



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Judiciary well prepared for changeover: acting CJ

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The Judiciary is committed to the establishment of a court system which will be capable of operating as is appropriate in both English and Chinese, the acting Chief Justice, Mr Justice Power, said today (Monday).

Addressing the Ceremonial Opening of the 1997 Legal Year, which was the last such ceremony before the change of sovereignty, Mr Justice Power said implementation of that commitment was proceeding at a measured pace and each step taken towards the establishment of the dual system was a cautious one.

"The Basic Law has stipulated in the most positive way that the common law shall remain the cornerstone of the legal system of the Special Administrative Region. Important as the setting up of the dual system of courts is it must be done so that it does not in any way, derogate from the capability of the courts to apply the common law," he added.

Mr Justice Power told the gathering that progress in the use of Chinese in courts is as follows:

- \* At present, over 60 per cent of cases were heard in Chinese in the Magistrates' court while over 90 per cent were heard in Chinese in the Labour and Small Claims Tribunals.
- \* Since Chinese was authorised to be used in the District Court in February last year, 549 cases had been conducted in Chinese.
- \* Appeals from the Magistrates' courts, the Labour and Small Claims Tribunals were allowed to be conducted in Chinese since December 1 last year. Eight magistracy appeals were set down for hearing on January 24.
- \* In the High Court civil jurisdiction, five cases have already been heard and four criminal appeals have been set down for hearing in Chinese in the Court of Appeal on February 4.
- \* Delay has occurred as regards jury trials in Chinese as the Jury Ordinance must be amended before this can proceed. Steps are now being taken by the administration to amend that ordinance.

"The establishment of a bilingual common law system is a formidable task. Attempts made in other jurisdictions have met with mixed success. We have no doubt that our measured and pragmatic approach will succeed," Mr Justice Power concluded.

On the judicial establishment, Mr Justice Power said: "Worries have been expressed about the departure of senior judges and judicial officers during the past year and of impending departures in the months leading up to June 30.

"It is clearly a matter of concern prematurely to lose experienced judicial officers but the extent of the loss, about six per cent of the total strength, is well within manageable proportions and we have no doubt that it will be filled by suitable candidates in the coming months."

On the Court of Final Appeal, Mr Justice Power said the conversion of the French Mission Building was almost complete and a working draft of the rules of the court was being finalised.

"We look forward with confidence to the establishment of our final court in the coming months providing for the first time a fully integrated system of courts in Hong Kong," he added.

Commenting on the concept of open justice, Mr Justice Power said there had been some criticisms that some hearings were not open to the public.

He noted that given the criticisms that had been made, working parties had been set up under Mr Justice Nazareth, to examine the civil side, and Mr Justice Stuart-Moore, to examine the criminal side. Their final reports are about to be delivered

"Finally, let me say that open justice is a matter which concerns us all and it is one which will have our continued attention," he said.

On court waiting time, Mr Justice Power said "justice delayed is justice denied" was an old saw but a true one.

Citing London, New York and Sydney as examples, Mr Justice Power said despite that Hong Kong had by far the smallest judicial complement, Hong Kong had waiting times very considerably less than the times in the other three areas.

"With a smaller number of judicial officers we are at almost every level able to bring both civil and criminal matters to a speedier conclusion than is achieved in the other centres. This is so you may be assured because of the dedication and hard work of Hong Kong's judicial officers," Mr Justice Power said.

Turning to the importance of the independence of the Judiciary, Mr Justice Power stressed that it was essential that judges stood aloof and be insulated from the political arena which gave birth to the laws which they must interpret.

He said the Judiciary must equally stand apart from and be independent of the executive.

"It is true that the Judiciary provides the mechanism through which the coercive powers of the executive are exercised.

"It must, however, at the same time ensure that citizens are protected against any abuse of those processes. In the last resort the freedom of us all rests with the courts," he said.

Mr Justice Power assured the gathering that Hong Kong's Judiciary did stand independent and was firmly resolved to maintain the independence in the coming years.

"Let me finally assure all of the people of Hong Kong that they have an independent, capable and hard-working judiciary versed in the common law and that they have a judiciary which will, without fear or favour, administer that law in the coming years," he said.

End

#### Labour Department launches construction safety campaign

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Construction companies are invited to take part in a territory-wide Construction Safety Award Scheme to promote safety on construction sites.

Speaking at a press conference today (Monday) to announce details of the scheme, the Deputy Commissioner for Labour (Occupational Safety and Health), Mr Lee Kai-fat, said the scheme was aimed at reinforcing the commitment of construction industry to ensure safety and health at work and increasing the safety awareness among workers, by recognising and rewarding contractors, site management and workers who had particularly outstanding safety and occupational health performance.

Mr Lee added that while there were several similar annual award schemes, there was not a single one which covered both public and private sector projects.

He said that it was Government's intention to promote construction safety by involving the whole industry and all those who had a role to play in reducing accidents.

The Construction Safety Award Scheme is jointly organised by the Labour Department and Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) and co-organised by the Hong Kong Construction Association (HKCA), the Hong Kong Construction Industry Employees General Union (HKCIEGU) and the Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC).

Also present at today's press conference were the Executive Director of OSHC, Mr Tang Wah-shing; Secretary General of HKCA, Mr Patrick Chan; Chairman of HKCIEGU, Mr Poon To-chuen; and Head of Radio 2 of RTHK, Mr Luke Tsang.

During the promotion period from January to March this year, RTHK Radio 2 Morning Suite will broadcast short dramas and promotional messages to arouse public awareness in construction site safety.

"Invitation letters and application forms have been be sent to construction companies. Additional copies are available from the Labour Department's field offices of the Occupational Safety and Health Branch," Mr Lee said.

Completed application forms should be returned to the department on or before January 25.

The competition is divided into six award categories. Gold, silver, bronze and meritorious prizes will be presented to winners in each category.

The six award categories are:

- \* Best Building Works Site Award;
- \* Best Building Works Contractor Award;
- \* Best Civil Works Site Award;
- \* Best Civil Works Contractor Award;
- \* Best Safety Team Award; and
- \* Safety Workers Award.

To be eligible, all participating sites must satisfy the following criteria:

- \* the site is located in Hong Kong;
- \* works on site should commence before July 1, 1996 and finish after July 1, 1997;
- \* a building site should have at least 50 workers and a civil site at least 30 workers during this period;
- \* no fatal accident occurred at the site in 1996; and
- \* no suspension notice has been served by the Labour Department to the site.

For the Best Sites and Contractor Awards, evaluation of safety performance on individual sites will be conducted in two rounds: a preliminary assessment and a final assessment.

The preliminary assessment will start at the end of this month and the final assessment in mid-February. A gala evening and presentation ceremony will be held at the end of March this year.

The preliminary assessment will be conducted by factory inspectors of the Labour Department to shortlist sites with better performance.

The final assessment will be conducted by an assessment team, comprising representatives from the Labour Department, OSHC, HKCA and HKCIEGU.

The assessments will be based on physical site conditions and safety management system.

Physical conditions include working at height, use of lifting appliance, scaffolding safety, use of gondola, control of falling objects, use of machinery and personal protective equipment.

Safety management system includes safety policy, safety committee, safety personnel, safety training, safety rules and regulations, accident investigation and follow-up actions.

For the Best Safety Team Award, assessment will be based on the team's actual performance in implementing safety measures and its contribution to site safety arrangement.

Assessment for the Safety Worker Award is based on the individual's safety performance and a test of his safety knowledge.

For further enquiries on the award scheme, please contact the Labour Department's Safety Promotion Office on 2852 3565.

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#### Board of Education minutes to make public

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The Board of Education (BOE) has decided to make public its minutes of meeting to further increase the transparency of its work.

At a meeting today (Monday), BOE members considered the existing measures relating to transparency appropriate.

Currently, BOE agenda, certain papers and reports are available for the media and the public. BOE also organises public consultations on important educational issues and proposals. In addition, press releases on BOE activities are regularly issued.

However, BOE members agreed that in addition to press briefings after each meeting, minutes of its main committee meetings should be made available to the media and members of the public on request in future.

At the meeting, BOE members were also told that the Committee on Home-School Co-operation was planning to set up a pilot Parent's Centre this year.

The centre will provide a social meeting place for parents and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) members and also serves as a meeting venue for PTA federations.

The Chairman of the Committee on Home-School Co-operation, Mr Tik Chi-yuen, said: "It is believed that the Parent's Centre, through the provision of updated information on education, parent education and family learning programmes for parents, will also serve as a bridge between the Education Department, PTAs and parents."

He also told the meeting that the first district-based PTA federation was formed last summer.

"It is expected that more PTA federations will be formed in the years ahead with the home-school work further extended to involve also the community," Mr Tik added.

The number of PTAs in Hong Kong in early 1993 was about 100. At present, the number stands at 479.

On the School Administration and Management System (SAMS), Assistant Director of Education, Mr Kwok Wai-kwong, told BOE members that in order to strengthen the support services to schools, plans were in hand to enlist assistance of experienced and advanced SAMS users to bring up those who were less conversant.

"Our target is to enable all users to be at home with SAMS applications. In line with these plans, a pilot Regional Support Centre is being set up in Queen Maud Secondary School in Tseng Kwan O to enable users to share experience and practise operating SAMS," he noted.

Mr Kwok added that an end-user computing (EUC) resource centre was also planned to encourage EUC activities.

"The centre will be installed with high-technology equipment, providing a convenient place for gathering of enthusiastic SAMS users to facilitate cross-fertilisation of ingenious ideas," he said.

End

#### 113 applications for Services Support Fund received

\* \* \* \* \*

The Industry Department received 113 applications under the first batch of applications for funding support from the Services Support Fund (SSF) which closed on December 31 last year.

The applications cover a wide spectrum of service sectors, including information technology, telecommunications, wholesale and retail, import and export trade, banking and financial services.

All the applications will be considered by the SSF Vetting Committee, which makes recommendations to the Director-General of Industry. The vetting results will be announced in March/April.

The SSF, which has funds of \$50 million, was set up by the Hong Kong Government to provide financial support for projects which can contribute to the overall development and the competitiveness of Hong Kong's service industry. It is administered by the Industry Department.

There are three tranches of applications under the fund. The second tranche of applications will be invited around March/April this year.

End

Inoculation centre to move to Ngau Tau Kok

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The Department of Health announced today (Monday) that from January 20 (Monday), the Kowloon Regional Health Office Inoculation Centre, which is currently located in Tsim Sha Tsui, will move to Ngau Tau Kok Jockey Club Clinic.

The new address of the centre is: LG1, Ngau Tau Kok Jockey Club Clinic, 60 Ting On Street, Kowloon.

The centre will continue to provide injection service to the public after the removal and its opening hours will remain unchanged.

It will be open from 9 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 5 pm on weekdays; and from 9 am to 1 pm on Saturdays.

The telephone number of the new centre is 2753 8095.

End

### External trade statistics for November 1996

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In November 1996, the value of re-exports grew by 7% over a year earlier to \$100.4 billion, while the value of domestic exports decreased by 4.4% to \$18 billion. Meanwhile, imports increased by 4.9% to \$131.1 billion.

The Census and Statistics Department today (Monday) released detailed statistics on external trade with breakdown by country/territory and commodity for November 1996.

Changes in the value of Hong Kong's re-exports to 10 main destinations are shown in Table 1.

Comparing November 1996 with November 1995, increases were recorded in the value of re-exports to China (+13%), Singapore (+12%), the United States (+11%), France (+8.9%), Japan (+3.2%), the United Kingdom (+1%) and the Netherlands (+1%).

However, decreases were recorded in the value of re-exports to South Korea (-7.1%), Germany (-3.8%) and Taiwan (-0.2%).

Comparing the first 11 months of 1996 with the same period in 1995, the value of re-exports to most main destinations showed increases of various magnitudes: Japan (+16%), the United Kingdom (+12%), the Netherlands (+9.9%), China (+8.7%), France (+8.7%), Singapore (+7.9%), South Korea (+5.2%), Germany (+5.1%) and the United States (+4.5%).

However, the value of re-exports to Taiwan decreased by 4.3%.

Taking all destinations together, the value of re-exports in the first 11 months of 1996 was \$1,087.3 billion, 6.9% higher than that in the same period in 1995.

Table 2 shows changes in the value of re-exports of 10 principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first 11 months of 1996 with the same period in 1995, more notable increases in the value of re-exports were registered for office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$12.1 billion or 24%); clothing (by \$9.1 billion or 11%); electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$8.8 billion or 8.5%); miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods (by \$7 billion or 5.3%); photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, optical goods, watches and clocks (by \$5 billion or 11%); and footwear (by \$5 billion or 9.1%).

Over the same period, decreases in the value of re-exports were registered for telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$2.4 billion or 2.2%); and plastics in primary forms (\$1.0 billion or 3.6%).

Changes in the value of domestic exports to 10 main destinations are shown in Table 3.

Comparing November 1996 with November 1995, the value of domestic exports to most main destinations showed decreases of various magnitudes: Singapore (-25%), Taiwan (-16%), Canada (-11%), the United States (-5.9%), Japan (-5.6%), Germany (-3.4%), the United Kingdom (-2.1%), France (-1.4%) and the Netherlands (-1.3%).

However, the value of domestic exports to China increased by 6.6%.

Comparing the first 11 months of 1996 with the same period in 1995, the value of domestic exports to all main destinations showed decreases of various magnitudes: Singapore (-18%), Taiwan (-16%), the United States (-12%), Canada (-9.8%), the Netherlands (-8.3%), France (-7.3%), Germany (-5.7%), Japan (-3.5%), China (-3.3%) and the United Kingdom (-1.7%).

Taking all destinations together, the value of domestic exports in the first 11 months of 1996, at \$193.9 billion, decreased by 8.3% over the same period in 1995.

Table 4 shows changes in the value of domestic exports of 10 principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first 11 months of 1996 with the same period in 1995, the value of domestic exports of most principal commodity divisions decreased. More notable decreases were registered for office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$4.5 billion or 27%); clothing (by \$4 billion or 6.1%); telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$1.9 billion or 20%); photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, optical goods, watches and clocks (by \$1.8 billion or 11%); miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of jewellery, goldsmiths' and silversmiths' wares (by \$1.7 billion or 9.3%); and electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$851 million or 3%).

Over the same period, an increase in the value of domestic exports was registered for professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus (by \$354 million or 13%).

Changes in the value of imports from 10 main suppliers are shown in Table 5.

Comparing November 1996 with November 1995, increases were recorded in the value of imports from Germany (+25%), Italy (+21%), Malaysia (+16%), the United Kingdom (+12%), China (+6.6%), Japan (+3.5%), South Korea (+3.4%) and the United States (+1.7%).

However, the value of imports from Singapore and Taiwan decreased by 5.2% and 4.3% respectively.

Comparing the first 11 months of 1996 with the same period in 1995, increases were recorded in the value of imports from Malaysia (+17%), Italy (+16%), the United Kingdom (+8.9%), the United States (+6%), China (+6.0%), Germany (+4.7%) and Singapore (+4%).

However, decreases were recorded in the value of imports from Japan (-6.5%), Taiwan (-4.9%) and South Korea (-0.1%).

Taking all sources together, the value of imports in the first 11 months of 1996, at \$1,404.2 billion, increased by 3% over the same period in 1995.

Table 6 shows changes in the value of imports of 10 principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first 11 months of 1996 with the same period in 1995, more notable increases in the value of imports were registered for office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$11.8 billion or 19%); electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$8.9 billion or 5.2%); clothing (by \$6.9 billion or 7.7%); footwear (by \$3.9 billion or 8.1%); and miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods (by \$3.4 billion or 3.6%).

Over the same period, decreases in the value of imports were recorded for telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$4.4 billion or 3.3%); textiles (by \$2.3 billion or 1.9%); and non-metallic mineral manufactures (by \$914 million or 2.3%).

All the trade statistics described here are measured at current prices and no account has been taken of changes in prices between the periods of comparison.

A separate analysis of the volume and price movements of external trade for November 1996 will be released in early February 1997.

Detailed trade statistics analysed by commodity and by country/territory are published in trade statistics reports.

The November 1996 issue of Hong Kong External Trade with detailed analyses on the performance of Hong Kong's external trade in November 1996 will be on sale at \$129 per copy around January 20.

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

Enquiries regarding regular subscription to this report may be directed to the Publications (Sales) Office, 28th floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong (Tel 2598 8194) and enquiries on trade statistics to the Census and Statistics Department on 2582 4915.

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TABLE 1 : RE-EXPORTS TO TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	NOV 1996 (HKD Mn.)	NOV 96 OVER NOV 95 (% CHANGE)	JAN-NOV 1996 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-NOV 96 OVER JAN-NOV 95 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	36,575	+ 13.0	378,938	+ 8.7
UNITED STATES	19,313	+ 11.3	224,077	+ 4.5
JAPAN	7,083	+ 3.2	74,240	+ 16.3
GERMANY	3,946	- 3.8	43,522	+ 5.1
UNITED KINGDOM	3,131	+ 1.0	33,160	+ 12.3
SINGAPORE	2,628	+ 12.0	25,657	+ 7.9
TAIWAN	2,450	- 0.2	24,312	- 4.3
SOUTH KOREA	1,521	- 7.1	18,510	+ 5.2
FRANCE	1,568	+ 8.9	17,212	+ 8.7
NETHERLANDS	1,541	+ 1.0	16,656	+ 9.9

TABLE 2 : RE-EXPORTS OF TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	NOV 1996 (HKD Mn.)	NOV 96 OVER NOV 95 (% CHANGE)	JAN-NOV 1996 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-NOV 96 OVER JAN-NOV 95 (% CHANGE)
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	11,508	- 2.3	138,838	+ 5.3
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	11,044	+ 12.3	113,325	+ 8.5
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	10,286	+ 1.9	107,124	- 2.2
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	7,707	+ 6.0	92,563	+ 11.0
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	8,294	+ 12.9	88,479	+ 3.6
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	6,820	+ 27.3	63,704	+ 23.6
FOOTWEAR	5,074	+ 9.7	59,943	+ 9.1
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	4,819	- 1.3	51,048	+ 11.0
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS	2,904	+ 12.4	33,659	+ 4.5
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	2,335	- 8.7	26,729	- 3.6

TABLE 3 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	NOV 1996 (HKD Mn.)	NOV 96 OVER NOV 95 (% CHANGE)	JAN-NOV 1996 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-NOV 96 OVER JAN-NOV 95 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	5,479	+ 6.6	56,357	- 3.3
UNITED STATES	4,559	- 5.9	49,008	- 12.4
JAPAN	956	- 5.6	10,522	- 3.5
GERMANY	995	- 3.4	10,238	- 5.7
UNITED KINGDOM	913	- 2.1	9,692	- 1.7
SINGAPORE	755	- 25.1	9,276	- 17.6
TAIWAN	601	- 16.3	6,204	- 15.5
NETHERLANDS	344	- 1.3	4,181	- 8.3
CANADA	268	- 11.1	3,552	- 9.8
FRANCE	260	- 1.4	2,660	- 7.3

TABLE 4 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	NOV 1996 (HKD Mn.)	NOV 96 OVER NOV 95 (% CHANGE)	JAN-NOV 1996 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-NOV 96 OVER JAN-NOV 95 (% CHANGE)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5,910	+ 3.9	62,651	- 6.1
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	2,604	- 6.8	27,984	- 3.0
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	1,593	- 8.5	16,673	- 9.3
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,275	- 21.6	13,867	- 11.5
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,187	+ 1.0	12,672	- 2.2
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	1,099	- 18.7	12,054	- 27.0
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	740	- 1.1	7,880	- 19.6
MANUFACTURES OF METALS	339	- 9.5	3,868	- 8.7
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	307	- 14.0	3,575	- 13.8
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS	337	+ 38.9	3,004	+ 13.4

TABLE 5 : IMPORTS FROM TEN MAIN SUPPLIERS

SUPPLIER	NOV 1996 (HKD Mn.)	NOV 96 OVER NOV 95 (% CHANGE)	JAN-NOV 1996 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-NOV 96 OVER JAN-NOV 95 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	48,303	+ 6.6	523,852	+ 6.0
JAPAN	17,713	+ 3.5	189,477	- 6.5
TAIWAN	10,488	- 4.3	112,443	- 4.9
UNITED STATES	10,179	+ 1.7	111,349	+ 6.0
SINGAPORE	6,767	- 5.2	74,530	+ 4.0
SOUTH KOREA	6,106	+ 3.4	67,263	- 0.1
MALAYSIA	2,993	+ 16.3	30,711	+ 17.4
GERMANY	3,035	+ 25.3	30,612	+ 4.7
UNITED KINGDOM	2,946	+ 12.3	30,252	+ 8.9
ITALY	2,957	+ 20.7	28,880	+ 16.3

TABLE 6 : IMPORTS OF TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	NOV 1996 (HKD Mn.)	NOV 96 OVER NOV 95 (% CHANGE)	JAN-NOV 1996 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-NOV 96 OVER JAN-NOV 95 (% CHANGE)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	17,415	+ 11.5	179,157	+ 5.2
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	12,025	+ 2.3	128,939	- 3.3
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	10,751	+ 2.3	117,737	- 1.9
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	8,633	- 4.1	99,814	+ 3.6
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	8,675	+ 8.6	96,302	+ 7.7
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	7,543	+ 24.0	73,784	+ 19.1
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	5,185	- 5.5	57,632	*
FOOTWEAR	4,601	+ 10.6	51,914	+ 8.1
GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND MACHINE PARTS	3,138	+ 1.7	40,538	+ 5.4
NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	3,965	+ 7.1	39,654	- 2.3

\* DENOTES LESS THAN 0.05%

End

Service industries business receipts for third quarter 96

\* \* \* \* \*

The business receipts in most of the service industries continued to show year-on-year increases in value terms in the third quarter of 1996.

The financing (except banking) industry registered the fastest growth, by 24%. The communications and the business services industries also grew by 19% and 15% respectively.

These are the provisional figures on business receipts indices for service industries released today (Monday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

The strong growth in business receipts in the financing (except banking) industry was mainly due to an increase in the stock market turnover.

The significant increase in the communications industry was related to the rapid expansion of mobile telephone services; while the growth in the business services industry was attributable to marked increases in the demand for legal services and various miscellaneous business services.

Meanwhile, considerable increases in business receipts were also registered in the following service industries: banking (+10%); hotels (+9%) and transport(+8%).

On the other hand, business receipts in the wholesale industry dropped by 3% in value terms. This was due mainly to a decrease in business receipts in wholesale of raw materials and semi-manufactures.

Compared with the second quarter of 1996, and bearing in mind that such comparison might be affected by seasonal factors, business receipts in most of the service industries recorded increases of various magnitudes. Among them, business receipts in the transport and business services industries registered the most rapid growth, by 12% and 10% respectively.

On the other hand, business receipts in the hotels and wholesale industries dropped by 3% and 1% respectively. The decrease recorded in the hotels industry was probably affected by seasonal factors.

Table 1 presents provisional business receipts indices for service industries for the third quarter of 1996 and revised indices for the second quarter of 1996, with the quarterly average of business receipts in 1992 taken as 100.

Also tabulated are comparisons of the results of the third quarter of 1996 with those of the second quarter of 1996 and the third quarter of 1995.

Table 2 shows the time series of quarterly business receipts indices. Annual indices are also included.

Statistics on banking are obtained from the Hong Kong Monetary Authority; and those on retail and restaurants businesses are obtained from two existing surveys regularly conducted by the Census and Statistics Department.

The report "Quarterly Business Receipts Indices for Service Industries, Third Quarter 1996" is now on sale at \$8 per copy at the Government Publications Centre of the Information Services Department, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong. It can also be purchased from the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Enquiries about the survey results may be directed to the Business Services Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2894 8120.

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Table 1 : Business Receipts Indices for Service Industries for 2nd Quarter and 3rd Quarter 1996  
 表一：一九九六年第二季及第三季服務業業務收益指數

(Quarterly average of 1992 = 100)  
 (一九九二年按季平均指數 = 100)

Service Industry 服務行業	2nd Quarter 1996 (Revised figures) 一九九六年 第二季 (修訂數字)	3rd Quarter 1996 (Provisional figures) 一九九六年 第三季 (臨時數字)	3rd Quarter 1996 compared with 2nd Quarter 1996 一九九六年第三季與 一九九六年第二季比較		3rd Quarter 1996 compared with 3rd Quarter 1995 一九九六年第三季與 一九九五年同季比較		1st to 3rd Quarters 1996 compared with 1st to 3rd Quarters 1995 一九九六年第一至第三季與 一九九五年同期比較	
	Points (點)	Points (點)	Points (點)	% (百分率)	Points (點)	% (百分率)	Points (點)	% (百分率)
Wholesale 批發	120.4	118.8	- 1.6	- 1.3	- 3.6	- 2.9	- 0.6	- 0.5
Import / Export 進出口貿易	142.7	147.0	+ 4.2	+ 3.0	+ 2.3	+ 1.6	+ 5.5	+ 4.0
Retail <sup>(1)</sup> 零售	130.8	142.1 #	+ 11.3	+ 8.6	+ 8.6	+ 6.5	+ 7.5	+ 5.8
Hotels 酒店	161.5	157.4	- 4.0	- 2.5	+ 12.5	+ 8.6	+ 15.3	+ 10.6
Restaurants <sup>(2)</sup> 飲食店	114.2	123.3	+ 9.1	+ 8.0	+ 6.9	+ 5.9	+ 4.7	+ 4.1
Transport 運輸	151.0	169.8	+ 18.8	+ 12.4	+ 12.4	+ 7.9	+ 12.3	+ 8.6
Storage 倉庫	136.9	139.8	+ 3.0	+ 2.2	+ 2.5	+ 1.8	+ 9.5	+ 7.7
Communications 通訊	180.3	186.9	+ 6.6	+ 3.6	+ 30.4	+ 19.4	+ 28.2	+ 18.9
Banking <sup>(3)</sup> 銀行	153.9	158.4	+ 4.5	+ 2.9	+ 14.3	+ 9.9	+ 17.2	+ 12.5
Financing (except banking) <sup>(4)</sup> 金融(銀行除外)	150.5	151.9	+ 1.4	+ 0.9	+ 29.7	+ 24.3	+ 19.7	+ 14.2
Insurance 保險	175.5	180.3	+ 4.8	+ 2.8	+ 11.8	+ 7.0	+ 10.1	+ 6.1
Business services 商用服務	144.2	157.9	+ 13.7	+ 9.5	+ 20.0	+ 14.5	+ 15.1	+ 11.1

Notes :

- (1) Based on the survey results of the Monthly Survey of Retail Sales
- (2) Based on the survey results of the Quarterly Survey of Restaurant Receipts and Purchases
- (3) Business receipts data are obtained from the Hong Kong Monetary Authority
- (4) Excluding investment and holding companies

# Revised figure

註釋：

- (1) 根據零售業銷售額按月統計調查的結果
- (2) 根據飲食店收益及購貨按季統計調查的結果
- (3) 業務收益數據由香港金融管理局提供
- (4) 不包括投資及控股公司

# 修訂數字

Table 2 : Time Series of Quarterly Business Receipts Indices for Service Industries  
 表二：服務業按季業務收益指數的時間數列

(Quarterly Average of 1992 = 100)  
 (一九九二年按季平均指數 = 100)

Year Quarter 年 季	Wholesale 批發		Import/Export 進出口貿易		Retail 零售		Hotels 酒店		Restaurants 飲食店		Transport 運輸	
	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較
1993	106.3	+ 6.3	108.8	+ 8.8	112.7	+ 12.7	112.5	+ 12.5	106.1	+ 6.1	111.8	+ 11.8
1994	121.0	+ 13.8	123.7	+ 13.6	126.1	+ 11.9	131.1	+ 16.5	110.1	+ 3.7	123.1	+ 10.1
1995	125.0	+ 3.3	142.5	+ 15.2	132.0	+ 4.7	154.2	+ 17.6	115.2	+ 4.7	145.6	+ 18.3
1994 3	129.2	+ 17.9	130.4	+ 10.2	128.8	+ 9.0	120.2	+ 12.5	109.6	- 1.7	134.2	+ 10.7
4	134.8	+ 17.7	142.7	+ 24.0	133.2	+ 10.6	158.8	+ 15.9	111.2	- 3.7	134.9	+ 17.6
1995 1	123.9	+ 14.2	128.7	+ 19.1	131.8	+ 6.8	142.8	+ 17.7	116.1	+ 1.6	128.6	+ 14.6
2	117.5	+ 5.3	138.8	+ 22.2	124.0	+ 4.2	145.3	+ 17.1	110.8	+ 5.4	141.5	+ 27.4
3	122.4	- 5.3	144.6	+ 11.0	133.4	+ 3.6	144.9	+ 20.6	116.4	+ 6.2	157.4	+ 17.3
4	136.2	+ 1.0	157.7	+ 10.5	138.8	+ 4.1	183.9	+ 15.8	117.6	+ 5.8	154.7	+ 14.7
1996 1	122.7	- 1.0	138.9	+ 8.0	138.9	+ 5.4	159.9	+ 12.0	119.9	+ 3.2	143.5	+ 11.6
2	120.4	+ 2.5	142.7	+ 2.9	130.8	+ 5.4	161.5	+ 11.1	114.2	+ 3.1	151.0	+ 6.7
3 *	118.8	- 2.9	147.0	+ 1.6	142.1 #	+ 6.5	157.4	+ 8.6	123.3	+ 5.9	169.8	+ 7.9

Year Quarter 年 季	Storage 倉庫		Communications 通訊		Banking 銀行		Financing (except banking) 金融(銀行除外)		Insurance 保險		Business services 商用服務	
	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較
1993	98.5	- 1.5	118.8	+ 18.8	116.6	+ 16.6	148.7	+ 48.7	119.3	+ 19.3	117.3	+ 17.3
1994	106.6	+ 8.2	136.1	+ 14.5	122.5	+ 5.1	169.4	+ 13.9	146.9	+ 23.1	127.4	+ 8.7
1995	125.1	+ 17.4	154.5	+ 13.5	143.4	+ 17.0	140.7	- 16.9	167.0	+ 13.6	137.6	+ 8.0
1994 3	114.8	+ 13.6	135.7	+ 11.8	120.6	- 1.1	157.9	+ 7.6	146.4	+ 20.3	130.8	+ 7.9
4	110.3	+ 15.3	149.7	+ 14.4	137.0	+ 10.9	154.3	- 30.3	149.1	+ 21.7	130.3	- 8.3
1995 1	105.8	+ 11.2	141.9	+ 9.6	129.3	+ 10.6	154.7	- 29.6	169.4	+ 12.8	146.5	+ 16.6
2	127.0	+ 19.7	149.6	+ 15.7	138.8	+ 20.4	139.2	- 4.5	160.3	+ 12.9	123.8	+ 0.7
3	137.4	+ 19.7	156.5	+ 15.3	144.1	+ 19.5	122.2	- 22.6	168.5	+ 15.1	137.9	+ 5.4
4	130.3	+ 18.1	170.0	+ 13.5	161.2	+ 17.7	146.8	- 4.9	169.6	+ 13.8	142.3	+ 9.2
1996 1	122.1	+ 15.4	165.5	+ 16.6	151.4	+ 17.1	172.7	+ 11.7	172.6	+ 1.9	151.4	+ 3.3
2	136.9	+ 7.8	180.3	+ 20.5	153.9	+ 10.9	150.5	+ 8.1	175.5	+ 9.5	144.2	+ 16.4
3 *	139.8	+ 1.8	186.9	+ 19.4	158.4	+ 9.9	151.9	+ 24.3	180.3	+ 7.0	157.9	+ 14.5

Notes : \* : Provisional figure  
 # : Revised figure

註釋：\* : 臨時數字  
 # : 修訂數字

38 new building plans approved in November

\* \* \* \* \*

The Buildings Department approved a total of 38 building plans in November last year - seven for developments on Hong Kong Island, five for Kowloon and 26 for the New Territories.

The approved plans covered 12 for apartment and apartment/commercial developments, eight for commercial developments, two for factory and industrial developments, and 16 for community services developments.

Consent was given in the month for work to start on 44 building projects, which involved 263,555 square metres of usable domestic floor area and 166,065 square metres of usable non-domestic floor area.

During the same month, the department also issued 36 occupation permits - 11 for Hong Kong island, seven for Kowloon and 18 for the New Territories.

Of the buildings certified for occupation in November, the usable floor areas for domestic and non-domestic uses were 37,813 square metres and 29,170 square metres respectively.

The declared cost of new buildings completed totalled about \$2,003 million.

In addition, 12 demolition consents involving 19 buildings and structures were issued.

The department's Control and Enforcement Division received 786 complaints of unauthorised building works, and issued 252 removal orders on unauthorised works.

End

Ceremonial opening of 95-year-old time capsule to be held

\* \* \* \* \*

After a long and undisturbed rest, a time capsule buried in a stone block in the Prince of Wales Barracks will be opened on Wednesday (January 15), 95 years after it was entombed.

The capsule was laid in 1902 by the wife of Commodore Powell to commemorate the laying of the foundation stone of the dockyard. Originally positioned at the head of the dock, the tablet stone was set into place and a sealed capsule interred into a ready made cavity.

The contents of the capsule are unknown, although it is rumoured to include newspapers and coins of the day. At a later and unknown date, the stone was lifted to its present position and more artefacts were added.

In keeping with tradition, the wife of the present Commodore, Mrs Janet Melson, will open the capsule at 11 am on Wednesday, using the original trowel of her predecessor. A small Royal Navy guard will also be in attendance.

End

Simple but solemn funeral for postman killed on duty

\* \* \* \* \*

The funeral of a postman, Mr Ng Sik-ho, was held on January 8 (Wednesday) at the Universal Funeral Parlour at Hung Hum.

Mr Ng lost his life in a traffic accident at Clearwater Bay Road on December 24 last year when his mail van was hit by a coach travelling in the opposite direction and crashing the road divider. He was certified dead after being admitted to United Christian Hospital.

Following a customary ceremony, the cortege moved to the International Mail Centre where Mr Ng worked for colleagues there to pay their last respects. It then proceeded to Clearwater Bay Road for an on-scene ceremony.

Mr Ng's body was later delivered to Gallant Garden at Wo Hop Shek for burial. Gallant Garden is a special burial ground and columbarium for civil servants killed on duty.

"The funeral was simple but solemn," the Postmaster General, Mr Robert Footman, said.

Many colleagues and representatives of government departments and policy branches attended the funeral and sent wreaths. The whole process went smoothly with the assistance of the Royal Hong Kong Police Force.

Mr Ng was born on March 30, 1964. He joined the Post Office as a postman on September 29, 1982.

"Mr Ng was responsible, hardworking, helpful and courteous. He was very dedicated to his work and had provided quality service to the community during his 14 years' service with the department.

"The department was greatly saddened to lose Mr Ng and is rendering assistance to his family," Mr Footman said.

End

#### Water cut in Yuen Long

\* \* \* \* \*

Fresh and flushing water supply to some premises in Yuen Long will be suspended from 11 pm on Thursday (January 16) to 6 am the following day for waste detection work on watermains.

The suspension will affect areas to the south of Castle Peak Road (Ping Shan Section) between Shui Pin Tsuen and Long Bin Temporary Housing Area, including Shui Pin Tsuen, Long Bin Temporary Housing Area, Yuen Long Town Park, Town Park Road North and Town Park Road South.

End

Water storage figure

\* \* \* \* \*

Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 am today (Monday) stood at 79.2 per cent of capacity or 464.167 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 471.211 million cubic metres of water, representing 80.4 per cent of capacity.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

\* \* \* \* \*

Tender date:	13 January 1997
Paper on offer:	EF notes
Issue number:	3001
Issue date:	14 January 1997
Maturity date:	14 January 2000
Coupon:	6.17%
Amount applied:	HK\$1,490 MN
Amount allotted:	HK\$500 MN
Average price accepted (yield):	99.96 (6.28 PCT)
Lowest price accepted (yield):	99.95 (6.28 PCT)
Pro rata ratio:	About 23 PCT
Average tender price (yield):	99.94 (6.29 PCT)

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority interbank liquidity

\*\*\*\*\*

		TIME	AGGREGATE BALANCE OF SETTLEMENT ACCOUNTS
OPENING AGGREGATE BALANCE	1,121 MN	0930 HR	12,223 MN
CLOSING AGGREGATE BALANCE	484 MN	1000 HR	14,748 MN
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100 HR	19,457 MN
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	- 1 MN	1200 HR	27,658 MN
LAF REVERSAL	+6,816 MN	1500 HR	34,857 MN
LAF TODAY	- 7,452 MN	1600 HR	34,965 MN

LAF RATE 4.00% BID/6.00% OFFER TWI 125.7 \*+0.1\* 13.1.97

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF Bills		EF Notes/MTRC Notes				
Terms	Yield	Terms	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.40	2 years	2811	5.72	100.10	5.74
1 month	4.44	3 years	3910	6.28	100.47	6.18
3 months	4.54	5 years	5112	6.57	99.49	6.80
6 months	4.77	7 years	7311	6.80	98.87	7.13
12 months	5.12	10 years	1610	7.37	100.76	7.39
		5 years	M503	7.35	101.58	7.06

TOTAL TURNOVER OF EF BILLS AND NOTES - \$14,417 MN

CLOSED JANUARY 13, 1997

End