



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1976

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EXPORTS UP BY NEARLY 60 PER CENT IN JANUARY  
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THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR JANUARY 1976 ROSE BY \$948 MILLION OR 58 PER CENT TO \$2,582 MILLION COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1975.

ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 34.5 PER CENT AND THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS BY 41.8 PER CENT COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1975.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, COMMENTING ON THE TRADE FIGURES, SAID THE DEPARTMENT DID NOT CONSIDER THAT THESE FIGURES REPRESENTED A TRUE GROWTH RATE.

LUNAR NEW YEAR BEGAN ON JANUARY 31, 1976 AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CUSTOM, MANY FACTORIES WOULD HAVE RUSHED TO COMPLETE OUTSTANDING ORDERS BEFORE THE ONSET OF THIS TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY PERIOD.

ADDITIONALLY, THE PENALTY CHARGES FOR LATE SUBMISSION OF TRADE DECLARATIONS WERE DOUBLED IN JANUARY AND SOME OF THE INCREASE IN RECORDED TRADE FOR JANUARY NO DOUBT REFLECTED MANUFACTURERS' ATTEMPTS TO AVOID SUBMITTING LATE DECLARATIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT BECAUSE OF THESE FACTORS IT WAS NOT EXPECTED THAT THE SAME HIGH GROWTH RATE WOULD BE MAINTAINED IN FEBRUARY.

THE FIGURES FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 1975 TO JANUARY 1976 COMPARED WITH THOSE OF THE PREVIOUS 12-MONTH PERIOD SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF 5.1 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 0.6 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 1.8 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE FOLLOWING TABLE WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES IS GIVEN FOR YOUR REFERENCE: -

DOMESTIC EXPORTS	:	\$2,582 MILLION
IMPORTS	:	\$3,236 MILLION
RE-EXPORTS	:	\$ 730 MILLION

/COMPARATIVE .....

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COMPARATIVE FIGURES

	<u>JANUARY 1976</u>	<u>JANUARY 1975</u>	<u>INCREASE OR DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	2,582 (78.0%)	1,635 (76.0%)	+ 948	+ 58.0
IMPORTS	3,236	2,406	+ 830	+ 34.5
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	730 (22.0%)	515 (24.0%)	+ 215	+ 41.8
	<u>NOV. 1975 TO JAN. 1976</u>	<u>NOV. 1974 TO JAN. 1975</u>	<u>INCREASE OR DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	7,130	5,177	+ 1,953	+ 37.7
IMPORTS	9,774	7,522	+ 2,252	+ 29.9
RE-EXPORTS	2,012	1,608	+ 404	+ 25.1
	<u>FEB. 1975 TO JAN. 1976</u>	<u>FEB. 1974 TO JAN. 1975</u>	<u>INCREASE OR DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	23,806	22,651	+ 1,156	+ 5.1
IMPORTS	34,302	34,093	+ 208	+ 0.6
RE-EXPORTS	7,188	7,064	+ 124	+ 1.8

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NO INCREASE IN TAXI FARES  
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS REACTED SHARPLY TO REPORTS IN SEVERAL CHINESE AND ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS THAT TAXI FARES MIGHT BE INCREASED FOLLOWING THE RECENT RISE IN DIESEL FUEL PRICES.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF A TAXI AND LORRY OWNERS ASSOCIATION HAD CALLED FOR AN INCREASE IN TAXI FARES AND WAS WIDELY QUOTED AS SAYING THAT BUS FARES HAD GONE UP TWICE IN THREE MONTHS.

+THIS IS NOT SO,+ HE SAID. +FARES ON TRAMS AND THE STAR FERRY WERE INCREASED IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR AND CMB BUS FARES ON MARCH 1.+

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE EXTRA 30 CENTS A GALLON ON DIESEL FUEL ANNOUNCED IN LAST WEEK'S BUDGET WOULD HAVE +ONLY A FRACTIONAL EFFECT ON OPERATING COSTS.+ HE SAID THIS WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY A CHANGE IN TAXI FARES.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD PERMITTED TAXIS, AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, TO DISPLAY INTERNAL ADVERTISING SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR.

+THIS WILL BRING IN ABOUT \$2,500 A YEAR EXTRA INCOME FOR EACH OF THE 4,754 TAXIS,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, WHEN METRICATION IS INTRODUCED IN 1977, TAXI FARES WILL BE BASED ON KILOMETRE DISTANCES. THE PRESENT CHARGES WILL HAVE TO BE REVIEWED THEN.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT PROPOSALS ON THE NEW RATES WILL BE CONSIDERED LATER IN THE YEAR.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1976

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EMPLOYERS URGED TO SUPPORT TRAINING SURVEY  
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A LARGE-SCALE SURVEY ON THE TRAINING NEEDS AND PROBLEMS IN COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES SECTORS IN HONG KONG WILL BE CONDUCTED BETWEEN MARCH 4 AND MARCH 18.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT A PRESS CONFERENCE BY MR. RAYMOND NEALE, CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE ON TRAINING IN COMMERCE AND SERVICES.

HE SAID THAT QUESTIONNAIRES AND EXPLANATORY LETTERS, WHICH ARE BI-LINGUAL IN MOST CASES, WILL BE SENT TO EMPLOYERS AT NEARLY 2,000 SELECTED ESTABLISHMENTS COVERED BY THE SURVEY - THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THESE SECTORS.

THE SURVEY WILL ENABLE THE COMMITTEE TO ASSESS THE TRAINING NEEDS AND PROBLEMS IN SUCH SPHERES AS JOURNALISM, HOTEL WORK, TOURISM, BANKING, INSURANCE, ACCOUNTANCY AND ALLIED FIELDS, AND BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT IN RESPECT OF THESE ESTABLISHMENTS, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS.

IN THE QUESTIONNAIRES, EMPLOYERS ARE ASKED TO SUPPLY THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION :

- \* THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES CURRENTLY EMPLOYED AND TRAINEES IN CERTAIN SPECIFIC JOBS,
- \* THE TRAINING AVAILABLE TO TRAINEES,
- \* THE NUMBER OF EXISTING VACANCIES, IN THESE JOBS, AND
- \* A FORECAST OF NEW EMPLOYEES IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, WHERE POSSIBLE.

MR. NEALE CALLED ON EMPLOYERS TO EXTEND FULL SUPPORT TO THE SURVEY BY COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRES.

HE ASSURED THEM THAT THE INFORMATION COLLECTED WOULD BE HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WOULD BE PUBLISHED ONLY IN THE FORM OF STATISTICAL SUMMARIES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENT. HE FURTHER STATED THAT THE ANSWERS WOULD IN NO WAY COMMIT THE EMPLOYERS.

DURING THE SURVEY PERIOD, INTERVIEWING OFFICERS WILL VISIT ALL SELECTED ESTABLISHMENTS OTHER THAN HOTELS AND BANKS TO COLLECT COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES.

THEY CAN BE CALLED UPON TO ASSIST IN COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRES, IF SUCH SERVICE IS NEEDED.

THE MANAGEMENT OF HOTELS AND BANKS ARE REQUESTED TO RETURN THEIR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES BY POST.

THE SURVEY WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, TWO UNIVERSITIES AND THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

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GOVERNOR TO ATTEND SPRING RECEPTION

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL ATTEND THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT'S SPRING RECEPTION ON FRIDAY (MARCH 5) AT THE CITY HALL RESTAURANT.

THE GUESTS INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE AND URBAN COUNCILS, REPRESENTATIVES OF VOLUNTARY BODIES, CITY DISTRICT COMMITTEES, AREA COMMITTEES, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AS WELL AS KAIFONG LEADERS.

DURING THE RECEPTION, SIR MURRAY WILL PROPOSE A TOAST FOR THE OCCASION.

MR. JOHN WALDEN, DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR. AUGUSTINE CHUI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, AND SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE PRESENT TO RECEIVE THE GUESTS.

THE RECEPTION WILL START AT 5.30 P.M.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE RECEPTION.

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FIRE VICTIMS ASKED TO COLLECT DONATIONS

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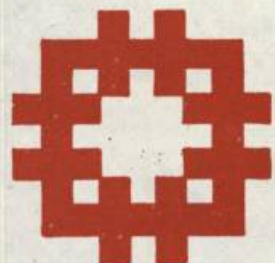
VICTIMS OF THE ALDRICH BAY FIRE WHO HAVE NOT PICKED UP THEIR SHARE OF PUBLIC DONATIONS ARE ASKED TO DO SO BEFORE 5 P.M. ON MARCH 12 (FRIDAY).

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID : +THESE ARE THE VICTIMS WHO DID NOT TURN UP ON FEBRUARY 13 AND 20 TO COLLECT A CHEQUE FOR \$628 FROM MONEY RAISED BY HK-TV8 AND \$110 FROM THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND.

+THEY ARE NOW ADVISED TO CALL AT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AT LEE GARDENS ANY TIME DURING OFFICE HOURS BEFORE MARCH 12. THEY SHOULD BRING WITH THEM THEIR REGISTRATION CARDS FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES.+

IF THEY FAILED TO TURN UP BY THEN, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, THEIR SHARES, TOGETHER WITH THE BALANCE OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED, WOULD BE EVENLY DISTRIBUTED TO THE OTHER VICTIMS ON A DAY TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

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HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY 香港房屋委員會

PRESS  
RELEASE

新聞稿

Wednesday, March 3, 1976

\$35M EXTENSION TO WAH FU ESTATE

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Two more huge housing blocks and a commercial centre will be added to the Housing Authority's popular Wah Fu Estate to meet the need for public housing in the Aberdeen area.

A \$35.8 million contract was today awarded to a local construction firm for the building works.

The Director of Housing, Mr. Donald P.H. Liao, signed the contract on behalf of the Housing Authority.

The two new twin-tower blocks will be built on a nine-acre site opposite Wah Hing and Wah Sang House. Together, they will provide 1,434 self-contained flats for about 10,700 people.

The six-storey commercial complex, planned to meet the additional shopping and marketing demand of the increased population, will accommodate a restaurant, some 30 shops and a number of market stalls, a car park and premises for service trades.

Architects responsible for the project have devised a system of linked elevated pedestrian decks joining the two 22 and 24 storeyed blocks with the bus terminus and the commercial block.

Construction is expected to begin later this month and be completed in about 24 months.

The population of Wah Fu Estate will increase to about 55,000 when fully developed in mid-1978.

### 增建三座大廈

一九七六年三月三日

華富邨擴建部份

星期三

本月內開始建築

房屋委員會轄下的華富邨，將增建兩座住宅大廈及一座商場大廈，以增加在香港仔區的公共樓宇，並供應更多購物場所。

一份三千五百八十萬元的建築合約，已批與本港一間營造公司。

房屋署長廖本懷，今日（星期三）代表房屋委員會簽署該合約。

增建的兩座雙塔式大廈，將在華興樓及華生樓對面一幅九英畝的土地興建，落成後共有獨立式居住單位一千四百卅四個，約可容一萬零七百人。

商場大廈樓高六層，內有一間酒樓，約三十間舖位及一批市場攤位、一個停車場及經營服務行業的場所。該等購物場所，可足夠應付人口增加後的需求。

兩座廿二層與廿四層高的大廈，及巴士總站與商場大廈之間，將有架空的行人通路相連。

建築工程預算於本月稍後開始，約需時廿四個月完工。

華富邨於一九七八年中期全部落成時，住客將增至五萬五千人左右。