



Private Wealth
Management
Association

Welcome to this month's PWMA Digest, where we introduce the latest development of Hong Kong as a wealth management hub.

Hong Kong is experiencing a significant revitalization, marked by strategic initiatives and exciting developments. Importantly, Hong Kong has reclaimed its status as Asia's leading financial center, as indicated by the Global Financial Centres Index. To enhance its nightlife and entertainment scene, the city is reported to be planning a reduction in the liquor tax on spirits. Following the recent rate cut by the US, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority has announced a 50 basis point reduction in its overnight discount window base rate. Several other developments further highlight Hong Kong's rejuvenation. The wealth management platform Wrise has opened its second office in the city, Citigroup is planning to hire more talent in Hong Kong, and a three-day summit hosted by the Hong Kong Academy for Wealth Legacy has achieved great success.

- [Hong Kong Overtakes Singapore in World Financial Centers Ranking](#)

Bloomberg, 25 September 2024

Hong Kong has regained its status as Asia's leading financial center, according to the latest Global Financial Centres Index. The city ranked third globally, following New York and London. In the fintech ranking, while New York and London remain at the top, Shenzhen has surpassed San Francisco to claim the third spot, with Hong Kong also making it into the top 10.

- [Hong Kong Plans to Cut Tax on Liquor in Bid to Revive Nightlife](#)

Bloomberg, 25 September 2024

Bloomberg reported that Hong Kong is planning to reduce liquor taxes on spirits as part of the city's efforts to enhance its competitiveness as a premier destination for nightlife, dining, and shopping. Although specific details have not been publicly disclosed, one approach under consideration involves implementing a tiered tax system. This system would tax more expensive spirits at lower rates to encourage spending on premium liquor, while discouraging consumers from stocking up on cheaper options in an effort to mitigate health risks.

- [Hong Kong central bank cuts interest rate, tracks Fed move](#)

Reuters, 19 September 2024

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announced a 50 basis point reduction in its overnight discount window base rate to 5.25%, tracking the recent rate cut decision made by the US Federal Reserve. The HKMA believes that the US interest rate cut is expected to exert a positive impact on the local economy and create room for easing of local interest rates. Subsequently, major banks in Hong Kong, including HSBC and Bank of China (Hong Kong), have followed suit by reducing their best lending rate by 25 basis points.

- [Wealth platform Wrise expands in Hong Kong as more family offices set up shop](#)

South China Morning Post, 19 September 2024

Wrise, a wealth management platform, has recently open a second office in Hong Kong to serve the growing number of ultra-high-net-worth clients and family offices in Asia, mainland China and

the Middle East. The chairman of Wise highlighted that the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme (CIES) has garnered notable interest from wealthy families, particularly those from mainland China and the Middle East, due to its lower investment threshold of HK\$30 million, compared to similar schemes in Singapore.

- [Citigroup to Hire Talent in Hong Kong in Wealth Push](#)

Bloomberg, 16 September 2024

In an interview with Bloomberg, Andy Sieg, Citi's Head of Wealth, said the group plans to hire talents in Hong Kong, reflecting its confidence in the city and the city's connections to the Greater Bay Area. He noted that bank's wealth strategy is focused on both Hong Kong and Singapore, with each location playing unique roles and offering slightly different services. Additionally, he highlighted a 20% year-on-year growth in the bank's investment business in Hong Kong.

- [Hong Kong family-office wooing campaign gathers steam, summit attendance shows](#)

South China Morning Post, 13 September 2024

The Hong Kong Academy for Wealth Legacy (HKAWL) hosted a three-day summit in mid-September, drawing around 150 family businesses and office representatives across the globe. In the opening address, Financial Secretary Paul Chan highlighted the city's unique value proposition, its strategic location for businesses to capture opportunities in the region, tax incentives for family offices, well-developed legal and financial systems.