



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Enduring Powers of Attorney Bill gazetted

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The government today (Friday) gazetted an Enduring Powers of Attorney Bill to introduce a relatively simple, effective and inexpensive scheme called an enduring power of attorney, for a person to manage the property and financial affairs of another person who has become mentally incapacitated.

The Bill will be introduced for First Reading and commencement of Second Reading in the Legislative Council on January 8.

Also gazetted today for introduction in the Legislative Council is a complementary Powers of Attorney (Amendment) Bill 1996.

A government spokesman explained that a power of attorney is a formal arrangement whereby one person (the donor) gives another person (the attorney or donee) authority to act on his behalf and in his name.

In Hong Kong, once a person becomes incapacitated, the only way another person can lawfully act on that person's behalf is by being appointed by the High Court as a receiver to manage the incapacitated person's property and affairs under the Court's direction.

The donor's loss of mental capacity has, as a general rule, the effect of automatically revoking a power of attorney, so that the attorney no longer has actual authority.

"However, the cost, formalities and time involved in making an application for the appointment of a receiver and subsequent applications for the Court's approval of specific transactions often deter the donor's relatives from approaching the Court for legal assistance," the spokesman said.

He pointed out that in response to similar problems, many jurisdictions overseas have enacted legislation allowing the creation of a new device called an "enduring power of attorney", which is not revoked by the mental incapacity of its donor.

The proposed scheme in Hong Kong incorporates provisions from a variety of models in other jurisdictions and is relatively simple, effective and inexpensive as compared with the present English scheme.

There will also be a uniform definition of "mental incapacity" for all purposes in connection with both an ordinary or enduring power of attorney introduced to replace the common law meaning of the term.

End

Flood protection embankment for Chau Tau Tsuen

* * * * *

The Government proposes to construct a flood protection embankment to alleviate flooding in Chau Tau Tsuen in Yuen Long.

The proposed flood protection works are part of the Government's overall flood control programme for the northwest New Territories.

Works will also include construction of an ancillary maintenance road around the periphery of Chau Tau Tsuen, a flood water storage pond, a pumping station and ancillary drainage facilities.

Construction will commence in February next year for completion in June 1999.

To enable the works to be carried out, a notice was published in the Government Gazette today (Friday) announcing Government's plans to resume 85 private agricultural lots covering a total area of 28,097.4 square metres.

Details of the lots affected are contained in the Gazette notice.

The clearance will involve both private and Government land. In accordance with Government policy, landowners will be offered cash compensation at 50 per cent of the current basic ex-gratia compensation rate.

Ex-gratia allowances will be paid to displaced cultivators and fish pond operators for the loss of crops, fruit trees, bamboos, flowers, wells, fences, gates, irrigation pipes and fish ponds. "Tun Fu" ceremonial fees will also be paid where appropriate.

The owners and occupiers of the private land affected may make statutory claims under the Crown Lands Resumption Ordinance and, if their claims cannot be settled by agreement, they may apply to the Lands Tribunal for decision.

Plans of the affected area can be seen at the Yuen Long District Lands Office, ninth floor, Yuen Long Government Offices and Tai Kiu Market, 2 Kiu Lok Square, Yuen Long, New Territories.

End

Application deadline for BNSS dependants

* * * * *

The Government today (Friday) reminded successful applicants of the British Nationality Selection Scheme (BNSS) that the applications by their spouses and minor children should be submitted on or before December 31, 1996.

All successful principal applicants were individually notified of the deadline between July and October last year or when they were registered, a Government spokesman said.

"Children born before the principal beneficiary's registration as a British citizen under the Scheme are eligible to apply provided that they are under the age of 18 on the date of application," he said.

Those children and the spouses of successful principal applicants of the BNSS should apply to the Immigration Department before the end of this year if they have not done so.

Children born after the principal beneficiary's registration need not apply, as they are British citizens by descent.

Applications can be made in person or by registered post. Enquiries can be made by telephone to Immigration Department at 2802 3300.

End

Appointments to Judicial Service Commission announced

* * * * *

The Government announced today (Friday) the appointment of the Hon Mr Justice Gerald Paul Nazareth and Miss Gladys Li, QC, to the Judicial Service Commission.

They will succeed the Hon Mr Justice Henry Litton and Miss Jacqueline Leong, QC.

Five other serving members have been reappointed to the Commission. They are: the Hon Mr Justice Patrick Chan, Mr Roderick Woo, Dr Victor Fung Kwok-king, Mrs Eleanor Ling Ching-man and Sir Joseph E Hotung.

The term of appointment for all members will be for one month from January 1, 1997 to 31 January 1997.

The function of the Judicial Service Commission is to advise the Governor regarding:

- * the filling of vacancies in judicial offices;
- * such representations from a judicial officer concerning conditions of service as may be referred to it by the Governor; and
- * any matter affecting judicial officers which may be prescribed or which the Governor may refer to the Commission.

The ex officio Chairman of the Commission is the Chief Justice and the Attorney General is an ex officio member.

End

Appointment to the Consumer Council

* * * * *

A Government spokesman announced today (Friday) that the Financial Secretary has appointed 15 members to the Consumer Council for a period of one to two years with effect from January 1, 1997.

Eight existing members have been re-appointed to the Consumer Council for a period of two years. They are Mr CHENG Shu-ming, Mr Thomas KWOK Wai-yan, Dr LO Chi-Kin, Mrs Katherine SHUM OU Fai-kuen, Dr Herman TO Yung-sing, Dr TSANG Shu-ki, Dr Michael TSUI Fuk-sun, and Mr Benjamin YU.

Another three members have been re-appointed for a period of one year. They are Mr Lester KWOK Chi-hang, Mr WONG Kwok-kei, and Mr William WU Shu-cherk.

Four new members namely, Professor Andrew CHAN Chi-fai, Mr CHENG Sing-yip, Dr Cyril CHOW Chi-kin, and Professor Karen LAM Siu-ling, have been appointed to the Consumer Council for a period of one year.

Professor Chan is the Associate Dean of Faculty of Business Administration of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Mr Cheng is the principal of Pui Ching Middle School.

Dr Chow is the executive director of a bank.

Professor Lam is a professor in the Department of Medicine of the University of Hong Kong.

Retiring from the Council are Dr Sarah LIAO Sau-tung, Mr CHAN Yan-leung, and Dr SO Kai-ming.

"We are grateful to these retired members for the devotion of their precious time and effort to a highly regarded public service. Their contribution to the work of the Consumer Council has been most useful in promoting consumer interests," the spokesman said.

End

Appointments to the Metrication Committee

* * * * *

The Government announced in the Gazette today (Friday) appointments to the Metrication Committee.

Mr K Y Tongson has been re-appointed Chairman of the Metrication Committee for one year with effect from January 1, 1997.

Miss Anita Bagaman and Mr Chan Chun-fat have newly been appointed to serve as members of the Committee for one year with effect from January 1, 1997.

The Metrication Committee will comprise 16 members, including 11 non-official members. There are five official members coming from the Trade and Industry Branch, Information Services Department, Customs and Excise Department and Home Affairs Department.

"We will seek opportunities for co-operation with the retail sector in the promotion of metrication and co-organise publicity programmes with local organisations," a Government spokesman said.

End

Appointments to the Antiquities Advisory Board

* * * * *

The Governor has re-appointed Professor David Lung Ping-yee as Chairman of the Antiquities Advisory Board, it was announced in the Gazette today (Friday).

Also appointed at the same time are four new members - Mr Andrew Chan Ping-chiu, Dr Choi Chi-cheung, Mr Desmond Hui Cheuk-kuen and Mr Paul Young Tze-kong - and 12 incumbent members.

All the appointments are for a period of two years beginning from 1 January 1997.

The following is a full list of the members of the Antiquities Advisory Board:-

Professor David Lung Ping-yee (Chairman)

Mr Au Ka-fat

Mr Andrew Chan Ping-chiu

Ms Jane Cheng Chee-hing

Dr Choi Chi-cheung

Ms Wailee Chow

Mr Desmond Hui Cheuk-kuen

Mr Mason Hung Chung-hing

Dr Michael Lau Wai-mai

Mr Poon Huen-wai

Mr Abraham Razack

Mrs Pamela Rumball Rogers

Dr Elizabeth Sinn Yuk-yee

Dr Deric Daniel Waters

Mr Paul Young Tze-kong

The Chairman of the Regional Council or his representative

The Chairman of the Urban Council or his representative

End

New Deputy Director of Immigration named

* * * * *

The Government announced today (Friday) that Mr Lee Siu-kwong, Ambrose will assume the post of Deputy Director of Immigration on January 2, 1997.

Aged 48, Mr Lee is at present the Assistant Director of Immigration responsible for Control and Investigation. He joined the Immigration Department in 1974 as an Immigration Officer and was promoted to his present rank in July 1995.

Mr Lee will replace Mr Lee Ka-keung, Christopher, who will proceed on leave on January 2, 1997 prior to retiring from the service after 31 years of commendable service.

End

Public invited to join film advisor scheme

* * * * *

The Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA) is inviting applications from the public to join the statutory panel of advisors on film censorship.

Advisors attend film viewing sessions and give views to censors on the appropriate classification of films.

A spokesman for TELA said the views of these advisors were very useful to the department's censors in classifying films.

"More public participation in the process will help ensure that current censorship standards are consistent with the expectations of the community," the spokesman said.

Some 280 volunteers from all walks of life: teachers, social workers, professionals, housewives, post secondary students are now serving as public advisors on film censorship.

"Those who have reached the age of 18 and are fluent in both English and Chinese are eligible to apply. Application forms are available at TELA, 39th floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai and at various District Offices," the spokesman said.

End

Tai Po DB By-election to be held on February 23

* * * * *

A by-election to fill a seat of the Shuen Wan constituency of the Tai Po District Board will be held on Sunday, February 23, 1997, a spokesman for the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) said today (Friday).

The office of the member of the Shuen Wan constituency was declared vacant in a gazette notice published today following the conviction of the incumbent member, Mr Chan Koon-yau, in early December 1996 of an offence of obtaining property by deception. Mr Chan was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment, suspended for 2 years.

Nomination period for the by-election will be from January 3 to January 16 (both dates inclusive). Nomination forms are available at the Tai Po District Office, second floor, Tai Po Government Offices Building, 1 Ting Kok Road, Tai Po or the REO, 10th floor, Harbour Centre, 25 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

To qualify for nomination, a candidate must satisfy the relevant provisions laid down under the law, e.g. he must be aged 21 or over, be a registered elector and has ordinarily resided in Hong Kong for the three years immediately preceding nomination.

Each nomination must be subscribed by at least 10 registered electors of the constituency.

The Shuen Wan constituency has an electorate of 4,793.

Poll will be held unless the seat is uncontested.

Enquiries may be made to REO on 2827 1122.

End

External trade figures for November

* * * * *

In November 1996, the value of Hong Kong's re-exports and imports showed further increases over a year earlier. Domestic exports however continued to decline year-on-year.

These were shown in the external trade figures for November 1996 released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

The value of total exports (comprising re-exports and domestic exports) in November 1996 increased by 5.1% over a year earlier to \$118.4 billion. The value of re-exports increased by 7% to \$100.4 billion. But the value of domestic exports decreased by 4.4% to \$18 billion. Meanwhile, the value of imports in November 1996 increased by 4.9% over a year earlier to \$131.1 billion.

As the value of total exports in November 1996 was smaller than that of total imports, a visible trade deficit of \$12.6 billion, equivalent to 9.6% of the value of imports, was recorded. The corresponding figures in November 1995 were \$12.3 billion and 9.8%.

For the first eleven months of 1996 as a whole, the value of total exports grew by 4.3% over the same period last year. The value of re-exports rose by 6.9%, while that of domestic exports decreased by 8.3%. The value of imports showed an increase of 3%.

In the first eleven months of 1996, a visible trade deficit of \$12.3 billion, equivalent to 8.8% of the value of imports, was recorded. This was smaller than the deficit of \$134.7 billion, equivalent to 9.9% of the value of imports, recorded in the same period in 1995.

Commenting on the latest trade figures, a Government spokesman said that export performance in November 1996 held steady in overall terms. Although the growth in re-exports decelerated slightly, the decline in domestic exports was smaller. Meanwhile, after declining consecutively for seven months since April, retained imports posted a year-on-year increase of 1.3% in value terms in November. This suggested that the inventory adjustment process by cutting down from the high accumulation rate last year could have started to stabilise.

A more detailed analysis of Hong Kong's external trade for November 1996, by commodity and country, will be released in mid-January 1997.



Census and Statistics Department
Hong Kong
香港政府統計處

External Trade Figures for November 1996

(HK\$ Million)

一九九六年十一月份對外貿易數字

百萬港元

MERCHANDISE TRADE VALUES for November 1996		一九九六年十一月份商品貿易貨值			
Domestic Exports	港產品出口	18,014	18,014		
Re-exports	轉口	100,396	100,396		
Total Exports	整體出口	118,409	118,409		
Imports	進口	131,054	131,054		
Trade balance	貿易差額	-12,644	-12,644		
				Change 變動	
Current month compared with same month last year	本月與去年同期相比	November 1996 一九九六年十一月	November 1995 一九九五年十一月	Value 貨值	% 百分比
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	港產品出口 (佔整體出口百分比)	18,014 (15.2%)	18,845 (16.7%)	-831	-4.4
Re-exports	轉口	100,396	93,805	+6,591	+7.0
Total Exports	整體出口	118,409	112,650	+5,760	+5.1
Imports	進口	131,054	124,950	+6,104	+4.9
Trade balance	貿易差額	-12,644	-12,300	-344	
Current month compared with last month	本月與上月相比	November 1996 一九九六年十一月	October 1996 一九九六年十月		
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	港產品出口 (佔整體出口百分比)	18,014 (15.2%)	19,432 (15.0%)	-1,418	-7.3
Re-exports	轉口	100,396	110,472	-10,076	-9.1
Total Exports	整體出口	118,409	129,904	-11,494	-8.8
Imports	進口	131,054	138,106	-7,052	-5.1
Trade balance	貿易差額	-12,644	-8,202	-4,442	
Latest 3 months compared with same period 12 months earlier	最近三個月與早十二個月 同期相比	Sep 96 to Nov 96 九六年九月至十一月	Sep 95 to Nov 95 九五年九月至十一月		
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	港產品出口 (佔整體出口百分比)	55,701 (14.9%)	60,738 (16.8%)	-5,037	-8.3
Re-exports	轉口	318,691	301,441	+17,251	+5.7
Total Exports	整體出口	374,393	362,179	+12,214	+3.4
Imports	進口	399,757	387,087	+12,670	+3.3
Trade balance	貿易差額	-25,364	-24,908	-456	
Calendar year-to-date compared with same period last year	本年首十一個月與去年 同期相比	Jan-Nov 1996 九六年一月至十一月	Jan-Nov 1995 九五年一月至十一月		
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	港產品出口 (佔整體出口百分比)	193,943 (15.1%)	211,500 (17.2%)	-17,557	-8.3
Re-exports	轉口	1,087,321	1,017,317	+70,004	+6.9
Total Exports	整體出口	1,281,264	1,228,816	+52,447	+4.3
Imports	進口	1,404,218	1,363,477	+40,740	+3.0
Trade balance	貿易差額	-122,954	-134,661	+11,707	
Last 12 months compared with same period 12 months earlier	最近十二個月與再早 十二個月相比	Dec 95 to Nov 96 九五年十二月 至九六年十一月	Dec 94 to Nov 95 九四年十二月 至九五年十一月		
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	港產品出口 (佔整體出口百分比)	214,100 (15.3%)	231,623 (17.4%)	-17,523	-7.6
Re-exports	轉口	1,182,474	1,099,346	+83,128	+7.6
Total Exports	整體出口	1,396,574	1,330,970	+65,605	+4.9
Imports	進口	1,531,861	1,475,080	+56,781	+3.8
Trade balance	貿易差額	-135,287	-144,110	+8,824	

Note: Value of domestic exports and value of re-exports may not add up to the value of total exports due to rounding.

註：由於進位關係，港產品出口貨值加上轉口貨值，可能會與整體出口貨值略有出入。

This sheet can be obtained free of charge from:
Trade Statistics Dissemination Section
Census and Statistics Department
Address: 19/F., Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, H.K.
Tel: 2582 4915 Fax: 2802 1101

本單張可以於下列地點免費索取：
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電話：2582 4915 傳真：2802 1101 12/96

End

Tenders invited for civic centre and school projects

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The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for the design, supply and installation of slide projection, cine projection and subtitle display systems for a civic centre at Yuen Long Tai Yuk Road, Yuen Long.

The project will begin in March 1997 for completion in six months.

Meanwhile, the department is also calling tenders for extension and conversion works, including associated drainage works, for four existing aided schools in the territory.

Works will start in May 1997 for completion in July 1998.

Tender forms and further particulars for both projects can be obtained from the Architectural Services Department, 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Tender offers for the civic centre and the school projects will close at noon on January 17 and January 24 respectively.

End

Tenders invited for security services for Government land

* * * * *

The Lands Department is inviting tenders for provision of security guard services for protection of Government premises and land sites throughout the territory.

The services will be provided under two separate contracts, covering 50 Government premises and open or fenced Government land sites on Hong Kong Island, 110 sites in Kowloon and New Kowloon, and 80 sites in the New Territories.

There are also about 70 sites on Hong Kong Island, 40 sites in Kowloon and New Kowloon and 25 sites in the New Territories which require surveillance by mobile patrols.

Both contracts will last for one year, commencing from April 1 next year.

Details of the tender invitations are contained in the Government Gazette today (Friday).

Forms of tender and further particulars may be obtained from the Village Improvement and Control Section of the Lands Department at rooms 901-903, ninth floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Tenders must be clearly marked and addressed to the Chairman of the Public Works Tender Board. They must be placed in the Public Works Tender Box at the lift lobby on the 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, before noon on Friday, January 17, 1997.

Late tenders will not be accepted.

End

Tenders invited for clearance of Government land

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The Lands Department is inviting tenders for demolition of buildings and clearance and maintenance of Government land on both sides of the harbour.

The demolition works will be carried out under two separate contracts. Works will include demolition of small buildings and clearance of sites of a wide variety of materials, goods and rubbish, and removal of them to dumps, incinerators or other locations for disposal as directed.

Levelling and grading of sites as well as fencing will also be included.

Both contracts will commence in April next year for a period of two years. Details are contained in the Government Gazette published today (Friday).

Forms of tender and further particulars may be obtained from the Village Improvement and Control Section of the Lands Department at rooms 901-903, ninth floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Tenders must be clearly marked and addressed to the Chairman of the Public Works Tender Board. They must be placed in the Public Works Tender Box at the lift lobby on the 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong before noon on Friday, January 17, 1997.

Late tenders will not be accepted.

End

Prequalification exercises for three hospital projects

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The Architectural Services Department is inviting approved contractors to participate in prequalification exercises for three separate hospital projects.

The first project relates to the reprovisioning of Sai Ying Pun Specialist Out-patient Clinic in Western District. Works will include the construction of a 13-storey clinic building, associated drainage and external works.

The second project involves the reprovisioning of South Kwai Chung Specialist Out-patient Clinic. The contract will consist of the construction of an 11-storey clinic building, associated drainage and external works.

The last project comprises the construction of Kowloon Medical Rehabilitation Centre in Central Kowloon. Works will comprise the construction of two inter-linked medical buildings with basement car park, associated drainage and external works.

Those on the Approved Contractors for Public Works List I for Building Works Group C (confirmed) or on the List II for Building Works (confirmed) and with a proven record of carrying out major building contracts of around \$200 million are invited to apply for pre-qualification. Documents can be obtained from Chief Architect/4, Architectural Services Department, 40th floor Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Interested parties may apply for prequalification for one or more of the three projects.

Completed prequalification applications should be submitted as directed not later than noon on Friday, January 17, 1997.

End

Provisional statistics of retail sales for October

* * * * *

The value of total retail sales in October 1996, estimated at \$19.1 billion, increased by 7% compared with October 1995. After discounting the effect of price changes over the period, total retail sales increased by 2% in volume.

These are provisional figures on retail sales released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Compared with a year ago, sales of motor vehicles continued to record a significant increase, by 26% in value and 25% in volume.

Concurrently, sales of most other commodities also recorded increases of various magnitudes in both value and volume terms. These included miscellaneous consumer goods (12% in value and 7% in volume); consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles (6% in both value and volume); and food, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (3% in both value and volume). Sales in supermarkets also went up by 11% in value and 4% in volume.

On the other hand, sales of clothing and footwear rose by 7% in value, but went down by 2% in volume. Similarly, sales in department stores registered an increase of 4% in value, but a decrease of 3% in volume.

Besides, sales of jewellery, watches and clocks and valuable gifts dropped by 2% in value and 3% in volume. Sales of fuels continued to show a decline, by 4% in value and 9% in volume, as a result of continued shift from retail purchases to direct purchases from major fuels suppliers.

Compared with September 1996 (but bearing in mind that this comparison is affected by seasonal factors), total retail sales in October 1996 increased by 3% in value and 2% in volume.

Comparing the period from January to October 1996 with the same period in 1995, total retail sales rose by 6% in value and 1% in volume.

The volume of retail sales is derived from the value of retail sales after adjusting for price changes. The relevant components of the Consumer Price Index are used as deflators.

Table 1 presents the revised total retail sales figure for September 1996 and the provisional figure for October 1996.

Table 2 shows the value and volume indices of retail sales in October 1995, September 1996 and October 1996 for all retail outlets and by type of retail outlets, with average retail sales from October 1994 to September 1995 taken as 100. Comparisons of the October 1996 results with those for September 1996 and those for October 1995, as well as comparison of retail sales in the period from January to October of 1996 with the same period in 1995 are also given.

The report containing the analysis of the October 1996 results is now on sale at \$4 per copy at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, ground floor, Low Block, 66 Queensway; and the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Enquiries about the survey results may be directed to the Wholesale and Retail Trade Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2802 1258.

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for October 1996 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$19,108.1 million
for September 1996 (Revised Figure) = HK\$18,467.1 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF RETAIL SALES FOR OCTOBER 1995, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 1996

(Monthly average of October 1994 - September 1995 = 100)

Type of Outlets	Type of Index	Index Number			% Change		
		October 1995 (Revised figures)	September 1996 (Revised figures)	October 1996 (Provisional figures)	Oct 1996 compared with Sep 1996	Oct 1996 compared with Oct 1995	Jan - Oct 1996 compared with Jan - Oct 1995
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS		(Point)	(Point)	(Point)	(%)	(%)	(%)
	Value	103.0	106.4	110.0	+3.5	+6.9	+5.9
	Volume	99.1	99.9	101.4	+1.5	+2.4	+1.2
(B) BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLETS							
Food, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets)	Value	102.9	114.0	106.4	-6.7	+3.3	+5.8
	Volume	100.1	107.8	103.0	-4.4	+2.9	+2.5
Supermarkets ϕ	Value	97.5	113.7	107.8	-5.2	+10.6	+7.6
	Volume	93.3	103.9	97.1	-6.6	+4.0	+1.2
Fuels	Value	100.0	95.5	95.7	+0.2	-4.3	-2.5
	Volume	96.9	87.7	87.8	+0.1	-9.4	-8.8
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	105.3	98.5	112.7	+14.4	+7.0	+10.1
	Volume	98.1	90.5	95.9	+6.0	-2.2	+2.3
Consumer durable goods	Value	88.7	115.4	100.3	-13.0	+13.1	+3.3
	Volume	87.4	113.1	98.3	-13.1	+12.5	+2.5
- Motor vehicles and parts	Value	78.3	108.5	99.0	-8.8	+26.5	-2.3
	Volume	78.2	107.1	97.7	-8.8	+25.0	-2.7
- Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	95.1	119.5	101.2	-15.4	+6.4	+6.4
	Volume	93.0	116.7	98.7	-15.5	+6.1	+5.4
Department stores	Value	91.4	95.0	95.3	+0.3	+4.3	+4.3
	Volume	86.6	88.4	84.3	-4.7	-2.6	-1.0
Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts	Value	108.0	97.0	106.4	+9.7	-1.5	+1.4
	Volume	106.1	93.5	103.2	+10.4	-2.7	-2.0
Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified	Value	123.4	116.1	138.6	+19.4	+12.3	+10.3
	Volume	118.6	106.9	126.9	+18.7	+7.0	+5.3

NOTE : ϕ Not including supermarkets operating in department stores.
The underlined figures were rounded up to 5.

Quarterly report on household survey published

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The report on the General Household Survey for July - September 1996 is now available for sale.

The bilingual report contains statistics on employment, unemployment and underemployment for the third quarter of 1996.

It also contains detailed analyses of the characteristics of members of the labour force, including their age, sex, educational attainment, activity status, occupation, industry, hours worked per week and monthly employment earnings. Data on reasons for unemployment and duration of unemployment for the unemployed are also presented.

Copies of the report at \$53 each can be obtained from the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, the Census and Statistics Department will continue to conduct the General Household Survey during the quarter from January to March 1997.

The Survey, conducted on a continuous basis, aims to collect information on the labour force, unemployment and underemployment.

In addition, special enquiries on Chinese new immigrants' awareness of educational and welfare services and patronage of public light buses are also included in this round of the Survey.

An official letter will be sent to the sampled households prior to each survey month to explain the purpose of the Survey and to seek their voluntary co-operation.

Officers of the department will visit the households concerned to collect the required information. When visiting households, they carry with them a Government Identity Card and a certificate for conducting the Survey. They will make such documents available for inspection by households.

To make it more convenient for both the households and the department, the sampled households could telephone the department to make prior appointment for visit by the interviewers.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority Interbank Liquidity

		Time	Accounts	Aggregate Balance of Settlement
Opening aggregate balance	555 mn	0930 hr		8,435 mn
Closing aggregate balance	796 mn	1000 hr		20,338 mn
Change attributable to:		1100 hr		23,969 mn
Money market activity	+156 mn	1200 hr		29,063 mn
LAF reversal	+7,803 mn	1500 hr		28,445 mn
LAF today	-7,718 mn	1600 hr		30,656 mn

LAF RATE 4.00% BID/6.00% OFFER TWI 125.2 *+0.2* 27.12.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/MTRC notes				
Terms	Yield	Terms	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.22	2 years	2811	5.72	100.23	5.66
1 month	4.28	3 years	3910	6.28	100.71	6.09
3 months	4.50	5 years	5112	6.57	99.60	6.78
6 months	4.70	7 years	7311	6.80	99.18	7.07
12 months	5.06	10 years	1610	7.37	101.21	7.32
		5 years	M503	7.35	101.64	7.05

Total turnover Of EF bills and notes - \$10,019 mn

Closed December 27, 1996

End