



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, April 3, 1973

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FEBRUARY TRADE FIGURES SHOW INCREASE

Hong Kong's domestic exports in February amounted to \$1,246 million -- an increase of \$139 million or 12.5 per cent over the same period last year.

According to provisional figures issued today by the Census and Statistics Department, the value of imports during the month was \$1,916 million.

Compared with last year's corresponding figure, this showed an increase of \$348 million or 22.2 per cent.

The value of re-exports at \$364 million represented a rise of \$82 million or 29.1 per cent.

A spokesman for the Commerce and Industry Department said that during the three-month period, December 1972 to February 1973, domestic exports totalled \$3,673 million, while imports amounted to \$5,754 million and re-exports \$1,112 million.

These figures represented increases of 9.5 per cent, 19.3 per cent and 29.0 per cent respectively compared with the corresponding period 12 months ago.

Figures for the first two months of this year showed increases over the same period last year of 9.1 per cent for domestic exports, 21.8 per cent for imports and 26.8 per cent for re-exports.

A comparative table is given below:

	Dec. 1972	Dec. 1971	Increase or	
	to	to	decrease	
	Feb. 1973	Feb. 1972	\$ Million	Per Cent
	\$ Million	\$ Million		
Domestic Exports	3,673	3,353	+ 319	+ 9.5
Imports	5,754	4,824	+ 930	+ 19.3
Re-exports	1,112	862	+ 250	+ 29.0

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	Jan.-Feb.	Jan.-Feb.	Increase or	
	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>decrease</u>	
	\$ Million	\$ Million	\$ Million	Per Cent
Domestic Exports	2,460	2,254	+ 206	+ 9.1
Imports	3,774	3,099	+ 675	+ 21.8
Re-exports	722	569	+ 152	+ 26.8

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CITY HALL HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

The City Hall, other than the City Hall Library and the City Museum and Art Gallery, will remain open on Thursday (April 5) which is a public holiday.

Also open to the public will be the Lei Cheng Uk Museum (12 noon to 7 p.m.), the Yau Ma Tei Branch Library (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.), the Aberdeen/Pokfulam Branch Library and the Kowloon Park students' study room (1 p.m. to 5 p.m.)

The branch libraries at Ping Shek and Waterloo Road will be closed for the day.

Meanwhile, the Postmaster General announced that all post offices will be closed and there will be no mail delivery on Thursday.

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MORE POST OFFICES ON THE WAY
To Cope With Increasing Demand

The Post Office is to continue its expansion programme and adopt new postal methods and procedures to meet the increasing demands being placed upon it.

At present, the Post Office handles nearly one million letters and parcels every day and exchanges mail with over 130 countries.

A spokesman for the Post Office said today that plans were in hand to build seven more branch offices to serve residents in various districts on both sides of the harbour.

They will be designated at Cloudview Road, Guildford Road, Perkins Road, Tsat Tse Mui, Wong Chuk Hang, Waterloo Road North and Lam Tin.

"All the planned new post offices are expected to be opened within the next 12 months," the spokesman said.

In the meantime, two other new post offices are under construction -- one in the Mei Fu Sun Chuen Estate and the other in the Ko Chiu Road Government Low Cost Housing Estate.

Both are expected to open for business in the near future.

At present, there are 65 post offices in operation in Hong Kong, including a mobile post office serving residents in the rural areas.

Referring to the new General Post Office in Central and the International Mail Centre at Hung Hom, the spokesman said: "The feasibility mechanisation layouts of these two projects were finalised by the British Post Office Consultancy Service, and the detailed planning of the new buildings is now in hand."

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Piling work for the new General Post Office is expected to begin sometime next month.

It is scheduled for completion at the end of 1975 and for occupation in the following year.

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PRESENTATION OF INSIGNIA

Note to Editors: The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose will present insignia to 53 members of the community at a ceremony at Government House tomorrow (Wednesday) at 11 a.m.

Copies of a list of recipients and citations will be available for collection from the G.I.S. press room at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

No press photographers other than those provided with special passes will be admitted to Government House.

Press representatives assigned to cover the ceremony are requested to assemble at the guard room of Government House not later than 10.30 a.m.

G.I.S. officers will be on hand to give assistance.

Newspapers not receiving passes will be able to obtain photographs by making arrangements for the supply of prints in the ordinary way with Asia Photo Supply Ltd., Hang Cheong Building, Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong, Telephone No. H-236429.

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CAMP FIRE PARTY TO CELEBRATE CHILDREN'S DAY

About 180 children, parents and young people will be taking part in a camp fire party at the Social Welfare Department's Wong Tai Sin Community Centre tomorrow (Wednesday) between 8 and 9.30 p.m. to celebrate children's day.

Performances will be given by the children and they will be participating in games organised by young members of the centre.

The aim is to foster parent-child relationships, and provide youth members with an opportunity for community involvement and leadership development.

A talk dealing with the role of parents will be given by Mr. Chow Yat-yu, chairman of the Hong Kong Subsidised Primary Schools Headmasters Association.

Children's day events are also being organised for about 500 children by the Sau Mau Ping (South) Community Work Office of the Social Welfare Department, in conjunction with local welfare agencies and schools.

Preliminary rounds in a children's talent contest will take place tomorrow in morning and afternoon sessions in the hall of the Sau Mau Ping (South) Estate Welfare Building.

Thirty entrants will be selected for the finals which will be staged in the hall between 3.30 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 7.

There will also be a children's games day on Saturday at the estate's football pitch between 2 to 3.30 p.m.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to send a reporter and photographer to cover the events arranged to celebrate children's day.

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BUILDING IN WESTERN DISTRICT CONDEMNED

The Building Authority today declared No. 2 Connaught Road West to be in a dangerous condition, and No. 1 Connaught Road West and Nos. 1 and 3 New Market Street liable to become dangerous.

In a statement issued this morning, the Principal Government Building Surveyor said these four-storey pre-war buildings were inter-dependent structures.

They had been under observation since certain essential repairs were ordered to be carried out after a routine inspection.

A further inspection recently showed evidence of new movement in the front verandah of No. 2 Connaught Road West and it was considered that there was a risk of failure at this point which could lead to a collapse.

In addition, there were fractures in the load bearing walls and the roof was extensively decayed.

The condition of No. 1 Connaught Road West and Nos. 1 and 3 New Market Street was poor with defective timber and fracture brickwork.

Since these buildings were inter-dependent, it was considered there was a risk of collapse during or after the demolition of No. 2 Connaught Road West.

Accordingly, notices of intention to apply for closure orders were posted on these buildings today. Hearing will be in the Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on May 2.

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RECONSTITUTED URBEO GETS DOWN TO WORK

The new Urban Council held its first meeting today when its 24-member Standing Committee formally endorsed the election of Mr. A. de O. Sales as the Council's first non-Government Chairman, and Mr. Hilton Cheong-Leen as the Vice-Chairman.

Items which the Council then immediately discussed included the Council's budget, its new Select Committee structure in the coming year and the Keep Hong Kong Clean Campaign. These will be tabled at the Council's first open meeting on April 10.

Today's discussions lasted for nearly an hour.

Mr. Sales, on taking the chair, paid tribute to the outgoing Chairman, Mr. David Alexander, for his hard work, ability and scrupulously correct manner in dealing with Councillors and Council affairs over the past years.

"Mr. Alexander was a gentleman at all times and we appreciated greatly his co-operation and ability," Mr. Sales said.

To his fellow Councillors Mr. Sales said that it would be in the interest of the Urban Council that all Select Committees worked closely in the discharge of their respective responsibilities.

After the meeting Mr. Sales paid a visit to his new office in the City Hall where he met the people who will be working with him as well as Mr. Darwin Chan, the City Hall Manager.

Mr. Sales said that the office would be used by the Council for meeting and welcoming local and visiting dignitaries, as well as such local citizens who may have cause to want to see him.

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As the office was still to be furnished Mr. Sales indicated his preference for Chinese furniture which he said was more in keeping with the character of Hong Kong and would be better appreciated by visitors.

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CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATIONS

The Education Department announced today that the Certificate of Education practical examinations to be held tomorrow (Wednesday) will take place as scheduled.

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Release time: 7.30 p.m.