



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1991

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SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1991

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PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF RETAIL SALES SURVEY FOR MARCH 1991 RELEASED
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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN MARCH 1991, ESTIMATED AT \$10,016 MILLION, INCREASED BY 8% WHEN COMPARED WITH MARCH 1990 WHILE THEIR VOLUME INCREASED BY 1%, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (SATURDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES REFER TO CHANGES IN THE VALUES OF RETAIL SALES AFTER DISCOUNTING ESTIMATED CHANGES IN PRICES.

THE INDICATORS OF PRICE CHANGES USED FOR THE PURPOSE ARE THE RESPECTIVE COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX WHICH CORRESPOND TO THE BROAD CATEGORY OF GOODS IN QUESTION.

COMPARING MARCH 1991 WITH MARCH 1990, RETAIL SALES OF FUELS INCREASED BY 33% IN VALUE AND 12% IN VOLUME, WHILE THAT OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ROSE BY 12% IN VALUE AND 3% IN VOLUME.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES WENT UP BY 10% IN VALUE AND 3% IN VOLUME.

CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS INCREASED BY 6% IN SALES VALUE BUT REMAINED ALMOST UNCHANGED IN SALES VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS ROSE BY 2% IN VALUE BUT DROPPED BY 2% IN VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, "CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS" AND SUPERMARKETS BOTH WENT UP BY 13% IN SALES VALUE AND BY 7% AND 3% RESPECTIVELY IN SALES VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS ROSE BY 7% IN VALUE BUT DROPPED BY 3% IN VOLUME.

SALES IN DEPARTMENT STORES INCREASED BY 4% IN VALUE BUT DECREASED BY 2% IN VOLUME.

COMPARING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 9% IN VALUE AND 2% IN VOLUME.

FUELS INCREASED BY 34% IN SALES VALUE AND 7% IN SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO WENT UP BY 12% IN VALUE AND 3% IN VOLUME.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS ROSE BY 10% IN VALUE AND 2% IN VOLUME.

CONSUMER DURABLES INCREASED BY 2% IN SALES VALUE BUT DECREASED BY 3% IN SALES VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS ROSE BY 8% IN VALUE AND 3% IN VOLUME.

/ANALYSED BY

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, SUPERMARKET SALES WENT UP BY 14% IN VALUE AND 3% IN VOLUME. CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS INCREASED BY 11% IN SALES VALUE AND 5% IN SALES VOLUME.

SALES IN DEPARTMENT STORES ROSE BY 3% IN VALUE BUT DROPPED BY 4% IN VOLUME, WHILE MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS DECREASED BY 10% IN SALES VALUE AND 17% IN SALES VOLUME.

COMPARING WITH FEBRUARY 1991, TOTAL RETAIL SALES FOR MARCH 1991 DROPPED BY 6% IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME.

THE DECREASE IN MARCH WAS LARGELY SEASONAL, DUE TO THE HIGH BASE OF COMPARISON IN FEBRUARY WHEN PEOPLE INCREASED THEIR PURCHASES OF FOODSTUFFS, CLOTHING AND THE LIKE AROUND THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO IN MARCH DECREASED BY 3% IN VALUE AND 4% IN VOLUME, WHILE THAT OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS DECREASED BY 24% IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, RETAIL SALES OF FUELS ROSE BY 21% IN VALUE AND 22% IN VOLUME, AND THAT OF CONSUMER DURABLES INCREASED BY 16% IN VALUE AND 12% IN VOLUME.

OTHER CONSUMER GOODS DROPPED BY 12% IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND SALES VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS WENT UP BY 43% IN VALUE AND 41% IN VOLUME.

CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS ROSE BY 2% IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND SALES VOLUME.

HOWEVER, RETAIL SALES OF SUPERMARKETS DECREASED BY 6% IN VALUE AND 8% IN VOLUME, WHILE THAT OF DEPARTMENT STORES DROPPED BY 21% IN VALUE AND 22% IN VOLUME.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF MARCH 1991 SURVEY RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AT \$1.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. 802 1258).

NOTE TO EDITORS:

TWO TABLES ON RETAIL SALES SURVEY RESULTS WILL BE SENT BY FACSIMILE. TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL RETAIL SALES FIGURE FOR FEBRUARY 1991 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR MARCH 1991.

/TABLE 2

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1991 (A) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES, (B) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND (C) BY SELECTED TRADES (WHICH FORM PART OF THE RELEVANT MAJOR TRADE GROUPS), WITH AVERAGE RETAIL SALES FROM OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISONS OF MARCH 1991 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR FEBRUARY 1991 AND WITH THOSE FOR MARCH 1990, AND COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE PERIOD JANUARY TO MARCH 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, ARE ALSO GIVEN.

/TABLE 1

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for March 1991 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$10,016 million
for February 1991 (Revised Figure) = HK\$10,647 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES
FOR FEBRUARY 1991 AND MARCH 1991

(Monthly average of Oct. 84 - Sept. 85 = 100)

Item	Index of Retail Sales	February	March	March 1991	March 1991	Jan.-Mar. 1991	March 1991	Jan.-Mar. 1991	
		1991	1991	compared with February 1991	compared with March 1990	compared with Jan.-Mar. 1990	compared with March 1990	compared with Jan.-Mar. 1990	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES									
	Value	190	179	-11	-6	+13	+8	+15	+9
	Volume	133	125	-9	-6	+1	+1	+2	+2
(B) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco	Value	184	177	-6	-3	+20	+12	+18	+12
	Volume	126	121	-5	-4	+3	+3	+3	+3
Fuels	Value	131	158	+27	+21	+39	+33	+38	+34
	Volume	96	117	+21	+22	+12	+12	+7	+7
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	248	189	-59	-24	+10	+6	+21	+10
	Volume	165	125	-40	-24	#	#	+4	+2
Consumer durables	Value	151	175	+24	+16	+16	+10	+4	+2
	Volume	107	121	+13	+12	+4	+3	-4	-3
Other consumer goods	Value	207	182	-25	-12	+4	+2	+15	+8
	Volume	147	130	-18	-12	-3	-2	+4	+3
(C) BY SELECTED TRADES									
(see note 1 below)									
Supermarkets	Value	249	234	-15	-6	+27	+13	+28	+14
	Volume	167	154	-13	-8	+4	+3	+5	+3
Motor vehicles and parts	Value	213	305	+91	+43	+19	+7	-28	-10
	Volume	125	176	+51	+41	-5	-3	-32	-17
Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	132	135	+3	+2	+15	+13	+14	+11
	Volume	102	103	+2	+2	+6	+7	+5	+5
Department stores	Value	264	209	-55	-21	+8	+4	+7	+3
	Volume	178	140	-38	-22	-3	-2	-8	-4

NOTES : 1. In order to analyse the sales of certain trades WITHIN major trade groups, the value and volume indexes in respect of the following selected trades are compiled :

- "Supermarkets" - a trade in the "Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco" group.
- "Motor vehicles and parts" - a trade in the "Consumer durables" group.
- "Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts" - a trade in the "Consumer durables" group.
- "Department stores" - a trade in the "Other consumer goods" group.

2. Figures denoting changes are derived from the unrounded index figures.

3. "#" denotes a figure within ± 0.5 .

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1991

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HEUNG YEE KUK CHAIRMAN RE-ELECTED

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TUEN MUN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR LAU WONG-FAT, WAS RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK TODAY (SATURDAY).

MR LIU CHING-LEUNG OF THE TAI PO ELECTORAL DISTRICT AND MR LAM WAI-KEUNG OF THE SOUTHERN ELECTORAL DISTRICT WERE ELECTED FIRST AND SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE KUK RESPECTIVELY.

AS TO ORDINARY MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, ALL NOMINEES FOR THE 15 VACANCIES WERE RETURNED UNOPPOSED.

THE 15 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE:

SOUTHERN ELECTORAL DISTRICT

MR LEUNG FU-ON
MR CHAN SUEN

TAI PO ELECTORAL DISTRICT

MR NAM KWOK-YIN
MR LEE YIU-BAN
MR TANG TUNG
MR CHEUNG KOON-YAN
MR HAU YIU-CHUEN
MR CHAN KOON-YAU

YUEN LONG ELECTORAL DISTRICT

MR WONG LAI-SUM
MR WU CHEUNG
MR WONG MING-KWONG
MR MAN PING-NAM (FROM ON LUNG TSUEN)
MS LI YORK-LAN
MR TANG PAK-HUNG
MR TANG HOP-WAN

THE NEW TERM OF OFFICE -- THE KUK'S 28TH TERM -- WILL LAST FOR FOUR YEARS, BEGINNING TODAY.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ALBERT LAM, WAS THE RETURNING OFFICER FOR TODAY'S ELECTIONS.

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FACTORIES REMINDED TO GUARD DANGEROUS PARTS OF MACHINERY
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FACTORY PROPRIETORS MUST PROPERLY GUARD ALL DANGEROUS PARTS OF MACHINERY OR PLANT TO PROTECT WORKERS FROM POSSIBLE INJURY.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT MADE THE APPEAL TODAY (SATURDAY) FOLLOWING A RECENT COURT CASE IN WHICH THE WING CHUEN METAL FACTORY LTD IN TSUEN WAN WAS FINED \$25,000 FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENT.

IN THE CASE, A WORKER HAD TO HAVE ALL HIS FINGERS AMPUTATED AFTER THEY WERE CRASHED BY AN UNGUARDED POWER PRESS HE WAS OPERATING.

"ACCORDING TO THE FACTORY AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (GUARDING AND OPERATION OF MACHINERY) REGULATIONS, FACTORY PROPRIETORS MUST EFFECTIVELY GUARD DANGEROUS PARTS OF EVERY PIECE OF MACHINERY OR PLANT DRIVEN BY MECHANICAL POWER," THE SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (PROSECUTIONS), MR TSANG KIN-WO, SAID.

"IT IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS NOT TO OBSERVE THE REGULATIONS AS EVEN THE MOST CAREFUL OPERATIVES ARE VULNERABLE TO ACCIDENTS BEYOND THEIR CONTROL," MR TSANG SAID, ADDING THAT PROPER GUARDING COULD ENSURE SAFE OPERATION AT ALL TIMES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT INJURIES RESULTING FROM MACHINERY ACCIDENTS WERE OFTEN SERIOUS AND COULD CAUSE PERMANENT DISABILITY TO THE VICTIM.

"WORKERS MUST THEREFORE NOT WORK ON A MACHINE WHICH IS NOT PROPERLY GUARDED, AND AVOID COMING INTO DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE DANGEROUS, MOVING PARTS OF A MACHINE," HE ADDED.

ANY PROPRIETOR WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE REGULATIONS IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$30,000.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

HKEF

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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	31.5.91	380
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	1.6.91	NEUTRAL
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		NEUTRAL

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SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1991

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RO EXPANDS ITS DIAL-A-WEATHER SERVICE

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FROM JUNE 1 ONWARDS, WEATHER BULLETINS FOR THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL WATERS ARE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY "DIAL-A-WEATHER" SERVICE.

FISHERMEN AND THOSE ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE IN THE COASTAL WATERS MAY DIAL 369 5001 AND 369 3970 FOR TAPE RECORDING MESSAGES IN CANTONESE AND ENGLISH RESPECTIVELY.

THE BULLETINS INCLUDE BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE GENERAL SITUATION OVER THE REGION, DETAIL FORECASTS FOR THE SEA AREAS ALONG THE SOUTH CHINA COAST AND AN OUTLOOK OF THE WEATHER CONDITIONS FURTHER AHEAD.

TIDE PREDICTIONS FOR HONG KONG ARE ALSO GIVEN TO HELP PEOPLE PLAN THEIR SWIMMING, FISHING AND SAILING ACTIVITIES.

DATED BACK TO JULY 1985, THE DIAL-A-WEATHER SERVICE WAS INTRODUCED TO PROVIDE A WEATHER INFORMATION SERVICE, BOTH IN CANTONESE AND ENGLISH, TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC SO THAT THEY COULD OBTAIN THE LATEST LOCAL WEATHER FORECASTS BY MAKING A SIMPLE TELEPHONE CALL.

AT FIRST, SIMPLE CASSETTE-TAPE ANSWERING MACHINES WERE USED AND THE SERVICE HANDLED A FEW HUNDRED CALLS PER DAY.

WITH THE DIAL-A-WEATHER SERVICE BECOMING MORE POPULAR, THE NUMBER OF CALLS EXCEEDED 8,000 PER DAY BY THE END OF LAST YEAR.

A NEW AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE ANSWERING SYSTEM WAS INSTALLED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

WEATHER INFORMATION MESSAGES ARE STORED IN SOLID-STATE MEMORY IN THE NEW SYSTEM.

WITH A MUCH FASTER RESPONSE TIME, MORE CALLS ARE HANDLED BY EACH TELEPHONE LINE. CURRENTLY, ABOUT 13,000 CALLS ARE RECEIVED ON A TYPICAL DAY.

THE MAIN FUNCTION OF THE DIAL-A-WEATHER SYSTEM IS TO SUPPLY THE LATEST LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST, WARNING STATUS AND TEMPERATURE READINGS AT VARIOUS PLACES OVER THE TERRITORY.

WHEN TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNALS ARE HOISTED, THE LATEST SIGNAL STATUS AND THE POSITION AND MOVEMENT OF THE TROPICAL CYCLONE ARE ANNOUNCED INSTEAD.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR THE CANTONESE AND ENGLISH CHANNELS ARE 369 2200 AND 369 0066 RESPECTIVELY.

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