

Contact:
 Matthias Chen – Strategy & Transformation
 matthias.chen@dnb.com.sg
 +65 6439 6670/+65 9478 5568

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

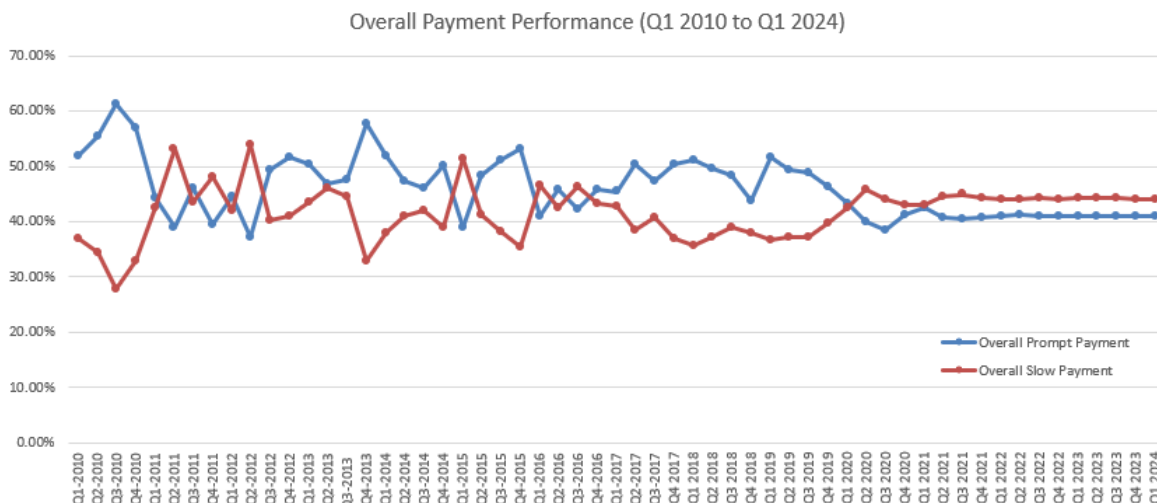
Slow payment hits new low in nearly two years in Q1 2024
Construction, Manufacturing and Services saw improvements
in q-o-q slow payments
- Singapore Commercial Credit Bureau

Singapore, 20 May 2024 – Payment performance improved for the third consecutive quarter in Q1 2024. 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 improved slightly, up by 0.02 percentage points from 41.05 per cent in Q4 2023 to 41.07 per cent in Q1 2024. Year-on-year (y-o-y), prompt payments inched up by 0.04 percentage points from 41.03 per cent in Q1 2023 to 41.07 per cent in Q1 2024.

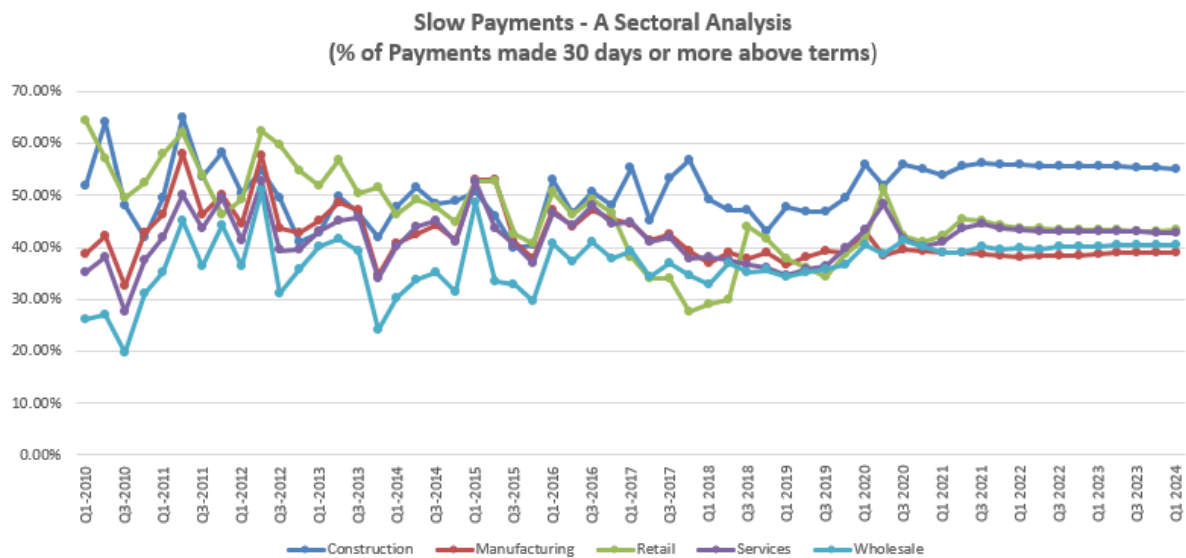
Slow payments fell slightly by 0.03 percentage points from 44.15 per cent in Q4 2023 to 44.12 per cent in Q1 2024. Y-o-y, slow payments fell by 0.10 percentage points from 44.22 per cent in Q1 2023 to 44.12 per cent in Q1 2024.

Meanwhile, partial payments inched up by 0.01 percentage points from 14.80 per cent in Q4 2023 to 14.81 per cent in Q1 2024. Y-o-y partial payments climbed by 0.06 percentage points from 14.75 per cent in Q1 2023 to 14.81 per cent in Q1 2024.



From a sectoral perspective, q-o-q slow payments have fallen in 3 of five industries in Q1 2024. On a y-o-y basis, 3 of five industries have also experienced improvements in slow payments.

Sector	% of Slow Payments			Percentage-Point Change	
	Q1 2024	Q4 2023	Q1 2023	Q-o-q	Y-o-y
Construction	55.20	55.32	55.65	-0.12	-0.45
Manufacturing	39.00	39.02	38.72	-0.02	+0.28
Retail	43.26	43.18	43.30	+0.08	-0.04
Services	42.75	42.90	43.15	-0.15	-0.40
Wholesale	40.40	40.35	40.30	+0.05	+0.10



Construction

Slow payments within the construction sector have fallen further in Q1 2024.

- ❖ Q-o-q slow payments fell by 0.12 percentage points from 55.32 per cent in Q3 2023 to 55.20 per cent in Q1 2024.
- ❖ The heavy construction sector registered the largest decrease in slow payments, down by 0.20 percentage points from 54.85 per cent in Q4 2023 to 54.65 per cent in Q1 2024. Slow payments by the building construction sector fell by 0.08 percentage points from 55.80 per cent in Q4 2023 to 55.72 per cent in Q1 2024. Special trade contractors saw a similar decline, down by 0.08 percentage points from 55.30 per cent in Q4 2023 to 55.22 per cent in Q1 2024.
- ❖ On a y-o-y basis, slow payments fell by 0.45 percentage points from 55.65 per cent in Q1 2023 to 55.20 per cent in Q1 2024.

Manufacturing

Slow payments among manufacturers have fallen for the second consecutive quarter of increase in Q1 2024 due to a fall in payment delays by manufacturers of electronics, chemicals and transportation equipment.

- ❖ Slow payments fell by 0.02 percentage points from 39.02 per cent in Q4 2023 to 39.0 per cent in Q1 2024.
- ❖ Payment delays by manufacturers of electronics saw the largest decrease, down by 0.21 percentage points from 45.36 per cent in Q4 2023 to 45.15 per cent in Q1 2024. This is followed by manufacturers of transportation equipment, down by 0.17 percentage points from 48.65 per cent in Q4 2023 to 48.48 per cent in Q1 2024. Manufacturers of chemical products saw the third largest decrease, down by 0.12 percentage points from 46.02 per cent in Q4 2023 to 45.90 per cent in Q1 2024.
- ❖ On a y-o-y basis, slow payments rose by 0.28 percentage points from 38.72 per cent in Q1 2023 to 39.0 per cent in Q1 2024.

Retail

Payment delays in the retail sector have increased in Q1 2024. This is largely due to a decrease in slow payments by retailers of automotives and vehicles, food and beverages as well as furniture and home furnishings.

- ❖ Slow payments inched up by 0.08 percentage points from 43.18 per cent in Q4 2023 to 43.26 per cent in Q1 2024.
- ❖ Slow payments by retailers of automotives and vehicles saw the largest increase, up by 1.61 percentage points from 42.34 per cent in Q4 2023 to 43.9 per cent in Q1 2024. This is followed by retailers of food and beverages, up by 1.23 percentage points from 43.55 per cent in Q4 2023 to 44.78 per cent in Q1 2024. Retailers of furniture and home furnishings saw the third largest increase in slow payments, up by 0.85 percentage points from 40.10 per cent in Q4 2023 to 40.95 per cent in Q1 2024.
- ❖ On a y-o-y basis, slow payments fell by 0.04 percentage points from 43.30 per cent in Q1 2023 to 43.26 per cent in Q1 2024.

Services

Slow payments within the services sector continued to improve for the fourth consecutive quarter in Q1 2024 due to a decrease in payment delays by hotels and accommodation, health and consumer services.

- ❖ Q-o-q slow payments dipped by 0.15 percentage points from 42.90 per cent in Q4 2023 to 42.75 per cent in Q1 2024.
- ❖ Payment delays by the hotels and accommodation sub-sector saw the largest decrease, down by 1.67 percentage points from 43.52 per cent in Q4 2023 to 41.85 per cent in Q1 2024. This is followed by health services, down by 1.20 percentage points from 35.12 per cent in Q4 2023 to 33.92 per cent in Q1 2024. The consumer services sub-sector saw the third largest decrease in slow payments, down by 0.87 percentage point from 46.34 per cent in Q4 2023 to 45.47 per cent in Q1 2024.
- ❖ On a y-o-y basis, slow payments fell by 0.40 percentage points from 42.90 per cent in Q4 2023 to 42.75 per cent in Q1 2024.

Wholesale Trade

Payment delays within the wholesale trade deteriorated slightly in Q1 2024 due to an increase in both slow payments by wholesalers of both durable and non-durable goods.

- ❖ Q-o-q payment delays rose by 0.05 percentage points from 40.35 per cent in Q4 2023 to 40.40 per cent in Q1 2024.
- ❖ Slow payments by wholesalers of durable goods rose by 0.05 percentage points, up from 40.15 per cent in Q4 2023 to 40.20 per cent in Q1 2024. Payment delays by wholesalers of non-durable goods increased by 0.05 percentage points, up from 40.55 per cent in Q4 2023 to 40.60 per cent in Q1 2024.
- ❖ On a y-o-y basis, slow payments increased by 0.10 percentage points from 40.30 per cent in Q1 2023 to 40.40 per cent in Q1 2024.

“We are seeing a continued uptrend in the overall payment performance of local firms for Q1 2024. Payment delays have in particular hit a near two-year low since Q2 2022 despite a slight deterioration in both the retail and wholesale sectors. With rising cost pressures, firms will have to continue to exercise credit vigilance and adopt good cashflow management practices.” commented Ms. Audrey Chia, SCCB’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.

PRESS RELEASE

Contact Information

Matthias Chen

Strategy & Transformation

DID: +65 6439 6670

HP: +65 9478 5568

Email: Matthias.chen@dnb.com.sg