



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1991

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EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY RELEASED

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TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN FEBRUARY 1991, AT \$90,816 MILLION, GREW BY 16% IN VALUE AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1990, ACCORDING TO THE DETAILED FIGURES ON THE VALUE OF TRADE IN FEBRUARY 1991 RELEASED TODAY (SATURDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 8% TO \$14,346 MILLION, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 29% TO \$31,462 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 21% TO \$45,807 MILLION. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 11% TO \$45,009 MILLION.

CAUTION SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN INTERPRETING THE TRADE FIGURES FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL MONTH IN ISOLATION, IN VIEW OF THE FLUCTUATIONS THAT MAY OCCUR FROM MONTH TO MONTH.

IN PARTICULAR, THE TRADE FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY THIS YEAR ARE AFFECTED BY THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS, WHICH OCCURRED IN LATE JANUARY LAST YEAR, BUT IN MID-FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 1991, AT \$209,673 MILLION, INCREASED BY 28% AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 12% TO \$33,522 MILLION, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 34% TO \$70,482 MILLION. THUS, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 26% TO \$104,004 MILLION. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 30% TO \$105,669 MILLION.

EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF COMPARISON TO THE 12 MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 1991 WITH THE 12 MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 1990, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 3% TO \$229,449 MILLION WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS WAS UP BY 23% TO \$432,075 MILLION.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS ROSE BY 15%. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 18% TO \$666,636 MILLION. THE VALUE OF TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE, AS A WHOLE, INCREASED BY 17%.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

COMPARING FEBRUARY 1991 WITH FEBRUARY 1990, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE NETHERLANDS, FRANCE, TAIWAN AND SINGAPORE RECORDED SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES OF 68%, 41%, 35%, 33%, 26% AND 24% RESPECTIVELY. DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO JAPAN ALSO RECORDED AN INCREASE OF 5% IN VALUE.

/HOWEVER, THE

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA, CANADA AND THE USA DECREASED BY 18%, 6% AND 3% RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARING JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, SINGAPORE, THE NETHERLANDS, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND TAIWAN, BY 55%, 53%, 33%, 32% AND 26% RESPECTIVELY. THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA, FRANCE AND JAPAN ALSO INCREASED BY 18%, 13% AND 5% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CANADA AND THE USA DECREASED BY 12% AND 7% RESPECTIVELY.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR CLOTHING (BY \$1,666 MILLION OR 17%); OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$835 MILLION OR 40%); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$572 MILLION OR 25%); AND TEXTILES (BY \$23 MILLION OR 1%). HOWEVER, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED IN MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$333 MILLION OR 9%), AND FOOTWEAR (BY \$32 MILLION OR 19%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING FEBRUARY 1991 WITH FEBRUARY 1990, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, SINGAPORE, CHINA, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND JAPAN, BY 29%, 24%, 22%, 16% AND 13% RESPECTIVELY.

THOSE FROM SWITZERLAND, TAIWAN AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY INCREASED BY 4%, 3% AND 2% RESPECTIVELY. HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE USA AND FRANCE DECREASED BY 5% AND 2% RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARING JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM ALL MAJOR SUPPLIERS.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM SINGAPORE, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, CHINA, TAIWAN AND JAPAN INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, BY 58%, 44%, 38%, 34%, 32% AND 31% RESPECTIVELY. THOSE FROM THE USA, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, SWITZERLAND AND FRANCE INCREASED BY 22%, 18%, 18% AND 10% RESPECTIVELY.

TABLE 4 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WERE RECORDED IN ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$3,529 MILLION OR 45%); CLOTHING (BY \$2,618 MILLION OR 40%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$2,165 MILLION OR 36%); AND TEXTILES (BY \$1,464 MILLION OR 15%).

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HOWEVER, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES (BY \$191 MILLION OR 6%), AND CORK AND WOOD MANUFACTURES (BY \$96 MILLION OR 16%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS TO 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 5.

COMPARING FEBRUARY 1991 WITH FEBRUARY 1990, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, ITALY, FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, BY 148%, 86%, 68% AND 66% RESPECTIVELY. THOSE TO JAPAN, THE USA, TAIWAN AND CHINA INCREASED BY 32%, 28%, 24% AND 5% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA DECREASED BY 16% AND 6% RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARING JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 1991 OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO MOST MAJOR MARKETS INCREASED. SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, ITALY, FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, BY 118%, 75%, 56% AND 54% RESPECTIVELY.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO TAIWAN, CHINA, JAPAN AND THE USA INCREASED BY 38%, 32%, 31% AND 25% RESPECTIVELY. THOSE TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ALSO RECORDED A SLIGHT INCREASE OF 2% IN VALUE. HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE DECREASED BY 6%.

TABLE 6 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR CLOTHING (BY \$3,375 MILLION OR 53%); MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$2,213 MILLION OR 37%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$1,670 MILLION OR 41%); AND TEXTILES (BY \$1,068 MILLION OR 18%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS WERE RECORDED IN FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS, AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF (BY \$109 MILLION OR 16%), AND PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS (BY \$51 MILLION OR 10%).

ALL THE TRADE STATISTICS DESCRIBED HERE ARE MEASURED AT CURRENT PRICES AND NO ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE CHANGES IN PRICES BETWEEN THE PERIODS OF COMPARISON. A SEPARATE ANALYSIS OF THE PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN FEBRUARY 1991 WILL BE RELEASED IN EARLY MAY 1991.

DETAILED STATISTICS ON TRADE VALUE BY COMMODITY AND BY COUNTRY ARE PUBLISHED IN TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS. THE FEBRUARY 1991 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE" WITH DETAILED ANALYSES ON IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN FEBRUARY 1991 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AROUND APRIL 18, AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$33.50 PER COPY.

/ENQUIRIES REGARDING

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ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL. NO. 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE STATISTICS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. 823 4915).

TABLE 1: DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	FEB 1991 (HKD MN.)	FEB 91 OVER FEB 90 (%)	JAN-FEB 1991 (HKD MN.)	JAN-FEB 91 OVER JAN-FEB 90 (%)
USA	3,572	- 3	8,284	- 7
CHINA	2,399	- 18	6,662	+ 18
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,657	+ 68	3,587	+ 55
UK	1,018	+ 41	2,220	+ 32
JAPAN	728	+ 5	1,666	+ 5
SINGAPORE	584	+ 24	1,445	+ 53
TAIWAN	442	+ 26	1,001	+ 26
NETHERLANDS	465	+ 35	968	+ 33
CANADA	327	- 6	767	- 12
FRANCE	274	+ 33	608	+ 13

TABLE 2: DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	FEB 1991 (HKD MN.)	FEB 91 OVER FEB 90 (%)	JAN-FEB 1991 (HKD MN.)	JAN-FEB 91 OVER JAN-FEB 90 (%)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5,121	+ 41	11,261	+ 17
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	1,365	- 17	3,262	- 9

/OFFICE MACHINES

OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	1,243	+ 16	2,935	+ 40
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	1,199	+ 7	2,836	+ 25
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,161	- 5	2,814	+ 3
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	970	- 12	2,346	+ 1

TABLE 3: IMPORTS FROM 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS

MAJOR SUPPLIER	FEB 1991 (HKD MN.)	FEB 91 OVER FEB 90 (%)	JAN-FEB 1991 (HKD MN.)	JAN-FEB 91 OVER JAN-FEB 90 (%)
CHINA	15,165	+ 22	38,046	+ 34
JAPAN	8,211	+ 13	17,028	+ 31
TAIWAN	3,620	+ 3	9,255	+ 32
USA	3,461	- 5	8,741	+ 22
SINGAPORE	2,325	+ 24	5,424	+ 58
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	2,064	+ 16	4,879	+ 44
UK	1,394	+ 29	2,704	+ 38
F.R. OF GERMANY	952	+ 2	2,228	+ 18
SWITZERLAND	934	+ 4	1,783	+ 18
FRANCE	723	- 2	1,528	+ 10

/TABLE 4

TABLE 4: IMPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	FEB 1991 (HKD MN.)	FEB 91 OVER FEB 90 (%)	JAN-FEB 1991 (HKD MN.)	JAN-FEB 91 OVER JAN-FEB 90 (%)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	4,994	+ 25	11,354	+ 45
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	4,461	- 8	11,048	+ 15
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	3,739	+ 37	9,112	+ 40
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	3,574	+ 18	8,110	+ 36
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	2,876	+ 10	6,860	+ 27
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	2,424	+ 5	5,292	+ 16

TABLE 5: RE-EXPORTS TO 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	FEB 1991 (HKD MN.)	FEB 91 OVER FEB 90 (%)	JAN-FEB 1991 (HKD MN.)	JAN-FEB 91 OVER JAN-FEB 90 (%)
CHINA	7,404	+ 5	18,494	+ 32
USA	5,931	+ 28	13,557	+ 25
F.R. OF GERMANY	2,773	+ 148	5,721	+ 118
JAPAN	2,026	+ 32	4,288	+ 31
TAIWAN	1,792	+ 24	3,808	+ 38

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA	894	- 6	1,990	+ 2
UK	896	+ 66	1,957	+ 54
SINGAPORE	746	- 16	1,700	- 6
FRANCE	607	+ 68	1,248	+ 56
ITALY	574	+ 86	1,220	+ 75

TABLE 6: RE-EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	FEB 1991 (HKD MN.)	FEB 91 OVER FEB 90 (%)	JAN-FEB 1991 (HKD MN.)	JAN-FEB 91 OVER JAN-FEB 90 (%)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	4,545	+ 80	9,768	+ 53
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	3,574	+ 44	8,167	+ 37
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	2,782	- 3	6,882	+ 18
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	2,696	+ 9	6,185	+ 23
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	2,555	+ 40	5,740	+ 41
FOOTWEAR	1,464	+ 91	3,308	+ 92

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DECEMBER EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL STATISTICS RELEASED
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IN DECEMBER 1990, EMPLOYMENT IN THE SERVICES SECTOR INCREASED COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1989, WHILE EMPLOYMENT IN MANUFACTURING SECTOR DECREASED, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (SATURDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THUS THE SHIFT IN EMPLOYMENT FROM MANUFACTURING TO SERVICES CONTINUED.

THERE WERE 715,600 PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN DECEMBER 1990, REPRESENTING A DECREASE OF 9.6 PER CENT IN COMPARISON WITH DECEMBER 1989.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, AT 829,600 IN DECEMBER 1990, WAS 7.2 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN DECEMBER 1989.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, AT 276,600, WAS UP BY 8.6 PER CENT.

EMPLOYMENT ON CONSTRUCTION SITES, AT 69,100, WAS 0.5 PER CENT LOWER THAN IN DECEMBER 1989.

THE OVERALL EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1990 IN THE SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS, WITH COMPARISON WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1989 AND SEPTEMBER 1990, ARE AS FOLLOWS :

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	PERSONS ENGAGED (EMPLOYMENT) IN*			PERCENTAGE CHANGE**	
	DEC 89	SEPT 90	DEC 90	DEC 90 ON DEC 89	DEC 90 ON SEPT 90
MANUFACTURING	791,500	730,200	715,600	-9.6	-2.0
CONSTRUCTION (MANUAL WORKERS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES ONLY)	69,500	70,700	69,100	-0.5	-2.2
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	774,000	814,800	829,600	+7.2	+1.8
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	254,800	273,200	276,600	+8.6	+1.2

/* FIGURES ARE

- * FIGURES ARE ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST HUNDRED.
 ** BASED ON UNROUNDED EMPLOYMENT FIGURES.

COMPARING DECEMBER 1990 WITH SEPTEMBER 1990, EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND ON CONSTRUCTION SITES DECREASED BY 2.0 PER CENT AND 2.2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, OVER THE SAME PERIOD, EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, AND THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR SHOWED INCREASES OF 1.8 PER CENT AND 1.2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

A DEPARTMENTAL SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE STATISTICS FOR SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY IN DECEMBER 1990 WERE DERIVED FROM THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL AND THE QUARTERLY EMPLOYMENT SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION SITES CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

THESE SECTORS COVER THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR; THE CONSTRUCTION SITES; THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR; AND THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR.

THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL AND THE QUARTERLY EMPLOYMENT SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION SITES ALSO PROVIDE VACANCY STATISTICS FOR THE SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS. THE VACANCY DATA TOGETHER WITH A COMPARISON WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1989 AND SEPTEMBER 1990 ARE AS FOLLOWS :

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY *	NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES IN *			PERCENTAGE CHANGE**	
	DEC 89	SEPT 90	DEC 90	DEC 90 ON DEC 89	DEC 90 ON SEPT 90
MANUFACTURING	36,170	36,160	28,970	-19.9	-19.9
CONSTRUCTION (MANUAL WORKERS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES ONLY)	N.A.	1,860	1,330	N.A.	-28.3
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	27,050	30,000	27,670	+ 2.3	- 7.8
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	10,520	9,150	8,870	-15.6	- 3.0

/* FIGURES ARE

* FIGURES ARE ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST TEN.
 ** BASED ON UNROUNDED VACANCY FIGURES.
 N.A. FIGURES ARE NOT AVAILABLE.

COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1989, THE VACANCY SITUATION IMPROVED IN MOST MAJOR SECTORS, SUGGESTING THAT THE DEMAND FOR LABOUR HAD BECOME LESS INTENSE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR DECREASED BY 11.5 PER CENT IN DECEMBER 1990 OVER DECEMBER 1989.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES IN THE MANUFACTURING AND THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTORS FELL BY 19.9 PER CENT AND 15.6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES IN THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTORS EXPERIENCED A SMALL INCREASE OF 2.3 PER CENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1990, AND BEARING IN MIND THE INFLUENCE OF SEASONAL FACTORS, THE NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES IN THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR AND THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTORS FELL BY 7.8 PER CENT AND 3.0 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN DECEMBER 1990.

THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND ON CONSTRUCTION SITES DECREASED CONSIDERABLY BY 19.9 PER CENT AND 28.3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL ARE STATISTICS ON MONTHLY PAYROLL OUTLAYS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR; THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR; AND THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR.

QUARTERLY TOTALS FOR EACH OF THESE SECTORS ARE SHOWN IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE :-

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	TOTAL QUARTERLY PAYROLL IN		% CHANGE*
	4TH QTR. 1989	4TH QTR. 1990	4TH QTR. 1990 ON 4TH QTR. 1989
	HK\$ MN	HK\$ MN	
MANUFACTURING	11,236	11,435	+ 1.8
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	11,614	14,477	+24.7

/FINANCING, INSURANCE,

FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	6,547	8,210	+25.4
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* BASED ON UNROUNDED PAYROLL FIGURES

COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTER A YEAR AGO, PAYROLL OUTLAYS IN THE ABOVE THREE SECTORS INCREASED BY 1.8 PER CENT, 24.7 PER CENT AND 25.4 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990.

AFTER ADJUSTMENT FOR VARIATIONS IN TOTAL MONTHLY PAYROLL OUTLAYS IN DECEMBER 1989 AND DECEMBER 1990, ARISING FROM CHANGES IN THE LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT, A NOMINAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IS OBTAINED.

TO ALLOW FOR THE EFFECTS OF PRICE CHANGES, THE NOMINAL INDEX IS DEFLATED BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) TO GIVE THE REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED.

THESE TWO INDICES FOR DECEMBER 1989 AND DECEMBER 1990 ARE GIVEN IN THE TABLES BELOW :-

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	NOMINAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED (JUNE 1980 = 100)		% CHANGE
	DEC 89	DEC 90	DEC 90 ON DEC 89
MANUFACTURING	355.0	389.4	+ 9.7
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	371.2	426.2	+14.8
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	405.1	464.8	+14.7

/REAL INDEX

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED (JUNE 1980 = 100)		% CHANGE
	DEC 89	DEC 90	DEC 90 ON DEC 89
MANUFACTURING	170.0	167.3	-1.6
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	177.5	183.2	+3.2
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	193.7	199.7	+3.1

BETWEEN DECEMBER 1989 AND DECEMBER 1990, AN INCREASE OF 9.7 PER CENT WAS REGISTERED IN THE NOMINAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

FOR THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, THE INCREASE WAS 14.8 PER CENT AND FOR THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, THE INCREASE WAS 14.7 PER CENT.

SALARY REVISION WAS REPORTED AS THE MAIN REASON FOR THE INCREASE IN PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED OVER THIS PERIOD.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED REGISTERED AN INCREASE OF 3.2 PER CENT FOR THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, AND 3.1 PER CENT FOR THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR.

HOWEVER, THERE WAS A SMALL DECREASE OF 1.6 PER CENT FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

DETAILED BREAKDOWNS OF THE ABOVE STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL STATISTICS, DECEMBER 1990 AND THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF EMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES AT CONSTRUCTION SITES, DECEMBER, 1990.

THEY ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT \$11 PER COPY AND \$7.5 PER COPY RESPECTIVELY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AND AT THE SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

AIRPORT TALKS ADJOURNED

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IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (SATURDAY) CONFIRMED THAT THE LATEST ROUND OF TALKS WITH THE CHINESE IN PEKING ON HONG KONG'S AIRPORT PLANS HAD BEEN ADJOURNED.

"SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE DURING THE DISCUSSIONS IN PEKING. THE POSITION OF THE TWO SIDES IS NOW CLOSER. BUT SOME IMPORTANT ISSUES REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED. IT IS TIME FOR BOTH SIDES TO TAKE STOCK OF WHERE WE HAVE REACHED BEFORE RESUMING TALKS. BRITISH AND HONG KONG OFFICIALS WILL THEREFORE BE LEAVING PEKING TOMORROW (SUNDAY) IN ORDER TO REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE GOVERNOR."

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GOVT WORKS IN SUPPORT OF TRADE AND SERVICES

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THE GOVERNMENT WORKS INCESSANTLY TO SECURE AND MAINTAIN FOR HONG KONG'S GOODS AND SERVICES THE GREATEST AND FREEST POSSIBLE ACCESS TO WORLD MARKETS. THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) AT THE 23RD DISTINGUISHED SALESMAN AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY.

"WE DO THIS THROUGH OUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS SUCH AS THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE AND THROUGH BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH OUR TRADING PARTNERS," MR CHAN SAID.

"WE ALSO PROVIDE, THROUGH THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES TO HELP OUR EXPORTERS MARKET THEIR WARES, FIND NEW CUSTOMERS AND TACKLE NEW MARKETS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO PROVIDING VARIOUS SUPPORTING SERVICES TO INDUSTRY TO HELP IT MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE ITS COMPETITIVE EDGE.

"I WILL NOT BORE YOU WITH THE DETAILS, BUT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW THAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO STRENGTHEN THESE SERVICES EVEN FURTHER," MR CHAN SAID.

HE SAID HONG KONG'S FUTURE PROSPERITY WOULD DEPEND A GREAT DEAL ON ITS ABILITY TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE IN WORLD MARKETS.

"THE SALES MARKETING EXECUTIVES CLUB CAN MAKE A REAL CONTRIBUTION IN THIS VITAL AREA BY HELPING TO UPGRADE THE SKILLS AND PROFESSIONALISM OF OUR SALES AND MARKETING WORKFORCE," HE SAID.

IT WOULD BE NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT, WITHOUT SALES AND MARKETING, THERE WOULD BE NO INTERNATIONAL TRADE, MR CHAN SAID.

"INTERNATIONAL TRADE IS NOT LIMITED TO MERCHANDISE ALONE.

"TRADE IN SERVICES IS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT FOR MANY, INCLUDING HONG KONG," HE SAID.

ACCORDING TO STATISTICS COMPILED BY THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE, HONG KONG WAS THE WORLD'S 13TH LARGEST EXPORTER AND 17TH LARGEST IMPORTER OF COMMERCIAL SERVICES IN 1989. THE RELATIVE CONTRIBUTION OF THE SERVICES SECTOR TO OUR GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT HAD BEEN INCREASING STEADILY OVER THE YEARS AND NOW STOOD AT ALMOST 70 PER CENT.

"IN THE AREA OF TRADE IN SERVICES, WHERE MEASURES OF QUALITY AND VALUE FOR MONEY ARE OFTEN LESS TANGIBLE THAN FOR TRADE IN GOODS, SALES AND MARKETING PLAY AN EVEN MORE IMPORTANT PART IN DETERMINING SUCCESS IN WINNING CUSTOMERS," MR CHAN SAID.

"OF COURSE, ALL OF YOU KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF SALES AND MARKETING WITHOUT MY TELLING YOU ABOUT IT.

"YOU MUST ALSO KNOW THAT, ALMOST WITHOUT EXCEPTION, MARKETS ARE BECOMING MORE AND MORE COMPETITIVE, AND POTENTIAL BUYERS MORE AND MORE DISCERNING.

"IRONICALLY ENOUGH, THIS PHENOMENON IS AT LEAST PARTLY THE RESULT OF MORE SUCCESSFUL SALES AND MARKETING EFFORTS BY OTHER SELLERS IN THE SAME MARKETS," HE SAID.

IT WOULD TAKE A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT TO STAY AHEAD OF THE GAME IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES.

MANUFACTURERS OF GOODS AND PROVIDERS OF SERVICES WOULD CONSTANTLY HAVE TO SEEK TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF THEIR PRODUCTS WHILE KEEPING THEIR COSTS AND PRICES AT COMPETITIVE LEVELS.

"THIS WILL REQUIRE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE ADOPTION OF NEWER TECHNOLOGIES AND OTHER MEASURES TO ENHANCE PRODUCTIVITY, AS WELL AS SUSTAINED EFFORTS TO IMPROVE PRODUCTION AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT," MR CHAN SAID.

"SALES AND MARKETING PEOPLE WILL CONSTANTLY HAVE TO SHARPEN THE QUALITY OF THEIR SERVICE, INCLUDING THE ABILITY TO IDENTIFY AND GRASP NEW BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES, AND TO DEVISE INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO NEW MARKETING SITUATIONS.

"THEY WILL HAVE TO REACH OUT MORE INTO THEIR MARKETS AND TRY TO ANTICIPATE, OR BETTER STILL CREATE, CUSTOMER DEMAND AND NOT WAIT FOR THE DEMAND TO MAKE ITSELF FELT.

"THE GOVERNMENT ALSO HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN PROVIDING APPROPRIATE SUPPORT TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY WHERE SUCH IS NEEDED.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS WELL AWARE OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY. MANY OF OUR POLICIES ARE AIMED AT CREATING AND MAINTAINING THE SORT OF ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH PRIVATE ENTERPRISE CAN OPERATE FREELY AND PROFITABLY.

"OUR RECORD HAS SHOWN THAT, HAVING PROVIDED THAT SORT OF ENVIRONMENT, THE BEST AND WISEST THING THE GOVERNMENT CAN DO IN MANY CASES IS TO LEAVE THE REST TO PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND STAY OUT OF THEIR HAIR.

"BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT CAN BE DONE MORE EFFECTIVELY, OR PERHAPS EVEN ONLY, BY THE GOVERNMENT.

"ON THESE, THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO DOING ITS BEST," MR CHAN SAID.

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MARCH WARMER AND MORE HUMID THAN NORMAL

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MARCH 1991 WAS WARMER AND MORE HUMID THAN NORMAL, ACCORDING TO THE MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT RELEASED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TODAY (SATURDAY).

THE MONTHLY MEAN DEW POINT OF 17.9 DEGREES, MONTHLY MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 18.6 DEGREES AND MONTHLY MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 20.3 DEGREES WERE RESPECTIVELY THE THIRD, FIFTH AND SIXTH HIGHEST EVER.

RAIN THAT FELL WAS MOSTLY ASSOCIATED WITH LATE-SEASON SURGES OF THE NORTHEAST MONSOON. THE FIRST MAJOR DOWNPOUR AND THUNDERSTORM OF THE YEAR OCCURRED ON MARCH 22. THE RAINFALL ON THAT DAY REPRESENTED A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE MONTHLY TOTAL OF 51.5 MILLIMETRES WHICH WAS 23 PER CENT BELOW THE MARCH NORMAL OF 66.9 MILLIMETRES.

THE TOTAL RAINFALL SINCE JANUARY 1, 1991 AMOUNTED TO 88.4 MILLIMETRES, 36 PER CENT BELOW THE NORMAL OF 138.3 MILLIMETRES FOR THE SAME PERIOD.

THE WEATHER ON MARCH 1 WAS MAINLY MISTY WITH SEA FOG OFFSHORE. THERE WAS ALSO MORNING AND EVENING DRIZZLE. THE EASTERLIES FRESHENED THAT EVENING AND LED TO CLOUDY AND COOLER WEATHER OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS.

RAIN, THOUGH LIGHT, WAS QUITE PERSISTENT ON MARCH 2 BUT BECAME LESS FREQUENT THE NEXT DAY.

ALTHOUGH THERE WERE STILL SOME PATCHES OF LIGHT RAIN ON MARCH 4, THE WEATHER TURNED BRIGHTER AND WARMER AS THE NORTHEAST MONSOON MODERATED.

WITH A MOIST MARITIME AIRSTREAM BECOMING ESTABLISHED, MIST AND FOG ENCROACHED UPON THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL AREAS. VISIBILITY INSIDE THE HARBOUR DROPPED BELOW 1,000 METRES IN THE MORNINGS OF MARCH 6 AND 7.

TEMPERATURES, MEANWHILE, WERE ON THE RISE, PEAKING AT A MAXIMUM OF 27.7 DEGREES ON MARCH 9. THIS WAS THE HIGHEST OF THE MONTH AND ALSO SO FAR THIS YEAR.

THE ARRIVAL OF COOLER AIR EARLY ON MARCH 10 BROUGHT A CLOUDY DAY WITH FRESH EASTERLY WINDS, BUT THE CLOUDS SOON CLEARED THE NEXT DAY.

THE WEATHER FROM MARCH 12 TO 19 WAS DOMINATED BY WEAK SURGES OF THE NORTHEAST MONSOON. THE WEATHER WAS A MIXTURE OF SUNSHINE, CLOUDS, AND LIGHT RAIN.

THE HIGHLIGHTS DURING THIS PERIOD WERE THE STRONG EASTERLIES ON MARCH 14 AND PERSISTENT LIGHT RAIN ON MARCH 18.

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AS THE NORTHEAST MONSOON WENT INTO A LULL, CONDITIONS BECAME WARM AND HUMID ON MARCH 20 AND 21. DENSE FOG AFFECTED THE HARBOUR AREA IN THE MORNING OF MARCH 21 BEFORE LIFTING DURING THE DAY.

HOWEVER, THE NEXT MORNING, THE HARBOUR AREA WAS RELATIVELY FREE OF FOG WHILE RAIN CLOUDS ASSOCIATED WITH A COLD FRONT OVER GUANGDONG EDGED TOWARDS THE COAST.

THE SKY TURNED OVERCAST LATER THAT MORNING, FOLLOWED BY AN OUTBREAK OF HEAVY RAIN SHORTLY AFTER MIDDAY. THE RAIN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SOME THUNDERSTORMS WHICH MAINLY AFFECTED THE NORTHERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

AS A RESULT OF THE INCLEMENT WEATHER AND POOR VISIBILITY, SOME HYDROFOIL SERVICES BETWEEN CENTRAL AND THE OUTLYING ISLANDS WERE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED, AND AIR TRAFFIC WAS ALSO AFFECTED.

THE WEATHER STAYED CLOUDY ON MARCH 23 AND 24, BUT THE RAIN BECAME LIGHT AND LESS FREQUENT. THE RETURN OF A MOIST MARITIME AIRSTREAM BROUGHT BACK THE WARM AND MISTY WEATHER WITH SOME SUNSHINE FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS. FOG INSIDE THE HARBOUR WAS CONFINED TO THE MORNING PERIODS, BUT WAS MORE PERSISTENT OFFSHORE.

THE APPROACH OF ANOTHER COLD FRONT ON MARCH 28 CAUSED THE WEATHER TO TURN CLOUDY AGAIN WITH PATCHES OF LIGHT RAIN. RAIN BECAME HEAVIER IN THE MORNING OF MARCH 30 AND WAS FOLLOWED BY A NORTHERLY SURGE OF THE MONSOON.

WINDS BECAME STRONG ON MARCH 31 WITH TEMPERATURE DROPPING TO A MINIMUM OF 11.9 DEGREES, THE LOWEST FOR THE MONTH.

TWO TROPICAL CYCLONES OCCURRED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC DURING THE MONTH. SIX AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER. THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS WERE IN EFFECT ON MARCH 22 AND 31. THE YELLOW FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS IN EFFECT ON MARCH 10 AND 17.

SIGNALS HOISTED DURING THE MONTH WERE AS FOLLOWS:

WEATHER SYSTEM	SIGNAL	DATE & TIME OF HOISTING	DATE & TIME OF LOWERING
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	MARCH 14 3.30 PM	MARCH 15 7.30 AM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	MARCH 31 4.05 PM	APRIL 1 7.30 AM

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	75.6 HOURS ; 20.8 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	8.91 MJ/SQ. METRE ; 2.33 MJ/SQ. METRE BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	51.5 MM ; 15.4 MM BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AMOUNT OF CLOUD	81 PER CENT ; FIVE PER CENT MORE THAN NORMAL

/MEAN RELATIVE

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MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	86 PER CENT ;	FIVE PER CENT HIGHER THAN NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	22.4 DEGREES CELSIUS ;	1.1 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	20.3 DEGREES CELSIUS ;	1.8 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	18.6 DEGREES CELSIUS ;	2.1 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	17.9 DEGREES CELSIUS ;	2.9 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	54.7 MM ;	37.5 MM BELOW NORMAL

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38 NEW BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN DECEMBER
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THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE APPROVED A TOTAL OF 38 NEW BUILDING PLANS IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

OF THESE, 14 WERE FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, AND 12 EACH FOR KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE APPROVED PLANS INCLUDED 14 FOR APARTMENT, APARTMENT/COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS, SIX FOR COMMERCIAL AND SHOP/OFFICE DEVELOPMENTS AND THREE FOR WORKSHOP PURPOSE.

DURING THE MONTH, THE OFFICE GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 37 PROJECTS, INVOLVING 95,606.5 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 84,431 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS ABOUT \$2,099 MILLION. USABLE FLOOR AREAS FOR DOMESTIC AND NON-DOMESTIC USES WERE ABOUT 258,527.1 SQUARE METRES AND ABOUT 66,537 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY.

ALSO DURING THE MONTH, THE OFFICE ISSUED 35 OCCUPATION PERMITS; 11 FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, 11 FOR KOWLOON AND 13 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN ADDITION, 40 DEMOLITION CONSENTS AFFECTING 70 BUILDINGS WERE ISSUED.

THE CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION RECEIVED 597 COMPLAINTS ON ILLEGAL BUILDING WORKS, CARRIED OUT 1,153 INSPECTIONS AND ISSUED 347 REMOVAL ORDERS.

THE DANGEROUS BUILDING SECTION INSPECTED 540 BUILDINGS AND OBTAINED TWO EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDERS.

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SAI KUNG DB CHAIRMAN ELECTED
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THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD HELD ITS FIRST MEETING FOR THE NEW TERM THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING.

AT THE MEETING, THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FREDERICK TONG, ANNOUNCED THAT MR WILLIAM WAN HON-CHEUNG WAS RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD FOR THE TERM APRIL 1991 TO SEPTEMBER 1994.

MR WAN, AN APPOINTED MEMBER, IS THE ONLY NOMINEE FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP.

CHAIRMEN OF THE BOARD'S SIX WORKING COMMITTEES WERE ALSO ELECTED AT TODAY'S MEETING. THEY ARE:

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE	: MRS CHAN FOK PO-CHUN, ANITA
CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE	: MR CHOW YIN-MING, FRANCIS
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE	: MR WAN YUET-KAU
FINANCE AND GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE	: MR LAU WAN-HEI
LIAISON AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	: MR NG SZE-FUK
TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE	: MR WONG KWOK-YEE

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AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS IN YAU TSIM
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TEN STUDENTS IN THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT WERE PRESENTED THE DISTRICT'S OUTSTANDING STUDENTS AWARDS AT A CEREMONY THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR GOOD ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS, CONDUCT AND KNOWLEDGE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS.

AGED 10 TO 18, THE STUDENTS WERE SELECTED FROM 45 NOMINEES FROM PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE 1990-91 YAU TSIM DISTRICT 10 OUTSTANDING STUDENTS CONTEST.

THE CONTEST IS ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT'S SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD.

THE WINNERS, COMPRISING FIVE SECONDARY AND FIVE PRIMARY STUDENTS, EACH RECEIVED A TROPHY, A CERTIFICATE AND A \$200 BOOK COUPON.

SPEAKING AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION, THE ASSISTANT YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS CLARA WONG, PRAISED THE COMMITTEE FOR ORGANISING THE CONTEST TO ENHANCE STUDENTS' CONCERN FOR SOCIETY AND TO ENCOURAGE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

/"THE COMMITTEE

"THE COMMITTEE HAS ALSO ORGANISED OTHER ACTIVITIES SUCH AS SEMINARS, TALKS, VISITS AND EXHIBITIONS FOR STUDENTS," SHE NOTED.

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS AT THE CEREMONY INCLUDED A SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER, MISS ROSE LAU; AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON PRIVATE CHINESE AND ENGLISH SCHOOLS FEDERATION, MR YIP WAH.

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STUDENTS TO GAIN FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF WORKPLACES

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MORE THAN 600 SECONDARY STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO GAIN A FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORLD OF WORK UNDER AN ONGOING WORK ORIENTATION PROGRAMME ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE (CAS).

"THE YEAR-LONG CAREERS EDUCATION PROJECT HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY BOTH STUDENTS AND CAREERS TEACHERS, WITH SOME 1,200 STUDENTS FROM 46 SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE FIRST TWO PHASES BETWEEN OCTOBER 1990 AND FEBRUARY THIS YEAR," THE SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (CAREERS ADVISORY AND EXTERNAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICES), MRS CLARA SIU, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

"THE PROGRAMME AIMS TO HELP STUDENTS GAIN A REALISTIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE REAL WORKING ENVIRONMENT SO THAT THEY CAN MAKE BETTER PLANS FOR THEIR FUTURE," SHE SAID.

UNDER THE THIRD AND LAST PHASE OF THE PROGRAMME, FORMS 3 TO 7 STUDENTS IN SHAM SHUI PO, TUEN MUN AND SOUTHERN DISTRICTS WILL BE VISITING 20 ESTABLISHMENTS OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS.

"THESE ESTABLISHMENTS HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY SELECTED TO COVER A WIDE RANGE OF INDUSTRIES AND PROFESSIONS INCLUDING THE MASS MEDIA, HOTELS, BANKS, FACTORIES, AIRLINES, TRANSPORT COMPANIES, ADVERTISING AND TRADING FIRMS, LABORATORIES, PUBLIC UTILITIES, TRAINING INSTITUTES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS," MRS SIU SAID.

"STUDENTS WILL BE SHOWN AROUND THE FACILITIES AND BRIEFED BY COMPANY STAFF ON DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE COMPANIES' OPERATION," SHE ADDED.

THE CAS PROVIDES A LARGE VARIETY OF SERVICES TO YOUNG PEOPLE SEEKING CAREER GUIDANCE THROUGH ITS FOUR CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

EACH CENTRE HAS A REFERENCE LIBRARY EQUIPPED WITH AN AUDIO-VISUAL UNIT WITH SOUND-ON-SLIDES, VIDEO AND AUDIO TAPE RECORDINGS, AND PUBLICATIONS ON EQUIPMENT TRAINING AND FURTHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES.

"STUDENTS, CAREERS TEACHERS AND OTHER PEOPLE INTERESTED ARE WELCOME TO MAKE USE OF THESE FACILITIES AND SEEK CAREERS ADVICE OR INFORMATION FROM THESE CENTRES," MRS SIU SAID.

THE CENTRES ARE SITUATED AT:

- * TAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SECOND FLOOR,
16 TSUN WAN ROAD,
TUEN MUN.
TEL. NO.: 463 6855
- * CHANWAY SHOPPING CENTRE, SECOND FLOOR SHOP 8B,
11-17 SHA TIN CENTRE STREET,
SHA TIN.
TEL. NO.: 601 5101
- * MONG KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SECOND FLOOR,
30 LUEN WAN STREET
KOWLOON.
TEL. NO.: 399 2241
- * SOUTHORN CENTRE, 16TH FLOOR,
130 HENNESSY ROAD,
WAN CHAI.
TEL. NO.: 835 2044

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	12.4.91	480
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	13.4.91	NEUTRAL
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		NEUTRAL

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REMINDER ON PROPER LABELLING FOR PREPACKAGED FOOD

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TODAY (SATURDAY) REMINDED FOOD MANUFACTURERS AND RETAILERS THAT FOOD ITEMS IN PREPACKAGED FORM, WHETHER COMPLETELY OR PARTIALLY PACKED, MUST BE PROPERLY MARKED AS REQUIRED BY THE THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS (COMPOSITION AND LABELLING) REGULATIONS.

OFFENDERS ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF \$25,000 IN FINE AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

THE APPEAL FOLLOWED RECENT COURT CASES IN WHICH FOUR RETAILERS WERE FINED.

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IN THE FIRST TWO CASES, A FOOD AND WINE COMPANY IN TSIM SHA TSUI AND A BAKERY IN KOWLOON CITY WERE FINED \$4,000 AND \$2,000 RESPECTIVELY FOR SELLING PREPACKAGED FOOD ITEMS -- NAMELY MUSTARD WITH HORSE-RADISH, MIXED PICKLES AND TUNA FISH SANDWICHES -- WITHOUT PROPER MARKING OR LABELLING.

THE FOOD ITEMS DID NOT HAVE THE NAME OR DESIGNATION OF THE FOOD, THE LIST OF INGREDIENTS, AN INDICATION OF MINIMUM DURABILITY, THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MANUFACTURER OR PACKER OF THE FOOD AND THE NUMERICAL COUNT OF THE CONTENTS OR THE NET WEIGHT OF THE FOOD AS STIPULATED IN THE THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS (COMPOSITION AND LABELLING) REGULATIONS.

IN THE OTHER TWO CASES, TWO SHOPS IN SHEUNG SHUI AND SHA TIN WERE FINED \$400 AND \$850 RESPECTIVELY FOR SELLING IMPROPERLY MARKED PREPACKAGED WHITE LOTUS SEED PASTE MOONCAKES AND PRESERVED PLUMS.

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