



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Monday, August 21, 1995

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Inter-departmental group reviews LYM landslips situation .....	1
Chief Secretary to visit China and USA .....	2
Consumer Price Indices for July 1995 .....	4
Value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in June 1995 .....	11
Numbering change for paging services .....	13
No clinic service on Saturday .....	14
Fresh water cut in Tuen Mun .....	14
Water storage figure .....	14
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations .....	15

Inter-departmental group reviews LYM landslips situation

\* \* \* \* \*

An inter-departmental group headed by the Deputy Director of Home Affairs, Ms Sandra Lee, met today (Monday) to review the situation at Lei Yue Mun Squatter Area where landslips following the passage of Severe Tropical Storm Helen have caused concern about the safety of residents living there.

Ms Lee stressed that on advice of the Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO), there was no need at this stage to evict compulsorily residents from their structures. She pointed out that families from about 30 structures which were in immediate danger had already moved out voluntarily.

However, for safety reasons, residents in the area where their structures are assessed to be vulnerable to landslips by the GEO are strongly advised to leave their huts temporarily in times of heavy rain and to take up rehousing offer made by the Housing Department.

"Although we very much like them to take up the offer for safety reasons, the final decision still rests with the residents so long as their structures are not in immediate risk," said Ms Lee.

As the slopes behind the Lei Yue Mun Squatter Area are high and almost vertical, GEO is of the opinion that it is impossible to carry out any landslip preventive work without first removing a large number of structures below.

Moreover, the scale of the work is so large that it would be neither practical nor meaningful for the Government to consider reconstructing these structures upon completion of the remedial work.

Meanwhile, 270 families had already registered with the Housing Department. Registration is continuing on site and rehousing eligibility criteria will be fully assessed with a view to making offers to those residents who wish to move out. Priority in rehousing will be given to the disabled and the elderly.

End/Monday, August 21, 1995

Chief Secretary to visit China and USA

\* \* \* \* \*

The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, will be making two overseas visits in her private capacity in the next few weeks.

At the invitation of the Office of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Anhui Province, Mrs Chan will make a private visit to Hefei in Anhui between August 25 and 27 to attend the premiere of the television series "Fang Zhen-wu".

General Fang was the grandfather of Mrs Chan. The TV series was produced by the Anhui Television to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the victory of China over Japan's invasion during World War II. General Fang was a war hero and the invitation was extended to Mrs Chan and her family in recognition of the contribution made by her grandfather during the war.

While in Anhui, Mrs Chan and her family will also visit on the Fang Zhen-wu Technical School.

On September 5, the Chief Secretary will depart Hong Kong for Massachusetts, USA, to receive an honorary doctorate in Humane Letters awarded to her by the Tufts University in recognition of her distinguished public service career and the important role she plays in the smooth transition of Hong Kong from British to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

The degree presentation ceremony will be held on September 7 at Tufts University's Medford campus.

Following the ceremony, Mrs Chan will deliver a lecture on "Hong Kong: A Historic Challenge" and meet with students of the University and faculty members as well as leaders of the Boston community. A similar ceremony will be held in Hong Kong on September 22.

On both occasions, Mrs Chan will be travelling in her private capacity and be accompanied by members of her family.

-----

Note to Editors:

Tufts University's press release on the award is attached.

The following is a press release to be issued by Tufts University later today (Monday) announcing the award of the honorary doctorate to Mrs Anson Chan:

Tufts to Honour Hong Kong's First Chinese,  
First Woman Chief Secretary with  
Honorary Degree

Medford, Mass - When she became the Chief Secretary, the second in command of Hong Kong's government, Mrs Anson Chan broke a 150-year old tradition where all previous incumbents had been British. She also plays a key role in securing for Hong Kong a smooth and successful transition from British to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

To recognise Mrs Chan's public service career of many distinctive firsts - first woman director of a government department, first female head of a policy branch and first Chinese and first woman Chief Secretary, the Tufts University is awarding her an honorary doctorate in Humane Letters on September 7 (Thursday) at 3.30 pm in Ballou Hall on Tufts' campus. Mrs Chan will deliver a lecture at 4.30 pm in Cabot Auditorium.

Tufts will repeat the honorary degree award ceremony in Hong Kong on September 22.

"We chose to honour Mrs Chan not only for her distinguished achievements and the unique role she plays in the history of Hong Kong during the transition, but also for her dedication to the public service, a value we promote as an integral part of Tufts education," Tufts President John DiBiaggio said.

"I chose the civil service as a life-long career because I enjoy the challenges and believe in what I am doing," Mrs Chan once said.

"I derive a good deal of satisfaction from participating in decision making which have long term implications for the Hong Kong community."

"It is particularly exciting to be part of an administration that is preparing for a historic transition whilst at the same time coping with the demands of an increasingly open and affluent community," she added.

Mrs Chan joined the Hong Kong Government in 1962. She has held many important positions in the Administration dealing with finance, economic services, commerce and industry and social services.

In 1987, she became the Secretary for Economic Services, a Cabinet level post which gave her responsibility for overseeing the development of Hong Kong's physical infrastructure, including ambitious port and airport facilities, the liberalisation of Hong Kong's telecommunications market, tourism and energy.

She was appointed Chief Secretary in November 1993. She advises the Governor on matters of policy, deputises him during his absence and heads the 190,000-member civil service.

Apart from excelling in her career, Mrs Chan had also contributed significantly towards achieving equality in pay and conditions of service for female civil servants in the 1970s.

End/Monday, August 21, 1995

#### Consumer Price Indices for July 1995

\* \* \* \* \*

The year-on-year rate of increase in the Consumer Price Index (A) moderated further to 8.5% in July 1995 from 9.6% in April, 9.1% in May and 8.9% in June. This is shown in the latest Consumer Price Indices released today (Monday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

The rate of increase in the Consumer Price Index (B) also moderated to 9.2% in July 1995 from 9.6% in June. On the other hand, due to the effect of a different weighting pattern from the other two indices, the rate of increase in the Hang Seng CPI, at 10.1% in July, was faster than the corresponding increase of 9.7% in June.

The Composite CPI, which is compiled based on the combined expenditure pattern of all households, showed a slightly slower year-on-year increase of 9.2% in July, against 9.4% in June.

Commenting on the CPI figures, a government spokesman pointed out that consumer price inflation in terms of the CPI(A) has been on a moderating trend for three consecutive months. The continued moderation in July was mainly due to slower increases in the prices of food, including vegetables, fresh fruit, salt-water fish and meals bought away from home, as well as the prices of clothing, durable goods, transport and various consumer services.

Comparing July 1995 with July 1994, relatively faster price increases than the overall average were recorded for housing (12.8% in the CPI(A), 14.2% in the CPI(B) and 13.6% in the Composite CPI); miscellaneous services (11.3%, 10.8% and 10.5%); clothing and footwear (8.8%, 9.2% and 11.4%); and miscellaneous goods (8.7%, 7.5% and 7.9%).

On the other hand, relatively slower price increases than the overall average were recorded for durable goods (3.9% in both the CPI(A) and CPI(B) and 4.0% in the Composite CPI); food (excluding meals bought away from home) (4.7%, 5.3% and 5.1%); alcoholic drinks and tobacco (6.8%, 6.3% and 6.6%); meals bought away from home (7.0%, 6.9% and 7.1%); transport (7.2%, 7.5% and 7.2%); and fuel and light (8.2%, 8.5% and 8.1%).

Comparing July 1995 with June 1995, both the CPI(A) and CPI(B) increased by 0.3%. The corresponding increase for the Composite CPI was 0.2%.

Taking the first seven months together, the increases in the CPI(A) and CPI(B) averaged at 9.2% and 9.8% respectively over a year earlier. The corresponding increase for the Composite CPI was 9.6%.

For the three months ended July 1995, the CPI(A) and CPI(B) were, on average, higher by 8.8% and 9.4% respectively over a year earlier. The corresponding increase for the Composite CPI was 9.3%.

For the 12 months ended July 1995, the CPI(A) and CPI(B) were, on average, higher by 9.0% and 9.6% respectively than in the preceding 12-month period. The corresponding increase for the Composite CPI was 9.5%.

Seasonally adjusted series are also available for the CPIs. The deseasonalised CPI(A) and CPI(B) both increased at an average rate of 0.5% per month during the three months ended July 1995. The corresponding increase for the Composite CPI was 0.6%.

Further details are shown in Tables 1-2 and Charts 1-4.

More details are given in the "Consumer Price Index Report" for July 1995, which is available at \$23 per copy from the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong; or from the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

For local and overseas mailings, contact should be made with the Information Services Department, 28th floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

For enquiries about the indices, please call the Consumer Price Index Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2805 6403. Details regarding the Hang Seng CPI are contained in the Hang Seng CPI Report issued by the Economic Research Department of Hang Seng Bank Ltd.

-----

Table 1 Consumer Price Indices and Rates of Increase for July 1995  
(Oct. 89 - Sep. 90 = 100)

Component	CPI(A)		CPI(B)		Hang Seng CPI		Composite CPI	
	Index for Jul 95	% change over Jul 94	Index for Jul 95	% change over Jul 94	Index for Jul 95	% change over Jul 94	Index for Jul 95	% change over Jul 94
Food	151.7	+6.0	153.4	+6.3	155.6	+7.1	153.1	+6.3
Meals bought away from home	163.1	+7.0	162.5	+6.9	163.2	+7.7	162.9	+7.1
Food, excluding meals bought away from home	140.3	+4.7	140.9	+5.3	142.6	+5.8	140.9	+5.1
Housing	185.7	+12.8	190.5	+14.2	197.2	+13.6	191.1	+13.6
Fuel and light	134.6	+8.2	134.2	+8.5	132.8	+7.0	134.1	+8.1
Alcoholic drinks and tobacco	199.2	+6.8	188.5	+6.3	183.8	+6.3	193.3	+6.6
Clothing and footwear	149.2	+8.8	152.0	+9.2	166.4	+15.8	156.2	+11.4
Durable goods	117.1	+3.9	116.4	+3.9	121.9	+4.1	118.3	+4.0
Miscellaneous goods	141.8	+8.7	137.3	+7.5	135.2	+7.4	138.4	+7.9
Transport	160.2	+7.2	159.3	+7.5	157.2	+6.8	159.0	+7.2
Miscellaneous services	174.0	+11.3	168.1	+10.8	155.8	+9.0	166.2	+10.5
All items	159.8	+8.5	161.5	+9.2	165.7	+10.1	161.9	+9.2

Monthly consumer price indices are compiled on the basis of (a) expenditure patterns of relevant households and (b) prices collected currently in the month. The expenditure patterns underlying the 1989/90-based consumer price indices are based on those patterns derived from the 1989/90 Household Expenditure Survey. The CPI(A) is based on the expenditure pattern of about 50% of households in Hong Kong, which had an average monthly expenditure of \$2,500-\$9,999 in 1989/90 (broadly equivalent to \$3,900-\$16,000 at 1995 prices). The CPI(B) is based on the expenditure pattern of the next 30% of households, which had an average monthly expenditure of \$10,000-\$17,499 in 1989/90 (broadly equivalent to \$16,000-\$28,500 at 1995 prices). The Hang Seng CPI is based on the expenditure pattern of the next 10% of households, which had an average monthly expenditure of \$17,500-\$37,499 in 1989/90 (broadly equivalent to \$28,500-\$61,000 at 1995 prices).

Whereas the CPI(A), CPI(B) and Hang Seng CPI are based on the expenditure patterns of groups of households with different magnitudes of household expenditure, the Composite CPI is compiled based on the expenditure pattern of all these households taken together. Thus, while the CPI(A), CPI(B) and Hang Seng CPI show the impact of consumer price changes on different groups of households, the Composite CPI shows the impact of consumer price changes on the household sector generally.

Table 2 Consumer Price Indices for July 1992 - July 1995  
(Oct. 89 - Sep. 90 = 100)

<u>Year/month</u>	<u>CPI(A)</u>	<u>CPI(B)</u>	<u>Hang Seng CPI</u>	<u>Composite CPI</u>
1992 July	125.5	125.4	125.4	125.4
August	125.6	125.9	125.8	125.8
September	128.3	127.9	127.5	128.0
October	128.4	128.4	128.6	128.5
November	128.5	129.0	129.9	129.0
December	129.3	129.8	130.0	129.7
1993 January	131.8	131.6	131.5	131.7
February	132.4	132.2	132.0	132.2
March	132.0	132.2	133.1	132.4
April	133.5	133.9	134.5	133.9
May	134.5	134.8	136.3	135.1
June	136.0	135.9	137.1	136.3
July	135.8	136.1	136.9	136.2
August	136.3	136.6	137.4	136.7
September	138.4	138.3	139.2	138.6
October	140.0	139.6	140.7	140.0
November	139.4	139.9	142.2	140.3
December	140.4	140.9	143.3	141.3
1994 January	140.0	140.7	143.4	141.1
February	142.7	142.9	144.9	143.3
March	142.5	143.0	145.3	143.4
April	143.8	144.8	147.9	145.2
May	145.0	146.1	150.0	146.7
June	146.2	146.9	151.0	147.7
July	147.3	147.9	150.5	148.3
August	149.6	149.6	151.7	150.1
September	150.3	150.8	153.4	151.3
October	151.1	152.2	155.3	152.6
November	151.4	153.1	157.3	153.5
December	153.0	154.3	158.1	154.8
1995 January	154.1	155.3	158.2	155.6
February	155.4	156.6	159.0	156.7
March	156.1	157.4	159.7	157.5
April	157.6	159.2	162.3	159.4
May	158.1	159.9	164.2	160.4
June	159.2	161.1	165.6	161.6
July	159.8	161.5	165.7	161.9

Chart 1 Year-on-year Rates of Increase  
in CPI(A)

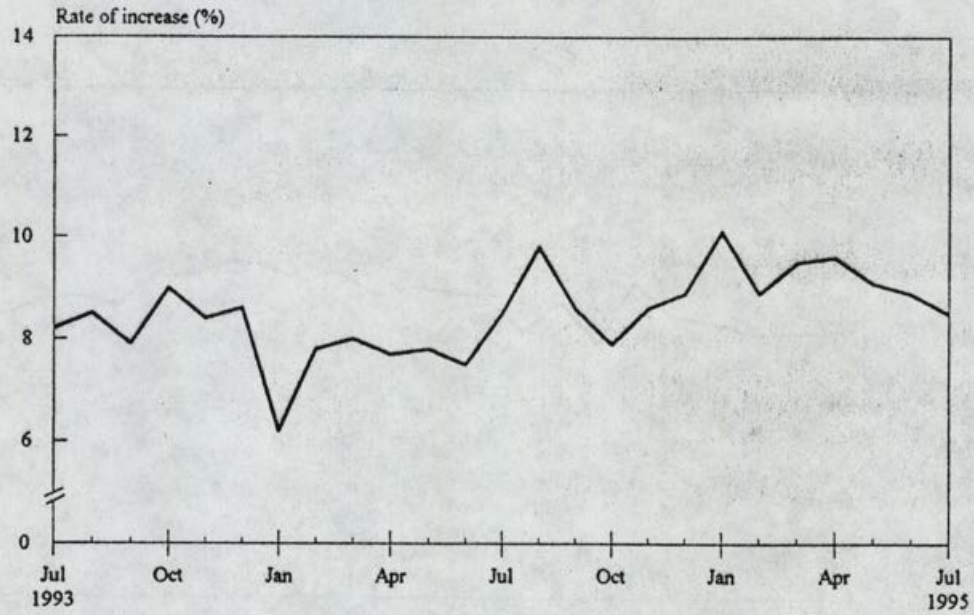


Chart 2 Year-on-year Rates of Increase  
in CPI(B)

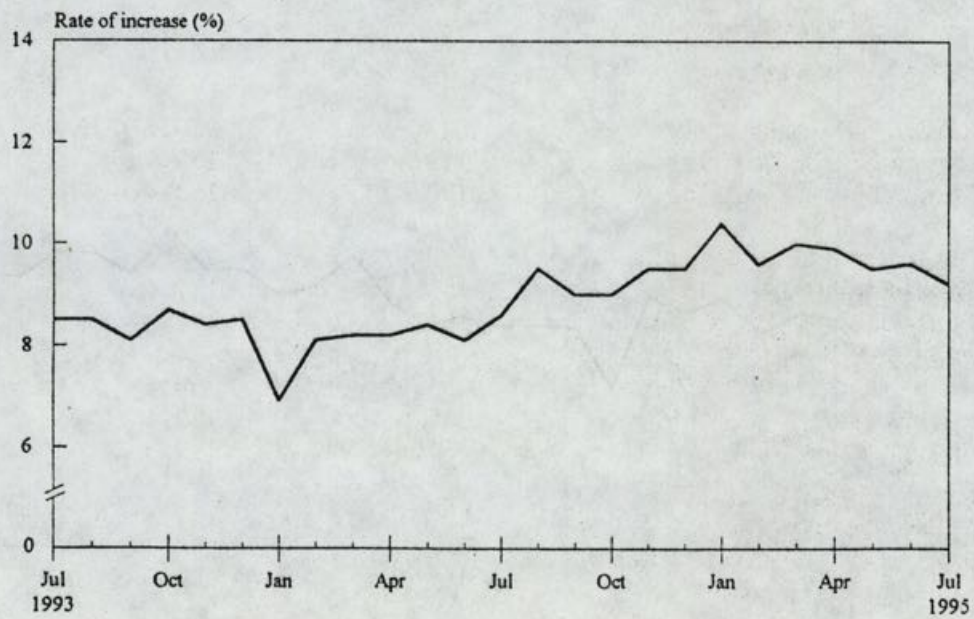


Chart 3 · Year-on-year Rates of Increase  
in Hang Seng CPI

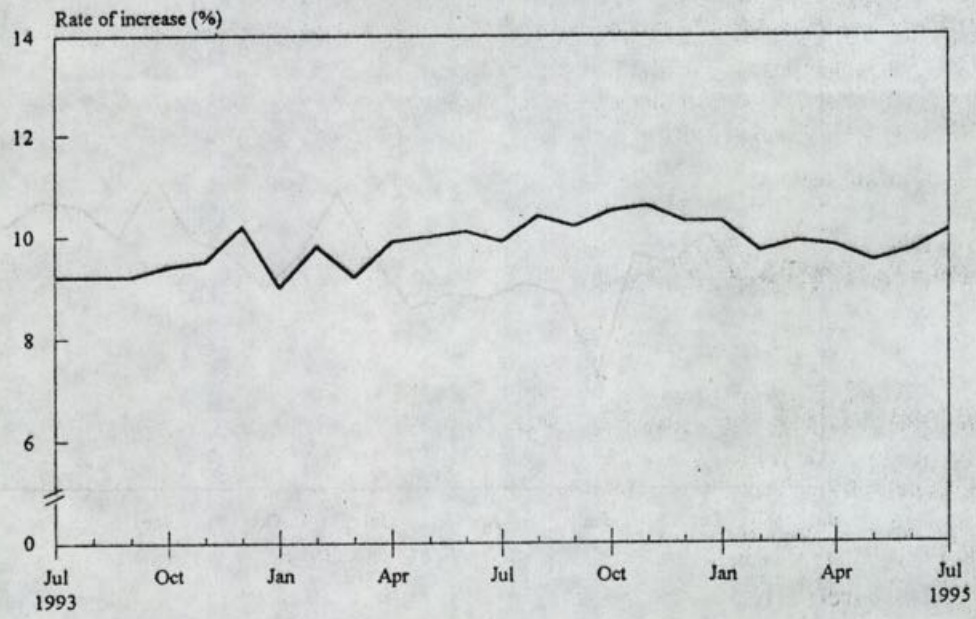
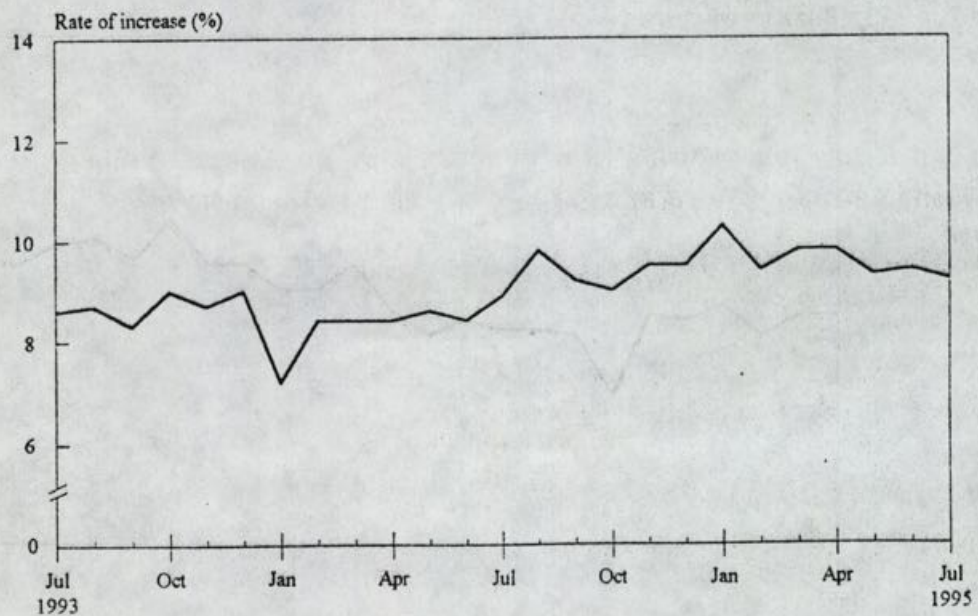


Chart 4 · Year-on-year Rates of Increase  
in Composite CPI



### Value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in June 1995

\* \* \* \* \*

The value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand for local production in June 1995 increased by 8% over a year earlier, according to the provisional results of a monthly survey released today (Monday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Comparing June 1995 with June 1994, significant increases in the value of outstanding orders were recorded in the electronic products industry (+22%), the electrical products industry (+22%) and the printing & publishing industry (+18%). A moderate increase in the value of orders was also recorded in the wearing apparel industry (+4%).

On the other hand, a significant decrease in the value of orders was registered in the fabricated metal products industry (-19%). Decreases in the value of orders were also recorded in the plastic products industry (-13%) and the textiles industry (-7%).

Compared with May 1995, and bearing in mind that this comparison may be affected by seasonal factors, the value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in June 1995 decreased by 3%.

The Monthly Survey of Orders-on-hand covers a sample of some 300 manufacturing firms engaging 50 or more workers.

Manufacturers' orders-on-hand refer to orders and parts of orders received earlier by manufacturers for local production which remain unfilled as at the end of the reference month. Orders received by traders not engaged in production are included if such orders are further placed to manufacturers for production locally. However, orders placed to manufacturing firms for production in China and other places outside Hong Kong are not included in this series of orders-on-hand statistics.

A spokesman of the department pointed out that caution should be exercised in interpreting the manufacturers' orders-on-hand figures in a single month. Instead, the trend movement of the series as displayed over a wider span of time points should be looked at.

The survey report for June 1995, at \$6 a copy, is now available for sale at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, Queensway, and at the Census and Statistics Department Publications Unit, 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Enquiries about the survey results may be made to the Industrial Production Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2805 6441.

The following table shows the year-on-year percentage changes in the value of orders-on-hand in different manufacturing industries.

	Percentage changes in the value of orders-on-hand in	
	May 1995 <u>over May 1994</u> (Revised)	June 1995 <u>over June 1994</u> (Provisional)
All industries covered in the survey	+7	+8
* Wearing apparel	+2	+4
* Textiles	-12	-7
* Electronic products	+28	+22
* Electrical products	+17	+22
* Fabricated metal products	-14	-19
* Plastic products	-20	-13
* Printing and publishing	+13	+18

End/Monday, August 21, 1995

Numbering change for paging services

\* \* \* \* \*

A spokesman for the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) today (Monday) reminded the public that from October 1 all paging numbers in Hong Kong would be changed from the existing 7-digit and 9-digit numbers to the new uniform 8-digit with a prefix '7'.

"If you are using 7-digit operator-assisted paging service number, simply insert a prefix digit '7' in front of the existing number. If you are using 9-digit automatic or secretarial paging service number, replace the first two digits '11' or '13' by the digit '7'.

"For a few exceptional cases, you will also need to change the third and/or the fourth digits of your existing number. Your paging service operator will inform you of the detailed numbering change in the near future," said the spokesman.

"From October 1, 1995, to November 30, 1995, there will be two months of 'dual access' period allowing calls to be put through if the old numbers are still dialled. From December 1, 1995, to January 31, 1996, callers who dial the old numbers within these two months will receive a recorded announcement advising them to use the new numbers.

"However, users should accustom themselves quickly to using the 8-digit numbers because the 'dual access' and recorded announcement period will end on January 31, 1996."

Any enquiries on the paging numbering change can be directed to OFTA on 2961 6650 or OFTA's Bulletin Board Service on 2834 0119 as well as to the customer service and enquiry hotlines of the relevant paging operators.

End/Monday, August 21, 1995

No clinic service on Saturday

\* \* \* \* \*

The Department of Health today (Monday) announced that there would be no holiday out-patient clinic service on August 26 (Saturday), which is a public holiday.

However, eight general out-patient holiday clinics will be open from 9 am to 1 pm on August 27 (Sunday) and August 28 (Monday).

They are the Violet Peel Health Centre and Shau Kei Wan Jockey Club Clinic on Hong Kong Island; the Kwun Tong Jockey Club Health Centre, Robert Black Health Centre and Yaumatei Jockey Club Clinic in Kowloon; and the Lady Trench Polyclinic, Shek Wu Hui Jockey Club Clinic and Yuen Long Jockey Club Health Centre in the New Territories.

All other general out-patient and evening clinics will be closed during the three days of holiday.

End/Monday, August 21, 1995

Fresh water cut in Tuen Mun

\* \* \* \* \*

Fresh water supply to the water selling kiosk near Wu Chui Road in Tuen Mun will be temporarily suspended from 9 am to 5 pm tomorrow (Tuesday) to facilitate water mains connection.

End/Monday, August 21, 1995

Water storage figure

\* \* \* \* \*

Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 am today (Monday) stood at 92.7 per cent of capacity or 543.467 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 559.027 million cubic metres of water, representing 95.4 per cent of capacity.

End/Monday, August 21, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

\* \* \* \* \*

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,327	0930	-113
Closing balance in the account	1,078	1000	-113
Change attributable to :		1100	-124
Money market activity	-124	1200	-124
LAF today	-125	1500	-124
		1600	-124

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 121.9 \*-0.2\* 21.8.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.75	2 years	2708	6.06	99.73	6.34
1 month	5.76	3 years	3807	6.16	98.85	6.70
3 months	5.78	5 years	5006	6.60	97.43	7.37
6 months	5.82	5 years	M501	7.90	100.79	7.84
12 months	5.93					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$8,472 million

Closed August 21, 1995

End/Monday, August 21, 1995