



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1978

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PRICE AND QUANTITY INDEXES OF  
HK EXTERNAL TRADE  
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THE PRICES AND VOLUMES OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN 1977 ALL REGISTERED INCREASES COMPARED WITH 1976, ACCORDING TO TRADE FIGURES RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY.

THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN 1977 ROSE BY TWO PER CENT, AND VOLUME UP BY FIVE PER CENT= WHILE THOSE FOR IMPORTS WERE UP BY FIVE PER CENT AND EIGHT PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. FOR RE-EXPORTS, THE INCREASES WERE EIGHT PER CENT IN PRICES AND TWO PER CENT IN VOLUME.

WITH PRICES OF IMPORTS RISING FASTER THAN EXPORTS, THE TRADE INDEX FELL FROM 100 IN 1976 TO 99 IN 1977.

THE PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES= AND CHANGES IN VOLUME OF TRADE ARE DERIVED FROM TRADE VALUES, LESS THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PROVIDES THE UNIT VALUES AND QUANTUM INDEXES FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES IN 1976 AND 1977:

(BASE YEAR 1973 = 100)

	VALUE IN 1977 (HK\$ MN)	UNIT VALUE INDEX		QUANTUM INDEX	
		1977	% CHANGE 1977/1976	1977	% CHANGE 1977/1976
ALL DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE EXPORTS	35,004	132	+ 2%	136	+ 5%
CLOTHING (EXCEPT FUR)	13,679	140	+ 1%	132	- 4%
TRANSISTORISED RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	2,144	124	+ 5%	149	+ 9%
TEXTILE FABRICS	1,931	115	UNCHANGED	97	-18%
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,694	146	+ 1%	396	+39%
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	1,411	109	-13%	139	+42%

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METAL MANUFACTURES	1,096	136	+ 3%	132	+17%
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	426	108	- 4%	95	+ 9%
FOOTWEAR	365	121	UNCHANGED	113	+ 7%
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	291	165	+16%	83	-14%
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	160	101	- 7%	108	+22%

THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS SHOWED A MIXED TREND WITH A MODERATE INCREASE IN PRICES FOR TRANSISTORISED RADIOS AND METAL MANUFACTURES AND A SIGNIFICANT DIP IN THOSE FOR ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS, METAL ORES AND SCRAP. PRICES FOR CLOTHING AND TEXTILE FABRICS WERE STABLE OVER THE YEAR BECAUSE OF REDUCED OVERSEAS DEMAND.

IN VOLUME TERMS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS AND ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS SHOWED OUTSTANDING GROWTH RATES OF 39 PER CENT AND 42 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN CONTRAST TO THE FALLING RATES FOR CLOTHING, TEXTILE FABRICS AND TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES.

EXPORT VOLUMES OF THE OTHER TYPES OF PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES INCREASED AT DIFFERENT PACES.

THE PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF IMPORTS CLASSIFIED BY END-USE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(BASE YEAR 1973 = 100 )

	VALUE IN 1977 (HK\$ MN)	UNIT VALUE INDEX		QUANTUM INDEX	
		1977	% CHANGE 1977/1976	1977	% CHANGE 1977/1976
ALL MERCHANDISE IMPORTS	48,701	134	+ 5%	125	+ 8%
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	20,391	128	+ 3%	129	+ 3%
CONSUMER GOODS	11,436	123	+ 7%	126	+15%
FOODSTUFFS	7,541	133	+ 4%	112	+ 5%
CAPITAL GOODS	6,500	147	+ 5%	129	+13%
FUELS	2,834	314	+ 3%	124	+ 8%

/PRICES FOR .....

PRICES FOR RAW MATERIALS WERE COMPARATIVELY STABLE, INCREASING BY THREE PER CENT.

THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS ROSE BY THREE PER CENT IN THE YEAR BECAUSE OF DECLINING VOLUMES OF IMPORTS OF RAW COTTON, (-22 PER CENT), WOVEN COTTON FABRICS (-15 PER CENT), COTTON YARN AND THREAD (-34 PER CENT) AND DYEING, TANNING AND COLOURING MATERIALS (-17 PER CENT).

THE MORE CONSPICUOUS INCREASES IN IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS OCCURRED IN YARN OF WOOL AND MIXTURES (+53 PER CENT), CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING MATERIALS (+34 PER CENT) AND FABRICS OF WOOL AND MIXTURES (+31 PER CENT).

BOTH THE PRICES AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS DISPLAYED AN UPTREND. DEMAND FOR CONSUMER GOODS WAS PARTICULARLY STRONG IN 1977, WITH REMARKABLE INCREASES REGISTERED FOR PASSENGER MOTOR CARS (+43 PER CENT), CAMERAS AND PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS (+31 PER CENT) AND RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS AND TAPE RECORDERS (+24 PER CENT).

THE VOLUME OF IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS ROSE BY FIVE PER CENT WHILE THE UNIT VALUE INDEX ROSE BY FOUR PER CENT.

IMPORT PRICES OF SEVERAL ESSENTIAL FOOD ITEMS, INCLUDING FRUIT (+11 PER CENT), VEGETABLES (+16 PER CENT), FISH AND FISH PREPARATIONS (+15 PER CENT) SHOWED SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, PRICES FOR RICE (-6 PER CENT) WHEAT AND FLOUR (-22 PER CENT) AND SUGAR (-32 PER CENT) DROPPED.

PRONOUNCED INCREASES IN THE VOLUME OF IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS OCCURRED IN SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL AND LARD (+28 PER CENT), SUGAR (+15 PER CENT), CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS (+14 PER CENT) AND MILK, BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS (+10 PER CENT).

FUEL PRICES GAINED THREE PER CENT WITH VOLUME UP BY EIGHT PER CENT. IN VOLUME TERMS, THE IMPORTS OF LIQUID FUEL, COMPRISING 99 PER CENT OF FUEL IMPORTS, INCREASED BY EIGHT PER CENT.

REFLECTING BUOYANT DEMAND FOR CAPITAL GOODS, THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS ADVANCED BY 13 PER CENT WITH PRICES INCREASING ON THE AVERAGE BY FIVE PER CENT.

THE MOST REMARKABLE INCREASE IN VOLUME WAS RECORDED IN TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (+78 PER CENT), MAINLY DUE TO THE IMPORTS OF AIRCRAFT AND SHIPS AND PARTS.

IMPORT VOLUMES OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY (+28 PER CENT) AND SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL AND OPTICAL INSTRUMENTS (+26 PER CENT) INCREASED AT A BRISK PACE. A DROP IN VOLUME WAS REGISTERED FOR TEXTILE MACHINERY (-36 PER CENT).

ON RE-EXPORTS, THE INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF FUELS (+46 PER CENT) TOOK THE LEAD, FOLLOWED BY CAPITAL GOODS (+26 PER CENT) AND RAW MATERIALS (+12 PER CENT). DECLINING RATES WERE RECORDED FOR THE VOLUMES OF CONSUMER GOODS WHICH DROPPED BY TWO PER CENT AND FOODSTUFFS WHICH DIPPED BY 29 PER CENT.

(NOTE: PRICE INDEXES WHICH ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES, HAVE NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED.)

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TEACHERS' SEMINAR ON NEW CHEMISTRY SYLLABUS  
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THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. ARTHUR BROWN, TODAY COMPLIMENTED TEACHERS ON THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ADOPT THE NEW CHEMISTRY SYLLABUS.

MR. BROWN WHO IS ALSO THE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF A SEMINAR AT THE DIOCESAN BOYS' SCHOOL FOR TEACHERS ADOPTING THE NEW FORM 4-5 CURRICULUM IN CHEMISTRY.

HE SAID: +IT WAS ALWAYS HARD GOING CHANGING TO A NEW CURRICULUM ~~ESPECIALLY WHEN IT WAS AT THE FORM 4-5 LEVEL AND AN~~ EXAMINATION SUBJECT. TEACHERS GOT USED TO AN EXAMINATION AND IT TOOK AN ACT OF FAITH AND COURAGE TO ABANDON THE KNOWN AND ENTER A NEW FIELD WITH A NEW EXAMINATION.+

THE NEW SYLLABUS WAS DESIGNED FOR CLASSES WHICH HAD BEEN FOLLOWING THE NOW POPULAR INTEGRATED SCIENCE SYLLABUS AT FORMS 1-3. ALTHOUGH THESE SCHOOLS COULD STILL PREPARE FOR THE STANDARD CHEMISTRY EXAMINATION, IT WAS FELT THAT THE NEW SYLLABUS GAVE MORE OPPORTUNITY FOR FOLLOWING THE ENQUIRY APPROACH THAN THE FORMER SYLLABUS AND THE CURRICULUM INCORPORATED GUIDES DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE THAT APPROACH.

WITH REGARD TO INTEGRATED SCIENCE IN THE LOWER FORMS, MR. BROWN SAID HE WAS MOST ENCOURAGED BY THE SPREAD OF THIS SUBJECT WHICH SEEMED MORE MEANINGFUL THAN THE OLD GENERAL SCIENCE OR THE THREE SEPARATE SUBJECTS OF PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY AND BIOLOGY.

HE SAID OVER 200 SCHOOLS ARE FOLLOWING THIS CURRICULUM IN THEIR LOWER FORMS.

+PERHAPS,+ HE SAID, +THE VALUE OF THIS NEW FORM 4-5 CURRICULUM SHOULD BE JUDGED BY THE TIME IT WILL TAKE FOR 200 SCHOOLS TO FOLLOW IT.+

AT PRESENT 14 OF THE ORIGINAL 20 PILOT SCHOOLS FOR INTEGRATED SCIENCE ARE TAKING THE ALTERNATE CHEMISTRY SYLLABUS BASED ON THE NEW CHEMISTRY CURRICULUM.

MR. BROWN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE NEW SYLLABUS ALLOWS STUDENTS TO EXPERIMENT FREQUENTLY IN THE LABORATORY, TO OBSERVE AND RECORD RESULT, TO HANDLE APPARATUS AND MATERIALS AND TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHERS USING THE BASIC CHEMISTRY LANGUAGE.

THE SEMINAR WAS DESIGNED TO GIVE TEACHERS A CHANCE TO COME TOGETHER TO DISCUSS THEIR COMMON PROBLEMS AND EXCHANGE THEIR VIEWS ON TEACHING APPROACHES IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW SYLLABUS.

IN ADDITION TO TALKS AND DISCUSSIONS AT THE SEMINAR, AN EXHIBITION ON PRACTICAL WORK AND A BOOK EXHIBITION WERE HELD TODAY.

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REMINDER TO PEOPLE LIABLE TO TAX  
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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A PERSON LIABLE TO TAX TO INFORM THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE OF HIS INCOME.

UNDER THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE, A PERSON CHARGEABLE TO TAX FOR ANY YEAR OF ASSESSMENT MUST NOTIFY THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE IN WRITING NOT LATER THAN FOUR MONTHS AFTER THE END OF THAT ASSESSMENT YEAR UNLESS HE HAS ALREADY BEEN REQUIRED TO FURNISH A RETURN FOR THAT YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ANY PERSON WHO CEASES TO CARRY ON A BUSINESS= TO HOLD AN OFFICE OR EMPLOYMENT IN RESPECT OF WHICH SALARIES TAX IS CHARGEABLE= OR TO HAVE A SOURCE OF INCOME IN RESPECT OF WHICH HE IS PERSONALLY ASSESSED, MUST ADVISE THE COMMISSIONER IN WRITING WITHIN ONE MONTH OF SUCH CESSATION.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT ANY PERSON WHO IS CHARGEABLE TO SALARIES, PROFITS, OR PERSONAL TAX AND IS ABOUT TO LEAVE HONG KONG FOR MORE THAN ONE MONTH MUST NOTIFY THE COMMISSIONER IN WRITING AT LEAST ONE MONTH BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE.

+THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO PERSONS WHO ARE REQUIRED TO LEAVE HONG KONG FREQUENTLY IN THE COURSE OF BUSINESS OR EMPLOYMENT,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ALSO REMINDED TAXPAYERS WHO HAVE CHANGED THEIR ADDRESS, TO NOTIFY THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE IN WRITING OF THE PARTICULARS OF THE CHANGE.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN MID-LEVELS AND WAN CHAI  
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FROM 4 P.M. ON MONDAY (MAY 1), MID-LEVELS WILL BE CLOSED TO GOODS VEHICLES FROM 7 A.M. TO 10 A.M. AND 4 P.M. TO 7 P.M. DAILY FROM MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS.

THE RESTRICTION IS DESIGNED TO FORESTALL TRAFFIC CONGESTION WHICH IS EXPECTED AS A RESULT OF THE LIFTING OF STATUTORY RESTRICTIONS ON BUILDING DEVELOPMENT IN MID-LEVELS.

SIGNS TO INDICATE THE RESTRICTION WILL BE SET UP IN BONHAM ROAD, WESTERN STREET, HOSPITAL ROAD, HIGH STREET, CAINE ROAD, ROBINSON ROAD, OLD PEAK ROAD AND COTTON TREE DRIVE.

MEANWHILE, IN WAN CHAI, VEHICLES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER LUN FAT STREET FROM QUEEN'S ROAD EAST FROM 10 A.M. ON MONDAY TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SECTION OF LUN FAT STREET BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 3 AND JOHNSTON ROAD WILL BECOME A CUL-DE-SAC WHICH WILL BE OPEN TO TWO-WAY TRAFFIC TO AND FROM JOHNSTON ROAD.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO ASSIST MOTORISTS.

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BUSINESS HOURS OF KAM TIN POST OFFICE  
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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FROM MONDAY (MAY 1), THE BUSINESS HOURS OF KAM TIN POST OFFICE AT KAM TIN MAIN ROAD, THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE FROM 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M. AND 2.30 P.M. TO 5 P.M. FROM MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS AND FROM 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M. ON SATURDAYS.

THE EXISTING OFFICE HOURS OF THAT POST OFFICE ARE FROM 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M. AND 2.15 P.M. TO 5 P.M. FROM MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS AND 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M. ON SATURDAYS.

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