



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Transcript of the Governor's media session

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The following is a transcript of the media session by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, after visiting a training session for Legislative Council Elections polling staff today (Tuesday):

Governor: I'd like to congratulate the Boundary and Election Commission and their executive arm, the Registration and Electoral Office, for having once again carried through the initial arrangements for our elections here in Hong Kong so superbly efficiently. As you know, we've had two rounds of elections during the last year. First of all for the District Boards and then for the Municipal Councils. In both those elections, we had a record number of people registered. We had record numbers of people turning out to vote. We had a record number of candidates, and a record number of people participating in the electoral process. Now we come to the third in these elections, an important milestone in Hong Kong's development, the first time that Legislative Council has been wholly elected and it's been wholly elected in a fair and open way. The fairness and the openness and the credibility of the whole process have I think been guaranteed by the way that the Commission and the REO have carried out their duties. We know that there's a record number of people registered for these elections. We know that there was 70,000 people for example registered to vote in the functional constituencies last time and that there is now well over a million and that there are over two and a half million people registered to vote in the geographical constituencies. We also know that there is a record number of candidates in the elections. So I hope that people will turn out on Sunday and vote in the elections so that they can help shape their own present and future. Last, I'd just like to thank the 14,000 civil servants who are involved on Sunday in manning polling stations and helping with the count. They are doing a very important job and as ever with the Hong Kong civil service, they are doing it extremely competently and with integrity and dedication.

Question: Mr Governor, will you expect record polling rate this Sunday?

Governor: I am always reluctant to predict the number of people who vote. All I'll say is that's certainly what happened in the District Board and Municipal Councils. Because the number of people registered to vote has gone up so sharply, we've now got about two thirds of the people of Hong Kong registered to vote, who are eligible that is, because of that, if you have the same turnout rate as you had in the past, you got a huge increase in the number voting. If we have the same sort of turnout as happened in the last Legislative Council elections, that would involve about a quarter of a million more people voting. But we'll see what happens. I think the actual campaign has suggested that there is a lot of intelligent interest in the outcome. I think as you know, the campaign has also been conducted so far with considerable moderation, without any signs of extremism and I hope that will continue until polling day.

Question: What do you say to the cynics who claim these elections are meaningless because LegCo won't last beyond is selected?

Governor: You could have said exactly the same thing about the District Board elections and the Municipal Council elections given some of the threats that have been made. But in those elections in the first 50 per cent more people voted than in the previous one and the other's 40 per cent more people voted than the previous elections. These elections matter. Hong Kong was promised by China and Britain that a steady process of democratisation would underpin all the guarantees that were made about Hong Kong's future as an open, plural, prosperous, free society. And these elections are part of that process. Nobody doubts, nobody disputes they are fair and open. I very much hope that every body will take account of the result and will dedicate themselves to working with the Legislative Council. I hope that threats of dismantling the Legislative Council can be put on one side. If that were to happen, then those who did it would have to explain themselves not just to the people of Hong Kong which is the most important thing, but to the international community. I think it would be a very curious way of starting off Chinese sovereignty in Hong Kong by dismantling the assembly which represents the opinions of Hong Kong people.

Question: How about a very low turnout rate for the new functional constituencies because a recent study found that voters, many of them do not know about the candidates?

Governor: In nine of the old functional constituencies, there's been no turnout at all because there hasn't been an election. I don't criticise the candidates. But there's no election at all. I prefer to see constituencies where there is an election, where people do put their opinions against one another and I'll be wanting to compare the turnout, the number of people voting in the functional constituencies this time with the number of people who voted in the functional constituencies last time. There are about 15 times as many people registered to vote in the functional constituencies as happened last time. I think that's a very good thing. As for knowing about your candidates, we are doing some advertising towards the end of this week and everybody who goes into a polling station as you will have seen if they don't know their candidate will be able to open a brochure in front of them which will give them all the electoral leaflets of their candidates in their own functional constituencies so they can check up on the identity of their functional constituency candidates and they'll doubtless make a choice between them.

Question: There are more and more pregnant women coming from China to give births in Hong Kong, what do you think the government can do to solve this problem?

Governor: We have to work extremely hard as we have been doing to deal with illegal immigration. I think that the snake-heads who are organising this awful trade in human beings are involved in an utterly deplorable activity. It puts the lives and the well-being of women and of children at risk, and I can assure you we'll take the firmest possible actions to deal with it. We do of course, recognise the importance of bringing in more rapidly through our quota system, those who will in due course after 1997 have a right to be in Hong Kong and, that's why we've increased the quota from 105 to 150. But of course, many of those who've brought in by these illegal trade won't have any right to be in Hong Kong. And I think that needs to be recognised.

Question: Are you at all discourage ... stake ... this is basically the result of your reform so you are anxious about what happens that they come up ... there is a ... vote turnout? Is there a lot of stake here for you personally?

Governor: I think there is a lot of state for the community in both the District Boards and the Municipal Councils. We had the largest number of people ever voting for those levels of representative government. I hope the same is true for the Legislative Council elections. But these arrangements were agreed by the people of Hong Kong. They were agreed by the Legislative Council. They weren't imposed by the Governor. They were the result of a debate with the community and with weeks of debate, months of debate in the Legislative Council. So this is the proposal which the last legislature agreed on. I think they're sensible proposals, I think they're fair proposals, and I think there'll produce a broadly based and credible Legislative Council.

Question: A number of candidates say that they are willing and prepared to join the provisional Legislative Council if they are elected, how do you comment on this?

Governor: There is no need for a provisional Legislative Council. Hong Kong is going to elect a very good Legislative Council on Sunday.

Question: Are you confident this won't be the last democratic elections held in Hong Kong?

Governor: Look around Hong Kong, look at Hong Kong's success, look at the level of education in Hong Kong, look at the sophisticated way in which Hong Kong dominates one market after another around the world. Nobody can seriously suppose that this will be the last free elections in Hong Kong. Whatever the threats, whatever the foot-stamping, Hong Kong is grown up. Hong Kong has developed a civic consciousness. Britain has made promises to Hong Kong, China has made promises to Hong Kong. Hong Kong deserves for those promises to be kept. But I am absolutely convinced that nobody can turn back the momentum behind the development of the institutions of a free society in Hong Kong operating under the rule of law. One more question.

Question: Mr Patten, do you agree that the influx of pregnant IIs has become so serious that it is some how out of control?

Governor: No, I don't think it is out of control. But I think that we need to continue to work extremely hard to pick up illegal immigrants who've got into Hong Kong and who are working and to prevent other illegal immigrants coming into the community. You have seen that the police have recently undertaken a number of successful operations to round up illegal immigrants and we'll continue to treat them firmly. I think the community expects that just as it expects us to deal as humanely as possible with those who have a right to be in Hong Kong. One more question.

Question: What happen if many of the elected members of the LegCo join the provisional government?

Governor: What you've always wonderfully imaginative about in Hong Kong is asking the most difficult hypothetical question you can. I prefer to deal with what's actually happening rather than what you hypothesise might happen. Governing Hong Kong is quite difficult enough without imagining improbable hypothesis. I am sure that those who command the greatest support in the community in these elections will want to make the best possible success of a Legislative Council which will be the first one elected by everybody in Hong Kong, the first in which everybody's being elected, the first which can point to as broad a body of public support, and this is this Legislative Council will be able to do. Thank you very much.

End/Tuesday, September 12, 1995

Hong Kong and China are partners in growth: FS

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Hong Kong and China are an ideal partnership for growth, the Financial Secretary, Mr Donald Tsang, said this (Tuesday) evening.

In a dinner speech to the Hong Kong Management Association, Mr Tsang outlined the various aspects of this partnership.

"For example, in 1994, realised direct investment by Hong Kong companies in China amounted to some US\$20 billion, more than 20 times the level of a decade ago.

"On a cumulative basis, our realised direct investment in China is now estimated at US\$60 billion, accounting for three-fifths of China's total," he said.

"Industrial investment primarily involving outward processing arrangements still predominates, although in recent years Hong Kong companies have increasingly extended the scope of their investment to other sectors such as hotels, restaurants, retail trade, real estate, and infrastructural facilities including - notably - highways, ports, electricity generation plants and telecommunications."

He added that a recent estimate by Chinese officials put the total number of Chinese workers engaged by Hong Kong companies in Guangdong Province at over four million.

Mr Tsang said by entering into extensive outward processing arrangements across the border, Hong Kong had contributed substantially to China's and, in particular, Guangdong's industrialisation process.

"Our other investments in China have also helped the economic restructuring and development in the locations concerned.

"On the other hand, the industrial production capacity of Hong Kong is effectively multiplied manifold, as the four million Chinese workers are a de facto expansion of our own manufacturing workforce," he said.

In the opposite direction, he said, China had likewise raised substantially its stake in Hong Kong, which was evidenced by a doubling of its total direct investment in the territory from an estimate of US\$10 billion by end-1990 to some US\$20 billion by end-1994.

Mr Tsang said Hong Kong and China were also close partners on the financial front and cross-border financial flows had shown a marked increase over the years.

"As an indication, the external liabilities to China of our authorised institutions grew markedly, by an average of 47 per cent per annum between 1980 and 1994.

"The external claims of our authorised institutions on China recorded a less rapid, but still substantial increase of 28 per cent per annum," he said.

Besides tapping funds from Hong Kong's banking sector, Mr Tsang said, China was also utilising the territory's securities market.

"At present, 17 state-owned enterprises in China have listed their H shares on our Stock Exchange, raising total capital of over \$20 billion," he said.

Mr Tsang said the Chinese and Hong Kong economies had become interwoven.

"In the process, China has become a major player in world trade and is now one of the largest economies. The standard of living of its people has improved impressively. GDP growth continues at a robust 8-9 per cent in real terms.

"Hong Kong has contributed to, and benefited from, these massive changes. Our per capita GDP now exceeds that of many developed economies such as Canada, Australia and several EC members," he said.

Mr Tsang said Hong Kong was a Chinese city imbued with traditional Chinese values and strengths. The stress on education, hard work, the importance of the family.

"On top of this we have added a cosmopolitan overlay. We have not been shy to borrow the best ideas from around the world and adapt them to our own needs.

"The rule of law, the concept of an individual with both rights and responsibilities. An impartial administrative machinery with appropriate checks and balances. Nowhere else do different cultures come together so effectively," he said.

He said this unique blend made Hong Kong the ideal interface between China and the rest of the world.

"And it promises great things for both partners in future. In 20 years' time, China - with support from Hong Kong - will be well on the way to becoming the world's largest economy. And Hong Kong - with support from China - will be the world's business capital," he said.

End/Tuesday, September 12, 1995

External trade statistics for July by country and commodity

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The Census and Statistics Department today (Tuesday) released detailed statistics on external trade with breakdown by country/territory and commodity for July 1995.

The value of re-exports continued to increase notably, by 19% over a year earlier to \$100.1 billion in July 1995.

Comparing July 1995 with July 1994, the value of re-exports to all of the main destinations showed increases of various magnitudes: Singapore (+38%), Netherlands (+30%), France (+29%), Taiwan (+29%), Japan (+28%), the United Kingdom (+25%), China (+18%), South Korea (+18%), Germany (+12%) and the United States (+9.5%).

Changes in the value of Hong Kong's re-exports to ten main destinations are shown in Table 1.

The value of re-exports in the first seven months of 1995 was \$615.3 billion, 20% higher than that in the same period in 1994.

Comparing the first seven months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, the value of re-exports to all main destinations showed increases of various magnitudes: Singapore (+35%), Japan (+28%), Taiwan (+25%), France (+25%), the Netherlands (+24%), China (+21%), the United States (+15%), South Korea (+14%), the United Kingdom (+14%) and Germany (+7.7%).

Table 2 shows changes in the value of re-exports of ten principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first seven months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, increases of various magnitudes were recorded in the value of re-exports of most principal commodity divisions.

More notable increases were registered for electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$18.6 billion or 43%); telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$13.3 billion or 26%); miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods (by \$12.2 billion or 20%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$11.6 billion or 60%); textiles (by \$9.2 billion or 20%); and plastics in primary forms (by \$6.6 billion or 61%).

Over the same period, re-exports of clothing fell by \$1.2 billion, representing a small decrease of 2.3% over a year earlier.

The value of domestic exports in July 1995, at \$22.1 billion, increased by 8.4% over a year earlier.

Comparing July 1995 with July 1994, the value of domestic exports to most of the main destinations showed increases of various magnitudes: Taiwan (+55%), Japan (+23%), France (+21%), the Netherlands (+18%), the United Kingdom (+11%), Singapore (+6.6%), China (+5.5%), Canada (+4.9%) and the United States (+4.5%).

However, the value of domestic exports to Germany decreased marginally, by 0.7%.

Changes in the value of domestic exports to ten main destinations are shown in Table 3.

Comparing the first seven months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, the value of domestic exports to most main destinations showed increases of various magnitudes: Taiwan (+33%), France (+25%), Japan (+24%), the Netherlands (+14%), Canada (+9.6%), China (+7.3%), the United Kingdom (+6.8%), Singapore (+6.5%) and the United States (+5.4%).

However, the value of domestic exports to Germany decreased marginally, by 0.7%.

Taking all destinations together, the value of domestic exports in the first seven months of 1995, at \$130.2 billion, increased markedly, by 9.3% over the same period in 1994.

Table 4 shows changes in the value of domestic exports of ten principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first seven months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, increases in the value of domestic exports were registered for electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$3.5 billion or 25%); clothing (by \$2.7 billion or 7.4%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$1.4 billion or 15%); photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, optical goods, watches and clocks (by \$1.1 billion or 13%); and miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of jewellery, goldsmiths' and silversmiths' wares (by \$601 million or 5.6%).

Over the same period, decreases in the value of domestic exports were recorded for telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$484 million or 7.3%); and textiles (by \$139 million or 1.7%).

The value of imports continued to increase substantially, by 22% over a year earlier to \$133.8 billion in July 1995.

Changes in the value of imports from ten main suppliers are shown in Table 5.

Comparing July 1995 with July 1994, the value of imports from all main suppliers showed increases of various magnitudes: France (+157%), Malaysia (+61%), the United States (+43%), the United Kingdom (+33%), Taiwan (+26%), China (+19%), Germany (+17%), South Korea (+16%), Japan (+12%) and Singapore (+7.4%).

Comparing the first seven months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, the value of imports from all main suppliers showed increases of various magnitudes: France (+93%), Malaysia (+46%), the United States (+32%), South Korea (+31%), Singapore (+28%), Taiwan (+25%), the United Kingdom (+23%), Germany (+22%), Japan (+19%) and China (+19%).

The value of imports in the first seven months of 1995, at \$845.2 billion, increased markedly, by 24% over the same period in 1994.

Table 6 shows changes in the value of imports of ten principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first seven months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, increases were recorded in the value of imports of most principal commodity divisions.

More notable increases were registered for electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$28.5 billion or 39%); telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$16.1 billion or 25%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$12.5 billion or 50%); textiles (by \$11.1 billion or 16%); miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods (by \$9.8 billion or 21%); photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, optical goods, watches and clocks (by \$6.4 billion or 22%); and general industrial machinery and equipment, and machine parts (by \$3.7 billion or 16%).

Over the same period, a small decrease in the value of imports was recorded for road vehicles (by \$811 million or 2.9%).

All the trade statistics described here are measured at current prices and no account has been taken of changes in prices between the periods of comparison.

A separate analysis of the volume and price movements of external trade for July 1995 will be released in early October.

Detailed trade statistics analysed by commodity and by country/territory are published in trade statistics reports.

The July issue of the "Hong Kong External Trade" with detailed analyses on the performance of Hong Kong's external trade in July 1995 will be on sale at \$122 per copy at around September 20.

The report can be purchased at either (i) the Government Publications Centre, ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, or (ii) the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Enquiries regarding regular subscription to this report may be directed to the Publications (Sales) Office, 28th Floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong, Tel 2598 8194; and enquiries on trade statistics to the Census and Statistics Department, Tel 2582 4915.

TABLE 1 : RE-EXPORTS TO TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	JUL 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JUL 95 OVER JUL 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-JUL 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-JUL 95 OVER JAN-JUL 94 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	33,105	+ 18.5	217,632	+ 21.4
UNITED STATES	22,838	+ 9.5	127,637	+ 15.0
JAPAN	5,887	+ 28.5	35,806	+ 28.1
GERMANY	4,063	+ 11.9	24,760	+ 7.7
UNITED KINGDOM	2,891	+ 25.4	16,517	+ 13.6
TAIWAN	2,326	+ 28.5	15,711	+ 25.5
SINGAPORE	2,381	+ 38.1	14,439	+ 34.6
SOUTH KOREA	1,687	+ 17.6	10,974	+ 14.0
FRANCE	1,546	+ 29.4	9,426	+ 25.4
NETHERLANDS	1,564	+ 29.7	9,289	+ 24.1

TABLE 2 : RE-EXPORTS OF TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JUL 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JUL 95 OVER JUL 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-JUL 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-JUL 95 OVER JAN-JUL 94 (% CHANGE)
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	14,352	+ 21.7	73,785	+ 19.7
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	10,599	+ 21.8	64,862	+ 25.7
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	9,696	+ 41.4	61,871	+ 43.1
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	7,867	+ 13.0	54,417	+ 20.4
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	9,025	- 1.0	48,735	- 2.3
FOOTWEAR	5,861	+ 10.2	34,888	+ 13.2
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	4,485	+ 44.8	30,864	+ 60.4
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	4,180	+ 24.9	27,360	+ 24.9
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS	3,303	+ 16.9	20,323	+ 17.5
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	2,601	+ 54.4	17,463	+ 60.8

TABLE 3 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	JUL 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JUL 95 OVER JUL 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-JUL 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-JUL 95 OVER JAN-JUL 94 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	5,705	+ 5.5	36,365	+ 7.3
UNITED STATES	6,130	+ 4.5	32,871	+ 5.4
SINGAPORE	1,055	+ 6.6	7,180	+ 6.5
GERMANY	1,392	- 0.7	6,970	- 0.7
JAPAN	1,064	+ 23.5	6,905	+ 24.2
UNITED KINGDOM	1,105	+ 11.1	5,855	+ 6.8
TAIWAN	708	+ 55.1	4,324	+ 33.5
NETHERLANDS	654	+ 17.9	3,037	+ 14.1
CANADA	499	+ 4.9	2,492	+ 9.6
FRANCE	326	+ 21.4	1,799	+ 25.2

TABLE 4 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JUL 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JUL 95 OVER JUL 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-JUL 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-JUL 95 OVER JAN-JUL 94 (% CHANGE)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	8,483	+ 6.1	39,747	+ 7.4
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	2,744	+ 32.6	17,173	+ 25.4
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	1,829	+ 13.5	11,292	+ 5.6
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	1,436	- 3.0	10,808	+ 15.5
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,467	+ 16.8	9,515	+ 13.0
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,180	- 1.8	8,235	- 1.7
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	1,023	+ 2.7	6,132	- 7.3
MANUFACTURES OF METALS	412	- 1.7	2,705	+ 3.9
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	320	+ 10.4	2,595	+ 23.2
PAPER, PAPERBOARD, AND ARTICLES OF PAPER PULP, OF PAPER OR OF PAPERBOARD	283	- 0.7	1,706	+ 7.8

TABLE 5 : IMPORTS FROM TEN MAIN SUPPLIERS

SUPPLIER	JUL 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JUL 95 OVER JUL 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-JUL 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-JUL 95 OVER JAN-JUL 94 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	49,379	+ 18.6	298,574	+ 19.1
JAPAN	19,632	+ 11.9	129,214	+ 19.1
TAIWAN	11,200	+ 25.5	73,689	+ 25.2
UNITED STATES	10,905	+ 43.1	65,299	+ 31.8
SINGAPORE	6,132	+ 7.4	43,377	+ 28.3
SOUTH KOREA	5,833	+ 16.0	43,064	+ 30.9
GERMANY	2,864	+ 17.0	18,917	+ 22.0
FRANCE	3,186	+157.2	17,280	+ 93.1
UNITED KINGDOM	2,651	+ 32.6	16,758	+ 23.4
MALAYSIA	2,710	+ 61.0	16,232	+ 45.7

TABLE 6 : IMPORTS OF TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JUL 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JUL 95 OVER JUL 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-JUL 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-JUL 95 OVER JAN-JUL 94 (% CHANGE)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	16,178	+ 36.3	101,948	+ 38.8
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	13,120	+ 24.7	80,195	+ 25.1
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	10,595	+ 10.5	78,477	+ 16.5
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	10,683	+ 27.7	56,782	+ 20.9
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	9,260	+ 1.4	52,660	+ 2.6
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	6,180	+ 47.8	37,512	+ 50.1
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	5,389	+ 25.2	35,974	+ 21.5
FOOTWEAR	4,858	+ 10.3	30,425	+ 12.7
ROAD VEHICLES	3,745	- 22.0	27,537	- 2.9
GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND MACHINE PARTS	3,430	- 3.4	26,547	+ 15.9

End/Tuesday, September 12, 1995

Governor sees training of polling staff

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, today (Tuesday) saw how a training session for polling staff of the Legislative Council elections was conducted.

Mr Patten looked on with interest the presiding officers practising the sealing of ballot boxes. He was accompanied by the Chairman of the Boundary and Election Commission, Mr Justice Woo Kwok-hing.

Earlier, Mr Patten saw a demonstration of the computer-assisted vote and counting procedure for the election committee constituency, including the validation process.

He also viewed mock polling booths and exhibits of electoral documents.

After a brief discussion with the presiding officers, the Governor observed a briefing for polling staff in session.

The Registration and Electoral Office has organised six half-day training sessions for the 11,000 polling staff and the first of which was held yesterday (Monday).

The sessions are aimed at providing detailed instructions to the staff on polling procedures on the election day.

All presiding officers were given separate, intensive and hands-on training.

The last of the sessions will be held tomorrow (Wednesday) afternoon.

End/Tuesday, September 12, 1995

Over half of job seekers placed under job matching scheme

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The Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong today (Tuesday) said he was delighted to learn that the Job Matching Programme (JMP) operated by the Labour Department was able to find jobs for over half of the registrants.

Speaking to the press after visiting the Local Employment Services (LES) Office at Centre Point, Wan Chai, Mr Wong said JMP's placement rate had been high with over 1,000 people already being placed in new jobs with monthly salaries ranged from \$5,000 to \$10,000 since the scheme started in April.

He noted that JMP was extended to all nine LES offices only in August and within a month, over 400 registrants were able to find new jobs.

"The JMP has proved to be of great assistance to job-seekers and since there are still plenty of vacancies registered with the Labour Department, I urged those who seek jobs to come forward and register with the LES offices," he said.

The Government has produced an API (Announcement for the Public Interest) to be broadcast in local TV stations from tomorrow (Wednesday) to promote JMP which provided special help to unemployed workers over 30 years old to find jobs through in-depth interviews and counselling plus active job-matching and referrals.

Where training needs are identified, the registrants will be referred to retraining courses.

End/Tuesday, September 12, 1995

Results on population survey in new towns published

The Planning Department has published a report entitled "Population Survey in New Towns and Rural Areas, 1994".

The report summarises the findings of a survey conducted by a research company commissioned by the department last year to collect information on the characteristics of households and population in private permanent housing developments in the New Territories.

The survey covered some 7,000 households in private permanent housing in four new towns, namely Tsing Yi, Tseung Kwan O, Tin Shui Wai and Ma On Shan, and five major private housing developments outside new towns.

The five developments include Fairview Park, Palm Springs, Hong Lok Yuen, Marina Cove and Discovery Bay.

The report is now on sale at \$30 a copy at the Government Publications Centre, ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

End/Tuesday, September 12, 1995

Air Quality Report for August

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The Environmental Protection Department today (Tuesday) released air quality information for August.

The purpose of the announcement is to keep the public informed of the air quality levels in the territory and to explain the measurements.

The announcement contains monitoring results from Mong Kok, Central/Western and Kwai Chung, which represent three important land use types in the territory:

- * locations close to road traffic in built-up urban areas,
- * combined commercial and residential districts, and
- * districts close to industrial areas.

The reported air pollutants include sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), total suspended particulates (TSP) which comprise all sizes of dust particles, and the respirable fraction of the dust (RSP). All these pollutants can affect respiratory health in sufficient concentration.

In August, there were no exceedances of the 24-hour Air Quality Objective (AQO) values at any of the three sites. Mong Kok station recorded the highest concentration of air pollutants, with the 24-hour average NO₂ approaching 90% of the corresponding AQO on August 25.

The gases and particles described originated from various sources. SO₂ is mostly produced when fuels that contain sulphur are burned. NO₂ is formed during combustion by the combination of nitrogen and oxygen, and by the atmospheric oxidation of nitric oxide (NO), also a product of combustion.

Vehicle exhaust is an important source of NO and NO₂ in terms of impact on local air quality. It is also a major source of airborne particulate matter, especially the smaller respirable particles.

Diesel-engined vehicles such as taxis, public light buses, passenger coaches, franchised buses and light and heavy goods vehicles are the greatest contributor of particulate matter. Other sources include industry, furnaces and boilers, construction activities, the sea and the soil.

It is worth noting that while the weather and climate always affect the concentrations of pollutants in the air, the only sure way of reducing the levels is to reduce emissions from the man-made sources.

Attention News Editors:

For further information on this air quality report, please contact Mr S W Pang on 2594 6413.

End/Tuesday, September 12, 1995

Buildings Department seeks to close illegal structures

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The Buildings Department is seeking to close the unauthorised structures on a ninth floor flat roof of Western House at 164 - 170 Des Voeux Road West and 30 - 32 Sai Woo Lane in Hong Kong for demolition without endangering the occupants and the public.

A notice was posted at the structures today (Tuesday) informing the occupants that the department would apply for a closure of the structures from the court on November 8.

Acting Chief Building Surveyor, Mr Edmond Li, said the planned closure was part of an exercise to enforce an order issued under the Buildings Ordinance requiring the removal of the illegal structures.

Demolition of the structures would commence once a Closure Order was granted, Mr Li added.

End/Tuesday, September 12, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

Tender date	12 Sept 1995	12 Sept 1995
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q537	H573
Amount applied	HK\$4,110 MN	HK\$3,290 MN
Amount allotted	HK\$1,500 MN	HK\$800 MN
Average yield accepted	5.83 PCT	5.82 PCT
Highest yield accepted	5.84 PCT	5.83 PCT
Pro rata ratio	About 47 PCT	About 36 PCT
Average tender yield	5.85 PCT	5.85 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Tenders to be held in the week beginning 18 Sept, 1995

Tender date	18 Sept 1995	19 Sept 1995
Paper on offer	EF notes	EF bills
Issue number	5009	Q538
Issue date	19 Sept 1995	20 Sept 1995
Maturity date	19 Sept 2000	20 Dec 1995
Tenor	5 years	91 days
Amount on offer	HK\$500+100 MN	HK\$1,500+300 MN
Coupon	6.95 PCT	

End/Tuesday, September 12, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,293	0930	-83
Closing balance in the account	1,962	1000	-83
Change attributable to :		1100	-83
Money market activity	-81	1200	-81
LAF today	+750	1500	-81
		1600	-81

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 122.7 *+0.3* 12.9.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.83	2 years	2708	6.06	100.14	6.07
1 month	5.84	3 years	3807	6.16	99.76	6.35
3 months	5.85	5 years	5006	6.60	99.03	6.96
6 months	5.85	5 years	M501	7.90	102.18	7.45
12 months	5.87					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$7,137 million

Closed September 12, 1995

End/Tuesday, September 12, 1995