



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER RELEASED

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DOMESTIC EXPORTS REMAINED WEAK IN NOVEMBER, WHILE THE GROWTH RATE OF RE-EXPORTS DECELERATED FURTHER. BEING AFFECTED BOTH BY THE SLOW-DOWN IN RE-EXPORT GROWTH AND BY THE CONTINUED SLACKENING IN RETAINED IMPORTS, IMPORTS RECORDED A DECLINE FROM A YEAR EARLIER.

THIS IS SHOWN IN THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (SUNDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN NOVEMBER 1989 WAS \$19,412 MILLION, \$640 MILLION OR 3.2 PER CENT LESS THAN IN NOVEMBER 1988, WHILE THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY \$2,340 MILLION OR 8.4 PER CENT TO \$30,046 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS), AT \$49,458 MILLION IN NOVEMBER 1989, WAS THUS \$1,700 MILLION OR 3.6 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN NOVEMBER 1988.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS DECREASED BY 3.9 PER CENT OR \$1,882 MILLION FROM A YEAR EARLIER, TO \$46,344 MILLION IN NOVEMBER 1989.

AS THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WAS SMALLER THAN THAT OF TOTAL EXPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE SURPLUS OF \$3,114 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 6.7 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN NOVEMBER 1989.

THIS COMPARES WITH A DEFICIT OF \$468 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 1.0 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN NOVEMBER 1988.

PUTTING THESE TRADE FIGURES IN PERSPECTIVE, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1989 WAS \$521,008 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF \$204,189 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS OF \$316,819 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1988, IN VALUE TERMS TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY \$77,235 MILLION OR 17.4 PER CENT, DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY \$7,698 MILLION OR 3.9 PER CENT, AND RE-EXPORTS BY \$69,537 MILLION OR 28.1 PER CENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY \$66,722 MILLION OR 14.9 PER CENT, TO \$515,337 MILLION.

A VISIBLE TRADE SURPLUS OF \$5,671 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 1.1 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1989.

/THIS COMPARES

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THIS COMPARES WITH A DEFICIT OF \$4,842 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 1.1 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN THE SAME PERIOD IN 1988.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE PERFORMANCE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS HAD BEEN SLUGGISH SINCE MAY.

THE NEGATIVE GROWTH RATE IN VALUE TERMS OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN NOVEMBER WAS PRECEDED BY A SMALLER NEGATIVE GROWTH RECORDED IN SEPTEMBER.

THERE WAS ALSO A MARKED DECELERATION OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS IN THE GROWTH RATE OF RE-EXPORTS, LARGELY CAUSED BY THE CONTINUED SETBACK IN RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT, ON A YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF RETAINED IMPORTS HAD SHOWN MARKED DECREASES FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE MONTHS. THIS SUGGESTED THAT BOTH DOMESTIC DEMAND AND THE SHORT-TERM PROSPECT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE SLACK.

/PRESS RELEASE

TRADE FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER, 1989

The Census and Statistics Department has released the following provisional merchandise trade figures for November:-

MERCHANDISE.	Domestic Exports :	\$19,412 million	
	Re-exports	\$30,046 million	
	Total Exports	\$49,458 million	
	Imports	\$46,344 million	
	Trade balance :	\$3,114 million	[in surplus]

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Latest 3 months	Sep 89 to	Sep 88 to	Increase	
	Nov 89	Nov 88	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	59,803	60,068	-265	-0.4
Re-exports	92,466	80,557	11,909	14.8
Total Exports	152,269	140,625	11,644	8.3
Imports	142,015	138,703	3,312	2.4
Trade balance	10,254	1,922	8,332	

Same month last year	November	November	Increase	
	1989	1988	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	19,412	20,052	-640	-3.2
(% of Total Exports)	(39.2%)	(42.0%)		
Re-exports	30,046	27,706	2,340	8.4
Total Exports	49,458	47,758	1,700	3.6
Imports	46,344	48,226	-1,882	-3.9
Trade balance	3,114	-468	3,582	

Last month	November	October	Increase	
	1989	1989	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	19,412	20,849	-1,437	-6.9
(% of Total Exports)	(39.2%)	(39.5%)		
Re-exports	30,046	31,985	-1,939	-6.1
Total Exports	49,458	52,834	-3,376	-6.4
Imports	46,344	48,763	-2,419	-5.0
Trade balance	3,114	4,071	-957	

Calendar year to-date	Jan-Nov	Jan-Nov	Increase	
	1989	1988	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	204,189	196,491	7,698	3.9
(% of Total Exports)	(39.2%)	(44.3%)		
Re-exports	316,819	247,282	69,537	28.1
Total Exports	521,008	443,773	77,235	17.4
Imports	515,337	448,615	66,722	14.9
Trade balance	5,671	-4,842	10,513	

Last 12 months	Dec 88 to	Dec 87 to	Increase	
	Nov 89	Nov 88	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	225,362	215,341	10,021	4.7
Re-exports	344,942	266,337	78,605	29.5
Total Exports	570,304	481,678	88,626	18.4
Imports	565,520	487,432	78,088	16.0
Trade balance	4,784	-5,754	10,538	

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TENDERS INVITED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MARINE POLICE BASE

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EAST SECTOR MARINE POLICE BASE AT TUI MIN HOI, SAI KUNG.

THE POLICE BASE WILL BE A FIVE-STOREY BUILDING PROVIDING OFFICE ACCOMMODATION, BARRACK AND CHANGING, DINING, RECREATION AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT FACILITIES.

IN ADDITION, UNDERGROUND FUEL TANKS AND SINGLE-STOREY ANCILLARY BUILDINGS WILL BE BUILT TO PROVIDE STORAGE SPACE AND MARINE AND COMMUNICATION WORKSHOPS. BERTHING AND SERVICING FACILITIES FOR PATROL LAUNCHES WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED.

THE PROJECT IS SCHEDULED TO START IN MARCH NEXT YEAR AND BE COMPLETED AROUND MAY IN 1991.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON JANUARY 19.

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EMPLOYER OF FILIPINA MAID FINED

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FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS ARE ENTITLED TO THE SAME BENEFITS AND PROTECTION AS LOCAL WORKERS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

IN A RECENT CASE HEARD AT THE SAN PO KONG MAGISTRACY, AN EMPLOYER OF A FILIPINA DOMESTIC HELPER WAS FINED \$6,000 FOR FAILING TO GIVE THE MAID HER ENTITLED LEAVE BENEFITS.

THE COURT HEARD THAT THE MAID HAD NEVER BEEN GRANTED ANY REST DAYS AND STATUTORY HOLIDAYS THROUGHOUT HER PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAS NOT GIVEN HER ANNUAL LEAVE PAY UPON TERMINATION OF CONTRACT.

"ACCORDING TO THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, AN EMPLOYEE SHOULD BE GIVEN ONE REST DAY IN EVERY PERIOD OF SEVEN DAYS, IN ADDITION TO 11 DAYS OF STATUTORY HOLIDAYS IN A YEAR," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID AN EMPLOYEE WAS ALSO ENTITLED TO SEVEN DAYS' PAID ANNUAL LEAVE AFTER A YEAR'S SERVICE, AND SHOULD BE GIVEN PAYMENT IN LIEU OF ANY ANNUAL LEAVE NOT YET TAKEN IF THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT WAS TERMINATED.

"ANY EMPLOYER WHO BREACHES THE PROVISIONS IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$20,000," THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

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