



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GARDEN ROAD, 5th-8th FLOORS, MURRAY BUILDING,
HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

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1996 Population By-census summary results announced

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The resident population of Hong Kong in March 1996 was 6,218,000, an increase of 722,000 or some 13 per cent over that 10 years ago, according to the results of the 1996 Population By-census.

The results have also shown significant improvements in educational attainment, housing condition and income of the population.

There have also been substantial changes in the geographic distribution of the population and the industrial distribution of the working population.

Announcing the by-census results at a press conference today (Tuesday), the Commissioner for Census and Statistics, Mr Frederick Ho Wing-huen, said the population growth was much faster in the second half than the first half of the 10-year period.

He said the annual growth rate averaged 1.8 per cent over the period 1991-1996, but only 0.6 per cent over the period 1986-1991.

Of the 6,218,000 residents, 6,017,000 were present in Hong Kong at the By-census reference moment (that is 3 am on March 15, 1996) and 201,000 temporarily away from Hong Kong.

Including 83,000 transients and 21,000 Vietnamese migrants, the number of people present in Hong Kong at the by-census reference moment was 6,121,000.

The Commissioner pointed out that there was substantial internal migration of the population during the last decade. While 10 years ago, Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories had respectively 22 per cent, 43 per cent and 35 per cent of the population, by now the respective proportions are 21 per cent, 32 per cent and 47 per cent.

"Many districts in the New Territories like Sai Kung, Tai Po, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Sha Tin and North recorded a substantial population growth because of new towns development, whereas old urban districts like Sham Shui Po and Yau Tsim Mong experienced substantial population decrease," Mr Ho said.

Meanwhile, the population became older during the last ten years with the median age rising from 28 to 34. This is attributable to mortality improvement and the continuously low fertility rate.

The sex ratio, that is the number of males per 1,000 females, dropped from 1,057 in 1986 to 1,000 in 1996.

The proportions of the "never married" increased substantially for both males and females in the prime marriageable ages. This suggests a trend towards higher bachelorhood and spinsterhood.

Mr Ho also said the labour force increased from 2.8 million in 1986 to 3.2 million this year, despite a drop in the overall labour force participation rate from 66 per cent to 63 per cent over the same period.

About 30 per cent of the working population were managers, administrators, professionals and associate professionals. Workers in elementary occupations such as cleaners, messengers, watchmen and freight handlers made up one-fifth of the working population.

The distribution of the working population by industrial sector had also changed significantly. "Wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels" became the largest sector employing one quarter of the working population, followed by "community, social and personal services", which employed about one-fifth of the working population.

Mr Ho said the median income from main employment of the working population was \$9,500 this year, an increase of 269 per cent during the last 10 years. Over the same period, the inflation rate, as measured by the increase in Consumer Price Index (A), was 125 per cent.

"This suggests that there has been substantial improvement in the earnings of workers in real terms," he said.

About one million persons worked in Kowloon, another 0.9 million on Hong Kong Island and 0.8 million in the new towns in the New Territories.

Among persons studying full-time in schools or educational institutions in Hong Kong, 85 per cent attended schools in the same area as they lived.

The educational attainment of the population substantially improved over the decade. The proportion of the population aged 15 and over with secondary or higher education increased from 57 per cent in 1986 to 68 per cent this year. The proportion of those with tertiary education in degree courses, in particular, increased from four per cent to ten per cent.

Cantonese was the most common language/dialect spoken at home by 89 per cent of the population. Another seven per cent claimed that they could speak the dialect. About one quarter of the population could speak Putonghua either as the usual language/dialect or as another language/dialect.

English was spoken at home by three per cent of the population while another 35 per cent claimed that they could speak the language.

Over the last decade, the number of domestic households increased by 28 per cent from 1.5 million to 1.9 million. As it increased at a faster rate than the population, the average household size decreased from 3.7 to 3.3.

About 64 per cent of the domestic households consisted of only one unextended nuclear family, that is, a married couple with or without never married children or a single parent with one or more never married children.

Mr Ho said that some 3.1 million persons, or almost half of the population, lived in public housing, including public rental housing and subsidized sale flats. Another 2.9 million or so lived in private permanent housing. About 0.12 million persons lived in temporary housing.

Housing conditions improved significantly during the last ten years. The degree of sharing, which is measured by the average number of domestic households in a dwelling, decreased from 1.11 to 1.05.

The proportion of domestic households living in rooms/cocklofts/bedspaces in private residential flats decreased significantly from 13 per cent in 1986 to five per cent this year and that in temporary housing decreased from eight per cent to two per cent.

The median income of domestic households this year was \$17,500, an increase of 239 per cent over that 10 years ago.

Both the English and the Chinese versions of the report "Summary Results" will be on sale as from tomorrow (Wednesday).

Purchase of the publications can be made at the Government Publications Centre, ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong. The publications are also on sale at the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

A series of reports on the more detailed results of the 1996 Population By-census will be published later in stages.

Mr Ho said the by-census results, at various levels of detail, would be widely used in government administration and planning. The statistical data would also be used by business people and the general public for various purposes.

He also said the data collection operation of the by-census was very smooth, thanks to the public's co-operation, which he attributed to the general public's awareness of the important role that good statistics play in building Hong Kong's future.

End

Surrender scheme for textiles quotas affected by US measures

* * * * *

The Trade Department today (Tuesday) launched a Special Surrender Scheme for quota holders of the categories of textiles products which are subject to US additional import measures or on a US watch list, to assist the trade to tide over the difficulties caused by the confusion and uncertainty brought about by the US measures.

A Trade Department spokesman said: "The scheme is operated from today to November 16. It covers categories 336/636 (dresses), 342/442/642 (skirts), 351 (nightwear), 352/652 (underwear), and 443 (suits) which have been subject to US additional import measures since June 17 this year.

"It also covers categories 331 (cotton gloves), 338/339 (cotton knit shirts), 348 (women's cotton pants) and 350 (cotton dressing gown) which have been placed on a US watch list since September 1."

Under the Special Surrender Scheme, quota holders of the specified categories may from today to November 16 surrender to the Trade Department any balances of their own quotas. Companies/registered businesses which surrender their quotas in these categories under the scheme will:

- a) receive an allocation entitlement in 1997 in the corresponding category equivalent to 100% of the quantity surrendered; and
- b) have their quota entitlement for 1997 in the corresponding category calculated on the basis of shipment performance against the original allocation less the quantity surrendered under the scheme.

The spokesman said that during this period, the Special Surrender Scheme would replace the normal 1996 Surrender Scheme for the specified categories.

"Quotas in the specified categories surrendered under the normal 1996 Surrender Scheme between June 17 and November 4 will be deemed to have been surrendered under this Special Surrender Scheme and will be subject to the special terms of surrender," he added.

The spokesman reminded traders that companies which had from today to November 11 submitted applications for free quotas under Phase II of the 1996 Free Quotas Export Authorisation Scheme III would not be allowed to surrender their own quota holdings in the same category under the Special Surrender Scheme.

On the other hand, the spokesman continued, traders who had applied for surrender of quotas under this scheme would not be allowed to apply for free quotas in the same category under the above-mentioned free quota scheme.

Companies which have surrendered quotas under the Special Surrender Scheme may nonetheless apply for free quotas under the 1996 Year-End Special Shipment Scheme (YESSS) to be operated in December. However, they will not be entitled to any allocation in 1997 against their free quota performance under the YESSS in the category in which they have surrendered quotas.

Interested companies should complete an application form obtainable from the Trade Department and return it by hand to Counters Nos 23 and 24 of the Trade Department's USA Textiles Licensing Office on B1 floor, Trade Department Tower, 700 Nathan Road, Kowloon at or before 12.30 pm on November 16.

Late applications will not be accepted. Applications once submitted cannot be withdrawn. Applicants will be informed in writing on or before November 23 whether their applications for surrender of quotas have been approved.

For further enquiries, the following officers should be contacted:

Mr W L Shum 2398 5419) Group II Cotton Garment
Ms Y K To 2398 5420) Quota Categories

Miss C T Ho 2398 5421) Group II Man-made Fibre Garment
Quota Categories

Mr K C Yu 2398 5422) Group II Wool and Man-made
Fibre Garment Quota Categories

End

Consultant to advise on selection of global custodian

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The Treasury has appointed Towers Perrin Forster & Crosby, Inc, an international consulting organisation, to advise on the selection of a global custodian for assets of the Grant Schools Provident Fund and the Subsidised Schools Provident Fund.

The Funds are statutory defined-contribution retirement schemes covering teachers employed by the grant schools and subsidised schools respectively.

Currently, the combined assets of the Funds amount to over HK\$20 billion. The global custodian will be appointed to administer assets (for example, overseas quoted shares and fixed interest securities) placed under the management of external managers which will initially amount to about HK\$5 billion. Certain classes of assets (for example, fixed interest securities) managed internally by the Treasury for the Funds may also be placed under the custody of the global custodian subject to services and fees being appropriate.

Towers Perrin will be using its specialist team experienced in conducting custodian searches on this assignment. The team members include Greg Cooper, Director of Actuarial and Asset Consulting at Towers Perrin, Hong Kong and David Taplin, Director of Custody Consulting at Towers Perrin, Australia.

It is envisaged that request for proposals will be invited this month (November) from the short-list of providers of global custody services compiled by Towers Perrin and that implementation of the new custody arrangement would occur around February next year.

End

Appointment to the Hong Kong Securities Clearing Company

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The Financial Secretary has appointed Mr. Michael Liu, a solicitor, and re-appointed Professor Chan Yuk-shee, Messrs Stuart Leckie and Denis Ho, as independent directors of the Hong Kong Securities Clearing Company Limited (HKSCC) for two years until the date of the 1998 Annual General Meeting of the HKSCC.

Announcing this today (Tuesday), a Financial Services Branch spokesman said: "Under the Articles of Association of the HKSCC, the Financial Secretary may at any time appoint not more than five persons as directors of the HKSCC to represent the public interest.

"The fifth independent director is Mr Derek Murphy," he added.

End

Hong Kong Urban Heritage special stamps to be on sale

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The Postmaster General Mr Robert Footman, announced today (Tuesday) that a set of special stamps on the theme of Hong Kong Urban Heritage would be issued on November 20 (Wednesday).

This set of stamps depicts four of the old western style buildings in Hong Kong. The \$1.30 stamp depicts the Main Building of the University of Hong Kong. The \$2.5 stamp depicts Western Market. The \$3.1 stamp depicts the Old Pathological Institute and the \$5 stamp depicts Flagstaff House.

"Like the Hong Kong Rural Heritage stamps issued in May 1995, this set of stamps has two main features which make them a prestigious collection," Mr Footman said.

"First, they are printed by both Lithography and Intaglio. Second, the stamps are printed in mini-sheets of ten, instead of 50 as is the normal practice. The sheets have a selvage featuring the special architectural designs of the building which are also printed in intaglio."

The stamps were designed by Mr Tommy Li and printed by Ashton-Potter (USA) Ltd.

As from tomorrow (Wednesday), the stamps will be on display for the advance information of the public at the General Post Office, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Tsuen Wan Post Office and Sha Tin Central Post Office. Official first day covers will be put on sale at all post offices at \$1 each as from the same day. Advance orders for serviced first day covers will be accepted at all post offices from tomorrow to November 13. The minimum number of covers per order is five.

A restriction of two sheets (20 pieces) of stamps of each denomination (that is 20 sets of stamps) per customer queuing will be imposed on the first day of issue.

A beautifully designed presentation pack containing the four stamps will be available for sale at \$20 each at all post offices as from November 20.

Serviced first day covers affixed with the set of stamps and cancelled with the first day of issue postmark will be placed on sale on November 20 at the following 19 philatelic offices at \$15.4 each:

Airport Post Office	Mong Kok Post Office
Aberdeen Post Office	Peak Post Office
Cheung Chau Post Office	Sha Tin Central Post Office
Cheung Sha Wan Post Office	Shau Kei Wan Post Office
General Post Office	Tai Po Post Office
Granville Road Post Office	Tuen Mun Central Post Office
Harcourt Road Post Office	Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office
Hennessy Road Post Office	Tsuen Wan Post Office
Kowloon Central Post Office	Yuen Long Post Office
Kowloon City Post Office	

On the first day of issue, hand-back service will be provided at all post offices to official and privately-made covers bearing indication of the first day of issue on November 20.

As on previous occasions of first day issue of new stamps, the following 22 post offices will open at 8 am on November 20:-

Hong Kong

General Post Office, Aberdeen, Shau Kei Wan, Sai Ying Pun, Tsat Tse Mui, Wan Chai, Wah Fu

Outlying Islands

Cheung Chau

Kowloon

Tsim Sha Tsui, Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon Central, Kowloon City,
Kwun Tong, Tseung Kwan O, To Kwa Wan

New Territories

Yuen Long, Sha Tin Central, Sai Kung, Shek Wu Hui, Tuen Mun Central,
Tai Po, Tsuen Wan

End

Joint stamp exhibition with five Guangdong cities

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The Postmaster General, Mr Robert Footman, announced today (Tuesday) that the Hong Kong Post office would jointly hold a stamp exhibition with the Guangdong Philatelic Company (China) from November 14 to 18 at five cities in Guangdong.

The five cities are: Guangzhou (exhibition on November 14), Panyu (November 15), Shunde (November 16), Zhongshan (November 17) and Zhuhai (November 18).

To commemorate the exhibition, a specially designed souvenir cover will be placed on sale at all post offices at \$2 each as from Saturday (November 9).

A special postmark and a cachet for general cancellation purpose will be introduced at all post offices on November 14. Hand-back service will be provided at all post offices to official and privately-made covers bearing an indication of the event on November 14.

The cachet will also be available for cancellation at the exhibition venues during the five days of exhibition.

End

247 VMs depart on orderly repatriation flights

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Two groups totalling 247 Vietnamese migrants (VMs) returned by air to Hanoi, Vietnam today (Tuesday) on the 71st and 72nd flights under the Orderly Repatriation Programme (ORP).

The majority of the returnees, comprising 92 men, 63 women, 47 boys and 45 girls, are from South and Central Vietnam. Twenty-two of the returnees are from North Vietnam.

Most of them arrived in Hong Kong in 1990, with the remaining in 1988, 1989, 1991, 1995 and 1996.

The two groups brought to 6,936 the total number repatriated on ORP flights since November 1991.

End

Monitors' report submitted to CS

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The monitors appointed to observe the Orderly Repatriation Programme operation this (Tuesday) morning have submitted their report to the Chief Secretary.

The two monitors comprised a non-official Justice of the Peace, Mr Yip Wah ; and representative from a non-government organisation, Mr Thierry Taveaux from Medecins Sans Frontieres.

End

Taxpayer fined for making incorrect tax returns

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A taxpayer pleaded guilty in the Sha Tin Magistracy of making incorrect statements in his Salaries Tax Return and Tax Return - Individuals without reasonable excuse, contrary to Section 80(2)(b) of the Inland Revenue Ordinance.

The defendant was fined a total of \$18,000 today (Tuesday).

Ho Chi-kwong, was charged with making incorrect claims for dependent parent allowance in his tax returns for the years of assessment 1992/93 and 1993/94.

Despite the death of his mother on July 13, 1991, the defendant still put down his mother's name on his tax returns and claimed for the Dependent Parent Allowance for the aforesaid years of assessment.

A spokesman of the Inland Revenue Department today reminded taxpayers that they must file correct tax returns.

Under the Inland Revenue Ordinance, a tax evader is liable to a maximum sentence of three years' imprisonment and a fine of \$50,000 on each charge, in addition to a further fine equivalent to three times the amount of tax undercharged.

End

Sex education course for primary school teachers

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Schools heads are invited to nominate teachers of their schools to attend a four-half-day course on sex education for primary schools teachers this month (November).

Organised by the Education Department, the course aims at introducing the content and methods of sex education in primary schools and enhancing teachers' understanding on selected sex education topics, including puberty, child abuse and AIDS.

The course will also help the participants to appraise their readiness for conducting sex education and to enable them to share experiences relating to sex education.

Speakers of the course include experts from the Education Department, the Department of Health and Against Child Abuse.

The course will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from November 26 to December 5 at Hong Kong Teachers' Centre at Pak Fuk Road, North Point.

An attendance certificate issued by the Education Department will be awarded to teachers who have successfully completed the course.

Completed reply slip should be returned to the Biological Science Section, Advisory Inspectorate, Education Department at Room 1208, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai on or before November 13 (Wednesday).

For enquiries, please call 2892 6547 or 2892 6548.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

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Tender date	5 Nov 1996	5 Nov 1996
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q645	H677
Issue date	6 Nov 1996	6 Nov 1996
Maturity date	5 Feb 1997	7 May 1997
Amount applied	HK\$8,240 MN	HK\$4,330 MN
Amount allotted	HK\$1,500 MN	HK\$800 MN
Average yield accepted	4.92 PCT	4.97 PCT
Highest yield accepted	4.93 PCT	4.99 PCT
Pro rata ratio	About 54 PCT	About 30 PCT
Average tender yield	4.95 PCT	5.01 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Tenders to be held in the week beginning 11 Nov 1996

Tender date	11 Nov 1996	12 Nov 1996
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	2811	Q646
Issue date	12 Nov 1996	13 Nov 1996
Maturity date	12 Nov 1996	12 Feb 1997
Tenor	2 years	91 days
Amount on offer	HK\$500+100 MN	HK\$2,000+500 MN
Coupon	5.72 PCT	

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,355	0930	+545
Closing balance in the account	2,349	1000	+545
Change attributable to:		1100	+545
Money market activity	+544	1200	+544
LAF today	- 550	1500	+544
		1600	+544

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.7 *+0.0* 5.11.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/MTRC				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.93	2 years	2808	6.00	100.61	5.71
1 month	4.93	3 years	3910	6.28	100.59	6.15
3 months	4.95	5 years	5109	7.32	102.93	6.71
6 months	5.00	7 years	7308	7.24	101.59	7.06
12 months	5.27	10 years	1610	7.37	100.94	7.37
		5 years	M503	7.35	101.71	7.04

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$8,833 million

Closed November 5, 1996

End