

**For discussion
on 14 November 2016**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES

Annual adjustment of social security payment rates under the Social Security Allowance and the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Schemes and issues relating to rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on –

- (a) the latest position of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP)¹ and the estimated corresponding adjustment to rates of allowances under the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme and standard payment rates under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme² as from 1 February 2017; and
- (b) the latest position of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) (A) rent index for private housing (rent index)³ and the estimated corresponding adjustment to maximum rates of the rent allowance (MRA) under the CSSA Scheme as from 1 February 2017 as well as relevant information on MRA.

¹ The SSAIP is compiled by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) on a monthly basis to reflect the impact of price changes on recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA). It consists of all items covered in other Consumer Price Indices compiled by C&SD, except items which are covered by special grants under the CSSA Scheme or provided free by the Government.

² CSSA standard payment rates include standard rates, supplements and the monthly meal allowance under the special grants.

³ The rent index is compiled by C&SD on a monthly basis. It reflects the movement of private housing rent borne by households in the lower expenditure group.

Payment rates under the CSSA Scheme and SSA Scheme

Annual adjustment mechanism

2. The Government takes account of inflation or deflation as reflected by the SSAIP for the past 12 months (i.e. from 1 November of a year to 31 October of the following year) and adjusts standard payment rates under the CSSA Scheme and rates of allowances under the SSA Scheme (namely the Old Age Allowance (OAA)⁴, Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) and Disability Allowance (DA)) on an annual basis.

3. The prevailing practice is for the Government to present the relevant information to this Panel, followed by a submission to the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council (LegCo) in December every year before implementation of the new rates in February of the following year to allow sufficient time for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to adjust its computer system for making the latest payments to the CSSA and SSA recipients.

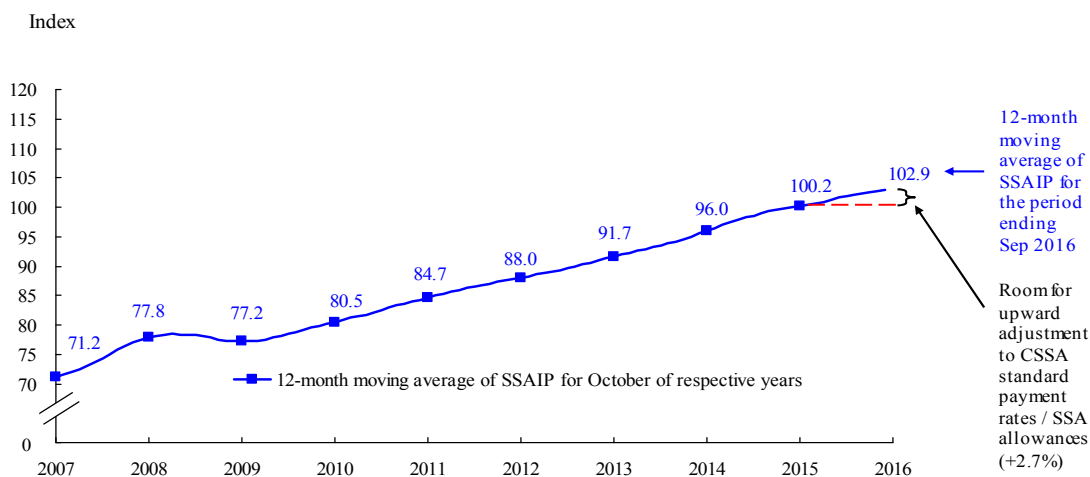
4. The current average monthly CSSA payments for households of different sizes, and the rates of OAA, OALA and DA under the SSA Scheme, are set out at **Annex 1**.

Movement of the SSAIP in 2015-16 and recommendation on the adjustment of payment rates

5. There is room for an upward adjustment for the CSSA standard payment rates, OAA, OALA and DA. As shown in the chart below, the 12-month moving average of the SSAIP for the period ending September 2016 registered a cumulative increase of 2.7% when compared with the average figure ending October 2015.

⁴ In this paper, OAA includes the Guangdong Scheme. The Guangdong Scheme provides OAA, on a monthly basis, for eligible Hong Kong elderly people who choose to reside in Guangdong, to meet their special needs arising from old age.

Room for upward adjustment of CSSA standard payment rates and rates of allowances under the SSA Scheme



6. The updating of the weighting system of the SSAIP, which takes place every five years, has been completed. The base year has been adjusted from 2009/10 to 2014/15. The weighting system truthfully presents CSSA recipients' expenditures on individual categories of goods and services as a proportion of their total expenditures. The weighting system is compiled using data obtained from the Household Expenditure Survey. The weighting system has to be updated regularly to capture the latest expenditure pattern of CSSA recipients. The details of the updated system are at [Annex 2](#)⁵.

7. The data for October 2016 will be ready by the end of November 2016 for calculating the movement of the SSAIP up to 31 October 2016. We will use the SSAIP up to October 2016 in our submission to FC on the proposed increases in standard payment rates under the CSSA Scheme as well as OAA, OALA and DA under the SSA Scheme.

MRA

Estimated adjustment to MRA

8. Rent allowance is payable to CSSA households for meeting

⁵ The feature article on SSAIP will also be published in the Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics (November 2016 issue).

accommodation expenses. The amount of the monthly allowance is equal to the actual rent paid by the household, or the MRA determined with reference to the number of members in the household who are eligible for CSSA, whichever is the less. At its meeting on 3 April 1998, FC authorised the Secretary for the Treasury (now the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (SFST)) to adjust the MRA annually in accordance with the movement of the rent index. The prevailing MRA is provided at **Annex 3**.

9. The 12-month moving average of the rent index up to September 2016 has indicated that there is room for increasing the MRA by 4.3%. We will use the rent index up to October 2016 to adjust the MRA in accordance with the established mechanism.

Relevant information on MRA

10. As at the end of September 2016, there were 210 099 CSSA cases receiving rent allowance. Of these, 130 324 cases (62%) were living in public rental housing (PRH) and 29 469 (14%) in private housing whilst the remaining 50 306 (24%) in residential institutions. According to SWD's record, the MRA could cover the actual rent paid by the majority of CSSA households living in PRH (97%) and 46% of those in private housing. The Director of Social Welfare may also exercise discretion to grant a rent allowance higher than the MRA to those CSSA households living in private housing but awaiting compassionate rehousing or subsidised residential elderly institutions to cover their actual rent paid.

11. Following its implementation in 2011, the Community Care Fund decided to re-launch the programme entitled "Subsidy for CSSA Recipients Living in Rented Private Housing" from 2013 to 2015⁶. This aims to provide a one-off payment to CSSA households living in rented private housing and paying a rent exceeding the MRA under the CSSA Scheme so as to relieve their financial burden in face of periodical rent increase. The programme was extended in 2016. Each eligible one-person and two-or-more-person CSSA household will be provided with a one-off subsidy of \$2,000 and \$4,000 respectively. It is estimated that about 15 000 CSSA households will benefit from this programme. The subsidy will be deposited directly into the eligible CSSA recipients' bank accounts from late November 2016 onwards.

⁶ Around 15 000 CSSA households benefitted from the programme in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

Financial Implications

12. As explained in paragraphs 7 and 9 above, we will confirm the financial implications of the annual adjustment exercise after receipt of the necessary data for completing calculation of the annual movement of the SSAIP and rent index by the end of November this year.

Implementation

13. We plan to seek FC's approval for the proposals on adjustment of standard payment rates under the CSSA Scheme and rates of allowances under the SSA Scheme in December 2016, having regard to the latest SSAIP. Subject to FC's approval, the new rates will take effect from 1 February 2017. Separately, the MRA will be adjusted as referred to in paragraphs 8 and 9 above, and the adjusted MRA will also take effect from 1 February 2017 if approved by the SFST.

14. As the CSSA and SSA Schemes are both non-cash-limited schemes, we will seek the approval of FC for supplementary provision for 2016-17, if necessary, so as to ensure that adequate funds will be available to make payments on time.

**Labour and Welfare Bureau
Social Welfare Department
November 2016**

Average monthly CSSA payments by the number of eligible members in a household

(This refers to the situation when CSSA households do not have incomes other than CSSA payments (including standard rates, supplements and special grants, etc.). The estimate is based on CSSA cases for the period of November 2014 to October 2015 and the CSSA rates effected since 1 February 2016.)

Number of eligible members in a household	Average monthly CSSA payment
1	\$5,690
2	\$8,891
3	\$11,752
4	\$13,943
5	\$16,085
6 or above	\$19,805

Monthly rate of OAA since 1 February 2016

Monthly rate
\$1,290

Monthly rate of OALA since 1 February 2016

Monthly rate
\$2,495

Monthly rates of DA since 1 February 2016

Type	Monthly rate
Normal DA	\$1,650
Higher DA	\$3,300

社會保障援助物價指數 **The Social Security Assistance Index of Prices**

社會保障援助物價指數（社援指數）是用來反映綜合社會保障援助（綜援）標準金額所包括的商品和服務的價格變動對綜接受助人的影響。這個指數由政府統計處編製，供社會福利署按價格變動調整綜援標準金額時作為參考。

本文闡述社援指數的編製方法、指數基期的重訂（新基期為 2014/15 年）及其應用於綜援計劃的情況。

The Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP) is compiled to reflect the impact of price changes on recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) insofar as the items of goods and services covered under the CSSA standard rates are concerned. The index is compiled by the Census and Statistics Department for use by the Social Welfare Department as a reference in making adjustments to CSSA standard rates to take account of price changes.

This article describes the method of compilation of the SSAIP, the re-basing of the index to 2014/15 and its application in the CSSA Scheme.

如對本文有任何查詢，請聯絡社會福利署研究及統計組
(電話：(852) 2892 5240；電郵：rsenq@swd.gov.hk)。

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社會保障援助物價指數

The Social Security Assistance Index of Prices

1. 引言

1.1 「消費物價指數」是一項重要的經濟指標，用作量度住戶面對的通脹/通縮情況。綜合消費物價指數、甲類消費物價指數、乙類消費物價指數及丙類消費物價指數是由政府統計處負責編製，旨在反映不同開支範圍的住戶所使用的商品和服務的價格變動。甲類消費物價指數的對象是約 50% 屬較低開支範圍的住戶；乙類消費物價指數的對象則是約 30% 屬中等開支範圍的住戶；而丙類消費物價指數的對象則是約 10% 屬較高開支範圍的住戶。綜合消費物價指數則是根據甲類、乙類及丙類消費物價指數涵蓋的所有住戶的整體開支模式而編製。至於其餘 10% 屬於最低及最高開支範圍的住戶及領取綜合社會保障援助（綜援）的住戶則不包括在內。

1.2 社會保障援助物價指數（社援指數）是一個具有以上消費物價指數的功能，而對象是綜接受助人的消費物價指數。這個指數是由政府統計處編製，用以反映綜援標準金額所包括的商品和服務的價格變動對綜接受助人的影響，供社會福利署（社署）按價格變動調整綜援標準金額時作為參考。

1.3 本文闡述社援指數的編製方法、指數基期的重訂（新基期為 2014/15 年）及其應用於綜援計劃的情況。

2. 綜援計劃

2.1 綜援計劃（1993 年 7 月 1 日前為公共援助（公援）計劃）是向有需要的個人或家庭提供經濟援助，以應付基本生活需要。申請人須接受經濟狀況調查。

1. Introduction

1.1 The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is an important economic indicator for measuring inflation/deflation affecting households. The Composite CPI, CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C) are compiled by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) to reflect changes in the prices of goods and services consumed by households in different expenditure ranges. CPI(A) relates to about 50% of households in the relatively low expenditure range; CPI(B) relates to the next 30% of households in the medium expenditure range; and CPI(C) relates to the next 10% of households in the relatively high expenditure range. Composite CPI is compiled based on the aggregate expenditure pattern of all the households covered by the CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C). The remaining 10% households in the lowest and the highest expenditure ranges and those living on the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) are not covered.

1.2 The Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP) is a CPI which has functions like those of other indices mentioned above but targets CSSA recipients in particular. The index is compiled to reflect the impact of price changes on CSSA recipients insofar as the items of goods and services covered under the CSSA standard rates are concerned. It is compiled by C&SD for use by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) as a reference in making adjustments to CSSA standard rates to take account of price changes.

1.3 This article describes the method of compilation of the SSAIP, the re-basing of the index to 2014/15 and its application in the CSSA Scheme.

2. The CSSA Scheme

2.1 The CSSA Scheme (known as Public Assistance (PA) Scheme before 1 July 1993), which is means-tested, is designed to provide financial assistance to needy individuals or families to meet their basic needs.

2.2 綜援金分為三類：

- (a) 供不同類型的受助人應付基本及一般需要，如食品、電力與燃氣、衣履及交通的標準金額；
- (b) 就單親家庭、殘疾、健康欠佳、長者和長期受助人的特別需要而發放的補助金；及
- (c) 由於年老、傷殘、就學、住屋及其他家庭特別情況而引致的特別需要所發放的特別津貼，例如租金、水費及排污費、就學費用、特別膳食、康復及外科用具。

2.3 標準金額及補助金會按社援指數的變動而定期調整，以跟上價格的變動。特別津貼大多按實際支出支付，部分則定有最高限額，社署會因應價格的變動，不時檢討和調整所定的限額。

3. 社援指數的發展及編訂

3.1 社援指數（前稱公共援助物價指數）於1972年首次編製。指數的權數，即各商品和服務的相對重要性，乃參照當時反映低開支住戶開支模式的修訂消費物價指數的權數而編算。及至社署聯同統計處進行「1974/75年住戶開支統計調查」，將公援住戶首次納入調查範圍內，他們的開支模式亦因而得以確立，並用作編算指數的權數系統。此後，權數系統便按每5年進行一次的「住戶開支統計調查」的結果而重訂。

2.2 There are three types of payments under the CSSA Scheme :

- (a) standard rates to meet the basic and general needs of different types of recipients such as food, electricity and gas, clothing and footwear, as well as transport;
- (b) supplements to meet the specific needs of single parent families, disabled, ill-health, elderly and long-term recipients; and
- (c) special grants to meet the particular needs arising from old age, disability, education, accommodation and other family circumstances, such as rent, water and sewage charges, schooling expenses, special diets, rehabilitation and surgical appliances.

2.3 The standard rates and supplements are reviewed periodically to keep pace with price changes, with due regard to the rate of change in the SSAIP. Most of the special grants are provided to meet the actual costs and others are payable up to prescribed ceilings, which are reviewed and adjusted from time to time to take account of price changes.

3. Development and compilation of the SSAIP

3.1 The SSAIP (then known as the Public Assistance Index of Prices) was first constructed in 1972. The weights, i.e. relative importance of the goods and services covered by the index, were derived from those of the then Modified CPI which related to low expenditure households that time. In the 1974/75 round of the Household Expenditure Survey (HES) jointly conducted by SWD and C&SD, a sample of PA households was first included. The expenditure pattern of PA recipients was accordingly established and used to derive the weighting system for the index. Thereafter, the weighting system was updated according to the results of each round of the HES, which is conducted once every 5 years.

3.2 按月編訂的社援指數是由下列三個基本部分組成：

- (a) 指數所涵蓋的一籃子商品及服務；
- (b) 權數系統，即個別商品及服務項目所佔的相對重要性；及
- (c) 個別商品及服務的每月平均零售價。

商品及服務籃子

3.3 上述 (a) 部分包括綜接受助人所使用的各項商品及服務，但下述 3.4 段所列的項目則**不包括**在內，原因是這些項目：(i) 已包括在特別津貼之內；或 (ii) 由政府免費提供。

3.4 以下列出不包括在社援指數之內的商品及服務項目：

3.2 The SSAIP, computed on a monthly basis, comprises the following three basic components :

- (a) a basket of goods and services covered by the index;
- (b) a weighting system, i.e. relative importance of individual items of goods and services; and
- (c) monthly average retail prices of individual items of goods and services.

Basket of goods and services

3.3 For component (a), all items of goods and services consumed by CSSA recipients are included **except** those listed under para. 3.4. These items are not included because they are : (i) covered by special grants; or (ii) provided free by the Government.

3.4 The items of goods and services not included in the SSAIP are listed below :

不包括在社援指數之內的商品及服務 Goods and Services Not Included in the SSAIP

商品及服務的類別／項目

- 住屋
 - ◆ 房屋及所有有關費用（包括租金、差餉、地租、管理費、保養及維修費用）
- 電力、燃氣及水
 - ◆ 水費及排污費
- 衣履
 - ◆ 夏季及冬季校服
 - ◆ 其他校服配件
 - ◆ 童裝毛衫、冷衫 [△]
 - ◆ 童裝鞋襪 [△]

Sections/items of goods and services

- Housing
 - ◆ All housing and related expenses (including rent, rates, government rent, management fees, maintenance and repair charges)
- Electricity, gas and water
 - ◆ Water and sewage charges
- Clothing and footwear
 - ◆ Summer and winter school uniforms
 - ◆ Other school uniform accessories
 - ◆ Children's cardigans [△]
 - ◆ Children's stockings and footwear [△]

不包括在社援指數之內的商品及服務 (續)
Goods and Services Not Included in the SSAIP (Cont'd)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 耐用物品<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ 書包◆ 計算機
➤ 雜項物品<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ 醫療用品及設備◆ 參考書及字典 (包括電子書)
◆ 教科書 (包括幼兒園至中學、毅進文憑課程、工藝程度及技術員程度) 及電子教科書◆ 與就學用途有關的文具
➤ 交通<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ 交通接送服務
➤ 雜項服務<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ 學費 (包括幼兒園至中學、毅進文憑課程、工藝程度及技術員程度)◆ 考試費 (有學術性) 及其他教育服務費◆ 醫管局及衛生署的醫療服務費
◆ 相當於長者醫療券支付的醫療服務費用
◆ 幼兒照顧服務及護老服務 (例如綜合家居照顧服務及陪診服務)
◆ 殮葬服務費◆ 學生相及影印費用◆ 長者緊急召援系統 (平安鐘) 的服務費 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Durable goods<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Carrying cases for pupils◆ Calculators
➤ Miscellaneous goods<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Medical supplies and equipment◆ Reference books and dictionaries (including e-books)◆ Textbooks for nursery to secondary, Diploma Yi Jin, craft and technician level and e-textbooks◆ Stationery for schooling purposes
➤ Transport<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Transportation pick-up services
➤ Miscellaneous services<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ School fees for nursery to secondary, Diploma Yi Jin, craft and technician level◆ Examination fees (academics) and other educational charges◆ Medical services provided by Hospital Authority and Department of Health◆ Expenses on medical services equivalent to the amount subsidised by Health Care Voucher for the elderly◆ Child caring services and elderly caring services (e.g. integrated home care services and escorting services for medical consultations)◆ Burial expenses◆ Student photo and photocopying fees◆ Service fees for emergency alarm system for elders |
|---|--|

註釋：對於有“Δ”號的項目，特別津貼只佔去該項目部分的開支，這些項目的開支比重有部分（粗略地以一半計算）不會計算在社援指數的籃子內。例如，“童裝鞋襪”是與就學有關的劃一津貼之下所涵蓋的商品。由於實際上很難分辨“童裝鞋襪”的使用是否與就學有關，“童裝鞋襪”的一半開支比重會保留在社援指數的籃子之內，而另一半比重則不會計算在籃子內。

Note: For items marked with “Δ”, special grants are expected to account for a fair share of the expenses. They are excluded partially (with a broad-brush apportioning by half) in the SSAIP basket. For example, there is a flat rate grant for school related expenses in which “children’s stockings and footwear” is covered. Since it is difficult in practice to distinguish whether the use of “children’s stockings and footwear” is for schooling purposes or not, half of the expenditure weight of “children’s stockings and footwear” remains in the SSAIP basket while the other half is excluded from the basket.

權數系統

3.5 上述 (b) 部分的權數是根據「住戶開支統計調查」所獲得有關綜接受助人用於個別商品及服務的實際開支與總開支的比率而編製。因此，權數系統是顯示綜接受助人在綜援標準金額所包括的消費項目的綜合開支模式。

3.6 隨着最近一次的「2014/15 年住戶開支統計調查」的完成，以 2014/15 年為基期的社援指數新數列亦得以編製。採用新數列，將更能準確反映綜接受助人面對價格變動的影響。

3.7 表 1 展示以 2009/10 年及以 2014/15 年為基期的社援指數的權數系統。

3.8 綜接受助人在 2014/15 年的商品及服務總開支中，有 70% 用於社援指數所包括的商品及服務（當中以食品佔最大比重，佔 45%）；而其餘 30% 則用於特別津貼所包括或政府免費提供的商品及服務。在組成社援指數的消費項目中，比重最高的是食品（63%），其次是雜項服務（10%），以及雜項物品（8%）。
(表 1)

3.9 開支權數的轉變反映綜接受助人在綜援標準金額所包括的消費項目的最新開支模式。當以 2009/10 年為基期的社援指數與 2014/15 年為基期的社援指數比較時，食品及雜項物品的權數分別上升約 2 個及 1 個百分點。另一方面，電力、燃氣及水、衣履及交通的權數則下降少於 1 個百分點。其他類別的商品及服務權數則大致保持不變，相差少於 0.5 個百分點。
(表 1)

Weighting system

3.5 The weights of component (b) are based on the proportion of actual expenditure of CSSA recipients on individual items of goods and services as obtained from the HES. The weighting system thus represents the collective expenditure pattern of CSSA recipients in respect of all consumption items covered by the CSSA standard rates.

3.6 With the completion of the latest round of the HES in 2014/15, a new series of the SSAIP with 2014/15 as the base period has been compiled. The adoption of the new series will reflect more accurately the impact of price changes faced by CSSA recipients.

3.7 Table 1 shows the weighting systems of the 2009/10-based and 2014/15-based SSAIP.

3.8 Of the total expenditure on all goods and services consumed by CSSA recipients in 2014/15, 70% were covered by the SSAIP (with food constituting the largest share of 45%) while the remaining 30% were covered by special grants or provided free by the Government. Expressed as a proportion to all SSAIP consumption items, the largest component was food (63%), followed by miscellaneous services (10%) and miscellaneous goods (8%). (Table 1)

3.9 The changes in expenditure weights reflect the latest expenditure pattern of CSSA recipients in respect of all consumption items covered by the CSSA standard rates. When compared with the 2009/10-based SSAIP, the weights of 2014/15-based SSAIP increased by about 2 percentage points for food, and about 1 percentage point for miscellaneous goods. On the other hand, the weights decreased by less than 1 percentage point for electricity, gas and water, clothing and footwear, as well as transport. Those for other sections of goods and services remained fairly constant, with changes of less than 0.5 percentage point. (Table 1)

表 1 以 2009/10 年及以 2014/15 年為基期的社援指數開支權數

Table 1 Expenditure weights of the 2009/10-based and 2014/15-based SSAIP

%

商品或服務類別 Commodity/Service Section	2009/10		2014/15	
食品 Food	61.05	(42.04)	63.43	(44.56)
外出用膳 Meals bought away from home	22.26	(15.33)	27.61	(19.40)
食品 (不包括外出用膳) Food (excluding meals bought away from home)	38.79	(26.71)	35.82	(25.17)
住屋 ⁽¹⁾ Housing ⁽¹⁾	-	(-)	-	(-)
電力、燃氣及水 Electricity, gas and water	7.89	(5.43)	7.29	(5.12)
煙酒 Alcoholic drinks and tobacco	1.86	(1.28)	1.38	(0.97)
衣履 Clothing and footwear	3.98	(2.74)	3.31	(2.33)
耐用物品 Durable goods	2.69	(1.85)	2.28	(1.60)
雜項物品 Miscellaneous goods	7.24	(4.99)	8.02	(5.63)
交通 Transport	5.43	(3.74)	4.78	(3.36)
雜項服務 Miscellaneous services	9.86	(6.79)	9.51	(6.67)
所有社援指數內的商品或服務項目 All SSAIP commodity/service items	100.00	(68.87)	100.00	(70.24)
所有不包括在社援指數內的商品或服務項目 All commodity/service items not included in SSAIP		(31.13)		(29.76)
所有商品或服務類別 All commodity/service sections		(100.00)		(100.00)

註釋：由於四捨五入關係，個別數字加起來可能與總數不符。
括號內數字為各項商品或服務在總開支中的比重。

(1) 所有住屋及有關開支都不包括在社援指數之內。

- 不適用。

Notes : Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

Figures in brackets represent the corresponding proportions to the total expenditure on all commodities/services.

(1) All housing and related expenditures are not included in the SSAIP.

- Not applicable.

消費項目的每月平均零售價

3.10 至於 (c) 部分，即各項商品及服務的每月平均零售價，是採用統計處為編製一般消費物價指數而搜集的價格資料。在該按月零售物價統計調查中，統計處從不同類別的零售商店及服務行業商號搜集個別項目的價格資料。搜集的方法主要以面談訪問形式進行，亦有部分以電話查詢及郵遞問卷方式取得。過去，所有用以編製甲類消費物價指數的相關消費項目的價格資料會用來編製社援指數。由 2004/05 年開始，則會選取從綜接受助人所光顧的零售商店及服務行業商號類別搜集得來的價格資料，用以編製社援指數，這樣可更準確地反映綜接受助人所經歷的價格變動。

變動率

3.11 社援指數的變動率，是按照個別消費項目相對於基期的價格變動及其有關的支出權數來計算。這方法相當於找出，在當時購買與在基期時購買的同一籃子消費品，所需的總開支的變動。

3.12 圖 1 和圖 2 分別顯示 2006/07 年度至 2015/16 年度期間，社援指數的走勢及其按年變動率。在這 10 年期間，社援指數由 2006/07 年的 69.8 逐步上升至 2015/16 年的 101.7。同期的平均按年變動率錄得由 1.7% 至 5.1% 的升幅，2009/10 年輕微下跌 0.2% 除外。（圖 1 及圖 2）

Monthly average retail prices of consumption items

3.10 As regards component (c), i.e. monthly average retail prices of individual items of goods and services, the price data which are collected by C&SD for compiling the general CPIs are used. In that monthly retail price survey, price data on individual items are collected from various types of retail outlets and service providers, mainly by personal visits and supplemented by telephone and postal enquiries. In the past, price data of all relevant consumption items collected for the compilation of the CPI(A) were used in compiling the SSAIP. Starting from 2004/05, price data from the types of retail outlets and service providers patronised by CSSA recipients have been selected for inclusion in the compilation to better reflect the price movements they experienced.

Rate of change

3.11 The rate of change in the SSAIP is computed by applying the expenditure weights of individual consumption items to their corresponding price changes over the base period. The procedure is equivalent to comparing the total expenditure required to purchase the same consumption basket in the current period with that in the base period.

3.12 Chart 1 and Chart 2 present the movements of the SSAIP and its annual rates of change during 2006/07 to 2015/16 respectively. The index showed a general increasing trend in the 10-year period, or from 69.8 in 2006/07 to 101.7 in 2015/16. The average annual rate of change showed an increase in the concerned period, ranging from 1.7% to 5.1%, except a slight drop of 0.2% in 2009/10. (Chart 1 and Chart 2)

圖 1 2006/07 年度至 2015/16 年度社援物價指數走勢
Chart 1 Movements of the SSAIP, 2006/07-2015/16

指數 (2014年10月至2015年9月=100)
 Index (Oct 2014 - Sep 2015=100)

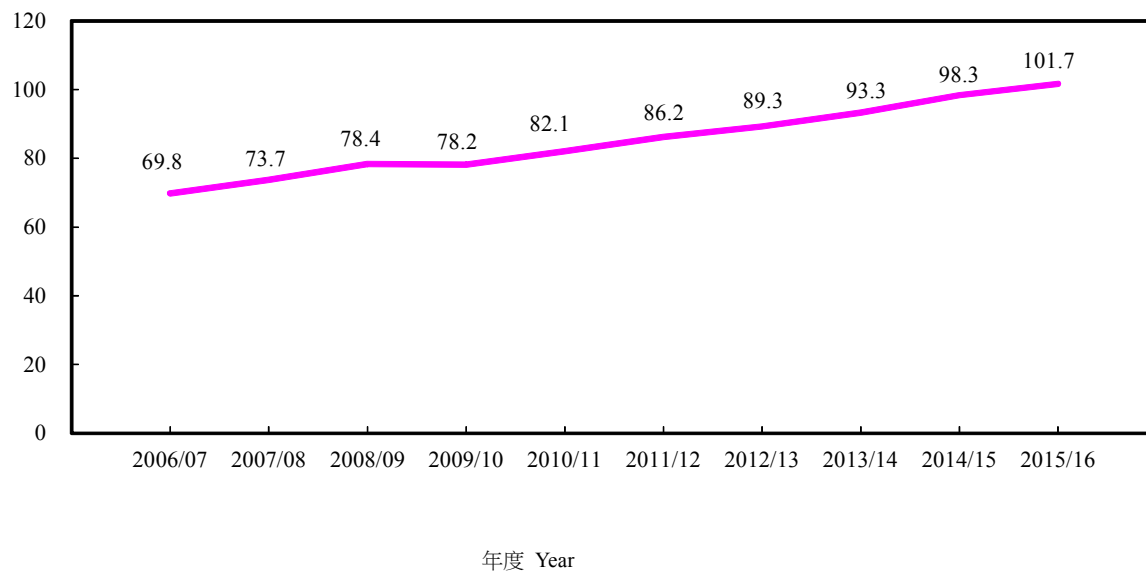
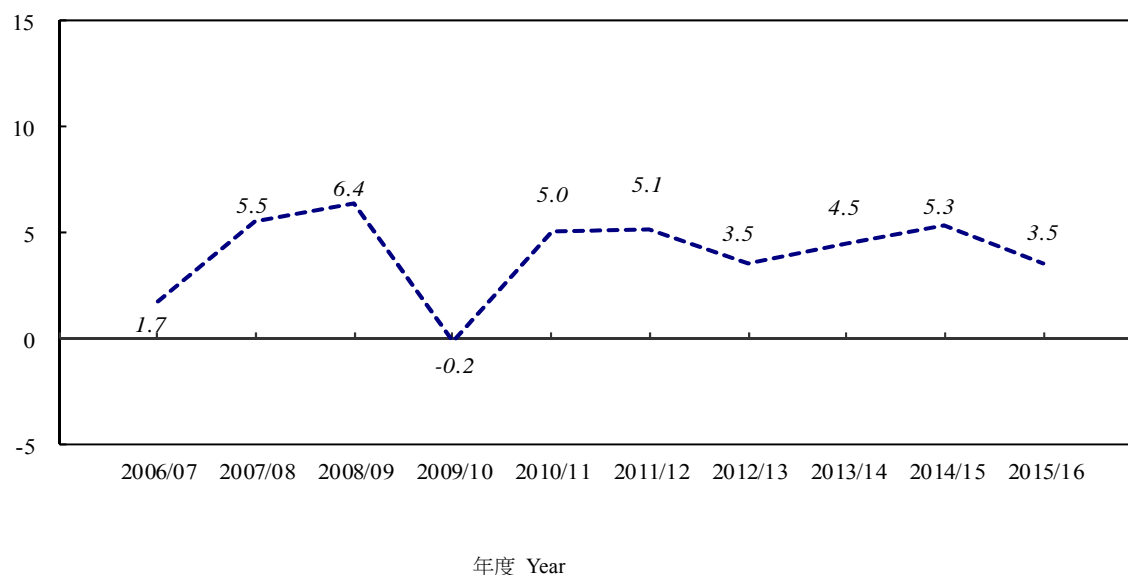


圖 2 2006/07 年度至 2015/16 年度社援物價指數按年變動率
Chart 2 Annual rate of change of the SSAIP, 2006/07-2015/16

變動率 (%)
 Rate of change (%)



註釋： 圖 1 顯示該年度的全年平均社援物價指數，以 2014 年 10 月至 2015 年 9 月為基期計算。圖 2 代表圖 1 同期平均社援物價指數的按年變動率。

Note : Chart 1 presents the annual averages of the SSAIP in the respective financial year, with October 2014 to September 2015 as the base period. Chart 2 presents the corresponding rates of change based on Chart 1.

4. 指數的應用

4.1 為維持綜援計劃下標準金額及補助金的購買力，政府已設立機制，定期每年檢討有關金額的水平。在這個機制下，會參考社援指數截至每年 10 月的 12 個月平均數與上一年同期的平均數比較得出的變動率，以衡量綜接受助人所面對綜援標準金額所涵蓋的商品及服務的價格變動。政府會參考指數所反映的價格變動，考慮是否需要調整標準金額及補助金。

4. Application of the index

4.1 To maintain the purchasing power of the standard rates and supplements under the CSSA Scheme, the Government has put in place a mechanism to review their levels on an annual basis. Under this mechanism, the rate of change of SSAIP averaged for the 12 months ended October of a current year comparing with that of the preceding year will serve as a reference of the price changes that the CSSA recipients are experiencing insofar as the goods and services covered by the standard rate are concerned. The Government makes reference to the price changes reflected by the index and will consider making adjustment to the standard rates and supplements if necessary.

Annex 3

MRA under the CSSA Scheme since 1 February 2016

Number of eligible members in a household	Monthly MRA
1	\$1,735
2	\$3,490
3	\$4,560
4	\$4,850
5	\$4,865
6 or above	\$6,080