



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, JUNE 27, 1994

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RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SURVEY RESULTS FOR MAY

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THE AMOUNT OF RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOANS FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTIES IN HONG KONG CONTINUED TO RISE IN MAY, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF THE LATEST MONTHLY SURVEY OF THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY (HKMA).

THE LATEST FIGURES SHOWED THAT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF OUTSTANDING MORTGAGE LENDING BY THE 33 INSTITUTIONS IN THE SURVEY GREW BY 1.75 PER CENT IN MAY (1.74 PER CENT IN APRIL) FROM \$230.9 BILLION TO \$235.0 BILLION.

THE ANNUALISED RATE OF GROWTH IN LENDING OVER THE LAST THREE MONTHS HAS RISEN TO 21.1 PER CENT FROM 17.7 PER CENT IN THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD TO APRIL.

THE TWELVE MONTH AVERAGE OF OUTSTANDING LENDING HAS GROWN AT AN ANNUALISED RATE OF 17.9 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH THE GROWTH OF 17.7 PER CENT IN APRIL.

AS NOTED LAST MONTH, A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF UNDRAWN COMMITMENTS REMAINED IN THE PIPELINE AT THE END OF APRIL AND THIS HELPS TO EXPLAIN PART OF THE GROWTH IN LENDING IN MAY.

DURING MAY THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SOME SLOWING DOWN IN LOAN APPLICATIONS WHICH HAS CONTINUED INTO JUNE.

REFLECTING THIS TREND, NEW LOANS APPROVED BUT NOT YET DRAWN FELL IN MAY FROM \$6.3 BILLION TO \$5.0 BILLION.

"JUDGING FROM THESE FIGURES, THE RATE OF GROWTH OF LENDING SHOULD BE SLOWER IN JUNE," THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (BANKING) OF THE HKMA, MR DAVID CARSE, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

AS REGARDS LENDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTIES IN CHINA, THE LATEST FIGURES SHOW THAT SUCH LENDING ROSE BY 2.2 PER CENT IN MAY, FROM \$3.86 BILLION TO \$3.94 BILLION. MOST OF THE INCREASE WAS ACCOUNTED FOR BY LOANS FOR THE PURCHASE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES.

GROSS LOANS MADE IN MAY ROSE BOTH IN NUMBERS (TO 295 FROM 277) AND IN AMOUNT (TO \$142 MILLION FROM \$110 MILLION). NEW LOANS APPROVED GREW IN AMOUNT (TO \$250 MILLION FROM \$219 MILLION) BUT FELL IN NUMBERS (TO 567 FROM 705).

/Residential Mortgage

Residential Mortgage Loans in Hong Kong
Results of Survey for May 1994

(Amount in HK\$ mn)	<u>May</u> 1994	<u>April</u> 1994
<u>33 authorised institutions</u>		
1. <u>Outstanding lending</u>		
a. Amount	234,966	230,926
b. Monthly change	1.75%	1.74%
c. Twelve-month change	18.0%	17.9%
d. Average change (annualized)		
Latest three months	21.1%	17.7%
Latest twelve months	17.9%	17.7%
2. <u>Gross loans made during month</u>		
a. Amount	10,007	9,381
b. Number	7482	6801
3. <u>New loans approved during month drawn and undrawn</u>		
a. Amount	8,935	10,042
b. Number	6090	7278
4. <u>New loans approved during month but not yet drawn</u>		
a. Amount	5,043	6,272
b. Number	3404	4581

MEETING ON ELECTORAL DEBATE

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, MET MRS SELINA CHOW, MR ALLEN LEE AND MR RONALD ARCULLI OF THE LIBERAL PARTY EARLIER TODAY (MONDAY).

THE LIBERAL PARTY LEADERS HAD ASKED FOR THE MEETING TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS ON THE POSITION OF THE OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE JUNE 29 DEBATE ON THE ARRANGEMENT FOR THE 1994 AND 1995 ELECTIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID DURING THE MEETING THE GOVERNOR MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE THREE OFFICIAL MEMBERS WOULD BE VOTING IN SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS DURING WEDNESDAY'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATE.

MR PATTEN SAID IT WOULD BE WRONG TO MAKE ARTIFICIAL DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN COUNCIL MEMBERS IN THE WAY SUGGESTED BY THE LIBERAL PARTY.

"EVERY MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL HAS THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND EVERY VOTE IS OF EQUAL WEIGHT," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT APART FROM THE THREE OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, THERE ARE 18 OTHER APPOINTED MEMBERS.

EIGHT OF THESE APPOINTED MEMBERS ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY.

MR PATTEN SAID HE COULD NOT SEE THE CASE FOR ASKING THE APPOINTED MEMBERS AS A WHOLE, OR ONE GROUP OF APPOINTED MEMBERS, TO ABSTAIN FROM VOTING AT THE END OF THE DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY.

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REVIEW OF LAND AUCTION ARRANGEMENTS

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THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, TODAY (MONDAY) ANNOUNCED THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE REVIEW PANEL WHICH WAS SET UP TO REVIEW THE LAND AUCTION ARRANGEMENTS.

THE THREE MEMBERS ARE:

- * PROFESSOR C K LEUNG DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION AND CHAIRMAN OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- * MS AUDREY EU QUEEN'S COUNSEL, AND MEMBER OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL AND THE LAND AND BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

/* MR NICK BROOKE

* MR NICK BROOKE CHARTERED SURVEYOR, AND MEMBER OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD

THE REVIEW PANEL HAS BEEN ASKED TO EXAMINE THE GOVERNMENT'S LAND DISPOSAL ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING AUCTIONS, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AS REGARDS IMPROVEMENTS AND CHANGES WHICH MIGHT BE INTRODUCED BEFORE THE NEXT AUCTION ON JULY 26.

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SOCIAL SECURITY EXPENDITURE UP 50 PER CENT IN FOUR YEARS

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SOCIAL SECURITY EXPENDITURE HAS GROWN BY 50 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR DONALD TSANG, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NEW COMPUTERISED SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENT SYSTEM OF SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, MR TSANG SAID ONE REASON FOR THE HUGE INCREASE WAS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE REAL LEVEL OF SOCIAL BENEFITS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE 1994/95 ESTIMATES PROVIDED \$2.9 BILLION FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE SCHEME (CSSA) WHICH PROVIDED CASH ASSISTANCE TO THOSE IN NEED ON A MEANS-TESTED BASIS.

THREE BILLION DOLLARS WERE PROVIDED FOR THE SOCIAL SECURITY ALLOWANCE SCHEME (SSA) WHICH PROVIDED FLAT RATE ALLOWANCE FOR THE SEVERELY DISABLED AND THE ELDERLY.

ABOUT 630,000 PEOPLE BENEFITTED FROM THESE SCHEMES, MR TSANG SAID.

MR TSANG NOTED THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAD IMPLEMENTED THE NEW COMPUTERISED SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENT SYSTEM ON APRIL 1 THIS YEAR IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THE GROWTH IN WORKLOAD AND PROVIDE A MORE EFFICIENT SERVICE TO ITS CLIENTS.

HE ADDED THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DEPARTMENT INTENDED TO BUILD ON THE NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM BY PROVIDING A BETTER MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM.

"THIS WILL HELP US TO MONITOR EXPENDITURE MORE CLOSELY AND PLAN FOR THE FUTURE MORE EFFECTIVELY," MR TSANG SAID.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, EXPLAINED THAT THE NEW SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENT SYSTEM (SSPS) WAS AN ON-LINE SYSTEM.

NOTING THAT THE 32 SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS STAFF COULD CREATE, UPDATE AND ENQUIRE INTO CLIENTS' RECORDS THROUGH TERMINALS INSTALLED AT THEIR OFFICES, MR STRACHAN SAID UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION WAS THEREFORE READILY AVAILABLE WHICH FACILITATED PROMPT RESPONSE TO THE CHECKING OF DUPLICATE CLAIMS.

/"SECONDLY, THE

"SECONDLY, THE CUMBERSOME CASH ORDER BOOK PAYMENT MECHANISM HAS BEEN ELIMINATED," HE SAID.

POINTING OUT THAT THE SOCIAL SECURITY CUSTOMERS NOW RECEIVED PAYMENT THROUGH BANK AUTO-PAY AND PROCESSING TIME FOR AUTO-PAY HAD BEEN SHORTENED FROM EIGHT TO SIX WORKING DAYS, THE SOCIAL WELFARE CHIEF SAID CUSTOMERS COULD CHOOSE THE BANK MOST CONVENIENT TO THEM AND WERE NOT REQUIRED TO DRAW ALL THE MONTHLY PAYMENT AT ONE TIME.

"THIRDLY, THE EFFICIENCY AND ACCURACY OF THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS HAS BEEN IMPROVED SINCE, AFTER ENTERING ON-LINE PERSONAL PARTICULARS AND OTHER PARAMETERS FOR ASSESSMENT, THE SSPS WILL AUTOMATICALLY PERFORM THE NECESSARY CALCULATIONS.

"THIS FACILITY IS PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN THE ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT OF PAYMENT RATES," MR STRACHAN SAID.

MR STRACHAN SAID CUSTOMERS WOULD LATER THIS YEAR BE PROVIDED WITH A MORE DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF THEIR MONTHLY PAYMENTS WHICH WOULD SHOW THE BASIC RATES AND WHERE APPLICABLE THE RENT ALLOWANCE AND OTHER SPECIAL GRANTS PAID TO EACH CUSTOMER.

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SHIP MASTERS URGED TO KEEP PROPER LOOKOUT

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THE REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE COLLISION BETWEEN A PASSENGER FERRY, XING HU, AND A FISHING VESSEL, M62958A, IN MA WAN ON OCTOBER 4 LAST YEAR REVEALED THAT A FAILURE OF BOTH VESSELS TO KEEP A PROPER LOOKOUT WAS THE CAUSE OF THE COLLISION.

THE REPORT ALSO REVEALED THAT HYDRODYNAMIC INTERACTION BETWEEN THE PASSENGER FERRY AND THE FISHING VESSEL WAS LIKELY A CONTRIBUTORY FACTOR IN THE FINAL STAGE OF THE ENCOUNTER.

THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR ALLAN PYRKE, HAS ACCEPTED THE FINDINGS OF THE REPORT.

THE REPORTING OFFICER, SURVEYOR OF SHIPS, MR TSE SIU-HUNG, NOTED THAT KEEPING A LOOKOUT DID NOT MEAN ONLY LOOKING AHEAD.

"ONE MUST LOOK ALL AROUND AND FIND OUT WHETHER THERE IS A RISK OF COLLISION WITH OTHER VESSELS," HE SAID.

ON THE DANGER OF INTERACTION BETWEEN VESSELS, MR TSE POINTED OUT THAT THE DANGER EXISTED WHEN ONE VESSEL WAS OVERTAKING ANOTHER AT A CLOSE RANGE.

"THE RISKS INTENSIFY IN SITUATIONS WHERE ONE IS A SMALL CRAFT AND THE OTHER IS A BIG DISPLACEMENT VESSEL.

"THE SMALL VESSEL CAN TAKE A VIOLENT UNCONTROLLED TURN AFTER RIGHT ACROSS THE BOWS OF THE BIG SHIP. THE DANGER OF INTERACTION INCREASES WITH SPEED AND IN SHALLOW WATERS," MR TSE ADDED.

"SMALL CRAFT SHOULD NOT PASS A BIG DISPLACEMENT VESSEL AT A CLOSE DISTANCE, SAY LESS THAN 30 METRES APART," HE ADVISED.

THE FISHING VESSEL, MEASURING 28.4 METRES IN LENGTH, CAPSIZED AFTER COLLIDING WITH THE 104-METRE PASSENGER FERRY ONE MILE WEST OF MA WAN ABOUT 4.45 AM ON OCTOBER 4, 1993.

THE FISHING VESSEL WITH SIX PERSONS ON BOARD SANK SUBSEQUENTLY.

THE MASTER OF THE FISHING VESSEL WAS PICKED UP BY THE SEARCH AND RESCUE PARTY INVOLVING THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, FIRE SERVICES, MARINE POLICE, THE GOVERNMENT FLYING SERVICES ABOUT 6.30 AM.

HE WAS CERTIFIED DEAD ON ARRIVAL AT SIR DAVID TRENCH CLINIC IN TSUEN WAN.

THE FIVE CREW MEMBERS COULD NOT BE LOCATED DESPITE ONE-AND-A-HALF DAY SEARCH.

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RESULTS OF 1992 SURVEY OF TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES

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THE BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOME - TOTAL RECEIPTS - GENERATED BY TRANSPORT ESTABLISHMENTS IN 1992 AMOUNTED TO \$165.6 BILLION, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 23% OVER 1991.

NET OF OPERATING EXPENSES AND COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES, THE GROSS SURPLUS ACCOUNTED FOR 13.3% OF THE TOTAL RECEIPTS. THIS WAS 1.1 PERCENTAGE POINTS LOWER THAN THE FIGURE FOR 1991.

THE VALUE ADDED, WHICH IS A MEASURE OF THE SECTOR'S CONTRIBUTION TO HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, GREW BY 17%, FROM \$41.2 BILLION IN 1991 TO \$48.0 BILLION IN 1992.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE 1992 SURVEY OF TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED FROM JUNE 1993 TO EARLY THIS YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID ALL VALUE FIGURES WERE EXPRESSED IN CURRENT PRICE TERMS. PERCENTAGE CHANGES DERIVED FROM THESE FIGURES HAVE NOT BEEN ADJUSTED FOR PRICE CHANGES.

HE SAID CAUTION SHOULD THEREFORE BE TAKEN IN INTERPRETING THE SURVEY RESULTS.

THE OPERATING EXPENSES INCURRED BY TRANSPORT ESTABLISHMENTS IN 1992 ACCOUNTED FOR 72.9% OF THE TOTAL RECEIPTS. COMPARED WITH 1991, THIS INCREASED BY 1.6 PERCENTAGE POINTS.

THE COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES ACCOUNTED FOR 13.8% OF THE TOTAL RECEIPTS, REPRESENTING A DECREASE OF 0.5 PERCENTAGE POINT UNDER 1991.

THE SURVEY RESULTS SHOWED THAT SOME 40,000 TRANSPORT ESTABLISHMENTS WERE IN OPERATION IN 1992, AN INCREASE OF 1% OVER 1991.

WITHIN THE TRANSPORT SECTOR, AIR TRANSPORT ACCOUNTED FOR THE LARGEST SHARE OF VALUE ADDED IN 1992, ACCOUNTING FOR 24% OF THE SECTOR'S TOTAL, FOLLOWED BY LAND PASSENGER TRANSPORT (22%); OCEAN AND COASTAL WATER TRANSPORT (18%); SERVICES INCIDENTAL TO TRANSPORT (13%); LAND FREIGHT TRANSPORT (12%); SUPPORTING SERVICES TO WATER TRANSPORT (6%); INLAND WATER TRANSPORT (3%) AND SUPPORTING SERVICES TO LAND TRANSPORT (2%).

COMPARED WITH 1991, THE SHARE ATTRIBUTED TO SERVICES INCIDENTAL TO TRANSPORT INCREASED BY 1.1 PERCENTAGE POINTS.

THIS WAS MAINLY DUE TO THE THRIVING BUSINESS OF TRAVEL AND AIRLINE TICKET AGENTS RESULTING FROM THE REVIVAL OF TOURISM AND THE LARGE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF VISITORS FROM CHINA.

THE CONTINUED GROWTH IN THE BUSINESS OF CARGO FORWARDERS ALSO CONTRIBUTED.

THE SHARE OF TOTAL VALUE ADDED ATTRIBUTED TO LAND FREIGHT TRANSPORT INCREASED BY 0.8 PERCENTAGE POINT OVER 1991. THIS WAS DUE TO THE CONTINUED GROWTH IN CROSS-BORDER TRANSPORT OF GOODS VEHICLES.

FOR SUPPORTING SERVICES TO LAND TRANSPORT, ITS SHARE OF TOTAL VALUE ADDED WENT UP BY 0.4 PERCENTAGE POINT OVER 1991.

ALTHOUGH THIS INCREASE IN ABSOLUTE TERMS WAS NOT LARGE, THERE WAS A MARKED PERCENTAGE GROWTH OF 42%.

THIS WAS ATTRIBUTED TO THE CONTINUED PRIVATISATION OF A NUMBER OF CAR PARKS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AND VEHICULAR TUNNELS (INCLUDING SHING MUN TUNNEL AND TSEUNG KWAN O TUNNEL) WHICH HAD FORMERLY BEEN OPERATED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SHARE OF TOTAL VALUE ADDED FOR AIR TRANSPORT DECREASED BY 1.1 PERCENTAGE POINTS AND THAT FOR OCEAN AND COASTAL WATER TRANSPORT BY 0.7 PERCENTAGE POINT.

THE PERCENTAGES FOR THE OTHER TRADES IN THE SECTOR REMAINED GENERALLY UNCHANGED.

SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR THE 1992 SURVEY OF TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE MAY 1994 ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

MORE DETAILED RESULTS TOGETHER WITH THE BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY OF THE SURVEY WILL BE GIVEN IN A FULL SURVEY REPORT TO BE PUBLISHED AROUND AUGUST.

THIS REPORT WILL BE ON SALE IN AUGUST AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND THE PUBLICATION SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE TRANSPORT AND MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES STATISTICS SECTION ON

TEL 802 1277.

COMPARISON OF SELECTED PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR ALL ESTABLISHMENTS
IN THE TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES SECTOR BETWEEN 1991 AND 1992

MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP		NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS	NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES	OPERATING EXPENSES	BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOME	GROSS ADDITIONS TO FIXED ASSETS	VALUE ADDED	GROSS SURPLUS
					(\$Mn.)	(\$Mn.)	(\$Mn.)	(\$Mn.)	(\$Mn.)	(\$Mn.)
LAND PASSENGER TRANSPORT	1992	18 092	51 022	31 343	4,190	6,846	15,171	2,121	10,578	4,135
	1991	17 926	48 662	29 662	3,551	6,378	13,457	1,802	9,176	3,528
	% change	+1	+5	+6	+18	+7	+13	+18	+15	+17
LAND FREIGHT TRANSPORT	1992	14 081	46 556	30 059	2,843	6,393	11,302	1,211	5,811	2,066
	1991	14 328	39 606	25 649	2,262	5,572	9,721	729	4,659	1,887
	% change	-2	+18	+17	+26	+15	+16	+66	+25	+9
SUPPORTING SERVICES TO LAND TRANSPORT	1992	125	3 425	3 371	328	1,303	2,305	62	1,128	674
	1991	97	2 739	2 691	227	1,082	1,742	603	797	434
	% change	+29	+25	+25	+45	+20	+32	-90	+42	+55
OCEAN AND COASTAL WATER TRANSPORT	1992	418	16 729	16 699	3,133	10,803	19,145	1,646	8,470	5,209
	1991	392	15 769	15 755	2,702	9,136	16,348	3,232	7,541	4,510
	% change	+7	+6	+6	+16	+18	+17	-49	+12	+16
INLAND WATER TRANSPORT	1992	862	6 938	5 887	698	1,659	2,941	151	1,271	584
	1991	820	5 955	5 166	581	1,199	2,306	451	1,125	526
	% change	+5	+17	+14	+20	+38	+28	-66	+13	+11
SUPPORTING SERVICES TO WATER TRANSPORT	1992	2 442	12 171	9 977	1,387	5,184	7,584	898	2,857	1,014
	1991	2 112	11 474	9 674	1,224	4,446	6,540	702	2,537	870
	% change	+16	+6	+3	+13	+17	+16	+28	+13	+17
AIR TRANSPORT	1992	59	21 229	21 229	6,124	17,093	29,510	4,468	11,709	6,293
	1991	57	20 509	20 509	5,414	15,271	26,635	5,695	10,492	5,950
	% change	+4	+4	+4	+13	+12	+11	-22	+12	+6
SERVICES INCIDENTAL TO TRANSPORT	1992	3 576	37 080	35 535	4,168	71,500	77,656	948	6,171	1,988
	1991	3 411	33 716	31 661	3,312	52,668	57,508	465	4,855	1,528
	% change	+5	+10	+12	+26	+36	+35	+104	+27	+30
ALL TRANSPORT GROUPS	1992	39 655	195 151	154 100	22,870	120,781	165,614	11,506	47,996	21,963
	1991	39 143	178 430	140 767	19,273	95,751	134,258	13,679	41,181	19,234
	% change	+1	+9	+9	+19	+26	+23	-16	+17	+14
GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT	1992	3	1 313	1 313	380	544	2,976	928	2,435	N.A.
	1991	3	1 361	1 361	369	504	2,763	696	2,261	N.A.
	% change	*	-4	-4	+3	+8	+8	+33	+8	(-)

- Notes : (1) Percentage change figures are derived from unrounded figures.
(2) Individual items may not add up to the corresponding total due to rounding.
(3) Value added is a measure of the contribution of an economic sector/industry to Hong Kong's Gross Domestic Product. The definition can be found in the "1992 Survey of Transport and Related Services" report.
(4) * denotes % change less than ±0.5%.

FOOD SURVEILLANCE FIGURES FOR FIRST QUARTER

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HAS CARRIED OUT 11,085 EXAMINATIONS FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL, CHEMICAL AND RADIOACTIVITY TESTS UNDER ITS REGULAR FOOD SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

THE PROGRAMME IS CONDUCTED BY THE HYGIENE DIVISION TO ENSURE THAT FOOD SUPPLIED TO THE COMMUNITY IS WHOLESOME, UNADULTERATED, UNCONTAMINATED, PROPERLY LABELLED AND OF NUTRITIOUS QUALITY.

AMONG 8,014 EXAMINATIONS FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS, 7,891 WERE SATISFACTORY WHILE 123 OR 1.5 PER CENT WERE UNSATISFACTORY.

THE UNSATISFACTORY CASES WERE MAINLY DUE TO FOOD CONTAINING NON-PERMITTED OR EXCESSIVE FOOD ADDITIVES SUCH AS ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS AND PRESERVATIVES, AND SEAFOOD CONTAINING HIGHER LEVEL OF HEAVY METALS.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS SHOWED THAT OUT OF THE 2,783 SAMPLES TAKEN, 2,654 WERE SATISFACTORY WHILE 129 SAMPLES OR 4.6 PER CENT WERE UNSATISFACTORY.

MOST OF THE UNSATISFACTORY CASES WERE ATTRIBUTED TO HIGH BACTERIAL AND FAECAL COLIFORM COUNT IN SHELLFISH AND MEAT PRODUCTS.

ON THE MONITORING OF RADIOACTIVITY IN FOOD, ALL OF THE 288 SAMPLES TAKEN WERE SATISFACTORY.

THE DIVISION CARRIED OUT 52 PROSECUTIONS AND ISSUED 87 WARNING LETTERS DURING THE PERIOD. AMONG THESE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS, 29 WARNING LETTERS AND SIX PROSECUTIONS AROSE FROM THE CHECKING OF 4,172 LABELS FOR PRE-PACKAGED FOOD.

IN THE SAME PERIOD, THE DIVISION INSPECTED 2,811,379 KILOGRAMS OF IMPORTED MEAT AND 3,056,687 KILOGRAMS OF IMPORTED POULTRY IN 568 INSPECTIONS.

A TOTAL OF 114,601 KILOGRAMS OF FOOD WERE FOUND UNFIT FOR CONSUMPTION AND WERE DESTROYED.

DURING THE PERIOD, THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED 80 REPORTS OF FOOD POISONING CASES, AFFECTING 229 PERSONS.

INVESTIGATIONS SHOWED THAT 73 CASES WERE DOMESTIC OUTBREAKS AND SEVEN FOOD-PREMISES OUTBREAKS. AMONG THESE CASES, 17 WERE DUE TO SEAFOOD POISONING, OF WHICH 14 WERE RELATED TO PARALYTIC SHELLFISH POISONING.

BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT PROMISES
EFFICIENT AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE, COURTEOUS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS, MRS HELEN YU, TODAY (MONDAY) AT A PRESS CONFERENCE LAUNCHING THE DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE PLEDGE.

THE PLEDGE COVERS THE FOLLOWING MAJOR SERVICES:

- * RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES RELATING TO DANGERS IN BUILDINGS SUCH AS BUILDING COLLAPSE AND FALLING CANOPIES;
- * HANDLING OF REPORTS ABOUT DANGEROUS BUILDINGS AND SIGNS;
- * HANDLING OF REPORTS ABOUT UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS AND DEFECTIVE DRAINS; AND
- * PROCESSING OF PLANS FOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

MRS YU SAID THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGE WOULD BE MONITORED BY THE BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE LAND AND BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE AUTHORISED PERSONS AND REGISTERED STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS COMMITTEE AND THE DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE STANDARDS COMMITTEE.

"EVERY YEAR, WE WILL PUBLISH OUR PERFORMANCE RESULTS AGAINST THE TARGETS," SHE NOTED.

MRS YU WELCOMED COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS ON THE WAY THE DEPARTMENT DELIVERED ITS SERVICES.

AND SHE PROMISED: "WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO OUR BEST TO ACHIEVE OUR TARGETS."

"IF ANYONE WANTS AN EXPLANATION OR FEELS THAT HIS APPLICATION HAS NOT BEEN DEALT WITH ADEQUATELY, HE IS WELCOME TO CONTACT OUR SERVICE MANAGER IN THE OFFICE CONCERNED.

"STRAIGHTFORWARD ORAL COMPLAINTS WILL BE HANDLED ON THE SPOT. WRITTEN OR COMPLICATED ORAL COMPLAINTS WILL GET AT LEAST AN INTERIM REPLY WITHIN 10 DAYS."

THE NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE SERVICE MANAGERS ARE DISPLAYED PROMINENTLY IN EVERY OFFICE AND AT THE MAIN RECEPTION COUNTER OF THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS ON THE 12TH FLOOR OF MURRAY BUILDING ON GARDEN ROAD.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ALSO CALL THE DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE MANAGER ON TEL 848 6226.

DETAILS OF THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGE WERE OUTLINED AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE BY FIVE ASSISTANT DIRECTORS, MR C A VINEY IN CHARGE OF THE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION; MR CHENG WEI-DART OF THE LEGAL AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION; MR M D GREEN OF THE SPECIALIST DIVISION; MR LOK CHE-LEUNG OF THE CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION; AND MR NG HON-KEUNG OF THE STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING DIVISION.

MONDAY, JUNE 27, 1994

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 71.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 416.835 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 410.895 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 70.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,699	0930	+462
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	4,618	1000	+462
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+468
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+3,144	1200	+468
LAF TODAY	-225	1500	+468
		1600	+3,144
LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER	TWI 123.3	*-0.1*	27.6.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.02	17 MONTHS	2511	4.15	97.55	6.08
1 MONTH	4.14	23 MONTHS	2605	6.35	99.75	6.59
3 MONTHS	4.33	28 MONTHS	3610	4.20	94.43	6.93
6 MONTHS	4.82	31 MONTHS	3701	4.60	94.45	7.11
12 MONTHS	5.44	34 MONTHS	3704	6.15	97.58	7.23

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 25,386 MN

CLOSED 27 JUNE 1994

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