

## Hong Kong & Mainland China News – Mar-2026

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### **HK to enhance tax regime for funds and family offices, Hui says**

by [www.thestandard.com.hk](http://www.thestandard.com.hk)

Mar 02, 2026

Hong Kong will roll out a series of measures to enhance the preferential tax regime for funds and family offices in a bid to attract them to establish a presence in the city, Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui Ching-yu said.

Tax treatment is often a key consideration when funds and family offices decide where to set up, Hui said during a LegCo meeting on Monday.

To further enhance the attractiveness and competitiveness of Hong Kong's preferential tax regime, the government has proposed improvements, including:

- broadening the definition of funds to cover retirement funds, endowment funds and certain single-investor funds;
- expanding the scope of qualifying investments;
- relaxing tax exemption arrangements for specified entities;
- relaxing the anti-avoidance provisions under the unified funds exemption regime
- enhancing the tax concession arrangements for carried interest.
- introducing a tax reporting mechanism to ensure effective regulation.

The government will introduce substance requirements similar to those under the tax concession regime for family-owned investment holding vehicles for the unified funds exemption regime. They include having at least two qualified employees and spending HK\$2 million on operations in Hong Kong each year, Hui said.

In addition, a tax reporting mechanism is proposed to ensure effective regulation and compliance with international standards on tax transparency, he said.

Hui believes the proposed enhancements will attract more funds and family offices to establish and operate in the SAR, creating new business opportunities for the city's asset and wealth management industry and reinforcing the city's position as a leading asset and wealth management hub.

The government aims to introduce an amendment bill into the Legislative Council in the first half of 2026, he said.

## **China's factory activity expands at quickest pace in over 5 years, private PMI shows**

by [www.thestandard.com.hk](http://www.thestandard.com.hk)

Mar 04, 2026

China's factory activity in February expanded at the fastest pace since December 2020, driven by robust demand that helped lift manufacturers' confidence, a private-sector survey showed on Wednesday.

The RatingDog China General Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global, rose to 52.1 in February from 50.3 in January, easily beating analysts' forecasts of 50.2 and marking the highest level in over five years. The 50-mark separates growth from contraction.

The result contrasted with an official survey released earlier in the day that showed factory activity shrank for the second consecutive month in February.

Analysts say differences in survey coverage and respondent profiles often contribute to divergent readings.

Demand for Chinese manufactured goods strengthened in February, the private survey showed, with the volume of new orders rising for the ninth successive month and at the quickest rate since December 2020. That lifted output growth to the strongest recorded since June 2024.

Overseas demand picked up notably, with new export orders rising at the most pronounced pace since September 2020.

An outdoor furniture seller based in eastern China said on the condition of anonymity that due to improvement in supply chain and overseas warehouses, their orders rose 30%-40% in January from a year earlier, while February orders kept growing.

The manufacturing PMI is expected to maintain a moderate expansionary trend in the short term, said Yao Yu, founder of RatingDog.

"Looking ahead, the sustainability of this momentum depends on persistent demand and whether confidence translates into more active hiring and investment."

Economists say China will benefit from the US Supreme Court ruling against President Donald Trump's emergency tariffs that were imposed last year, as the narrowing of the tariff gap with other countries can give it some advantages.

The US Trade Representative's office said on Monday the country will seek to manage bilateral trade with China for better balance and fairness and monitor Beijing's compliance with a trade truce reached last year.

Chinese manufacturers were more optimistic about their future output in February, with overall sentiment the highest in 11 months, the S&P survey showed.

Although backlogs rose in February when many factories send workers back home for the Chinese New Year, manufacturers remained cautious in hiring. Employment rose only fractionally for the second month, but this marked the first consecutive increase since mid-2021.

Stronger demand conditions led manufacturers to step up their purchasing operations, with cost pressures intensifying. The overall rate of input price inflation accelerated to the highest since June 2022, with metal prices highlighted by respondents in particular.

Manufacturers hence raised their output prices for the second month and the rate of charge inflation picked up to a 15-month high.

China will unveil key economic targets for 2026 at the annual parliamentary meeting which will kick off on Thursday. Markets are also watching the release of the next Five-Year Plan report covering the country's economic development, tech innovation and green transition directions.

Reuters

## **China sets 2026 GDP growth target of 4.5-5pc**

by [www.rthk.hk](http://www.rthk.hk)  
Mar 05, 2026

China has set an economic growth target of 4.5 percent to 5 percent for 2026, according to a government work report delivered by Premier Li Qiang at the start of the annual National People's Congress on Thursday.

The report also said Beijing "will strive for better in practice".

Among the other targets this year are a surveyed urban unemployment rate of around 5.5 percent, an inflation rate of 2 percent, growth in personal income in step with economic growth, and a 3.8 percent drop in carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP.

Premier Li also said Beijing will continue to implement a more proactive fiscal policy in 2026 and boost government spending, with the deficit-to-GDP ratio set at around 4 percent.

The report also said the world's second-largest economy proved remarkably resilient over the past year, with GDP exceeding 140 trillion yuan.

"What we achieved in 2025 was indeed hard won," Li said.

"Rarely in many years have we encountered such a grave and complex landscape where external shocks and challenges were intertwined with domestic difficulties and tough policy choices.

"We've prepared for the worst-case scenario, striving for the best.

"Not only did we maintain overall macroeconomic stability and secure new advances in high quality development, we also significantly bolstered morale and confidence across society."

China posted GDP growth of 5 percent in 2024 and 2025.

## **Wealth of opportunities for HK to be family office hub**

by rthk.hk

Mar 12, 2026

Hong Kong's forward-looking policies, stability and backing from national authorities are transforming the city into a premier global hub for family offices amid rising geopolitical risks, Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui said on Thursday.

Writing on his official blog, Hui also announced the fourth annual edition of the Wealth for Good in Hong Kong Summit would be held on March 23 and 24 and that the theme would be "Building Lasting Legacies".

The event is a flagship wealth summit in the city that brings together the global heads of ultra-rich family offices and their advisers.

There has been a massive wave of wealth transition across generations just as the scale of family offices has grown in the SAR, Hui noted.

The city is becoming more appealing as a safe harbour for family offices and investors, who are re-evaluating their portfolios amid the intensifying geopolitical uncertainties, with a shift of their assets to the SAR becoming a rising trend, he added.

"Amid the major transformation, the policy foresight and institutional stability of Hong Kong are becoming more precious – no risk of war, free flow of funds, a deep and stable capital market, as well as a well-established regulatory framework, coupled with long-term planning that is closely integrated with national development," Hui said.

"All these are making Hong Kong the preferred option for global high-net-worth individuals and family offices to reallocate their assets."

The upcoming summit, he said, will focus on three areas: wealth management, cultural values as well as intelligent technological innovation.

Several top private wealth management decision-makers as well as family heirs will also delve into such topics as impact investing, family governance and philanthropy.

A group of humanoid robots would kick off the summit with a performance, showcasing the rapid development of domestic technology, Hui said.

His remarks came as the number of single-family offices in the SAR rose 25 percent over two years to 3,384 by the end of last year, with half of them having assets worth over US\$51 million.

Artificial intelligence, embodied intelligence, as well as biological research are leading a new round of technological revolution, opening up new investment opportunities for global family capital, Hui said, adding that the city is striving to becoming a global hub for AI technology with the launch of its "AI Plus" initiatives.

*Edited by Thomas McAlinden*

## **HK 'has unique role in nation's five-year plan'**

by rthk.hk

Mar 21, 2026

Lawmakers and legal representatives said on Saturday that the nation's 15th Five-Year Plan would allow Hong Kong to achieve success, undergo economic transformation and further integrate into the country's development.

Speaking at an event co-hosted by the Hong Kong Basic Law Education Association, Hong Kong Association for External Friendship, Association of Hong Kong Professionals, International Academy of the Belt and Road, and Hong Kong WTO Research Institute, Roden Tong, who chairs the Law Society, said the SAR serves as an important asset for the nation with its legal status.

"We are the only common law jurisdiction in the country and the only bilingual common law jurisdiction in the world, operating in both Chinese and English," he said.

"This enables Hong Kong to provide internationally trusted legal and dispute resolution services that connect China with the rest of the world."

Tong said the SAR can provide high-quality services in areas such as cross-border finance, corporate compliance, arbitration, mediation and more.

Lawmaker Thomas So said the central government had offered support to the SAR as well as recognition of its potential to drive the Greater Bay Area's economy.

"For example, it elevated the Northern Metropolis project to a national strategy, deepening its integration with the Greater Bay Area," he said.

"It supports Hong Kong in consolidating and enhancing its traditional advantages while also fostering new quality productive forces."

So also said the city was expected to play an irreplaceable role in the nation's high standard opening-up and that it was encouraging to see the SAR administration move quickly to formulate its first five-year plan as a way to proactively align with national development plans.

*Edited by Thomas McAlinden*

## **Hang Seng Bank upgrades 2026 HK GDP growth forecast to 3.1pc**

by [www.thestandard.com.hk](http://www.thestandard.com.hk)

Mar 23, 2026

Hang Seng Bank raised its forecast for Hong Kong's economic growth in 2026 to 3.1 percent on Monday, up from 2.5 percent, as both domestic and external conditions are supportive of a stronger growth trajectory.

The bank said that Hong Kong's retail sector has shown significant improvement over the past year, reflecting the positive wealth effect from stronger asset market performance, particularly in both the equity and property markets.

It anticipated that continued gains in asset markets will further bolster consumer sentiment, supporting sustained growth in consumption demand, while a weaker US dollar combined with a stronger yuan should enhance the competitiveness of the city's retail sector and stimulate tourism demand.

Besides, the lender estimated that the government's fiscal balance is expected to remain positive over the next five years after including net proceeds from government bond issuance.

While its operating account is projected to stay in surplus, the capital account will remain in significant deficit due to planned expenditures, especially for the Northern Metropolis development, it added.

Hang Seng Bank noted that the volatility of land premiums, a major source of government revenue, continues to pose a structural challenge, indicating that the government's need to issue bonds is closely tied to the performance of the property market.

## **HK positions as a safe harbour and gateway to mainland: Paul Chan**

by [www.thestandard.com.hk](http://www.thestandard.com.hk)

Mar 24, 2026

Hong Kong is not only a safe harbour, but also the best gateway to tap the enormous opportunities on the mainland, Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po said on Tuesday.

This came as the Wealth for Good in Hong Kong Summit concluded on the same day, bringing together over 400 influential top family office decision-makers, next-generation successors, industry leaders, and pioneers from around the world to explore new perspectives for multi-generational succession and sustained wealth growth for global family offices.

Delivering remarks at the gala dinner of the summit, Chan said that amid a world marked by uncertainty and conflicts, investors and families seek to diversify assets or preserve legacy in a safe haven - not merely a place to park capital, but a place with institutional strengths, legal clarity, and credible commitments.

More than the role of safe harbour, Hong Kong is a city of business opportunities, and a platform for growth, for connection and for the purposeful deployment of capital, he said.

International capital and investors are also optimistic about Hong Kong, Chan noted, adding that the government is opening up new frontiers, including gold and commodity trading, as well as fixed income and currency markets, which will further enrich the city's financial ecosystem.

The Deputy Financial Secretary, Michael Wong Wai-lun, pointed out at the summit that under 'one country, two systems', Hong Kong provides an economic and business environment with policy predictability and institutional trust.

"Our common law legal system, independent judiciary, open economy, free flow of capital, freely convertible currency, and simple tax regime all work together to provide a welcoming and dependable home for wealth that lasts through generations," he added.

Speaking at the summit, Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui Ching-yu said that safe, stable, and sophisticated are the bedrocks upon which global family offices are choosing to build, preserve, and multiply generational wealth in Hong Kong, and the government remains fully committed to strengthening this foundation.

Notably, the summit kicked off with a spectacular and powerful joint performance by the Diocesan Boys' School Chinese Drum Team and robotic drummers, echoing the summit's theme of "Building Lasting Legacies".

## **HK ranks 3rd as global finance hub**

by news.gov.hk

Mar 26, 2026

Hong Kong has maintained third place globally and continued to rank first in the Asia-Pacific in the Global Financial Centres Index 39 Report published today by the UK's Z/Yen and the China Development Institute.

Hong Kong's overall rating in the report increased one point to 765. The rating gaps with first place, New York, and second place, London, were only two points and one point respectively.

Hong Kong continued to rank first globally in fintech offerings. In the assessment by practitioners in various financial industry sectors, the city's rankings generally improved. Notably, its rankings in the banking and finance sectors leapt to first place worldwide.

Hong Kong also continued to top the global ranking in the insurance sector, while the investment management ranking rose to second place globally.

In addition, the city's rankings in the five areas of competitiveness, namely business environment, human capital, infrastructure, financial sector development, and reputational and general, continued to stay among the global top three positions.

The Government said the report reaffirms Hong Kong's leading position and strengths as an international financial centre.

This year marks the beginning of the National 15th Five-Year Plan. As the world is evolving quickly, Hong Kong will respond to the current complex and ever-changing global political and economic landscape with an innovative mindset.

At the same time, Hong Kong will proactively align with the National 15th Five-Year Plan, foster new quality productive forces in accordance with local conditions and accelerate the high-quality economic and financial development.

Hong Kong will continue to leverage its unique advantages under the 'one country, two systems' principle to play its role as a super connector and super value-adder, and seize the opportunities emerging from the reshaping of the global investment landscape.

This year, the Government pointed out, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank will set up an office in Hong Kong that serves both its financing and operational functions. This move reflects the bank's confidence in Hong Kong's strengths as an international financial centre.

On asset and wealth management business, Hong Kong-domiciled authorised funds recorded net inflows of \$357 billion last year, fully reflecting the affirmation and confidence of international investors in the Hong Kong market.

The development of the family office ecosystem continues to be robust. As of the end of last year, the number of single-family offices in Hong Kong exceeded 3,380, representing growth of more than 25% over the past two years, the Government added.