

HONG KONG STOCK MARKET HISTORICAL EVENTS

- 1891 “The Association of Stockbrokers in Hong Kong”, the first formal stock exchange in Hong Kong was formed.
- 1914 The name of the Association of Stockbrokers in Hong Kong was changed to “The Hong Kong Stock Exchange”.
- 1921 A second stock exchange, “The Hong Kong Stockbrokers’ Association”, was incorporated.
- 1947 The Hong Kong Stock Exchange and the Hong Kong Stockbrokers’ Association were merged to form a joint exchange under the name of “The Hong Kong Stock Exchange Ltd”.
- 1969 Dec The Far East Exchange Ltd commenced business on 17 December.
- 1970 Feb The Companies Ordinance was amended to empower the Governor in Council to recognise stock exchanges for certain limited purposes connected with the offering in writing of shares to any member of the public.
- 1971 Mar The Kam Ngan Stock Exchange Ltd commenced business on 15 March.
- 1972 Jan The Kowloon Stock Exchange Ltd commenced business on 5 January.
- 1973 Jan The four stock exchanges, the Far East Exchange, the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, the Kam Ngan Stock Exchange and the Kowloon Stock Exchange, agreed to standardise their trading sessions with effect from 8 January.
- A Securities Advisory Council was established and a Commissioner for Securities was appointed, but not given statutory power, to help prepare the way for the statutory provisions to be imposed later.
- Feb The Stock Exchange Control Ordinance 1973 was enacted, which imposed heavy penalties on anyone operating a stock market which was not recognised under the Ordinance. The establishment of stock exchange was effectively controlled.
- The Government announced that it was mandatory for all companies seeking listing to have their prospectuses registered with the Registrar of Companies.
- 1974 Feb The Securities Ordinance and The Protection of Investors Ordinance were enacted and were brought into operation with effect from 1 March.
- Apr The Federation of Share Registrars was established.
- Jul The Hong Kong Federation of Stock Exchange was established.
- Aug Under the Securities Ordinance 1974, a Stock Exchange Compensation Fund was established and contributions to the fund were paid by the four stock exchanges in proportion to their membership.
- Oct Part VI of the Ordinance and the Securities (Dealers, Investment Advisors and Representatives) Regulations 1974 was brought into force, requiring all dealers (whether or not they are members of the stock exchanges), investment advisors and their representatives to register with the Commissioner for Securities.

- 1975 Aug The Securities Commission approved the Code on Takeovers and Mergers.
- Dec The Securities Commission approved a statutory rule prohibiting directors of a listed company incorporated in Hong Kong from issuing shares - other than on a pro-rata basis to existing shareholders - without the prior approval of shareholders.
- 1976 Aug Under the Securities (Stock Exchange Listing) Rule 1976, a listed company should appoint a member of the Federation of Share Registrars to be its registrar.
- 1977 May Considerable progress was made towards the formation of a unified stock exchange in Hong Kong in place of the existing four. A working party on unification was formed.
- Dec An Insider Dealing Tribunal was set up.
- 1978 Mar Stamp duty on securities dealing was reduced from 0.8% to 0.6% (per round trip) with effect from 6 March.
- 1979 Aug A Practice Note was published by the Securities Commission to clarify the rules concerning the suspension of dealings in the shares of offeree companies during takeover bids.
- 1980 Jul The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Ltd was incorporated.
- Aug The Stock Exchanges Unification Ordinance 1980 was passed by the Legislative Council.
- 1981 Jan The Securities Commission adopted a trigger point of 35% as the maximum percentage shareholding in a listed company that any group or individual could hold without making a general offer for all the remaining shareholders.
- Jul Under the Stamp Duty Ordinance 1981, instruments of transfer of registered warrants were chargeable with fixed duty and contract notes were required to be stamped with effect from 1 July.
- Oct The first committee members of the Exchange were elected.
- 1983 Mar The Code on Takeovers and Mergers was revised to the effect that bids involving less than 35% of a company's voting shares were not subject to control, but other partial bids were subject to the consent of the Takeovers Committee. Market dealings in an offeree company's shares before or during a bid were forbidden.
- 1984 May The Securities Commission released a set of guidelines for the placement of shares as a means of flotation, which had been banned for some years.
- 1985 Aug The Securities (Amendment) Ordinance 1985 was enacted. Its purpose was to strengthen the power of the Commissioner for Securities to monitor the financial viability of dealers.

The Legislative Council passed the Stock Exchanges Unification (Amendment) Ordinance 1985. Under the Ordinance, locally incorporated firms, including subsidiaries of banks and deposit-taking companies, became eligible to apply to the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong for corporate membership. And the disqualification of directors or employees of banks and deposit-taking companies and of lawyers or professional accountants from becoming members of the Exchange was removed.

- 1986 Feb The Securities (Stock Exchange Listing) Rules 1986 took effect from 1 February.
- The Securities (Accounts and Audit) (Amendment) Regulations were published in the Government Gazette. Dealers and dealing partnerships were required to fulfil certain requirements.
- The Securities (Recognition of Stock Market) Notice and the Securities (Registration of Dealers) (Approved Examinations) Notice were published in the Government Gazette.
- The Legislative Council approved the amended Securities (Stock Exchange Listing) Rules 1986.
- Mar The Hong Kong Stock Exchange, the Far East Exchange, the Kam Ngan Stock Exchange and the Kowloon Stock Exchange ceased trading after the close of business on 27 March.
- Apr The Exchange commenced trading on 2 April.
- Sep The Exchange became a full member of the Federation Internationale des Bourses de Valeurs on 22 September.
- Oct The grand opening of the Exchange took place on 6 October.
- 1987 Apr On 8 April, the Exchange and the Office of the Commissioner for Securities jointly announced that no further B shares would be allowed to be quoted on the Exchange.
- Oct The trading restrictions in connection with bank-related brokers were relaxed with effect from 2 October.
- The General Committee of the Exchange unanimously resolved that trading on the Exchange would be suspended for four days from 20 October to 23 October, both days inclusive. Trading in the Hang Seng Index Futures was also suspended for the same period.
- The Takeovers Committee, announced on 26 October that the Committee had decided that for a period of one month, the trigger point, or creeper provision, as the case may be, under the Hong Kong Code on Takeovers and Mergers, would be waived.
- The Hong Kong Government, together with several leading financial institutions, raised a rescue fund of HK\$4 billion of which HK\$1.8 billion was utilised to enable the Hong Kong Futures Guarantee Corporation Ltd to finance its obligations to members of the Hong Kong Futures Exchange (HKFE). With effect from 29 October, a levy of HK\$30 per HKFE transaction and a special levy of 0.03% on transaction value of securities dealings were introduced to repay the interest and principal of the rescue package.
- Nov The limit of compensation payable out of the Exchange Fidelity Fund or a member's guarantee for the default of a defaulting member was increased from HK\$500,000 to HK\$2,000,000, subject to the availability of funds, with effect from the commencement of trading on 9 November.
- 1988 Jan The new Management Sub-committee of the Exchange was formed on 2 January to take up the duties of the General Committee.
- Jun The Government-appointed Securities Review Committee published the Report on the Operation and Regulation of Hong Kong Securities Industry on 2 June.

- Jul An amendment to the Articles of Association of the Exchange which allowed the Exchange to form a Council of 22 members instead of a committee of 21 members to govern its operations, was endorsed by its members on 20 July.
- Sep The Exchange and the Securities Commission released a joint announcement on 14 September, in which they agreed that as a general rule, the Exchange would not list any new B shares. This general rule would not apply only in exceptional circumstances. The queuing system for new applications for listing was also reviewed and amended.
- Oct The first 22-member Council of the Exchange was formed on 18 October.
- Nov The first Nominating Committee of the Exchange was formed on 7 November.
- 1989 Feb The All Ordinaries Index was launched by the Exchange on 1 February.
- Mar The Exchange announced the formation of Hong Kong Securities Clearing Company Ltd, a company limited by guarantee.
- Apr The Legislative Council passed the Securities and Futures Commission Ordinance 1989.
- May The new Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) was formally established on 1 May.
- Sep The SFC announced on 13 September that it had agreed to authorise warrant funds which had been able to apply for authorisation with effect from 1 November.
- Oct The Council of the Exchange endorsed a rolling T+2 settlement period for the proposed Central Clearing and Settlement System.
- Dec The Securities (Stock Exchange Listing) Rules 1989 were enacted on 1 December.
- 1990 Feb The minimum brokerage for each securities transaction traded on the Exchange was raised from HK\$25 to HK\$50 with effect from 8 February. The minimum commission rate of 0.25% for stock broking was maintained.
- Apr On 2 April, the Council of the Exchange resolved that Council members on the Board of the Clearing Company should be broker members and that the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Clearing Company must be a broker or banker member of the Board. If the Chairman was a broker member, the Deputy Chairman must be a banker member and the two would rotate every year.
- Jul The Securities (Insider Trading) Draft Bill, was passed by the Legislative Council on 25 July.
- 1991 Apr With effect from 1 April, stamp duty on share transactions was reduced from 0.6% to 0.5% (per round trip).
- On 15 April, the Hong Kong Code on Share Repurchases, which allowed firms listed in Hong Kong to buy back their own shares, was approved by the SFC and became effective immediately.
- Sep The Securities (Disclosure of Interests) Ordinance came into force on 1 September.

- Nov The Council of the Exchange and the SFC on 1 November agreed on a series of measures designed to permit all the substantive elements of the revised voluntary constitutional package, which was unanimously supported at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Exchange on 30 October, to be brought into effect in time to govern the next Council election. The new Council under the revised voluntary constitutional package would consist of 31 members in total - 18 broker members, 11 lay members and the chief executives of the Exchange and the Clearing Company.
- On 25 November, the SFC and the Exchange announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding providing for the devolution of day-to-day administration of all listing matters to the Exchange effective 31 December.
- 1992 Feb On 21 February, the SFC approved the revised Hong Kong Code on Takeovers and Mergers and its integration with the Hong Kong Code on Share Repurchases. The new integrated Code came into effect on 1 April.
- Apr With effect from 1 April, stamp duty on share transactions was reduced from 0.5% to 0.4% (per round trip) and the stamp duty was extended to the trading of derivative warrants.
- May On 11 May, changes made to the Exchange Listing Rules on the Exchange and the listing agreement for a secondary listing, particularly where the majority of trading was likely to be on the Exchange, took effect.
- Jun The settlement period for members of the Exchange was changed from T+1 to T+2 on 8 June.
- On 24 June, the Central Clearing and Settlement System (CCASS) commenced operations on the trade-for-trade basis.
- Oct The compulsory Broker's Fidelity Insurance Scheme came into effect on 1 October.
- The Securities (Clearing Houses) Ordinance came into effect on 7 October. The maximum amount payable under the Unified Exchange Compensation Fund to all persons (except stockbrokers) who suffer loss through any default of a stockbroker was increased to HK\$8 million in respect of each stockbroker concerned in or connected with the default. The previous limit was HK\$2 million.
- On 7 October, CCASS commenced the second phase of its operation, starting to admit stocks for clearing and settlement on a continuous net settlement (CNS) basis.
- On 28 October, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Hong Kong and the British securities regulatory authorities.
- 1993 Apr With effect from 1 April, stamp duty on share transactions was reduced from 0.4% to 0.3% (per round trip).
- Jun On 19 June, the China Securities Regulatory Commission, the Shanghai Securities Exchange, the Shenzhen Stock Exchange, the SFC and the Exchange signed a Memorandum of Regulatory Co-operation in Beijing.
- Jul Dealings in the H shares in Tsingtao Brewery Co Ltd commenced on 15 July. This was the first China-incorporated enterprise to obtain a primary listing in Hong Kong.
- Aug On 16 August, the Special Levy payable on every transaction recorded on the Exchange and the HKFE was suspended.

- Nov On 1 November, the Exchange launched the Automatic Order Matching and Execution System (AMS).
- 1994 Jan On 3 January, the Exchange launched a pilot scheme for regulated short-selling of shares.
- Mar Jardine Matheson Holdings and Jardine Strategic Holdings announced their decision to delist from Hong Kong. Other Jardine group companies made similar announcements in September.
- Jul With effect from 8 July, the Stamp Duty (Amendment) (No.2) Bill 1994 extended relief from stamp duty for stock borrowing and lending activities and raised the maximum borrowing period from 14 days to 12 months.
- 1995 Sep On 8 September, the Exchange launched its Traded Stock Options Market. The first stock option was on HSBC Holdings plc.
- 1996 Jan On 25 January, trading through the AMS off-floor terminals started. These terminals are installed in Exchange members' offices, allowing them to trade from their offices, in addition to trading through terminals in the Trading Hall.
- 1997 Nov On 28 November, the Hong Kong Securities Institute was incorporated.
- 1998 Apr With effect from 1 April, the transaction levy was reduced from 0.013% to 0.011% and the proportion of sharing between the Exchange and the SFC was changed from 7:6 to 7:4. Stamp duty on share transactions was also reduced from 0.3% to 0.25% (per round trip).
- May On 8 May, Hongkong Clearing launched its Investor Account Service which allows investors to open investor accounts directly in CCASS.
- 1999 May On 17 May, Hongkong Clearing launched an Electronic Initial Public Offering (EIPO) service for CCASS participants.
- Nov On 12 November, the Tracker Fund of Hong Kong (TraHK) was listed on the Exchange. TraHK is a collective investment fund issued by the Hong Kong SAR Government, which follows closely the movement of the benchmark Hang Seng Index.
- On 15 November, Growth Enterprise Market (GEM) was formally launched. The first listings were on 25 November 1999.
- 2000 Mar On 6 March, the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited, the Hong Kong Futures Exchange and the Hong Kong Securities Clearing Company became wholly-owned subsidiaries of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEx). Mr Kwong Ki-chi was appointed the Chief Executive of HKEx.
- On 20 March, the Growth Enterprise Index (GEI) was launched. It has a base value of 1000 on the base date of 17 March 2000.
- Apr With effect from 7 April, stamp duty on stock transactions was reduced to 0.225% (per round trip).
- May On 31 May, the Exchange launched the Pilot Programme for Trading US Securities with initially seven Nasdaq stocks admitted to trading.

- Jun On 5 June, HSI Futures and Options migrated from open outcry trading to the HKFE's electronic trading system - Hong Kong Futures Automated Trading System (HKATS). Floor trading in HKFE was totally abolished.
- On 27 June, shares of the HKEx were listed by introduction on the SEHK with a stock code of "388".
- Sep On 15 September, HKEx announced the introduction of an Internet Initial Public Offering (iIPO) service to provide individual investors with an additional electronic mechanism for submitting applications for IPOs.
- Oct On 5 October, MTR Corporation Ltd (MTRC), the first government-owned organization to be privatized, was listed on the SEHK. Also, MTRC was the first listing issuer using HKEx's iIPO.
- On 23 October, the first phase of the Third Generation Automatic Order Matching and Execution System (AMS/3) was launched.
- 2001 Feb On 23 February, HKEx introduced its Order Routing System (ORS) to AMS/3 and Online Trading Service to its Stock Exchange Participants.
- Aug On 6 August, stock options trading was successfully migrated from the Traded Options System (TOPS) to the Hong Kong Futures Automated Trading System (HKATS). Clearing and settlement of stock options trades continues to be performed on TOPS.
- Sep On 1 September, the stamp duty on securities transactions was reduced from 0.225% to 0.2% per transaction (round-trip).
- On 1 September, a Trading Fee of 0.005% per side of the consideration of a transaction was introduced by the Stock Exchange. The transaction levy payable to the SFC increased from 0.005% to 0.007% per side of the consideration of a transaction.
- 2002 Mar On 8 March, the SFC levy on trading of options on stock futures was reduced from \$1.0 to \$0.2 per contract per side. The compensation fund levy on trading of options on stock futures was reduced from \$0.5 to \$0.1 per contract per side.
- On 25 March, HKEx introduced a pre-opening session and an index basket order trading mechanism in the securities market. The 30-minute pre-opening session starts at 9:30 am. The index basket order trading mechanism is only applicable in the continuous trading session.
- May On 16 May, HKEx introduced the first phase of CCASS/3, the new generation of the Central Clearing and Settlement System.
- Aug On 5 August, the first six Equity Linked Instruments (ELIs) were listed on SEHK.
- Sep On 16 September, HKMA announced the termination of the Tap Facility of the Tracker Fund of Hong Kong (TraHK) on exhaustion of the Tap Issue Limit in the fourth quarter of 2002, thus concluding the Government stock market operation which was initiated in 1998.
- Dec On 9 December, HKEx introduced the second phase of CCASS/3.

- 2003 Apr On 1 April, the SFO became effective together with a number of codes, guidelines and forms for its implementation.
- Effective from 1 April, the minimum commission rate rule governing Stock Exchange Participants (SEPs) was abolished. Commissions became freely negotiable between SEPs and their clients.
- May On 26 May, HKEx introduced the final phase of CCASS/3 by launching the Participant Gateway. The Participant Gateway serves as an additional communication channel to the CCASS/3 Terminal and provides a direct electronic interface between CCASS/3 and CCASS Participants' back office systems.
- Nov On 17 November, HKEx opened its first Mainland representative office in Beijing.
- 2004 Apr On 6 April, HKEx introduced the Derivatives Clearing and Settlement System (DCASS) which provides a common platform for the clearing and settlement of all derivative products traded on HKEx markets.