

A Steady Take-off in 2025: Poised for New Opportunities Ahead

CMU

A Steady Take-off in 2025: Poised for New Opportunities Ahead

Highlight of Q1 2025

Expansion of CMU Membership Eligibility

The membership eligibility of the Central Moneymarkets Unit (CMU) was expanded to include legally incorporated entities outside Hong Kong, in addition to regulated financial institutions in Hong Kong.

Under [the updated admission policy](#) released on 25 March 2025, eligible institutions, such as financial institutions regulated or supervised by a recognised authority outside Hong Kong, sovereigns and supranational institutions, can now apply for CMU membership to directly access CMU services.

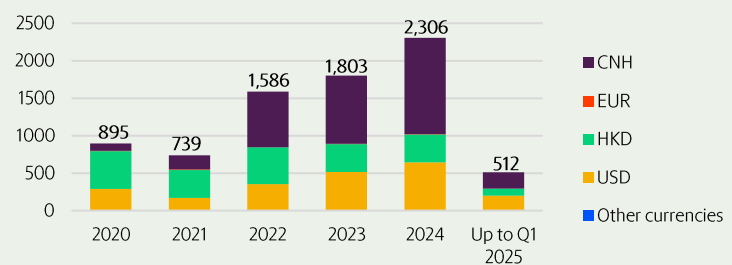
Growth in Primary Issuance Continued

Sustaining the robust growth trend, the total number of new issues lodged with the CMU, excluding Exchange Fund Bills and Notes (EFBN) and Government Bonds (GB), reached 512 in Q1 2025 with total size of HK\$ 389.5bn equivalent, representing a year-on-year increase of 14%.

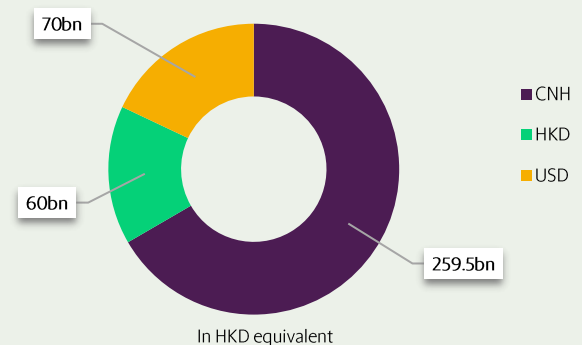
Among the new issues so far in 2025, the total issue size of debt securities denominated in non-Hong Kong dollar (non-HKD) climbed to HK\$ 329.5bn equivalent with a 16% year-on-year increase, accounting for 85% of the total new issues in Q1 2025. Dim sum bonds, which accounted for 79%, remained the most popular type of securities among the non-HKD issues, with total size of HK\$ 259.5bn equivalent.

The most significant growth was recorded in US dollar (USD) bond issuance, which grew 34% from the same period last year in terms of value, reaching HK\$ 70bn equivalent.

Number of New Debt Securities Issuance in CMU (excluding EFBN & GB)



Total Issue Size of New Debt Securities in CMU in Q1 2025 (excluding EFBN & GB)



CMU

A Steady Take-off in 2025: Poised for New Opportunities Ahead

Tendering Service

In Q1 2025, a total size of RMB 140bn and HK\$ 7.5bn debt securities were issued through the CMU tendering platform, in the following breakdown:

- A total size of RMB 12.5bn sovereign bonds issued by the Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China (CMOF)
- A total size of RMB 120bn bills issued by the People's Bank of China (PBoC)
- A total size of HK\$ 7.5bn and RMB 7.5bn bonds issued by the HKSAR Government

AUC on the Rise

By the end of March 2025, the total assets under custody (AUC) of the CMU continued to expand and reached HK\$ 4.9trn equivalent. Among all, the outstanding value of debt securities lodged with the CMU stood at HK\$ 3.6trn equivalent. A 16% increase was recorded when compared to the same period last year. The total number of outstanding debt securities lodged with the CMU, excluding EFBN and GB, reached 2,394, with a 9% year-on-year growth.

Record-breaking HKD Bond Issued by AIIB via CMU

In February 2025, the CMU supported the issuance of a 3-year sustainable development bond by the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) with issue size of HK\$ 4bn. This marked the first HKD public bond issued by an international issuer, as well as the largest HKD bond issuance by a supranational institution.

The bond issuance demonstrated the international recognition of the CMU's issuance services, further strengthening the CMU's role as a super-connector uniting global market participants. The CMU will continue to facilitate the development of Hong Kong's bond market.

Continued Support in Digital Bond Issuance

The CMU has been supporting the development of the digital bond market in Hong Kong, facilitating digital bond issuances by various types of issuers. In January 2025, the CMU supported the Bank of Communications Co., Ltd. Hong Kong Branch to issue their 3-year digitally native notes with issue size of US\$ 300mn in Hong Kong.

These notes were the first digitally native notes issued in a floating rate format and the first digitally native notes adopting a conventional bond execution style.

CMU

A Steady Take-off in 2025: Poised for New Opportunities Ahead

Northbound and Southbound Bond Connect Activities Remained Active

Under Northbound Trading, by the end of March 2025, the number of approved overseas investors increased to 831, representing over 70 countries and jurisdictions. In March 2025, the monthly trading volume was RMB 998.5bn¹, accounting for 57% of total overseas investors' CIBM trading value.

For Southbound Trading, the activities under the CSD-CSD settlement route remained active in Q1 2025. The number of transactions in March 2025 was 244 and the total number of transactions in Q1 2025 stood at 586, reaching HK\$ 129.5bn equivalent.

Recent Enhancements of Bond Connect Services

Several new policy measures related to the Bond Connect scheme were jointly announced by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) and the PBoC during Q1 2025, aimed at enhancing financial market connectivity between Hong Kong and the Mainland. The CMU has delightedly introduced the following service enhancements:

- Upgraded Triparty Repo Service by supporting Northbound Bond Connect participants to use onshore bonds held under Northbound Bond Connect as collateral to conduct offshore renminbi (RMB) bond repurchase (repo) business in Hong Kong;
- Support for the expanded use of onshore bonds issued by CMOF and Mainland policy banks held under Northbound Bond Connect as eligible margin collateral for all derivative transactions, in addition to Swap Connect transactions, at OTC Clearing Hong Kong Limited; and
- Expansion of Southbound Bond Connect services, including the support for the settlement of CMU debt securities denominated in USD and euro (EUR), and the extension of cut-off time.

By introducing these enhancements, the CMU will further support Hong Kong to solidify its role as the global hub for offshore RMB business.

Successful Launch of Direct Linkage Between CMU and CSD of Macao

The direct linkage between the CMU and the central securities depository (CSD) operated by Macao Central Securities Depository and Clearing Limited (MCSL) was successfully launched on 21 January 2025.

On the first day of the launch, through the direct linkage, four RMB and USD denominated bonds issued in Macao, with total issuance size of MOP 3.2bn equivalent, were successfully settled by CMU Members in Hong Kong. Besides, a total of 18 transactions on debt securities lodged with the CMU and the CSD in Macao were successfully completed by members from both CSDs utilising the direct linkage.

CMU Members interested in subscribing the MCSL Linkage Service may refer to the [member circular \(Cir202503\)](#) dated 16 January 2025 for more information.



Mr Howard Lee, Deputy Chief Executive of the HKMA and Mr Stanley Chan, Chief Executive Officer of CMU OmniClear attended the business launch ceremony.

¹ Source: Bond Connect Company Limited (BCCL)

CMU

A Steady Take-off in 2025: Poised for New Opportunities Ahead

Expansion of Income Re-Distribution Service

Following the enhancement of the CMU's operational support for RMB to facilitate the late payment for income redistribution last year, the CMU has expanded its Income Re-Distribution Service from existing supported currency RMB to the other three currencies, i.e. HKD, USD and EUR, with effect from 14 January 2025.

Please refer to the [member circular \(Cir202502\)](#) issued on 14 January 2025 for more information.

Update on ISO 2002 Migration of CMU Linkage Money Messages

The migration of the CMU Linkage Money Messages from ISO 15022 (MT) to ISO 2002 (MX) format is scheduled for production on 22 November 2025.

The latest SWIFT Message Format Specifications in MX format, which will be effective from 22 November 2025 for CMU Linkage Money instructions, settlement advices, and reporting statements between CMU Participants and the CMU, are now available on the [CMU OmniClear Website](#).

CMU OmniClear Joined as PASLA Member

CMU OmniClear became a member of the Pan Asia Securities Lending Association (PASLA) since March 2025. CMU OmniClear looks forward to fostering closer relationships with the industry across the region.

Strengthened Cooperation between CMU OmniClear and HKEX

In March 2025, CMU OmniClear signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) on enhancing the post-trade securities infrastructure of Hong Kong's capital markets.

This deepening cooperation between CMU OmniClear and HKEX signified an important milestone for the development of Hong Kong's capital markets, driving greater efficiencies for market participants.



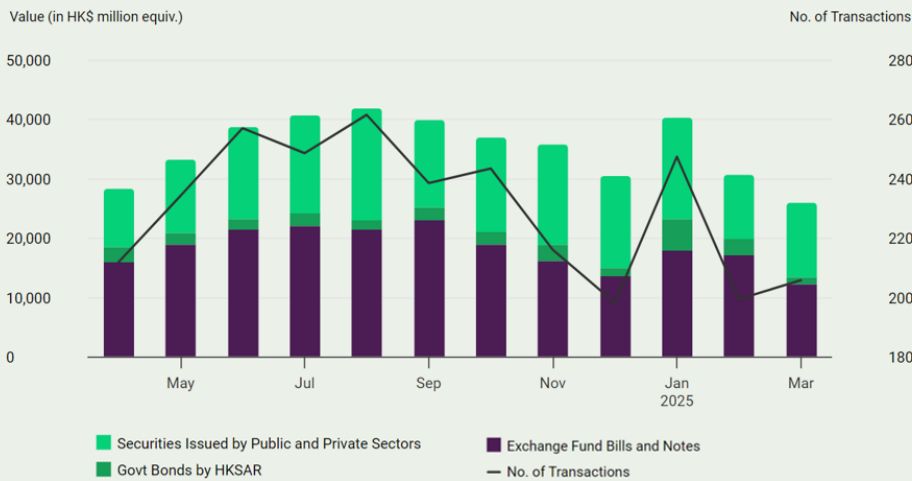
CMU OmniClear and HKEX signed MOU on enhancing post-trade securities infrastructure of Hong Kong's capital markets.

Welcome on Board — GFHK

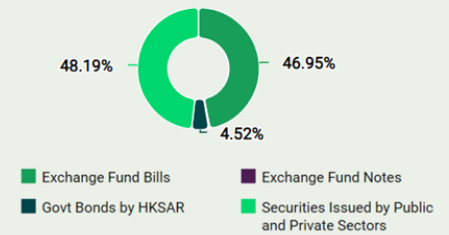
CMU OmniClear welcomes GF Securities (Hong Kong) Brokerage Limited (GFHK) onboarded as a CMU Member in March 2025. The total number of CMU Members is 210 by the end of March 2025.

CMU CMU Statistics

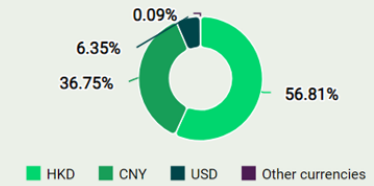
CMU Average Daily Turnover (as of March 2025)



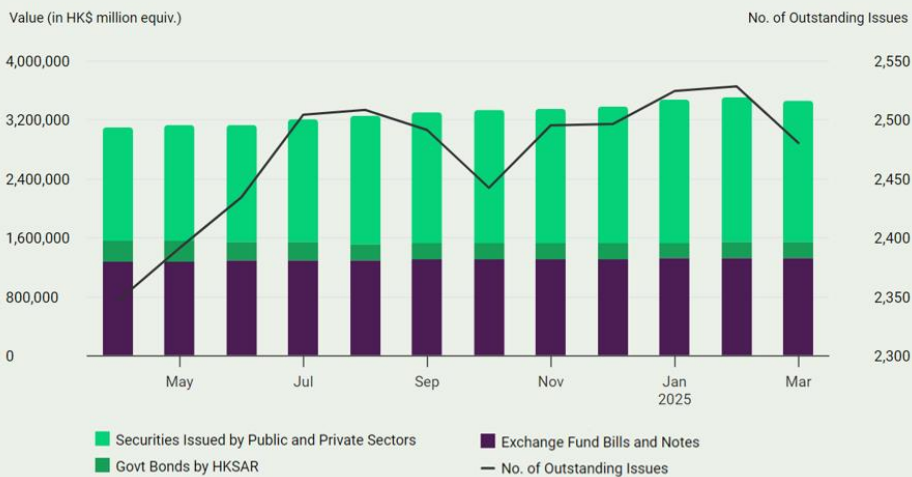
Securities Type (in Turnover Value)



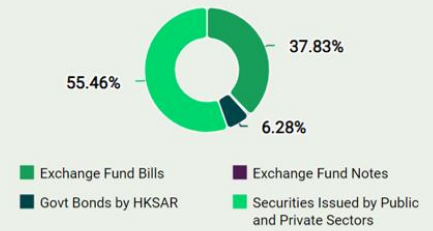
Currency (in Turnover Value)



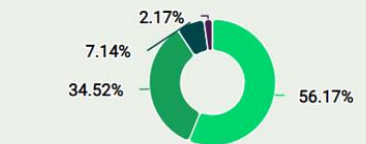
Outstanding Issues of Securities Lodged with CMU (as of March 2025)



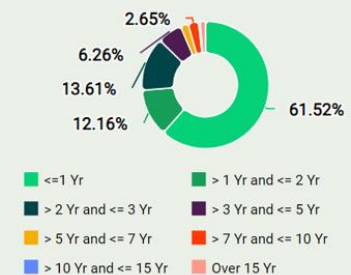
Securities Type (in Outstanding Amount)



Currency (in Outstanding Amount)



Tenor (in Outstanding Amount)



CMU

A Steady Take-off in 2025: Poised for New Opportunities Ahead



One Circle,
Global Reach.

CMU OmniClear Limited

(852) 2597 0971
cmumarketing@hkma.gov.hk
www.CMUOmniClear.com



Website



LinkedIn

Disclaimer

The Information contained in the CMU Newsletter is provided on an "AS IS" basis and for reference only. Nothing on the Newsletter constitutes legal, financial or other professional advice. You should conduct your own enquiries to verify the Information before using it and seek professional advice as you consider necessary. Neither the CMU OmniClear Limited nor the HKMA shall be liable for any errors, omissions, misstatements or misrepresentations (express or implied) concerning any Information or any aspect of the CMU Newsletter. Neither the CMU OmniClear Limited nor the HKMA shall have or accept any liability, obligation or responsibility whatsoever for any Loss howsoever arising from or in respect of any use or misuse of or reliance on the Information.