



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, July 27, 1972

## JUNE EXPORT FIGURES SHOW HEALTHY INCREASE

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Hong Kong's domestic exports for the month of June were valued at \$1,324 million -- an increase of 10.8 per cent or \$129 million over June 1971.

Provisional figures released today by the Census and Statistics Department also showed that imports, worth \$1,926 million, increased by 6.9 per cent or \$125 million, while re-exports rose by 21.3 per cent or \$62 million to \$355 million, compared with the same month last year.

A spokesman for the Commerce and Industry Department said that during the three-month period, April to June, domestic exports totalled \$3,676 million, imports \$5,534 million, and re-exports \$945 million.

Compared with the same period in 1971, these figures represent increases of 6.2 per cent, 3.6 per cent and 10.5 per cent.

However, taken over the six-month period from January to June the figures are more impressive with increases over the corresponding period in 1971 of 9.7 per cent for domestic exports, 2.4 per cent for imports and 14.7 per cent for re-exports.

The provisional figures released by the Census and Statistics Department are as follows:-

<u>MERCHANDISE:</u>	Domestic Exports:	\$1,324 million
	Imports	: \$1,926 million
	Re-exports	: \$ 355 million

/2 .....

Thursday, July 27, 1972

- 2 -

COMPARATIVE FIGURES:

	<u>June, 1972</u>	<u>June, 1971</u>	<u>Increase or decrease</u>	
	<u>\$ Million</u>	<u>\$ Million</u>	<u>\$ Million</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
Domestic Exports	1,324	1,195	+ 129	+ 10.8
Imports	1,926	1,801	+ 125	+ 6.9
Re-exports	355	293	+ 62	+ 21.3

	<u>April-June</u>	<u>April-June</u>	<u>Increase or decrease</u>	
	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>\$ Million</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
Domestic Exports	3,676	3,462	+ 214	+ 6.2
Imports	5,534	5,342	+ 192	+ 3.6
Re-exports	945	855	+ 89	+10.5

	<u>Jan.-June</u>	<u>Jan.-June</u>	<u>Increase or decrease</u>	
	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>\$ Million</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
Domestic Exports	6,987	6,369	+ 618	+ 9.7
Imports	10,309	10,068	+ 241	+ 2.4
Re-exports	1,820	1,586	+ 234	+ 14.7

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13 .....

Thursday, July 27, 1972

- 3 -

PARENTS TO PAY LESS FOR SCHOOL MEDICAL SCHEME

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With effect from October 1, the cost to pupils of participation in the School Medical Service will be reduced from \$7 to \$5 a year.

At the same time, the Government's contribution will be increased from \$7 to \$20 a year for each participating pupil.

Also from that date future first enrolments in the scheme will be restricted to pupils in primary classes and Form I to Form III in secondary schools. This revision is in line with the Government's present policy of providing nine years of aided education.

The School Medical Service Board considers that Form III is an appropriate dividing line as by that time most children have gone through the paediatric stage, after which the need for medical attention is normally much less.

Present enrolment in the scheme is about 40,000, including pupils in upper forms of secondary schools, who will be allowed to remain in the scheme at the new rate of subscription until they phase out.

A fourth change in the scheme to take effect from October 1 is an increased payment to participating doctors. They will receive \$25 per panel pupil a year instead of the present \$14 -- an increase which takes into account rising costs of drugs, administrative overheads, and professional services.

In supporting this increased payment the School Medical Service Board points out that remuneration to doctors has not been revised since the present scheme was first established.

/The .....

Thursday, July 27, 1972

- 4 -

The Board feels that the increase will also enable doctors to supply a wider range of medicines and drugs. At present the cost of any medicines or drugs, for example antibiotics, which are not listed in the approved formulary is being borne by the pupils themselves.

The School Medical Service provides a full medical examination upon enrolment, further examinations at doctors' discretion, and an unlimited number of consultations at doctors' clinic. In this way, it serves the special needs of school children for the early detection and diagnosis of defects in childhood, and continued medical supervision, which cannot be adequately met by the public medical service.

The low level of enrolment reflects the fact that, in the Board's view, among other reasons, the majority of parents in Hong Kong are not "insurance minded."

The School Medical Service Board was set up in 1964 to operate a scheme to provide economical medical treatment to pupils in registered schools. Participation of pupils and doctors is voluntary, and pupils may join the scheme any time they wish for a period of 12 months from the date of entry.

These revisions in the scheme are expected to cost the Government an estimated \$729,000 for the current financial year at the present enrolment. The scheme will be reviewed in two years.

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Thursday, July 27, 1972

- 5 -

RAINSTORM VICTIMS MOVING TO NEW HOMES

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About 1,400 victims of last month's rainstorm will move into government low cost housing estates early next month.

They will be moving into flats at Ko Chiu Road in Kwun Tong and at Lei Muk Shue and Kwai Fong in the Tsuen Wan area.

The second group will follow soon after and it is expected that all the 16,000 people scheduled to go to government low cost housing flats will be in their new homes by the end of November.

Some 6,300 people have already moved into Resettlement Department estates, and another 1,700 will be going to licensed areas. All available resettlement rooms have now been allocated.

A government spokesman pointed out that four months was needed to rehouse the 16,000 people because of the large numbers involved in the rehousing programme.

He said that staff of the Housing Authority are working at full speed to complete the final intake procedures.

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/6 •••••

Thursday, July 27, 1972

- 6 -

PUBLIC HEARING ON PO SHAN ROAD DISASTERS

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At least 20 people have indicated that they are willing to appear as witnesses before the Commission of Inquiry into the June rainstorm disasters, when it begins hearing evidence on the Po Shan Road landslides on Monday (July 31).

The hearing will begin at 10 a.m. in Court 4, Victoria District Court, Battery Path.

Monday's session will be confined to a preliminary consultation with members of the public, or their legal representatives, who consider they are implicated or concerned in any way and who wish to appear before the Commission other than as a witness.

These people are invited to immediately contact the Counsel to the Commission, Mr. R.G. Penlington, on H-95601, if they have not already done so.

After the preliminary consultation the Commission intends to adjourn until Tuesday August 8 to enable reports and other technical evidence to be produced and made available to the interested parties prior to the hearing of evidence on that day. After August 8 the Commission expects to be in a position to begin the continuous hearing of evidence.

Members of the public who have indicated their willingness to give evidence will be notified if the Commission intends to invite them to appear before it.

Meanwhile any other person who wishes to give evidence or who can supply information in connection with the Po Shan Road landslides is still invited to immediately contact the Secretary to the Commission, Mr. Mo Yiu-chor on H-95312.

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/7 .....

Thursday, July 27, 1972

- 7 -

SCULPTURE TO DEPICT YOUTH IN A CHANGING SOCIETY

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Young people are being given an opportunity to develop their creative talents in a sculpture competition and as an added incentive selected works will be exhibited at the Ocean Terminal.

The competition, organised by the Social Welfare Department, is open to people between the age of 15 and 30. Participants must be in groups of no less than two.

The objects of the competition are to provide opportunities for young people to work together for a common project and to give healthy outlets for them to express their views, ideals and imagination towards different aspects of society.

The theme is "youth in a changing society" and people who wish to complete should submit a sketch plan of the sculpture, together with the synopsis, to the Youth Work Unit of the department by August 10.

There is no restriction on the use of materials.

A spokesman for the Unit says that on request a maximum of \$50 could be granted to each participating unit towards meeting the cost of materials.....

Application forms are available from the Youth Work Unit, Room 908, Causeway Bay Magistracy, Hong Kong and the Youth Work Unit, Kowloon Government Offices, Top Floor, 405 Nathan Road.

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/8 .....

Thursday, July 27, 1972

- 8 -

KOWLOON KITCHEN BLOCK DECLARED DANGEROUS

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The Building Authority today declared the kitchen block of No. 241 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon to be in a dangerous condition.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said the four-storey pre-war building was subject to a routine inspection when it was found that the reinforced concrete frame to the kitchen block was seriously spalled and the reinforcement badly corroded.

The condition is such that there is risk of collapse. A notice of intention to apply for a Closure Order of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors of the kitchen block in Kowloon District Court at 10 a.m. on August 10, 1972 was posted today.

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/9 .....

Thursday, July 27, 1972

- 9 -

WATER INTERRUPTION IN NORTH POINT AND KWUN TONG

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Water supply to a number of premises in North Point and Kwun Tong will be interrupted on Friday (July 28) and Saturday (July 29).

The supply will be turned off for seven hours for certain premises in North Point and will be switched off for eight hours in the Kwun Tong area. Both interruptions will begin at 10 p.m. on Friday.

The area affected in North Point is bounded by 1-49, and 2-40 Ming Yuen Street West, 2-18 Peacock Road, and Peacock Terrace.

Premises affected in the Kwun Tong area are those at 11 and 55-59 Tung Yan Street, 81-99 and 78-82 Fu-Yan Street, 1-33 and 2-32 Yan Oi Street.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL

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A section of the northern carriageway of Connaught Road Central is to be closed to traffic for five hours on Saturday (July 29) morning from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m.

The closure, affecting the section between Queen Victoria Street and Pedder Street, will facilitate the placing of prefabricated steel frames for the G.P.O. gantry extension across Connaught Road.

Motorists travelling towards Harcourt Road are advised to turn left in front of the Hang Seng Bank Building, proceed eastwards along the new road at the waterfront and then turn right at Blake Pier to join Connaught Road Central again at the Pedder Street junction.

Appropriate directional and traffic signs will be erected to guide motorists.

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Release Time: 6.45 p.m.