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Monday, June 26, 1995

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Hong Kong/Australia air services negotiation

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After a day of intensive discussions between senior officials of the Australian Department of Transport and Hong Kong Government's Economic Services Branch, the Australian and Hong Kong Governments have agreed to undertake a review of all air services arrangements under the Hong Kong/Australia Air Services Agreement with a view to negotiating a new Confidential Memorandum of Understanding (CMU) by January 1, 1996 at the latest.

"Despite intensive efforts by both sides to find a solution to the problems which have arisen as a result of Qantas' fifth freedom services, fundamental differences remain between the two sides," a Hong Kong Government spokesman said today (Monday).

"However, in the interest of avoiding massive disruption to air services between Hong Kong and Australia, both sides have agreed to withdraw their respective conditions in the permits issued to the designated airlines of each side, pending completion of the re-negotiation of the CMU.

"It was also decided that no new conditions would be imposed by the aeronautical authorities of either side before January 1, 1996.

"The problems are still there and must be resolved. In particular, the Hong Kong Government's position on Qantas' fifth freedom activities remains unchanged," the spokesman said.

"The purpose of the forthcoming review of air services arrangements is to clear away once and for all the outstanding areas of disagreement and remove uncertainties for the travelling public.

"But both governments felt that the interests of the travelling public must come first."

End/Monday, June 26, 1995

Residential mortgage survey results for May

* * * * *

Residential mortgage loans for the purchase of properties in Hong Kong continued to grow rapidly in May, according to the results of the latest monthly survey conducted by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA).

The latest figures show that the total amount of outstanding mortgage lending by the 33 institutions in the survey grew by 2.7% in May (2.4% in April) to $251.8 billion from $245.3 billion. The growth rate is much higher than the monthly average of 0.93% over the last twelve months.

"The relatively high rate of growth in mortgage lending in May is a continuing reflection of the increased activity in the residential property market in recent months," the Deputy Chief Executive (Banking) of HKMA, Mr David Carse, said.

Reflecting the higher growth in April and May, the annualised rate of growth in lending over the last three months increased to 23.0%, compared with 11.9% in the three-month period to April. The twelve-month average of outstanding loans showed an annualised growth rate of 11.2%, compared with 10.2% in April.

The amount of new loans approved but not yet drawn increased slightly by $0.1 billion (1.1%) to $7.0 billion in May.

"This figure, coupled with the continued activity in the primary market for residential properties, suggests that the growth rate will remain high in June," said Mr Carse.

Lending for the purchase of properties in China increased by 1.9% to $4.84 billion in May from $4.75 billion in the preceding month. Gross loans made in May increased both in number (to 291 from 189) and in amount (to $205 million from $123 million). New loans approved in May rose both in number (to 241 from 185) and in amount (to $159 million from $113 million).

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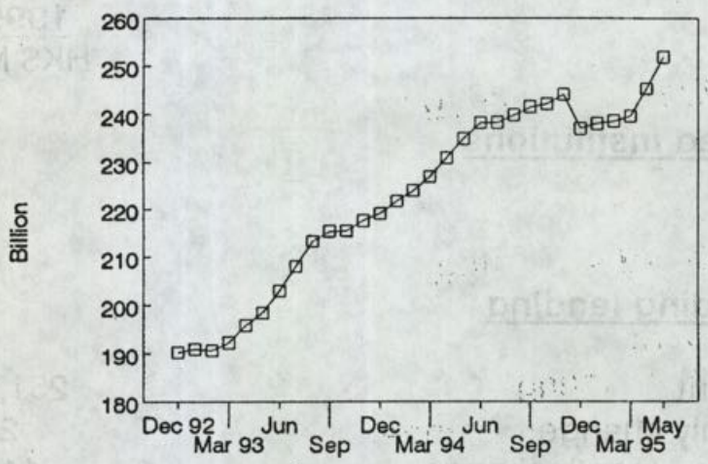
Residential Mortgage Loans in Hong Kong
Results of Survey for May 1995

	May 1995 HK$ Mn	Apr 1995 HK$ Mn
33 authorised institutions		
1. Outstanding lending		
a. Amount	251,836	245,316
b. Monthly change	2.7%	2.4%
c. Twelve-month change	11.1%	10.2%
d. Average change (annualized)		
Latest three months	23.0%	11.9%
Latest twelve months	11.2%	10.2%
2. Gross loans made during month		
a. Amount	12,352	10,573
b. Number	8322	6473
3. New loans approved during month		
a. Amount	12,311	10,915
b. Number	8228	6831
4. New loans approved during month but not yet drawn		
a. Amount	7,005	6,929
b. Number	4741	4501

Chart A

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOANS IN HONG KONG
(33 institutions)

Outstanding balance at end of month



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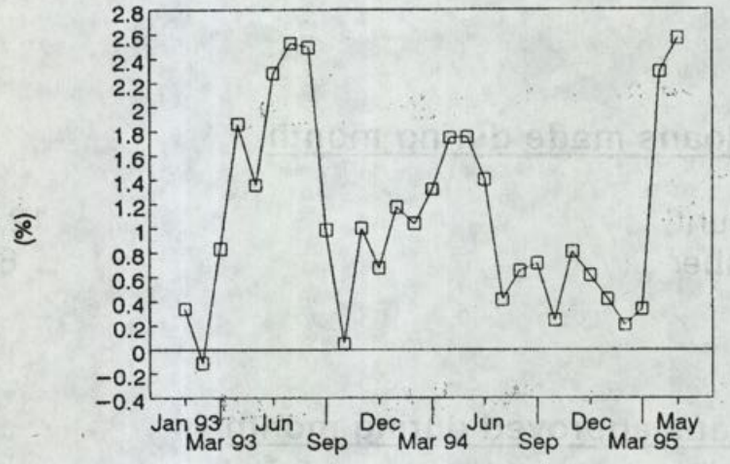
Remarks : The significant fall of outstanding balance in December 1994 was due to the effect of reclassification, securitization and sale of loans by some institutions.

Monthly growth rate



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3−month and 12−month moving average growth rate on annualised basis

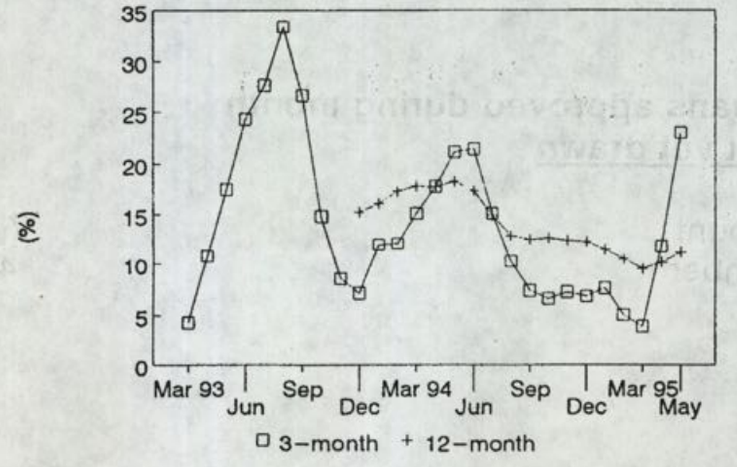

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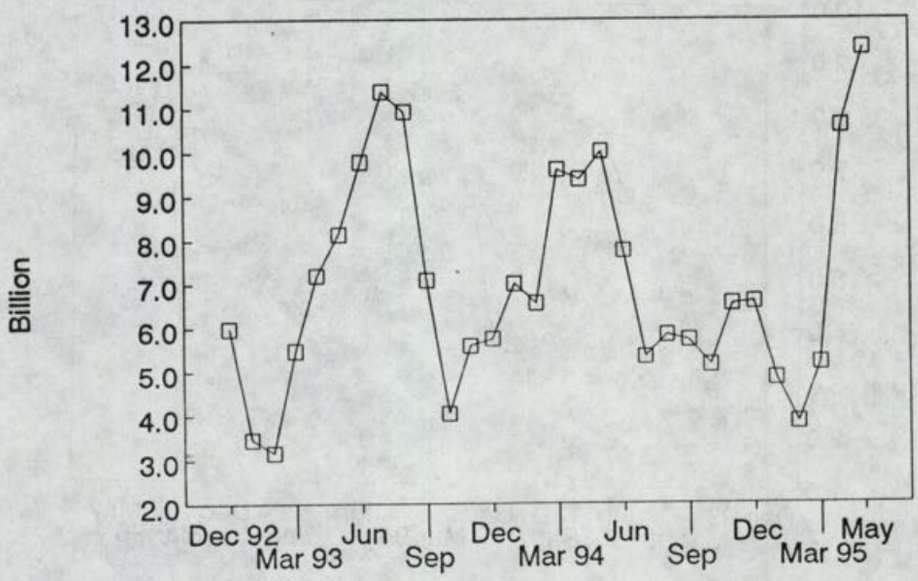
Chart B

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOANS IN HONG KONG
(33 institutions)

GROSS LOANS MADE DURING THE MONTH

Amount



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Number of accounts

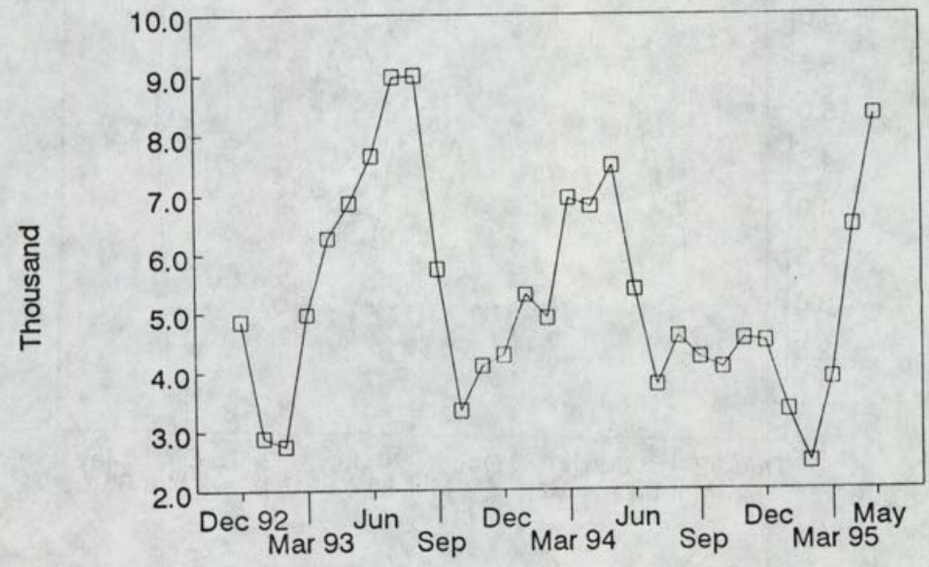

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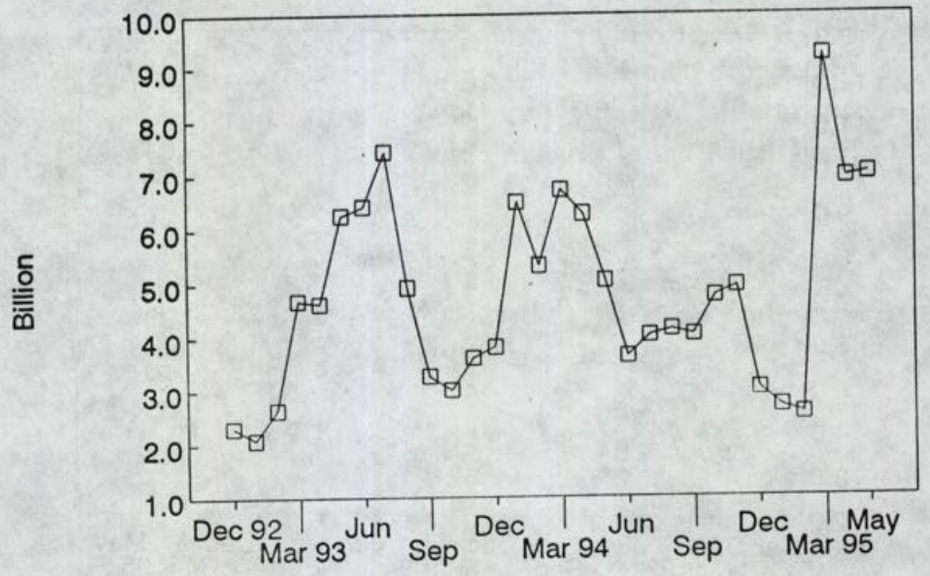
Chart C

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOANS IN HONG KONG
(33 institutions)

NEW LOANS APPROVED BUT NOT YET DRAWN

Amount



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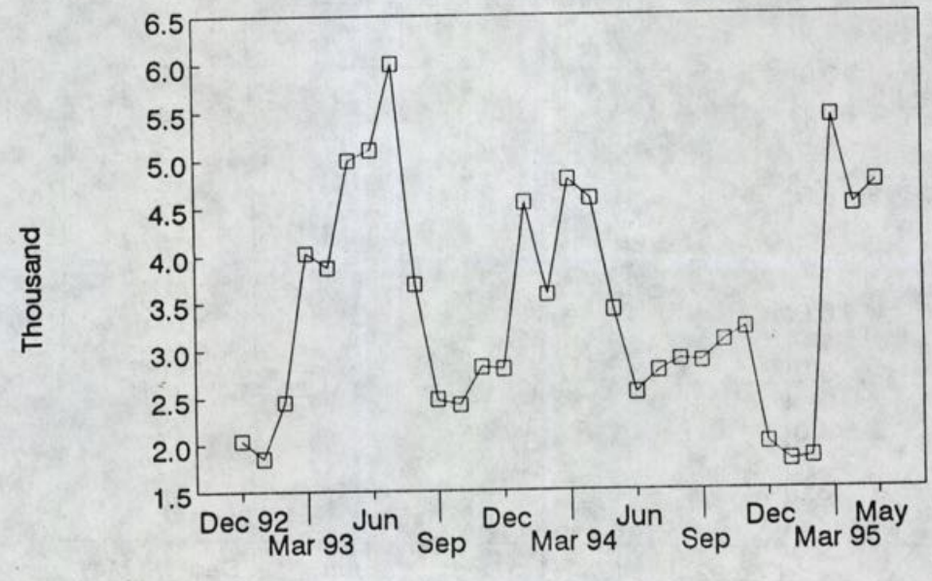
Number of accounts



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End/Monday, June 26, 1995

Progress made in flood control projects

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Progress has been made by the Drainage Services Department (DSD) in major flood control projects now underway in the north western New Territories.

Works for two main contracts under a comprehensive drainage project to alleviate flooding in the Yuen Long and Kam Tin areas have been underway in stages since October 1993 and April 1994, and are progressing smoothly.

The remarks were made by DSD's Chief Engineer (Drainage Projects), Mr Keith Murrells, during a press visit to the sites of training of Kam Tin and Shan Pui Rivers in Yuen Long today (Monday).

Mr Murrells noted that the works which began in October 1993 involved the improvement to the existing Shan Pui River from the downstream of the Yuen Long inflatable dam to Inner Deep Bay, which is the main drainage outlet for the Yuen Long and Kam Tin catchments.

"The works under this project are worth about $275 million and are expected to be completed in December 1996.

"The works include dredging of four kilometres of navigation channels in Deep Bay and along the Shan Pui River; widening and deepening of the existing Shan Pui River; construction of three kilometres of flood embankment; concrete lining for approximately 460 metres of a nullah; reconstruction of the access road in front of Chung Hau Tsuen; reconstruction and extension of the border road and the border fence; landscaping and other ancillary associated works.

"When completed, the drainage channels will have a width of 60 metres at the upstream and 600 metres at the outlet," Mr Murrells said.

He further pointed out that a $284 million contract under this project started in April last year for completion in April 1997.

"It involves construction of a drainage channel stretching across the fish pond areas from the New Territories Circular Road at Hung Mo Kiu to the Shan Pui River adjacent to Lut Chau," Mr Murrells said.

The works include construction of about three kilometres of drainage channel with a base width of 110 metres to 140 metres, the associated embankments and access roads, modification of the masonry lining of the existing channel near Hung Mo Kiu, laying of storm water drainage systems and water mains, landscaping and other associated ancillary works.

Meanwhile, Mr Murrells said tenders for the construction of the main drainage channels in the middle reach of Kam Tin River would be invited soon.

"This contract will include the training and widening of about 2.2 kilometres of the middle reach of the existing Kam Tin River.

"The works will significantly alleviate the flooding situation in the Kam Tin area.

"In addition, two fabric dams and a low flow pumping station will be provided to achieve environmental improvement to the upstream areas," he said.

The works are scheduled to begin in October for completion in about 33 months.

On other drainage projects under planning and design stages in the northwest New Territories, Mr Murrells said these included training of the upper reaches of Kam Tin River; river training works in Ngau Tam Mei; flood protection works at low-lying villages; river training works in San Tin and rural drainage rehabilitation scheme in north west New Territories.

End/Monday, June 26, 1995

Appointments to the Board of Education

* * * * *

The Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Michael Leung, today (Monday) announced the re-appointment of Dr Tam Man-kwan as the Chairman of the Board of Education.

New members appointed to the Board are -

* Mr Chan Tak-hang, a teacher of Pui Ching Middle School and a member of the Appeals Board (Education);
* Mr Cheng Chi-leung, Assistant Principal of SKH Bishop Mok Sau Tseng Secondary School;
* Mrs Chu Tang Lai-kuen, Supervisor of kindergartens under Caritas;
* Mr Irving Koo, Director of Jardine Pacific Limited a member of the Advisory Committee on Teacher Education and Qualifications;

* Dr Simon Leung Man-on, Principal of the Ebenezer School for the Blind and a member of the Rehabilitation Development Co-ordinating Committee's Sub-committee on Education and Personnel;
* Dr Pang King-chee, Deputy Director of the Hong Kong Institute of Education;
* Mr Tang Hing-lin, Principal of the SKH Chan Young Secondary School;

The following members will be appointed to the Board on an ex-officio basis -

* Chairman, Advisory Committee on School Administration and Finance
* Chairman, Advisory Committee on School Guidance and Support Services
* Chairman, Advisory Committee on School Places Allocation
* Chairman, Committee on Home-School Co-operation
* Chairman, Curriculum Development Council
* Chairman, Private Schools Review Committee

Mr Leung also announced the re-appointment of the following serving members -

* Mr Herman Hu Shao-ming, Executive Director of Royden (Holdings) Ltd.;
* Dr Leslie Lo, Dean of the Faculty of Education at the Chinese University of Hong Kong;
* Sr Marie Remedios, Episcopal Delegate for Education of the Catholic Education Office;
* Mr Pun Tin-chi, Headmaster, GCEPSA Tseung Kwan O Primary School (PM);
* Mr Sheung Kwok-chu, Principal of Po Leung Kuk 1984 Prevocational School.

The Director of Education will continue to serve as the Vice-Chairman of the Board, and the Deputy Secretary for Education and Manpower as a member, both in their ex-officio capacity.

Mr Leung thanked the seven retiring members - Miss Bow Sui-may, Ms Sansan Ching, Ms Audrey Eu, Mrs Grace Hui, Mrs Minnie Lai, Mr Horace Knight and Dr Andrew Wong - for their contributions to the Board in the past term.

The Chairman and all Members of the Board are appointed on a one-year term starting July 1, 1995.

Following is the new membership of the Board :

Membership of the Board of Education
(July 1, 1995 - June 30, 1996)

Chairman
Dr Tam Man-kwan, JP

Vice-Chairman
Director of Education (ex-officio)
(Mr W K Lam, JP)

Non-Official Members
Mr Chan Tak-hang
Mr Cheng Chi-leung
Mrs Chu Tang Lai-kuen
Mr Herman Hu
Mr Irving Koo
Dr Simon Leung Man-on
Dr Leslie Lo
Dr K C Pang
Mr Pun Tin-chi
Sister Marie Remedios
Mr Sheung Kwok-chu
Mr Tang Hing-lin

Ex-officio Members
Chairman, Advisory Committee on School Administration and Finance
(Mr Tai Hay-lap)
Chairman, Advisory Committee on School Guidance and Support Services
(Mr Michael Hong Man-hoi)
Chairman, Advisory Committee on School Places Allocation
(Mr Isaac Tse)
Chairman, Committee on Home-School Co-operation
(Mr Tik Chi-yuen)
Chairman, Curriculum Development Council
(Mr Kenneth Ting, JP)
Chairman, Private Schools Review Committee
(Mr Luke Yip Jing-ping)
Deputy Secretary for Education and Manpower
(Mr Kevin Mak, JP)

End/Monday, June 26, 1995

Governor to visit Task Force Black Spots

* * * * *

The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, will visit four vantage points in Yuen Long in the New Territories on Thursday (June 29) afternoon to see for himself the efforts and improvements made by the Lands Department Task Force Black Spots to clean up environmental black spots.

Accompanied by the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Bowen Leung, the Governor will arrive at the Tin Shui Wai Sports Ground by helicopter at 3 pm, and will be greeted by the Chairman of the Special Committee, Dr Samuel Wong; and the Government Land Agent/Task Force Black Spots of the Lands Department, Mr Allan Hay.

The party will then proceed to the rooftop of Shui Lung House in Tin Shui Estate where they will have a bird's eye view of the Ha Tsuen Container Study Area.

After this, the party will visit an open storage area at Kam Tin Road and a cleared unauthorised development site at Fan Kam Road.

The Governor and his party will conclude their visit at a car handling yard in Lo Uk Tsuen at Kam Tin Road where the operator has successfully applied to the Town Planning Board for environmental improvement works. He will then depart by helicopter from Shek Kong.

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Attention News Editors:

Your representatives are invited to cover the Governor's visit to Yuen Long on Thursday (June 29) to see at first-hand the efforts made by the Lands Department Task Force Black Spots to improve the environment.

Due to the limited time in going from one place to another and limited space at some vantage points, press facilities will only be available at the rooftop of Shui Lung House in Tin Shui Estate and inside the car handling yard at Lo Uk Tsuen in Kam Tin Road.

At the Shui Lung House rooftop, there will be a fixed press position on a platform. As space is very limited, TV cameramen are advised to bring along ladders.

There will be no fixed position inside the car dealing yard as it is more spacious and press representatives are free to take photos from any angle.

Transport will be provided. A press coach will leave the Central Government Offices car park at Lower Albert Road at 1.30 pm. The same coach will bring press representatives back to CGO car park at about 6.30 pm. GIS officers will be on hand to assist.

End/Monday, June 26, 1995

Director-General of Industry to visit China

* * * * *

The Director-General of Industry, Miss Denise Yue, leaves today (Monday) for a five-day visit to Hangzhou and Ningbo. She is joined by officials from the Industry Department and the Trade and Industry Branch.

The delegation will first visit Hangzhou where it will meet the mayor and be briefed by municipal officials on the economic and industrial development of the city. It will also visit the Hangzhou Economic and Technological Development Zone, and the Hangzhou High and New Technology Development Zone.

In Ningbo, the delegation will meet the vice mayor of Ningbo and municipal officials from the Planning Commission, the Economic Commission and the Commission of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade. It will also visit Beilun Port, the Ningbo Bonded Zone, and the Ningbo Economic and Technological Development Zone.

"Given the close economic ties between Hong Kong and China, regular contacts with Chinese officials and enterprises will help foster a better understanding and facilitate further economic co-operation and mutually beneficial development between the two places," Miss Yue said.

End/Monday, June 26, 1995

Provisional statistics of retail sales for April

* * * * *

According to provisional figures released today (Monday) by the Census and Statistics Department, the value of total retail sales in April 1995, estimated at $15.9 billion, increased by 5% when compared with April 1994. After discounting the effect of price changes over the period, total retail sales dropped by 2% in volume.

The slight decrease in total retail sales volume in April 1995 was mainly attributable to the decline in sales of motor vehicles, which dropped by 28% in value and by 36% in volume terms. After four successive months of large increases, sales of jewellery, watches and clocks and valuable gifts also fell in April, by 5% in value and 7% in volume.

However, it should be noted that the year-on-year growth rates of total retail sales in April 1995 were at least partly affected by the good performance of the trade in April 1994, with the growth rates at that time reaching 15% in value and 8% in volume.

On the other hand, increases were recorded in sales of clothing and footwear and sales in supermarkets in both value and volume terms. Sales of the former increased by 13% in value and 2% in volume. The respective increases in supermarkets were 8% in value and 1% in volume.

Meanwhile, sales of most other commodities recorded increases in value but virtually no change or slight decreases in volume. They included food, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (+10% in value, virtually no change in volume); fuels (+8% in value, -1% in volume); and department stores (+7% in value, -2% in volume).

Compared with March 1995, but bearing in mind that this comparison may be affected by seasonal factors, total retail sales in April 1995 decreased by 4% in value and 8% in volume.

Comparing the period from January to April 1995 with the same period in 1994, total retail sales rose by 6% in value, but showed virtually no change 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.

Table 1 presents the revised total retail sales figure for March 1995 and the provisional figure for April 1995.

Table 2 shows the value and volume indices of retail sales in March and April 1995 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 April 1995 results with those for March 1995 and those for April 1994, as well as comparisons of retail sales in the period from January to April 1995 with the same period in 1994 are also given.

The report containing the analysis of the April 1995 results is now on sale at $4.00 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 (Tel 2802 1258).

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TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for April 1995 (Provisional Figure) = HK$15,887.4 million

for March 1995 (Revised Figure) = HK$16,583.0 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF RETAIL SALES FOR MARCH 1995 AND APRIL 1995

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

Type of Outlet	Type of index	Index number		April compared March	1995 with 1995	April compared April	1995 with 1994	Jan.- Apr.1995 compared with Jan.- Apr.1994	
		March 1995 (Revised figures)	April 1995 (Provisional figures)						
		(Points)	(Points)	(Points)	(%)	(Points)	(%)	(Points)	(%)
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS	Value	176.6	169.2	-7.4	-4.2	+7.3	+4.5	+10.8	+6.3
	Volume	136.6	125.8	-10.8	-7.9	-3.2	-2.5	-0.3	-0.2
(B) BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET									
Food, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets)	Value	134.5	141.2	+6.7	+5.0	+12.5	+9.7	+6.1	+4.6
	Volume	97.7	102.3	+4.6	+4.7	-0.1	-0.1	-3.4	-3.4
Supermarkets ϕ	Value	156.5	153.7	-2.8	-1.8	+11.8	+8.3	+7.2	+4.7
	Volume	105.6	103.2	-2.4	-2.3	+0.8	+0.8	-3.7	-3.3
Fuels	Value	145.4	159.1	+13.7	+9.4	+12.2	+8.3	+11.2	+8.6
	Volume	95.1	104.1	+9.0	+9.4	-1.6	-1.5	-0.3	-0.4
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	238.7	265.3	+26.7	+11.2	+30.5	+13.0	+30.7	+12.8
	Volume	166.0	169.3	+3.3	+2.0	+4.0	+2.4	+2.1	+1.2
Consumer durable goods	Value	154.9	150.5	-4.4	-2.8	-19.2	-11.3	-11.5	-6.3
	Volume	127.3	123.5	-3.9	-3.0	-21.1	-14.6	-16.8	-10.8
- Motor vehicles and parts	Value	118.9	105.1	-13.8	-11.6	-41.9	-28.5	-28.3	-15.3
	Volume	79.9	69.8	-10.0	-12.6	-38.8	-35.7	-32.6	-23.7
- Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	180.9	183.4	+2.5	+1.4	-2.9	-1.5	+0.7	+0.4
	Volume	161.7	162.3	+0.6	+0.4	-8.3	-4.9	-5.3	-3.1
Department stores	Value	145.2	143.8	-1.4	-1.0	+9.0	+6.7	+8.3	+5.4
	Volume	104.5	97.7	-6.8	-6.5	-1.7	-1.7	-4.5	-3.7
Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts	Value	210.9	149.0	-61.9	-29.4	-7.1	-4.6	+16.2	+9.4
	Volume	199.3	138.2	-61.1	-30.7	-9.9	-6.7	+14.0	+8.5
Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified	Value	218.5	208.8	-9.7	-4.4	+29.5	+16.4	+29.2	+16.0
	Volume	166.7	158.3	-8.3	-5.0	+15.2	+10.6	+14.9	+10.1

NOTES : ϕ Not including supermarkets operating in department stores.
The underlined figures were rounded up to 5.

End/Monday, June 26, 1995

$276M Research grants for tertiary institutions allocated

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The Research Grants Council (RGC) today (Monday) announced its decisions on the allocation of $276 million in research grants to the seven University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institutions in 1995-96.

The RGC had considered 888 applications for a total of $829 million for academic research projects in a wide range of subject disciplines. Each application was initially screened by one or more of the four subject panels - Physical Sciences; Engineering; Biology and Medicine; and Humanities, Social Sciences and Business Studies - with the help of reports from external specialist assessors/referees. The panels' recommendations were then considered by the full RGC meeting on June 16.

This year RGC again decided to allocate $63 million (23 per cent of the funds available) to the institutions directly to support projects costing less than $200,000.

Of the balance of $212.7 million, some $7.2 million was reserved for central allocation and $205.5 million was allocated for projects in response to competitive bids from the institutions. Details of the projects supported, by panels and broad subject areas, are given at Annex A. Details of the numbers of applications submitted and supported, by institutions and by broad subject areas, are at Annex B.

In selecting projects for funding support, RGC has regard for the projects' academic merit/integrity, their contribution to the academic development of the institutions and their relevance to the needs of the institutions and Hong Kong's overall economic and social development.

This was the fifth research grant allocation exercise undertaken by RGC since it was established in January 1991.

Chairman of RGC, Professor Ping K Ko, said: "Despite the increase in the number of applications for grants from 703 in 1994-95 to 888 in 1995-96, the Council was able to support, fully or partially, 454 projects as compared with 371 last year.

"Among the projects supported this year, the RGC has funded 16 projects involving, to varying degrees, collaboration with academics in Chinese higher education institutions, and a further 22 involving collaboration with other overseas institutions.

"The quality of the bids was again very high," Professor Ko said: "Apart from those awarded funding, there were a further 216 fundable projects which could not be supported for lack of sufficient funding.

"The RGC was pleased to note the Government's approval earlier this year for further increases in the level of funding for academic research in 1996-97 and 1997-98 when some $330 million and nearly $400 million will be available respectively. This support is needed to strengthen further the research base in Hong Kong's higher education sector," he said.

Apart from disbursing and monitoring the use of Government funding for academic research, RGC is also responsible for advising the Government, through UGC, on the needs of the institutions of higher education in Hong Kong in the field of academic research in order that a research base adequate for the maintenance of academic vigour and pertinent to the needs of Hong Kong may be developed.

"A detailed report on the Council's operations and activities during the period January 1 to December 31, 1994, will be given in the RGC Annual Report 1994 to be published later this year," Professor Ko said.

"I should also like to take this opportunity to thank all the RGC/panel members for their assistance in making the work of the Council and its subject panels run smoothly and effectively," he added.

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Annex A

1995-96 Earmarked Grant for Research

Breakdown of Applications Funded by Subject Panels and Subject Areas

(including Number of Projects Fundable but Not Funded)

Subject Panel Subject Area	No. of Projects Supported and Funded	Amount of Funding Supported ($'000)	No. of Fundable Projects but Not Funded
Physical Sciences			
Chemical Engineering	5	2,190	5
Physical Sciences	79	37,684	36
Pure Mathematics	14	4,773	8
Sub-total	98	44,647	49
Engineering			
Civil Engineering, Surveying, Building & Construction	31	14,201	21
Computing Science, Information Technology & Applied Mathematics	52	19,610	26
Electrical & Electronic Engineering	51	20,596	23
Mechanical, Production & Industrial Engineering	27	12,103	20
Sub-total	161	66,510	90
Biology & Medicine			
Biological Sciences	35	22,149	17
Medicine, Dentistry & Health	74	38,843	24
Sub-total	109	60,992	41
Humanities, Social Sciences & Business Studies			
Administrative, Business & Social Sciences	51	20,071	23
Arts & Languages	15	6,320	6
Education	9	3,777	4
Law, Architecture, Town Planning & other Professional & Vocational Studies	11	3,231	3
Sub-total	86	33,399	36
Total	454	205,548	216

End/Monday, June 26, 1995

1995-96 Earmarked Grant for Research

Breakdown of Applications Received and Funded by Institutions, Subject Panels and Subject Areas

Subject Panel / Subject Area	HKU		CUHK		HKUST		PolyU		CityU		HKBU		LC		Total	
	Application	Supported	Application	Supported	Application	Supported	Application	Supported	Application	Supported	Application	Supported	Application	Supported	Application	Supported
Physical Sciences																
Chemical Engineering	2	1			9	4	1								12	5
Physical Sciences	19	13	25	14	40	29	10	6	21	9	14	8			129	79
Pure Mathematics	3	1	5	2	10	8	1		5	3	1				25	14
Sub-total	24	15	30	16	59	41	12	6	26	12	15	8			166	98
Engineering																
Civil Engineering, Surveying, Building & Construction	14	7			12	5	31	18	4	1					61	31
Computing Science, Information Technology & Applied Mathematics	10	7	26	15	26	13	16	9	22	7	3	1	1		104	52
Electrical & Electronic Engineering	9	4	12	8	23	19	16	4	36	16					96	51
Mechanical, Production & Industrial Engineering	7	3	5	1	28	16	13	5	15	2					68	27
Sub-total	40	21	43	24	89	53	76	36	77	26	3	1	1		329	161
Biology & Medicine																
Biological Sciences	24	13	15	9	14	12	4		5		5	1			67	35
Medicine, Dentistry & Health	43	23	82	43	9	6	3		1	1	1	1			139	74
Sub-total	67	36	97	52	23	18	7		6	1	6	2			206	109
Humanities, Social Sciences & Business Studies																
Administrative, Business & Social Sciences	2		25	13	34	18	10	5	37	12	15	3	2		125	51
Arts & Languages	5	3	8	4			2	1	5	5	6	2			26	15
Education	3	3	9	3			2	1	1	1	3	1			18	9
Law, Architecture, Town Planning & other Professional & Vocational Studies	7	5					2	1	8	5			1		18	11
Sub-total	17	11	42	20	34	18	16	8	51	23	24	6	3		187	86
Total	148	83	212	112	205	130	111	50	160	62	48	17	4		888	454

Annex B

Joint efforts to enhance ACP site safety

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The Secretary for Works, Mr James Blake, today (Monday) called on all those engaged in the Airport Core Programme (ACP) to be involved in enhancing site safety.

"Workers, contractors, consultants and Government staff alike, all of us must increase our safety endeavours in every way possible," he said.

Speaking at the launching ceremony of the 1995 ACP Construction Safety Award Scheme, the third annual event organised by the New Airport Projects Co-ordination Office (NAPCO), Mr Blake said the joint efforts of all parties concerned had produced positive results, and an improving trend had been reported.

"The fatal accident rate and non-fatal accident rate of ACP contracts for the 12 months up to the end of April 1995 was 0.5 fatalities per thousand workers per year and 81 accidents per thousand workers per year, which is 52 per cent and 16 per cent respectively lower than the fatal and non-fatal accident rates of ACP contracts for the previous 12 months.

"The improvements were achieved despite an increase in the labour force of about 44 per cent. By comparison, the corresponding fatal and non-fatal accident rates for the construction industry as a whole were 0.85 and 275 in 1994," he said.

However, these improving safety results were still not good enough, Mr Blake said.

"The overall ACP accident rates are still higher than the ACP safety targets of zero fatalities and less than 60 reportable accidents per thousand workers per year. I therefore repeat my call in the past years for everybody to be involved in safety on our sites," he said.

Mr Blake said the Government as well as the Provisional Airport Authority (PAA), the Mass Transit Railway Corporation (MTRC) and the Western Harbour Tunnel Company (WHTC) had also been rigorous when selecting contractors.

"Not only in terms of proven ability, but also the means by which safe working is to be planned and implemented on the works sites under their control," he said.

The annual ACP Construction Safety Award Scheme has been organised since 1993 by NAPCO to promote construction safety in ACP construction sites and to reduce accidents.

A new "Safety Promotion Award" will be introduced for the first time this year to give recognition to those who have made the best effort in promoting construction safety to their staff, workers and sub-contractors.

The other two awards will be the Safety Management Award and the Safety Record Award. The former will be presented to those sites with a high quality of safety management while the latter will only take into account safety records of the sites.

Also officiating at today's launching ceremony were Legislative Councillors Mr Tam Yiu-chung, Mr Edward Ho, Dr Leong Che-hung and Dr Samuel Wong, as well as the Director of NAPCO, Mr Billy Lam.

End/Monday, June 26, 1995

Eligibility of "working person" to register as voter

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In response to press enquiries, a spokesman for the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) said today (Monday) that any part-time worker, casual worker and seasonal worker is a "working person" eligible for registration as an elector provided that :

* he has been working, whether or not for the same employer, for four weeks or more for at least 18 hours in each of the four weeks immediately preceding the date of application; or

* he has been engaged in work of less than 18 hours of work per week at the time of application but he is able to show a consistent pattern of employment during the period of not less than 12 months immediately preceding the date of application.

The spokesman pointed out that exceptional cases would be considered individually on their own merits.

He said only "working persons" engaged in economic activities in Hong Kong for remuneration, whether as employees or self-employed persons, are entitled to have a second vote in one of the nine new functional constituency elections in the September Legislative Council elections.

The spokesman said it was the standard practice for the REO to follow up, either by telephone or by letter, with applicants the information provided in whose application was unclear or incomplete.

He said if an applicant stated in his application that he was a casual worker, then, he would be regarded as a self-employed person and it would not be necessary for him to provide information about his employer.

"Of course, if an applicant stated that he was unemployed, then, he would not be qualified as an elector for reasons stated above," he added.

The spokesman also said REO operated a 24-hour enquiry hotline - 2891 1001 - for the public to make enquiries, adding that its staff had been working late at night in the past couple of months and there was no reason for the public of not being able to make enquiries and be answered of points in question over the phone.

He said the office was still issuing notifications to electors informing them of the details of their registration.

Any member of the public might personally lodge with the Registration Officer an objection as regards any entry or a claim in respect of the entry or any omission concerning himself in the Provisional Register, on or before July 5.

End/Monday, June 26, 1995

Water storage figure

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Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 am today (Monday) stood at 67.4 per cent of capacity or 394.839 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 416.423 million cubic metres of water, representing 71.1 per cent of capacity.

End/Monday, June 26, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change ($million)
Opening balance in the account	1,545	0930	+964
Closing balance in the account	2,524	1000	+964
Change attributable to :		1100	+1,015
Money market activity	+979	1200	+1,015
LAF today	NIL	1500	+1,015
		1600	+979

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 118.3 *+0.0* 26.6.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills

Terms	Yield
1 week	5.34
1 month	5.39
3 months	5.43
6 months	5.47
12 months	5.53

EF notes

Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
2 years	2705	6.40	101.28	5.75
3 years	3804	6.90	102.39	6.06
5 years	5006	6.60	100.02	6.70
5 years	M501	7.90	103.31	7.21

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - $ 8,380 million

Closed June 26,1995

End/Monday, June 26, 1995