



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1978

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TRADE INDEX FOR JANUARY - JUNE 1978

THE PRICES AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY THREE PER CENT AND SEVEN PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY.

BUT IMPORT PRICES AND VOLUME MOVED UP MUCH FASTER AT FIVE PER CENT AND 15 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

AS A RESULT OF PRICES OF IMPORTS RISING FASTER THAN EXPORTS, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX FELL FROM 98 (JANUARY - JUNE 1977) TO 96 (JANUARY - JUNE 1978).

THE PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED. THE CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE ARE DERIVED FROM TRADE VALUES, LESS THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

AN ANALYSIS OF THE RELATIVE CHANGES IN THE UNIT VALUES AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY IS GIVEN BELOW:

CHANGES IN JAN.-JUNE 1978 OVER JAN.-JUNE 1977 (1973=100)

	<u>EXPORT UNIT VALUES</u>	<u>EXPORT VOLUME</u>
CLOTHING (EXCEPT FUR)	+ 4%	+ 3%
TRANSISTORISED RADIOS	- 8%	-23%
TEXTILE FABRICS	- 6%	+ 5%
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	+ 8%	+49%
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	- 3%	+11%
METAL MANUFACTURES	+10%	*
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	- 6%	- 5%
FOOTWEAR	+ 4%	+ 7%
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	-14%	+ 6%
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	- 4%	+10%
ALL COMMODITIES	+ 3%	+ 7%

* NEGLIGIBLE CHANGE

THE TRENDS IN PRICES AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS VARIED.

/A SHARP

A SHARP FALL WAS OBSERVED IN BOTH THE PRICES AND VOLUME OF TRANSISTORISED RADIOS BECAUSE OF A DROP IN DEMAND FROM THE U.S. MARKET. HOWEVER, THE EXPORT VOLUME OF WATCHES AND CLOCKS INCREASED BY 49 PER CENT, MORE THAN OFFSETTING THE DECREASES IN OTHER CATEGORIES.

IN VOLUME TERMS, CLOTHING, THE PRINCIPAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS, ROSE BY THREE PER CENT AND THIS WAS ALMOST ENTIRELY ATTRIBUTED TO MORE FAVOURABLE DEMAND FOR WOOLEN CLOTHING WHICH ROSE BY 22 PER CENT. EXPORTS OF FOOTWEAR AND ELECTRONIC GOODS BY QUANTITY GREW BY SEVEN PER CENT AND 11 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

EXPORT PRICES FOR TEXTILE FABRICS AND YARN WERE DOWN BY SIX PER CENT WHILST VOLUME OF TEXTILE FABRICS GAINED FIVE PER CENT IN CONTRAST TO A DROP OF FIVE PER CENT IN TEXTILE YARN.

THE PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF IMPORTS CLASSIFIED BY END-USE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CHANGES IN JAN.-JUNE 1978 OVER JAN.-JUNE 1977 (1973=100)

	<u>IMPORT UNIT VALUES</u>	<u>IMPORT VOLUME</u>
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+ 1%	+18%
CONSUMER GOODS	+12%	+25%
FOODSTUFFS	+ 6%	+ 4%
CAPITAL GOODS	+ 4%	+ 9%
FUELS	+ 2%	+ 4%
ALL COMMODITIES	+ 5%	+15%

PRICES FOR RAW MATERIALS BY CATEGORY SHOWED DIFFERING TRENDS. SIGNIFICANT DECLINES IN THE PRICES OF RAW COTTON (-18 PER CENT), COTTON YARN (-7 PER CENT) AND MAN-MADE FIBRES (-7 PER CENT) WERE OBSERVED. ON THE OTHER HAND, PRICES OF OTHER RAW MATERIALS INCREASED ON A MODEST SCALE. MORE ACTIVE EXPORT DEMAND BOOSTED THE IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS.

PROMINENT INCREASES IN THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS OCCURRED IN RAW COTTON (+24 PER CENT), WOVEN COTTON FABRICS (+36 PER CENT), MAN-MADE FIBRES (+55 PER CENT), YARN AND FABRICS OF MAN-MADE FIBRES (+13 PER CENT), CHEMICAL ELEMENTS AND COMPOUNDS (+26 PER CENT) AND IRON AND STEEL (+24 PER CENT).

IMPORT PRICES OF CONSUMER GOODS CLIMBED STEEPLY BECAUSE OF SHARP INCREASES REGISTERED IN THE PRICES OF FOOTWEAR (+15 PER CENT), DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT (+11 PER CENT), RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS AND TAPE RECORDERS (+17 PER CENT) AND MOTOR CARS (+12 PER CENT).

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PRONOUNCED INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CLOTHING (+33 PER CENT), FOOTWEAR (+22 PER CENT), PASSENGER MOTOR CARS (+65 PER CENT) AND CAMERAS AND SUPPLIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY (+32 PER CENT).

IMPORT PRICES SHOWED SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES IN RICE (+17 PER CENT), FRUIT (+14 PER CENT) AND VEGETABLES (+16 PER CENT). IMPORT VOLUME OF SUGAR, AND TEA AND COFFEE DROPPED SHARPLY BY 13 PER CENT AND 61 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. THESE DECLINES WERE OUTWEIGHED BY MORE IMPORTS OF RICE (+16 PER CENT), VEGETABLES (+10 PER CENT), MILK, BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS (+15 PER CENT) AND SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL AND LARD (+17 PER CENT).

FUELS PRICES WERE RELATIVELY STABLE INCREASING BY 2 PER CENT, WITH THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 4 PER CENT.

DEMANDS FOR CAPITAL GOODS MAINTAINED FAVOURABLE GROWTH RATES. CONSPICUOUS INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS OF TEXTILE MACHINERY AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY (+11 PER CENT) AND OFFICE MACHINES (+65 PER CENT). IN CONTRAST THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS OF TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT SLIPPED 18 PER CENT. IMPORT PRICES OF CAPITAL GOODS IN GENERAL INCREASED BY 3 TO 4 PER CENT AMONG DIFFERENT CATEGORIES.

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PHYSICAL EDUCATION OFFICER RETIRES

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A WELL-KNOWN FIGURE IN HONG KONG SPORTS HAS RETIRED FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE AFTER 20 YEARS.

HE IS MR. MICHAEL CASWELL, PRINCIPAL EDUCATION OFFICER OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S PHYSICAL EDUCATION, RECREATION AND SPORT UNIT WHICH HE HELPED SET UP IN 1974.

MR. CASWELL WAS BORN IN 1926 AND EDUCATED AT BRYANSTON SCHOOL. HE WAS COMMISSIONED IN THE BRITISH ARMY DURING WORLD WAR II AND LEFT THE ARMY AS A CAPTAIN IN 1948.

HE UNDERTOOK FURTHER STUDIES AT LOUGHBOROUGH COLLEGE AND THE STATE GYMNASTIC INSTITUTE IN DENMARK, SPECIALISING IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION, RECREATION AND SPORT.

MR. CASWELL JOINED THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AS A SPECIALIST IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN 1958. PREVIOUSLY, HE WAS IN CHARGE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AT KING'S SCHOOL, CANTERBURY, THE OLDEST PUBLIC SCHOOL IN ENGLAND.

IN 1966, HE WAS APPOINTED AS EDUCATION OFFICER AND PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR IN 1973.

MR. CASWELL WAS PROMOTED TO PRINCIPAL EDUCATION OFFICER, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, RECREATION AND SPORT UNIT, IN 1974 TO HEAD THE NEWLY FORMED GOVERNMENT RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE.

IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, MR. CASWELL FULLY INVOLVED HIMSELF IN THE EXPANSION AND THE GROWTH OF THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE AS WELL AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORT IN HONG KONG.

HE TOOK THE HONG KONG HOCKEY TEAM TO PARTICIPATE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE 1964 OLYMPIC GAMES HELD IN TOKYO, JAPAN.

MR. CASWELL ALSO DEVOTED MUCH OF HIS TIME AND ENERGY ON DEVELOPING RECREATION AND SPORT FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED IN HONG KONG.

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS CONTRIBUTION, MR. CASWELL WAS AWARDED THE QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE MEDAL IN JUNE, 1977.

HE LEFT HONG KONG EARLIER THIS MONTH ON PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE.

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BUILDING DECLARED DANGEROUS
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY DECLARED NO. 35B WELLINGTON STREET TO BE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED THIS MORNING THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THAT THE FOUR-STORY PRE-WAR BUILDING IS CONSTRUCTED OF LOAD-BEARING BRICK WALLS AND TIMBER FLOORS.

RECENTLY FRACTURES HAD BEEN OBSERVED IN THE EXPOSED PARTY WALL AND A DETAILED INSPECTION REVEALED THAT EXTENSIVE MOVEMENT HAD OCCURRED IN THE MAIN WALLS. AS THERE IS A SERIOUS RISK OF COLLAPSE THE CLOSURE AND DEMOLITION OF THIS BUILDING IS CONSIDERED NECESSARY.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER IN VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 A.M. ON OCTOBER 3, 1978 WAS POSTED TODAY.

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LADY MACLEHOSE TO VISIT HANDICAPPED CHILDREN'S CAMP
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LADY MACLEHOSE WILL VISIT A CAMP FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AT THE HONG KONG PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION'S SILVERMINE BAY CAMP, LANTAU ISLAND, ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 21).

THE CAMP IS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS AS PART OF THIS YEAR'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME.

LADY MACLEHOSE'S VISIT WILL LAST ONE HOUR STARTING AT 11 A.M. SHE WILL WATCH ABOUT 50 CHILDREN TAKING PART IN VARIOUS GROUP GAMES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER LADY MACLEHOSE'S VISIT.

MARINE DEPARTMENT LAUNCH NO. 50 WILL TAKE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO AND FROM SILVERMINE BAY, LANTAU ISLAND. THE LAUNCH WILL LEAVE QUEEN'S PIER, IN CENTRAL AT 9.15 A.M. ON THURSDAY AND WILL RETURN ABOUT NOON.

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WATER CUT IN TSUEN WAN
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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN TSUEN WAN WILL BE STOPPED FOR SIX HOURS FROM MIDNIGHT THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 21) TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY SHA TSUI ROAD, TEXACO ROAD, YEUNG UK ROAD AND LUEN YAN STREET INCLUDING KWU HANG ROAD AND WANG WO TSAI STREET.

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