

Master file PRH 7



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 1974

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD
COMMODITIES

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EXPERIMENTAL STUDY ROOM PROJECT

THE WEST KOWLOON YOUTH GUIDANCE COUNCIL, ASSISTED BY THE TAI HANG TUNG COMMUNITY CENTRE, HAS STARTED AN EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT TO PROVIDE A QUIET PLACE OF STUDY FOR PRIMARY 3 AND 4 STUDENTS IN THE SHEK KIP MEI AREA OF KOWLOON.

TWICE WEEKLY ON MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS THE WAI KIU ENGLISH SCHOOL IN WAI CHI STREET IS OPENED FROM 7.00 - 9.00 P.M. TO PROVIDE 100 STUDENTS LIVING NEARBY WITH A PLACE IN WHICH THEY CAN STUDY AND DO THEIR HOMEWORK WITHOUT BEING DISTURBED. ON HAND TO SUPERVISE THEM AND PROVIDE ANY HELP WITH THEIR STUDIES ARE A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS.

ACCORDING TO MR. YUEN SHIU-SUN, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, THE SCHEME IS BEING CARRIED OUT ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS FOR FOUR MONTHS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE AND IF IT IS FOUND TO BE WORTHWHILE IT IS PLANNED TO EXPAND THE PROJECT TO PROVIDE MORE STUDY ROOMS IN TAI HANG TUNG, TAI HANG SAI AND SHEK KIP MEI.

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IMPROVEMENT IN JAPANESE GENERALISED PREFERENCE
SCHEME WELCOMED

A FURTHER REDUCTION IN THE LIST OF HONG KONG PRODUCTS EXCLUDED FROM RECEIVING PREFERENTIAL TARIFF TREATMENT UNDER JAPAN'S GENERALISED PREFERENCE SCHEME WAS WELCOMED TODAY BY THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

THE EXCLUSION LIST ORIGINALLY CONTAINED 96 ITEMS BUT THE NUMBER WAS REDUCED TO 12 IN JUNE LAST YEAR. WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1 ANOTHER SIX ITEMS WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE LIST.

THESE ARE STOCKINGS, WIGS, FANS, PRECIOUS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES, WORKED IVORY AND CERTAIN TYPES OF FOOTWEAR.

EXPORTS TO JAPAN OF THESE ITEMS LAST YEAR ACCOUNTED FOR OVER 30 PER CENT OF OUR EXPORTS IN THE 12 CATEGORIES EXCLUDED FROM THE PREFERENCE SCHEME.

THE ITEMS WHICH REMAIN ON THE EXCLUSION LIST ARE TRAVEL GOODS, FOOTWEAR WITH LEATHER UPPERS, ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS, GLASS BEADS, IMITATION PEARLS, JEWELLERY ARTICLES OF PRECIOUS METAL, IMITATION JEWELLERY AND TOYS.

+NATURALLY WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE REMOVAL OF THE REMAINING ITEMS ON THE EXCLUSION LIST, WHICH APPLIES ONLY TO HONG KONG,+ COMMENTED MR. PETER TSAO, AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

+WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO ACHIEVE THIS, AND TO PUT HONG KONG ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH THE OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH ENJOY PREFERENCES IN THE JAPANESE MARKET.+

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WATER INTERRUPTION

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN TSIM SHA TSUI AND ABERDEEN WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 3).

THE STOPPAGE IN TSIM SHA TSUI IS TO ENABLE A LEAKAGE TEST TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE AREA. IT WILL LAST FOR FIVE HOURS, STARTING FROM 1 A.M.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY NATHAN ROAD, PEKING ROAD, CANTON ROAD AND SALISBURY ROAD.

IN ABERDEEN, THE STOPPAGE WILL LAST FOR EIGHT HOURS, STARTING FROM 10 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY. IT WILL ENABLE WORK ON THE CONNECTION OF A FRESH WATER MAIN TO BE CARRIED OUT AT THE JUNCTION OF NAM LONG SHAN ROAD AND HEUNG YIP ROAD.

PREMISES AFFECTED ARE THOSE IN YIP FAT STREET, HEUNG YIP ROAD, AND THE WONG CHUK HANG POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL, WONG CHUK HANG LOW COST HOUSING ESTATES, ABERDEEN REHABILITATION CENTRE, NAM LONG SHAN HOSPITAL, HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARY, ST. MARY'S HOME OF THE AGED, MARY COVE TRAINING CENTRE, TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS HOME FOR THE AGED AND HAWKER CONTROL FORCE TRAINING SCHOOL.

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SOFT DRINK PRICES

SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE GIVEN THE MISLEADING IMPRESSION THAT THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. DAVID JORDAN, HAS APPROVED AN INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF SOFT DRINKS.

THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT, IN FACT, EXERCISE ANY CONTROL OVER SOFT DRINK PRICES, AND THE EXTENT OF ANY INCREASE WHICH OCCURS IS A MATTER FOR THE TRADE TO DECIDE.

THE GOVERNMENT ABOLISHED THE DUTY ON SOFT DRINKS ON APRIL 1 LAST YEAR AND AN UNDERTAKING WAS GIVEN AT THAT TIME BY THE BEVERAGE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG THAT THEY WOULD KEEP THEIR PRICES UNCHANGED AT LEAST UNTIL APRIL 1, 1974. THE ASSOCIATION ALSO GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT EVEN AFTER APRIL, 1974, THEY WOULD NOT INCREASE THEIR PRICES FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER YEAR UNLESS THEY ENCOUNTERED EXCEPTIONAL INCREASES IN COSTS.

BECAUSE THE ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN ABLE TO SATISFY THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY THAT ITS COSTS HAVE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY HE HAS AGREED THAT THE UNDERTAKING TO KEEP PRICES UNCHANGED SHOULD NO LONGER APPLY.

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NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX IN THE OFFING

RAPID PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE COMPILATION OF A NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- THE BAROMETER OF HONG KONG'S COST OF LIVING.

THE REVISION OF THE CURRENT INDEX, WHICH IS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE ECONOMIC STATISTICS DIVISION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, IS AIMED AT INCREASING THE ACCURACY OF THE INDEX SO AS TO BETTER REFLECT CURRENT CONDITIONS.

A HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY WHICH IS DESIGNED TO COLLECT UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON HONG KONG'S AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SPENDING PATTERN, BUYING HABITS AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX WAS FORMALLY LAUNCHED LAST JULY AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY JUNE THIS YEAR.

IT IS ENVISAGED THAT THE NEW INDEX WILL BE INTRODUCED AROUND OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

EXPLAINING THE REASONS FOR THE MAJOR REVISION, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THE EXISTING CONSUMER PRICE INDEX WAS BY NO MEANS COMPLETELY OUT

/OF TOUCH

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OF TOUCH WITH REALITY, THERE WAS A GROWING NEED TO UPDATE IT SO AS TO KEEP ABREAST WITH PRESENT-DAY CONDITIONS.

THE EXISTING CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, WHICH COMPRISES THE GENERAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AND THE MODIFIED CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, IS BASED ON A HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY CONDUCTED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1963 AND AUGUST 1964.

+SOME CHANGES IN THE POPULATION'S CONSUMPTION AND LIVING PATTERNS HAVE BEEN MADE DURING THE PAST DECADE AND THESE CALL FOR A REVISION OF THE INDEX, + THE SPOKESMAN NOTED.

BY WAY OF EXAMPLE, HE OBSERVED THAT HOUSEHOLDS ARE NOW SPENDING LARGER PROPORTIONS OF THEIR TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON FOOD AND TRANSPORT, AND SMALLER PROPORTIONS ON SERVICES, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO.

NONETHELESS, THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT OVER THE PAST YEARS MINOR ADJUSTMENTS TO THE COVERAGE OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX HAD BEEN MADE FROM TIME TO TIME TO BRING IT MORE IN ACCORD WITH THE CHANGING SITUATION.

THE CURRENT HOUSEHOLD SURVEY, WHICH IS IN AN ADVANCED STAGE, INVOLVES SOME 5,000 HOUSEHOLDS WITHIN THE MONTHLY EXPENDITURE BRACKET OF \$400 AND \$3,000.

THE 1963/64 SURVEY COVERED HOUSEHOLDS IN THE \$100-\$2,000 RANGE.

ANOTHER NOTABLE FEATURE OF THE CURRENT SURVEY IS THAT IT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE CHANGES IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS SINCE THE LAST SURVEY.

/+A LARGE

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+A LARGE NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS HAS BEEN SELECTED FROM THE POPULOUS AND FAST DEVELOPING AREA OF NEW KOWLOON. MOREOVER, TSUEN WAN, WHICH WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE 1963/64 SURVEY, HAS NOW BEEN EMBRACED UNDER THE CURRENT SURVEY, + SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

FOR EVERY MONTH SINCE LAST JULY SOME 260 RANDOMLY SELECTED HOUSEHOLDS WERE ASKED TO MAINTAIN RECORDS OF THEIR EXPENDITURE ON GOODS AND SERVICES FOR ONE CALENDAR MONTH. SO FAR, OVER 2,000 HOUSEHOLDS WITH MORE THAN 10,000 PEOPLE FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF HONG KONG ISLAND, KOWLOON AND TSUEN WAN HAVE BEEN INVOLVED. THIS MONTHLY SAMPLING SURVEY WILL CONTINUE UNTIL JUNE THIS YEAR.

ON COMPLETION OF THE SURVEY, THE DATA THUS COLLATED WILL BE PROCESSED BY COMPUTER AND THE FINDINGS WILL BE CAREFULLY ANALYSED. THIS, ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT THREE MONTHS TO COMPLETE AND THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX WILL THEREAFTER BE ESTABLISHED ON THE SURVEY RESULTS.

+THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR JULY WILL TAKE ON A COMPLETELY NEW LOOK, + HE NOTED.

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CHING MING FESTIVAL - A STATUTORY HOLIDAY

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THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR, MR. NEIL HENDERSON, TODAY REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THE CHING MING FESTIVAL, WHICH FALLS ON FRIDAY (APRIL 5), IS ONE OF THE SIX STATUTORY HOLIDAYS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR MONTHLY EARNINGS, AND ALL NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES WHOSE WAGE ARE NOT MORE THAN \$2,000 A MONTH ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY.

+THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, IN FORCE ON APRIL 1, HAS EXTENDED THE SCOPE OF PROTECTION TO NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES BY INCREASING THE MONTHLY WAGE CEILING FROM \$1,500 TO \$2,000. MORE EMPLOYEES ARE NOW ENTITLED TO STATUTORY HOLIDAYS, WHICH ARE IN ADDITION TO THE FOUR REST DAYS A MONTH PROVIDED UNDER THE SAME ORDINANCE, + MR. HENDERSON SAID.

AN EMPLOYEE IS QUALIFIED FOR PAY ON A STATUTORY HOLIDAY IF HE HAS BEEN EMPLOYED CONTINUOUSLY BY HIS EMPLOYER FOR THREE MONTHS OR MORE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY. AN EMPLOYEE WHO IS NOT SO QUALIFIED IS STILL ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY AND HIS EMPLOYER MAY VOLUNTARILY AGREE TO PAY HIM.

+IF THE EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE AGREE, ANY DAY WITHIN 30 DAYS OF A STATUTORY HOLIDAY MAY BE TAKEN BY THE EMPLOYEE AS A SUBSTITUTED HOLIDAY, + HE SAID.

ANY EMPLOYER OR EMPLOYEE WHO IS IN DOUBT ABOUT HIS RIGHTS OR OBLIGATIONS REGARDING STATUTORY HOLIDAYS OR HOLIDAY PAY MAY CONSULT OFFICERS OF THE NEAREST BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE. THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE : FOR KOWLOON EAST, 3-205638= KOWLOON WEST, 3-201652= KWUN TONG, 3-898520= TSUEN WAN, 12-422096= AND HONG KONG ISLAND, 5-282523 EXT. 60.

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GOOD PROGRESS ON SECOND LION ROCK TUNNEL

CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE SECOND LION ROCK TUNNEL IS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SAID EXCAVATION WORK FOR THE TUNNEL WAS 60 PER CENT COMPLETE, AND LINING WORK HAD ALREADY STARTED.

THE DUAL-PURPOSE TUNNEL IS AN ENLARGED WATERWORKS TUNNEL REQUIRED FOR THE MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME TO CONVEY INCREASED WATER OUTPUT FROM SHA TIN TO THE URBAN AREAS.

IT WILL ALSO ACCOMMODATE THE INCREASING VOLUME OF TRAFFIC TRAVELLING BETWEEN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES. THIS IS EXPECTED TO FURTHER INCREASE WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW RACE COURSE.

THE SECOND LION ROCK TUNNEL IS A DUPLICATION OF THE EXISTING ONE - PROVIDING TWO LANES FOR TRAFFIC. ON COMPLETION, EACH OF THE TWO-LANE TUBES WILL CARRY TRAFFIC IN ONE DIRECTION, THE SAME SYSTEM AS IN THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.

THE FIRST STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK, NOW BEING CARRIED OUT, INVOLVES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE DRIVING OF TUNNEL, CONCRETE LINING, PORTAL WORKS AND THE LAYING OF MAINS. IT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR.

THE SECOND STAGE OF THE PROJECT, INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF APPROACH ROAD, VENTILATION, LIGHTING AND ANCILLARY WORKS, IS BEING PLANNED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE NEW AND PRESENT
----- LION ROCK TUNNEL ARE BOXED FOR COLLECTION.

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MORE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION CLINICS INTEGRATED

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THE THIRD PHASE OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S PLAN TO INTEGRATE THE CLINICS OF THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICE BEGAN TODAY WITH THE ABSORPTION OF ANOTHER SEVEN ASSOCIATION CLINICS.

THE SEVEN CLINICS COMPRISE TWO ON THE ISLAND -- THE WESTERN MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRE IN THE DAVID TRENCH REHABILITATION CENTRE, AND THE ANNE BLACK MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRE IN NORTH POINT-- AND FIVE IN KOWLOON -- THE HUNG HONG, CHEUNG SHA WAN, WANG TAU HONG, AND THE SAN PO KONG ROBERT BLACK MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES, AND THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL.

THE PHASED PROGRAMME OF INTEGRATION OF FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION CLINICS INTO THE DEPARTMENT'S MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICE BEGAN LAST OCTOBER, AND IS DUE FOR COMPLETION BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. SEVENTEEN CLINICS HAVE NOW BEEN INTEGRATED OUT OF A TOTAL OF 28.

BUT THE ASSOCIATION WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN FAMILY PLANNING IN AREAS, SUCH AS HOUSING ESTATES AND RURAL DISTRICTS, NOT DIRECTLY SERVED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

ELIGIBLE MOTHERS MAY MAKE USE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES IN ALL THE 17 CLINICS NOW INTEGRATED AT A COST OF \$1 A VISIT.

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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TSIM SHA TSUI

SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN THE SECTION OF MIDDLE ROAD IN TSIM SHA TSUI BETWEEN THE MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK AND NATHAN ROAD ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 3) TO FACILITATE ROAD REPAIR WORKS IN THE AREA.

WITH EFFECT FROM 10 A.M. ON THAT DAY, THE TRAFFIC ROUTING IN THAT SECTION OF ROAD WILL BE CHANGED FROM TWO-WAY TO ONE-WAY EASTBOUND.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD LAST FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (MONDAY) AT SALES UNDER THE RICE CONTROL SCHEME AND AT THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION WHOLESALE MARKET AND THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION WHOLESALE MARKET AT CHEUNG SHA WAN, KOWLOON:

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF RICE

GRADE OF RICE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE(\$/CATTY) AVERAGE
CHINA RICE		
SEE MEW		
- OLD CROP	GOOD	2.08
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.12
S.C. JIEN		
- OLD CROP	GOOD	-
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.06
PO NGAI	GOOD	1.72
CHU CHO	GOOD	-
THAI RICE		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	2.03
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	2.01
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.90
A1 SUPER (CLASS 1)	GOOD	1.70
A1 SUPER (CLASS 2)	GOOD	1.62
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	-
U.S. RICE	GOOD	1.94
AUSTRALIAN RICE	GOOD	1.92
PAKISTAN RICE	GOOD	-
TAIWAN RICE	GOOD	-

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SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH

(FMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	GOOD	3.10	2.00	2.60
BIG-EYES	GOOD	2.69	0.60	1.90
SQUID	LIMITED	4.80	2.20	3.80
HAIR-TAILS	GOOD	1.70	0.80	1.30
LIZARD FISHES	NORMAL	2.80	1.20	1.80
CROAKERS	NORMAL	1.80	0.60	1.50
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	GOOD	2.10	1.40	1.60
MELON COAT	LIMITED	2.70	1.60	2.00
BREAMS	NORMAL	3.00	2.00	2.80
YELLOW BELLY	GOOD	1.80	0.70	1.10
MACKERELS	GOOD	4.00	2.50	3.00
RED GOAT FISH	NORMAL	0.70	0.50	0.60
FORK-TAIL	GOOD	1.00	0.70	0.90
HORSE-HEAD	GOOD	5.70	3.20	4.50
MELON SEED	---	---	---	---
POMFRETS	---	---	---	---
GARROUPAS	NORMAL	7.20	5.00	6.00
YELLOW CROAKER	---	---	---	---

/SUPPLIES AND

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SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF LOCALLY PRODUCED VEGETABLES

(Y.M.O. CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET)

TYPE OF VEGETABLE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE(\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
FLOWERING CABBAGE	NORMAL	1.00	0.20	0.60
WHITE CABBAGE	GOOD	0.50	0.15	0.35
CHINESE LETTUCE	NORMAL	0.60	0.20	0.40
WATER SPINACH	--	--	--	--
CHINESE KALE	NORMAL	1.00	0.20	0.60
STRING BEANS	--	--	--	--
SPRING ONION	NORMAL	0.80	0.20	0.50
SPINACH	NORMAL	1.20	0.40	0.80
WATER CRESS	GOOD	0.80	0.20	0.50
LEAF MUSTARD				
CABBAGE	NORMAL	0.60	0.20	0.40
CHINESE SPINACH	SCARCE	2.00	1.00	1.50
TOMATO	LIMITED	1.60	0.60	1.20

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(ALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY - GOOD
 WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK
 (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT) - 300 (AVERAGE)

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