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HSBC HOLDINGS PLC
Form 6-K
March 06, 2006

FORM 6-K

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Report of Foreign Private Issuer
Pursuant to Rule 13a - 16 or 15d - 16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of March 2006
HSBC Holdings plc

42nd Floor, 8 Canada
Square, London E14 5HQ, England

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F).

Form 20-F ☒ Form 40-F ☐

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934).

Yes ☐ No ☒

(If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82-)

HANG SENG BANK LIMITED
2005 RESULTS - HIGHLIGHTS

- Total operating income up 17.3 per cent to HK\$23,246 million (HK\$19,825 million in 2004).
- Operating profit excluding loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions down 1.1 per cent to HK\$11,686 million (HK\$11,821 million in 2004).
- Pre-tax profit up 0.6 per cent to HK\$13,358 million (HK\$13,283 million in 2004).
- Attributable profit down 0.2 per cent to HK\$11,342 million (HK\$11,364 million in 2004).
- Return on average shareholders' funds of 27.5 per cent (28.5 per cent in 2004).

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- Assets up 6.2 per cent to HK\$580.8 billion (HK\$546.9 billion at 31Dec04).
- Earnings per share down 0.2 per cent to HK\$5.93 (HK\$5.94 per share in 2004).
- Fourth interim dividend of HK\$1.90 per share; total dividends of HK\$5.20 per share for 2005 (HK\$5.20 per share in 2004).
- Total capital ratio of 12.8 per cent (12.0 per cent at 31Dec04); tier 1 capital ratio of 10.4 per cent (10.8 per cent at 31Dec04).
- Cost efficiency ratio of 28.0 per cent (26.4 per cent in 2004).

Note: Comparative figures have been restated to reflect the adoption of a number of new and revised Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards and Hong Kong Accounting Standards, details of which are set out in the Appendix.

Within this document, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China has been referred to as 'Hong Kong'.

Comment by Michael Smith, Chairman

"In 2005, Hang Seng's operating profit excluding loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions was HK\$11,686 million, a decrease of 1.1 per cent.

"Attributable profit decreased 0.2 per cent to HK\$11,342 million. The 2005 figure benefited from a HK\$1.2 billion revaluation surplus on group investment properties. The 2004 figure included a HK\$812 million release of general provisions.

"At the customer group level, Personal Financial Services recorded an operating profit excluding loan impairment charges of HK\$7,436 million, an increase of 10.7 per cent, reflecting an 18 per cent rise in net interest income and a 17.9 per cent expansion of our insurance business as well as increases in cards, residential mortgages (excluding Government Home Ownership Scheme mortgages), and other consumer lending. Commercial Banking recorded an operating profit excluding loan impairment charges of HK\$1,647 million, an increase of 11.3 per cent, due primarily to growth in net interest income, supported by an increase in advances to customers. Corporate and Institutional Banking saw operating profit excluding loan impairment charges decline by 19.1 per cent to HK\$554 million. High levels of liquidity together with limited corporate demand for loans put pressure on corporate lending margins. Treasury recorded a 50.3 per cent decline in operating profit excluding loan impairment charges to HK\$1,183 million, marked by a sustained rise in funding costs and a flattening of yield curves for all major currencies.

"Investment in future business growth saw operating expenses increase 7.4 per cent to HK\$4,546 million. Staff numbers increased to support the growth of our Personal Financial Services and Commercial Banking businesses.

"Our mainland China network reached 12 outlets, with new openings in Shenzhen, Shanghai and Dongguan. The Bank's 15.98 per cent investment in Industrial Bank contributed HK\$358 million to profits.

"The Hong Kong economy is expected to continue on an upward trend in 2006, albeit at a slower pace. The anticipated upbeat trade growth on the Mainland

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will help drive merchandise and service export activity. The improving labour market will boost consumer purchasing power. However, risks and uncertainties such as higher oil prices and US interest rate trends may create new challenges.

"Against this backdrop, we will focus on further expansion on the Mainland and continue to develop areas such as wealth management and consumer and trade finance, in which we have competitive strengths."

Results summary

Hang Seng Bank Limited ('the bank') and its subsidiaries and associates ('the group') reported an audited profit attributable to shareholders of HK\$11,342 million for 2005, representing a marginal decline of 0.2 per cent compared with 2004. Earnings per share was HK\$5.93 (HK\$5.94 in 2004).

Operating income

Total operating income rose by HK\$3,421 million, or 17.3 per cent, to HK\$23,246 million, underpinned by the strong growth in net interest income and net premiums earned on life insurance business.

- Net interest income increased by HK\$1,063 million, or 10.6 per cent, compared with 2004, with an increase of 5.2 per cent in average interest-earning assets. Net interest margin improved by 11 basis points to 2.19 per cent, benefiting from widening of deposit spreads, contribution made by net free funds, and the growth in customer advances, particularly higher yielding cards and personal and SME loans, outweighing the compression of spreads on treasury investment and money market portfolios, and the fall in mortgage portfolio yields.

- Net fee income fell by HK\$551 million, or 16.1 per cent, due mainly to lower sales of longer-term capital-guaranteed funds. Private banking investment and advisory income, card services income, and insurance agency commissions, however, recorded encouraging growth.

- Net trading income was down HK\$534 million, or 48.0 per cent, compared with 2004. This was mainly due to certain changes in accounting presentation in the inclusion of net interest expense of HK\$306 million and revaluation losses of HK\$145 million on forward foreign exchange contracts linked to money market transactions.

- Net earned insurance premiums rose by HK\$3,445 million, or 77.9 per cent, over 2004, reflecting the strong growth of 66.4 per cent in life insurance annualised premiums. Net insurance claims incurred and movement in policyholder liabilities rose by HK\$3,242 million, or 85.9 per cent, over 2004, in line with the growth in the portfolios of life insurance policies in force.

- Net operating income before loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions rose by HK\$179 million, or 1.1 per cent, to HK\$16,232 million.

Operating profit

Operating profit excluding loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions declined by HK\$135 million, or 1.1 per cent, compared with 2004. Operating profit fell by HK\$1,530 million, or 12.1 per cent.

Loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions amounted to HK\$618 million, compared with a total net release of HK\$777 million for 2004, which included a release in general provisions of HK\$812 million in 2004.

Operating expenses rose by HK\$314 million, or 7.4 per cent, compared with 2004. Staff costs increased by 2.1 per cent, reflecting an increase in staff number of 303, primarily to strengthen the customer relationship teams of wealth

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management and commercial banking, and to support the expansion of the group's mainland China network. The group continued to invest in information technology development to support business growth, and increased its marketing expenditure to promote card and insurance products.

Attributable profit

At HK\$13,358 million, pre-tax profit was HK\$75 million, or 0.6 per cent, higher than the previous year after accounting for the increase in profit from the disposal of fixed assets and long-term investments, the surplus on property revaluation and the share of profits from associates, primarily the group's mainland associate, Industrial Bank Co., Ltd. ('Industrial Bank'). Attributable profit after taxation and minority interests fell marginally by HK\$22 million, or 0.2 per cent.

Balance sheet and key ratios

At 31Dec05, total assets were HK\$580.8 billion, an increase of HK\$33.9 billion, or 6.2 per cent. Advances to customers grew by 3.6 per cent, mainly reflecting the rise in cards and personal advances, and growing demand from the property and manufacturing sectors. Loan portfolios of the mainland branches also grew significantly. Customer deposits and certificates of deposit and other debt securities in issue increased by 3.4 per cent. At 31Dec05, the advances-to-deposits ratio was 54.4 per cent, compared with 54.3 per cent a year earlier.

Shareholders' funds (excluding proposed dividends) rose by HK\$1,642 million, or 4.4 per cent, to HK\$38,938 million at 31Dec05, attributable mainly to the increase in retained profits.

The return on average total assets was 2.0 per cent (2.2 per cent in 2004). The return on average shareholders' funds was 27.5 per cent (28.5 per cent in 2004).

The group maintained a strong capital position. Total and tier 1 capital ratios at 31Dec05 were 12.8 per cent and 10.4 per cent respectively, compared with 12.0 per cent and 10.8 per cent at the same time in 2004. During the year, subordinated debts qualifying as tier 2 capital were raised to improve the composition of the capital base and enhance capital efficiency.

The cost efficiency ratio, calculated as total operating expenses to net operating income before loan impairment (charges)/releases and other credit risk provisions, was maintained at a low level of 28.0 per cent, reflecting the group's operating efficiency. The cost efficiency ratio for 2004 was 26.4 per cent.

Dividends

The Directors have declared a fourth interim dividend of HK\$1.90 per share, which will be payable on 31 March 2006 to shareholders on the register of shareholders as of 21 March 2006. Together with the interim dividends for the first three quarters, the total distribution for 2005 will amount to HK\$5.20 per share, the same as in 2004.

Customer group performance

Figures in HK\$m	Personal Financial Services	Commercial Banking	Corporate & Institutional Banking	Treasury	Other	Inte segme eliminati
Year ended 31Dec05						

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Net interest income	7,100	1,587	612	858	514	3
Net fee income	2,101	666	79	(21)	49	
Net trading income	367	134	6	503	-	(4)
Net income/(loss) from financial instruments designated at fair value	(33)	-	-	5	(4)	
Dividend income	5	5	-	-	50	
Net earned insurance premiums	7,642	223	-	-	-	
Other operating income	562	25	4	-	207	
Inter-segment income	-	-	-	-	308	(3)
Total operating income	17,744	2,640	701	1,345	1,124	(3)
Net insurance claims incurred and movement in policyholder liabilities	(6,964)	(50)	-	-	-	
Net operating income before loan impairment(charges)/ releases and other credit risk provisions	10,780	2,590	701	1,345	1,124	(3)
Loan impairment(charges)/ releases and other credit risk provisions	232	(803)	(47)	-	-	
Net operating income	11,012	1,787	654	1,345	1,124	(3)
Total operating expenses^	(3,086)	(903)	(142)	(157)	(258)	
Inter-segment expenses	(258)	(40)	(5)	(5)	-	3
Operating profit	7,668	844	507	1,183	866	
Profit on disposal of fixed assets and financial investments	-	-	-	(217)	694	
Net surplus on property revaluation	-	-	-	-	1,313	
Share of profits from associates	18	234	-	106	142	
Profit before tax	7,686	1,078	507	1,072	3,015	
Share of pre-tax profit	57.5%	8.1%	3.8%	8.0%	22.6%	
Operating profit excluding inter-segment transactions	7,926	884	512	1,188	558	
Operating profit excluding loan impairment (charges)/ releases and other credit risk provisions	7,436	1,647	554	1,183	866	
^Depreciation/amortisation included in operating expenses	(103)	(13)	(3)	(2)	(168)	
At 31Dec05						
Total assets	152,086	54,319	77,514	266,645	30,256	
Total liabilities	372,941	77,249	31,672	33,541	21,687	
Investments in associates	116	1,454	-	657	702	
Capital expenditure incurred during the year	107	20	7	2	95	

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Figures in HK\$m	Services	Banking	Banking	Treasury	Other	elimination
Year ended 31Dec04						
Net interest income	6,016	1,332	596	1,854	207	
Net fee income	2,465	731	208	(19)	40	
Net trading income	276	125	7	706	(1)	
Dividend income	28	6	–	–	55	
Net earned insurance premiums	4,177	243	–	–	–	
Other operating income	531	27	2	1	212	
Inter-segment income	–	–	–	–	320	(3)
Total operating income	13,493	2,464	813	2,542	833	(3)
Net insurance claims incurred and movement in policyholder liabilities	(3,691)	(81)	–	–	–	
Net operating income before loan impairment releases and other credit risk provisions	9,802	2,383	813	2,542	833	(3)
Loan impairment releases and other credit risk provisions	51	596	130	–	–	
Net operating income	9,853	2,979	943	2,542	833	(3)
Total operating expenses^	(2,826)	(850)	(122)	(158)	(276)	
Inter-segment expenses	(256)	(53)	(6)	(5)	–	3
Operating profit	6,771	2,076	815	2,379	557	
Profit on disposal of fixed assets and financial investments	–	–	–	(4)	446	
Net surplus on property revaluation	–	–	–	–	146	
Share of profits from associates	4	45	–	20	28	
Profit before tax	6,775	2,121	815	2,395	1,177	
Share of pre-tax profit	51.0%	16.0%	6.1%	18.0%	8.9%	
Operating profit excluding inter-segment transactions	7,027	2,129	821	2,384	237	
Operating profit excluding loan impairment releases and other credit risk provisions	6,720	1,480	685	2,379	557	
^Depreciation/amortisation included in operating expenses	(104)	(18)	(2)	(2)	(138)	
At 31Dec04						
Total assets	142,579	46,684	77,353	256,368	23,963	
Total liabilities	353,062	77,680	25,150	21,553	27,721	
Investments in associates	94	1,123	–	491	591	
Capital expenditure incurred during the year	104	17	2	2	23	

Personal Financial Services ('PFS') reported a pre-tax profit of HK\$7,686 million, representing growth of 13.4 per cent over 2004, and 57.5 per cent of total pre-tax profit. This strong performance was underpinned by the buoyant economy and active property market, which boosted card spending, mortgages and consumer loan demand. Net interest income rose significantly by 18.0 per cent,

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as deposit spreads improved with the steady rise in interest rates and the expansion of the card and consumer lending portfolios. Mortgage business, other than that under the suspended GHOS Scheme, grew in an active but intensely competitive market. The mortgage portfolio yield stabilised in the second half of the year as mortgage pricing levels gradually moved up. Substantial releases of mortgage and personal lending loan impairment charges under a benign credit environment also contributed to the improved performance of PFS.

PFS continued to focus on wealth management business. The slowdown in sales of capital-guaranteed funds under a rising interest rate environment was compensated by increased sales of market-linked instruments. Private banking business recorded encouraging growth in both customer numbers and asset management portfolios. Life insurance achieved an increase of 66.4 per cent in annualised premiums and increased its market share. The growth momentum accelerated in the second half of 2005 with the launch of new products such as the 'Three Year Express Wealth' life insurance plan, which provides comprehensive life cover and good potential investment returns, with the added benefit of a short payment term. Hang Seng Life Limited was among the market front-runners in the launch of annuity products designed to tap the large retirement planning market.

PFS business of the mainland branches reported good progress in the expansion of customer base, deposits and mortgage loan growth.

Commercial Banking ('CMB') achieved a growth of 11.3 per cent in operating profit excluding loan impairment charges, due primarily to encouraging growth of 19.1 per cent in net interest income, driven by the increase of 15.5 per cent in customer advances. Pre-tax profit of HK\$1,078 million was down by 49.2 per cent compared with 2004, representing 8.1 per cent of group pre-tax profit. The fall was attributable mainly to a small number of large loan impairment charges compared with a net release in 2004.

In 2005, CMB further refined its segmentation strategy. The management of relationships with middle-market enterprises ('MME') became even more focused by appointing major customer relationship managers to serve the customers' sophisticated financing needs. Business banking centres and sales management teams were further strengthened to deepen relationships with small and medium-sized enterprises ('SME') and increase product penetration.

The development of CMB business was also driven by the expansion of our mainland branch network and loan portfolios. The results of CMB include the share of profit of HK\$234 million from Industrial Bank, which has a large and growing commercial banking business.

Corporate and Institutional Banking ('CIB') recorded a pre-tax profit of HK\$507 million, 37.8 per cent lower than 2004, accounting for 3.8 per cent of total pre-tax profit. Operating profit excluding loan impairment charges was down 19.1 per cent, as the high levels of liquidity in the market, together with limited corporate demand for loans, put pressure on corporate lending margins. CIB has been diversifying its resources away from mainly corporate lending to more comprehensive corporate financing and the provision of treasury services in collaboration with Treasury's corporate services unit. It is also in the process of rationalising its loan portfolio towards business with higher margins.

Treasury experienced a very tough operating environment in 2005 with the sustained rise in funding costs and flattening of yield curves for all major currencies. The decline in net trading income was also attributable to the revaluation loss of certain financial instruments which failed to satisfy the hedging criteria of the new accounting standards. Pre-tax profit fell by 55.2 per cent to HK\$1,072 million, contributing 8.0 per cent to total pre-tax profit. On the mainland side, Treasury has made good progress in providing treasury services to corporate customers and structured deposits products for personal

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customers.

Other showed a significant increase of 156.2 per cent in pre-tax profit. This was mainly attributable to the surplus on revaluation of properties, and the improved return on shareholders' funds following the rise in market interest rates.

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The financial information in this news release is based on the audited consolidated accounts of Hang Seng Bank Limited ('the bank') and its subsidiaries and associates ('the group') for the year ended 31Dec05.

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Consolidated Income Statement

Figures in HK\$m	Year ended	
	31Dec05	31Dec04 restated
Interest income	19,029	12,782
Interest expense	(7,961)	(2,777)
Net interest income	11,068	10,005
Fee income	3,394	3,841
Fee expense	(520)	(416)
Net fee income	2,874	3,425
Net trading income	579	1,113
Net income from financial instruments designated at fair value	2	-
Dividend income	60	89
Net earned insurance premiums	7,865	4,420
Other operating income	798	773
Total operating income	23,246	19,825
Net insurance claims incurred and movement in policyholder liabilities	(7,014)	(3,772)
Net operating income before loan impairment (charges)/releases and other credit risk provisions	16,232	16,053
Loan impairment (charges)/releases and other credit risk provisions	(618)	777
Net operating income	15,614	16,830
Employee compensation and benefits	(2,281)	(2,234)
General and administrative expenses	(1,976)	(1,734)
Depreciation of premises, plant and equipment	(280)	(256)
Amortisation of intangible assets	(9)	(8)
Total operating expenses	(4,546)	(4,232)
Operating profit	11,068	12,598
Profit on disposal of fixed assets and financial investments	477	442
Net surplus on property revaluation	1,313	146
Share of profits from associates	500	97
Profit before tax	13,358	13,283
Tax expenses	(1,795)	(1,711)
Profit for the year	11,563	11,572
Profit attributable to minority interests	(221)	(208)
Profit attributable to shareholders	11,342	11,364

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Dividends	9,942	9,942
Figures in HK\$		
Earnings per share	5.93	5.94
Dividends per share	5.20	5.20
Consolidated Balance Sheet		At
		31Dec04
Figures in HK\$m	At 31Dec05	restated
Assets		
Cash and balances with banks and other financial institutions	9,201	7,248
Placings with and advances to banks and other financial institutions	69,286	75,079
Trading assets	12,600	4,232
Financial assets designated at fair value	6,027	-
Derivative financial instruments	1,715	1,684
Advances to customers	260,680	251,553
Financial investments	189,904	184,706
Investments in associates	2,929	2,299
Investment properties	4,273	3,383
Premises, plant and equipment	6,750	5,558
Interest in leasehold land held for own use under operating lease	594	609
Intangible assets	1,636	1,266
Other assets	15,225	9,330
	580,820	546,947
Liabilities		
Current, savings and other deposit accounts	430,995	447,460
Deposits from banks	12,043	11,934
Trading liabilities	45,804	5,840
Financial liabilities designated at fair value	967	-
Derivative financial instruments	1,792	1,273
Certificates of deposit and other debt securities in issue	10,023	16,055
Other liabilities	14,138	11,740
Liabilities to customers under investment contracts	561	540
Liabilities to customers under insurance contracts	15,335	8,656
Deferred tax and current tax liabilities	1,921	1,668
Subordinated liabilities	3,511	-
	537,090	505,166
Capital resources		
Minority interests	1,159	852
Share capital	9,559	9,559
Retained profits	26,052	23,856
Other reserves	3,327	3,881
Proposed dividends	3,633	3,633
Shareholders' funds	42,571	40,929
	43,730	41,781
	580,820	546,947
Figures in HK\$		
Net asset value per share	22.87	21.85

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity

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Figures in HK\$m	Attributable to shareholders					Minority interests	Total equity restated
	Share capital	Other reserves	Retained profits	Proposed dividends	Total		
Balance at 01Jan05							
- As above	9,559	3,881	23,856	3,633	40,929	852	41,782
- Opening adjustment for the adoption of HKAS 39	-	532	533	-	1,065	(14)	1,054
- As restated	9,559	4,413	24,389	3,633	41,994	838	42,832
Property revaluation reserve, net of tax	-	765	107	-	872	-	872
- Unrealised surplus on revaluation	-	863	-	-	863	-	863
- Depreciation charge on revaluation	-	(58)	58	-	-	-	-
- Realisation of revaluation surplus on disposal of premises	-	(40)	49	-	9	-	9
Available-for-sale investments, net of tax	-	(1,475)	-	-	(1,475)	-	(1,475)
- Revaluation losses taken to equity	-	(988)	-	-	(988)	-	(988)
- Transferred to income statement on disposal	-	(487)	-	-	(487)	-	(487)
Cash flow hedges, net of tax	-	(492)	-	-	(492)	-	(492)
- Revaluation losses taken to equity	-	(492)	-	-	(492)	-	(492)
Exchange and other adjustments	-	52	(2)	-	50	-	50
Actuarial gains on defined benefit plans	-	-	158	-	158	-	158
Employees' options granted cost-free by ultimate holding company	-	64	-	-	64	-	64
Increase in subsidiary's capital	-	-	-	-	-	100	100
Profit for the year	-	-	11,342	-	11,342	221	11,563
Dividends proposed during the year	-	-	(9,942)	9,942	-	-	-
Dividends approved and declared during the year	-	-	-	(9,942)	(9,942)	-	(9,942)
Balance at 31Dec05	9,559	3,327	26,052	3,633	42,571	1,159	43,730

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Figures in HK\$m	Attributable to shareholders					Minority interests	Total equity restated
	Share capital	Other reserves	Retained profits	Proposed dividends	Total		
Balance at 01Jan04							
- As previously reported	9,559	6,921	19,720	3,441	39,641	644	40,285
- Arising on change in accounting policies	-	(3,679)	2,255	-	(1,424)	-	(1,424)
- As restated	9,559	3,242	21,975	3,441	38,217	644	38,861
Property revaluation reserve, net of tax	-	664	711	-	1,375	-	1,375
- Unrealised surplus on revaluation	-	712	637	-	1,349	-	1,349
- Depreciation charge on revaluation	-	(46)	46	-	-	-	-
- Realisation of revaluation surplus on disposal of premises	-	(2)	28	-	26	-	26
Long-term equity investment revaluation reserve, net of tax	-	(74)	-	-	(74)	-	(74)
- Revaluation gains taken to equity	-	332	-	-	332	-	332
- Transferred to income statement on disposal	-	(406)	-	-	(406)	-	(406)
Exchange and other adjustments	-	3	6	-	9	-	9
Actuarial loss on defined benefit plans	-	-	(258)	-	(258)	-	(258)
Employees' options granted cost-free by ultimate holding company	-	46	-	-	46	-	46
Profit for the year	-	-	11,364	-	11,364	208	11,572
Dividends proposed during the year	-	-	(9,942)	9,942	-	-	-
Dividends approved and declared during the year	-	-	-	(9,750)	(9,750)	-	(9,750)
Balance at 31Dec04	9,559	3,881	23,856	3,633	40,929	852	41,781

Economic Profit

Economic profit is calculated from post-tax profit, adjusted for any surplus/deficit arising from property revaluation and depreciation attributable to the revaluation surplus, and takes into account the cost of capital invested by the bank's shareholders. For the year 2005, economic profit was HK\$6,084 million, a

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decrease of HK\$1,291 million, or 17.5 per cent, as compared with 2004. Post-tax profit, adjusted for the property revaluation surplus net of deferred tax (HK\$1,083 million) and depreciation attributable to the revaluation surplus (HK\$44 million), fell by HK\$1,023 million, due to a large release in general provisions in the same period in 2004. The cost of capital rose by HK\$277 million, in line with the growth in invested capital. The economic profit figure indicates that the bank continues to create value for its shareholders.

	Year ended			
	31Dec05		31Dec04 restated	
	HK\$m	%	HK\$m	%
Average invested capital	36,000		34,084	
Return on invested capital^	10,303	28.6	11,317	33.2
Cost of capital	(4,219)	(11.7)	(3,942)	(11.6)
Economic profit	6,084	16.9	7,375	21.6

^Return on invested capital is based on post-tax profit excluding any surplus/deficit arising from property revaluation and depreciation attributable to the revaluation surplus.

Consolidated Cash Flow Statement

Figures in HK\$m	31Dec05	31Dec04 restated
Net cash inflow from operating activities	26,840	17,623
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of an interest in an associate	-	(1,634)
Dividends received from associates	75	21
Purchase of available-for-sale investments	(48,780)	-
Purchase of held-to-maturity debt securities	(190)	(61,039)
Proceeds from sale or redemption of available-for-sale investments	21,888	-
Proceeds from sale or redemption of held-to-maturity debt securities	33	39,337
Purchase of fixed assets	(167)	(139)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	186	181
Interest received from available-for-sale investments	4,495	3,258
Dividends received from available-for-sale investments	58	131
Net cash outflow from investing activities	(22,402)	(19,884)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Dividends paid	(9,942)	(9,750)
Interest paid for subordinated liabilities	(58)	-
Proceeds from subordinated liabilities, including financial liabilities designated at fair value	4,478	-
Net cash outflow from financing activities	(5,522)	(9,750)

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Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(1,084)	(12,011)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	67,051	77,575
Effect of foreign exchange rate changes	(454)	1,487
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	65,513	67,051

Financial Review

Net interest income

Figures in HK\$m	2005	2004 restated
Net interest income [^]	11,068	10,005
Average interest-earning assets	505,221	480,317
Net interest spread	1.94%	2.00%
Net interest margin	2.19%	2.08%

[^] Included within net interest income is HK\$20 million in respect of interest income accrued on impaired advances.

Net interest income increased by HK\$1,063 million, or 10.6 per cent, compared with 2004, with an increase of HK\$24.9 billion, or 5.2 per cent, in average interest-earning assets. Net interest margin improved by 11 basis points to 2.19 per cent. Net interest spread fell 6 basis points to 1.94 per cent, while the contribution from net free funds rose by 17 basis points to 0.25 per cent, benefiting from the steady rise in market interest rates.

The gradual rise in market interest rates in 2005 led to a widening of deposit spreads and boosted the contribution made by net free funds. The net interest margin also benefited from the growth in customer advances, particularly higher yielding cards and personal and SME loans, and the increase in interest earned on the life insurance debt securities portfolio. The exclusion of HK\$272 million in net interest expense of the trading and fair value portfolio following the change in accounting presentation in 2005 also contributed to the increase in net interest income.

Treasury securities investment and money market portfolios were negatively affected by the rise in funding costs and the flattening of yield curves. Average mortgage portfolio yields were lower than in 2004, although new mortgage pricing moved up gradually in the second half of 2005.

The impact of individual factors on net interest income and net interest margin is analysed below:

	HK\$m	Basis points
	Net interest income	Net interest margin
Widening of deposit spreads	354	7
Increase in interest income from insurance fund assets	148	3
Narrowing of spreads on treasury securities investment and money market portfolios	(758)	(15)
Fall in mortgage portfolio yields	(199)	(4)

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Contribution from net free funds	859	17
Loan growth and spread improvement	137	3
Growth in average interest-earning assets	522	-
	1,063	11

The average yield on the residential mortgage portfolio (excluding GHOS mortgages and staff loans) was 225 basis points below Best Lending Rate ('BLR') for 2005, compared with 202 basis points below BLR in 2004. The average yield was on a downward trend during the first half of 2005 but stabilised in the second half, with BLR and mortgage pricing gradually moving up. Mortgage incentive payments totaled HK\$91 million, compared with HK\$157 million in 2004.

With effect from 1 January 2005, and in accordance with HKAS 30, interest income and expenses of financial instruments for trading and designated at fair value are reported as net trading income and net income from financial instruments designated at fair value respectively. The following table shows the total net interest income from all sources for both years on a comparable basis.

Figures in HK\$m	2005	2004 restated
Net interest income as per income statement	11,068	10,005
Interest income less expense from:		
- trading financial instruments	(306)	-
- fair value financial instruments	34	-
Total net interest income	10,796	10,005

Net fee income

Figures in HK\$m	2005	2004 restated
- Stockbroking and related services	493	560
- Retail investment products and funds under management	916	1,388
- Insurance	116	101
- Account services	225	214
- Private banking	174	111
- Remittances	141	125
- Cards	705	598
- Credit facilities	117	268
- Trade services	375	360
- Other	132	116
Fee income	3,394	3,841
Fee expense	(520)	(416)
	2,874	3,425

Net fee income was HK\$551 million, or 16.1 per cent, lower than in 2004. Sales of capital-guaranteed funds slowed significantly under a rising interest rate environment, leading to a fall of 34.0 per cent in fee income from retail investment products and funds under management. This was partly compensated by growth in the issue of market-linked instruments, which generate trading income instead of fee income. Credit facilities fees fell by HK\$151 million, due mainly to the amortisation of fees as part of effective interest income under the new accounting standards. Income from stockbroking and securities-related activities fell by HK\$67 million, or 12.0 per cent, affected by the fall in retail investor activity. Private banking investment services and advisory income rose by 56.8

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per cent to HK\$174 million. Card services income rose by HK\$107 million, or 17.9 per cent. There has been a growth of 19.7 per cent in cardholder spending, the result of various cash dollar awards and merchant sponsored benefit campaigns, improved consumer sentiment and an expansion of 10.2 per cent in the credit card base following a series of successful acquisition programmes. Insurance agency commission also recorded encouraging growth of 14.9 per cent, mainly from commercial banking business.

Net trading income

Figures in HK\$m	2005	2004 restated
Dealing profits:		
- Foreign exchange	785	975
- Securities, derivatives and other trading activities	100	49
- Income from insurance fund assets	-	89
	885	1,113
Net interest expense on trading assets and liabilities	(306)	-
	579	1,113

Net trading income fell by HK\$534 million, or 48.0 per cent, compared with the previous year. Net trading income was maintained at the same level as that in 2004 excluding the impact of certain changes due to the application of new accounting standards that came into effect on 1 January 2005. These changes are the inclusion of net interest expense of HK\$306 million on trading assets and liabilities and revaluation losses of HK\$145 million on forward foreign exchange contracts linked to money market activities, and the reduction in the income of HK\$89 million from the trading portfolio of life insurance fund assets.

There was a significant rise in income earned on derivatives embedded in currency and other market-linked deposits and instruments. This was offset by a fall in foreign exchange income due to lower customer transaction volumes, losses on securities and other trading in an adverse interest rate environment, and revaluation losses on certain financial instruments that failed to satisfy the hedging criteria of HKAS 39.

Net income from financial instruments designated at fair value

Net income from financial instruments designated at fair value amounted to HK\$2 million, including net interest income and expense, investment income, and revaluation gains and losses. On adoption of HKAS 39 with effect from 1 January 2005, certain financial assets, liabilities and derivatives are designated at fair value, mainly to eliminate or significantly reduce accounting mismatch. Certain long-term insurance fund assets are also designated at fair value to meet policyholders' liabilities. Prior to the adoption of HKAS 39, these income streams were reported under their respective income categories.

Other operating income

Figures in HK\$m	2005	2004 restated
Rental income from invested properties	207	202
Value of in-force long-term assurance		

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business	316	255
Other	275	316
	798	773

Analysis of income from wealth management businesses

	2005	2004
Figures in HK\$m		restated
Investment income:		
- retail investment products and funds under management^	1,199	1,413
- private banking	188	123
- stockbroking and related services	493	560
- margin trading	63	66
	1,943	2,162
Insurance income:		
- life insurance		
-- underwriting including embedded value	869	623
-- life investment income^^	406	418
- general insurance and others	270	269
	1,545	1,310
Total	3,488	3,472

^ Income from retail investment products and funds under management includes income reported under net fee income on the sale of unit trust funds and third party investment products. It also includes profits on the issue of structured investment products, reported under net trading income.

^^ Investment income from insurance funds includes income reported as net interest income, net trading income and net income from financial instruments designated at fair value.

Wealth management income rose by HK\$16 million, with the 17.9 per cent growth in insurance income making up for the 10.1 per cent reduction in income from investment services.

The life insurance business continued to gain momentum, achieving a 66.4 per cent growth in annualised premiums and gaining market share, with an increase in both the number of policies concluded and in the premium per policy. New products, such as 'Three Year Express Wealth' which provides comprehensive life cover and potential enhancement in investment return, have been very well received.

The investment services business became more diversified in 2005. Under a rising interest rate environment, focus was shifted from the sale of longer-term, capital-guaranteed funds which generate higher upfront fee income, to the issue of shorter-term, market-linked deposits and instruments which turn over more quickly but with lower profit margins. Private banking business continued to expand its customer base and funds under management, and reported growth of 52.8 per cent in investment services and advisory fees. Stockbroking and related services, however, fell by 12.0 per cent, affected by the fall in retail investor activity.

Total funds under management, including discretionary and advisory, grew by 18.1 per cent to HK\$106.2 billion.

Loan impairment (charges)/releases and other credit risk provisions

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Figures in HK\$m	2005	2004 restated
Loan impairment (charges)/releases		
- individually assessed	(309)	141
- collectively assessed		
-- portfolio basis	(122)	(176)
-- individually unimpaired loans	(187)	812
	(618)	777
Of which:		
- new and additional	(1,070)	(463)
- releases	351	1,131
- recoveries	101	109
	(618)	777

Loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions amounted to HK\$618 million, compared with a net release of HK\$777 million in 2004. Impairment charges on individually assessed loans amounted to HK\$309 million, with the increase in charges on commercial banking accounts partially offset by net releases from mortgages and personal loans, which benefited from rising property prices, falling unemployment, and a reduction in bankruptcy cases. This compared with a net release of HK\$141 million, mainly from corporate and commercial banking customer accounts, in 2004. Charges on collectively assessed portfolios of small homogeneous loans amounted to HK\$122 million, reflecting the improvement in credit card charge-off rates under the favourable economic environment. This compared favourably with the charge of HK\$176 million on loans collectively assessed on a portfolio basis in 2004. Collective assessment of the loans not individually identified as impaired recorded a charge of HK\$187 million, as loss rates were updated in the light of historic experience. This compared with a release of HK\$812 million in 2004.

Operating expenses

Figures in HK\$m	2005	2004 restated
Employee compensation and benefits:		
- salaries and other costs	2,144	2,065
- retirement benefit costs	137	169
	2,281	2,234
General and administrative expenses:		
- rental expenses	207	193
- other premises and equipment	751	677
- other operating expenses	1,018	864
	1,976	1,734
Depreciation of business premises and equipment	280	256
Amortisation of intangible assets	9	8
	4,546	4,232
Cost efficiency ratio	28.0%	26.4%

Staff numbers by region^

	2005	2004
Hong Kong	7,425	7,228

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Mainland and others	420	314
Total	7,845	7,542

^ Full-time equivalent

Operating expenses rose by HK\$314 million, or 7.4 per cent. Staff costs increased by 2.1 per cent, due to the salary increment at the beginning of the year and the increase in staff numbers. The 10.9 per cent increase in other premises and equipment expenses was mainly attributable to information technology expenditure on the enhancement of the group's e-banking platform, credit management systems and new product launches. Other operating expenses rose by 17.8 per cent. The group stepped up its marketing expenditure to support the launch of new investment and insurance products and credit card promotion campaigns. Processing fees also increased with the further migration of back-office functions to HSBC Group service centres in lower cost areas. Depreciation of business premises and equipment rose by 9.4 per cent as a result of the increase in fair value of group premises.

The number of full-time equivalent staff increased by 303. The increased staff number in Hong Kong was mainly to further strengthen the Personal Financial Services and Commercial Banking relationship management teams. The expansion of the group's mainland network in 2005 (with the opening of a branch in Beijing and two sub-branches in Shanghai, plus the expansion of the Fuzhou branch) brought the mainland workforce to 377 full-time equivalent staff at 31 December 2005, an increase of 32.7 per cent over the previous year end.

The cost efficiency ratio for 2005 was 28.0 per cent, compared with 26.4 per cent for 2004.

Profit on disposal of fixed assets and financial investments

Figures in HK\$m	2005	2004 restated
Profit on disposal of available-for-sale securities		
- realisation of amounts previously recognised in reserves at 1 January	611	-
- net losses arising in current year	(153)	-
	458	-
Profit on disposal of long-term financial investments		
- realisation of amounts previously recognised in reserves at 1 January	-	371
- net gains arising in current year	-	41
	-	412
Profit less loss on disposal of fixed assets	19	30
	477	442

The profit on disposal of financial investments comprises gains on sales of equity securities less losses on disposals of available-for-sale debt securities.

Tax expenses

Taxation in the consolidated income statement represents:

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Figures in HK\$m	2005	2004 restated
Current tax - provision for Hong Kong profits tax		
Tax for the year	1,501	1,522
Current tax - taxation outside Hong Kong		
Tax for the year	12	7
Deferred tax Origination and reversal of temporary differences	282	182
Total tax expenses	1,795	1,711

The current tax provision is based on the estimated assessable profit for 2005, and is determined for the bank and its subsidiaries operating in the Hong Kong SAR by using the Hong Kong profits tax rate of 17.5 per cent (the same rate as in 2004). For subsidiaries and branches operating in other jurisdictions, the appropriate tax rates prevailing in the relevant countries are used.

Deferred tax is calculated at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the year when the liability is settled or the asset is realised. Deferred tax is charged or credited in the income statement except when it relates to items charged or credited directly to reserves, in which case the deferred tax is also recorded within reserves. The carrying amount of deferred tax assets/liabilities is reviewed at each balance sheet date and is reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that sufficient taxable profit will be available to allow the related tax benefit to be utilised.

Earnings per share

The calculation of earnings per share in 2005 is based on earnings of HK\$11,342 million (HK\$11,364 million in 2004) and on the weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue of 1,911,842,736 shares (unchanged from 2004).

Dividends per share

	HK\$ per share	2005 HK\$m	HK\$ per share	2004 HK\$m
First interim	1.10	2,103	1.10	2,103
Second interim	1.10	2,103	1.10	2,103
Third interim	1.10	2,103	1.10	2,103
Fourth interim	1.90	3,633	1.90	3,633
	5.20	9,942	5.20	9,942

Segmental analysis

Segmental information is presented in respect of business and geographical segments. Business by customer group information, which is more relevant to the group in making operating and financial decisions, is chosen as the primary reporting format.

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For the purpose of segmental analysis, the allocation of revenue reflects the benefits of capital and other funding resources allocated to the customer groups or geographical segments by way of internal capital allocation and funds transfer pricing mechanisms. Cost allocation is based on the direct cost incurred by the respective customer groups and apportionment of management overheads. Rental charges at market rate for usage of premises are reflected as inter-segment income for the 'Other' customer group and inter-segment expenses for the respective customer groups.

(a) By customer group

The group's business comprises five customer groups. Personal Financial Services provides banking (including deposits, credit cards, mortgages and other retail lending) and wealth management services (including private banking, investment and insurance) to personal customers. Commercial Banking manages middle market and smaller corporate relationships and specialises in trade-related financial services. Corporate and Institutional Banking handles relationships with large corporate and institutional customers. Treasury engages in interbank and capital market activities and proprietary trading. Treasury also manages the funding and liquidity positions of the group and other market risk positions arising from banking activities. 'Other' mainly represents management of shareholders' funds and investments in premises, investment properties and equity shares.

Pre-tax profit contributed by the customer groups in 2005 compared with 2004 is set out in the table below. More customer group analysis and discussions are set out the 'Customer group performance' section in page 5.

Figures in HK\$m	Personal Financial Services	Commercial Banking	Corporate & Institutional Banking	Treasury	Other	elim
Year ended 31Dec05						
Profit before tax	7,686	1,078	507	1,072	3,015	
Share of pre-tax profit	57.5%	8.1%	3.8%	8.0%	22.6%	
Year ended 31Dec04						
Profit before tax	6,775	2,121	815	2,395	1,177	
Share of pre-tax profit	51.0%	16.0%	6.1%	18.0%	8.9%	

(b) By geographical region

The geographical regions in this analysis are classified by the location of the principal operations of the subsidiary companies or, in the case of the bank itself, by the location of the branches responsible for reporting the results or advancing the funds.

Figures in HK\$m	Hong Kong	Americas	Mainland and other	Total
Year ended 31Dec05				
Income and expense				
Total operating income	21,377	1,644	225	23,246
Profit before tax	11,253	1,614	491	13,358

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At 31Dec05

Total assets	497,406	60,845	22,569	580,820
Total liabilities	520,260	9,395	7,435	537,090
Capital expenditure incurred during year	206	-	25	231
Contingent liabilities and commitments	137,536	-	3,973	141,509

Year ended 31Dec04 (restated)

Income and expense

Total operating income	18,105	1,594	126	19,825
Profit before tax	11,590	1,566	127	13,283

At 31Dec04

Total assets	460,612	69,675	16,660	546,947
Total liabilities	490,665	9,315	5,186	505,166
Capital expenditure incurred during year	143	-	5	148
Contingent liabilities and commitments	123,563	-	2,925	126,488

Analysis of financial assets and liabilities by accounting classification

The following matrix sets out the financial assets and liabilities by type and by accounting classification on adoption of HKAS 39. The related changes in accounting policies are set out in the appendix on page 65.

Figures in HK\$m	Trading	Designated at fair value	Available for sale	Amortised cost	Total
At 31Dec05					
Financial assets					
Cash and balances with banks and other financial institutions	-	-	-	9,201	9,201
Placings with and advances to banks and other financial institutions	-	-	-	69,286	69,286
Treasury bills	2,594	-	4,816	-	7,410
Certificates of deposit	538	194	25,909	1,138	27,779
Investment securities	9,468	5,833	148,448	9,593	173,342
Derivative financial instruments	1,245	16	454	-	1,715
Advances to customers	-	-	-	260,680	260,680
Total financial assets					549,413
Other assets					31,407
Total assets					580,820
Financial liabilities					
Deposits by banks	-	-	-	12,043	12,043
Customer accounts	24,422	-	-	430,995	455,417

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Certificates of deposit and other debt securities in issue	13,616	-	-	10,023	23,639
Securities net short position	7,766	-	-	-	7,766
Derivative financial instruments	1,307	28	457	-	1,792
Liabilities to customers under investment contracts	-	-	-	561	561
Subordinated liabilities	-	967	-	3,511	4,478
Total financial liabilities					505,696
Liabilities to customers under insurance contracts					15,335
Other liabilities					16,059
Total liabilities					537,090

Analysis of assets and liabilities by remaining maturity

The maturity analysis is based on the remaining period at the balance sheet date to the contractual maturity date, with the exception of the trading portfolios that may be sold before maturity and are accordingly recorded as 'Repayable on demand'.

Figures in HK\$m	Repayable on demand	Three months or less but not on demand	Three months to one year	One year to five years	Over five years
Assets					
Cash and balances with banks and other financial institutions	9,201	-	-	-	-
Placings with and advances to banks and other financial institutions	11,824	52,661	4,597	204	-
Trading assets	12,600	-	-	-	-
Financial assets designated at fair value	-	52	113	1,601	2,262
Derivative financial instruments	1,246	106	105	233	25
Advances to customers	14,330	26,348	33,457	91,279	95,266
Financial investments	-	14,214	35,010	126,831	12,528
Investments in associates	-	-	-	-	-
Investment properties	-	-	-	-	-
Premises, plant and equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Interest in leasehold land held for own use under operating lease	-	-	-	-	-
Intangible assets	-	-	-	-	-
Other assets	8,589	4,589	1,360	28	6
At 31Dec05	57,790	97,970	74,642	220,176	110,087
At 31Dec04	37,328	108,219	75,973	209,636	99,669
Liabilities					
Current, savings and other					

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deposit accounts	233,907	190,206	5,916	966	-
Deposits from banks	1,664	10,370	9	-	-
Trading liabilities	45,804	-	-	-	-
Financial liabilities designated at fair value	-	-	-	-	994
Derivative financial instruments	1,307	22	81	346	36
Certificates of deposit and other debt securities in issue	-	233	1,952	7,788	50
Other liabilities	6,706	6,661	442	48	99
Liabilities to customers under investment contracts	-	-	-	-	-
Liabilities to customers under insurance contracts	-	-	-	-	-
Deferred tax and current tax liabilities	370	2	78	-	-
Subordinated liabilities	-	-	-	-	3,511
At 31Dec05	289,758	207,494	8,478	9,148	4,690
At 31Dec04	319,208	144,903	16,059	12,738	1,677

Cash and balances with banks and other financial institutions

	At 31Dec05	At 31Dec04 restated
Figures in HK\$m		
Cash in hand	4,772	5,037
Balances with central banks	303	692
Balances with banks and other financial institutions	4,126	1,519
	9,201	7,248

Placings with and advances to banks and other financial institutions

	At 31Dec05	At 31Dec04 restated
Figures in HK\$m		
Placings with and advances to banks and other financial institutions maturing within one month	54,338	57,597
Placings with and advances to banks and other financial institutions maturing after one month	14,948	17,482
	69,286	75,079

Trading assets

	At 31Dec05	At 31Dec04 restated
Figures in HK\$m		
Treasury bills	2,594	2,347
Certificates of deposit	538	19
Other debt securities	9,440	1,822
Debt securities	12,572	4,188
Equity shares	28	44
	12,600	4,232

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Debt securities:		
- listed in Hong Kong	767	693
- listed outside Hong Kong	-	7
	767	700
- unlisted	11,805	3,488
	12,572	4,188

Equity shares:		
- listed in Hong Kong	17	10
- unlisted	11	34
	28	44
	12,600	4,232

Debt securities:		
Issued by public bodies:		
- central governments and central banks	5,625	4,027
- other public sector entities	1,489	2
	7,114	4,029

Issued by other bodies:		
- banks and other financial institutions	2,836	78
- corporate entities	2,622	81
	5,458	159

Equity shares:		
Issued by corporate entities	28	44
	12,600	4,232

Trading assets increased by HK\$8,368 million, or 197.7 per cent, due mainly to the increase in other debt securities. On adoption of HKAS 39, certain debt securities and the related interest rate swaps were transferred to the trading book to better reflect the management of these instruments.

Financial assets designated at fair value

Figures in HK\$m	At 31Dec05	At 31Dec04
Certificates of deposit	194	-
Other debt securities	4,075	-
Debt securities	4,269	-
Equity shares	1,758	-
	6,027	-

Debt securities:		
- listed in Hong Kong	100	-
- listed outside Hong Kong	22	-
	122	-
- unlisted	4,147	-
	4,269	-

Equity shares:		
- listed in Hong Kong	732	-
- listed outside Hong Kong	979	-
	1,711	-
- unlisted	47	-
	1,758	-
	6,027	-

Debt securities:		
Issued by public bodies:		
- central governments and central banks	865	-
- other public sector entities	295	-
	1,160	-

Issued by other bodies:		
- banks and other financial institutions	2,937	-
- corporate entities	172	-
	3,109	-

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Equity shares:

Issued by corporate entities	1,758	-
	6,027	-

Financial assets are designated at fair value, usually together with the related liabilities or derivative financial instruments, primarily for the purpose of eliminating or significantly reducing the accounting mismatch. The figures also include those financial assets of the life insurance funds designated at fair value for backing policyholder liabilities. The policy and criteria for financial instruments designated at fair value are set out in the appendix.

Advances to customers

Figures in HK\$m	At 31Dec05	At 31Dec04 restated
Gross advances to customers	261,714	252,564
Loan impairment allowances:		
- individually assessed	(524)	(692)
- collectively assessed	(510)	(319)
	260,680	251,553
Included in advances to customers are:		
- trade bills	3,024	3,053
- loan impairment allowances	(14)	(8)
	3,010	3,045

Loan impairment allowances against advances to customers

Figures in HK\$m	Individually assessed	Portfolio basis	Collectively assessed Loans not individually identified as impaired	Total
At 1 January 2005 (restated)	692	30	289	1,011
Amounts written off	(510)	(166)	-	(676)
Recoveries of advances written off in previous years	53	48	-	101
New impairment allowances charged to income statement	707	176	187	1,070
Impairment allowances released to income statement	(398)	(54)	-	(452)
Unwind of discount of loan impairment allowances	(20)	-	-	(20)
At 31 December 2005	524	34	476	1,034

Total loan impairment allowances as a percentage of gross advances to customers are as follows:

	At 31Dec05 %	At 31Dec04 restated %
Loan impairment allowances		
- individually assessed	0.20	0.27

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- collectively assessed		
-- portfolio basis	0.01	0.01
-- loans not individually identified as impaired	0.18	0.12
Total loan impairment allowances	0.39	0.40

Total loan impairment allowances as a percentage of gross advances to customers stood at 0.39 per cent at 31 December 2005, compared with 0.40 per cent at the previous year-end. Individually assessed allowances as a percentage of gross advances fell to 0.20 per cent, reflecting the writing off of irrecoverable balances against impairment allowances, and the release of impairment allowances on mortgage and personal loans under the rising property market and stable credit environment. Collectively assessed allowances were 0.19 per cent of gross advances to customers.

Impaired advances/non-performing advances and allowances

Figures in HK\$m	At 31Dec05	At 31Dec04 restated
Gross impaired advances/non-performing advances	1,433	1,793
Loan impairment allowances	(558)	(722)
Net impaired advances/non-performing advances	875	1,071
Loan impairment allowances as a percentage of gross impaired advances/ non-performing advances	38.9%	40.3%
Gross impaired advances/non-performing advances as a percentage of gross advances to customers	0.5%	0.7%

Impaired advances are individually assessed advances with objective evidence of impairment on an individual basis. Impairment allowances are made to write down the carrying value of the advances to the discounted value of future recoverable amounts, including the realisation of collateral.

Non-performing advances are advances on which interest has been placed in suspense or on which interest accrual has ceased to accrue.

Gross impaired advances as a percentage of gross advances to customers stood at 0.5 per cent, compared with the ratio of gross non-performance advances to gross advances to customers of 0.7 per cent in 2004. Gross impaired advances were HK\$1,433 million, which was lower than the non-performing advances of HK\$1,793 million at last year-end, mainly due to the recovery and upgrading of residential mortgages.

Overdue advances

Advances to customers that are more than three months overdue and their expression as a percentage of gross advances to customers are as follows:

	At 31Dec05		At 31Dec04 restated	
	HK\$m	%	HK\$m	%
Gross advances to customers which have been overdue with respect to either principal or interest for periods of:				
- six months or less but over three				

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months	482	0.2	587	0.2
- one year or less but over six months	211	0.1	304	0.1
- over one year	169	-	430	0.2
	862	0.3	1,321	0.5

Advances with a specific repayment date are classified as overdue when the principal or interest is overdue and remains unpaid at year-end. Advances repayable by regular instalments are treated as overdue when an instalment payment is overdue and remains unpaid at year-end. Advances repayable on demand are classified as overdue either when a demand for repayment has been served on the borrower but repayment has not been made in accordance with the demand notice, or when the advances have remained continuously outside the approved limit advised to the borrower for more than the overdue period in question.

Rescheduled advances

Rescheduled advances and their expression as a percentage of gross advances to customers is as follows:

	At 31Dec05		At 31Dec04 restated	
	HK\$m	%	HK\$m	%
Rescheduled advances to customers	361	0.1	1,512	0.6

Rescheduled advances are those that have been rescheduled or renegotiated for reasons related to the borrower's financial difficulties. This will normally involve the granting of concessionary terms and resetting the overdue account to non-overdue status. A rescheduled advance will continue to be disclosed as such unless the debt has been performing in accordance with the rescheduled terms for a period of six to 12 months. Rescheduled advances that have been overdue for more than three months under the rescheduled terms are reported as overdue advances to customers (page 37).

Rescheduled advances fell by HK\$1,151 million, or 76.1 per cent, to HK\$361 million at 31 December 2005, representing only 0.1 per cent of gross advances to customers. The reduction was mainly the result of the repayment and upgrade of certain corporate customer and personal loans.

Segmental analysis of advances to customers by geographical area

Advances to customers by geographical area are classified according to the location of the counterparties after taking into account the transfer of risk. In general, risk transfer applies when an advance is guaranteed by a party located in an area which is different from that of the counterparty. At 31 December 2005, over 90 per cent of the group's advances to customers, including related impaired advances and overdue advances, were classified under Hong Kong (position unchanged from that at 31 December 2004).

Gross advances to customers by industry sector

The analysis of gross advances to customers by industry sector based on categories and definitions used by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority ('HKMA') is as follows:

	At 31Dec05	At 31Dec04 restated
Figures in HK\$m		

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Gross advances to customers for use in
Hong Kong

Industrial, commercial and financial sectors		
Property development	16,446	12,818
Property investment	45,964	44,732
Financial concerns	968	3,996
Stockbrokers	221	314
Wholesale and retail trade	5,562	5,460
Manufacturing	7,761	4,384
Transport and transport equipment	11,919	11,173
Other	21,628	22,010
	110,469	104,887
Individuals		
Advances for the purchase of flats under the Government Home Ownership Scheme, Private Sector Participation Scheme and Tenants Purchase Scheme	22,879	26,386
Advances for the purchase of other residential properties	81,318	79,987
Credit card advances	7,735	6,534
Other	7,563	7,122
	119,495	120,029
Total gross advances for use in Hong Kong	229,964	224,916
Trade finance	15,874	15,539
Gross advances for use outside Hong Kong	15,876	12,109
Gross advances to customers	261,714	252,564

Lending to the industrial, commercial and financial sectors rose by 5.3 per cent during 2005. Property development and investment grew by 8.4 per cent, reflecting the active property market. Wholesale, retail and manufacturing together were up by 35.3 per cent, driven by the continued expansion of the economy and growth in external trade. Lending to the transport and transport equipment sector, including taxi and other motor vehicle loans, recorded growth of 6.7 per cent. Financial concerns lending fell by 75.8 per cent, due mainly to the repayment of a money market loan from a public sector entity.

Lending to individuals fell by 0.4 per cent compared with the end of 2004. Excluding mortgages under the GHOS Scheme, which remained suspended during 2005, lending to individuals grew by 3.2 per cent. Residential mortgages went up by 1.7 per cent in an active and competitive market. Card advances rose by 18.4 per cent, reflecting increases in card spending and in the card base of 19.7 per cent and 10.2 per cent respectively. Personal advances, grouped under the 'Other' sector, grew by 51.8 per cent, reflecting the success of the group in expanding its consumer finance business.

Trade finance advances rose by 2.2 per cent. The growth in trade finance to CMB customers, who benefited from the strong regional trade flows, was partly offset by repayments made by certain CIB trading corporations.

Gross advances for use outside Hong Kong recorded growth of 31.1 per cent. The loan portfolio of the mainland branches expanded by 41.9 per cent in 2005 to HK\$10.5 billion, with encouraging growth recorded in commercial and residential mortgage lending.

Financial investments

	At 31Dec05	At 31Dec04 restated
Figures in HK\$m		

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Available-for-sale at fair value		
- debt securities	177,813	-
- equity shares	1,360	-
Long-term equity shares at fair value	-	1,838
Other financial investments attributable to policyholders		
- debt securities at fair value	-	676
- equity shares at fair value	-	1,092
Held-to-maturity debt securities at amortised cost	10,731	181,100
	189,904	184,706
Fair value of held-to-maturity debt securities	10,778	182,577
Treasury bills	4,816	4,280
Certificates of deposit	27,048	35,424
Other debt securities	156,680	142,072
Debt securities	188,544	181,776
Equity shares	1,360	2,930
	189,904	184,706
Debt securities:		
- listed in Hong Kong	3,008	5,757
- listed outside Hong Kong	1,947	28,497
	4,955	34,254
- unlisted	183,589	147,522
	188,544	181,776
Equity shares:		
- listed in Hong Kong	1,049	2,040
- listed outside Hong Kong	186	503
	1,235	2,543
- unlisted	125	387
	1,360	2,930
	189,904	184,706
Fair value of listed financial investments	6,209	36,927
Debt securities:		
Issued by public bodies:		
- central governments and central banks	15,981	20,134
- other public sector entities	8,667	13,932
	24,648	34,066
Issued by other bodies:		
- banks and other financial institutions	149,557	128,051
- corporate entities	14,339	19,659
	163,896	147,710
Equity shares:		
Issued by corporate entities	1,360	2,930
	189,904	184,706

Available-for-sale investments include treasury bills, certificates of deposit, other debt securities and equity shares intended to be held for an indefinite period of time, but which may be sold in response to needs for liquidity or changes in the market environment. Available-for-sale investments are carried at fair value with the gains and losses from change in fair value recognised through equity reserves.

Held-to-maturity debt securities are stated at amortised cost. Where debt securities have been purchased at a premium or discount, the carrying value of the security is adjusted to reflect the effective interest rate of the debt security taking into account such premium or discount.

On adoption of HKAS 39 on 1 January 2005, with the exception of the portfolio of

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debt securities for life insurance funds, the group has re-designated all held-to-maturity debt securities as available-for-sale securities, trading assets and financial assets designated at fair value. There was no such re-designation in 2004, as retrospective application of HKAS 39 is not permitted.

Amounts due from/to immediate holding company and fellow subsidiary companies

At balance sheet dates, the amounts due from/to immediate holding company and fellow subsidiary companies included in the assets and liabilities balances of the consolidated balance sheet are analysed as follows:

Figures in HK\$m	At 31Dec05	At 31Dec04 restated
Amounts due from:		
Cash and balances with banks and other financial institutions	718	1,227
Placings with and advances to banks and other financial institutions	3,495	2,416
Trading assets	50	-
Derivative financial instruments	145	177
Financial assets designated at fair value	2,299	-
Financial investments	1,135	1,728
Other assets	29	47
	7,871	5,595

Figures in HK\$m	At 31Dec05	At 31Dec04 restated
Amounts due to:		
Customer accounts	167	165
Deposits from banks	5,136	3,301
Derivative financial instruments	488	308
Subordinated liabilities	2,016	-
Other liabilities	361	157
	8,168	3,931

Investments in associates

Figures in HK\$m	At 31Dec05	At 31Dec04 restated
Share of net assets	2,611	1,988
Goodwill	318	311
	2,929	2,299

Investments in associates rose by 27.4 per cent, mainly reflecting the increase in share of profits from associates.

Intangible assets

Figures in HK\$m	At 31Dec05	At 31Dec04 restated
Value of in-force long-term assurance business	1,565	1,249
Internal developed software	56	-
Other intangible assets	15	17

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1,636 1,266

Other assets

At 31Dec05 At 31Dec04
Figures in HK\$m restated

Items in the course of collection from other banks	8,068	4,456
Prepayments and accrued income	3,016	2,420
Deferred tax assets	9	11
Non current assets held for sale	216	320
Acceptances and endorsements	2,371	-
Other accounts	1,545	2,123
	15,225	9,330

On adoption of HKFRS 5, repossessed collateral assets have been reclassified from 'Advances to customers' to 'Non current assets held for sale' under 'Other assets'.

Current, savings and other deposit accounts

At 31Dec05 At 31Dec04
Figures in HK\$m restated

Current, savings and other deposit accounts:		
- as per consolidated balance sheet	430,995	447,460
- structured deposits reported as trading liabilities	24,422	-
	455,417	447,460
By type:		
- demand and current accounts	27,248	36,148
- savings accounts	188,839	251,192
- time and other deposits	239,330	160,120
	455,417	447,460

Certificates of deposit and other debt securities in issue

At 31Dec05 At 31Dec04
Figures in HK\$m restated

Certificates of deposit and other debt securities in issue:		
- as per consolidated balance sheet	10,023	16,055
- structured certificates of deposit and other debt securities in issue reported as trading liabilities	13,616	-
	23,639	16,055
By type:		
- Certificates of deposit in issue	22,525	15,409
- Other debt securities in issue	1,114	646
	23,639	16,055

Customer deposits, including certificates and other debt securities in issue, rose 3.4 per cent to HK\$479.1 billion.

Current, savings and other deposit accounts (including structured deposits reported as trading liabilities) rose by HK\$8.0 billion, or 1.8 per cent, to HK\$455.4 billion at 31 December 2005. Certificates of deposit and other debt securities in issue (including those reported as trading liabilities) recorded encouraging growth of HK\$7.6 billion, or 47.2 per cent, to HK\$23.6 billion at 31

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December 2005. In the rising interest rate environment, customer deposits have shifted from current and savings accounts to time deposits. Certificates of deposit and structured deposit instruments with yield enhancement features also gained in popularity.

Trading liabilities

Figures in HK\$m	At 31Dec05	At 31Dec04 restated
Certificates of deposit and other debt		
securities in issue	13,616	-
Structured deposits	24,422	-
Short positions in securities	7,766	5,840
	45,804	5,840

Trading liabilities includes customer deposits and certificates of deposit with embedded options or other derivatives, the market risk of which was managed in the trading book.

Other liabilities

Figures in HK\$m	At 31Dec05	At 31Dec04 restated
Items in the course of		
transmission		
to other banks	6,517	6,136
Accruals	1,653	2,303
Acceptances and endorsements	2,371	-
Other	3,597	3,301
	14,138	11,740

Subordinated liabilities

During the year, the group issued subordinated notes amounting to HK\$2,500 million and obtained a subordinated loan of US\$260 million from its immediate holding company. Details of the transactions are as follows:

Figures in HK\$m	At 31Dec05	At 31Dec04
Nominal value		
Description		
Amount owed to third parties		
HK\$1,500 million		
Callable floating rate		
subordinated notes		
due June 2015	1,495	-
HK\$1,000 million		
4.125 per cent callable		
fixed rate		
subordinated notes		
due June 2015	967	-
Amount owed to HSBC Group undertakings		
US\$260 million		
Callable floating rate		

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subordinated loan debt		
due December 2015	2,016	-
	4,478	-
Representing:		
- measured at amortised cost	3,511	-
- designated at fair value	967	-
	4,478	-

The above subordinated notes and loan each carries a one-time call option exercisable by the group on a day falling five years plus one day after the relevant date of issue/drawdown.

The floating rate notes of HK\$1,500 million bear interest at the rate of three-month HIBOR plus 0.35 per cent, payable quarterly from the issue date to the call option date. Thereafter, if the notes are not redeemed on the call option date, the interest rate will be reset to three-month HIBOR plus 0.85 per cent, payable quarterly.

The fixed rate notes of HK\$1,000 million bear interest at the rate of 4.125 per cent per annum, payable semi-annually from the issue date to the call option date. The notes, if not redeemed on the call option date, will become floating rate notes bearing interest at the rate of three-month HIBOR plus 0.825 per cent payable quarterly.

The fixed rate notes are reported as financial liabilities designated at fair value together with the interest rate swap transacted to manage the interest rate risk.

The floating rate subordinated loan debt of US\$260 million bears interest at the rate of three-month LIBOR plus 0.31 per cent, payable quarterly from the issue date to the call option date. Thereafter, if the loan is not repaid on the call option date, the interest rate will be reset to three-month LIBOR plus 0.81 per cent, payable quarterly.

Shareholders' funds

Figures in HK\$m	At 31Dec05	At 31Dec04 restated
Share capital	9,559	9,559
Retained profits	26,052	23,856
Property revaluation reserve	3,543	2,778
Long-term equity investment revaluation reserve	-	935
Cash flow hedges reserve	(483)	-
Available-for-sale investment reserve	(17)	-
Capital redemption reserve	99	99
Other reserves	185	69
Total reserves	29,379	27,737
	38,938	37,296
Proposed dividends	3,633	3,633
Shareholders' funds	42,571	40,929
Return on average shareholders' funds	27.5%	28.5%

Save for the issuance of subordinated notes in June 2005, there was no purchase, sale or redemption of the group's listed securities by the bank or any of its subsidiaries during 2005.

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Shareholders' funds (excluding proposed dividends) rose by HK\$1,642 million, or 4.4 per cent, to HK\$38,938 million at 31 December 2005. Retained profits increased by HK\$2,196 million, and the property revaluation reserve rose by HK\$765 million reflecting the improved property market. These were partially offset by the HK\$500 million revaluation loss on available-for-sale investment securities, and on interest rate swaps designated as cash flow hedges.

The return on average shareholders' funds was 27.5 per cent, compared with 28.5 per cent in 2004.

Capital resources management

Analysis of capital base and risk-weighted assets

Figures in HK\$m	At 31Dec05	At 31Dec04
Capital base		
Tier 1 capital		
- Share capital	9,559	9,559
- Retained profits	21,439	20,560
- Classified as regulatory reserve	(510)	-
- Capital redemption reserve	99	99
- Less: goodwill	(318)	(302)
- Total	30,269	29,916
Tier 2 capital		
- Property revaluation reserve	5,114	5,322
- Available-for-sale investment and equity revaluation reserve	(5)	625
- Collective impairment allowances	510	289
- Regulatory reserve	510	-
- Term subordinated debt	4,479	-
- Total	10,608	6,236
Unconsolidated investments and other deductions	(3,444)	(2,829)
Total capital base after deductions	37,433	33,323
Risk-weighted assets		
On-balance sheet	277,617	259,429
Off-balance sheet	14,739	16,577
Total risk-weighted assets	292,356	276,006
Total risk-weighted assets adjusted for market risk	291,570	277,029

	At 31Dec05	At 31Dec04
Capital adequacy ratios		
After adjusting for market risk		
- Tier 1 [^]	10.4%	10.8%
- Total [^]	12.8%	12.0%
Before adjusting for market risk		
- Tier 1	10.4%	10.8%
- Total	12.8%	12.1%

[^] The capital ratios take into account market risks in accordance with the relevant HKMA guideline under the Supervisory Policy Manual.

In accordance with the HKMA guideline Impact of the New Hong Kong Accounting

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Standards on Authorised Institutions' Capital Base and Regulatory Reporting, the Group has earmarked a 'regulatory reserve' from retained profits. This regulatory reserve is included as tier 2 capital together with the group's collective impairment allowances.

The total capital ratio rose by 0.8 percentage points over 2004 to reach 12.8 per cent at 31 December 2005. The capital base increased by HK\$4,110 million to HK\$37,433 million. During the year, the group issued HK\$2,500 million in subordinated notes and obtained a subordinated loan of US\$260 million, both qualified as tier 2 capital, to achieve a more balanced capital structure and to support business growth. Risk-weighted assets adjusted for market risk grew by 5.2 per cent, attributable mainly to the increase in advances to customers and financial investments.

Liquidity ratio

The average liquidity ratio for the year, calculated in accordance with the Fourth Schedule of the Hong Kong Banking Ordinance, is as follows:

	2005	2004
The bank and its major banking subsidiaries	45.1%	47.2%

Reconciliation of cash flow statement

(a) Reconciliation of operating profit to net cash flow from operating activities

Figures in HK\$m	2005	2004 restated
Operating profit	11,068	12,598
Net interest income	(11,068)	(10,005)
Dividend income	(60)	(89)
Loan impairment charges/(releases) and other credit risk provisions	618	(777)
Depreciation	280	256
Amortisation of intangible assets	9	8
Amortisation of available-for-sale investments	12	-
Amortisation of held-to-maturity debt securities	-	426
Advances written off net of recoveries	(575)	(577)
Interest received	13,578	9,369
Interest paid	(7,443)	(2,646)
Operating profit before changes in working capital	6,419	8,563
Change in placings with and advances to banks maturing after one month	2,534	2,658
Change in trading assets	3,983	(2,541)
Change in financial assets designated at fair value	1,060	-
Change in derivative financial instruments	(395)	(88)
Change in advances to customers	(8,857)	(21,244)
Change in available-for-sale investments	8,113	-
Change in held-to-maturity		

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debt securities	-	(1,590)
Change in other assets	(11,929)	(4,000)
Change in current, savings and other deposit accounts	(9,189)	15,307
Change in deposits from banks	110	8,938
Change in trading liabilities	29,263	4,326
Change in certificates of deposit and other debt securities in issue	(2,589)	8,168
Change in other liabilities	9,423	4,955
Elimination of exchange differences and other non-cash items	315	(4,904)
Cash generated from operating activities	28,261	18,548
Taxation paid	(1,421)	(925)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	26,840	17,623

(b) Analysis of the balances of cash and cash equivalents

Figures in HK\$m	At 31Dec05	At 31Dec04 restated
Cash and balances with banks and other financial institutions	9,201	7,248
Placings with and advances to banks and other financial institutions maturing within one month	53,294	57,071
Treasury bills	3,018	47
Certificates of deposit	-	2,685
	65,513	67,051

Figures in HK\$m	Contract amount	Credit equivalent amount	Risk- weighted amount
At 31Dec05			
Contingent liabilities:			
Guarantees	4,133	3,907	3,131
Commitments:			
Documentary credits and short-term trade-related transactions	7,402	1,480	1,480
Undrawn formal standby facilities, credit lines and other commitments to lend:			
- under one year	109,369	-	-
- one year and over	20,385	10,193	9,158
Other	220	220	220
	137,376	11,893	10,858
Exchange rate contracts:			
Spot and forward foreign exchange	188,088	1,426	333
Other exchange rate contracts	15,176	193	48
	203,264	1,619	381
Interest rate contracts:			

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Interest rate swaps	161,083	1,472	308
Other interest rate contracts	4,255	20	4
	165,338	1,492	312
Other derivative contracts	1,194	86	17

Figures in HK\$m	Contract amount	Credit equivalent amount	Risk-weighted amount
At 31Dec04			
Contingent liabilities:			
Guarantees	7,039	6,764	3,429
Commitments:			
Documentary credits and short-term trade-related transactions	9,020	1,844	1,805
Undrawn formal standby facilities, credit lines and other commitments to lend:			
- under one year	86,714	-	-
- one year and over	23,677	11,839	10,460
Other	38	38	38
	119,449	13,721	12,303
Exchange rate contracts:			
Spot and forward foreign exchange	138,269	1,066	298
Other exchange rate contracts	23,158	323	106
	161,427	1,389	404
Interest rate contracts:			
Interest rate swaps	120,603	1,421	347
Other interest rate contracts	5,067	15	6
	125,670	1,436	353
Other derivative contracts	1,373	46	23

The tables above give the nominal contract, credit equivalent and risk-weighted amounts of off-balance sheet transactions. The credit equivalent amounts are calculated for the purposes of deriving the risk-weighted amounts. These are assessed in accordance with the Third Schedule of the Hong Kong Banking Ordinance on capital adequacy and depend on the status of the counterparty and the maturity characteristics. The risk weights used range from 0 per cent to 100 per cent for contingent liabilities and commitments, and from 0 per cent to 50 per cent for exchange rate, interest rate and other derivatives contracts.

Contingent liabilities and commitments are credit-related instruments which include acceptances, letters of credit, guarantees and commitments to extend credit. The risk involved is essentially the same as the credit risk involved in extending loan facilities to customers. These transactions are, therefore, subject to the same credit origination, portfolio maintenance and collateral requirements as for customers applying for loans. As the facilities may expire without being drawn upon, the total of the contract amounts is not representative of future liquidity requirements.

Off-balance sheet financial instruments arise from futures, forward, swap and option transactions undertaken in the foreign exchange, interest rate and equity

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markets.

The contract amounts of these instruments indicate the volume of transactions outstanding at the balance sheet date and do not represent amounts at risk. The credit equivalent amount of these instruments is measured as the sum of positive marked-to-market values and the potential future credit exposure in accordance with the Third Schedule of the Hong Kong Banking Ordinance.

Derivative financial instruments are held for trading, as financial instruments designated at fair value, or designated as either fair value hedge or cash flow hedges. The accounting policies for each class of derivatives on adoption of HKAS 39 are set out in the appendix. The following table shows the nominal value and marked-to-market value of assets and liabilities of each class of derivatives.

Figures in HK\$m	At31Dec05		At31Dec04	
	Trading/ designated at fair value	Hedging	Trading	Non- trading
Contract amounts:				
Interest rate contracts	102,233	63,105	54,755	70,915
Exchange rate contracts	203,264	-	161,117	310
Other derivative contracts	1,194	-	1,373	-
	306,691	63,105	217,245	71,225
Derivative assets:				
Interest rate contracts	481	454	519	-
Exchange rate contracts	776	-	1,160	-
Other derivative contracts	4	-	5	-
	1,261	454	1,684	-
Derivative liabilities:				
Interest rate contracts	998	457	477	-
Exchange rate contracts	310	-	796	-
Other derivative contracts	27	-	-	-
	1,335	457	1,273	-

The above derivative assets and liabilities, being the positive or negative marked-to-market value of the respective derivative contracts, represent gross replacement costs, as none of these contracts are subject to any bilateral netting arrangements.

Cross-border claims

Cross-border claims include receivables and loans and advances, and balances due from banks and holdings of certificates of deposit, bills, promissory notes, commercial paper and other negotiable debt instruments, as well as accrued interest and overdue interest on these assets. Claims are classified according

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to the location of the counterparties after taking into account the transfer of risk. For a claim guaranteed by a party situated in a country different from the counterparty, the risk will be transferred to the country of the guarantor. For a claim on the branch of a bank or other financial institution, the risk will be transferred to the country where its head office is situated. Claims on individual countries or areas, after risk transfer, amounting to 10 per cent or more of the aggregate cross-border claims are shown as follows:

Figures in HK\$m	Banks & other financial institutions	Sovereign & public sector entities	Other	Total
At31Dec05				
Asia-Pacific excluding Hong Kong:				
- Australia	23,961	144	712	24,817
- other	38,140	1,447	6,882	46,469
	62,101	1,591	7,594	71,286
The Americas:				
- Canada	16,229	3,976	1,677	21,882
- other	13,182	2,460	10,712	26,354
	29,411	6,436	12,389	48,236
Western Europe:				
- United Kingdom	23,008	-	7,842	30,850
- other	81,089	1,430	6,207	88,726
	104,097	1,430	14,049	119,576

At31Dec04

Asia-Pacific excluding Hong Kong:				
- Australia	21,429	62	1,223	22,714
- other	26,222	1,530	5,432	33,184
	47,651	1,592	6,655	55,898
The Americas:				
- Canada	19,748	4,957	1,556	26,261
- other	11,320	2,744	10,252	24,316
	31,068	7,701	11,808	50,577
Western Europe:				
- United Kingdom	23,794	16	5,945	29,755
- other	76,926	2,063	5,711	84,700
	100,720	2,079	11,656	114,455

Additional information

1. Statutory accounts and accounting policies

The information in this news release does not constitute statutory accounts.

Certain financial information in this news release is extracted from the statutory accounts for the year ended 31 December 2005 ('2005 accounts'), which will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies and the HKMA. The statutory accounts comply with the module on 'Financial Disclosure by Locally Incorporated Authorised Institutions' under the Supervisory Policy Manual issued by the HKMA.

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The auditors expressed an unqualified opinion on those statutory accounts in their report dated 6 March 2006.

The 2005 accounts and this news release have been prepared on a basis consistent with the accounting policies adopted in the 2004 accounts except for the changes in accounting policies following the adoption of the new and revised Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards and Hong Kong Accounting Standards ('HKFRSs') issued by The Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants, which became effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005.

The significant changes in accounting policies on adoption of the new HKFRSs and the financial impacts on the current and prior accounting periods are set out in the appendix to this news release.

Comparative figures have been restated to conform with the new accounting policies except for those applying to financial instruments under HKAS 39 'Financial instruments: recognition and measurement'.

2. Comparative figures

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation.

3. Property revaluation

On 30 September 2005, the group's premises and investment properties were revalued by DTZ Debenham Tie Leung Limited who confirmed that there had been no material change in valuation at 31 December 2005. The valuation was carried out by qualified persons who are members of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors. The basis of the valuation of premises was open market for existing use and the basis of valuation for investment properties was open market value. The revaluation surplus for group premises amounted to HK\$1,199 million of which HK\$153 million was a reversal of revaluation deficits previously charged to the income statement. The balance of HK\$1,046 million was credited to the property revaluation reserve. Revaluation gains on investment properties of HK\$1,160 million were recognised through the income statement on adoption of HKAS 40. The related deferred tax provisions for group premises and investment properties were HK\$210 million and HK\$203 million respectively.

Market risk is the risk that foreign exchange rates, interest rates or equity and commodity prices will move and result in profits or losses for the group. The group's market risk arises from customer-related business and from position taking.

Market risk is managed within risk limits approved by the Board of Directors. Risk limits are set by product and risk type with market liquidity being a principal factor in determining the level of limits set. Limits are set using a combination of risk measurement techniques, including position limits, sensitivity limits, as well as value at risk ('VAR') limits at a portfolio level.

The group adopts the risk management policies and risk measurement techniques developed by the HSBC Group. The daily risk monitoring process measures actual risk exposures against approved limits and triggers specific action to ensure the overall market risk is managed within an acceptable level.

VAR is a technique which estimates the potential losses that could occur on risk positions taken due to movements in market rates and prices over a specified time horizon and to a given level of confidence. In line with the HSBC Group, Hang Seng refined its basis of calculating VAR from one predominantly based on variance/co-variance ('VCV') to one predominantly based on historical simulation ('HS'), effective 3 May 2005. This latter calculation was introduced because it

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better captures the non-linear characteristics of certain market risk positions. HS uses scenarios derived from historical market rates, and takes account of the relationships between different markets and rates, for example, interest rates and foreign exchange rates. Movements in market prices are calculated by reference to market data from the last two years. The group has changed the assumed holding period from a 10-day period to a one-day period as this reflects the way the risk positions are managed. Comparative VAR numbers have been re-stated to reflect this change. Aggregation of VAR from different risk types is based upon the assumption of independence between risk types. In recognition of the inherent limitations of VAR methodology, stress testing is performed to assess the impact of extreme events on market risk exposures.

The group has obtained approval from the HKMA to change the VAR model from VCV to HS for calculating market risk in capital adequacy reporting and the HKMA has expressed itself satisfied with the group's market risk management process.

The group's VAR for all interest rate risk and foreign exchange risk positions and on individual risk portfolios during 2005 and 2004 are shown in the tables below. The VAR figures for 2005 are based on four months' VCV and eight months' HS.

VAR		Minimum	Maximum	Average
		during	during	for
		the	the	the
Figures in HK\$m		year	year	year
At31Dec05				
VAR for all interest rate risk and foreign exchange risk	113	111	264	181
VAR for foreign exchange risk (trading)	3	-	6	2
VAR for interest rate risk - trading	3	1	21	4
- non-trading	118	117	260	180
		Minimum	Maximum	Average
		during	during	for
		the	the	the
Figures in HK\$m		year	year	year
At31Dec04 (restated)				
VAR for all interest rate risk and foreign exchange risk	125	79	191	118
VAR for foreign exchange risk (trading)	1	-	18	11
VAR for interest rate risk - trading	1	-	5	1
- non-trading	125	77	191	117

The average daily revenue earned from market risk-related treasury activities in 2005, including non-trading book net interest income and funding related to dealing positions, was HK\$5 million (HK\$10 million for 2004). The standard deviation of these daily revenues was HK\$8 million (HK\$5 million for 2004). An analysis of the frequency distribution of daily revenues shows that out of 247

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trading days in 2005, losses were recorded on 15 days and the maximum daily loss was HK\$84 million. The most frequent result was a daily revenue of between HK\$2 million and HK\$6 million, with 127 occurrences. The highest daily revenue was HK\$23 million.

Interest rate risk arises in both the treasury dealing portfolio and accrual books, which are managed by Treasury under limits approved by the Board of Directors. The average daily revenue earned from treasury-related interest rate activities for 2005 was HK\$3 million (HK\$6 million for 2004).

The group's foreign exchange exposures mainly comprise foreign exchange dealing by Treasury and currency exposures originated by its banking business. The latter are transferred to Treasury where they are centrally managed within foreign exchange position limits approved by the Board of Directors. The average one-day foreign exchange profit for 2005 was HK\$2 million (HK\$4 million for 2004).

Structural foreign exchange positions arising from capital investment in subsidiaries and branches outside Hong Kong, mainly in US dollar and renminbi as set out in Note 5, are managed by the Asset and Liability Management Committee.

5. Foreign currency positions

Foreign currency exposures include those arising from dealing, non-dealing and structural positions. At 31 December 2005, the US dollar (US\$) was the only currency in which the group had a non-structural foreign currency position which exceeded 10 per cent of the total net position in all foreign currencies.

Figures in HK\$m	At31Dec05		At31Dec04	
	US\$	RMB	US\$	RMB
Non-structural position				
Spot assets	193,149	5,955	173,071	2,664
Spot liabilities	(168,513)	(6,008)	(171,698)	(2,400)
Forward purchases	84,026	439	68,726	207
Forward sales	(104,960)	(300)	(69,795)	(192)
Net options position	(77)	-	(37)	-
Net long non-structural position	3,625	86	267	279

At 31 December 2005, the group's major structural foreign currency positions were US dollar and renminbi.

	At31Dec05		At31Dec04	
	HK\$m	% of total net structural position	HK\$m	% of total net structural position
Structural positions				
US dollar	1,035	32.5	850	28.8
Renminbi	2,043	64.1	1,998	67.6

6. Ultimate holding company

Hang Seng Bank is an indirectly held, 62.14 per cent-owned subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc.

7. Register of shareholders

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The register of shareholders of Hang Seng Bank will be closed on Tuesday, 21 March 2006, during which no transfer of shares can be registered. In order to qualify for the fourth interim dividend, all transfers, accompanied by the relevant share certificates, must be lodged with the bank's registrars, Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited, Shops 1712-1716, 17th Floor, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong, for registration not later than 4:00 pm on Thursday, 16 March 2006. The fourth interim dividend will be payable on 31 March 2006 to shareholders on the register of shareholders of the bank on 21 March 2006.

8. Proposed timetable for 2006 quarterly dividends

	First interim dividend	Second interim dividend	Third interim dividend	Fourth interim dividend
Announcement	2 May 2006	31 July 2006	6 November 2006	5 March 2007
Book close date	26 May 2006	23 August 2006	20 December 2006	20 March 2007
Payment date	6 June 2006	31 August 2006	3 January 2007	30 March 2007

9. News release

Copies of this news release may be obtained from Legal and Company Secretarial Services Department, Level 10, 83 Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong; or from Hang Seng's website <http://www.hangseng.com>.

The 2005 Annual Report and Accounts will be available from the same website on Monday, 6 March 2006 and will also be published on the website of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited in due course. Printed copies of the 2005 Annual Report will be sent to shareholders in late March 2006.

Appendix

Significant change in accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants has issued a number of new and revised Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ('HKFRSs'), which is a collective term that includes all applicable individual Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards, Hong Kong Accounting Standards and Interpretations. These are effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005.

Hang Seng Bank Limited ('the bank') and its subsidiaries ('the group') have adopted these new HKFRSs in the financial statements in 2005 resulting in various changes in accounting policies.

Comparative figures have been restated to conform with the new accounting policies except for those that apply to financial instruments in accordance with HKAS 39. The policies applied to financial instruments for 2004 and 2005 are disclosed separately below.

The tables attached disclose the adjustments that have been made, in accordance with the transitional provisions of the respective HKFRSs, to each of the line items in the consolidated income statement for the year ended 31 December 2004 (Table A) and in the consolidated balance sheet at 31 December 2004 and the opening balances at 1 January 2005 (Table B).

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Significant changes in principal accounting policies are listed as follows:

HKFRS 2: Share-based payment ('HKFRS 2')

The group made awards of, and granted options in respect of, shares of HSBC Holdings plc, as part of employees' compensation.

In prior years, no compensation cost was recognised for share options granted at fair value or not more than 20 per cent discount to fair value. For share awards made to employees as part of their annual bonus, the cost for acquisition of shares for the conditional award was charged to 'staff cost' over the period in respect of which the performance condition applied.

With effect from 1 January 2005, and in accordance with HKFRS 2, the group has adopted a new policy for share-based payment. Under the new policy, where shares are awarded to an employee of the group as bonuses with a vesting period, the cost of shares awarded is amortised over the vesting period from the date the shares are awarded. Shares purchased for such purpose are classified as available-for-sale and reported under 'Financial investments'.

For share options, the compensation expense is spread over the vesting period from the date they are granted. The compensation expense is determined by reference to the fair value of the options on grant date, and the impact of any non-market vesting conditions such as option lapses. Where the group is not charged for this by HSBC Holdings plc, the corresponding amount is credited to 'Other reserves'.

The group has taken advantage of the transition provision in HKFRS 2 'Share-based payment' and applied the treatment described above to shares and options granted after 7 November 2002 which had not yet been vested at 1 January 2005.

The change in accounting policy has been applied retrospectively by way of prior year adjustment and restatement of comparative figures for 2004. The unamortised cost of share compensation of HK\$66 million at 31 December 2004 was adjusted to retained profits. Staff costs for 2004 have been restated to recognise share compensation cost of HK\$47 million. Share compensation cost amounting to HK\$64 million has been recognised in the current year's income statement.

HKFRS 3: Business combinations ('HKFRS 3')

Goodwill

In prior years, positive goodwill arising from the acquisition of subsidiary and associated companies was amortised over its estimated life, usually taken as 20 years, on a straight-line basis in the income statement.

With effect from 1 January 2005, and in accordance with HKFRS 3, the group has adopted a new policy for goodwill. Under the new policy, positive goodwill is not amortised but is tested for impairment at each balance sheet date at the cash-generating unit level by applying a fair-value-based test in accordance with HKAS 36 'Impairment of Assets'.

The accounting policy on goodwill has been applied retrospectively by way of prior year adjustment and restatement of comparative figures for 2004. The positive goodwill at 31 December 2004 has been restated to reverse all amortisation made prior to that date (HK\$9 million) with a corresponding adjustment through retained profit at 31 December 2004. No impairment loss has been recognised in the current year.

HKFRS 4: Insurance contracts ('HKFRS 4')

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In prior years, all policies issued by insurance subsidiaries on long-term assurance contracts were accounted for as insurance contracts.

With effect from 1 January 2005, and in accordance with HKFRS 4, a contract under which the group accepts significant insurance risk from another party, by agreeing to compensate that party on the occurrence of a specified uncertain future event, is classified as an insurance contract. Such an insurance contract, which may also transfer financial risk, is accounted for as an insurance contract in accordance with HKFRS 4.

Income generated from assets backing insurance contracts is reported in the income statement on a line-by-line basis according to the classification of assets. Claims incurred and movement in policyholder liabilities for insurance contracts are reported as such in the income statement.

A contract issued by the group that transfers financial risk, without significant insurance risk, is classified as an investment contract, and accounted for as a financial instrument in accordance with HKAS 39. Customer liabilities under unit-linked investment contracts and the linked financial assets are measured at fair value, and the movements in fair value are recognised in the income statement in 'Net income from financial instruments designated at fair value'.

The change in accounting policy on insurance contracts has been applied retrospectively by way of prior year adjustment and restatement of comparative figures for 2004.

Net increases/(decreases) in the outstanding balances on restatement of the balance sheet are as follows:

Figures in HK\$m	At 31Dec04
Liabilities and reserves	
Other liabilities	(905)
Liabilities to customers under insurance contracts	8,656
Liabilities to policyholders under long-term assurance business	(8,291)
Liabilities to customers under investment contracts	540
Retained profits	2
Other reserves	3

HKFRS 5: Non-current assets held for sale and discontinued operations ('HKFRS 5')

In prior years, collateral assets repossessed for recovery of non-performing advances were reported as advances. The carrying value was adjusted to the net realisable value of the repossessed assets and classified as non-performing advances.

With effect from 1 January 2005, and in accordance with HKFRS 5, non-current assets acquired in exchange for advances in order to achieve an orderly realisation are reported in 'Other assets'. The asset acquired is recorded at the lower of its fair value less costs to sell and the carrying value of the advance disposed of, net of impairment allowances, at the date of the exchange. No depreciation is provided in respect of such assets. Any subsequent write-down of an asset to fair value less costs to sell is recorded as an impairment loss and included in the income statement. Any subsequent increase in fair value less costs to sell not in excess of any cumulative impairment loss, is recognised as a gain in the income statement.

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Debt securities or equities acquired in debt-to-debt/equity swaps are included as 'Available-for-sale' securities following the implementation of HKAS 39.

The change in accounting policy has been applied retrospectively, with restatement of comparative figures for 2004. At 31 December 2004, repossessed assets of HK\$320 million were reclassified from 'Customer advances' to 'Non-current assets held for sale'. Gains on disposal of HK\$37 million in 2004 were re-classified from 'Net charge for bad and doubtful debts' to 'Other operating income'. Gains on disposal of HK\$1 million were recorded under 'Other operating income' for the current year income statement.

HKAS 17: Leases ('HKAS 17')

Leasehold land for own use

In prior years, leasehold premises were stated at fair market value, as valued by professionally qualified valuers. The apportionment of the value between the land and building elements was made by estimating the net replacement cost of the building as the value of the building element, and taking the residual figures as the value of the land element.

With effect from 1 January 2005, and in accordance with HKAS 17, the group has adopted a new policy for leasehold land and buildings held for own use. Under the new policy, the leasehold interest in the land held for own use is accounted for as being held under an operating lease. The fair value of the interest in any buildings situated on the leasehold land could be measured separately from the fair value of the leasehold interest in the land at the time the lease was first entered into by the group, or taken over from the previous lessee, or at the date of construction of those buildings. Lease premiums on operating leases are accounted for as prepaid rentals, reported under 'Interest in leasehold land held for own use under operating lease', and are amortised to the income statement on a straight-line basis over the remaining lease term. The property revaluation reserve has been restated to exclude prior years' revaluations on such leases. Where the original cost of leasehold land and buildings cannot be reliably split, both land and buildings are treated as being under finance leases and are accounted for at fair value less subsequent depreciation.

The change in accounting policy is adopted retrospectively and reflected by way of prior year adjustment and restatement of comparative figures.

Net increases/(decreases) in the outstanding balances on restatement of the balance sheet are as follows:

Figures in HK\$m	At 31Dec04
Assets	
Premises	(2,511)
Interest in leasehold land held for own use under operating lease	609
Liabilities and reserves	
Property revaluation reserve	(1,502)
Retained profits	(66)
Deferred tax liabilities	(334)

Increases/(decreases) in the following items on restatement of the income statement

Figures in HK\$m	Year ended 31Dec04
Depreciation	(52)
Rental expense	14
Net deficit of revaluation of properties (net of deferred tax)	2

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Rental expense on leasehold land for the year of 2005 amounted to HK\$15 million.

HKAS 19: Employee benefits ('HKAS 19')

In prior years, the group implemented HK SSAP 34 (which is materially equivalent to HKAS 19) in relation to the accounting for pensions, and adopted the corridor approach for the recognition of actuarial gains and losses.

With effect from 1 January 2005, and in accordance with HKAS 19, the group has changed its policy to fully recognise actuarial gains and losses in the statement of changes in equity.

To reflect the change in accounting policy, the balance of actuarial loss amounting to HK\$82 million has been adjusted through 'Retained profits' as at 31 December 2004. An actuarial gain of HK\$158 million for the year of 2005 has been recognised through retained profits.

HKAS 21: The effects of changes in foreign exchange rates ('HKAS 21')

In prior years, exchange differences arising from re-translation of the result for the period from the average rate to the exchange rate ruling at the period-end were accounted for as exchange difference under retained profits.

With effect from 1 January 2005, and in accordance with HKAS 21, exchange differences arising from the re-translation of opening foreign currency net investments and the related cost of hedging, if any, and exchange differences arising from re-translation of the result for the period from the average rate to the exchange rate ruling at the period-end, are accounted for in a separate foreign exchange reserve in equity. Exchange differences on a monetary item that is part of a net investment in a foreign operation are recognised in the income statement of separate subsidiary financial statements. In the consolidated financial statements, these exchange differences are recognised in the foreign exchange reserve.

To reflect the change in accounting policy, an amount of HK\$50 million has been reclassified from 'Retained profits' to 'Other reserves' in 2005.

HKAS 27: Consolidated and separate financial statements ('HKAS 27') HK(SIC) interpretation 12 'Consolidation - special purpose entities' ('HK(SIC)-Int 12')

Life insurance subsidiary

In prior years, on consolidation of the life insurance subsidiary, long-term assurance assets and liabilities attributable to policyholders were recognised in aggregate under 'Other assets' and 'Other liabilities' respectively. Income from long-term assurance assets was reported together with net earned insurance premiums, less net insurance claims and movement in policyholder liabilities, as 'Other operating income' in the income statement.

With effect from 1 January 2005, and in accordance with HKAS 27, life insurance subsidiary accounts are consolidated line-by-line. Assets of the life insurance subsidiary, including long-term assurance assets, are reported according to asset type as presented in the group's consolidated balance sheet. Net earned insurance premiums and net insurance claims are separately shown in the income statement, with income on assets reported under the same income categories as in the group's consolidated income statement.

The change in accounting policy has been adopted retrospectively and the comparative figures of 2004 have been restated to reflect the aforesaid

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reclassifications, except for the treatment of financial assets and the related income, in accordance with the requirement of HKAS 39 as described below.

HKAS 38: Intangible assets ('HKAS 38')

In prior years, costs incurred for development of IT software for internal use were expensed as incurred.

With effect from 1 January 2005, and in accordance with HKAS 38, the value of in-force long-term assurance business ('embedded value') and computer software are reported as 'Intangible assets'. Embedded value is stated at valuation determined annually in consultation with independent actuaries. Computer software is stated at cost less amortisation and is amortised over its useful life. Costs incurred in the development phase of a project to produce application software for internal use are capitalised and amortised over the software's estimated useful life, usually five years. A periodic review is performed on intangible assets to confirm that there has been no impairment such that the carrying value of the asset needs to be reduced.

The change in accounting policy came into effect on 1 January 2005 and the amount of costs capitalised for the year of 2005 amounted to HK\$56 million. No restatement of the 2004 income statement was made as the amount of software development cost qualifying for capitalisation in 2004 was immaterial.

HKAS 39: Financial instruments - recognition and measurement ('HKAS 39')

(a) Interest income and expense

In prior years, interest income and expense for all interest-bearing financial instruments were recognised in the income statement as they accrued, except in the case of impaired advances. Interest on impaired advances was credited to an interest suspense account in the balance sheet which was netted against the relevant loan.

With effect from 1 January 2005, and in accordance with HKAS 39, interest income and expense for all interest-bearing financial instruments, except 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 rates of the financial assets or financial liabilities to which they relate.

The effective interest rate is the rate that discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts through the expected life of the financial asset or financial liability or, where appropriate, a shorter period, to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability. When calculating the effective interest rate, the group estimates cash flows considering all contractual terms of the financial instrument but not future credit losses. The calculation includes all amounts paid or received by the group that are an integral part of the effective interest rate, transaction costs and all other premiums or discounts. Interest on impaired financial assets is recognised at the original effective interest rate of the financial asset applied to the impaired carrying amount.

(b) Loans and advances to banks and customers

In prior years, loans and advances to banks and customers were recognised when cash was advanced to borrowers and were measured at amortised cost less provisions for impairment.

With effect from 1 January 2005, and in accordance with HKAS 39, loans and advances to banks and customers include all loans and advances originated by the group which have not been classified as held for trading or designated at fair

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value. They are initially recorded at fair value plus any transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(c) Impairment of loans and advances

In prior years, there were two basic types of provisions, specific and general.

Specific provisions represented the quantification of actual and inherent losses from individually identified accounts and homogeneous portfolios of assets. Specific provisions were deducted from loans and advances in the balance sheet.

General provisions augmented specific provisions and provided cover for loans that were impaired at the balance sheet date but which would not be individually identified as such until some time in the future.

With effect from 1 January 2005, and in accordance with HKAS 39, the group provides allowances for impaired advances when objective evidence of impairment exists and on a consistent basis, in accordance with established guidelines. Impairment allowances, representing the quantification of incurred losses, can be made on a collective portfolio basis or an individually assessed basis. Impairment allowances are deducted from loans and advances in the balance sheet. The methodologies used for the individual and collective assessment under HKAS 39 are in principle consistent with the approach used for loan provisioning in the previous year.

(d) Financial instruments

In prior years, the group classified its financial instruments into 'Securities held for dealing purposes' and 'Long-term investments'. All financial instruments were carried at cost or amortised cost, net of impairment provisions for diminution in value, except for securities held for trading purposes and long-term equity investments which were carried at fair value. Gains and losses from changes in fair value were recognised in the income statement in respect of securities held for trading, and in the long-term equity investment revaluation reserve in respect of long-term equity investments.

With effect from 1 January 2005 and in accordance with HKAS 39, financial instruments are classified into the categories of: trading assets and liabilities, financial instruments designated at fair value, available-for-sale and held-to-maturity securities.

(i) Trading assets and trading liabilities

Financial instruments and short positions thereof, which have been acquired or incurred principally for the purpose of selling or repurchasing in the near term, or are part of a portfolio of identified financial instruments that are managed together and for which there is evidence of a recent actual pattern of short-term profit-taking, are classified as held-for-trading. Trading assets and liabilities are recognised initially at fair value, with transaction costs taken to the income statement, and are subsequently re-measured at fair value. All subsequent gains and losses from changes in the fair value of these assets and liabilities, together with related interest income and expense and dividends, are recognised in the income statement within 'Net trading income' as they arise. Upon disposal or repurchase, the difference between the net sale proceeds or the net payment and the carrying value is included in the income statement.

(ii) Financial instruments designated at fair value

A financial instrument, other than one held for trading, is classified in this category if it meets the criteria set out below, and is so designated by management. The group may designate financial instruments at fair value where the designation:

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- eliminates or significantly reduces a measurement or recognition inconsistency that would otherwise arise from measuring financial assets or financial liabilities or recognising the gains and losses on them on different bases; or
- applies to a group of financial assets, financial liabilities or both that is managed and its performance evaluated on a fair value basis, in accordance with a documented risk management or investment strategy, and where information about that group of financial instruments is provided internally on that basis to key management personnel; or
- relates to financial instruments containing one or more embedded derivatives that significantly modify the cash flows resulting from those financial instruments.

Financial assets and financial liabilities so designated are recognised initially at fair value, with transaction costs taken directly to the income statement, and are subsequently remeasured at fair value. This designation, once made, is irrevocable in respect of the financial instruments to which it is made.

Gains and losses from changes in the fair value of such assets and liabilities are recognised in the income statement as they arise, together with related interest income and expense and dividends, within 'Net income from financial instruments designated at fair value'.

Gains and losses arising from the changes in fair value of derivatives that are managed in conjunction with financial assets or financial liabilities designated at fair value are also included in 'Net income from financial instruments designated at fair value'.

(iii) Available-for-sale and held-to-maturity securities

Financial instruments intended to be held on a continuing basis are classified as available-for-sale securities, unless designated at fair value, or classified as held-to-maturity.

Available-for-sale securities are initially measured at fair value plus direct and incremental transaction costs. They are subsequently re-measured at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognised in equity until the securities are either sold or impaired. On the sale of available-for-sale securities, cumulative gains or losses previously recognised in equity are recognised through the income statement and classified as 'Profit and loss on disposal of fixed assets and financial investments'. Impairment allowances recognised in the income statement on equity instrument are not reversed through the income statement.

Held-to-maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturities that the group has the positive intention and ability to hold until maturity. Held-to-maturity investments are initially recorded at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less any impairment allowances.

(e) Derivative financial instruments and hedge accounting

In prior years, accounting for derivatives was dependent upon whether the transactions were undertaken for trading or non-trading purposes. Trading transactions included transactions undertaken for market-making, to service customers' needs, and for proprietary purposes, together with any related hedges. Transactions were marked to market through the income statement as 'Net trading income'. Non-trading transactions were those undertaken for hedging

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purposes as part of the group's risk management strategy against cash flows, assets, liabilities or net positions, and were accounted for on an equivalent basis to the underlying assets, liabilities or net positions. The income and expense of non-trading interest rate derivatives was recognised on an accrual basis in 'Net interest income'.

With effect from 1 January 2005, and in accordance with HKAS 39, derivatives are initially recognised at fair value from the date a derivative contract is entered into, and are subsequently re-measured at their fair value. The method of recognising the resulting fair value gain or loss depends on whether the derivative is designated as a hedging instrument, and if so, the nature of the item being hedged. The group designates certain derivatives as either: (i) hedges of the fair value of recognised assets or liabilities or firm commitments (fair value hedge); (ii) hedges of highly probable future cash flows attributable to a recognised asset or liability, or a forecast transaction (cash flow hedge). Hedge accounting is applied for derivatives designated as fair value or cash flow hedge, provided certain criteria are met.

Fair value hedge

Changes in the fair value of derivatives that are designated and qualified as fair value hedges are recorded as 'Net trading income' in the income statement, together with any changes in the fair value of the hedged asset or liability that are attributable to the hedged risk. If the hedge no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting, the adjustment to the carrying amount of a hedged item for which the effective interest method is used shall be amortised to the income statement over the period to maturity.

Cash flow hedges

The effective portion of changes in the fair value of derivatives (net of interest accrual) that are designated and qualified as cash flow hedges is recognised in shareholders' equity. The gain or loss relating to the ineffective portion is recognised immediately in the income statement within 'Net trading income' along with accrued interest.

Amounts accumulated in shareholders' equity are recycled through the income statement in the periods in which the hedged item will affect profit or loss.

When a hedging instrument expires or is sold, or when a hedge no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting, any cumulative gain or loss existing in shareholders' equity at that time remains in shareholders' equity and is recognised when the forecast transaction is ultimately recognised in the income statement. When a forecast transaction is no longer expected to occur, the cumulative gain or loss that was reported in shareholders' equity is immediately transferred to the income statement.

Derivatives that do not qualify for hedge accounting

All gains and losses from changes in the fair value of any derivative instrument that does not qualify for hedge accounting, are recognised immediately in the income statement and reported in 'Net trading income', except where derivative contracts are used with financial instruments designated at fair value, in which case gains and losses are reported in 'Net income from financial instruments designated at fair value'.

Embedded derivatives

Certain derivatives embedded in other financial instruments, such as the conversion option in a convertible bond, are treated as separate derivatives when their economic characteristics and risks are not clearly and closely related to those of host contract, the terms of the embedded derivative are the

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same as those of stand-alone derivative, and the combined contract is not designated at fair value. These embedded derivatives are measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in the income statement.

(f) Debt securities in issue and subordinated liabilities

In prior years, debt securities in issue were measured at cost adjusted for amortised premiums and discounts, and were reported under 'Debt securities in issue'.

With effect from 1 January 2005, and in accordance with HKAS 39, debt securities issued and subordinated liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, and are reported under 'Debt securities in issue' or 'Subordinated liabilities', except for those issued for trading or designated at fair value, which are carried at fair value and reported under the respective balance sheet captions of 'Trading liabilities' and 'Financial liabilities designated at fair value'.

(g) Offsetting financial instruments

In prior years, netting was applied where a legal right of set-off existed.

With effect from 1 January 2005, and in accordance with HKAS 39, financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount 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 change in accounting policies on adoption of HKAS 39 is applied with effect from 1 January 2005. The opening balance sheet has been restated and the relevant financial assets and liabilities re-classified to suit the new definitions and requirements of the accounting standard and disclosure requirements.

HKAS 40: Investment property ('HKAS 40')

HKAS 12: Income taxes - HK(SIC) interpretation 21 'Income taxes - recovery of revalued non-depreciable assets' ('HK(SIC)-Int 21')

In prior years, investment properties were carried at valuation assessed by professional valuers on the basis of open market value. Surpluses arising on revaluation on a portfolio basis were credited to the investment property revaluation reserve. Deficits arising on revaluation on a portfolio basis were firstly set off against any previous revaluation surplus and thereafter taken to the income statement.

With effect from 1 January 2005, and in accordance with HKAS 40, investment properties are carried at fair value with the changes in fair value reported directly in the income statement 'Net surplus on property revaluation'. Deferred tax is provided on revaluation surplus of investment properties in accordance with HK(SIC)-Int 21 on HKAS 12.

The change in accounting policy has been reflected by way of prior year adjustment and as permitted by HKAS 40, no restatement of comparative figures of 2004 has been made. At 31 December 2004, the balance of investment revaluation surplus reserves of HK\$3,283 million, after deducting deferred tax of HK\$574 million, was transferred to retained profit. The revaluation gain for the year of 2005 was HK\$1,296 million and the related deferred tax amounted to HK\$227 million.

Change in presentation (HKAS 1, Presentation of financial statement ('HKAS 1') and HKAS 30, Disclosure in financial statements of banks and similar financial institutions ('HKAS 30'))

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In prior years, there were no specific accounting standards governing the presentation of the financial statements of banks. Management, having regard to the overall clarity and the disclosure requirements of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, exercised its judgement in deciding on the relative prominence given to each item presented on the face of the income statement and balance sheets.

With effect from 1 January 2005, and in accordance with HKAS 1 and HKAS 30, the group has changed its presentation of certain items on the face of the income statement and the balance sheets:

- share of profit of associates is stated net of tax to arrive at the group's profit and loss before tax.
- treasury bills (including exchange fund bills) and certificates of deposit held are included in the respective categories of financial instruments under HKAS 39.
- placements with banks and other financial institutions maturing within one month are included in placements with banks and other financial institutions.
- interest income, interest expense, and dividend income arising from trading assets and trading liabilities are reclassified from 'Interest income', 'Interest expense', 'Other operating income' and 'Fee and commission' respectively to 'Net trading income'. Similar income and expenses arising from financial instruments designated at fair value are reclassified from the relevant captions to 'Net income from financial instruments designated at fair value'.

These changes in presentation have been applied retrospectively except for those under HKAS 39.

Table A

Hang Seng Bank and its subsidiaries
Consolidated income statement for the year ended 31 December 2004

Effect of changes in accounting policies for 2004

Figures in HK\$m	As reported	HKFRS2	HKAS17	HKAS38	Others^	Change in presentation HKAS27/ HKAS30	Restated
Interest income	12,471	-	-	-	5	306	12,782
Interest expense	(2,781)	-	-	-	-	4	(2,777)
Net interest income	9,690	-	-	-	5	310	10,005
Fee income	3,749	-	-	-	(19)	111	3,841
Fee expense	(409)	-	-	-	(1)	(6)	(416)
Net fee income	3,340	-	-	-	(20)	105	3,425
Dealing profits	1,025	-	-	-	-	(1,025)	-
Net trading income	-	-	-	-	(16)	1,129	1,113
Insurance underwriting profits	1,310	-	-	-	-	(1,310)	-
Dividend income	96	-	-	-	(22)	15	89
Net earned insurance							

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premiums	-	-	-	-	(52)	4,472	4,420
Other operating income	592	-	-	-	37	144	773
Total operating income	16,053	-	-	-	(68)	3,840	19,825
Net insurance claims incurred and movement in policyholder liabilities	-	-	-	-	68	(3,840)	(3,772)
Net operating income before loan impairment (charges)/releases and other credit risk provisions	16,053	-	-	-	-	-	16,053
Loan impairment (charges)/releases and other credit risk provisions	814	-	-	-	(37)	-	777
Net operating income	16,867	-	-	-	(37)	-	16,830
Employee compensation and benefits	(2,187)	(47)	-	-	-	-	(2,234)
General and administrative expenses	-	-	(15)	-	-	(1,719)	(1,734)
Depreciation of premises, plant and equipment	(317)	-	53	8	-	-	(256)
Amortisation of intangible assets	-	-	-	(8)	-	-	(8)
Operating expenses	(1,719)	-	-	-	-	1,719	-
Total operating expenses	(4,223)	(47)	38	-	-	-	(4,232)
Operating profit	12,644	(47)	38	-	(37)	-	12,598
Profit on disposal of fixed assets and financial investments	432	-	-	-	10	-	442
Net surplus on property revaluation	148	-	(2)	-	-	-	146
Share of profits from associates	143	-	-	-	9	(55)	97
Profit before tax	13,367	(47)	36	-	(18)	(55)	13,283
Tax expenses	(1,764)	-	(5)	-	3	55	(1,711)
Profit for the year	11,603	(47)	31	-	(15)	-	11,572
Profit attributable to minority interests	(208)	-	-	-	-	-	(208)
Profit attributable to shareholders	11,395	(47)	31	-	(15)	-	11,364

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^Others includes HKFRS 3, HKFRS 4, HKFRS 5, HKAS 19 and others.

Table B

Hang Seng Bank and its subsidiaries
Consolidated balance sheet as at 31 December 2004

Effect of changes in accounting policies for the balances at 31 December 2004

Figures in HK\$m	As reported	HKFRS2	HKAS17	HKAS38	HKAS40/ HKAS-Int21	Others^	Change in presentation HKAS27/ HKAS30	Restated
Assets								
Cash and short-term funds	68,198	-	-	-	-	-	(68,198)	-
Cash and balances with banks and other financial institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,248	7,248
Placings with banks maturing after one month	16,231	-	-	-	-	-	(16,231)	-
Placings with and advances to banks and other financial institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	75,079	75,079
Certificates of deposit	33,590	-	-	-	-	-	(33,590)	-
Securities held for dealing purposes	1,866	-	-	-	-	-	(1,866)	-
Trading assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,232	4,232
Financial assets designated at fair value	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derivative financial instruments	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,684	1,684
Advances to customers	251,873	-	-	-	-	(320)	-	251,553
Amounts due from immediate holding company and fellow subsidiaries	4,598	-	-	-	-	-	(4,598)	-

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Long-term investments	138,025	-	-	-	-	-	(138,025)	-
Financial investments	-	-	-	-	-	(36)	184,742	184,706
Investments in associates	2,397	-	-	-	(107)	9	-	2,299
Tangible fixed assets	11,469	-	-	-	-	-	(11,469)	-
Investment properties	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,383	3,383
Premises, plant and equipment	-	-	(2,511)	(17)	-	-	8,086	5,558
Interest in leasehold land held for own use under operating lease	-	-	609	-	-	-	-	609
Intangible assets	-	-	-	17	-	-	1,249	1,266
Others assets	20,378	-	-	-	-	174	(11,222)	9,330
	548,625	-	(1,902)	-	(107)	(173)	504	546,947
Liabilities								
Current, savings and other deposit accounts	463,416	-	-	-	-	-	(15,956)	447,460
Deposits from banks	8,631	-	-	-	-	-	3,303	11,934
Trading liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,840	5,840
Derivative financial instruments	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,273	1,273
Certificates of deposit and other debt securities in issue	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,055	16,055
Amounts due to immediate holding company and fellow subsidiaries	3,928	-	-	-	-	-	(3,928)	-
Other liabilities	28,613	-	-	-	-	(9,235)	(7,638)	11,740
Liabilities to customers under investment contracts	-	-	-	-	-	540	-	540
Liabilities to customers under insurance contracts	-	-	-	-	-	8,656	-	8,656

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Deferred tax and current tax liabilities	-	-	(333)	-	467	(21)	1,555	1,668
	504,588	-	(333)	-	467	(60)	504	505,166
Capital resources								
Minority interests	852	-	-	-	-	-	-	852
Share capital	9,559	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,559
Retained profits	21,395	(66)	(66)	-	2,709	(116)	-	23,856
Other reserves	8,598	66	(1,503)	-	(3,283)	3	-	3,881
Proposed dividends	3,633	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,633
Shareholders' funds	43,185	-	(1,569)	-	(574)	(113)	-	40,929
	44,037	-	(1,569)	-	(574)	(113)	-	41,781
	548,625	-	(1,902)	-	(107)	(173)	504	546,947

^Others includes HKFRS 3, HKFRS 4, HKFRS 5, HKAS 19 and others.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

HSBC Holdings plc

By:
Name: P A Stafford
Title: Assistant Group Secretary
Date: 06 March 2006