

**For information**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES**

**Annual Adjustment to Social Security Payment Rates under  
the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme  
and the Social Security Allowance Scheme  
and Issues relating to Rent Allowance under the CSSA Scheme**

**Purpose**

This paper briefs Members on –

- (a) the position of Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP) and the proposed corresponding adjustment to the standard payment rates under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme<sup>1</sup> and the rates of allowances under the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme with effect from 1 February 2022; and
- (b) the position of Consumer Price Index (A) rent index for private housing (Rent Index)<sup>2</sup> and the proposed levels of the maximum rent allowance (MRA) under the CSSA Scheme with effect from 1 February 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> The standard payment rates under the CSSA Scheme include standard rates, supplements and the monthly meal allowance under the special grants category. The current average monthly CSSA payments for households of different sizes are set out at **Annex 1**. In this paper, the CSSA Scheme includes the Portable CSSA Scheme, which enables eligible elderly CSSA recipients to continue to receive cash assistance if they choose to reside in the Guangdong (GD) Province or Fujian(FJ) Province.

<sup>2</sup> The Rent Index is compiled by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) on a monthly basis. It reflects the movement of private housing rent borne by households in the lower expenditure group.

## **Adjustment Mechanism**

2. Under the established mechanism, the Government makes adjustment to the standard payment rates under the CSSA Scheme and the rates of allowances under the SSA Scheme (namely Old Age Allowance (OAA), Old Age Living Allowance (OALA)<sup>3</sup> and Disability Allowance (DA)) in accordance with the inflation or deflation rates as reflected by the SSAIP for the 12 months from 1 November of a year to 31 October of the following year.

3. The past practice is that the Government presents the proposed adjustment to this Panel before seeking the approval of the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council (LegCo) around December every year on the new rates with effect from 1 February of the following year. This is to allow sufficient time for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to adjust its computer system for disbursing the revised payments to more than one million recipients.

4. Meanwhile, the Government makes adjustment to the MRA in accordance with the movement of the Rent Index for the 12 months from 1 November of a year to 31 October of the following year. The new rate takes effect in tandem with the adjusted CSSA and SSA rates on 1 February. FC has delegated the authority to approve such revisions to the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury.

5. Notwithstanding, in view of the prorogation of the last-term LegCo from 30 October 2021, it was not possible to brief this Panel and seek FC's approval as per the usual timetable on the proposed adjustment with effect from 1 February 2022. Through this submission, the Government seeks to brief this Panel in the new term on the proposed adjustment, such that the revised rates could be considered by FC and effected as early as possible. Subject to FC's approval, SWD would arrange retrospective payments from 1 February 2022.

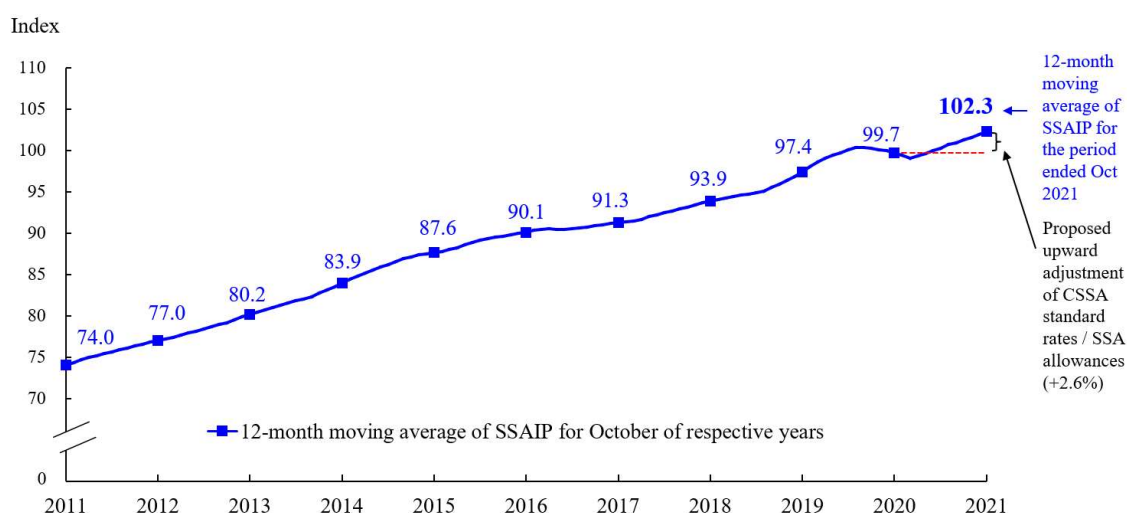
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<sup>3</sup> Under the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme of the SSA Scheme, the Government provides monthly OAA or OALA for eligible elderly persons who choose to reside in the two Provinces. In this paper, OAA and OALA include those payable under the GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme.

## Standard Payment Rates under the CSSA Scheme and Rates of Allowances under the SSA Scheme

6. As shown in the chart below, the 12-month moving average of the SSAIP for the period ended October 2021 registered a cumulative increase of 2.6% when compared with the average figure ended October 2020. There is room for an upward adjustment to the CSSA standard payment rates, OAA, OALA and DA. Subject to FC's approval, we would increase the CSSA standard payment rates, OAA, OALA and DA by 2.6% with effect from 1 February 2022. The CSSA standard payment rates and the SSA rates of allowances before and after the proposed increase are set out at Annex 2.

### Proposed upward adjustment to the standard payment rates under the CSSA Scheme and the rates of allowances under the SSA Scheme



## Maximum Rent Allowance under the CSSA Scheme

7. Rent allowance is payable to CSSA households for meeting 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.

8. The 12-month moving average of the Rent Index for the period ended October 2021 registered a cumulative decrease of 1.2% when compared with the average figure ended October 2020. In accordance with the established mechanism, the MRA needs to be reduced correspondingly. While the local economy and labour market have started to recover in recent months, CSSA recipients remain one of the most economically vulnerable groups amid the pandemic. In this connection, we propose that the MRA be maintained at its current levels (set out at **Annex 3**) with effect from 1 February 2022. We will review the position later this year as per the adjustment mechanism.

### **Financial Implications**

9. Based on the caseload up to October 2021, we estimate that the total increase in recurrent expenditure arising from the proposed increases in the CSSA standard payment rates and the rates of allowances under the SSA Scheme would be about \$1,580 million per year, with breakdown as follows –

	<b>\$ million</b>
(a) 2.6% increase in CSSA standard payment rates	474
(b) 2.6% increase in OAA rate	149
(c) 2.6% increase in OALA rates	834
(d) 2.6% increase in DA rates	123
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,580</b>

10. Separately, the financial implication of maintaining the MRA at its current levels is estimated to be \$18.6 million in the form of extra payment on the Government's part, which is less than 0.1% of the estimated recurrent expenditure of the CSSA Scheme which stands at \$23.6 billion in 2021-22.

### **Implementation**

11. The Government plans to seek FC's approval for the proposals on adjustment to the standard payment rates under the CSSA Scheme and the rates of allowances under the SSA Scheme in February 2022. Subject to FC's approval, SWD would arrange retrospective payments from 1 February 2022 as soon as possible. In the same FC submission, we will also inform FC of the freezing of the MRA as set out in paragraph 8 above.

## **Background**

12. The Government adjusts the standard payment rates under the CSSA Scheme and the rates of allowances under the SSA Scheme annually taking into account the movement of the SSAIP, which is compiled by C&SD on a monthly basis to reflect the impact of price changes on CSSA recipients. 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.

13. The SSAIP has a weighting system which truthfully presents CSSA recipients' expenditures on individual categories of goods and services as a proportion of their total expenditures. It is compiled using data obtained from the Household Expenditure Survey on CSSA Households. Applying these weights in the calculation of the SSAIP can reflect more accurately the impact of price changes on CSSA recipients. Updating of the weighting system of the SSAIP, which takes place every five years to capture the latest expenditure pattern of CSSA recipients, has been completed. The base year has been adjusted from 2014-15 to 2019-20. Details of the updated system are at **Annex 4**<sup>4</sup>.

Labour and Welfare Bureau  
Social Welfare Department  
January 2022

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<sup>4</sup> C&SD published a feature article on the 2019-20-based SSAIP in the October 2021 issue of the Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics.

**Average Monthly Payments  
by the Number of Eligible Members in a Household  
under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme**

*[This refers to the situation when CSSA households do not have income other than CSSA payments (including standard rates, supplements and special grants). The estimate is based on CSSA cases for the period from November 2019 to October 2020 and the CSSA rates effected from 1 February 2021.]*

<b>Number of Eligible Members in a Household</b>	<b>Average Monthly CSSA Payment (\$)</b>
1	7,399
2	10,962
3	14,265
4	16,975
5	19,444
6 or above	23,147

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**Standard Payment Rates  
under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme and  
the Rates of Allowances under the Social Security Allowance Scheme  
after the Adjustment<sup>1</sup>**

**Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme**

**A. Standard rates**

***1. Elderly persons and non-able-bodied recipients***

	Existing (per month) (\$)		Proposed (per month) (\$)	
	Single person	Family member	Single person	Family member
<b>(a) Elderly person</b>				
Able-bodied/ 50% disabled	3,815	3,590	<b>3,915</b>	<b>3,685</b>
100% disabled	4,610	4,075	<b>4,730</b>	<b>4,180</b>
Requiring constant attendance	6,485	5,945	<b>6,655</b>	<b>6,100</b>
<b>(b) Ill-health/ Disabled adult</b>				
Ill-health/ 50% disabled	3,815	3,590	<b>3,915</b>	<b>3,685</b>
100% disabled	4,610	4,075	<b>4,730</b>	<b>4,180</b>
Requiring constant attendance	6,485	5,945	<b>6,655</b>	<b>6,100</b>
<b>(c) Disabled child</b>				
50% disabled	4,290	3,735	<b>4,400</b>	<b>3,830</b>
100% disabled	5,085	4,545	<b>5,215</b>	<b>4,665</b>
Requiring constant attendance	6,955	6,420	<b>7,135</b>	<b>6,585</b>

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<sup>1</sup> Figures are rounded to the nearest \$5.

## 2. *Able-bodied recipients*

	Existing (per month) (\$)	Proposed (per month) (\$)
<b>(a) Adult</b>		
<i>Single parent/Family carer</i>		
- in a family comprising not more than two able-bodied adults/children	2,915	<b>2,990</b>
- in a family comprising three able-bodied adults/children	2,635	<b>2,705</b>
- in a family comprising four or more able-bodied adults/children	2,335	<b>2,395</b>
<i>Others</i>		
Single person	2,685	<b>2,755</b>
Family member		
- in a family comprising not more than two able-bodied adults/children	2,395	<b>2,455</b>
- in a family comprising three able-bodied adults/children	2,160	<b>2,215</b>
- in a family comprising four or more able-bodied adults/children	1,925	<b>1,975</b>
<b>(b) Child</b>		
Single person	3,230	<b>3,315</b>
Family member		
- in a family comprising not more than two able-bodied adults/children	2,675	<b>2,745</b>
- in a family comprising three able-bodied adults/children	2,400	<b>2,460</b>
- in a family comprising four or more able-bodied adults/children	2,145	<b>2,200</b>



## B. Supplements

	Existing (\$)	Proposed (\$)
1. Annual long-term supplement (for those who are old, disabled or medically certified to be in ill-health, and who have received CSSA continuously for 12 months or more)		
Family with one such eligible member	2,385	<b>2,445</b>
Family comprising two or more eligible members	4,765	<b>4,890</b>
2. Monthly single parent supplement	380	<b>390</b>
3. Monthly community living supplement (for recipients who are old, disabled or medically certified to be in ill-health and not living in homes, or able-bodied adult recipients aged between 60 and 64)	360	<b>370</b>
4. Monthly residential care supplement (for recipients who are old, disabled or medically certified to be in ill-health and living in non-subsidised homes)	360	<b>370</b>
5. Monthly transport supplement (for severely disabled persons aged between 12 and 64 who are medically certified to be 100% disabled, or in need of constant attendance)	305	<b>315</b>
6. Monthly employment support supplement (for able-bodied adult recipients aged between 60 and 64)	1,130	<b>1,160</b>

### C. Special grants

	Existing (per month) (\$)	Proposed (per month) (\$)
Meal allowance (for students attending full-day school and taking lunch away from home)	320	<b>330</b>

### Social Security Allowance Scheme

	Existing (per month) (\$)	Proposed (per month) (\$)
<b>A. Old Age Allowance (OAA)<sup>2</sup></b>	1,475	<b>1,515</b>
<b>B. Old Age Living Allowance (OALA)<sup>3</sup></b>		
1. Normal OALA	2,845	<b>2,920</b>
2. Higher OALA	3,815	<b>3,915</b>
<b>C. Disability Allowance (DA)</b>		
1. Normal DA	1,885	<b>1,935</b>
2. Higher DA <sup>4</sup>	3,770	<b>3,870</b>
3. Transport supplement (for those aged between 12 and 64)	305	<b>315</b>

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<sup>2</sup> The Guangdong (GD) Scheme and the Fujian (FJ) Scheme provide the same rate of OAA.

<sup>3</sup> The GD Scheme and the FJ Scheme provide the same rates of OALA. Separately, as announced in the Chief Executive's 2021 Policy Address, the Government plans to merge the Normal and Higher OALA in the second half of 2022, so that the more lenient asset limits of the Normal OALA will be adopted across-the-board, and eligible applicants will receive payment at the Higher OALA rate.

<sup>4</sup> The rate of Higher DA is set at twice the amount of that of Normal DA and would be \$3,870 per month after adjustment (i.e. \$1,935 x 2).

**Maximum Rent Allowance  
under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme**

*[The Maximum Rent Allowance (MRA) is proposed to be maintained at its current levels with effect from 1 February 2022.]*

<b>Number of Eligible Members in a Household</b>	<b>Current Monthly MRA (\$)</b>
1	2,515
2	4,440
3	5,330
4	6,005
5	6,695
6 or above	7,800

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## 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）標準金額及補助金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，供社會福利署調整綜援標準金額及補助金時，提供價格變動的參考。

本文闡述社援指數的編製方法、指數基期的重訂（新基期為 2019/20 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 and supplements 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 and supplements to take account of price changes.

This article describes the method of compilation of the SSAIP, the re-basing of the index (new base period of 2019/20) and its application in the CSSA Scheme.

本文內的統計數字是根據社會福利署的資料來源所得。如對本文有任何查詢，請聯絡社會福利署研究及統計組

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Statistics presented in this article are based on the data source from the Social Welfare Department. Enquiries on this article may be directed to the Research and Statistics Section, Social Welfare Department

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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）是以綜援受助人為對象的消費物價指數，並具有以上消費物價指數的功能。這個指數是由政府統計處編製，用以反映綜援標準金額及補助金所包括的商品和服務的價格變動對綜援受助人的影響，供社會福利署（社署）調整綜援標準金額及補助金時，提供價格變動的參考。

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 2019/20 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 price changes 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 and supplements 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 and supplements to take account of price changes.

1.3 This article describes the method of compilation of the SSAIP, the re-basing of the index (new base period of 2019/20) 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：

- (甲) 供不同類別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；
- (乙) 就單親家庭、殘疾、健康欠佳、年老、長期受助人等的特別需要而發放的補助金；及
- (丙) 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。社署由 2020 年起分階段實施多項改善綜援計劃的措施，包括調高租金津貼最高金額、將每月最高豁免計算入息限額由 2,500 元增加 60%至 4,000 元，以及把多項特別津貼擴展至合資格非長者健全受助人。所有相關措施已從 2021 年 2 月全面落實。

## 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。及後政府統計處進行「1974/75 年度住戶開支統計調查」時，社署首次加入聯合進行調查，並將公援住戶特別納入調查範圍內。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，權數便按每五年進行一次的「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 recipients who are single parent families, disabled, in ill-health, old, long-term recipients, etc.; 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. SWD has implemented a series of improvement measures to the CSSA Scheme by phases starting 2020, which include increasing the maximum rent allowance, raising the maximum amount of disregarded earnings by 60% from \$2,500 to \$4,000 per month, and extending a range of special grants to eligible non-elderly able-bodied recipients. All these measures have been fully implemented since February 2021.

## 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. Subsequently, SWD joined C&SD for the first time in conducting the 1974/75 round of the Household Expenditure Survey (HES), and a sample of PA households was specifically 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 five years.

3.2 按月編訂的社援指數是由下列三個基本部分組成：

- (甲) 指數所涵蓋的一籃子商品及服務；
- (乙) 權數系統，即個別商品及服務項目所佔的相對重要性；及
- (丙) 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(甲)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)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 <sup>Δ</sup>
  - ◆ 童裝鞋襪 <sup>Δ</sup>
- 耐用物品
  - ◆ 書包
  - ◆ 眼鏡
  - ◆ 計算機

### 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 <sup>Δ</sup>
  - ◆ Children's stockings and footwear <sup>Δ</sup>
- Durable goods
  - ◆ Carrying cases for pupils
  - ◆ Spectacles
  - ◆ Calculators

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)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>➤ 雜項物品</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ 醫療用品及設備</li><li>◆ 參考書及字典（包括電子書）</li><li>◆ 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</li><li>◆ 與就學用途有關的文具</li></ul> <p>➤ 交通</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ 交通接送服務</li></ul> <p>➤ 雜項服務</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ 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）</li><li>◆ 考試費（有學術性）及其他教育服務費</li><li>◆ 醫管局及衛生署的醫療服務費</li><li>◆ 牙科服務</li><li>◆ 相當於長者醫療券支付的醫療服務費用</li><li>◆ 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）</li><li>◆ 殮葬服務費</li><li>◆ 學生相及影印</li><li>◆ 電訊服務（包括住宅／流動電話及流動數據）</li><li>◆ 長者緊急召援系統（平安鐘）的服務費</li></ul> | <p>➤ Miscellaneous goods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Medical supplies and equipment</li><li>◆ Reference books and dictionaries (including e-books)</li><li>◆ Textbooks for nursery to secondary, Diploma Yi Jin, craft and technician level and e-textbooks</li><li>◆ Stationery for schooling purposes</li></ul> <p>➤ Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Transportation pick-up services</li></ul> <p>➤ Miscellaneous services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ School fees for nursery to secondary, Diploma Yi Jin, craft and technician level</li><li>◆ Examination fees (academics) and other educational charges</li><li>◆ Medical services provided by Hospital Authority and Department of Health</li><li>◆ Dental services</li><li>◆ Expenses on medical services equivalent to the amount subsidised by Health Care Voucher for the elderly</li><li>◆ Child caring services and elderly caring services (e.g. integrated home care services and escorting services for medical consultations)</li><li>◆ Burial expenses</li><li>◆ Student photo and photocopying</li><li>◆ Telecommunication services (including residential/mobile phone and mobile data)</li><li>◆ Service fees for emergency alarm system for elders</li></ul> |
|--|---|

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(乙)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佔總開支的比例而編製。因此，權數系統反映綜接受助人就綜援標準金額及補助金所包括的消費項目的整體開支模式。

3.6 「2019/20 年度住戶開支統計調查」中綜援住戶和其他住戶的數據搜集工作同時於 2019 年 10 月至 2020 年 9 月進行。期間消費行為受到 2019 冠狀病毒病疫情的嚴重影響。在這統計調查期間，綜援住戶在某些商品或服務上的開支(如外出用膳、電腦用品以及交通)與正常情況的開支應有顯著偏差。儘管如此，權數系統按照這一輪「住戶開支統計調查」的結果作更新。這能確保社援指數能準確反映綜接受助人現時在疫情下面對的價格變動。

3.7 為緩減 2019 冠狀病毒病疫情所引致的特殊性影響，社署會在 2024/25 年下一次全面重訂基期前，密切留意有否需要適當調整社援指數中相關項目的開支權數。

3.8 表 1 展示以 2014/15 年及以 2019/20 年為基期的社援指數的權數系統。

3.9 綜接受助人在 2019/20 年的商品及服務總開支中，有 65%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 42%)；而其餘 35%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(65%)，其次是雜項服務(8%)，以及電力、燃氣及水(8%)。

(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 and supplements.

3.6 The data collection of households receiving CSSA and other households was conducted concurrently in the 2019/20 HES in the period from October 2019 to September 2020, during which consumer behaviour was severely affected by the COVID-19 epidemic. Spending of CSSA households on some commodities/services (such as meals out, computer devices and transport) during the survey period should have deviated significantly from those under normal circumstances. The weighting system has nonetheless been updated according to the survey results. This ensures that the SSAIP can accurately reflect the price changes currently experienced by the CSSA recipients under the epidemic.

3.7 To mitigate the special effects arising from the COVID-19 epidemic, SWD will keep in view the need to adjust the SSAIP expenditure weights for relevant items where appropriate before the next round of full-scale rebasing exercise in 2024/25.

3.8 Table 1 shows the weighting systems of the 2014/15-based and 2019/20-based SSAIP.

3.9 Of the total expenditure on all goods and services consumed by CSSA recipients in 2019/20, 65% were covered by the SSAIP (with food constituting the largest share of 42%) while the remaining 35% 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 (65%), followed by miscellaneous services (8%) and electricity, gas and water (8%). (Table 1)

3.10 我們應小心闡釋統計調查所得的住戶開支權數，尤其是和 2014/15 年的數據作比較時，因差異是一系列因素的綜合結果，包括開支模式在 5 年期間的正常轉變和 2019 冠狀病毒疫情下的特殊消費行為。開支權數的轉變反映綜援受助人在綜援標準金額及補助金所包括的消費項目的最新開支模式。當以 2014/15 年度為基期的社援指數與 2019/20 年度為基期的社援指數比較時，耐用物品的權數上升約 3 個百分點。食品及電力、燃氣及水的權數分別上升約 1 個百分點。另一方面，雜項物品、交通及雜項服務的權數則下降少於 2 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）

3.10 The expenditure weights should be carefully interpreted, particularly when comparing them with the 2014/15 figures as the differences are the combined results of normal shifts in expenditure patterns over the 5-year period and the special consumer behaviour under the COVID-19 epidemic. The expenditure weights reflect the latest expenditure pattern of CSSA recipients in respect of all consumption items covered by the CSSA standard rates and supplements. When compared with the 2014/15-based SSAIP, the weights of 2019/20-based SSAIP increased by about 3 percentage points for durable goods, and about 1 percentage point for food as well as electricity, gas and water. On the other hand, the weights decreased by around 1 to 2 percentage points for miscellaneous goods, transport and miscellaneous services. 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2014/15年及以2019/20年為基期的社援指數開支權數  
Table 1 Expenditure weights of the 2014/15-based and 2019/20-based SSAIP

%

商品或服務類別 Commodity/Service Section	2014/15		2019/20	
食品 Food	63.43	(44.56)	<b>64.57</b>	<b>(41.68)</b>
外出用膳及外賣 Meals out and takeaway food	27.61	(19.40)	<b>25.61</b>	<b>(16.53)</b>
基本食品 Basic food	35.82	(25.17)	<b>38.96</b>	<b>(25.14)</b>
住屋 <sup>(1)</sup> Housing <sup>(1)</sup>	-	( - )	-	( - )
電力、燃氣及水 Electricity, gas and water	7.29	(5.12)	<b>8.11</b>	<b>(5.24)</b>
煙酒 Alcoholic drinks and tobacco	1.38	(0.97)	<b>1.10</b>	<b>(0.71)</b>
衣履 Clothing and footwear	3.31	(2.33)	<b>3.12</b>	<b>(2.01)</b>
耐用物品 Durable goods	2.28	(1.60)	<b>5.14</b>	<b>(3.32)</b>
雜項物品 Miscellaneous goods	8.02	(5.63)	<b>6.74</b>	<b>(4.35)</b>
交通 Transport	4.78	(3.36)	<b>2.98</b>	<b>(1.93)</b>
雜項服務 Miscellaneous services	9.51	(6.67)	<b>8.24</b>	<b>(5.32)</b>
所有社援指數內的商品或服務項目 All SSAIP commodity/service items	100.00	(70.24)	<b>100.00</b>	<b>(64.55)</b>
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		(29.76)		<b>(35.45)</b>
所有商品或服務類別 All commodity/service sections		(100.00)		<b>(100.00)</b>

註釋：由於四捨五入關係，統計表內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: Individual figures in the table 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**

3.11 至於(丙)部分,即各項商品及服務的每月平均零售價,是採用政府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,政府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、網上搜集或郵遞問卷方式取得。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**

3.12 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。

3.13 圖 1 和圖 2 分別顯示 2011/12 年度至 2020/21 年度期間,社援指數的走勢及其按年變動率。在這十年期間,社援指數由 2011/12 年度的 75.4 續步上升至 2020/21 年度的 100.0。同期的按年變動率錄得由 0.2%至 5.3%的升幅。(圖 1 及圖 2)

### **Monthly average retail prices of consumption items**

3.11 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, online or 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**

3.12 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.

3.13 Chart 1 and Chart 2 present the movements of the SSAIP and its year-on-year rate of change during 2011/12 to 2020/21 respectively. The index showed a general increasing trend in the 10-year period, or from 75.4 in 2011/12 to 100.0 in 2020/21. The year-on-year rate of change showed an increase in the concerned period, ranging from 0.2% to 5.3%. (Charts 1 and 2)

圖 1 2011/12年度至2020/21年度社援指數走勢

Chart 1 Movements of the SSAIP, 2011/12 to 2020/21

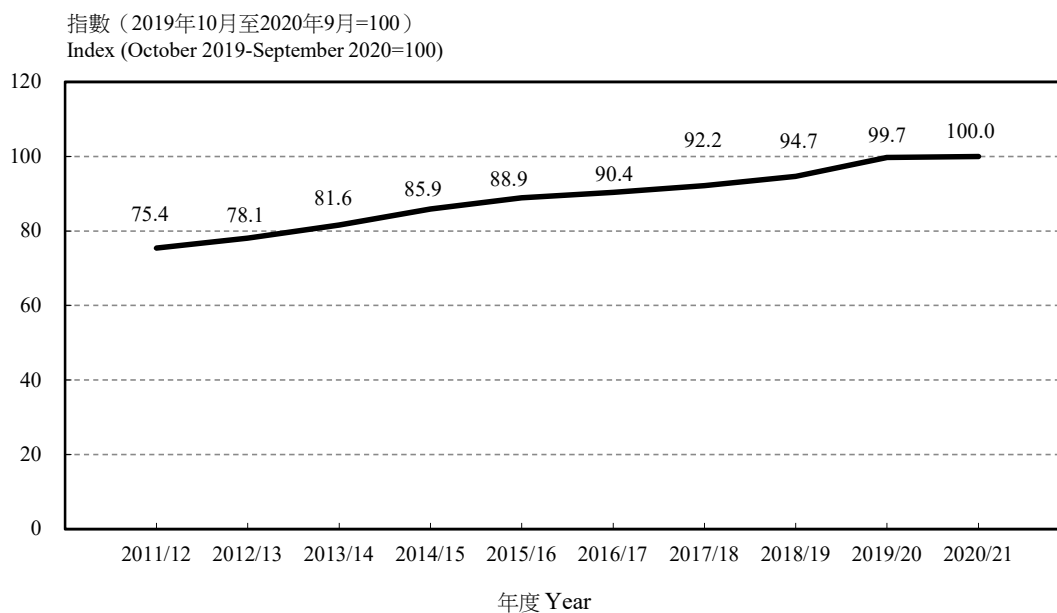
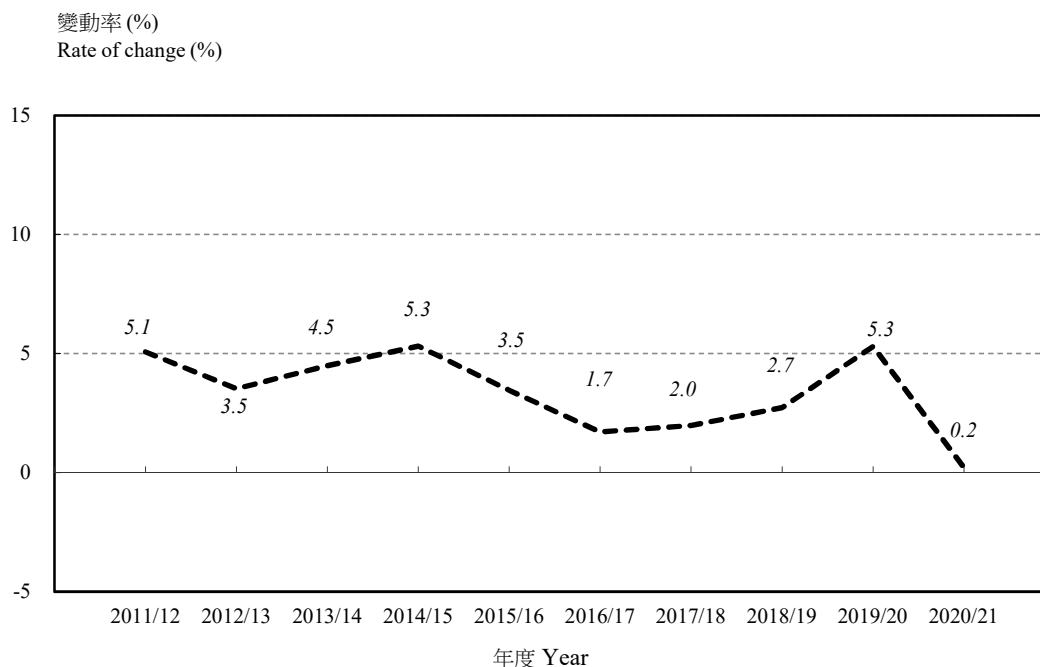


圖 2 2011/12年度至2020/21年度社援指數按年變動率

Chart 2 Year-on-year rate of change of the SSAIP, 2011/12 to 2020/21



註釋：圖 1 顯示該財政年度的全年平均社援指數，以 2019 年 10 月至 2020 年 9 月為基期計算。圖 2 代表圖 1 同期社援指數的按年變動率（以未經進位的數字計算）。

Note : Chart 1 presents the annual averages of the SSAIP in the respective financial year, with October 2019 to September 2020 as the base period. Chart 2 presents the corresponding year-on-year rate of change based on Chart 1 (calculated based on unrounded figures).

#### 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，政府已設立機制每年檢討有關金額的水平。在這個機制下，政府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及補助金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 CSSA standard rates and supplements 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.

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