

BANKING

	Amount (\$bn)	% change, yoy, unless otherwise stated								
		Monthly			Quarterly				Yearly	
		2/04	1/04	Q4/03	Q3/03	Q2/03	Q1/03	2003	2002	2001
HKD M0 (in HKD)	133.5	11.8	7.5	12.9	12.4	11.9	9.9	12.9	11.4	10.8
HKD M1 (in HKD)	368.2	41.7	39.4	36.7	23.7	18.7	13.4	36.7	12.9	12.8
HKD M2 (in HKD)	2,200.1	11.3	9.3	6.2	4.1	0.5	-0.5	6.2	-0.7	0.5
HKD M3 (in HKD)	2,216.6	11.1	9.0	5.9	3.9	0.5	-0.5	5.9	-0.6	0.7
Spread (Prime-Hibor1) (pa) (%)	N.A.	4.93	4.93	4.88	4.01	3.74	3.69	4.08	3.37	3.40
Res. mortg. loans outstanding#										
(before adjusted to reclassification)	N.A.	-1.6	-2.3	-2.2	-3.1	-2.6	-0.8	-2.2	1.0	1.6
(after adjusted to reclassification)	523.2	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Loans-to-Deposits Ratio (pa) (%)										
(Total)	N.A.	57.9	57.5	57.8	59.5	61.5	62.8	60.4	64.7	67.5
(HKD)	N.A.	82.7	82.3	82.3	84.6	87.6	89.3	86.0	89.6	90.1
Foreign Currency Reserves ¹ (in US\$bn)	123.5	123.5	123.6	118.4	112.1	114.4	113.6	118.4	111.9	111.2
Deposits	3,688.5	11.6	10.2	7.5	4.4	0.6	-0.1	7.5	-2.6	-3.4
HKD Deposits ²	2,019.1	11.6	9.6	5.8	3.6	-0.3	-1.5	5.8	-1.6	0.2
FC Deposits ³	1,669.4	11.7	10.9	9.6	5.4	1.9	1.6	9.6	-3.8	-7.4
Loans & Advances	2,135.5	3.0	0.9	-2.0	-3.8	-4.3	-4.5	-2.0	-4.9	-11.2
Loans in HKD	1,670.5	3.6	0.7	-2.6	-3.6	-3.0	-3.0	-2.6	-1.9	-0.3
Loans in FC	465.0	0.9	1.6	0.3	-4.7	-8.7	-9.7	0.3	-14.3	-33.6
Loans for use in HK ⁴	1,901.7	3.6	1.4	-1.4	-2.9	-2.8	-2.9	-1.4	-2.4	-4.3
Loans for use outside HK ⁵	233.8	-3.8	-3.1	-6.6	-10.2	-14.8	-15.4	-6.6	-20.7	-38.6
Loans for use in HK (eop) – Q4/2003	1,808.7	N.A.	N.A.	-1.4	-2.9	-2.8	-2.9	-1.4	-2.4	-4.4
Mortgage Lending	616.2	N.A.	N.A.	-4.0	-4.4	-4.1	-2.1	-4.0	-0.8	3.3
Property Development & Investment	360.3	N.A.	N.A.	-4.9	-1.7	-1.6	-2.3	-4.9	-2.6	-2.4
Trade Finances ⁴	100.1	N.A.	N.A.	10.2	3.0	6.5	7.6	10.2	2.5	-14.6
Financial Concerns	146.6	N.A.	N.A.	16.8	7.2	-1.3	-11.9	16.8	-11.6	-16.4
Wholesale & Retail Trade	93.6	N.A.	N.A.	-6.7	-4.8	-0.2	0.1	-6.7	-0.8	-15.8
Manufacturing	84.4	N.A.	N.A.	19.4	12.0	2.7	-0.5	19.4	-0.8	-3.4
Credit Card	49.5	N.A.	N.A.	-3.7	-8.5	-11.4	-10.9	-3.7	-6.3	12.8
Private Purposes	77.4	N.A.	N.A.	-3.4	-7.3	-8.5	-7.0	-3.4	-2.3	-2.4

PRIVATE CONSUMPTION

	Amount	% change, yoy, unless otherwise stated								
		Monthly			Quarterly				Yearly	
		1/04	1/04	12/03	Q4/03	Q3/03	Q2/03	Q1/03	2003	2002
Retail Sales (Value)	\$18.2 bn	4.1	6.8	5.3	-0.4	-10.9	-2.9	-2.3	-4.1	-1.2
(Volume)	N.A.	2.9	5.8	5.2	1.2	-7.7	-1.1	-0.6	-2.6	1.2
Restaurant Receipts (Value)	\$12.6 bn (03 Q4)	N.A.	N.A.	-4.5	-7.1	-19.2	-8.6	-9.8	-5.4	-2.5
(Volume)	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	-3.3	-5.8	-18.1	-7.3	-8.6	-4.2	-2.3
Department Store (Value)	\$2.1 bn	7.9	3.8	5.5	-2.0	-12.5	-4.7	-2.9	-0.7	2.6
(Volume)	N.A.	6.1	1.0	3.6	-2.5	-9.7	-4.4	-2.9	0.5	5.8
Visitors Arrivals	1.75 mn	13.1	7.4	7.3	4.1	-57.9	19.7	-6.2	20.7	5.1

PROPERTY

Private Residential	Amount	% Change mom			% Change qoq			% Change yoy		
		2/04	1/04	Q4/03	Q3/03	Q2/03	Q1/03	2003	2002	2001
Price and Rental Indices										
Rental (official) : period average	N.A.	N.A.	0	0.1	-2.5	-3.7	-3.0	-11.9	-12.5	-2.8
Price (official) : period average	N.A.	N.A.	5.0	7.9	-0.9	-4.6	-3.6	-12.1	-11.1	-12.2
: eop	N.A.	N.A.	5.0	5.7	2.7	-3.1	-5.6	-0.6	-12.2	-9.8
HK (\$/sf): eop	3,136	3,136	2,813	2,734	2,579	2,479	2,620	2,734	2,765	3,066
KL (\$/sf): eop	2,768	2,768	2,509	2,446	2,448	2,247	2,322	2,446	2,432	2,761
NT (\$/sf): eop	2,083	2,083	1,832	1,799	1,910	1,890	1,936	1,799	2,024	2,216
Rental yield (%) : HK	4.29	4.29	4.65	4.77	4.96	4.91	4.69	4.83	4.91	5.22
KL	4.49	4.49	4.77	5.08	5.22	5.30	5.20	5.20	5.09	5.44
NT	4.40	4.40	4.65	4.90	4.73	4.70	4.62	4.74	4.51	4.56
Sales & purchase agreements										
Value	\$30.5 bn	34.7	16.2	58.9	35.9	-8.5	0	2.2	-3.8	-13.4
Number	10,967	15.8	7.9	31.9	28.5	-1.3	-5.4	1.6	-2.6	2.9
New res. mortg. approved of 25 AIs#										
Number, during the period	8,041	18.2	9.3	6.9	23.0	8.5	-15.5	-18.3	-7.8	-4.9
Value per loan, during the period	\$1.57 mn	11.3	2.2	14.6	0.8	-3.3	-3.4	-4.1	-4.9	-5.2
Supply										
No. of private flats completed	7,253	N.A.	N.A.	7,253	9,314	6,100	4,530	27,197	32,746	23,986
	03 Q4									
No. of private flats with consent to start work	5,946	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	5,946	6,102	12,351	N.A.	18,271	27,274
	03 Q3									

MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS

	Amount (\$bn)	% change, yoy unless otherwise stated								
		Monthly			Quarterly				Yearly	
	2/04	2/04	1/04	Q4/03	Q3/03	Q2/03	Q1/03	2003	2002	2001
GDP	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	5.0	4.0	-0.5	4.5	3.3	2.3	0.5
Composite CPI	N.A.	-2.0	-1.5	-2.3	-3.7	-2.5	-1.9	-2.6	-3.0	-1.6
Labour										
Unemployment Rate (%)	N.A.	7.2	7.3	7.3	8.3	8.6	7.5	7.9	7.3	5.1
Unemployed ('000 people)	N.A.	245.0	244.6	253.2	297.3	300.0	259.8	277.6	255.5	174.8
External Trade (Nominal)										
Total Exports	134.8	28.2	0.2	11.4	7.1	12.2	17.6	11.7	5.4	-5.8
Domestic Exports	7.9	10.5	-13.8	-1.7	-5.4	-11.4	-10.4	-7.1	-14.7	-15.2
Re-exports	126.9	29.5	1.3	12.4	8.2	14.4	20.3	13.4	7.7	-4.6
Total Imports	154.6	33.3	0.9	13.8	6.1	9.6	17.8	11.5	3.3	-5.4
Trade Balance (in \$bn)	-19.9	-19.9	0.8	-22.5	-7.5	-13.3	-20.1	-63.3	-58.9	-87.2

FORECASTS FOR REAL GDP & CPI

	2004F (Gov)	2004F (BEA)	2003	2002	2001
GDP	6.0	5.5	3.3	2.3	0.5
Private Consumption	6.0	5.0	0	-1.2	2.0
Government	1.5	1.0	1.9	2.4	6.1
Capital Formation	7.1	5.0	-0.1	-4.3	2.6
Domestic Exports	-2.0	-5.0	-7.3	-11.2	-10.2
Re-exports	8.5	9.4	16.3	11.0	-2.4
Total Exports	7.7	8.4	14.2	8.7	-3.3
Imports of Goods	9.1	9.3	13.1	7.9	-1.9
Visible Trade (HK\$ billion)	-105.9	-97.0	-72.8	-80.5	-85.0
Exports of Services	15.0	14.5	5.5	12.2	6.2
Imports of Services	9.5	8.0	-4.4	0.2	2.0
Invisible Trade (HK\$ billion)	231.2	232.1	192.1	163.8	125.2
CPI (Composite)	-1.0	0	-2.6	-3.0	-1.6

Unit: %

Note: *pa*: Period averages; *eop*: End-of-period; *N.A.*: Not applicable
mom: Month-on-month; *qoq*: Quarter-on-quarter; *yoy*: Year-on-year
Gov: HKSAR Government; *BEA*: The Bank of East Asia

¹ Foreign Currency Reserves in Land Fund are not included before June 30, 1997

² Adjusted to include swap deposits

³ Adjusted to exclude swap deposits

⁴ Loans to finance merchandising trade not touching HK would be included in trade finance & loans for use in HK

⁵ Others loans where the place of use is not known would be included in loans for use outside HK

The number of authorized institutions participating in the HKMA Residential Mortgage Survey is reduced from 28 to 25 starting from August 2003

KEY INTERNATIONAL INDICATORS FOR MAJOR ECONOMIES
(Update: 2nd April, 2004)

Country/Region	Unemployment rate	CPI inflation	Real GDP/GNP growth rate	Money supply (M1) growth	Prime lending rate
Australia	5.9% (Feb.)	2.4% (Q4)	4.0% (Q4)	9.1% (Jan.)	9.00%
Canada	7.4% (Feb.)	0.7% (Feb.)	1.6% (Q4)	10.3% (Feb.)	4.00%
China	4.3%*	2.1% (Feb.)	9.9% (Q4)	19.8% (Feb.)	5.31%
Euro area	8.8% (Jan.)	1.6% (Feb.)	0.6% (Q4)	10.7% (Feb.)	3.00%
Hong Kong	7.2% (Dec. – Feb.)	-2.0% (Feb.)	5.0% (Q4)	39.4% (Jan.)	5.00%
Japan	5.0% (Jan.)	-0.3% (Jan.)	3.4% (Q4)	4.3% (Feb.)	1.375%
UK	4.8% (Jan.)	1.3% (Feb.)	2.8% (Q4)	6.8% (Feb.)	4.00%
US	5.6% (Feb.)	1.7% (Feb.)	4.3% (Q4)	6.4% (Feb.)	4.00%

* Figure as at end-December, 2003

This material is prepared by The Bank of East Asia, Ltd.(Economic Research Department) based upon information which we consider reliable. Data are obtained from the Census and Statistics Department, HKSAR; the Hong Kong Monetary Authority; The Economist; Bloomberg and the National Bureau of Statistics, China. Opinions expressed herein are subject to change without notice.