



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1984

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## JANUARY ORDERS-ON-HAND RISE

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THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND (IN TERMS OF MONTHS) IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AS A WHOLE INCREASED FURTHER IN JANUARY, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

IN ITS MONTHLY SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, PAYROLL AND ORDERS-ON-HAND FOR JANUARY, THE DEPARTMENT ALSO REPORTED THAT THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS, FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS, AND ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES RECORDED INCREASES IN THE VOLUME OF ORDERS AS COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

THE ORDERS POSITION OF THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY REMAINED STRONG, ALTHOUGH A SLIGHT DECLINE WAS REPORTED.

THE LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT IN MOST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES AT THE END OF JANUARY DECLINED SLIGHTLY AS COMPARED WITH THAT AT THE END OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH BECAUSE OF LABOUR TURNOVER OCCURRING WITH THE APPROACH OF THE CHINESE NEW YEAR. HOWEVER, EMPLOYMENT IN THE FOOD AND DRINKS, AND +OTHERS+ CATEGORY OF INDUSTRIES REMAINED STABLE. EMPLOYMENT IN THE SERVICES SECTOR ALSO SHOWED NO CHANGE. IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES CONTINUED TO FALL ON COMPLETION OF SOME PROJECTS.

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN BOTH PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS WERE REPORTED BY ALL THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED. THIS WAS DUE TO THE PAYMENT OF BONUSES AND DOUBLE PAY AT THE END OF THE LUNAR CALENDAR YEAR. PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION SECTORS ALSO INCREASED FOR THE SAME REASON. HOWEVER, THE BANKING SECTOR RECORDED A DECLINE IN BOTH PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS BECAUSE MOST OF THE BANKS SURVEYED HAD DISTRIBUTED THEIR ANNUAL BONUS AND DOUBLE PAY IN DECEMBER.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS ARE SHOWN IN THE ACCOMPANYING TABLES.

THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT THE SURVEY COVERED A PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES AND THE 50 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND SELECTED SERVICES SECTORS CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH LAST YEAR. THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT AS THE SAMPLE WAS NOT DRAWN ON A RANDOM BASIS, RESULTS ON MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE MIGHT NOT REFLECT THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE, ALTHOUGH THEY SHOULD GIVE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE ECONOMY IN THE SHORT TERM.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR JANUARY WILL BE ON SALE SOON AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE, AT \$1.5 PER COPY. ENQUIRIES ON THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (AT 3-7212832).

/A. ORDERS-ON-HAND .....

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A. ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING

INDUSTRY	(% CHANGE OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH)			ORDERS-ON-HAND (IN TERMS OF MONTHS) FOR JANUARY 1984
	NOV. 1983	DEC. 1983	JAN. 1984	
WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR	1	3	-1	5.05
TEXTILES, EXCEPT WEARING APPAREL	-3	5	*	2.54
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	-3	2	1	3.75
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	-1	3	2	3.26
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	1	1	1	5.44
OTHERS	*	1	*	4.11
ALL ABOVE INDUSTRIES	*	2	1	4.55

B. EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS

INDUSTRY/ SERVICE	PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED			PER CAPITA EARNINGS (% CHANGE OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH)			PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR JAN. 1984 (HK\$)
	NOV. 1983	DEC. 1983	JAN. 1984	NOV. 1983	DEC. 1983	JAN. 1984	
MANUFACTURING	*	*	-1	2	8	37	3 584
FOOD AND DRINKS	-3	*	*	-3	24	18	4 572
WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR	*	*	-1	4	9	22	2 946

/TEXTILES, .....

TEXTILES, EXCEPT WEARING APPAREL	*	*	-1	*	14	43	3 979
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	-3	*	-2	*	2	47	3 337
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	1	1	-1	2	4	47	3 140
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	1	-1	-1	3	4	43	3 380
OTHERS	-1	*	*	-1	7	40	4 859
<sup>**</sup> CONSTRUCTION	-4	-1	-1	5	8	21	4 998
<u>SERVICES</u>	*	*	*	-3	28	26	6 978
BANKS	*	*	*	*	69	-6	6 309
HOTELS	1	*	-1	1	28	38	4 998
PUBLIC UTILITIES	*	*	*	-5	10	45	6 998
OTHERS	*	*	*	*	23	33	8 709

\* CHANGES WITHIN + 0.5%

\*\* PERSONS ENGAGED COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS NOT INCLUDED.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR FEBRUARY

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THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) AND CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B) FOR FEBRUARY 1984 WERE 154 AND 153 RESPECTIVELY, EACH BEING 2 POINTS OR 1.3 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN JANUARY 1984, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1983, CPI(A) ROSE BY 16 POINTS OR 11.6 PER CENT AND CPI(B), 15 POINTS OR 10.9 PER CENT.

THE AVERAGE CPI(A) AND AVERAGE CPI(B) FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING IN FEBRUARY 1984 WERE 146.0 AND 145.1 RESPECTIVELY, WHICH WERE 10.6 PER CENT AND 10.1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGES FOR THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS.

DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDING IN FEBRUARY 1984, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CPI(A) INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF 0.4 PER CENT EACH MONTH AND THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CPI(B), 0.5 PER CENT.

DURING FEBRUARY, FOOD PRICES, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF FRESH VEGETABLES AND LIVE POULTRY, WERE HIGHER. CHARGES FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND TAXI FARES ALSO WENT UP.

THE CPI(A) AND CPI(B) ARE BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF 50 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY, OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, WHICH WERE DERIVED FROM THE 1979-80 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

THE CPI(A) REFERRED TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$1 000 AND \$3 499 A MONTH, AND THE CPI(B) TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$3 500 AND \$6 499 A MONTH AT THAT TIME.

THE INDEXES FOR FEBRUARY 1984 IN RESPECT OF THE NINE COMMODITY/SERVICE SECTIONS IN THE TWO CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES ARE GIVEN BELOW, TOGETHER WITH THOSE FOR JANUARY 1984 AND FEBRUARY 1983.

(OCTOBER 1979 TO SEPTEMBER 1980 AVERAGE = 100)

SECTION	CPI(A)			CPI(B)		
	FEB. 83	JAN. 84	FEB. 84	FEB. 83	JAN. 84	FEB. 84
FOODSTUFFS	142	152	156	143	153	156
HOUSING	133	142	142	132	142	143
FUEL AND LIGHT	145	151	151	146	151	151

/ALCOHOLIC DRINKS .....

ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	140	207	208	137	200	200
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	133	149	149	133	150	149
DURABLE GOODS	108	123	124	110	126	127
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	130	146	148	130	143	144
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	147	165	167	148	166	169
SERVICES	148	165	165	147	164	164
ALL ITEMS	138	152	154	138	151	153

COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1984, THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 4 POINTS IN CPI(A) AND 3 POINTS IN CPI(B).

THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES, LIVE POULTRY, SALT-WATER FISH, FRESH-WATER FISH AND PORK INCREASED AS A RESULT OF INCREASED DEMAND AROUND THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

THE AVERAGE CHARGE FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS ALSO WENT UP.

THE EFFECT OF MOVEMENTS IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF OTHER FOOD ITEMS ON THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS WAS INSIGNIFICANT.

THE INDEX FOR HOUSING INCREASED BY 1 POINT IN CPI(B) DUE TO HIGHER MULTI-STOREY BUILDING MAINTENANCE FEES.

HIGHER PRICES OF CHINESE AND FOREIGN-STYLE WINES CAUSED THE INDEX FOR ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION) TO RISE BY 1 POINT IN CPI(A).

THE 1-POINT DECREASE IN THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR IN CPI(B) WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO LOWER PRICES OF WOMEN'S OUTERCLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR.

THE INDEX FOR DURABLE GOODS ROSE BY 1 POINT IN BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER PRICES OF FURNITURE, TELEVISION SETS AND SOUND EQUIPMENT.

THE INDEX FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS ROSE BY 2 POINTS IN CPI(A) AND 1 POINT IN CPI(B) DUE TO HIGHER PRICES OF MEDICINES, JEWELLERY, TOILET REQUISITES AND COSMETICS.

THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES INCREASED BY 2 POINTS IN CPI(A) AND 3 POINTS IN CPI(B) DUE TO HIGHER TAXI FARES AS WELL AS HIGHER PUBLIC LIGHT BUS FARES DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

PRICE MOVEMENTS IN OTHER SECTIONS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

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(FIGURES PRESENTED IN THIS PRESS RELEASE REFER TO CPI SERIES NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED)

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ALSO ANNOUNCED TODAY THE PUBLICATION OF THE +ANNUAL REPORT ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR 1983+.

THIS REPORT GIVES A COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNT OF THE MOVEMENT OF CONSUMER PRICES AND DETAILED ANALYSES OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES DURING 1983.

INCLUDED IN THE REPORT ARE 4 CHARTS AND 10 TABLES SHOWING MOVEMENTS OF BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B) BY SECTION AND GROUP OF COMMODITY/SERVICE AS WELL AS THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OVERALL CHANGE.

THE +CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT+ FOR FEBRUARY 1984 AND THE +ANNUAL REPORT ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR 1983+ WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE AT \$3 AND \$5.50 PER COPY RESPECTIVELY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE INDEXES MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT TELEPHONE NO. 3-7216512.

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#### 28 BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN JANUARY \* \* \* \* \*

THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL EXTENSION PROJECT AT TSUEN WAN WAS AMONG 28 BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN JANUARY BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE.

THE 22-STORY EXTENSION WILL BE BUILT AT THE JUNCTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND TSUEN WAN MARKET STREET.

ALSO APPROVED WERE FACTORY BUILDINGS ON KOWLOON BAY AND AT SHA TIN, A PETROL FILLING STATION AT THE JUNCTION OF CANAL ROAD WEST AND LEIGHTON ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, TWO PAVILIONS AT CAPE COLLINSON ROAD, AND A ROAD LINKING TAIKOO WAN ROAD, QUARRY BAY, WITH THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR.

THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE AGREED TO WORK STARTING ON 43 NEW BUILDING PROJECTS DURING THE MONTH.

THEY INCLUDED A SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AT TUNG TAU WAN ROAD, STANLEY; TWO FACTORIES IN TUEN MUN; A MATRIX INDICATOR BOARD AT SHA TIN RACE COURSE; AN OFFICE BLOCK AND ACADEMIC BUILDING FOR THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG; AND A TRAINING CENTRE AT TAI YIP STREET, KOWLOON BAY, FOR THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL.

FIFTEEN OF THESE PROJECTS ARE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, EIGHT ARE IN KOWLOON AND 20 ARE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

/THE FLOOR .....

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THE FLOOR AREA OF THE 43 PROJECTS TOTALLED 189 688 SQUARE METRES, OF WHICH 96 384 SQUARE METRES ARE DOMESTIC AND THE REMAINDER NON-DOMESTIC.

THIRTY-FOUR OCCUPATION PERMITS WERE ISSUED BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE IN RESPECT OF NEWLY-COMPLETED BUILDINGS IN JANUARY.

TEN ARE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 11 ARE IN KOWLOON AND 13 ARE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED IN THE MONTH IS 68 422 SQUARE METRES, COMPRISING 49 581 SQUARE METRES FOR NON-DOMESTIC AND THE REMAINDER FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

THE COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED WAS ALMOST \$233 MILLION.

ALSO DURING THE MONTH, SEVEN DEMOLITION ORDERS WERE GRANTED FOR 13 BUILDINGS.

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#### SHORT-TERM TENANCIES OFFERED

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THREE PIECES OF CROWN LAND ARE BEING OFFERED ON SHORT-TERM TENANCIES BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT.

TWO OF THE SITES ARE AT WAI YIP STREET ON KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION.

MEASURING 5 635 AND 4 120 SQUARE METRES, BOTH ARE FOR OPEN STORAGE.

THE REMAINING SITE OF 4 250 SQUARE METRES, LOCATED IN TUEN MUN NEW TOWN, IS FOR USE AS A PUBLIC FEE-PAYING CAR PARK.

ALL THREE SITES ARE FOR ONE YEAR'S TENANCY INITIALLY, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS APRIL 6.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND CONDITIONS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- \* LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG;
- \* DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE KOWLOON WEST, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET; AND
- \* DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE TUEN MUN FOR THE TUEN MUN LOT.

TENDER PLANS CAN ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THE ABOVE LOCATIONS.

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MORE CAS RECRUITS COMPLETE TRAINING

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OVER 200 MAN AND WOMAN RECRUITS OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES HAVE JUST COMPLETED BASIC TRAINING TO BECOME EFFICIENT VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY.

THE RECRUITS WILL TAKE PART IN A PASSING-OUT PARADE AT THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE HEADQUARTERS, HARBOUR ROAD, AT 7.30 PM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 23).

MRS SELINA CHOW, AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WILL TAKE THE SALUTE AT THE CEREMONY.

AFTER THE INSPECTION, SHE WILL PRESENT SPECIAL CERTIFICATES TO THE MOST OUTSTANDING RECRUITS AND CIVIL DEFENCE LONG SERVICE CLASPS TO A NUMBER OF SERVING CAS MEMBERS.

THE RECRUITS HAVE RECEIVED TRAINING IN FOOTDRILL, FIRST AID, DISCIPLINE, RESCUE WORK, FOREST FIRE FIGHTING, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND TYPHOON DUTIES.

THEY WILL BE POSTED TO CAS UNITS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY FOR ACTIVE DUTY AND FURTHER OPERATIONAL TRAINING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PASSING-OUT PARADE OF CIVIL AID SERVICES RECRUITS AT THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE HEADQUARTERS, HARBOUR ROAD, AT 7.30 PM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 23).

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

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BETWEEN FRIDAY (MARCH 23) AND MARCH 30, THE SECTION OF BERWICK STREET BETWEEN NAM CHEONG STREET AND PAK TIN STREET, AND THE SECTION OF PEI HO STREET BETWEEN TAI PO ROAD AND BERWICK STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 1 AM TO 5 AM, TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION WORK.

DURING THE CLOSURE, MOTORISTS ON TAI PO ROAD HEADING FOR NAM CHEONG STREET ARE ADVISED TO USE PAK TIN STREET AND WAI CHI STREET.

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FRESH WATER BREAK  
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN TUEN MUN WILL BE  
TURNED OFF FROM 12 NOON ON SATURDAY (MARCH 24) TO 8 AM THE  
FOLLOWING DAY FOR MAINS WORK.

THE AFFECTED AREAS ARE ALONG LUNG MUN ROAD FROM TUEN MUN KAU  
HUI TO TAP SHEK KOK, INCLUDING PAK KOK TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA,  
AREA 44, BUTTERFLY ESTATE, WU KING ESTATE, MELODY GARDEN, SIU  
SHAN COURT, TAP SHEK KOK POWER STATION AND CHINA CEMENT CO (HK)  
LTD.

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