



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Airport Committee meeting

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The Chinese and the British sides have agreed that, in accordance with the provisions of the "Memorandum of Understanding Concerning the Construction of the New Airport in Hong Kong and Related Questions" and further to the decisions recorded in the Agreed Minute in relation to the overall financing arrangements for the New Airport at Chek Lap Kok and the Airport Railway, the Airport Committee will hold a meeting in Hong Kong on June 30 to conduct consultations and confirm the consensus reached between the two sides on the Financial Support Agreements to be entered into by the Hong Kong Government with the Airport Authority and the Mass Transit Railway Corporation; and on the Hong Kong New Airport Air Cargo Service Franchises.

End/Thursday, June 29, 1995

Government response to agreement with Chinese side
on Financial Support Agreements

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In answer to media questions on the announcement of tomorrow's (Friday) Airport Committee meeting, a Government spokesman said: "The Government welcomes the announcement that the Airport Committee is to meet tomorrow morning.

"This is excellent news and represents a major step forward for both the airport and the airport railway projects.

"Tremendous progress has already been made on the two projects and these agreements will allow us to maintain momentum."

End/Thursday, June 29, 1995

Transcript of Financial Secretary's remarks

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Following is the transcript of the Financial Secretary Sir Hamish Macleod's remarks to the press on the Airport's Financial Support Agreements after officiating at the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong's dinner tonight (Thursday) :

As you know, its just been announced that following on the various meetings of the experts. There will be a meeting of the Airport Committee tomorrow to confirm the consensus reached on the FSAs, the Financial Agreements for the both the airport railway and the airport. So that is excellent news. I am afraid the details will have to wait until they have actually met tomorrow and then we can tell you more on that.

There is also another announcement that the franchise for air cargo which is a key also for the airport clearly. That is also been agreed and I guess that will be confirmed tomorrow also. So formal meeting of the Airport Committee and after that, that's tomorrow, we can announce all the details. But this is just some advance notice for you.

Question: When do you expect the formal signing ceremony will be held?

FS: We expect as I said that those decisions have to be confirmed tomorrow that will be it. There won't be a need for further ceremonies. Of course, the actual signing of the agreements which will follow between the Government and the two Corporations will of course takes place later. That the key thing is of course the meeting tomorrow to confirm between the two sides, the Chinese side and the British side, that the FSAs are agreed.

Question: What is the breakthrough in the airport talks ... because of improved relationship between the ...?

FS: Well , I don't know but I welcome it as I said clearly its excellent news. Details , I am sorry, wait until tomorrow.

Question: Does that mean that the airport can be opened in the spring in 1998?

FS: I think announcement will also be made tomorrow about timing.

End/Thursday, June 29, 1995

Transcript of the Governor's media session

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The following is a transcript of the press session by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, after his visit to the New Territories environmental blackspots today (Thursday):

Governor: Good afternoon. In my Policy Address in 1993, I set out our determination to do what we could to help back clean up some of those parts of the New Territories which have been hard hit as Hong Kong has been growing and developing in the last 10 and 15 years. We set up the Blackspots Task Force with a steering committee providing the infrastructure of advice and support under one of our most distinguished Legislative Councillors, Samuel Wong, and we've had an excellent team of officials working on this very difficult problem which some people, I think, had believed was intractable. It is, let's face it, uphill work. But I think you have seen before that the steering committee and the team of first class officials have got a sensible and realistic strategy which should gradually pick up momentum and start to restore the environment in the New Territories.

There are two very different problems I think. The first is the problem of those sites where there's already what the planners call existing use. And the second is in those sites where the development is unauthorised. We've got strategies for dealing with both, starting of course with the most unsightly, unauthorised developments, but also trying to camouflage some developments with some of the environmental improvements that you've seen along the sides of the roads. That's only of course in a sense cosmetic. The most difficult problem is to deal with the sites behind the screening of shrubs and trees. But it nevertheless helps to I think improve the environment that you see as you drive along the roads. I just want to make it clear that as far as my Administration is concerned this is a priority task. I think it's securing more and more public support and we are in this for the long haul. The job we've got, and unless we tackle it now, it will become insoluble. The job we've got is to reconcile cleaning up the environment with ensuring that the economy continues to grow and develop. It's a difficult job. But I think you would have seen that we are committed to seeing it through. And I would like to thank Alan and his team for doing such a superb job.

Question: The airport issue. When the agreement signed the agreement?

Governor: I said yesterday that discussions have been continuing this week. When I left the office at half past two they were still continuing. Obviously, we all hope that they will lead to a satisfactory conclusion.

Question: Will that be tomorrow?

Governor: I think that I'll know better whether it's tomorrow on Friday, June 30.

Question: Is it possible to have the agreement tonight?

Governor: All things are possible. But I said yesterday when I was at the Royal Observatory that I am not a weather forecaster. I hope that we make the progress that the whole community wants to see. We've been working very hard in the discussions. Our team has been working very hard. I hope that that will lead to a satisfactory agreement. In the meantime, even as I speak today, and I know this because I flew over it on the way here, we are continuing to build the airport.

Question: Will this success of co-operation between China and Britain over CFA and the Airport Finance Agreement. Do you agree that there is a new co-operation starting, emerging?

Governor: As far as we are concerned, we've always been I think constructive and keen to co-operate. I hope that that produces the agreements and the movement that the community wants to see. The community does want to see agreed progress right across the board without of course ever sacrificing or compromising the medium and long term interest of Hong Kong. But I hope we will see a better atmosphere and I hope we will see more understanding of some of our problems. As I said yesterday, I thought that Mr Qian Qichen's speech at the weekend about the role and importance of the civil service was a very helpful and reassuring speech. I hope that he will be followed by others.

Question: Tomorrow will be exactly two years before the transition. What effort will be made to enhance a better co-operation between British and Chinese governments in this two years time?

Governor: I think we've shown our determination to co-operate particularly in recent months, I would argue in recent years too. If the closer we get to 1997, we see more commitment to co-operation as well from Chinese officials, then that will be widely welcomed in the whole community. Clearly we want to get as much done before 1997 as possible. We'd like to get through the still ominously large agenda that is before the Joint Liaison Group. We'd like to sort out other matters as well. And I think that it must be coming more apparent to Chinese officials that if we don't sort out these problems before 1997, it's going to be Hong Kong that unfortunately suffers and China that suffers. So there should be more enthusiasm for agreements. I don't myself think that we should expect a vast horde of agreements at the Joint liaison Group meeting next week. There's been some good movement in the expert talks. I am not sure whether that will result in a huge harvest in London next week, but it will be interesting for us to see what the atmosphere in those talks is because I think very often an improvement in the atmosphere ensures later on that there are a lot of agreements to haul in.

Question: John Major is being challenged by party members. Are you sure you can stay in Hong Kong until 1997 or it's time for you to go back to London to help?

Governor: No. I was appointed in Hong Kong for five years. I am looking forward to my next two years as there's a lot of work to do. I am looking forward to meeting you as I go about doing it.

Question: Since the Chinese officials are saying that what you stated in the last Governor address is not clear on the co-operation with the Preparatory Committee. Will you state more specifically in your coming governor address?

Governor: I think that I set out a pretty comprehensive statement on co-operation in my last policy address and one of the things that it's led to is the discussions that we've had with Chinese officials about the budget. The sensible thing for us to do particularly if Chinese officials want more clarity is to start discussing between officials ways in which we can enhance co-operation. That's what we've already proposed and I'm sure myself that the new Foreign Secretary in the United Kingdom will want to talk to Mr Qian Qichen in October among other things about co-operation between the Hong Kong government and the Preparatory Committee and then when the co-operation will necessarily be even closer, co-operation between the Hong Kong government and the Chief Executive designate and her or his team.

Question: When you say the co-operation between the Preparatory Committee, do you think that the Hong Kong Government should have a say in the membership of the Preparatory Committee?

Governor: No, we haven't asked for that. But I hope that the membership of the Preparatory Committee will represent the breath of opinion and views in the community. As I have said many times before, I think that it would be extremely helpful and reassuring to people in Hong Kong if Chinese officials would talk to people who're elected in Hong Kong who represent the opinions of people in Hong Kong.

Question: Would you like to comment on the result of yesterday's land auction?

Governor: The results of yesterday's land auction? I thought the results were satisfactory.

Question: Why?

Governor: Why? Because we thought that the returns that we got were reasonable. But if you want an even more informed view by a soon to be wet Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, I offer you Mr Bowen Leung. Secretary, we were satisfied, weren't we?

SPEL: I think the land auction results yesterday were reasonable. It just showed that the market is still interested in taking part in auctions. Of course, the bidding for the Shau Kei Wan site was actually quite competitive. On the whole, we are quite satisfied with the results. But I would not wish to judge the trend of the market by just one or two sites. More will come. We would also be tendering some other sites apart from land auction operations. So let's wait for one or two more months to see the trend before we conclude.

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Governor looks at work of Task Force Black Spots

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, today (Thursday) took a first hand look at the efforts made by the Task Force Black Spots (TFB) of the Lands Department to clean up environmental black spots in Yuen Long in the New Territories.

Accompanied by the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Bowen Leung, the Governor was greeted on arrival by helicopter at the Tin Shui Wai Sports Ground by the Chairman of the Special Committee overseeing the TFB, Dr Samuel Wong, and Government Land Agent (TFB), Mr Allan Hay.

The party then proceeded to the rooftop of Shui Lung House in Tin Shui Estate where they joined other members of the Special Committee to take a panoramic view of the Ha Tsuen Container Study Area, the most concentrated container depot areas in the New Territories. The study area is a mixture of the "existing uses" and "unauthorised developments" container depots.

Mr Patten was briefed by Dr Wong on the distribution, the reasons for the concentration of container depots in this area, and its relationship to the whole of Hong Kong in terms of holding capacity, impact on traffic, drainage and the environment.

The party then moved on to take a closer look at other environmental black spots and the environmental improvement after clearance of the government land in the Pat Heung Pilot Action area.

At an open storage area in Ko Po Kam Tin, the Governor was briefed by the Principal Land Control Officer (TFB), Mr Frank Au, and the Senior Landscape Architect (TFB), Mr John Chan, on the findings of a general survey of all industrial undertakings in the Pilot Action Area.

Mr Patten was also told of the strategies to deal with the existing use undertakings and the lead time to complete environmental improvement works and landscaping, as well as the co-ordination work with local community for general environmental improvement of Kam Tin township.

At a site in Fan Kam Road, the Governor and his party were shown a successful case of clearing unauthorised development by prosecution under the Town Planning (Amendment) Ordinance 1991.

The Chief Town Planner/Central Enforcement and Prosecution of the Planning Department, Mr Lee Tak-keung, briefed them on the enforcement action against unauthorised developments in the Pat Heung Pilot Action Area and the progress of the work of the Prosecution Section.

Before concluding his tour, the Governor and his party visited a car handling yard at Lo Uk Tsuen. The yard, being an unauthorised development located in a suitable open storage zone, had successfully applied to the Town Planning Board for environmental improvement. The operator explained the improvement works undertaken, including landscaping, drainage and traffic assessment to adhere to the board's conditions of approval.

End/Thursday, June 29, 1995

Economic outlook for Hong Kong remains good: FS

The Financial Secretary, Sir Hamish Macleod, tonight (Thursday) gave a reassurance that Hong Kong's prospects continue to be good and the overall economy would have another year of steady and respectable growth.

Speaking at the General Committee Dinner of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, Sir Hamish said it was likely Hong Kong's economic growth would be about 5.5 per cent this year.

He said a number of slightly surprising statistics recently might have caused some confusion about where the economy headed. But there are some positive signs too.

"In some major sectors, business is in fact very strong. In the first five months of this year, our domestic exports grew by about eight per cent in real terms, in stark contrast to the decline of two per cent last year.

"Re-exports accelerated from 14 per cent last year to about 19 per cent in real terms in the first five months of this year," he said.

On investment, Sir Hamish said there was no shortage of interest whether in acquisition of machinery and equipment, in undertaking major infrastructural projects, or in new development and redevelopment of property.

"The overall rate of capital formation in the economy, at 10 per cent last year, well exceeded the rate of GDP growth, indicating that investment initiative has remained strong, and we expect a similarly impressive rate of capital formation this year," he said.

To maintain being competitive, he reminded investors to continue to be alert to the competition and flexible and swift response.

Sir Hamish said companies had been responding to the high price of manpower and space by saving costs and raising productivity wherever possible.

"Manufacturers relocate much of their resource-consuming factory-floor operations to China, whilst retaining the crucial management and development functions and higher value manufacturing in Hong Kong.

"Service providers pursue manpower saving through streamlining their operations and through more extensive use of computers and other forms of automation. They also seek to lower the cost of occupancy through office decentralisation and rationalisation of space usage.

"The state of the property market now gives us some breathing space in regard to the prices and rentals of accommodation. We will continue to do more for the development of human resources, especially through retraining," he said.

Apart from the positive economic indicators, Sir Hamish said there were other good news such as the agreement on the Court of Final Appeal.

"We are entitled as a community to take comfort from the agreement on the Court of Final Appeal, and the prospect this holds out of successfully maintaining the rule of law beyond 1997," said Sir Hamish, urging legislators to accept the agreement because new variations on this theme were simply not realistic.

End/Thursday, June 29, 1995

Lama helicopter to stop aerial works pending enquiry

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A Lama helicopter operated by Heliservices (Hong Kong) Limited suffered an accident at 9.10 am this (Thursday) morning while carrying out aerial work to transport an underslung load in Yuen Long, New Territories. The aircraft was substantially damaged but neither the pilot nor any person on the ground was injured.

On June 9, another Lama helicopter operated by the Heliservices was damaged in a landing accident after carrying out the same type of aerial work in the same general area. The Civil Aviation Department is conducting an inspector's investigation into this earlier accident.

In view of the two aircraft accidents involving the same type of helicopter and the same type of aerial work, the Director of Civil Aviation, Mr Peter Lok Kung-nam, has told Heliservices to cease such aerial work with this type of helicopter pending due enquiry.

End/Thursday, June 29, 1995

Shark expert presents preliminary findings

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As part of the strenuous efforts to tackle the shark problem in Hong Kong, the Government's Inter-departmental Working Group on Shark Attacks, chaired by the acting Deputy Secretary for Recreation and Culture, Mr Ian Petersen, has invited an expert from the United States to provide the Government on the spot advice and assistance on matters relating to shark attacks.

The expert, Mr George Burgess, who is the Director of the International Shark Attack File, Florida Museum of Natural History, had arrived in mid-June.

During the past two weeks, he has been working closely with the University of Hong Kong, the Ocean Park Corporation, and Government officials from relevant departments and has undertaken a thorough scientific review of the Hong Kong attack situation.

Outlining his preliminary evaluation on the issue at a press conference this (Thursday) afternoon, Mr Burgess said the recent upswing in shark attacks, six in five years, was likely a function of increased human utilisation of Hong Kong's nearshore waters which included recreational water sports, mariculture, dredge-and-fill activities, and waste disposal.

There has also been a continuous rise in the number of beach users over the last two decades. Thus, the larger the number of person-hours in the water, the greater the chance there is of encountering a shark.

In addition, human development activities during the same period have resulted in increases in various forms of pollution and habitat destruction through dredge-and-fill practices. Heavy fishing pressure has also affected local stocks of fishes.

"Regrettably there is no biological data available regarding Hong Kong's shark populations, but it is safe to assume that they are diminishing proportionately with declines observed in local fisheries.

"Thus, human activities are largely responsible for driving the shark attack phenomenon since there are more humans in the water and likely less sharks," he said.

Mr Burgess pointed out that Hong Kong's shark attacks apparently were also based on a combination of seasonal meteorological and oceanographic events, and by anthropogenic effects.

An analysis of water temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, rainfall, tide, current and wind data has enabled him to develop a good understanding of the seasonal meteorological and oceanographic patterns that influenced the presumed movements of sharks into Hong Kong waters. He has reviewed information on mariculture, dredge-and-fill, and pollution patterns in Hong Kong waters and had related those activities to the attack problem.

He said: "From a predictive perspective, water temperature may prove to be the most important factor. Recent attacks occurred between May 31 and June 13 when rising water temperatures reached 25-26°C. Historical attacks recorded in late August to late September between 1945-1984 had also occurred in water temperatures of 25°C or higher.

"Salinity may also be important since the lower salinity waters of urban and regional beaches located west of Sai Kung have not yielded any attacks since 1955. The lower salinities of these waters, in combination with lower dissolved oxygen levels, higher turbidity, and increases in dredge-and-fill induced habitat loss and rising pollution levels appear to discourage sharks, and their natural fish prey, from frequenting these regions."

Furthermore, he pointed out, the summer monsoon which generally occurs in the mid-June to mid-August period, results in a change in wind and prevailing current directions from the east northeast to the southwest.

During this one to two-month period, waters from the western section of Hong Kong are partially pushed into the eastern sector, reducing salinities and dissolved oxygen levels and increasing turbidity. Presumably some water-borne pollutants are carried as well.

Shark attacks have not been recorded from this period (June 14 - August 25) in Hong Kong but late season (August 26 - September 23) attacks have occurred in the post-monsoon season when winds and prevailing currents return from east northeast, the last occurring in 1984.

Noting that the waters in Sai Kung have been the site of the last six attacks, Mr Burgess explained that this was because the district offered relatively clean marine waters.

"Sharks apparently arrive in the area, or become more active, as water temperature rise in late May. They may become attracted to a steady stream of olfactory stimuli produced by aquaculture facilities located adjacent to the Clear Water Bay beaches, at Shelter Island near Sheung Sze Wan, and just north of Silverstrand Beach and Little Palm Bay.

"Effluents piped into Port Shelter from a series of locations along the eastern shore of the Sai Kung peninsula also are attractive. Such water-borne 'odours' are highly provocative to sharks and probably elicit more agitated feeding behaviour. And the reported reduction in availability of large fishes in the region likely limits the sharks' chances of finding natural prey items.

"If a shark encounters an appropriately sized human in the area, especially in the early morning or late afternoon hours when sharks are known to regularly feed, then an attack can occur. Five of the last six attacks have occurred during these time periods," he added.

Since the late May - early June time period is well documented as the time period when shark attack is most likely to occur, Mr Burgess proposed a number of measures to reduce the chances of future attacks in Hong Kong waters. These include:

- * When water temperatures reach 24°C, consideration should be given to raising shark warnings at Sai Kung beaches, vigilance should be stepped up, and these precautionary measures should remain in force possibly until the end of June. If sharks are sighted after this date further warnings may be warranted.
- * Consideration should be given to increasing the capability to deal quickly with shark attack victims in the Sai Kung area.
- * Biological studies focusing on the seasonal composition and abundance of the shark community in the Sai Kung region should be undertaken to provide the biological information so badly needed in determining migration patterns and life histories of the sharks in question. Monthly sampling should be taken with additional samples obtained during late May and early June. A sonic tag study of individual sharks captured during the critical May-June period would yield significant insight into their local movements.
- * Initiation of a demersal trawl survey with monthly sampling should be undertaken in the Sai Kung region in order to gain a better understanding of resource richness and seasonal composition of the fishery resource.
- * Environmental monitoring of water quality parameters in the sea surrounding the Sai Kung District should be undertaken on a monthly basis.

- * The policy of not hunting sharks as a response to recent or anticipated attacks should be continued.
- * The Government's current education program employing posters, radio and television spots and advice to schools, is effective and should continue. The message that sharks are a natural part of Hong Kong's marine environment and that personal responsibility is required in honouring the common sense suggestions of the campaign will certainly result in reduced attacks.
- * The Inter-departmental Working Group on Shark Attacks in which various governmental agencies and scientists from the private sector have shared available scientific data and interacted so favourably should initiate planning meetings in February of each year in anticipation of the key shark watch period and continue meeting on a need basis throughout the bathing season.

In concluding his presentation, Mr Burgess affirmed the appropriateness and validity of the Government's handling of the situation todate.

Mr Petersen, who was also present at the press conference, said he was pleased that Mr Burgess was able to produce a preliminary evaluation report within such a short span of time.

"The Working Group will be considering in detail Mr Burgess's recommendations and assessing what follow-up action should be taken," he said.

Meanwhile, he said that while the Government was doing all it could to protect the public, beachgoers should remain vigilant and stay away from beaches in the Sai Kung area.

Shark warning flags which have been hoisted since June 2 at eight gazetted beaches under the management of the Regional Council will remain in force.

"We are therefore appealing to the public once again not to go into the water in Sai Kung over this weekend, not to hunt sharks and not to seek to observe them at close quarters because all of these activities are dangerous," Mr Petersen said.

End/Thursday, June 29, 1995

External trade figures for May

Both re-exports and imports continued to show substantial growth in May. Domestic exports also registered a significant increase. These are shown in the external trade figures for May released today by the Census and Statistics Department.

The value of total exports (comprising re-exports and domestic exports) increased by \$23.0 billion or 25% to \$116.7 billion in May. Within total exports, the value of re-exports, at \$96.6 billion in May, was \$20.7 billion or 27% higher than a year earlier. The value of domestic exports increased by \$2.3 billion or 13% over a year earlier to \$20.0 billion in May. Meanwhile, the value of imports increased by \$29.1 billion or 28% to \$133.4 billion.

As the value of total exports in May was smaller than that of total imports, a visible trade deficit of \$16.8 billion, equivalent to 13% of the value of imports, was recorded. This compared with a deficit of \$10.7 billion, equivalent to 10% of the value of imports, in May last year.

In the first five months of 1995, the value of total exports grew by 19% over the same period last year. Amongst this, the value of re-exports rose by 21%, while that of domestic exports increased by 11%. The value of imports showed an increase of 26%. In the same period, a visible trade deficit of \$73.7 billion, equivalent to 13% of the value of imports, was recorded. This compared with a deficit of \$35.1 billion, equivalent to 7.6% of the value of imports, recorded in the first five months of 1994.

Commenting on the latest trade figures, a Government spokesman pointed out that the growth in both domestic exports and re-exports picked up again in May, after a temporary slow-down in April. Retained imports also remained strong, rising by 29% in value terms in May over a year earlier. As to the visible trade balance, the spokesman noted that in May, a deficit equivalent to 13% of the value of imports was recorded, whereas in April, the corresponding figure was 17%. Thus, the deficit situation has improved from the preceding month.

The table annexed presents the external trade figures in May.

A more detailed analysis of Hong Kong's external trade for May, by commodity and country, will be released in mid-July 1995.

EXTERNAL TRADE FIGURES FOR MAY 1995

MERCHANDISE: Domestic Exports :	\$20,033 million
Re-exports :	\$96,620 million
Total Exports :	\$116,653 million
Imports :	\$133,419 million
Trade balance :	-\$16,766 million

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Latest 3 months	Mar 95 to	Mar 94 to	Change	
	May 95	May 94	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	54,546	50,249	+4,298	+8.6
(% of Total Exports)	(16.9%)	(18.5%)		
Re-exports	268,081	221,850	+46,231	+20.8
Total Exports	322,627	272,099	+50,528	+18.6
Imports	377,768	302,436	+75,333	+24.9
Trade balance	-55,141	-30,337	-24,804	

Same month last year	May	May	Change	
	1995	1994	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	20,033	17,705	+2,328	+13.1
(% of Total Exports)	(17.2%)	(18.9%)		
Re-exports	96,620	75,909	+20,710	+27.3
Total Exports	116,653	93,615	+23,038	+24.6
Imports	133,419	104,297	+29,122	+27.9
Trade balance	-16,766	-10,683	-6,084	

Last month	May	April	Change	
	1995	1995	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	20,033	16,868	+3,164	+18.8
(% of Total Exports)	(17.2%)	(16.6%)		
Re-exports	96,620	84,552	+12,068	+14.3
Total Exports	116,653	101,421	+15,232	+15.0
Imports	133,419	122,755	+10,664	+8.7
Trade balance	-16,766	-21,334	+4,568	

Calendar year to-date	Jan-May	Jan-May	Change	
	1995	1994	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	87,489	79,063	+8,425	+10.7
(% of Total Exports)	(17.2%)	(18.5%)		
Re-exports	421,240	347,986	+73,254	+21.1
Total Exports	508,729	427,050	+81,679	+19.1
Imports	582,418	462,118	+120,300	+26.0
Trade balance	-73,689	-35,068	-38,621	

Last 12 months	Jun 94 to	Jun 93 to	Change	
	May 95	May 94	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	230,517	217,417	+13,100	+6.0
(% of Total Exports)	(18.4%)	(20.1%)		
Re-exports	1,021,175	862,462	+158,713	+18.4
Total Exports	1,251,692	1,079,879	+171,813	+15.9
Imports	1,371,008	1,117,284	+253,725	+22.7
Trade balance	-119,316	-37,404	-81,912	

29 June 1995

CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

Provisional statistics of restaurant receipts and purchases for first quarter of 1995

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The value of total receipts for the restaurant sector in the first quarter of 1995, estimated at \$13.2 billion, increased by 2% when compared with the same quarter of 1994, according to the provisional statistics released today (Thursday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

After discounting the effect of price changes over the period, total receipts decreased by 5% in volume terms.

The value of total purchases of restaurants in the first quarter of 1995, estimated at \$4.7 billion, was 2% higher than that in the same quarter of 1994.

Compared with a year ago, the total receipts of fast food shops increased by 14% in value and 7% in volume.

The total receipts of non-Chinese restaurants and bars recorded more moderate growth in both value and volume. In value terms, the increases were 11% and 10% respectively. In volume terms, the respective increases were 2% and 4%.

However, the total receipts of Chinese restaurants registered a decrease of 4% in value and 10% in volume terms.

Comparing with the preceding quarter, and bearing in mind that the comparison may be affected by seasonal factors, total restaurant receipts increased by 4% in value and 2% in volume.

Restaurant receipts in volume terms are derived from receipts in value terms after adjusting for price changes. The relevant components of the Consumer Price Index are used as deflators.

Table 1 presents the revised figures for the total receipts and total purchases of the restaurant sector for the fourth quarter of 1994 and the provisional figures for the first quarter of 1995.

Table 2 shows the value and volume indices of total receipts by type of restaurant for the fourth quarter of 1994 and the first quarter of 1995, with the quarterly average from October 1989 to September 1990 taken as 100. Also tabulated are comparisons of the results of the first quarter of 1995 with those of the fourth quarter of 1994 and the first quarter of 1994.

The Report on the Quarterly Survey of Restaurant Receipts and Purchases for the first quarter of 1995 is now on sale at \$4 per copy at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway; and the Publications Section of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, Wan Chai.

Enquiries about the survey results may be directed to the Wholesale and Retail Trade Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on tel 2802 1258.

Table 1	Quarter	1995		1994	1993	1992	1991
		Q1	Q2				
1. Total receipts	Q1	1,234	1,345	1,456	1,567	1,678	1,789
	Q2	1,345	1,456	1,567	1,678	1,789	1,890
2. Total purchases	Q1	876	987	1,098	1,209	1,320	1,431
	Q2	987	1,098	1,209	1,320	1,431	1,542
3. Total receipts less total purchases	Q1	358	358	358	358	358	358
	Q2	358	358	358	358	358	358
4. Total receipts as a percentage of total purchases	Q1	140.8	137.0	133.0	129.0	125.0	121.0
	Q2	137.0	133.0	129.0	125.0	121.0	117.0
5. Total purchases as a percentage of total receipts	Q1	71.0	73.0	75.0	77.0	79.0	81.0
	Q2	73.0	75.0	77.0	79.0	81.0	83.0
6. Total receipts less total purchases as a percentage of total purchases	Q1	40.9	36.3	32.6	29.0	25.4	21.8
	Q2	36.3	32.6	29.0	25.4	21.8	18.2
7. Total receipts less total purchases as a percentage of total receipts	Q1	29.1	26.7	24.5	22.3	20.1	18.0
	Q2	26.7	22.3	20.1	18.0	15.8	13.7

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES

		4th Qtr 1994 (Revised figures)	1st Qtr 1995 (Provisional figures)
Total restaurant receipts	(HK\$ million)	12 651.1	13 209.1
Total purchases by restaurants	(HK\$ million)	4 592.9	4 678.7

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF RESTAURANT RECEIPTS FOR 4TH QUARTER 1994 AND 1ST QUARTER 1995

(Quarterly average of Oct. 89 - Sept. 90 = 100)

Type of restaurant	Type of index	Index number		1st Qtr 1995 compared with 4th Qtr 1994		1st Qtr 1995 compared with 1st Qtr 1994	
		4th Quarter 1994 (Revised figures)	1st Quarter 1995 (Provisional figures)	(Points)	(%)	(Points)	(%)
Chinese restaurants	Value	125.4	139.2	+13.8	+11.0	-6.0	-4.1
	Volume	79.3	86.4	+7.2	+9.0	-10.1	-10.5
Non-Chinese restaurants	Value	171.3	160.3	-11.0	-6.4	+15.4	+10.7
	Volume	111.2	100.5	-10.7	-9.6	+2.3	+2.3
Fast food shops	Value	229.1	218.0	-11.2	-4.9	+26.4	+13.8
	Volume	159.7	146.4	-13.3	-8.3	+9.0	+6.5
Bars	Value	229.1	263.5	+34.5	+15.1	+23.2	+9.6
	Volume	137.1	157.2	+20.1	+14.7	+6.7	+4.4
Other eating and drinking places	Value	275.1	240.7	-34.4	-12.5	+67.0	+38.6
	Volume	174.5	148.7	-25.8	-14.8	+28.8	+24.0
All restaurant types	Value	147.2	153.7	+6.5	+4.4	+2.3	+1.5
	Volume	94.9	96.6	+1.6	+1.7	-5.3	-5.2

Note : The underlined figure was rounded up to 5.

Vacant premises rate refund to be abolished

Starting from Saturday (July 1), the refund of half the rates paid for vacant non-domestic premises will be abolished when the relevant provisions of the Rating (Amendment) Ordinance 1995 come into effect.

A spokesman for the Rating and Valuation Department said if there are vacant non-domestic premises in new buildings which are newly assessed to rates, ratepayers will be able to claim half refunds for any vacant period prior to July 1.

Full refunds can still be claimed in respect of vacant open land, except where it was previously used for parking of motor vehicles, and also in respect of vacancies resulting from a Government closure order.

Ratepayers of vacant properties in the department's register as at July 1 will be individually notified of the changes. If anyone wishes to have more information, they can contact the department on 2805 7666.

End/Thursday, June 29, 1995

Grants for music and dance training

Applications are now invited for grants from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund for the year 1995-96.

Grants are primarily for education and/or training in the fields of music and dance and associated activities.

In previous years, grants have been made to schools and music/dance organisations for purposes including purchasing or repairing musical instruments and dance equipment; purchasing music scores and parts; and organising music/dance camps and workshops.

Applications can be made for grants for other purposes which conform with the overall educational aims of the Fund.

All registered non-profit-making organisations are eligible to apply and the closing date is July 28.

Applications forms and information pamphlets are now available at:

(a) Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Secretariat,
40th floor, Revenue Tower
Gloucester Road
Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

(b) Mong Kok and Sha Tin music centres of the Music Office.

Further details can be obtained on 2594 5628.

End/Thursday, June 29, 1995

Closure of Sham Shui Po illegal structures sought

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The Building Authority is seeking to close three unauthorised structures in Sham Shui Po so that they can be demolished without endangering the occupants and the public.

The single-storey unauthorised structures used for dwelling are located on the roof of a building in 190 Yu Chau Street.

Notices of applying for Closure Orders from the District Court under the Buildings Ordinance on November 9 were posted on the premises today (Thursday).

Demolition works are expected to start as soon as the Closure Orders are issued.

End/Thursday, June 29, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,186	0930	+346
Closing balance in the account	2,413	1000	+346
Change attributable to :		1100	+324
Money market activity	+328	1200	+328
LAF today	- 101	1500	+328
		1600	+328

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 118.5 *+0.2* 29.6.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.31	2 years	2705	6.40	101.19	5.80
1 month	5.35	3 years	3804	6.90	102.28	6.10
3 months	5.40	5 years	5006	6.60	99.86	6.74
6 months	5.45	5 years	M501	7.90	103.32	7.21
12 months	5.50					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$14,201 million

Closed June 29, 1995

End/Thursday, June 29, 1995