



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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More money to boost key services

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The Draft Estimates of Expenditure for 1995-96, which are published today (Friday) together with the gazetting of the Appropriation Bill, propose major increases in spending to expand services in areas where they are most needed.

At the same time, the Government has adhered firmly to its principal budgetary guideline of keeping the growth in expenditure, over time, in line with the trend growth rate of the economy.

The Estimates represent a further step towards achieving the ambitious improvement targets for the future set by the Governor in his policy addresses since 1992 and provide the funds to meet the commitments published by branch secretaries in October 1994.

Total Government expenditure, including expenditure by the funds, for the new financial year will rise to \$169.7 billion.

Announcing this, the Secretary for the Treasury, Mr Donald Tsang, explained that of the total of \$169.7 billion, \$123.5 billion is for recurrent expenses on existing and new services, and \$46.2 billion on capital projects.

"Our spending priorities have been decided after consultations held by the Financial Secretary with members of the Legislative Council and community groups during the past year."

Mr Tsang emphasised that the Draft Estimates had been drawn up in accordance with the long established budgetary principle that over a period, the growth in Government expenditure should not exceed the trend growth rate of the economy.

With a forecast trend economic growth rate of 5 per cent a year in real terms, we are able once again to make significant improvements to services in the areas where they are most needed," he said.

Some examples are:

Recurrent spending on social welfare will grow by 13.2 per cent in real terms to \$13.0 billion.

"Special benefits include for the elderly an extra 1,489 residential places, 23 social centres, four day care centres and three multi-service centres; 1,287 extra residential places for the handicapped and discharged mental patients, a further 988 day places for the handicapped, 20 more day places for discharged mental patients and 471 more pre-school day places for disabled children.

"For children generally, there will be an extra 1,400 day nursery places, 250 day creche places and 12 small group homes.

"And in addition to the normal inflation adjustment there will be an extra \$205 per month for children and \$200 extra per month for single parent families under the comprehensive social security assistance scheme," Mr Tsang said.

On health, recurrent spending will grow by 7.7 per cent in real terms to \$19.8 billion.

"New facilities will include 807 additional hospital beds, 70 geriatric hospital day places, four new health centres, four diabetic care centres, a new general outpatients clinic.

"In addition, we will introduce a new student health service to provide preventive and promotive health care for all primary students, hospice care for an additional 400 patients a year, an expansion of the renal dialysis programme, significantly reduced waiting times for cataract surgery and improved treatment for patients with ischaemic heart disease," he said.

On education, recurrent spending will grow in real terms by 4.9 per cent to \$30.3 billion.

"This increased level of spending should be viewed in the light of a declining school age population (the number of children in the 6-16 age group will drop from 877,900 in 1994-95 to 866,900 in 1995-96). As a result, we will be able to achieve further improvements in pupil-teacher ratios in both primary and secondary schools and to reduce primary school class sizes.

"In addition, we will be providing enhanced training for kindergarten teachers and we will be offering improvements in the local student finance scheme for students in our tertiary institutions," he said.

For a better environment, recurrent spending will go up by 16.2 per cent in real terms to \$2.2 billion.

"This will provide additional resources for the proper disposal of waste through the chemical waste treatment centre, the refuse transfer stations and landfills."

"For the fight against crime, we will be providing nearly 600 extra posts for the police force. We will also be providing additional staff for the Independent Commission Against Corruption to enhance its anti-corruption activities and for the Customs and Excise Department to combat the trade in counterfeit goods," Mr Tsang added.

"All these increases represent expenditure growth in real terms, that is to say they reflect growth over and above inflation," he said.

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CS: further elaboration of the MPF scheme

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The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, said today (Friday) that having spent the last 30 years debating how the Government should provide for a retirement protection scheme, "we cannot go on talking indefinitely".

"Now is the time for action."

Speaking at the British Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Mrs Chan said: "The Government has made three serious attempts in good faith, to forge a consensus on the way forward.

"As the Governor has said, we cannot go on devising new schemes.

"I believe that there is sufficient will in the community at large and in the Legislative Council, for action to be taken now, not two or three years down the road, to implement a retirement protection scheme for our old people."

The Chief Secretary noted that public submissions in the past, together with reactions from the business community and trade union leaders in the last few weeks, indicated that the Government might be able to gain wide support for a mandatory, privately managed provident fund (MPF) system as a "practical way forward".

"We will probably never achieve unanimity of view on the ideal package and it has to be acknowledged that a mandatory privately operated provident fund scheme will not provide the comprehensive coverage that the OPS (Old Age Pension Scheme) was designed to.

"But we must not make perfect the enemy of the good."

She said a motion would be moved in the Legislative Council on March 8. She urged legislators to give clear support to the scheme and the Government would spare no efforts to draw up the details of a viable and practical scheme in consultation with the industry and to prepare the necessary legislation.

"It would also pave the way for consultation with the Chinese side of the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group," she said.

After setting out the main features of the scheme, Mrs Chan said the purpose of a mandatory retirement protection scheme was to cover all those in the workforce.

At the same time, there will be a minimum salary level, below which an employee might choose not to participate in a scheme.

"The minimum salary level recognises that the mandatory contribution may be difficult for those with a very low income, so it enables them to contribute on a voluntary basis. If they decide to contribute, though, then the employer must pay the employers' share.

"This is an important point. The choice rest with employee."

It is hoped that some Government means, such as the Employees Retraining Fund, would help to improve the income of the low income group.

For those who have retired or who are in need of assistance there is the safety net provided by the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme.

On whether there would be a minimum benefit level or a pension, Mrs Chan said the MPF would operate on the principle of beneficiaries receiving what they had contributed over their working lives, plus the employers' contributions, and any investment returns or interests.

"There is no minimum benefit level as such. But there will always be the safety net by way of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance payments for needy elderly people," she said.

She said it would not be right to provide a Government guarantee against benefit losses due to fraud or misfeasance because it could encourage aggressive or unscrupulous fund management, and would produce an unacceptable level of contingent liability for the taxpayer.

Mrs Chan said the Government's participation would be in the form of assisting the setting up of a residual pool scheme.

"This scheme recognises the fact that there will be some employers who, for one reason or another, are unable to find a private retirement protection scheme to accept them.

"To make sure they can comply with the law, they will be able to utilise the residual pool scheme."

Another advantage of the system, Mrs Chan said, was its portability of benefits from one scheme to another upon change of job which meant that the employee would always be able to tell how much he had accrued in his retirement protection account.

On worries about bankruptcy of a system in the MPF, Mrs Chan said it should not happen.

"We already have a very good track record in regulating retirement protection scheme under the Occupational Retirement Schemes Ordinance (ORSO).

"The Ordinance requires all retirement scheme to be funded properly; the assets of a retirement scheme to be maintained separately from those of the employers, and to be used only for the purposes of the scheme; the financial position of a retirement scheme to be subject to the annual scrutiny of an independent auditor; and employees to have the right to seek information about their scheme.

"In addition, we shall be looking at tightening up control over fund managers."

Mrs Chan added that the concept of a Central Provident Fund would not be an option in Hong Kong.

She said it offered no freedom of choice, tended to produce low returns on investment, and would be very difficult to operate with the 20,000 existing occupation retirement schemes in Hong Kong.

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Expenditure on education and manpower up 15%

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The Government will spend \$31,250 million in recurrent expenditure on education and manpower policies in 1995-96, an increase of 15.6% over the current financial year.

This represents 22% of the Government's total recurrent expenditure in 1995-96.

Of the total recurrent expenditure, 97%, or \$30,330 million, will be on education, the largest single expenditure item in the 1995-96 Estimates.

"This reflects the Government's continued determination to invest in the improvement of the quality of our human resources, the time-honoured key to Hong Kong's success," the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Michael Leung, said today (Friday).

"Education remains very close to the heart of the Government as Hong Kong will need an adequate supply of quality manpower to maintain its status as the world's leading commercial and financial centre right into the next century," Mr Leung said.

Speaking at a media session on the 1995-96 Draft Estimates, Mr Leung said within the Education Vote, the relative shares to be spent on schools and the tertiary sector were important as they were aimed at ensuring a balanced growth in the development of education as a whole.

He noted that nearly 62% of the vote would be for schools and this apportionment ensured that the growth in student numbers and the quest for improved quality in each sector of the education system would not be at the expense of each other.

The major expenditure items relating to schools are:

- * construction works to improve the teaching and learning environment in 110 schools with a total project cost of over \$600 million;

- * planning work for improving 130 schools with a total project cost of over \$700 million;

- * \$37 million for introducing target-oriented curriculum in Primary 1 in 70 schools to make learning a more pleasurable and effective process;

- * \$30 million for organising additional training courses for 1,130 kindergarten teachers to enhance the quality of kindergarten education, including a Qualified Kindergarten Teachers course, a top-up course for Qualified Assistant Kindergarten Teachers and a new in-service Certificate Course in Kindergarten Education;

- * \$19 million for completing in 1995-96 two new Skills Opportunity Schools to help students with learning difficulties; and

- * \$4 million for providing induction and orientation courses for 6,000 immigrant students to help integrate them into the local educational system.

"This means that all the new initiatives announced in the Governor's Policy Address in October 1994 will be implemented in the next financial year," Mr Leung said.

The Government will reinforce the various ongoing improvement programmes by:

- * spending an additional \$255 million to upgrade teacher education;

- * an additional 114 non-graduate teachers to be provided in secondary schools;

- * an extra graduate teacher for each of a further 60 schools with a high proportion of low achievers;

- * reducing the class size from 40 to 35 to Primary 3 in all primary schools in September 1995; and

- * 17 more primary schools will operate on a whole day basis in September 1995

"As a result of many of these improvement measures, the teacher:pupil ratio will be further improved to 1:23.8 for our primary schools and 1:19.5 for our secondary schools," he said.

In addition, \$5 million has been included to upgrade another 180 teacher posts in primary schools to graduate level.

Turning to tertiary education, the secretary said: "We will spend \$8,724 million next fiscal year, which is an increase of 9% over the current year, on recurrent grants to the seven University Grants Committee-funded institutions."

"This level of funding will be sufficient to increase by 10% and 8% of the total number of under- graduates and post-graduates respectively," he said.

The University Grants Committee provision includes \$257 million on academic research funded by the Research Grants Council, up 10% on 1994-95.

Mr Leung noted a large increase, of 35.4% over 1994-95, in the total expenditure by the Student Financial Assistance Agency in 1995-96.

"We will spend \$813 million on grants to students under the Local Student Finance Scheme to ensure that no qualified student is denied access to tertiary education owing to lack of means," he said.

"This is a 55% increase over the current year's estimates and will cover a number of improvements to the grants approved earlier this year," he added.

A further \$897 million, an increase of nearly 40% over the current year, will be spent on an improved student loans scheme and the establishment of the Extend Loan Scheme to meet the needs of those who marginally fail to qualify for the existing schemes.

Mr Leung pointed out that the average grants to students was estimated to rise by nearly 26% to \$23,940, and the average loan by 9.5% to \$23,600 in 1995-96.

On the employment front, the Secretary said the Government remained committed to providing a well-trained workforce, to improving their health, welfare and safety, to promoting harmonious labour relations, and to safeguarding the rights and benefits of employees.

"We will strengthen our placement services, improve the vetting of applications for employing imported workers for Airport Core Programme projects, and enhance the promotion of placement services for the young and the disabled, through a provision of \$61.4 million in 1995-96. This represents an increase of 15.2% over 1994-95.

"We will also launch a Pilot Employment Matching Programme for unemployed persons over 30 years of age to provide active placement services for job-seekers.

"This will be based on actual vacancies on a Special Register of the Local Employment Service of the Labour Department," he said.

In addition, \$1,400 million will be spent on the retraining and apprenticeship programmes run by the Vocational Training Council for 13,092 full-time and 50,589 part-time students at its two Technical Colleges and seven Technical Institutes plus 28,936 full-time and 17,130 part-time students in the Training Centres.

Mr Leung stressed that the Government was committed to helping those workers displaced by the structural changes in the economy by offering job placement assistance and retraining.

"Since its establishment in October 1992, the Employees Retraining Board has provided over 40,000 retraining places in 119 types of course. The placement rates of the students who actively sought jobs after graduation have been high.

"At the same time, we also need to provide adequate manpower to industries with labour shortage problems.

"In 1995-96, the Employees Retraining Board will further liaise with employers and organise tailor-made courses to retrain suitable registrants in the Pilot Employment Match Programme so that they can meet the labour requirements of employers.

"We will review the success of this matching approach regularly," he said.

On labour relations, Mr Leung pointed out the various labour relations services now in operation would require \$64 million in 1995-96.

"The increase of 11.3% over last year will also enable us, for example, to strengthen our inspection efforts relating to workers imported for Airport Core Programme projects.

The Government will spend \$140.9 million, an increase of 9.5% over last year, on various new and improved services to safeguard the rights and benefits of employees under the labour laws in Hong Kong.

"These include the inspection of workplaces and the processing of employees' compensation claims, the introduction of a compensation scheme for local workers suffering from hearing loss owing to prolonged exposure to excessive noise at work and an improvement in the amount of ex-gratia payment under the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Ordinance.

Mr Leung said the question of safety and health at work was also a priority area for the Government.

"We will conduct a comprehensive review of industrial safety, covering all aspects relating to enforcement, training and education, to be completed in mid-1995," he said.

In terms of fiscal expenditure, he said the Government would spend \$144.5 million, up 7.2% over the current year, on various services to promote the safety and health of local workers.

These include stepping up inspections at the workplaces of the Airport Core Programme projects and publishing a series of statutory codes of safety practice.

"We will improve legislation on asbestos work, bamboo scaffolding and work in confined spaces and will introduce legislation requiring the establishment of safety committees in designated industries," Mr Leung said.

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Ag S for Works visits site immediately after accident

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The Acting Secretary for Works, Mr Hugh Phillipson, expressed his condolences to the relatives of the deceased workers, and hoped that the injured men would make a speedy recovery.

The workers were injured at an accident happened at the Route 3 Kwai Chung Viaduct site this (Friday) afternoon. Route 3 is one of the 10 projects on the Airport Core Programme.

"I am very sorry to learn about the accident. This illustrates the need for us to do more to ensure that everyone takes maximum safety precautions on site."

Mr Phillipson this evening visited the scene of the accident at the Kwai Chung viaduct works. He told reporters afterwards it was too early to say what had caused the accident.

"Clearly, we must move as quickly as possible to find out what the cause was, and to see what can be done to improve safety on this and other sites."

He said all resources would be deployed to determine the cause of the accident.

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Law to protect gas pipes from careless damage

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The Gas Safety (Amendment) Bill 1995, gazetted by the Government today (Friday), paves the way for enactment of regulations to control, in the interests of safety, construction works in the vicinity of gas pipes.

Under the bill, the maximum penalties that may be provided for in regulations made under the Gas Safety Ordinance are set to increase to a fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for 12 months. Currently, the maximum penalties are a fine of \$25,000 and a six-month imprisonment term.

The bill will enable the Gas Authority, in the interests of safety, to inspect works near gas pipes, require immediate improvement where works are endangering a gas pipe and prosecute offenders.

If enacted by the Legislative Council, the bill will be followed by new regulations requiring that construction works should not be carried out near a gas pipe unless its position has been checked and steps taken to ensure that it will not be damaged by the works.

The new regulations will provide that a person not taking all reasonable measures to protect a gas pipe from damage arising out of his construction works that is likely to prejudice safety commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of \$200,000 and to imprisonment for 12 months - the new maximum penalty brought in by the bill.

The proposals reflect the Government's concern at the frequent damage to gas pipes through careless excavation work. There were 120 such incidents last year.

While the consequences of most of these incidents are relatively minor, damage to a gas pipe may lead to a major fire or explosion. The proposed legislation aims to minimise the potential for such hazards.

The Government intends to bring the bill into effect six months after enactment so as to allow time for the new regulations to be made, for a code of practice to be issued by the Gas Authority and for the gas supply companies and the construction industry to adjust to the new requirements.

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Credit union procedures simplified

The Credit Unions (Amendment) Bill 1995, gazetted by the Government today (Friday), will simplify the procedures for winding up a credit union.

The procedures for winding up a credit union under the Credit Unions Ordinance currently follow the complex provisions for winding up a company under the Companies Ordinance.

The Registrar of Credit Unions has proposed, and the Government has accepted, that winding up procedures should be simplified in the interests of efficiency.

The Bill brings the procedures for winding up a credit union broadly into line with the simpler procedures for winding up a co-operative society under the Co-operative Societies Ordinance, which have worked well over the years. If a credit union needs to be wound up, it is usually because the original common bond of association between the members has dissipated over time and the union is no longer carrying on business.

(Note : The Director of Agriculture and Fisheries is the Registrar of Credit Unions and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies)

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Second planning application for LegCo Annex Building rejected

The Town Planning Board today (Friday) rejected a second application to locate the proposed Legislative Council Annex Building at the eastern part of the Chater Garden in Central, a spokesman for the Board said.

The proposal for the project involves the construction of a three-storey building with one storey above the ground level and two levels of basement. The building will occupy about 3,150 square metres or 23 per cent of the Chater Garden area.

The proposed design will allow the Annex Building rooftop to be turned into a garden and linked up with the elevated pedestrian walkway near the Murray Road car park by a footbridge.

The Board noted that comparing to the previous LegCo Annex Building scheme in Chater Garden which was rejected upon review by the Board in December 1994, the current proposal has a lower building height above ground and a smaller site coverage.

However, the Board still considered this proposal not acceptable as it would alter the existing character and affect the quality of Chater Garden, which is a unique and prominent amenity area in the Central district.

Members could not find sufficient information demonstrating that there are insurmountable problems to locate the Annex Building to the hard paved part of the Garden.

They also considered that the proposed layout and design with a five-metre above ground structure would still cause visual intrusion.

It would also cause fragmentation to the public open space, transplanting of more than half of the existing mature trees and inconvenience to the users of the open space.

The Board recognised the need to accommodate the LegCo facilities, but was equally eager to avoid unnecessary transplanting of mature trees on a larger scale.

If it was absolutely necessary to locate the Annex Building within Chater Garden, it should preferably be confined to the northern part where minimum adverse effect would be caused to the luxuriant vegetation that has taken more than 10 years to establish.

Members also considered that a wholly underground building will preserve the present character of Chater Garden as a unique piece of public open space.

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Contract awarded for the new airport

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The Secretary for the Treasury, on the advice of the Central Tender Board, has approved the award of an Airport Core Programme (ACP) contract for the provision of High Frequency Communications Equipment for the new airport at Chek Lap Kok.

The contract, valued at \$27.5 million, has been awarded by the Civil Aviation Department to Harris Corporation of the United States.

The company will be responsible for the provision of the communication equipment to enable long-range air-ground communications between aircrafts and the Air Traffic Control Centre at the new airport.

Works will start early next month for completion in May next year.

The award of this contract brings the total number of ACP major contracts awarded so far to 109, with a total value of \$79 billion.

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Tuen Mun school to use new premises on Monday

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Students of Ju Ching Chu Secondary School (Tuen Mun) will resume classes on Monday (February 27) following the Government's issue of an Occupation Permit for its new premises in Area 31A, Tuen Mun, and registration by the Education Department today (Friday).

The Director of Education, Mr W K Lam, was glad to see that students would be able to use the new premises on Monday.

"I am confident that the school will be able to make up for the lost teaching time through measures such as adjustment to the holiday schedule and additional lessons for Secondary 5 students," Mr Lam said.

"We have taken all possible steps to help the school as soon as the problem was made known to the department.

"We will continue to monitor the situation closely and help the school where we can. Education Department officers will visit the school on Monday morning."

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Analysis of external trade statistics by mode of transport in 1994

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The value of Hong Kong's external trade by ocean accounted for 50% of Hong Kong's external trade in 1994, according to the statistics released by the Census and Statistics Department today (Friday).

Another 26% was transported by land and another 18% by air. The remaining 5.0% included shipment by river, postal parcels, and accompanied goods of passengers travelling on various means of transport.

Shipment by ocean amounted to \$1,212.4 billion in 1994, with an increase of 13% over that in 1993. Hong Kong's external trade by land went up by 15% to \$640.4 billion while that by air also went up by 15% to \$447.6 billion in 1994. Table 1 shows changes in value of Hong Kong's external trade analysed by mode of transport in 1994 compared with 1993.

The United States remained the largest destination for Hong Kong's total exports (including domestic exports and re-exports) by ocean, accounting for a share of 33% in value terms in 1994. The value of total exports by ocean to the United States went up by 15% in 1994.

The value of total exports by ocean to Japan increased by 22% in 1994 over 1993. Increases were also recorded in seaborne total exports to the other main destinations: the United Kingdom (+5.5%) and China (+4.5%). However, the value of seaborne total exports to Germany decreased marginally by 0.2%.

Japan was the largest supplier of Hong Kong's imports by ocean, accounting for a share of 25% in value in 1994. The value of imports by ocean from Japan went up by 7.1% in 1994 over 1993. Increases were also recorded in seaborne imports from South Korea (+19%), China (+15%), the United States (+14%) and Taiwan (+12%).

Table 2 shows changes in value of external trade by ocean with main trading partners in 1994 compared with 1993.

In 1994, the value of total exports by air to the United States accounted for 30% of the value of Hong Kong's total exports by air and increased by 5.6% over 1993.

The value of total exports by air to Japan and Singapore increased by 20% and 18% respectively in 1994 over 1993. However, the value of airborne total exports to Germany and Taiwan decreased by 1.9% and 0.6% respectively. Airborne imports from all main suppliers increased considerably in 1994. The percentage increases in value in 1994 over 1993 were: Taiwan (+26%), Singapore (+25%), Switzerland (+22%), Japan (+18%) and the United States (+11%). Table 3 shows changes in value of external trade by air with main trading partners in 1994 compared with 1993.

More detailed figures on changes in value of external trade by ocean between 1994 and 1993 analysed by principal commodity division are shown in Table 4.

Significant increases were recorded in value of re-exports by ocean for telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$17.2 billion or 32%); miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods (by \$13.4 billion or 14%); and footwear (by \$6.0 billion or 13%).

Large increases were also recorded in value of imports by ocean for textiles (by \$14.8 billion or 23%); and telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$12.6 billion or 32%).

However, decreases were recorded in the value of domestic exports by ocean for textiles (by \$846 million or 9.8%); and miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of printed matter (by \$845 million or 9.8%).

Changes in value of external trade by air between 1994 and 1993 analysed by principal commodity division are shown in Table 5.

Comparing 1994 with 1993, significant increases were recorded in the value of imports by air for electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$13.4 billion or 22%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$4.8 billion or 29%); and non-metallic mineral manufactures (by \$4.8 billion or 22%).

As regards exports by air, increases were recorded for re-exports of electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$6.1 billion or 26%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$2.0 billion or 19%); photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, optical goods, watches and clocks (by \$1.9 billion or 11%); and for domestic exports of electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$2.8 billion or 20%).

However, considerable decreases were recorded in value of domestic exports by air for clothing (by \$1.1 billion or 5.5%); and office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$793 million or 6.6%).

Changes in value of external trade by land between 1994 and 1993 analysed by principal commodity division are shown in Table 6.

Comparing 1994 with 1993, significant increases were recorded in the value of imports by land for telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$10.4 billion or 29%); miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods (by \$9.2 billion or 19%); footwear (by \$5.7 billion or 18%); and clothing (by \$3.3 billion or 4.6%).

As regards exports by land, increases were recorded for re-exports of textiles (by \$10.5 billion or 26%); plastics in primary forms (by \$4.9 billion or 41%); and telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$4.2 billion or 42%); and for domestic exports of clothing (by \$975 million or 27%).

Detailed statistics on Hong Kong's external trade analysed by mode of transport are published in the December 1994 issue of the "Hong Kong External Trade" report which is on sale at \$86 a copy.

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

Enquiries about regular subscription to the report may be directed to the Information Services Department at French Mission Building, 1 Battery Path, Hong Kong (telephone 2842 8802) and enquiries on trade statistics to the Census and Statistics Department (telephone 2582 4915).

TABLE 1 : EXTERNAL TRADE BY MODE OF TRANSPORT

MODE OF TRANSPORT/ TYPE OF TRADE	JAN-DEC	JAN-DEC	YEAR-ON-YEAR CHANGE	
	1994 HKD Mn.	1993 HKD Mn.	HKD Mn.	%
OCEAN				
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	93,062	93,178	- 116	- 0.1
RE-EXPORTS	541,675	481,143	+ 60,533	+ 12.6
TOTAL EXPORTS	634,737	574,321	+ 60,416	+ 10.5
IMPORTS	577,636	499,762	+ 77,874	+ 15.6
TOTAL BY OCEAN	1,212,374	1,074,083	+ 138,291	+ 12.9
AIR				
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	70,128	67,944	+ 2,184	+ 3.2
RE-EXPORTS	130,078	113,466	+ 16,612	+ 14.6
TOTAL EXPORTS	200,206	181,410	+ 18,796	+ 10.4
IMPORTS	247,421	208,686	+ 38,734	+ 18.6
TOTAL BY AIR	447,626	390,096	+ 57,530	+ 14.7
LAND				
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	52,200	53,605	- 1,405	- 2.6
RE-EXPORTS	208,375	175,777	+ 32,598	+ 18.5
TOTAL EXPORTS	260,575	229,381	+ 31,193	+ 13.6
IMPORTS	379,868	327,209	+ 52,660	+ 16.1
TOTAL BY LAND	640,443	556,590	+ 83,853	+ 15.1
OTHERS				
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	6,702	8,300	- 1,598	- 19.3
RE-EXPORTS	67,793	52,838	+ 14,955	+ 28.3
TOTAL EXPORTS	74,495	61,138	+ 13,357	+ 21.8
IMPORTS	45,783	36,941	+ 8,843	+ 23.9
TOTAL BY OTHERS	120,279	98,079	+ 22,200	+ 22.6
ALL MODES OF TRANSPORT				
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	222,092	223,027	- 935	- 0.4
RE-EXPORTS	947,921	823,224	+ 124,698	+ 15.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	1,170,013	1,046,250	+ 123,763	+ 11.8
IMPORTS	1,250,709	1,072,597	+ 178,111	+ 16.6
TOTAL TRADE	2,420,722	2,118,848	+ 301,874	+ 14.2

TABLE 2 : EXTERNAL TRADE BY OCEAN BY MAIN TRADING PARTNER

MAIN TRADING PARTNER	JAN-DEC	JAN-DEC	YEAR-ON-YEAR CHANGE	
	1994 HKD Mn.	1993 HKD Mn.	HKD Mn.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (DESTINATION)				
UNITED STATES	35,834	34,322	+ 1,511	+ 4.4
GERMANY	8,104	8,831	- 727	- 8.2
UNITED KINGDOM	7,333	7,772	- 439	- 5.7
JAPAN	4,009	3,868	+ 141	+ 3.7
CHINA	3,591	3,243	+ 348	+ 10.7
ALL COUNTRIES	93,062	93,178	- 116	- 0.1
RE-EXPORTS (DESTINATION)				
UNITED STATES	176,232	150,055	+ 26,178	+ 17.4
CHINA	50,150	48,197	+ 1,953	+ 4.1
JAPAN	38,944	31,372	+ 7,572	+ 24.1
GERMANY	33,965	33,323	+ 642	+ 1.9
UNITED KINGDOM	22,724	20,708	+ 2,016	+ 9.7
ALL COUNTRIES	541,675	481,143	+ 60,533	+ 12.6
TOTAL EXPORTS (DESTINATION)				
UNITED STATES	212,066	184,377	+ 27,689	+ 15.0
CHINA	53,742	51,440	+ 2,301	+ 4.5
JAPAN	42,953	35,240	+ 7,714	+ 21.9
GERMANY	42,069	42,154	- 85	- 0.2
UNITED KINGDOM	30,056	28,480	+ 1,577	+ 5.5
ALL COUNTRIES	634,737	574,321	+ 60,416	+ 10.5
IMPORTS (SUPPLIER)				
JAPAN	146,573	136,829	+ 9,744	+ 7.1
TAIWAN	90,553	80,635	+ 9,918	+ 12.3
UNITED STATES	47,977	42,255	+ 5,722	+ 13.5
SOUTH KOREA	47,793	40,190	+ 7,604	+ 18.9
CHINA	42,514	36,988	+ 5,526	+ 14.9
ALL COUNTRIES	577,636	499,762	+ 77,874	+ 15.6

TABLE 3 : EXTERNAL TRADE BY AIR BY MAIN TRADING PARTNER

MAIN TRADING PARTNER	JAN-DEC	JAN-DEC	YEAR-ON-YEAR CHANGE	
	1994 HKD Mn.	1993 HKD Mn.	HKD Mn.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (DESTINATION)				
UNITED STATES	25,563	25,945	- 383	- 1.5
SINGAPORE	9,418	8,446	+ 972	+ 11.5
JAPAN	6,384	5,751	+ 633	+ 11.0
GERMANY	4,688	5,103	- 415	- 8.1
TAIWAN	3,023	3,608	- 585	- 16.2
ALL COUNTRIES	70,128	67,944	+ 2,184	+ 3.2
RE-EXPORTS (DESTINATION)				
UNITED STATES	33,784	30,256	+ 3,528	+ 11.7
JAPAN	15,675	12,646	+ 3,029	+ 24.0
TAIWAN	10,342	9,832	+ 509	+ 5.2
SOUTH KOREA	8,247	7,185	+ 1,062	+ 14.8
GERMANY	7,620	7,448	+ 172	+ 2.3
ALL COUNTRIES	130,078	113,466	+ 16,612	+ 14.6
TOTAL EXPORTS (DESTINATION)				
UNITED STATES	59,347	56,201	+ 3,146	+ 5.6
JAPAN	22,059	18,397	+ 3,662	+ 19.9
SINGAPORE	16,091	13,691	+ 2,400	+ 17.5
TAIWAN	13,365	13,440	- 75	- 0.6
GERMANY	12,308	12,551	- 243	- 1.9
ALL COUNTRIES	200,206	181,410	+ 18,796	+ 10.4
IMPORTS (SUPPLIER)				
JAPAN	48,151	40,872	+ 7,279	+ 17.8
UNITED STATES	41,267	37,048	+ 4,219	+ 11.4
SINGAPORE	21,779	17,398	+ 4,382	+ 25.2
TAIWAN	16,714	13,296	+ 3,418	+ 25.7
SWITZERLAND	12,805	10,493	+ 2,313	+ 22.0
ALL COUNTRIES	247,421	208,686	+ 38,734	+ 18.6

TABLE 4 : EXTERNAL TRADE BY OCEAN BY MAIN COMMODITY DIVISION

MAIN COMMODITY DIVISION	JAN-DEC	JAN-DEC	YEAR-ON-YEAR CHANGE	
	1994 HKD Mn.	1993 HKD Mn.	HKD Mn.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS				
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	49,897	48,551	+ 1,347	+ 2.8
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	7,824	8,670	- 846	- 9.8
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY PRINTED MATTER)	7,809	8,654	- 845	- 9.8
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	4,184	3,273	+ 911	+ 27.8
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	3,491	3,970	- 480	- 12.1
RE-EXPORTS				
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	108,222	94,867	+ 13,355	+ 14.1
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	70,634	53,432	+ 17,202	+ 32.2
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	69,715	66,765	+ 2,950	+ 4.4
FOOTWEAR	50,278	44,319	+ 5,959	+ 13.4
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	34,812	29,746	+ 5,067	+ 17.0
IMPORTS				
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	78,817	64,006	+ 14,811	+ 23.1
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	51,664	39,081	+ 12,583	+ 32.2
ROAD VEHICLES	46,272	46,280	- 9	*
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	36,016	30,389	+ 5,627	+ 18.5
GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND MACHINE PARTS	28,498	24,761	+ 3,737	+ 15.1

* denotes less than 0.05%

TABLE 5 : EXTERNAL TRADE BY AIR BY MAIN COMMODITY DIVISION

MAIN COMMODITY DIVISION	JAN-DEC	JAN-DEC	YEAR-ON-YEAR CHANGE	
	1994 HKD Mn.	1993 HKD Mn.	HKD Mn.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS				
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	18,537	19,606	- 1,070	- 5.5
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	16,629	13,871	+ 2,758	+ 19.9
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	11,213	12,007	- 793	- 6.6
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	10,791	10,293	+ 498	+ 4.8
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	6,463	6,284	+ 178	+ 2.8
RE-EXPORTS				
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	29,365	23,258	+ 6,107	+ 26.3
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	20,543	21,779	- 1,235	- 5.7
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	19,035	17,115	+ 1,921	+ 11.2
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	12,245	10,256	+ 1,989	+ 19.4
NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	9,916	8,447	+ 1,469	+ 17.4
IMPORTS				
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	75,233	61,809	+ 13,424	+ 21.7
NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	26,556	21,722	+ 4,835	+ 22.3
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	24,949	22,692	+ 2,257	+ 9.9
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	21,680	16,835	+ 4,845	+ 28.8
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	21,383	17,395	+ 3,988	+ 22.9

TABLE 6 : EXTERNAL TRADE BY LAND BY MAIN COMMODITY DIVISION

MAIN COMMODITY DIVISION	JAN-DEC	JAN-DEC	YEAR-ON-YEAR CHANGE	
	1994 HKD Mn.	1993 HKD Mn.	HKD Mn.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS				
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	8,005	9,081	- 1,076	- 11.8
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	6,031	6,306	- 275	- 4.4
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	4,564	3,589	+ 975	+ 27.2
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	4,425	4,957	- 531	- 10.7
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	4,363	4,468	- 105	- 2.4
RE-EXPORTS				
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	51,497	41,031	+ 10,466	+ 25.5
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	16,952	12,063	+ 4,889	+ 40.5
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	15,097	12,156	+ 2,941	+ 24.2
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	14,231	10,007	+ 4,224	+ 42.2
ROAD VEHICLES	8,040	11,108	- 3,068	- 27.6
IMPORTS				
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	75,022	71,729	+ 3,293	+ 4.6
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	58,266	49,067	+ 9,200	+ 18.7
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	46,486	36,106	+ 10,380	+ 28.7
FOOTWEAR	37,314	31,582	+ 5,732	+ 18.2
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	28,866	25,769	+ 3,097	+ 12.0

Retail sales provisional figures for December and 1994 released

The value of total retail sales in December 1994, estimated at \$19.6 billion, increased by 11% when compared with December 1993.

After discounting the effect of price changes over the period, total retail sales rose by 4% in volume in December 1994 over a year earlier.

For 1994 as a whole, total retail sales rose by 12% in value and 6% in volume when compared with a year ago. The corresponding increases in 1993 were 13% and 7% respectively, indicating continued growth in consumer spending in 1994.

The above are some of the provisional statistics on retail sales released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

The increase of total retail sales in December 1994 was mainly attributable to the notable growth in spending on clothing and footwear, and on consumer durable goods (other than motor vehicles). Sales of these two items increased by 20% and 18% respectively in value. Their respective increases in volume terms were 9% and 15%.

Sales of jewellery, watches and clocks and valuable gifts also increased considerably, by 15% in value and 13% in volume.

Sales in supermarkets rose moderately by 11% in value and 3% in volume.

Meanwhile, sales in department stores increased by 8% in value, but dropped by 1% in volume. Sales of food, alcoholic drinks and tobacco showed no growth in value but a 6% decrease in volume.

Sales of motor vehicles and fuels both decreased by 1% in value. In volume terms, the decreases were 10% and 8% respectively.

Compared with November 1994, but bearing in mind that this comparison may be affected by seasonal factors, total retail sales in December 1994 increased by 20% both in value and in volume.

For the year of 1994, sales of clothing and footwear registered significant increase by 26% in value and 16% in volume when compared with a year ago; and those of jewellery and watches by 13% in value and 6% in volume.

Moderate increases were recorded for sales in supermarkets (by 11% in value and 4% in volume); consumer durable goods (other than motor vehicles) (by 9% in value and 7% in volume); food, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (by 7% in value and 3% in volume); and department stores (by 7% in value and virtually no change in volume).

Sales of fuels recorded a decrease of 2% in volume, despite an increase of 3% in value. Sales of motor vehicles decreased by 4% in value and 11% in volume.

The volume of retail sales is derived from the value of retail sales after adjusting for price changes. The relevant components of the Consumer Price Index are used as deflators.

The report containing the analysis of the December 1994 results is now on sale at \$3 a 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 telephone 2802 1258.

Table 1 presents the revised total retail sales figure for November 1994 and the provisional figure for December 1994.

Table 2 shows the value and volume indices of retail sales in November and December 1994 for all retail outlets and by type of retail outlet, with average retail sales from October 1989 to September 1990 taken as 100. Comparisons of the December 1994 results with those for November 1994 and those for December 1993, as well as comparisons of retail sales in the period from January to December 1994 with the same period in 1993 are also given.

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for December 1994 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$19,611.5 million
for November 1994 (Revised Figure) = HK\$16,388.0 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF RETAIL SALES FOR NOVEMBER 1994 AND DECEMBER 1994

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

Type of Outlet	Type of index	Index number		December 1994 compared with November 1994		December 1994 compared with December 1993		Jan.-Dec. 1994 compared with Jan.-Dec. 1993	
		November 1994 (Revised figures)	December 1994 (Provisional figures)	(Points)	(%)	(Points)	(%)	(Points)	(%)
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS									
	Value	174.5	208.8	+34.3	+19.7	+20.1	+10.6	+19.0	+11.9
	Volume	132.6	159.2	+26.6	+20.0	+6.7	+4.4	+7.7	+5.8
(B) BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET									
Food, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets)	Value	134.2	142.6	+8.4	+6.3	+0.3	+0.2	+8.8	+6.9
	Volume	102.8	104.3	+1.6	+1.5	-7.0	-6.3	+2.6	+2.6
Supermarkets ϕ	Value	146.6	171.5	+24.9	+17.0	+16.7	+10.8	+15.3	+10.9
	Volume	102.6	119.3	+16.7	+16.3	+3.3	+2.9	+4.0	+3.7
Fuels	Value	145.2	158.1	+12.9	+8.9	-1.8	-1.1	+5.0	+3.4
	Volume	99.9	108.8	+8.9	+8.9	-9.0	-7.7	-1.6	-1.5
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	272.5	321.6	+49.1	+18.0	+53.8	+20.1	+53.3	+26.1
	Volume	175.6	210.6	+35.0	+20.0	+16.4	+8.5	+24.8	+15.8
Consumer durable goods	Value	187.8	202.7	+14.8	+7.9	+17.5	+9.4	+5.6	+3.2
	Volume	151.5	165.6	+14.1	+9.3	+8.6	+5.5	-0.9	-0.6
- Motor vehicles and parts	Value	201.9	190.6	-11.3	-5.6	-2.5	-1.3	-7.8	-4.0
	Volume	140.7	132.7	-7.9	-5.6	-14.2	-9.7	-16.6	-11.0
- Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	177.7	211.4	+33.7	+19.0	+31.9	+17.8	+15.4	+9.4
	Volume	159.4	189.4	+30.1	+18.9	+25.1	+15.2	+10.5	+6.9
Department stores	Value	142.4	210.2	+67.8	+47.6	+15.0	+7.7	+10.5	+7.3
	Volume	97.1	145.3	+48.1	+49.6	-1.9	-1.3	+0.2	+0.2
Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts	Value	159.0	206.0	+46.9	+29.5	+26.9	+15.0	+19.3	+12.7
	Volume	150.7	196.5	+45.8	+30.4	+21.8	+12.5	+9.6	+6.3
Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified	Value	198.3	235.7	+37.3	+18.8	+22.9	+10.7	+35.6	+20.6
	Volume	153.2	182.1	+29.0	+18.9	+9.5	+5.5	+22.6	+15.9

NOTE : ϕ Not including supermarkets operating in department stores.

Monetary Authority publishes quarterly bulletin

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The latest issue of the Quarterly Bulletin published by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) today (Friday) contains a detailed analysis of the Hong Kong dollar interbank market.

The HKMA began to conduct a monthly survey of the Hong Kong dollar interbank market in December 1993. The present analysis is on data from the survey for September 1994. The main points of the analysis are:

- * Roughly two-thirds of the gross transactions in the interbank market are placements or borrowings while foreign exchange swaps make up the remaining portion.

- * Locally incorporated banks are major suppliers of Hong Kong dollar funds in the interbank market, accounting for nearly two-thirds of total net lending. Banks that are beneficially owned by China are the second biggest net lender after banks beneficially owned by Hong Kong.

- * Demand for interbank Hong Kong dollar funds comes mainly from the foreign incorporated banks, especially those with a single branch licence. Funding from the interbank market is the most important source of finance for such foreign banks, with interbank borrowings with maturities of more than one day to three months making up 78 per cent of the total Hong Kong dollar liabilities of these banks.

- * Interbank transactions are concentrated in the region between one month and three months. Interbank lending accounts for about a quarter of the Hong Kong dollar assets of locally incorporated banks, reflecting many banks' preference to lend part of their deposit funds in the interbank market.

In another article entitled "Monetary and Exchange Rate Management with International Capital Mobility: The Case of Hong Kong" published in the same issue of the Quarterly Bulletin, the authors explained that fiscal discipline, flexibility of the economy, strong reserves and other carefully co-ordinated policies had combined to make Hong Kong a successful example of a fixed exchange rate regime.

The Quarterly Bulletin carries 10 other articles including official assessments of banking and monetary activities during the December quarter. The publication, at \$100, is on sale at the Government Publications Centre. It may also be ordered from the Press and Publications Section of the HKMA.

End/Friday, February 24, 1995

Works to enhance traffic safety at Hiram's Highway

* * * * *

The Government is proposing to provide traffic signal control and improve the layout of two junctions of Hiram's Highway in Sai Kung so as to enhance traffic safety and efficiency.

The improvement works comprise the provision of traffic signal control at the junctions of Hiram's Highway/Hong Kin Road and Hiram's Highway/Po Lo Che Road, provision of pedestrian crossing facilities at the two junctions and associated slope and drainage works.

A notice about the proposed works was published in the Gazette today (Friday).

Plans for the proposed works can be seen at:

* the Central and Western District Office, Public Enquiry Service Centre, ground floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong;

* the District Lands Office, Sai Kung, third floor, Sai Kung Government Offices Building, 34 Chan Man Street, Sai Kung, New Territories; and

* the Sai Kung District Office, ground floor, Sai Kung Government Offices Building, 34 Chan Man Street, Sai Kung, New Territories.

Any person who wishes to object to the works or the use, or both, is required to send his objection in writing to the Secretary for Transport, Central Government Offices, East Wing, second floor, Lower Albert Road, no later than April 25.

End/Friday, February 24, 1995

Tenders invited for Sai Kung sewers

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The Drainage Services Department is inviting tenders for building sewers in Sai Kung Old Town.

The contract involves modification of the existing combined sewerage system to a separate system, and carrying out of associated road and drainage works.

The purpose of the works is to collect storm water and sewage separately so that during heavy rain, the sewage generated from Sai Kung Old Town will not be mixed with the storm water and discharge into Sai Kung Hoi.

The collected sewage will be conveyed to the existing Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Works in Tui Min Hoi for treatment before disposal, thus improving the water quality of Sai Kung Hoi.

The works are scheduled to begin in May for completion in 21 months.

A notice of the tender invitation was gazetted today (Friday).

Tender forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Sewerage Projects Division of the department, 44th floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai.

The tender closing date is noon on March 17.

End/Friday, February 24, 1995

Civic centre auditorium and stage facilities

* * * * *

The Architectural Services Department is inviting contractors to participate in two prequalification exercises for the supply and installation of machinery and lighting facilities for the auditorium and stage in Kwai Tsing Civic Centre, Kwai Chung.

The machinery comprises computer-controlled power flying pipes, proscenium, orchestra shell, orchestra pit elevators, stage waggons and ancillary equipment. The lighting facilities include computer-based lighting control desk with special effects.

Works are scheduled to start in July for completion in 23 months.

Only local companies with a proven record of carrying out the relevant types of specialist work or local companies with overseas specialist back-up can apply for prequalification.

Interested parties may apply for prequalification documents from the Chief Building Services Engineer/2, Architectural Services Department, 37th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway.

The deadline for submission of applications is noon on March 17. Tenders will be invited from the prequalified contractors in April.

End/Friday, February 24, 1995

Tseung Kwan O platform contract signed

The Civil Engineering Department today (Friday) signed a \$121 million contract for the construction of a platform on Po Lam Road in Tseung Kwan O.

The works comprise mainly bulk excavation of 1.2 million cubic metres in rock and 0.7 million cubic metres in soil, construction of an associated storm water drainage system, stabilisation of existing slopes, construction of a 180-metre long vehicular access road and diversion of 350 metres of the salt water main running across the site.

On completion, a platform of about 6.5 hectares in area will be formed and will be used for housing development.

The works will begin next month and will take 33 months to complete.

The works will be supervised by the Development and Airport Division of the Civil Engineering Office of the department.

End/Friday, February 24, 1995

Part-time teachers sought for 1995/96 school year

The Education Department is inviting qualified persons to fill the evening part-time teaching vacancies in various courses operated in the 1995/96 school year.

The Adult Education Section of the department runs a number of courses in centres throughout the territory. They include English course, Government Evening Secondary School Course and Adult Education Course.

A spokesman for the department said applicants should be qualified teachers with a genuine interest in teaching adults in the evening.

The spokesman said experience in teaching English Language at post-secondary or senior secondary levels, Chinese language, science, social subjects or commercial subjects at senior secondary levels and/or possession of a Diploma/Certificate in Education or Advanced Certificate in Teacher Training would be an advantage.

The pay scale for part-time teaching is:

- * \$330 per hour for post-secondary level subjects;
- * \$275 per hour for senior secondary level subjects;
- * \$220 per hour for junior secondary level subjects; and
- * \$200 per hour for primary level subjects.

Application forms are obtainable from the Adult Education Section of the Education Department at Wu Chung House, 11th floor, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai.

Completed application forms should reach the Adult Education Section on or before March 25. If applicants are not called for an interview by May 1, they should assume their applications as unsuccessful.

For further information, please contact the Adult Education Section on 2892 6669.

End/Friday, February 24, 1995

District Board by-election forums

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Residents are invited to attend district board by-election forums for the Lower Ngau Tau Kok constituency in Kwun Tong district and the Yau Ma Tei constituency in Yau Tsim Mong district on Sunday (February 26).

The forums will enable eligible voters to get to know the platforms of candidates.

The forum for the Lower Ngau Tau Kok constituency will be held between 3 pm and 5 pm at the open area adjacent to the St Matthew's Lutheran School near Lower Ngau Tau Kok Estate Block 8.

As for the Yau Ma Tei constituency, the forum will be held between 8 pm and 9 pm at the Henry G Leong Yau Ma Tei Community Centre, 60 Public Square Street.

End/Friday, February 24, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
	-----	-----	-----
Opening balance in the account	2,396	0930	+507
Closing balance in the account	2,179	1000	+507
Change attributable to :		1100	+492
Money market activity	+468	1200	+498
LAF today	-685	1500	+468
		1600	+468

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 120.3 *-0.1* 24.2.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds

Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.69	15 months	2605	6.35	99.50	6.88
1 month	5.10	24 months	2702	7.50	100.68	7.25
3 months	5.93	29 months	3707	6.95	99.36	7.37
6 months	6.19	35 months	3801	8.00	101.56	7.53
12 months	6.71	58 months	5912	8.15	101.03	8.04

Total turnover of bills and bonds - \$40,962 MN

Closed February 24, 1995

End/Friday, February 24, 1995