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Payment performance improves marginally in Q1 2022
Q-o-q increases in slow payments among Construction and Wholesale Sectors
- Singapore Commercial Credit Bureau

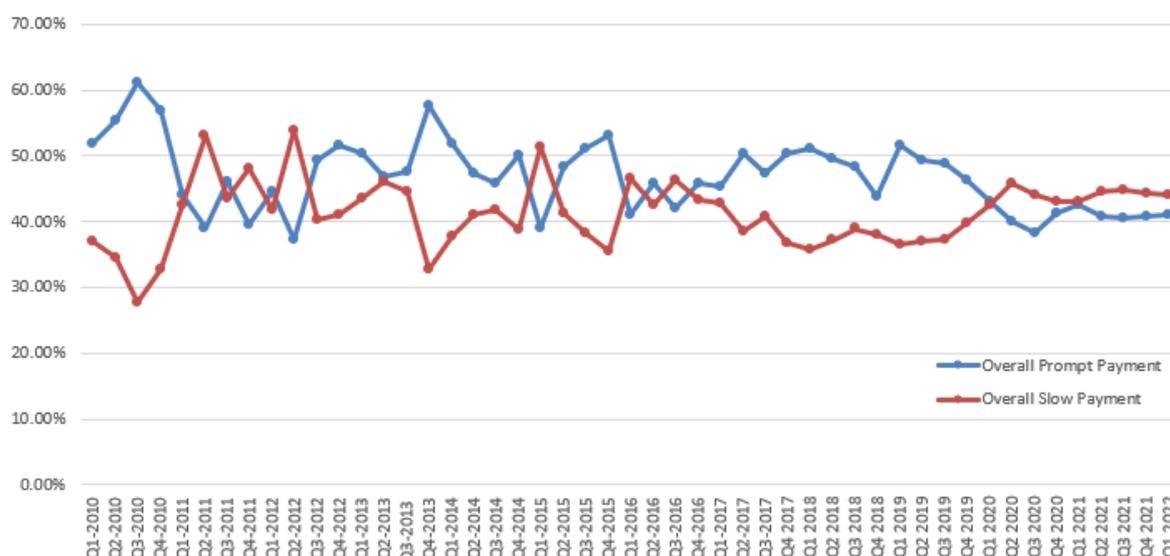
Singapore, 05 April 2022 – Local payment performance has improved for the second consecutive quarter in Q1 2022. According to Singapore Commercial Credit Bureau - a subsidiary under Credit Bureau Asia (CBA) Limited, a credit and risk information solutions provider in Southeast Asia, both prompt and slow payments accounted for slightly more than two-fifths of total payment transactions.

On a quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) basis, prompt payments inched up slightly by 0.23 percentage points from 40.82 per cent in Q4 2021 to 41.05 per cent in Q1 2022. Year-on-year (y-o-y), prompt payments have dipped by 1.45 percentage points from 42.50 per cent in Q1 2021 to 41.05 per cent in Q1 2022.

Slow payments slipped further by 0.18 percentage points from 44.33 per cent in Q4 2021 to 44.15 per cent in Q1 2022. Y-o-y, slow payment increased by 1.07 percentage points from 43.08 per cent in Q1 2021 to 44.15 per cent in Q1 2022.

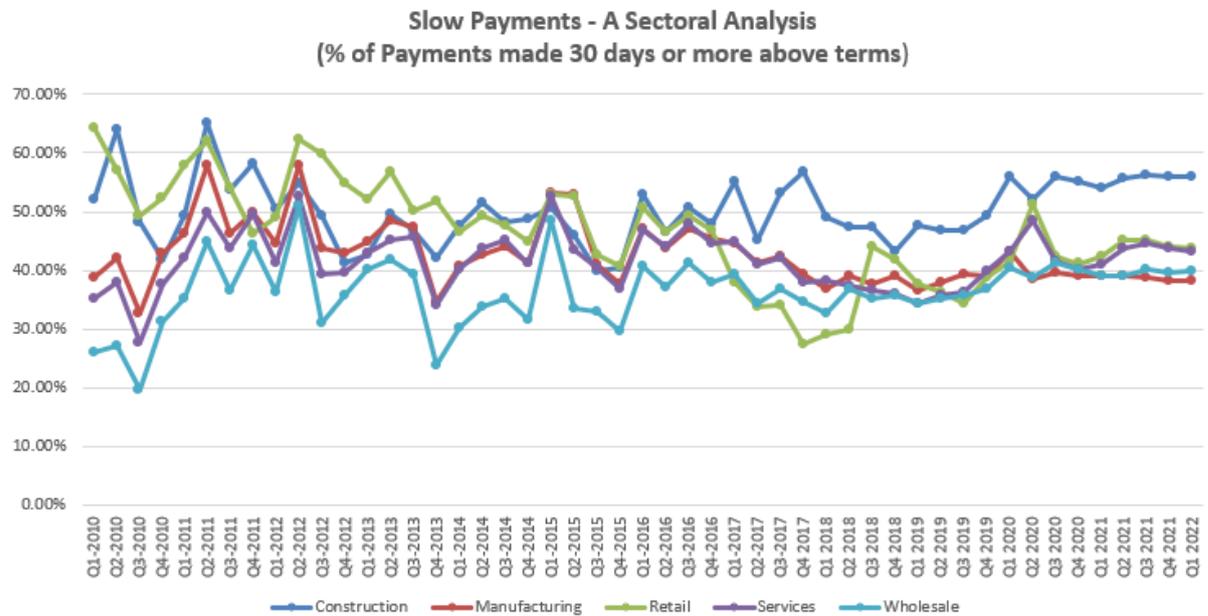
Meanwhile, partial payments fell marginally by 0.05 percentage points from 14.85 per cent in Q4 2021 to 14.80 per cent in Q1 2022. Y-o-y partial payments rose by 0.38 percentage points from 14.42 per cent in Q1 2021 to 14.80 per cent in Q1 2022.

Overall Payment Performance (Q1 2010 to Q1 2022)



From a sectoral perspective, q-o-q slow payments have improved in 3 of five industries in Q1 2022 as compared to all five industries in Q4 2021. On a y-o-y basis, only 1 of five industries have experienced improvements in slow payments.

Sector	% of Slow Payments			Percentage-Point Change	
	Q1 2022	Q4 2021	Q1 2021	Q-o-q	Y-o-y
Construction	55.95	55.90	54.03	+0.05	+1.92
Manufacturing	38.12	38.35	39.05	-0.23	-0.93
Retail	43.75	44.12	42.28	-0.37	+1.47
Services	43.33	43.75	41.08	-0.42	+2.25
Wholesale	39.77	39.55	38.96	+0.22	+0.81



Construction

Slow payments within the construction sector have deteriorated slightly in Q1 2022 after rebounding in the previous quarter.

- ❖ Q-o-q slow payments inched up by 0.05 percentage points from 55.90 per cent in Q4 2021 to 55.95 per cent in Q1 2022.
- ❖ The building construction sector accounted for the highest proportion of payment delays, up by 0.02 percentage points from 56.45 per cent in Q4 2021 to 56.47 per cent in Q1 2022. Slow payments among special trade contractors saw a visible increase by 0.15 percentage points, up from 55.90 per cent in Q4 2021 to 56.05 per cent in Q1 2022. The heavy construction sector saw a slight decrease in slow payments, down by 0.03 percentage points, from 55.35 per cent in Q4 2021 to 55.32 per cent in Q1 2022.
- ❖ On a y-o-y basis, slow payments rose by 1.92 percentage points from 54.03 per cent in Q1 2021 to 55.95 per cent in Q1 2022.

Manufacturing

Slow payments among manufacturers have decreased further in Q1 2022, owing to a fall in payment delays by manufacturers of chemicals, transportation equipment and electronics.

- ❖ Slow payments dipped by 0.23 percentage points from 38.35 percentage points in Q4 2021 to 38.12 percentage points in Q1 2022.
- ❖ Payment delays by manufacturers of transportation equipment saw the largest decrease, down by 0.37 percentage points from 56.33 per cent in Q4 2021 to 55.96 per cent in Q1 2022. Slow payments by electronic manufacturers fell by 0.33 percentage points from 43.87 per cent in Q4 2021 to 43.54 per cent in Q1 2022. Manufacturers of chemicals saw the third largest fall in payment delays, down by 0.27 percentage points from 43.75 per cent in Q4 2021 to 43.48 per cent in Q1 2022.
- ❖ On a y-o-y basis, slow payments dropped by 0.93 percentage points from 39.05 per cent in Q1 2021 to 38.12 per cent in Q1 2022.

Retail

Payment delays in the retail sector have fallen moderately in Q4 2021. This is largely due to a decrease in slow payments by retailers of general merchandise, apparels and accessories, furniture and home furnishing.

- ❖ Slow payments dipped by 0.37 percentage points from 44.12 per cent in Q4 2021 to 43.75 per cent in Q1 2022.
- ❖ Slow payments by retailers of general merchandise saw the largest decrease, down by 0.22 percentage points from 34.37 per cent in Q4 2021 to 34.15 per cent in Q1 2022. Payment delays by retailers of apparels and accessories fell by 0.19 percentage points, down from 51.12 per cent in Q4 2021 to 50.93 per cent in Q1 2022. Retailers of furniture and home furnishing decreased marginally by 0.15 percentage points, down from 44.39 per cent in Q4 2021 to 44.24 per cent in Q1 2022.
- ❖ On a y-o-y basis, slow payments rose by 1.47 percentage points from 42.28 per cent in Q1 2021 to 43.75 per cent in Q1 2022.

Services

Slow payments within the services sector improved further in Q1 2022 due to a fall in payment delays by personal services, business services and social services.

- ❖ Q-o-q slow payments dropped by 0.42 percentage points from 43.75 percentage points in Q4 2021 to 43.33 percentage points in Q1 2022.
- ❖ The business services sector saw the largest decrease in payment delays, down by 0.37 percentage points from 52.75 per cent in Q4 2021 to 52.38 per cent in Q1 2022. Payment delays by the social services sector dropped by 0.26 percentage points, down from 49.42 per cent in Q4 2021 to 49.16 per cent in Q1 2022. Slow payments by the personal services sector fell by 0.14 percentage points, down from 51.38 per cent in Q4 2021 to 51.24 per cent in Q1 2022.
- ❖ On a y-o-y basis, slow payments jumped by 2.25 percentage points from 41.08 per cent in Q1 2021 to 43.33 per cent in Q1 2022.

Wholesale Trade

Payment delays within the wholesale trade deteriorated slightly due to an increase in both slow payments by wholesalers of both durable and non-durable goods.

- ❖ Q-o-q payment delays increased by 0.22 percentage points from 39.55 per cent in Q4 2021 to 39.77 per cent in Q1 2022.
- ❖ Slow payments by wholesalers of durable goods inched up by 0.10 percentage points from 39.25 per cent in Q4 2021 to 39.35 per cent in Q1 2022 while payment delays by wholesalers of non-durable goods rose by 0.33 percentage points from 39.85 per cent in Q4 2021 to 40.18 per cent in Q1 2022.
- ❖ On a y-o-y basis, slow payments rose by 0.81 percentage points from 38.96 per cent in Q1 2021 to 39.77 per cent in Q1 2022.

"On the overall, we are seeing a continued uptrend in the payment performance of local firms in the first quarter of 2022. However, the improvements in payment performance of local firms have been marginal compared to the previous quarter. This is due primarily to a slight deterioration in slow payments by the construction sector which continues to face cashflow woes as well as the wholesale industry which remains susceptible to the vagaries of international trade. Given the current climate of global uncertainties, firms will need to exercise credit vigilance and mitigate potential cashflow risks." commented Ms. Audrey Chia, Singapore Commercial Credit Bureau's Chief Executive Officer.

Commentary

Singapore Commercial Credit Bureau (SCCB) compiles the figures by monitoring more than 2.4 million payment transactions of firms. Payment data is contributed to the Bureau by local firms. Prompt payment refers to when 90% or more of total bills are paid within the agreed payment terms. Slow payment refers to when less than 50% of total bills are paid within the agreed terms. Partial payment refers to when between 50% and 90% of total bills are paid within the agreed payment terms.

About Singapore Commercial Credit Bureau

Established in 2005, Singapore Commercial Credit Bureau (SCCB) is a subsidiary of Credit Bureau Asia Limited, a credit and risk information solutions provider in Southeast Asia. SCCB operates a database of local enterprises and their credit history to provide clients with the insight needed to build trust and improve the quality of business relationships with their customers, suppliers and business partners.

About Credit Bureau Asia Limited (www.creditbureauasia.com)

CBA is a leading player in the credit and risk information solutions market in Southeast Asia, providing credit and risk information solutions to an extensive client base of banks, financial institutions, multinational corporations, telecommunication companies, government bodies and public agencies, local enterprises and individuals across Singapore, Malaysia, Cambodia and Myanmar. CBA's business has two core segments, the FI Data Business and the Non-FI Data Business, covering both consumer and commercial credit risk information.

The Group, together with its joint ventures, is currently the dominant market leader in Singapore's FI Data Business and the sole market player in Cambodia's and Myanmar's FI Data Business. Depending on the territory involved, these credit bureaus operate to provide their subscribing members, mainly banks and financial institutions, with access to credit information on consumers or business entities, all of which are generated from up-to-date credit information contributed by subscribing members. As at 30 June 2020, the Group has close to 200 financial institution members across Singapore and Cambodia which include banks, microfinance institutions, leasing companies and rural credit operators.

For its Non-FI Data Business, the Group has more than 6,000 customers (including multinational corporations and small and medium-sized enterprises) and access to a database covering more than 330 million business records globally as at 6 November 2020. CBA's Non-FI Data Business operates in Singapore and Malaysia, where customers can access a wide range of business information and risk management services, sales and marketing solutions, commercial insights and other services, using data sourced from a variety of publicly

accessible registries and Dun & Bradstreet's extensive international network as well as information contributed by businesses which subscribe to CBA's payment bureau services.

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