



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, July 30, 1973

## CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Record trade figures achieved in June .....	1
Urban Council assures public that water at local beaches is safe for swimming .....	3
Water cut in Happy Valley .....	4
One fatal case of measles reported in June .....	5
Refund date for 15-cent receipt stamps extended .....	6
Road in High Island works area to be closed .....	7
Urban Council ward offices moved .....	8

Monday, July 30, 1973

- 1 -

HIGHEST TRADE FIGURES EVER RECORDED

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The highest monthly trade figures ever recorded in Hong Kong were achieved in June, according to provisional trade statistics published today by the Census and Statistics Department.

Domestic exports were valued at \$1,637 million -- an increase of 23.7 per cent or \$313 million over June last year.

Imports, valued at \$2,382 million, also increased by 23.7 per cent or \$457 million, while re-exports jumped by 45.6 per cent or \$162 million to a total value of \$517 million.

For the first six months of this year (January to June) there have been increases over the same period in 1972 of 17 per cent for domestic exports, 38.8 per cent for re-exports, and 19.9 per cent for imports.

Commenting on the latest figures, Mr. M.D. Sargant, Assistant Director of Commerce and Industry said that even discounting the effect of inflationary movements and currency uncertainties, they illustrate the resilience and strength of the economy.

"They are a tribute to the enterprise and hard work of our industrialists, merchants and workers," he added.

Details of the provisional trade statistics for June are:

MERCHANDISE: .....

Monday, July 30, 1973

- 2 -

MERCHANDISE: Domestic Exports : \$1,637 million  
 Imports : \$2,382 million  
 Re-exports : \$ 517 million

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

	June 1973 \$ Mn.	June 1972 \$ Mn.	Increase or decrease \$ Mn. %	
Domestic Exports	1,637	1,324	+ 313	+ 23.7
Imports	2,382	1,925	+ 457	+ 23.7
Re-exports	517	355	+ 162	+ 45.6

	April-June 1973 \$ Mn.	April-June 1972 \$ Mn.	Increase or decrease \$ Mn. %	
Domestic Exports	4,408	3,676	+ 732	+ 19.9
Imports	6,656	5,534	+1,122	+ 20.3
Re-exports	1,350	945	+ 405	+ 42.9

	Jan.-June 1973 \$ Mn.	Jan.-June 1972 \$ Mn.	Increase or decrease \$ Mn. %	
Domestic Exports	8,177	6,987	+1,190	+ 17.0
Imports	12,364	10,308	+2,055	+ 19.9
Re-exports	2,527	1,820	+ 707	+ 38.8

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/3 .....

Monday, July 30, 1973

- 3 -

### BEACHES SAFE FOR SWIMMING

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The Urban Council today assured bathers that the water at Hong Kong's beaches, including Shek O, was not dangerous to swim in, although it was desirable to have a lower coliform count.

The Chairman of the Council's Environmental Hygiene Select Committee, Dr. Denny Huang, said: "Coliform is not a disease-causing bacteria and there is no accepted United Nations safety level that we know about."

Dr. Huang, who was commenting on newspaper reports of "pollution" at Hong Kong's beaches explained that some countries did set down so-called safety levels, while others did not.

In the United Kingdom, for instance, there was no such level because it was most difficult and impractical to have one.

However, Dr. Huang said that Hong Kong's sewage should be properly treated before being discharged into the sea. The present system was certainly not in keeping with a modern city.

Meanwhile, the Assistant Director (Hygiene) of the Urban Services Department, Dr. S.W. Fung, pointed out that there was sharp fluctuation in the coliform count in the water at the beaches due mainly to tidal currents and constant movement in the water.

He said that if the count was constantly at a high level, or the water stagnant, then it might be a different matter, as in the case of Lai Chi Kok Beach which the authorities have closed.

/He said .....

Monday, July 30, 1973

- 4 -

He said that samples of water were taken from the beaches fortnightly and examined in government laboratories.

He confirmed that coliform organisms do not cause any one specific disease such as typhoid, cholera or polio.

A committee, EPCOM, was looking into the question of pollution at Hong Kong's beaches and elsewhere, and studying ways of reducing the sources of pollution.

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#### WATER CUT IN HAPPY VALLEY

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Water supply to a number of premises in Happy Valley on Hong Kong Island will be interrupted for five hours on Wednesday (August 1) starting from 1 a.m.

The temporary interruption is to enable the Waterworks Office to carry out night leakage tests.

The area affected is bounded by the east side of Shan Kwong Road, Wongneichong Road, Blue Pool Road, Holly Road, Hawthorn Road, Sing Woo Road, and Tsui Man Street, including Mui Hing Street and Kwai Fong Street.

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/5 .....

Monday, July 30, 1973

- 5 -

HEALTH REPORT FOR JUNE

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Sixty-seven cases of measles, and one death, were reported during June, according to the monthly health statistics released today by the Medical and Health Department.

The fatality brought the number of deaths caused by measles so far this year to five, one for every month since February.

"Although the rate of incidence of measles remains relatively low, the five fatal cases in the last five months illustrate the need for early immunisation of susceptible children," a spokesman said. "Free inoculations are available at all maternal and child health centres."

Notifications of infectious diseases during June totalled 895, with 97 deaths. Tuberculosis accounted for 94 of the latter, cerebrospinal meningitis for one, and typhoid fever for the other.

Reports of bacillary dysentery fell from 48 in May to 25, chickenpox from 26 to 11, and amoebiasis from five to three.

There were no reports of either diphtheria or poliomyelitis, and no appreciable variation occurred in the notifications of other infectious diseases.

Hong Kong remained free from cholera and other quarantinable diseases during the month.

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/6 .....

Monday, July 30, 1973

- 6 -

REFUND DATE EXTENDED

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The deadline for claims for refunds in respect of unused 15 cent receipt stamps is being extended until September 29.

Claims may now be made for cash refunds in respect of unmarked stamps of face value not exceeding \$300 at the G.P.O., Kowloon Central and Tsim Sha Tsui post offices from Wednesday (August 1).

Refunds exceeding \$300 may only be obtained on application to the Accounts Division, Post Office Headquarters, G.P.O., Pedder Street, Hong Kong.

Claims should similarly be addressed to the Accounts Division, Post Office Headquarters in all cases where stamps have been chopped or overprinted by the holder for the purposes of security or identification.

The refund resulted from recent amendments to the Stamp Ordinance, which included the abolition of 15-cent stamp duty on receipts.

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/7 .....

Monday, July 30, 1973

- 7 -

ROAD IN HIGH ISLAND WORKS AREA TO BE CLOSED

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Another access road in connection with the High Island Water Scheme will be closed to all vehicular traffic with effect from Wednesday (August 1).

The affected road is the access road to Intake "N" which lies to the north-west of Sai Kung town.

Residents in the Sai Kung and Tai Po districts wishing to use the road may apply for permits from the Transport Department through their respective district offices.

All other drivers should apply direct to the Transport Department headquarters at Blake Block, Queensway, Hong Kong.

The district offices of Sai Kung and Tai Po will be authorised to issue permits valid for one day only to motorists requiring occasional access to premises via the restricted road.

Three roads in the New Territories were closed last December in connection with the works of the High Island Water Scheme.

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/8 .....

Monday, July 30, 1973

- 8 -

WARD OFFICES MOVE TO NEW ADDRESSES

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The Urban Council's two ward offices at Wong Tai Sin and Kwun Tong have moved.

The new premises are situated nearby, but are larger and better able to cope with the increasing number of callers from two of Kowloon's most crowded districts.

A spokesman for the Urban Council today reminded people that the ward offices were there to help them.

Residents with questions and problems are urged to discuss them at first hand with the councillors, the spokesman added.

"Ward clerks, who are on the telephone, will make arrangements for such meetings."

The following are the new addresses, the ward clerks and their telephone numbers and the councillors attending them:

<u>New Address</u>	<u>New Ward Clerk</u>	<u>Urban Councillor</u>
Lok Fu Estate, Block 13, Room 45, G/F, Kowloon.	Mr. Chiu Hung-fun (Tel. 3-376611)	Mrs. E. Elliott
San Po Kong Govt. Offices Building, Room 330, 3/F, Kowloon.	Mr. Ng Yau-shing (Tel. 3-233151)	Mr. Alex S.C. Wu
Kwun Tong Health Office, Kwun Tong Govt. Branch Offices Building, Tung Yan Street, 5/F, Kowloon.	Mr. Chow Joe-in (Tel. 3-891927)	Mr. Ambrose K.C. Choi Mr. Wong Shiu-cheuck, M.B.E.

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Release Time: 7.00 p.m.