fair value	**42,285**	**39,334**	**42,122**	**28,083**	**29,161**	**180,985**
Debt securities in issue	**1,036**	**13,836**	**17,525**	**29,452**	**8,515**	**70,364**
Amounts due to Group companies	**126,134**	**23,106**	**9,498**	**184,003**	**154,260**	**497,001**
Other financial liabilities	**220,568**	**41,416**	**29,117**	**6,548**	**891**	**298,540**
	7,088,709	**1,197,558**	**571,136**	**303,027**	**195,206**	**9,355,636**
Loan and other credit-related commitments	**3,477,806**	**33**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**3,477,839**
Financial guarantees	**59,153**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**59,153**
	10,625,668	**1,197,591**	**571,136**	**303,027**	**195,206**	**12,892,628**
Proportion of cash flows payable in period	**83%**	**9%**	**4%**	**2%**	**2%**	
At 31 Dec 2023						
Hong Kong currency notes in circulation	328,304	—	—	—	—	328,304
Repurchase agreements – non-trading	495,424	18,281	9,496	—	—	523,201
Deposits by banks	166,594	955	15,681	—	—	183,230
Customer accounts	4,782,131	817,944	635,862	72,290	48	6,308,275
Trading liabilities	103,050	—	—	—	—	103,050
Derivatives	448,542	46	37	705	530	449,860
Financial liabilities designated at fair value	48,616	31,052	37,555	27,007	30,013	174,243
Debt securities in issue	5,285	5,541	38,620	40,717	3,813	93,976
Amounts due to Group companies	187,263	20,553	10,424	174,035	182,676	574,951
Other financial liabilities	159,827	42,012	30,108	7,581	1,729	241,257
	6,725,036	936,384	777,783	322,335	218,809	8,980,347
Loan and other credit-related commitments	3,411,371	—	545	—	—	3,411,916
Financial guarantees	53,483	—	—	—	—	53,483
	10,189,890	936,384	778,328	322,335	218,809	12,445,746
Proportion of cash flows payable in period	81%	8%	6%	3%	2%	

The balances in the above table shows, on an undiscounted basis, all cash flows relating to principal and future coupon payments (except for trading liabilities and derivatives not treated as hedging derivatives). For this reason, balances in the above table do not agree directly with those in our consolidated balance sheet. Undiscounted cash flows payable in relation to hedging derivative liabilities are classified according to their contractual maturities. Trading liabilities and derivatives not treated as hedging derivatives are included in the 'Due not more than 1 month' time bucket and not by contractual maturity.

In addition, loan and other credit-related commitments and financial guarantees are generally not recognised on our balance sheet. The undiscounted cash flows potentially payable under loan and other credit-related commitments and financial guarantees are classified on the basis of the earliest date they can be called.

27 Contingent liabilities, contractual commitments and guarantees

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Guarantees and contingent liabilities:		
– financial guarantees[1]	**59,153**	53,483
– performance and other guarantees[2]	**382,039**	380,953
– other contingent liabilities	**1,680**	1,161
At 31 Dec	**442,872**	435,597
Commitments[3]:		
– documentary credits and short-term trade-related transactions	**24,731**	26,908
– forward asset purchases and forward forward deposits placed	**107,464**	71,708
– undrawn formal standby facilities, credit lines and other commitments to lend	**3,345,644**	3,313,300
At 31 Dec	**3,477,839**	3,411,916

1 Financial guarantees are contracts that require the issuer to make specified payments to reimburse the holder for a loss incurred because a specified debtor fails to make payment when due in accordance with the original or modified terms of a debt instrument.
2 Performance and other guarantees include re-insurance letters of credit related to particular transactions, trade-related letters of credit issued without provision for the issuing entity to retain title to the underlying shipment, performance bonds, bid bonds, standby letters of credit and other transaction-related guarantees.
3 Includes HK$2,027,320m of commitments at 31 December 2024 (2023: HK$1,978,328m) to which the impairment requirements in HKFRS 9 are applied where the group has become party to an irrevocable commitment.

The above table discloses the nominal principal amounts of commitments (excluding other commitments as disclosed in Note 28), guarantees and other contingent liabilities, which represent the amounts at risk should contracts be fully drawn upon and clients default. As a significant proportion of guarantees and commitments are expected to expire without being drawn upon, the total of the nominal principal amounts is not representative of future liquidity requirements.

It also reflects the group’s maximum exposure under a large number of individual guarantee undertakings. The risks and exposures from guarantees are captured and managed in accordance with HSBC’s overall credit risk management policies and procedures. Guarantees are subject to an annual credit review process.

Other contingent liabilities at 31 December 2024 included amounts in relation to legal and regulatory matters as set out in Note 37.

28 Other commitments

Capital commitments

At 31 December 2024, capital commitments, mainly related to the commitment for purchase of properties, were HK$3,578m (2023: HK$3,907m).

29 Offsetting of financial assets and financial liabilities

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset and the net amount is reported in the balance sheet when there is a legally enforceable right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously (‘the offset criteria’).

The ‘Amounts not set off in the balance sheet’ include transactions where:

– the counterparty has an offsetting exposure with the group and a master netting or similar arrangement is in place with a right to set off only in the event of default, insolvency or bankruptcy, or the offset criteria are otherwise not satisfied; and

– cash and non-cash collateral (debt securities and equities) has been received/pledged for derivatives and reverse repurchase/repurchase, stock borrowing/lending and similar agreements to cover net exposure in the event of default or other predetermined events.

The effect of over-collateralisation is excluded.

‘Amounts not subject to enforceable netting agreements’ include contracts executed in jurisdictions where the rights of set off may not be upheld under the local bankruptcy laws, and transactions where a legal opinion evidencing enforceability of the right of offset may not have been sought, or may have been unable to obtain.

For risk management purposes, the net amounts of loans and advances to customers are subject to limits, which are monitored and the relevant customer agreements are subject to review and updated, as necessary, to ensure that the legal right to set off remains appropriate.

Offsetting of financial assets and financial liabilities

	Amounts subject to enforceable netting arrangements							
				Amounts not offset in the balance sheet				
	Gross amounts	Amounts offset	Net amounts reported in the balance sheet	Financial instruments, including non-cash collateral	Cash collateral	Net amount	Amounts not subject to enforceable netting arrangements[1]	Balance sheet total
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
At 31 Dec 2024								
Financial assets[2]								
Derivatives	**674,148**	**(203,344)**	**470,804**	**(363,511)**	**(52,738)**	**54,555**	**34,456**	**505,260**
Reverse repos, stock borrowing and similar agreements classified as:								
– trading assets	**81,948**	**—**	**81,948**	**(81,843)**	**(82)**	**23**	**—**	**81,948**
– third party	**53,408**	**—**	**53,408**	**(53,326)**	**(82)**	**—**	**—**	**53,408**
– amounts due from Group companies	**28,540**	**—**	**28,540**	**(28,517)**	**—**	**23**	**—**	**28,540**
– reverse repurchase agreements – non-trading	**840,976**	**(32,113)**	**808,863**	**(807,358)**	**(1,157)**	**348**	**39,026**	**847,889**
– third party	**806,392**	**(29,316)**	**777,076**	**(775,649)**	**(1,157)**	**270**	**39,026**	**816,102**
– amounts due from Group companies	**34,584**	**(2,797)**	**31,787**	**(31,709)**	**—**	**78**	**—**	**31,787**
– financial assets designated and otherwise mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss								
– third party	**193**	**—**	**193**	**(193)**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**193**
	1,597,265	**(235,457)**	**1,361,808**	**(1,252,905)**	**(53,977)**	**54,926**	**73,482**	**1,435,290**
Financial liabilities[3]								
Derivatives	**642,189**	**(203,344)**	**438,845**	**(350,770)**	**(45,625)**	**42,450**	**34,643**	**473,488**
Repos, stock lending and similar agreements classified as:								
– trading liabilities	**23,041**	**—**	**23,041**	**(23,041)**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**23,041**
– third party	**22,875**	**—**	**22,875**	**(22,875)**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**22,875**
– amounts due to Group companies	**166**	**—**	**166**	**(166)**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**166**
– repurchase agreements – non-trading	**640,757**	**(32,113)**	**608,644**	**(604,284)**	**(62)**	**4,298**	**84,696**	**693,340**
– third party	**569,404**	**(29,316)**	**540,088**	**(535,740)**	**(62)**	**4,286**	**84,696**	**624,784**
– amounts due to Group companies	**71,353**	**(2,797)**	**68,556**	**(68,544)**	**—**	**12**	**—**	**68,556**
	1,305,987	**(235,457)**	**1,070,530**	**(978,095)**	**(45,687)**	**46,748**	**119,339**	**1,189,869**
At 31 Dec 2023								
Financial assets[2]								
Derivatives	620,134	(235,361)	384,773	(332,456)	(28,217)	24,100	24,480	409,253
Reverse repos, stock borrowing and similar agreements classified as:								
– trading assets	66,865	—	66,865	(64,526)	(2,323)	16	10,824	77,689
– third party	51,886	—	51,886	(51,620)	(266)	—	10,824	62,710
– amounts due from Group companies	14,979	—	14,979	(12,906)	(2,057)	16	—	14,979
– reverse repurchase agreements – non-trading	887,389	(48,798)	838,591	(838,533)	(6)	52	42,442	881,033
– third party	835,167	(46,423)	788,744	(788,688)	(6)	50	42,442	831,186
– amounts due from Group companies	52,222	(2,375)	49,847	(49,845)	—	2	—	49,847
– financial assets designated and otherwise mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss								
– third party	514	—	514	(514)	—	—	—	514
	1,574,902	(284,159)	1,290,743	(1,236,029)	(30,546)	24,168	77,746	1,368,489
Financial liabilities[3]								
Derivatives	658,545	(235,361)	423,184	(331,004)	(52,842)	39,338	27,032	450,216
Repos, stock lending and similar agreements classified as:								
– trading liabilities	32,429	—	32,429	(31,959)	—	470	—	32,429
– third party	32,360	—	32,360	(31,890)	—	470	—	32,360
– amounts due to Group companies	69	—	69	(69)	—	—	—	69
– repurchase agreements – non-trading	630,963	(48,798)	582,165	(581,584)	(10)	571	73,350	655,515
– third party	495,057	(46,423)	448,634	(448,071)	(10)	553	73,350	521,984
– amounts due to Group companies	135,906	(2,375)	133,531	(133,513)	—	18	—	133,531
	1,321,937	(284,159)	1,037,778	(944,547)	(52,852)	40,379	100,382	1,138,160

1 These exposures continue to be secured by financial collateral, but the group may not have sought or been able to obtain a legal opinion evidencing enforceability of the offsetting right.
2 Include balances due from Group companies of HK$212,803m (2023:HK$202,680m).
3 Include balances due to Group companies of HK$230,228m (2023:HK$275,775m).

30 Segmental analysis

The Executive Committee ('EXCO') is considered the Chief Operating Decision Maker ('CODM') for the purpose of identifying the group's operating segments. Operating segment results are assessed by the CODM on the basis of performance measured in accordance with HKFRSs. Although the CODM reviews information on a number of bases, business performance is assessed and capital resources are allocated by operating segments, and the segmental analysis is presented based on reportable segments as assessed under HKFRS 8 'Operating Segments'.

Our operations are closely integrated and, accordingly, the presentation of data includes internal allocations of certain items of income and expenses. These allocations include the costs of certain support services and global functions to the extent that they can be meaningfully attributed to operational business lines and geographical regions. While such allocations have been made on a systematic and consistent basis, they necessarily involve a degree of subjectivity. Costs which are not allocated to other operating segments are included in the 'Corporate Centre'.

Where relevant, income and expense amounts presented include the results of inter-segment funding along with inter-company and inter-business line transactions. All such transactions are undertaken on arm's length terms. The intra-group elimination items for the operating segments are presented in the Corporate Centre.

Our global businesses and reportable segments

The group provides a comprehensive range of banking and related financial services to our customers in our global businesses: Wealth and Personal Banking ('WPB'), Commercial Banking ('CMB') and Global Banking and Markets ('GBM'). The products and services offered to customers are organised by these global businesses.

- WPB provides a full range of retail banking and wealth products to our customers from personal banking to ultra high net worth individuals. Typically, customer offerings include retail banking products, such as current and savings accounts, mortgages and personal loans, credit cards, debit cards and local and international payment services. We also provide wealth management services, including insurance and investment products, global asset management services, investment management and Private Wealth Solutions for customers with more sophisticated and international requirements.
- CMB offers a broad range of products and services to serve the needs of our commercial customers, including small and medium-sized enterprises, mid-market enterprises and corporates. These include credit and lending, international trade and receivables finance, treasury management and liquidity solutions (payments and cash management and commercial cards) and investments. CMB also offers its customers access to products and services offered by other global businesses, such as GBM, which include foreign exchange products, raising capital on debt and equity markets and advisory services.
- GBM comprises of two separate reportable segments: Global Banking ('GB') and Markets and Securities Services ('MSS'). GB provides tailored financial solutions to major government, corporate and institutional clients and private investors worldwide. The client-focused business lines deliver a full range of banking capabilities including financing, advisory and transaction services. MSS provides services in credit, rates, foreign exchange, equities, money markets and securities services, and principal investment activities.
- Corporate Centre includes strategic investments such as our investment in BoCom, Central Treasury revenue, and costs which are not allocated to global businesses, mainly in relation to investments in technology.
- Other (GBM-other) mainly comprises other business activities which are jointly managed by GB and MSS.

Performance by reportable segments is presented in the 'Financial Review' on page 15 as specified as 'Audited'.

Information by geographical region

	Hong Kong	Rest of Asia-Pacific	Intra-segment elimination	Total
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
For the year ended 31 Dec 2024				
Net operating income before change in expected credit losses and other credit impairment charges	**165,696**	**100,493**	**(494)**	**265,695**
Profit before tax	**86,191**	**67,741**	**—**	**153,932**
At 31 Dec 2024				
Total assets	**7,787,827**	**4,041,156**	**(880,043)**	**10,948,940**
Total liabilities	**7,360,474**	**3,590,501**	**(880,043)**	**10,070,932**
Credit commitments and contingent liabilities (contract amounts)	**1,974,888**	**1,945,823**	**—**	**3,920,711**
For the year ended 31 Dec 2023				
Net operating income before change in expected credit losses and other credit impairment charges	156,171	93,546	(38)	249,679
Profit before tax	78,765	42,678	—	121,443
At 31 Dec 2023				
Total assets	7,485,995	3,977,785	(963,387)	10,500,393
Total liabilities	7,059,770	3,531,424	(963,387)	9,627,807
Credit commitments and contingent liabilities (contract amounts)	1,977,725	1,869,788	—	3,847,513

Information by country/territory

	Revenue[1]		Non-current assets[2]	
	For the year ended 31 Dec		At 31 Dec	
	2024	2023	**2024**	2023
	HK$m	HK$m	**HK$m**	HK$m
Hong Kong	**165,696**	156,171	**134,806**	140,646
Mainland China	**19,538**	19,934	**187,451**	180,166
Australia	**9,582**	8,886	**1,459**	1,659
India	**15,981**	13,773	**2,844**	2,711
Indonesia	**3,487**	3,609	**3,042**	3,253
Malaysia	**7,206**	6,708	**1,802**	1,833
Singapore	**21,721**	18,275	**4,214**	3,331
Taiwan	**5,583**	5,038	**2,328**	2,429
Other	**16,901**	17,285	**2,466**	2,775
Total	**265,695**	249,679	**340,412**	338,803

1 Revenue (defined as 'Net operating income before change in expected credit losses and other impairment charges') is attributable to countries based on the location of the principal operations of the branch, subsidiary, associate or joint venture.
2 Non-current assets consist of property, plant and equipment, goodwill, other intangible assets, interests in associates and joint ventures and certain other assets.

31 Related party transactions

The group's related parties include the parent, fellow subsidiaries, associates, joint ventures, post-employment benefit plans for the group's employees, Key Management Personnel ('KMP') as defined by HKAS 24, close family members of KMP and entities that are controlled or jointly controlled by KMP or their close family members.

Particulars of transactions with related parties are set out below.

(a) Inter-company

The group is wholly owned by HSBC Asia Holdings Limited, which in turn is a wholly-owned subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc (incorporated in England).

The group entered into transactions with its fellow subsidiaries in the normal course of business, including the acceptance and placement of interbank deposits, correspondent banking transactions and off-balance sheet transactions. The Bank also acted as agent for the distribution of retail investment funds for fellow subsidiaries and paid professional fees for services provided by fellow subsidiaries.

The group shared the costs of certain IT projects and also used certain processing services of fellow subsidiaries. These costs are reported under 'General and administrative expenses – other administrative expenses' in the income statement.

The balances of amounts due to and from the relevant parties at the year end were as follows:

	2024						2023					
	Immediate holding company		Ultimate holding company		Fellow subsidiaries		Immediate holding company		Ultimate holding company		Fellow subsidiaries	
	Highest balance during year	Balance at 31 Dec	Highest balance during year	Balance at 31 Dec	Highest balance during year	Balance at 31 Dec	Highest balance during year	Balance at 31 Dec	Highest balance during year	Balance at 31 Dec	Highest balance during year	Balance at 31 Dec
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Assets	4	3	3,327	1,589	445,895	325,889	22	5	4,051	2,655	426,392	293,786
– trading assets[1,5]	—	—	234	107	28,961	28,544	—	—	64	48	14,998	14,995
– derivative assets	—	—	58	58	154,231	152,419	—	—	33	2	171,528	137,852
– other assets[1,4,6]	4	3	3,035	1,424	262,703	144,926	22	5	3,954	2,605	239,866	140,939
Liabilities[9]	273,762	253,124	4,435	2,180	457,073	302,559	312,292	262,111	5,557	2,772	464,666	342,768
– trading liabilities[1,7]	—	—	143	7	169	168	—	—	58	36	27,868	72
– financial liabilities designated at fair value[1,2]	233,825	215,816	—	—	10	—	236,178	224,073	—	—	7	6
– derivative liabilities	—	—	3,682	1,820	159,687	159,687	—	—	4,399	2,609	160,443	139,566
– other liabilities[1,4,8]	4,177	2,722	610	353	297,033	142,619	4,436	2,811	1,034	127	276,169	203,022
– insurance contract liabilities[1]	—	—	—	—	174	85	—	—	—	—	179	102
– subordinated liabilities[1,3,4]	35,760	34,586	—	—	—	—	71,678	35,227	66	—	—	—
Guarantees	—	—	—	—	28,121	24,382	—	—	—	—	28,427	27,997
Commitments	—	—	—	—	5,394	875	—	—	—	—	2,387	925

1 These balances are presented under 'Amounts due from/to Group companies' in the consolidated balance sheet.
2 The balance at 31 December 2024 included capital and loss-absorbing capacity ('LAC') instruments of HK$215,816m (2023: HK$224,073m). During the year, there were repayment of HK$9,725m (2023: HK$36,128m) and issuance of HK$4,398m (2023: HK$66,521m). The carrying amount of financial liabilities designated at fair value was HK$2,790m lower than the contractual amount at maturity (2023: HK$3,121m lower). The cumulative loss in fair value attributable to changes in credit risk was HK$5,723m (2023: HK$2,917m loss). The balances are under Level 2.
3 The balance at 31 December 2024 included subordinated liabilities of HK$34,586m to meet TLAC requirements (2023: HK$35,227m). During the year, there were no repayments (2023: HK$34,962m) and no issuances (2023: no issuances).
4 The fair value hierarchy of assets and liabilities at amortised cost are under Level 2 and the fair value has no material difference with carrying value.
5 Includes trading reverse repo agreements and other similar secured lending of HK$28,540m (2023: HK$14,979m).
6 Includes non-trading reverse repo agreements and other similar secured lending of HK$31,787m (2023: HK$49,847m).
7 Includes trading repurchase agreements and other similar secured lending of HK$166m (2023: HK$69m).
8 Includes non-trading repurchase agreements and other similar secured lending of HK$68,556m (2023: HK$133,531m).
9 HK$98,515m (2023: HK$98,052m) of the group's non-capital LAC instruments reference to legacy Ibors (including indirect references) in their terms. The group expects to be able to remediate or mitigate these risks by the relevant calculation dates, which will occur post cessation of the relevant Ibor.

The group routinely enters into related party transactions with other entities in the Group. These include transactions to facilitate third-party transactions with customers, transactions for internal risk management, and other transactions relevant to Group processes. These transactions and the above outstanding balances arose in the ordinary course of business and on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and security, as for comparable transactions with third-party counterparties.

(b) Share option and share award schemes

The group participates in various share option and share plans operated by HSBC whereby share options or shares of HSBC are granted to employees of the group. The group recognises an expense in respect of these share options and share awards. The cost borne by the ultimate holding company in respect of share options is treated as a capital contribution and is recorded within 'Other reserves'. In respect of share awards, the group recognises a liability to the ultimate holding company over the vesting period. This liability is measured at the fair value of the shares at each reporting date, with changes since the award dates adjusted through the capital contribution account within 'Other reserves'. The balances of the capital contribution and the liability at 31 December 2024 amounted to HK$2,839m and HK$2,220m respectively (2023: HK$3,091m and HK$1,883m respectively).

(c) Post-employment benefit plans

At 31 December 2024, HK$8.8bn (2023: HK$7.4bn) of the group's post-employment plan assets were under management by group companies, earning management fees of HK$63m in 2024 (2023: HK$58m). At 31 December 2024, the group's post-employment benefit plans had placed deposits of HK$818m (2023: HK$736m) with its banking subsidiaries, earning interest payable to the schemes of HK$10.3m (2023: HK$8.8m). The above outstanding balances arose from the ordinary course of business and on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and security, as comparable transactions with third-party counterparties.

(d) Associates and joint ventures

The group provides certain banking and financial services to associates and joint ventures, including loans, overdrafts, interest and non-interest bearing deposits and current accounts. Details of interests in associates and joint ventures are set out in Note 14.

The disclosure of the year-end balance and the highest amounts outstanding during the year is considered to be the most meaningful information to represent the amount of transactions and outstanding balances during the year.

Transactions and balances during the year with associates and joint ventures

	2024		2023	
	Highest balance during the year	**Balance at 31 December**	Highest balance during the year	Balance at 31 December
	HK$m	**HK$m**	HK$m	HK$m
Amounts due from associates – unsubordinated	**61,980**	**38,466**	61,769	46,173
Amounts due to associates	**20,503**	**12,530**	23,450	13,033
Amounts due to joint ventures	**18**	**8**	42	14
Fair value of derivative assets with associates	**7,000**	**5,792**	11,826	6,212
Fair value of derivative liabilities with associates	**28,634**	**20,314**	34,281	23,142
Guarantees and Commitments	**374**	**276**	1,569	377

The above outstanding balances arose in the ordinary course of business and on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and security, as comparable transactions with third-party counterparties.

(e) Key Management Personnel

Key Management Personnel are defined as those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Bank and the group. It includes members of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Bank and the Board of Directors and Group Executive Committee members of HSBC Holdings plc.

Compensation of Key Management Personnel

	2024	2023
	HK$m	HK$m
Salaries and other short-term benefits	**364**	362
Post employment benefits	**12**	11
Termination benefits	**2**	—
Share-based payments	**135**	126
Total	**513**	499

Transactions, arrangements and agreements involving Key Management Personnel

	2024	2023
	HK$m	HK$m
During the year		
Highest average assets[1]	**50,407**	78,447
Highest average liabilities[1]	**20,512**	74,273
Contribution to group's profit before tax	**2,075**	3,372
At the year end		
Guarantees	**4,079**	3,842
Commitments	**10,115**	9,147

1 The disclosure of the highest average balance during the year is considered the most meaningful information to represent transactions during the year.

Transactions, arrangements and agreements are entered into by the group with companies that may be controlled by Key Management Personnel of the group and their immediate relatives. These transactions are primarily loans and deposits, and were entered into in the ordinary course of business and on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and security, as comparable transactions with persons or companies of a similar standing or, where applicable, with other employees. The transactions did not involve more than the normal risk of repayment or present other unfavourable features. Change in expected credit losses recognised for the year, and expected credit loss allowances against balances outstanding at the end of the year, in respect of Key Management Personnel were insignificant (2023: insignificant).

(f) Loans to directors

Directors are defined as the Directors of the Bank, its ultimate holding company, HSBC Holdings plc and intermediate holding companies. Loans to directors also include loans to companies that are controlled by, and entities that are connected with these directors. Particulars of loans to directors disclosed pursuant to section 17 of the Companies (Disclosure of Information about Benefits of Directors) Regulation are as follows:

	Aggregate amount outstanding at 31 Dec		Maximum aggregate amount outstanding during the year	
	2024	2023	**2024**	2023
	HK$m	HK$m	**HK$m**	HK$m
By the Bank	**197**	2,530	**303**	2,631
By subsidiaries	**1**	1	**1**	13
	198	2,531	**304**	2,644

These amounts include principal and interest, and the maximum liability that may be incurred under guarantees.

32 Fair values of financial instruments carried at fair value

Control framework

Fair values are subject to a control framework designed to ensure that they are either determined, or validated, by a function independent of the risk taker.

Where fair values are determined by reference to externally quoted prices or observable pricing inputs to models, independent price determination or validation is utilised. For inactive markets, the group sources alternative market information, with greater weight given to information that is considered to be more relevant and reliable. Examples of the factors considered are price observability, instrument comparability, consistency of data sources, underlying data accuracy and timing of prices.

Fair value of investment funds are sourced from the underlying fund managers which are based upon an assessment of the underlying investees' financial positions, results, risk profile and prospects.

For fair values determined using valuation models, the control framework includes development or validation by independent support functions of the model logic, inputs, model outputs and adjustments. Valuation models are subject to a process of due diligence before becoming operational and are calibrated against external market data on an ongoing basis.

Changes in fair value are generally subject to a profit and loss analysis process and are disaggregated into high-level categories including portfolio changes, market movements and other fair value adjustments.

The majority of financial instruments measured at fair value are in MSS and Insurance. The group's fair value governance structure comprises its Finance function and Valuation Committees. Finance is responsible for establishing procedures governing valuation and ensuring fair values are in compliance with accounting standards. The fair values are reviewed by the group's relevant Valuation Committees, which consist of independent support functions and consider all material subjective valuations. Within MSS and Insurance, these Committees are overseen by the Group's Valuation Committee Review Group and the Group Insurance Valuation and Impairment Committee respectively.

Financial liabilities measured at fair value

In certain circumstances, the group records its own debt in issue at fair value, based on quoted prices in an active market for the specific instrument. When quoted market prices are unavailable, the own debt in issue is valued using valuation techniques, the inputs for which are either based on quoted prices in an inactive market for the instrument or are estimated by comparison with quoted prices in an active market for similar instruments. In both cases, the fair value includes the effect of applying the credit spread which is appropriate to the group's liabilities. The change in fair value of issued debt securities attributable to the group's own credit spread is computed as follows: for each security at each reporting date, an externally verifiable price is obtained or a price is derived using credit spreads for similar securities issued by the Group. Then, using discounted cash flow, each security is valued using an appropriate market discount curve. The difference in the valuations is attributable to the group's own credit spread. This methodology is applied consistently across all securities.

Structured notes issued and certain other hybrid instruments are included within 'Financial liabilities designated at fair value' and are measured at fair value. The credit spread applied to these instruments is derived from the spreads at which the group issues structured notes.

Gains and losses arising from changes in the credit spread of liabilities issued by the group, recorded in other comprehensive income, reverse over the contractual life of the debt, provided that the debt is not repaid at a premium or a discount.

Fair value hierarchy

Fair values of financial assets and liabilities are determined according to the following hierarchy:

- Level 1 – valuation technique using quoted market price. These are financial instruments with quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets that the group can access at the measurement date.
- Level 2 – valuation technique using observable inputs. These are financial instruments with quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets or quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in inactive markets and financial instruments valued using models where all significant inputs are observable.
- Level 3 – valuation technique with significant unobservable inputs. These are financial instruments valued using valuation techniques where one or more significant inputs are unobservable.

Financial instruments carried at fair value and bases of valuation

	Fair Value Hierarchy					
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Third-party total	Inter-company[2]	Total
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
At 31 Dec 2024						
Assets						
Trading assets[1]	**786,951**	**284,818**	**13,552**	**1,085,321**	**—**	**1,085,321**
Derivatives	**3,090**	**348,439**	**1,254**	**352,783**	**152,477**	**505,260**
Financial assets designated and otherwise mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss	**240,126**	**398,426**	**142,658**	**781,210**	**—**	**781,210**
Financial investments	**1,308,889**	**393,198**	**3,017**	**1,705,104**	**—**	**1,705,104**
Liabilities						
Trading liabilities[1]	**55,574**	**30,978**	**5**	**86,557**	**—**	**86,557**
Derivatives	**1,553**	**309,212**	**1,216**	**311,981**	**161,507**	**473,488**
Financial liabilities designated at fair value[1]	**—**	**155,779**	**22,960**	**178,739**	**—**	**178,739**
At 31 Dec 2023						
Assets						
Trading assets[1]	637,806	294,184	9,260	941,250	—	941,250
Derivatives	938	268,318	2,143	271,399	137,854	409,253
Financial assets designated and otherwise mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss	182,874	402,113	122,586	707,573	—	707,573
Financial investments	1,077,040	329,689	3,542	1,410,271	—	1,410,271
Liabilities						
Trading liabilities[1]	66,685	36,363	2	103,050	—	103,050
Derivatives	2,048	303,584	2,409	308,041	142,175	450,216
Financial liabilities designated at fair value[1]	—	142,071	28,657	170,728	—	170,728

1 These balances exclude HK$28,651m Level 2 assets (2023: HK$15,043m) and HK$215,991m Level 2 liabilities (2023: HK$224,187m) held with HSBC Group entities.
2 Derivatives balances with HSBC Group entities are largely under 'Level 2'.

Transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 fair values

	Assets				Liabilities		
	Financial investments	Trading assets	Designated and otherwise mandatorily measured at fair value	Derivatives	Trading liabilities	Designated at fair value	Derivatives
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
1 Jan to 31 Dec 2024							
Transfers from Level 1 to Level 2	**102,536**	**68,616**	**11,996**	**—**	**656**	**—**	**—**
Transfers from Level 2 to Level 1	**77,553**	**41,295**	**23,687**	**—**	**506**	**—**	**—**
1 Jan to 31 Dec 2023							
Transfers from Level 1 to Level 2	94,475	60,546	13,386	—	296	—	—
Transfers from Level 2 to Level 1	69,552	40,626	19,403	—	1,591	—	—

Transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy are deemed to occur at the end of each quarter. Transfers into and out of levels of the fair value hierarchy are primarily attributable to changes in observability of valuation inputs and price transparency.

Fair value adjustments

We adopt the use of fair value adjustments when we take into consideration additional factors not incorporated within the valuation model that would otherwise be considered by a market participant. We classify fair value adjustments as either 'risk-related' or 'model-related'. The majority of these adjustments relate to MSS. Movements in the level of fair value adjustments do not necessarily result in the recognition of profits or losses within the income statement. For example, as models are enhanced, fair value adjustments may no longer be required. Similarly, fair value adjustments will decrease when the related positions are unwound, but this may not result in profit or loss.

Bid-offer

HKFRS 13 requires use of the price within the bid-offer spread that is most representative of fair value. Valuation models will typically generate mid-market values. The bid-offer adjustment reflects the extent to which bid-offer costs would be incurred if substantially all residual net portfolio market risks were closed using available hedging instruments or by disposing of, or unwinding the position.

Uncertainty

Certain model inputs may be less readily determinable from market data, and/or the choice of model itself may be more subjective. In these circumstances, an adjustment may be necessary to reflect the likelihood that market participants would adopt more conservative values for uncertain parameters and/or model assumptions, than those used in the group's valuation model.

Credit valuation adjustment ('CVA') and debit valuation adjustment ('DVA')

The CVA is an adjustment to the valuation of over-the-counter ('OTC') derivative contracts to reflect the possibility that the counterparty may default and the group may not receive the full market value of the transactions.

The DVA is an adjustment to the valuation of OTC derivative contracts to reflect the possibility that the group may default, and that the group may not pay the full market value of the transactions.

The group calculates a separate CVA and DVA for each legal entity, and for each counterparty to which the entity has exposure. With the exception of central clearing parties, all third-party counterparties are included in the CVA and DVA calculations, and these adjustments are not netted across group entities.

The group calculates the CVA by applying the probability of default ('PD') of the counterparty, conditional on the non-default of the group, to the group's expected positive exposure to the counterparty and multiplying the result by the loss expected in the event of default. Conversely, the group calculates the DVA by applying the PD of the group, conditional on the non-default of the counterparty, to the expected positive exposure of the counterparty to the group and multiplying the result by the loss expected in the event of default. Both calculations are performed over the life of the potential exposure.

For most products the group uses a simulation methodology, which incorporates a range of potential exposures over the life of the portfolio, to calculate the expected positive exposure to a counterparty. The simulation methodology includes credit mitigants, such as counterparty netting agreements and collateral agreements with the counterparty.

The methodologies do not, in general, account for 'wrong-way risk'. Wrong-way risk is an adverse correlation between the counterparty's probability of default and the mark-to-market value of the underlying transaction. The risk can either be general, perhaps related to the currency of the issuer country, or specific to the transaction concerned. When there is significant wrong-way risk, a trade-specific approach is applied to reflect this risk in the valuation.

Funding fair value adjustment ('FFVA')

The FFVA is calculated by applying future market funding spreads to the expected future funding exposure of any uncollateralised component of the OTC derivative portfolio. The expected future funding exposure is calculated by a simulation methodology, where available and is adjusted for events that may terminate the exposure, such as the default of the group or the counterparty. The FFVA and DVA are calculated independently.

Model limitation

Models used for portfolio valuation purposes may be based upon a simplifying set of assumptions that do not capture all current and future material market characteristics. In these circumstances, model limitation adjustments are adopted.

Inception profit (Day 1 profit or loss reserves)

Inception profit adjustments are adopted when the fair value estimated by a valuation model is based on one or more significant unobservable inputs.

Fair value valuation bases

Financial instruments measured at fair value using a valuation technique with significant unobservable inputs – Level 3

	Assets					Liabilities			
	Financial investments	Trading assets	Designated and otherwise mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss	Derivatives	Total	Trading liabilities	Designated at fair value	Derivatives	Total
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Private equity and related investments	**3,017**	**—**	**127,014**	**—**	**130,031**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**
Structured notes	**—**	**—**	**25**	**—**	**25**	**—**	**22,960**	**—**	**22,960**
Others	**—**	**13,552**	**15,619**	**1,254**	**30,425**	**5**	**—**	**1,216**	**1,221**
At 31 Dec 2024	**3,017**	**13,552**	**142,658**	**1,254**	**160,481**	**5**	**22,960**	**1,216**	**24,181**
Private equity and related investments	2,886	48	108,278	—	111,212	1	—	—	1
Structured notes	—	—	23	—	23	—	28,657	—	28,657
Others	656	9,212	14,285	2,143	26,296	1	—	2,409	2,410
At 31 Dec 2023	3,542	9,260	122,586	2,143	137,531	2	28,657	2,409	31,068

Private equity and related investments

The fair value of a private equity investment (including private equity, infrastructure and private credit, primarily held to support our Insurance business, and strategic investments) is estimated on the basis of an analysis of the investee's financial position and results, risk profile, prospects and other factors; by reference to market valuations for similar entities quoted in an active market; the price at which similar companies have changed ownership; or from published net asset values ('NAVs') received. If necessary, adjustments are made to the NAV of funds to obtain the best estimate of fair value.

Structured notes

The fair value of Level 3 structured notes is derived from the fair value of the underlying debt security, and the fair value of the embedded derivative is determined as described in the paragraph below on derivatives. These structured notes comprise principally equity-linked notes issued by HSBC, which provide the counterparty with a return linked to the performance of equity securities and other portfolios.

Examples of the unobservable parameters include long-dated equity volatilities and correlations between equity prices, and interest and foreign exchange rates.

Derivatives

OTC derivative valuation models calculate the present value of expected future cash flows, based upon 'no arbitrage' principles. For many vanilla derivative products, the modelling approaches used are standard across the industry. For more complex derivative products, there may be some differences in market practice. Inputs to valuation models are determined from observable market data wherever possible, including prices available from exchanges, dealers, brokers or providers of consensus pricing. Certain inputs may not be observable in the market directly, but can be determined from observable prices via model calibration procedures or estimated from historical data or other sources.

Reconciliation of fair value measurements in Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy

Movement in Level 3 financial instruments

	Assets				Liabilities		
	Financial investments	Trading assets	Designated and otherwise mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss	Derivatives	Trading liabilities	Designated at fair value[1]	Derivatives
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
At 1 Jan 2024	**3,542**	**9,260**	**122,586**	**2,143**	**2**	**28,657**	**2,409**
Total gains or losses recognised in profit or loss	**—**	**2,581**	**6,783**	**1,647**	**5**	**306**	**1,283**
– net income or losses from financial instruments held for trading or managed on a fair value basis	**—**	**2,581**	**—**	**1,647**	**5**	**306**	**1,283**
– changes in fair value of financial instruments mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss[2]	**—**	**—**	**6,783**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**
Total gains or losses recognised in other comprehensive income ('OCI')	**(64)**	**(216)**	**(229)**	**(21)**	**—**	**(102)**	**(29)**
– financial investments: fair value gains or losses	**(97)**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**(1)**	**—**
– exchange differences	**33**	**(216)**	**(229)**	**(21)**	**—**	**(101)**	**(29)**
Purchases	**1,402**	**5,686**	**44,368**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**
New issuances	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**3,694**	**—**
Sales	**—**	**(273)**	**(702)**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**
Settlements	**(1,723)**	**(4,240)**	**(29,766)**	**(1,302)**	**(14)**	**458**	**(1,391)**
Transfers out	**(140)**	**(422)**	**(1,850)**	**(1,634)**	**—**	**(11,768)**	**(1,318)**
Transfers in	**—**	**1,176**	**1,468**	**421**	**12**	**1,715**	**262**
At 31 Dec 2024	**3,017**	**13,552**	**142,658**	**1,254**	**5**	**22,960**	**1,216**
Unrealised gains or losses recognised in profit or loss relating to assets and liabilities held at 31 Dec 2024	**—**	**(788)**	**(139)**	**340**	**—**	**(26)**	**(240)**
– net income or losses from financial instruments held for trading or managed on a fair value basis	**—**	**(788)**	**—**	**340**	**—**	**—**	**(240)**
– changes in fair value of other financial instruments mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss	**—**	**—**	**(139)**	**—**	**—**	**(26)**	**—**

Movement in Level 3 financial instruments (continued)

	Assets				Liabilities		
	Financial investments	Trading assets	Designated and otherwise mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss	Derivatives	Trading liabilities	Designated at fair value[1]	Derivatives
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
At 1 Jan 2023	4,308	9,283	101,819	3,301	6	34,734	1,712
Total gains or losses recognised in profit or loss	—	(441)	7,105	(1,411)	(9)	(218)	488
– net income or losses from financial instruments held for trading or managed on a fair value basis	—	(441)	—	(1,411)	(9)	(218)	488
– changes in fair value of financial instruments mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss[2]	—	—	7,105	—	—	—	—
Total gains or losses recognised in other comprehensive income ('OCI')	(664)	(90)	120	14	—	(154)	(7)
– financial investments: fair value gains or losses	(618)	—	—	—	—	11	—
– exchange differences	(46)	(90)	120	14	—	(165)	(7)
Purchases	2,112	6,169	24,749	—	—	—	—
New issuances	—	—	—	—	—	6,360	—
Sales	(212)	(2,278)	(4,249)	—	—	—	—
Settlements	(2,004)	(5,501)	(10,657)	10	1	(5,249)	(322)
Transfers out	(696)	(1,505)	—	(370)	(6)	(8,367)	(266)
Transfers in	698	3,623	3,699	599	10	1,551	804
At 31 Dec 2023	3,542	9,260	122,586	2,143	2	28,657	2,409
Unrealised gains or losses recognised in profit or loss relating to assets and liabilities held at 31 Dec 2023	—	(1,183)	1,428	837	—	(21)	(591)
– net income or losses from financial instruments held for trading or managed on a fair value basis	—	(1,183)	—	837	—	—	(591)
– changes in fair value of other financial instruments mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss	—	—	1,428	—	—	(21)	—

1 Includes structured deposits where the settlement balance represents the net of matured and new deposits.
2 Includes net income/(expense) from assets and liabilities of insurance businesses, including related derivatives, measured at fair value through profit or loss of HK$5,674m (2023: HK$6,780m).

Transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy are deemed to occur at the end of each quarter. Transfers into and out of levels of the fair value hierarchy are primarily attributable to observability of valuation inputs and price transparency.

Effect of changes in significant unobservable assumptions to reasonably possible alternatives

Sensitivity of fair values to reasonably possible alternative assumptions

	2024				2023			
	Reflected in profit or loss		**Reflected in OCI**		Reflected in profit or loss		Reflected in OCI	
	Favourable changes	**Unfavourable changes**	**Favourable changes**	**Unfavourable changes**	Favourable changes	Unfavourable changes	Favourable changes	Unfavourable changes
	HK$m	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Derivatives, trading assets and trading liabilities[1]	**451**	**(448)**	**—**	**—**	284	(345)	—	—
Financial assets and liabilities designated and otherwise mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss	**7,760**	**(7,503)**	**—**	**—**	6,163	(6,163)	—	—
Financial investments	**—**	**—**	**184**	**(184)**	—	—	170	(170)
At 31 Dec	**8,211**	**(7,951)**	**184**	**(184)**	6,447	(6,508)	170	(170)

1 'Derivatives, trading assets and trading liabilities' are presented as one category to reflect the manner in which these instruments are risk-managed.

The sensitivity analysis aims to measure a range of fair values consistent with the application of a 95% confidence interval. Methodologies take account of the nature of the valuation technique employed, as well as the availability and reliability of observable proxy and historical data.

When the fair value of a financial instrument is affected by more than one unobservable assumption, the above table reflects the most favourable or the most unfavourable change from varying the assumptions individually.

Key unobservable inputs to Level 3 financial instruments

The following table lists key unobservable inputs to Level 3 financial instruments and provides the range of those inputs at 31 December 2024.

Quantitative information about significant unobservable inputs in Level 3 valuations

	Fair value				2024		2023	
	Assets	Liabilities	Key valuation techniques	Key unobservable inputs	Full range of inputs		Full range of inputs	
	HK$m	HK$m			Lower	Higher	Lower	Higher
Private equity and related investments	130,031	—	See below	See below				
Structured notes	25	22,960						
– equity-linked notes	25	3,488	Model – Option model	Equity volatility	7%	70%	6%	71%
			Model – Option model	Equity correlation	26%	94%	34%	98%
– FX-linked notes	—	14,073	Model – Option model	FX volatility	4%	35%	3%	34%
– other	—	5,399						
Others[1]	30,425	1,221						
At 31 Dec 2024	**160,481**	**24,181**						

1 'Others' includes a range of smaller asset holdings.

Private equity and related investments

Given the bespoke nature of the analysis in respect of each holding, it is not practical to quote a range of key unobservable inputs. The key unobservable inputs would be price and correlation. The valuation approach includes using a range of inputs that include company specific financials, traded comparable companies multiples, published net asset values and qualitative assumptions, which are not directly comparable or quantifiable.

Volatility

Volatility is a measure of the anticipated future variability of a market price. It varies by underlying reference market price, and by strike and maturity of the option. Certain volatilities, typically those of a longer-dated nature, are unobservable and are estimated from observable data. The range of unobservable volatilities reflects the wide variation in volatility inputs by reference market price.

Correlation

Correlation is a measure of the inter-relationship between two market prices and is expressed as a number between minus one and one. It is used to value more complex instruments where the payout is dependent upon more than one market price. There is a wide range of instruments for which correlation is an input, and consequently a wide range of both same-asset correlations and cross-asset correlations is used. In general, the range of same-asset correlations will be narrower than the range of cross-asset correlations.

Unobservable correlations may be estimated based upon a range of evidence, including consensus pricing services, group's trade prices, proxy correlations and examination of historical price relationships. The range of unobservable correlations quoted in the table reflects the wide variation in correlation inputs by market price pair.

Inter-relationships between key unobservable inputs

Key unobservable inputs to Level 3 financial instruments may not be independent of each other. As described above, market variables may be correlated. This correlation typically reflects the manner in which different markets tend to react to macroeconomic or other events. Furthermore, the effect of changing market variables on the group's portfolio will depend on the group's net risk position in respect of each variable.

33 Fair values of financial instruments not carried at fair value

Fair values of financial instruments not carried at fair value and bases of valuation

		Fair Value Hierarchy			
	Carrying amount	Quoted market price Level 1	Observable inputs Level 2	Significant unobservable inputs Level 3	Total
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
At 31 Dec 2024					
Assets[1]					
Reverse repurchase agreements – non-trading	**816,102**	**—**	**816,235**	**—**	**816,235**
Loans and advances to banks	**480,740**	**—**	**473,789**	**6,974**	**480,763**
Loans and advances to customers	**3,494,298**	**—**	**88,810**	**3,348,466**	**3,437,276**
Financial investments – at amortised cost	**632,740**	**523,658**	**98,910**	**—**	**622,568**
Liabilities[1]					
Repurchase agreements – non-trading	**624,784**	**—**	**624,718**	**—**	**624,718**
Deposits by banks	**183,612**	**—**	**183,605**	**—**	**183,605**
Customer accounts	**6,564,606**	**—**	**6,566,610**	**—**	**6,566,610**
Debt securities in issue	**64,362**	**—**	**62,909**	**1,950**	**64,859**
At 31 Dec 2023					
Assets[1]					
Reverse repurchase agreements – non-trading	831,186	—	831,199	—	831,199
Loans and advances to banks	563,801	—	554,613	9,093	563,706
Loans and advances to customers	3,557,076	—	96,749	3,410,874	3,507,623
Financial investments – at amortised cost	618,941	523,921	87,610	—	611,531
Liabilities[1]					
Repurchase agreements – non-trading	521,984	—	521,850	—	521,850
Deposits by banks	182,146	—	182,135	—	182,135
Customer accounts	6,261,051	—	6,261,771	—	6,261,771
Debt securities in issue	87,745	—	88,050	—	88,050

1 Amounts with HSBC Group entities are not reflected here. Further details are set out in Note 31.

The fair values above are stated at a specific date and may be significantly different from the amounts which will actually be paid on the maturity or settlement dates of the instruments. In many cases, it would not be possible to realise immediately the estimated fair values given the size of the portfolios measured. Accordingly, these fair values do not represent the value of these financial instruments to the group as a going concern.

Other financial instruments not carried at fair value are typically short term in nature or re-priced to current market rates frequently. Accordingly, their carrying amount is a reasonable approximation of fair value. They include cash and balances at central banks, Hong Kong Government certificates of indebtedness, Hong Kong currency notes in circulation, other financial assets and other financial liabilities, all of which are measured at amortised cost.

Valuation

Fair value is an estimate of the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. It does not reflect the economic benefits and costs that the group expects to flow from an instrument's cash flow over its expected future life. Our valuation methodologies and assumptions in determining fair values for which no observable market prices are available may differ from those of other companies.

Repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements – non-trading

Fair values approximate carrying amounts as these balances are generally short dated.

Loans and advances to banks and customers

To determine the fair value of loans and advances to banks and customers, loans are segregated, as far as possible, into portfolios of similar characteristics. Fair values are based on observable market transactions, when available. When they are unavailable, fair values are estimated using valuation models incorporating a range of input assumptions. These assumptions may include: value estimates from third-party brokers reflecting over-the-counter trading activity; forward-looking discounted cash flow models, taking account of expected customer prepayment rates, using assumptions that the group believes are consistent with those that would be used by market participants in valuing such loans; new business rates estimates for similar loans; and trading inputs from other market participants including observed primary and secondary trades. From time to time, we may engage a third-party valuation specialist to measure the fair value of a pool of loans.

The fair value of loans reflects expected credit losses at the balance sheet date and estimates of market participants' expectations of credit losses over the life of the loans, and the fair value effect of repricing between origination and the balance sheet date. For credit impaired loans, fair value is estimated by discounting the future cash flows over the time period they are expected to be recovered.

Financial investments

The fair values of listed financial investments are determined using bid market prices. The fair values of unlisted financial investments are determined using valuation techniques that incorporate the prices and future earnings streams of equivalent quoted securities.

Deposits by banks and customer accounts

The fair values of on-demand deposits are approximated by their carrying value. For deposits with longer-term maturities, fair values are estimated using discounted cash flows, applying current rates offered for deposits of similar remaining maturities.

Debt securities in issue and subordinated liabilities

Fair values are determined using quoted market prices at the balance sheet date where available, or by reference to quoted market prices for similar instruments.

34 Structured entities

The group is involved with both consolidated and unconsolidated structured entities through the securitisation of financial assets, conduits and investment funds, established either by the group or a third party.

Consolidated structured entities

The group primarily uses consolidated structured entities to securitise customer loans and advances it originates to diversify its sources of funding for asset origination and capital efficiency purposes. The loans and advances are transferred by the group to the structured entities for cash or synthetically, and the structured entities issue debt securities to investors. The group's transactions with these entities are not significant.

Unconsolidated structured entities

The term 'unconsolidated structured entities' refers to all structured entities not controlled by the group. The group enters into transactions with unconsolidated structured entities in the normal course of business to facilitate customer transactions and for specific investment opportunities.

Nature and risks associated with the group's interests in unconsolidated structured entities

Total asset values of the entities (HK$bn)	**Securitisations**	**HSBC managed funds**	**Non-HSBC managed funds**	**Other**	**Total**
0–4	**138**	**112**	**259**	**34**	**543**
4–15	**2**	**35**	**187**	**—**	**224**
15–39	**—**	**16**	**89**	**—**	**105**
39–196	**—**	**5**	**82**	**—**	**87**
196+	**—**	**1**	**14**	**—**	**15**
Number of entities at 31 Dec 2024	**140**	**169**	**631**	**34**	**974**
	HK$m	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	**HK$m**	**HK$m**
Total assets in relation to the group's interests in the unconsolidated structured entities	**41,463**	**38,667**	**157,329**	**3,348**	**240,807**
– trading assets	**—**	**490**	**—**	**—**	**490**
– financial assets designated and otherwise mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss	**—**	**38,177**	**157,329**	**—**	**195,506**
– derivatives	**—**	**—**	**—**	**2**	**2**
– loans and advances to customers	**41,463**	**—**	**—**	**3,263**	**44,726**
– other assets	**—**	**—**	**—**	**83**	**83**
Total liabilities in relation to the group's interests in the unconsolidated structured entities	**—**	**—**	**—**	**213**	**213**
– derivatives	**—**	**—**	**—**	**213**	**213**
Other off balance sheet commitments	**28**	**7,250**	**57,176**	**6,765**	**71,219**
The group's maximum exposure at 31 Dec 2024	**41,491**	**45,917**	**214,505**	**9,900**	**311,813**

Total asset values of the entities (HK$bn)	Securitisations	HSBC managed funds	Non-HSBC managed funds	Other	Total
0–4	91	106	244	28	469
4–15	3	41	200	—	244
15–39	—	12	101	—	113
39–196	—	3	71	—	74
196+	—	1	3	—	4
Number of entities at 31 Dec 2023	94	163	619	28	904
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
Total assets in relation to the group's interests in the unconsolidated structured entities	23,907	44,309	121,399	7,868	197,483
– trading assets	—	3,970	—	7	3,977
– financial assets designated and otherwise mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss	—	40,339	121,399	—	161,738
– derivatives	—	—	—	1	1
– loans and advances to customers	23,907	—	—	7,785	31,692
– other assets	—	—	—	75	75
Total liabilities in relation to the group's interests in the unconsolidated structured entities	—	—	—	274	274
– derivatives	—	—	—	274	274
Other off balance sheet commitments	22	14,969	33,263	6,888	55,142
The group's maximum exposure at 31 Dec 2023	23,929	59,278	154,662	14,482	252,351

The maximum exposure to loss from the group's interests in unconsolidated structured entities represents the maximum loss it could incur as a result of its involvement with these entities regardless of the probability of the loss being incurred.

- For commitments, guarantees and written credit default swaps, the maximum exposure to loss is the notional amount of potential future losses.
- For retained and purchased investments in and loans to unconsolidated structured entities, the maximum exposure to loss is the carrying value of these interests at the balance sheet date.

The maximum exposure to loss is stated gross of the effects of hedging and collateral arrangements entered into to mitigate the group's exposure to loss.

Securitisations

The group has interests in unconsolidated securitisation vehicles through holding notes issued by these entities.

HSBC managed funds

The group establishes and manages money market funds and non-money market investment funds to provide customers with investment opportunities. The group, as fund manager, may be entitled to receive management and performance fees based on the assets under management. The group may also retain units in these funds.

Non-HSBC managed funds

The group purchases and holds units of third-party managed funds in order to facilitate business and meet customer needs.

Other

The group has established structured entities in the normal course of business, such as structured credit transactions for customers, to provide finance to public and private sector infrastructure projects, and for asset and structured finance transactions. In addition to the interest disclosed above, the group enters into derivative contracts, reverse repos and stock borrowing transactions with structured entities. These interests arise in the normal course of business for the facilitation of third-party transactions and risk management solutions.

Structured entities sponsored by the group

The amount of assets transferred to and income received from such sponsored entities during 2024 and 2023 were not significant.

35 Bank balance sheet and statement of changes in equity

Bank balance sheet at 31 December 2024

	2024 HK$m	2023 HK$m
Assets		
Cash and balances at central banks	**168,333**	186,468
Hong Kong Government certificates of indebtedness	**328,454**	328,304
Trading assets	**942,643**	797,026
Derivatives	**484,858**	394,366
Financial assets designated and otherwise mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss	**16,920**	4,184
Reverse repurchase agreements – non-trading	**509,377**	480,579
Loans and advances to banks	**308,322**	368,246
Loans and advances to customers	**1,920,185**	1,903,294
Financial investments	**1,351,402**	1,229,117
Amounts due from Group companies	**453,517**	528,903
Investments in subsidiaries	**112,938**	112,544
Interests in associates and joint ventures	**39,830**	39,830
Goodwill and intangible assets	**26,579**	25,288
Property, plant and equipment	**66,380**	71,465
Deferred tax assets	**451**	1,019
Prepayments, accrued income and other assets[1]	**234,852**	246,217
Total assets	**6,965,041**	6,716,850
Liabilities		
Hong Kong currency notes in circulation	**328,454**	328,304
Repurchase agreements – non-trading	**554,756**	433,902
Deposits by banks	**144,991**	127,980
Customer accounts	**4,114,014**	3,942,813
Trading liabilities	**67,546**	66,851
Derivatives	**462,127**	432,976
Financial liabilities designated at fair value	**65,259**	52,120
Debt securities in issue	**25,999**	33,434
Retirement benefit liabilities	**595**	993
Amounts due to Group companies	**510,035**	632,493
Accruals and deferred income, other liabilities and provisions[1]	**196,604**	168,834
Current tax liabilities	**3,456**	10,368
Deferred tax liabilities	**9,120**	10,700
Total liabilities	**6,482,956**	6,241,768
Equity		
Share capital	**180,181**	180,181
Other equity instruments	**64,677**	52,465
Other reserves	**3,281**	12,578
Retained earnings	**233,946**	229,858
Total equity	**482,085**	475,082
Total equity and liabilities	**6,965,041**	6,716,850

1 In 2023 'Items in the course of collection from other banks' HK$18bn were presented on the face of the balance sheet but are now reported within 'Prepayments, accrued income and other assets' in the Annual Report and Accounts 2024. Similarly, 'Items in the course of transmission to other banks' HK$22bn are now presented within 'Accruals, deferred income and other liabilities'.

Bank statement of changes in equity for the year ended 31 December 2024

				Other reserves					
	Share capital[1]	Other equity instruments	Retained earnings	Property revaluation reserve	Financial assets at FVOCI reserve	Cash flow hedge reserve	Foreign exchange reserve	Other[4]	Total equity
	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m	HK$m
At 1 Jan 2024	**180,181**	**52,465**	**229,858**	**38,869**	**(2,511)**	**1,985**	**(21,584)**	**(4,181)**	**475,082**
Profit for the year	**—**	**—**	**113,159**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**113,159**
Other comprehensive income/(expense) (net of tax)	**—**	**—**	**(2,029)**	**180**	**(1,339)**	**(1,166)**	**(3,843)**	**—**	**(8,197)**
– debt instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**(1,468)**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**(1,468)**
– equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**285**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**285**
– cash flow hedges	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**(1,158)**	**—**	**—**	**(1,158)**
– changes in fair value of financial liabilities designated at fair value upon initial recognition arising from changes in own credit risk	**—**	**—**	**(2,346)**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**(2,346)**
– property revaluation	**—**	**—**	**—**	**180**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**180**
– remeasurement of defined benefit asset/liability	**—**	**—**	**317**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**317**
– exchange differences	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**(156)**	**(8)**	**(3,843)**	**—**	**(4,007)**
Total comprehensive income/ (expense) for the year	**—**	**—**	**111,130**	**180**	**(1,339)**	**(1,166)**	**(3,843)**	**—**	**104,962**
Other equity instruments issued[2]	**—**	**27,873**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**27,873**
Other equity instruments redeemed[3]	**—**	**(15,661)**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**(15,661)**
Dividends to shareholders[5]	**—**	**—**	**(109,776)**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**(109,776)**
Movement in respect of share-based payment arrangements	**—**	**—**	**(206)**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**(190)**	**(396)**
Transfers and other movements[6]	**—**	**—**	**2,940**	**(2,939)**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**1**
At 31 Dec 2024	**180,181**	**64,677**	**233,946**	**36,110**	**(3,850)**	**819**	**(25,427)**	**(4,371)**	**482,085**
At 1 Jan 2023	180,181	52,386	232,784	37,768	(9,303)	(930)	(20,368)	(4,024)	468,494
Profit for the year	—	—	86,734	—	—	—	—	—	86,734
Other comprehensive income/(expense) (net of tax)	—	—	(5,421)	3,766	6,388	2,913	(811)	—	6,835
– debt instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income	—	—	—	—	6,860	—	—	—	6,860
– equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income	—	—	—	—	(346)	—	—	—	(346)
– cash flow hedges	—	—	—	—	—	2,904	—	—	2,904
– changes in fair value of financial liabilities designated at fair value upon initial recognition arising from changes in own credit risk	—	—	(5,354)	—	—	—	—	—	(5,354)
– property revaluation	—	—	—	3,766	—	—	—	—	3,766
– remeasurement of defined benefit asset/liability	—	—	(67)	—	—	—	—	—	(67)
– exchange differences	—	—	—	—	(126)	9	(811)	—	(928)
Total comprehensive income/(expense) for the year	—	—	81,313	3,766	6,388	2,913	(811)	—	93,569
Other equity instruments issued[2]	—	7,850	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,850
Other equity instruments redeemed[3]	—	(7,771)	(406)	—	—	—	—	—	(8,177)
Dividends to shareholders[5]	—	—	(86,356)	—	—	—	—	—	(86,356)
Movement in respect of share-based payment arrangements	—	—	(105)	—	—	—	—	(157)	(262)
Transfers and other movements[6]	—	—	2,628	(2,665)	404	2	(405)	—	(36)
At 31 Dec 2023	180,181	52,465	229,858	38,869	(2,511)	1,985	(21,584)	(4,181)	475,082

1 Ordinary share capital includes preference shares which have been redeemed or bought back via payments out of distributable profits in previous years.
2 The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited issued SG$1,500m additional tier 1 capital in June 2024 with an issuance cost of SG$15m, and a further US$2,500m additional tier 1 capital in September 2024 with an issuance cost of US$25m.
During 2023, an additional tier 1 capital instrument amounting to US$1,000m was issued for which there were no issuance costs.
3 During 2024, an additional tier 1 capital instrument was redeemed at par (US$2,000m).
During 2023, an additional tier 1 capital instrument was redeemed at fair value US$(1,041)m.
4 The other reserves mainly comprise share of associates' other reserves, purchase premium arising from transfer of business from fellow subsidiaries, property revaluation reserve relating to transfer of properties to a fellow subsidiary and the share-based payment reserve. The share-based payment reserve is used to record the amount relating to share awards and options granted to employees of the group directly by HSBC Holdings plc.
5 Including distributions paid on perpetual subordinated loans classified as equity under HKFRS.
6 The movements include transfers from the property revaluation reserve to retained earnings in relation to depreciation of revalued properties.

36 Business acquisitions and disposal

In October 2023, HSBC Global Asset Management Singapore Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, entered into an agreement to acquire 100% of the shares of Silkroad Property Partners Pte Ltd ('Silkroad'). Silkroad is a Singapore headquartered Asia-Pacific-focused, real estate investment manager. The acquisition was completed on 31 January 2024.

In October 2023, HSBC Bank (China) Company Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, entered into an agreement to acquire Citibank China's retail wealth management portfolio in mainland China. The portfolio comprises assets under management and deposits, and the associated wealth customers. The acquisition was completed on 7 June 2024.

On 6 July 2024, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (acting through its Mauritius branch) completed its sale of its Wealth and Personal Banking business in Mauritius to Absa Bank (Mauritius) Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Absa Group Limited. The financial impact of the sale was not significant for the group.

37 Legal proceedings and regulatory matters

The group is party to legal proceedings and regulatory matters in a number of jurisdictions arising out of its normal business operations. Apart from the matters described below, the group considers that none of these matters are material. The recognition of provisions is determined in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1.2(n) of the Annual Report and Accounts 2024. While the outcomes of legal proceedings and regulatory matters are inherently uncertain, management believes that, based on the information available to it, appropriate provisions have been made in respect of these matters as at 31 December 2024. Any provision recognised does not constitute an admission of wrongdoing or legal liability. It is not practicable to provide an aggregate estimate of potential liability for our legal proceedings and regulatory matters as a class of contingent liabilities.

Korean short selling indictment

In March 2024, the Korean Prosecutors' Office issued a criminal indictment against the Bank and three current and former employees for breaching short selling rules under the Financial Investment Services and Capital Markets Act in connection with trades carried out between August 2021 and December 2021. In February 2025, the Korean court acquitted the Bank of all charges. The Korean Prosecutors' Office has the right to appeal this decision. Proceedings against the individual defendants have been suspended.

Other regulatory investigations, reviews and litigation

The Bank and/or certain of its affiliates are also subject to a number of other enquiries and examinations, requests for information, investigations and reviews by various tax authorities, regulators, competition and law enforcement authorities, as well as legal proceedings including litigation, arbitration and other contentious proceedings, in connection with various matters arising out of their businesses and operations.

At the present time, the Bank does not expect the ultimate resolution of any of these matters to be material to the group's financial position; however, given the uncertainties involved in legal proceedings and regulatory matters, there can be no assurance regarding the eventual outcome of a particular matter or matters.

38 Ultimate holding company

The ultimate holding company of the Bank is HSBC Holdings plc, which is incorporated in England.

The largest group in which the accounts of the Bank are consolidated is that headed by HSBC Holdings plc. The consolidated accounts of HSBC Holdings plc are available to the public on the HSBC Group's website at www.hsbc.com or may be obtained from 8 Canada Square, London E14 5HQ, United Kingdom.

39 Events after the balance sheet date

There have been no events after the balance sheet date that would require disclosure in the consolidated financial statements.

40 Approval of financial statements

The consolidated financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 19 February 2025.

Additional Information

TCFD recommendations and recommended disclosures

Where the group has not included climate-related financial disclosures consistent with all the TCFD recommendations and recommended disclosures, the reasons for non-disclosure and steps being undertaken are set out accordingly. The group will continue to develop and refine its reporting and disclosures on climate matters in line with the group's obligations under the HKMA SPM GS-1.

With respect to the group's obligations under HKMA SPM GS-1 as part of considering what to measure and publicly report, the group performs an assessment to ascertain the appropriate level of detail to be included in the TCFD that is set out in its Annual Report and Accounts. The assessment takes into account factors such as the level of the group's exposure to climate-related risks and opportunities, the scope and objectives of its climate-related strategy, transitional challenges, and the nature, size and complexity of its business. For further details, see the TCFD section on pages 10 to 14 and the Risk Review section on pages 56 to 58.

With the aim to enhance the clarity of the reasons for non-disclosure and steps being undertaken listed above, the group has decided to revamp the presentation to ensure the information is conveyed in a simpler and more engaging manner, allowing the group’s stakeholders to better understand the connection between the group's obligation under HKMA SPM GS-1 and the corresponding explanatory clauses.

Strategy

Strategy (a) relating to risks and opportunities by sector and/or geography:	The group does not currently fully disclose the impacts of transition and physical risk quantitatively by sector/geography. The group is aiming to develop the appropriate systems, data and processes to provide these disclosures in future years.
Strategy (b) and (c) relating to impact on strategy, business, and financial planning:	The Group does not fully disclose impacts from climate-related opportunities on financial planning and performance including on revenue, costs and the balance sheet, quantitative scenario analysis, detailed climate risk exposures for all sectors and geographies or physical risk metrics. This is due to transitional challenges in relation to data limitations, although nascent work is ongoing in these areas. The Group expects these data limitations to be addressed in the medium term as more reliable data becomes available and technology solutions are implemented. In 2024, the group incorporated certain aspects of sustainable finance within its financial planning process.
Strategy (b) relating to impact on access to capital:	The Group considered the impact of climate-related issues on its businesses, strategy, and financial planning. The Group’s access to capital may be impacted by reputational concerns as a result of climate action or inaction. In addition, if the Group is perceived to mislead stakeholders on its business activities or if the Group fails to achieve its stated net zero ambitions, the Group could face reputational damage, impacting its revenue generating ability and potentially its access to capital markets. Group expects to further enhance the disclosure in the medium term as more data becomes available.
Strategy (b) relating to transition plan:	The Group published its Group-wide net zero transition plan in January 2024. In this plan, the Group provided an overview of its approach to net zero and the actions the Group are taking to help meet its ambitions. The Group wants to be clear about its approach, the change underway today and what it plans to do in the future. The Group also wants to be transparent about where there are still unresolved issues and uncertainties. The Group is still developing its disclosures, including considerations of possible additional data in relation to its financial plans, budgets, and related financial approach for the implementation of the transition plan in the medium term (e.g. amount of capital and other expenditures supporting its decarbonisation strategy).

Metrics and targets

Metrics and targets (a) relating to metrics used to assess progress against opportunities:	The group does not currently fully disclose the proportion of revenue or proportion of assets, capital deployment or other business activities aligned with climate-related opportunities, including revenue from products and services designed for a low-carbon economy, forward-looking metrics consistent with its business or strategic planning time horizons. In relation to sustainable finance revenue and assets, the Group is disclosing certain elements. The group expects the data and system limitations related to financial planning and performance, and climate-related opportunities metrics to be addressed in the medium term as more reliable data becomes available and technology solutions are implemented. The Group tracks its net zero progress using multiple metrics, tailoring methodologies to the specific measures. The group contributes to the Group’s other ambition on land use. For details of the Group’s ambitions, please see the Group’s Annual Report and Accounts and ESG Data Pack.
Metrics and targets (a) relating to internal carbon price:	The Group does not currently disclose internal carbon prices due to transitional challenges such as data challenges. However, the Group considered carbon prices as an input for its climate scenario analysis exercise. The Group expects to further enhance the disclosure in the medium term.
Metrics and targets (a) relating to metrics used to assess the impact of climate risk on lending and financial intermediary business:	The group does not fully disclose metrics used to assess the impact of climate-related physical (acute, chronic) and transitions (policy and legal, technology, market, reputational) risks on retail lending, wholesale lending and other financial intermediary business activities (specifically credit exposure, equity and debt holdings, or trading positions, each broken down by industry, geography, credit quality, average tenor). This is due to data and system limitations which the group is working to address.
Metrics and targets (b) relating to our own operations:	The group does not currently disclose all categories of upstream scope 3 emissions.
Metrics and targets (b) relating to GHG emissions for lending and financial intermediary business (supplemental guidance for Banks):	Future disclosure on financed emissions, and related risks is reliant on the Group’s customers publicly disclosing their greenhouse emissions, targets and plans and related risks. The Group recognises the need to provide early transparency on climate disclosures but balances this with the recognition that existing data and reporting processes continue to require significant enhancements. The Group's approach to disclosure of financed emissions can be found at www.hsbc.com/who-we-are/esg-and-responsible-business/esg-reporting-centre.

Metrics and targets (continued)

Metrics and targets (c) relating to details of targets set and whether they are absolute or intensity based:	In 2020, the Group set an ambition to become a net zero bank by 2050. The Group aims to help its customers transition to net zero and a sustainable future by providing and facilitating between US$750bn and US$1tn of sustainable finance and investment by 2030. The group does not currently set its targets used to measure and manage physical and transition risk, capital deployment, remuneration or climate-related opportunities due to transitional challenges and such as data and system limitations which the group is working to address. The group does not currently set internal carbon pricing target due to transitional challenges such as developing the appropriate systems and processes, but the group considered carbon prices as an input for its climate scenario analysis exercise. The group expects to further enhance the disclosure in the medium term as more data becomes available. Taking into account the nature of its business, the group does not consider water usage to be a material target for its business and, therefore, the group has not included a target in this year's disclosure.

Additional cautionary statement regarding ESG and climate-related data, metrics and forward-looking statements

The Annual Report and Accounts 2024 contains a number of forward-looking statements (as defined above) with respect to HSBC's ESG ambitions, targets, commitments, climate-related pathways, processes and plans, and the methodologies and scenarios the Group (including the group) uses, or intends to use, to assess the Group's (including the group's) progress in relation to these ('ESG-related forward-looking statements').

In preparing the ESG-related information contained in the Annual Report and Accounts 2024, the Group (including the group) has made a number of key judgements, estimations and assumptions, and the processes and issues involved are complex. The Group (including the group) have used ESG (including climate) data, models and methodologies that it considers, as of the date on which they were used, to be appropriate and suitable to understand and assess climate change risk and its impact, to analyse financed emissions and operational and supply chain emissions, to set ESG-related targets and to evaluate the classification of sustainable finance and investments. However, these data, models and methodologies are often new, are rapidly evolving and are not of the same standard as those available in the context of other financial information, nor are they subject to the same or equivalent disclosure standards, historical reference points, benchmarks or globally accepted accounting principles. In particular, it is not possible to rely on historical data as a strong indicator of future trajectories in the case of climate change and its evolution. Outputs of models, processed data and methodologies are also likely to be affected by underlying data quality, which can be hard to assess and the Group (including the group) expects industry guidance, market practice, and regulations in this field to continue to change. The Group (including the group) also face challenges in relation to its ability to access data on a timely basis, lack of consistency and comparability between data that is available and its ability to collect and process relevant data. Consequently, the ESG-related forward-looking statements and ESG metrics disclosed in the Annual Report and Accounts 2024 carry an additional degree of inherent risk and uncertainty.

Due to the unpredictable evolution of climate change and its future impact and the uncertainty of future policy and market response to ESG-related issues and the effectiveness of any such response, the Group (including the group) may have to re-evaluate its progress towards its ESG ambitions, targets and commitments in the future, update the methodologies it uses or alter its approach to ESG (including climate) analysis and may be required to amend, update and recalculate its ESG disclosures and assessments in the future, as market practice and data quality and availability develop.

No assurance can be given by or on behalf of the group as to the likelihood of the achievement or reasonableness of any projections, estimates, forecasts, ambitions, targets, commitments, prospects or returns contained herein. Readers are cautioned that a number of factors, both external and those specific to the Group (including the group), could cause actual achievements, results, performance or other future events or conditions to differ, in some cases materially, from those stated, implied and/or reflected in any ESG-related forward-looking statement or metric due to a variety of risks, uncertainties and other factors (including without limitation those referred to below):

- Climate change projection risk: this includes, for example, the evolution of climate change and its impacts, changes in the scientific assessment of climate change impacts, transition pathways and future risk exposure and limitations of climate scenario forecasts;
- ESG projection risk: ESG metrics are complex and are still subject to development. In addition, the scenarios employed in relation to them, and the models that analyse them have limitations that are sensitive to key assumptions and parameters, which are themselves subject to some uncertainty, and cannot fully capture all of the potential effects of climate, policy and technology-driven outcomes;
- Changes in the ESG regulatory landscape: this involves changes in government approach and regulatory treatment in relation to ESG disclosures and reporting requirements, and the current lack of a single standardised regulatory approach to ESG across all sectors and markets;
- Variation in reporting standards: ESG reporting standards are still developing and are not standardised or comparable across all sectors and markets, new reporting standards in relation to different ESG metrics are still emerging;
- Data availability, accuracy, verifiability and data gaps: the Group's (including the group's) disclosures are limited by the availability of high quality data in some areas and the Group's (including the group's) ability to timely collect and process such data as required. Where data is not available for all sectors or consistently year on year, there may be an impact to the Group's (including the group's) data quality scores. While the Group (including the group) expects its data quality scores to improve over time, as companies continue to expand their disclosures to meet growing regulatory and stakeholder expectations, there may be unexpected fluctuations within sectors year on year, and/or differences between the data quality scores between sectors. Any such changes in the availability and quality of data over time, or the Group's (including the group's) ability to collect and process such data, could result in revisions to reported data going forward, including on financed emissions, meaning that such data may not be reconcilable or comparable year-on year;
- Developing methodologies and scenarios: the methodologies and scenarios the Group (including the group) uses to assess financed emissions and set ESG-related targets may develop over time in line with market practice, regulation and/or developments in science, where applicable. Such developments could result in revisions to reported data, including on financed emissions or the classification of sustainable finance and investments, meaning that data outputs may not be reconcilable or comparable year-on year; and

- Risk management capabilities: global actions, including the Group's (and the group's) own actions, may not be effective in transitioning to net zero and in managing relevant ESG risks, including in particular climate, nature-related and human rights risks, each of which can impact the Group (including the group) both directly and indirectly through its customers, and which may result in potential financial and non-financial impacts to the Group (including the group). In particular:
  - the Group (including the group) may not be able to achieve its ESG ambitions, targets and commitments (including with respect to the positions set forth in the Group's thermal coal phase-out policy and its energy policy, and its targets to reduce its on-balance sheet financed emissions and, where applicable, facilitated emissions in its portfolio of selected high-emitting sectors), which may result in the Group's (including the group's) failure to achieve some or all of the expected outcomes of its strategic priorities; and
  - the Group (including the group) may not be able to develop sustainable finance and ESG-related products consistent with the evolving expectations of its regulators, and its capacity to measure the environmental and social impacts from its financing activity may diminish (including as a result of data and model limitations and changes in methodologies), which may affect its ability to achieve the ESG ambitions, targets and commitments, including its net zero ambition, its targets to reduce its on-balance sheet financed emissions and, where applicable, facilitated emissions in its portfolio of selected high-emitting sectors and the positions set forth in its thermal coal phase-out policy and energy policy, and increase the risk of greenwashing.

Any forward-looking statements made by or on behalf of the Group (including the group) speak only as of the date they are made. The Group (including the group) expressly disclaims any obligation to revise or update these ESG forward-looking statements, other than as expressly required by applicable law.

Written and/or oral ESG-related forward-looking statements may also be made in the Group's (including the group's) periodic reports to its, regulators, public offering, disclosure documents, press releases and other written materials, and in oral statements made by the Group's (including the group's) Directors, officers or employees to third parties, including financial analysts.

The Group's data dictionaries and methodologies for preparing the above ESG-related metrics and third-party limited assurance reports can be found on: www.hsbc.com/who-we-are/esg-and-responsible-business/esg-reporting-centre.

Printed by Asia One Printing Limited, Hong Kong, on Nautilus SuperWhite board and Super White Recycling paper using vegetable oil-based inks. Made in Austria, the stocks comprise 100% de-inked post-consumer waste. Pulps used are totally chlorine-free.

The FSC™ recycled label means that the materials used for this product come from recycled material certified in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council®.

FSC
www.fsc.org
RECYCLED
Paper made from recycled material
FSC™ C006398

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

HSBC Main Building
1 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong
Telephone: (852) 2822 1111
www.hsbc.com.hk