



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1978

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR SEPTEMBER

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THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) FOR LAST MONTH (SEPTEMBER) WAS 126, DOWN BY ONE POINT COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH. THE INDEX (B) REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 127.

THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS FELL BY TWO POINTS IN C.P.I.(A) AND BY ONE POINT IN C.P.I.(B).

THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF FRESH VEGETABLES DECLINED DUE TO MORE FAVOURABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.

AS SOME RESTAURANTS AND EATING-PLACES RAISED THEIR PRICES, THE AVERAGE CHARGES FOR MEALS BOUGHT AWAY FROM HOME WENT UP. MOVEMENTS IN RETAIL PRICES OF OTHER FOOD ITEMS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES ADVANCED BY THREE POINTS IN C.P.I.(A) AND BY ONE POINT IN C.P.I.(B) BECAUSE OF HIGHER CHARGES FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUS FARES, SCHOOL BUS FARES AND DRIVING INSTRUCTORS' FEES.

AS A RESULT OF HIGHER RENTS FOR SOME PRIVATE DWELLINGS, THE INDEX FOR HOUSING INCREASED BY TWO POINTS IN C.P.I.(A) AND BY ONE POINT IN C.P.I.(B).

THE TWO-POINT RISE IN THE INDEX FOR DURABLE GOODS IN BOTH C.P.I.(A) AND C.P.I.(B) WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HIGHER PRICES FOR TELEVISION SETS, SOUND EQUIPMENT, ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES AND WATCHES.

RISES OF ONE POINT EACH WERE RECORDED IN THE INDEXES FOR ALCOHOLIC DRINKS, TOBACCO AND MISCELLANEOUS GOODS IN BOTH C.P.I.(A) AND C.P.I.(B) OWING TO HIGHER PRICES FOR CIGARETTES, MEDICINES, TOYS AND GENUINE JEWELLERY.

THE INDEX FOR SERVICES ALSO ROSE BY ONE POINT IN C.P.I.(B) DUE TO HIGHER CHARGES FOR DOMESTIC HELP, HAIRDRESSING AND REPAIRS TO PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS.

PRICE MOVEMENTS IN OTHER COMMODITY SECTIONS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

THE C.P.I.(A) IS BASED ON WEIGHTS DERIVED FROM HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$400 - \$1,499 A MONTH AND THE C.P.I.(B), BETWEEN \$1,500 - \$2,999 A MONTH IN THE HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY IN 1973/74.

/THE SECTION.....

THE SECTION INDEXES FOR SEPTEMBER 1978, COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH AND THE CORRESPONDING MONTH IN 1977, ARE INDICATED BELOW :-

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>C.P.I.(A)</u>			<u>C.P.I.(B)</u>		
	<u>SEPT.78</u>	<u>AUG.78</u>	<u>SEPT.77</u>	<u>SEPT.78</u>	<u>AUG.78</u>	<u>SEPT.77</u>
FOODSTUFFS	123	125	115	124	125	116
HOUSING	132	130	126	131	130	125
FUEL AND LIGHT	134	134	136	133	133	135
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO	142	141	137	138	137	133
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	103	103	100	102	102	99
DURABLE GOODS	116	114	110	113	111	107
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	136	135	125	132	131	121
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	124	121	116	127	126	121
SERVICES	139	139	130	140	139	131
ALL ITEMS	126	127	119	127	127	119

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER
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THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR LAST MONTH (SEPTEMBER) WAS \$3,736 MILLION, IMPORTS WERE WORTH \$5,505 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS \$1,200 MILLION, ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES ISSUED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY.

THE TRADE DEFICIT FOR SEPTEMBER WAS \$569 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH IN 1977, THE FIGURES SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF \$753 MILLION OR 25.2 PER CENT IN EXPORTS, \$1,760 MILLION OR 47 PER CENT IN IMPORTS AND \$376 MILLION OR 45.7 PER CENT IN RE-EXPORTS.

THE FIGURES FOR THE PERIOD JULY TO SEPTEMBER 1978 (LATEST THREE MONTHS), COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1977, SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF 16.3 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 34.5 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 36.1 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

THE SHORT TERM CHANGES, SEPTEMBER 1978 COMPARED WITH AUGUST 1978, SHOWED INCREASES OF \$266 MILLION OR 5.1 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND \$4 MILLION OR 0.3 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS, AND A DECREASE OF \$279 MILLION OR SEVEN PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS. THE DECLINE IN EXPORTS FOR SEPTEMBER APPEARS TO BE FOLLOWING THE SEASONAL PATTERN AFTER THE ANNUAL PEAK IN AUGUST.

THE FIGURES FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1977 TO SEPTEMBER 1978, COMPARED WITH THOSE FOR THE PREVIOUS 12-MONTH PERIOD, SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF 11.7 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 22.8 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 26.6 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

FOLLOWING ARE COMPARATIVE TRADE FIGURES:-

LATEST 3 MONTHS	JULY-SEPTEMBER 1978	JULY-SEPTEMBER 1977	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	11,275	9,696	+ 1,580	+ 16.3
IMPORTS	15,792	11,743	+ 4,049	+ 34.5
RE-EXPORTS	3,375	2,479	+ 895	+ 36.1
TRADE BALANCE	- 1,142	+ 432	- 1,574	
SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	SEPTEMBER 1978	SEPTEMBER 1977	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	3,736 (75.7%)	2,983 (78.4%)	+ 753	+ 25.2

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IMPORTS	5,505	3,745	+ 1,760	+ 47.0
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	1,200 (24.3%)	824 (21.6%)	+ 376	+ 45.7
TRADE BALANCE	- 569	+ 62	- 631	
<u>LAST MONTH</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER 1978</u>	<u>AUGUST 1978</u>	<u>INCREASE OR DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	3,736 (75.7%)	4,016 (77.1%)	- 279	- 7.0
IMPORTS	5,505	5,239	+ 266	+ 5.1
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	1,200 (24.3%)	1,196 (22.9%)	+ 4	+ 0.3
TRADE BALANCE	- 569	- 27	- 542	
<u>CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE</u>	<u>JAN.-SEPTEMBER 1978</u>	<u>JAN.-SEPTEMBER 1977</u>	<u>INCREASE OR DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	28,749 (75.5%)	25,471 (78.2%)	+ 3,277	+ 12.9
IMPORTS	44,077	35,182	+ 8,895	+ 25.3
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	9,317 (24.5%)	7,089 (21.8%)	+ 2,228	+ 31.4
TRADE BALANCE	- 6,011	- 2,622	- 3,389	
<u>LAST 12 MONTHS</u>	<u>OCTOBER 1977 TO SEPTEMBER 1978</u>	<u>OCTOBER 1976 TO SEPTEMBER 1977</u>	<u>INCREASE OR DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	38,281	34,278	+ 4,003	+ 11.7
IMPORTS	57,596	46,896	+10,700	+ 22.8
RE-EXPORTS	12,057	9,526	+ 2,531	+ 26.6
TRADE BALANCE	- 7,258	- 3,092	- 4,166	

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MR. MILLS OFF TO GENEVA FOR TEXTILES TALKS

THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR. LAWRENCE MILLS, WILL BE LEADING A HONG KONG DELEGATION TO HOLD FURTHER TALKS ON TEXTILES IN EUROPE OVER THE NEXT THREE WEEKS.

MR. MILLS LEAVES FOR GENEVA TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) WHERE HE WILL BE JOINED BY MR. PETER TSAO, COUNSELLOR HONG KONG AFFAIRS AT THE GATT TEXTILES COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 27).

ON OCTOBER 30 THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WILL MEET WITH AN AUSTRIAN DELEGATION IN LONDON TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE CURRENT AUSTRIAN-HONG KONG TEXTILE AGREEMENT WHICH IS DUE TO EXPIRE ON JANUARY 31, 1979.

ON NOVEMBER 2 AND 3 ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO CONTINUE THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH A UNITED STATES DELEGATION ON CLASSIFICATION DIFFERENCES AND TO CONSULT WITH THEM ON CERTAIN EXPORTS COVERED BY EXPORT AUTHORISATIONS. THESE TALKS WILL BE HELD IN GENEVA.

IN THE FOLLOWING WEEK MR. MILLS AND HIS DELEGATION WILL TRAVEL TO BRUSSELS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES REGARDING CLASSIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION OF ORIGIN OF HONG KONG PRODUCTS WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION.

PART OF THE DELEGATION -- COMPRISING MR. JUSTIN YUE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TEXTILE CONTROLS, AND MRS. EMMELINE MOK, TRADE OFFICER EEC TEXTILES -- WILL LEAVE TONIGHT (TUESDAY) FOR PRE-CONSULTATION MEETINGS IN EUROPE. MR. P.C. LEUNG, PRINCIPAL TRADE OFFICER, CERTIFICATION OF ORIGIN, WILL JOIN THE DELEGATION IN BRUSSELS ON NOVEMBER 6.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MR. LAWRENCE MILLS LEAVES FOR GENEVA TOMORROW BY SWISSAIR (SR 301).

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY GOING TO MANILA TO SIGN ADB LOAN AGREEMENT

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, LEAVES THIS (TUESDAY) EVENING FOR MANILA TO SIGN A US\$19.5 MILLION (ABOUT HK\$92 MILLION) ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK LOAN AGREEMENT FOR THE SHA TIN HOSPITAL POLYCLINIC PROJECT.

THIS IS THE FOURTH PROJECT FOR WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS BORROWED FROM THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK. IT BRINGS THE TOTAL OF A.D.B. LOANS TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO US\$77 MILLION.

THE SHA TIN HOSPITAL POLYCLINIC PROJECT IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME. THIS PROGRAMME INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NUMBER OF NEW REGIONAL HOSPITALS, GENERAL CLINICS AND POLYCLINICS AND A MEDICAL SCHOOL AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG. APART FROM PROVIDING OUT-PATIENT AND HOSPITAL SERVICES FOR THE POPULATION OF THE EASTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE SHA TIN HOSPITAL WILL ALSO SERVE AS A TEACHING HOSPITAL. IT WILL HAVE 1,400 BEDS AND SPECIAL UNITS FOR MEDICAL ONCOLOGY, PHYSICAL MEDICINE, BURNS AND PAEDIATRIC SURGERY.

THE A.D.B. LOAN WILL MEET PART OF THE OFF-SHORE COSTS CONNECTED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HOSPITAL AND THE POLYCLINIC AS WELL AS THE TOTAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE COSTS OF THE REQUIRED CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE PROJECT AND THE EQUIPMENT FOR THE HOSPITAL.

THE LOAN HAS AN AMORTISATION PERIOD OF 13 YEARS, INCLUDING A GRACE PERIOD OF THREE YEARS, AND ATTRACTS AN INTEREST RATE OF 7.7 PER CENT.

MR. HADDON-CAVE WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG TOMORROW.

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15TH SCHOOLS DANCE FESTIVAL TO BE HELD NEXT YEAR

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THE 15TH SCHOOLS DANCE FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD BETWEEN FEBRUARY 21 AND MARCH 13, NEXT YEAR, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, INCLUDING THOSE FOR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE FESTIVAL WHICH IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HONG KONG SCHOOLS SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND THE NEW TERRITORIES SCHOOLS SPORTS ASSOCIATION.

THE ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE FESTIVAL ARE WESTERN FOLK OR NATIONAL DANCES, ORIENTAL DANCE AND CREATIVE DANCE.

THERE WILL BE THREE SECTIONS -- THE LOWER PRIMARY SECTION FOR PRIMARY 1 TO 3, THE UPPER PRIMARY SECTION FOR PRIMARY 4 TO 6, AND THE SECONDARY SECTION FOR FORM 1 AND ABOVE.

A PANEL OF ADJUDICATORS WILL GIVE ASSESSMENT, AND NO SPECIAL POINTS WILL BE GIVEN TO PARTICIPATING TEAMS FOR SPECIAL COSTUMES AND PROPS IN ANY DANCE PERFORMANCE.

UNDER THE AWARDS SYSTEM, SCHOOLS WHICH OBTAIN 88 MARKS OR OVER WILL BE GIVEN AN HONOURS AWARD, SCHOOLS WHICH OBTAIN 81 TO 87 MARKS WILL BE GIVEN A HIGHLY COMMENDED AWARD, WHILE THOSE SCHOOLS WHICH OBTAIN 74 TO 80 MARKS WILL BE GIVEN A COMMENDED AWARD CERTIFICATE. FURTHERMORE, EACH PARTICIPATING SCHOOL WILL BE GIVEN A SOUVENIR PENNANT.

ON HONG KONG ISLAND, THE FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD AT CLEMENTI MIDDLE SCHOOL AT FORTRESS HILL ROAD, NORTH POINT, AND IN KOWLOON IT WILL BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG SZE YAP COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION WONG TAI SHAN MEMORIAL COLLEGE AT NAM CHEONG STREET.

IF THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING TEAMS FROM YUEN LONG AND TSUEN WAN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IS 15 OR MORE, A SUITABLE VENUE WILL BE FOUND IN THE RESPECTIVE AREAS. BUT IF THE NUMBER IS LESS THAN 15, PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS WILL HAVE TO JOIN THE EVENT AT THE KOWLOON VENUE.

ENTRY FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 15.

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COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF TRANSPORT SERVICES

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS COMPILED A DETAILED LIST OF ALL PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES, FROM FRANCHISED BUSES AND FERRIES TO PEAK TRAMS AND MAXI-CABS, BEING OPERATED THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

THE DETAIL, INCLUDING ROUTES, FREQUENCIES, AND FARES, IS CONTAINED IN SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT NO. 4 TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT GAZETTE PUBLISHED ON OCTOBER 20, 1978.

THIS SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT CONTAINS AN UP-TO-DATE SCHEDULE OF ALL THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE THREE BUS COMPANIES, THE HONG KONG TRAMWAYS, PEAK TRAMWAYS, THE STAR FERRY AND HONGKONG YAUMATI FERRY AS WELL AS EIGHT MAXICAB ROUTES.

THE LAST TIME THAT SUCH A COMPREHENSIVE LIST WAS PUBLISHED WAS IN SEPTEMBER 1975.

THE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT CAN BE PURCHASED AT \$6 A COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE IN THE GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

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WATER CUT IN CHAI WAN

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN CHAI WAN WILL BE STOPPED FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 P.M. ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 26) TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY 399 CHAI WAN ROAD, 8-12 ON YIP STREET, AND 1-9 SUN YIP STREET, INCLUDING CALTEX SERVICE FILLING STATION AND CHINA MOTOR BUS GARAGE.

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