



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR APRIL RELEASED	1
ANTI-DUMPING TALKS IN U.S. ENDED WITHOUT AGREEMENT	3
DB'S TO ELECT REPRESENTATIVES TO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS	4
SEMINAR ON INTRODUCTION OF A-LEVEL COMPUTER STUDIES	4
SAFETY URGED FOR CONFINED SPACE WORKERS	5
SEMINAR ON PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT IN CATERING INDUSTRY	6
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS	6

PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR APRIL RELEASED
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HONG KONG'S TRADE PERFORMANCE IN APRIL WAS MUCH BETTER THAN IN MARCH, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES. RELEASED TODAY (SATURDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS PICKED UP CONSIDERABLY IN APRIL, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS REMAINED ROBUST. RETAINED IMPORTS ALSO GREW STRONGLY.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN APRIL GREW BY \$1,786 MILLION OR 10.9% OVER A YEAR EARLIER, TO \$18,193 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS GREW EVEN FASTER, BY \$10,654 MILLION OR 34.5% TO \$41,514 MILLION OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN APRIL, AT \$59,707 MILLION, WAS \$12,440 MILLION OR 26.3% HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY \$15,177 MILLION OR 30% TO \$65,817 MILLION.

AS THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS SMALLER THAN THAT OF TOTAL IMPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$6,110 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 9.3% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN APRIL 1991.

THIS COMPARES WITH A DEFICIT OF \$3,373 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 6.7% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED A YEAR EARLIER.

PUTTING THESE FIGURES INTO PERSPECTIVE, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY \$3,827 MILLION OR 6.1% OVER A YEAR EARLIER, TO \$66,694 MILLION IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1991 COMBINED.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY \$31,864 MILLION OR 27.9% TO \$145,873 MILLION OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS, AT \$212,567 MILLION, WAS THUS \$35,691 MILLION OR 20.2% HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

MEANWHILE, IMPORTS GREW BY \$45,171 MILLION OR 24.6% TO \$228,492 MILLION.

IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1991 COMBINED, A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$15,925 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 7.0% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED.

THE DEFICIT RECORDED IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR WAS \$6,445 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 3.5% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS.

COMMENTING ON THE LATEST TRADE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE PERFORMANCE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS SHOWED A MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN APRIL.

THIS WAS PRECEDED BY A CONTINUED MARKED INCREASE IN RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES IN RECENT MONTHS.

MOREOVER, RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO GROW STRONGLY. AS A RESULT, THE SHARE OF RE-EXPORTS IN THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS ROSE FURTHER, TO 69% IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1991.

IT WAS ALSO ENCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT, AS AN INDICATOR OF THE LEVEL OF DOMESTIC DEMAND AND OF THE UPCOMING DOMESTIC EXPORT PERFORMANCE, RETAINED IMPORTS RECORDED YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATES OF 24.8% IN APRIL AND OF 20.7% IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1991 COMBINED.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR APRIL 1991.

MERCHANDISE: DOMESTIC EXPORTS	:	\$18,193 MILLION	
RE-EXPORTS	:	\$41,514 MILLION	
TOTAL EXPORTS	:	\$59,707 MILLION	
IMPORTS	:	\$65,817 MILLION	
TRADE BALANCE	:	\$6,110 MILLION	[IN DEFICIT]

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

LATEST 3 MONTHS	FEB 91 TO	FEB 90 TO	INCREASE	
	APR 91	APR 90	HK\$ MN	%
	HK\$ MN	HK\$ MN		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	47,517	46,229	1,288	2.8
RE-EXPORTS	106,853	86,049	20,804	24.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	154,370	132,278	22,092	16.7
IMPORTS	167,831	142,229	25,602	18.0
TRADE BALANCE	-13,461	-9,951	-3,510	

SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	APRIL	APRIL	INCREASE	
	1991	1990	HK\$ MN	%
	HK\$ MN	HK\$ MN		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	18,193	16,407	1,786	10.9
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(30.5%)	(34.7%)		
RE-EXPORTS	41,514	30,860	10,654	34.5
TOTAL EXPORTS	59,707	47,267	12,440	26.3
IMPORTS	65,817	50,640	15,177	30.0
TRADE BALANCE	-6,110	-3,373	-2,737	

LAST MONTH	APRIL	MARCH	INCREASE	
	1991	1991	HK\$ MN	%
	HK\$ MN	HK\$ MN		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	18,193	14,978	3,215	21.5
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(30.5%)	(30.7%)		
RE-EXPORTS	41,514	33,878	7,636	22.5
TOTAL EXPORTS	59,707	48,856	10,851	22.2
IMPORTS	65,817	57,006	8,811	15.5
TRADE BALANCE	-6,110	-8,150	2,040	

- 3 -

CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN-APR	JAN-APR	INCREASE	
	1991	1990	HK\$ MN	%
	HK\$ MN	HK\$ MN		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	66,694	62,867	3,827	6.1
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(31.4%)	(35.5%)		
RE-EXPORTS	145,873	114,009	31,864	27.9
TOTAL EXPORTS	212,567	176,876	35,691	20.2
IMPORTS	228,492	183,321	45,171	24.6
TRADE BALANCE	-15,925	-6,445	-9,480	

LAST 12 MONTHS	MAY 90 TO	MAY 89 TO	INCREASE	
	APR 91	APR 90	HK\$ MN	%
	HK\$ MN	HK\$ MN		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	229,702	221,564	8,138	3.7
RE-EXPORTS	445,863	357,218	88,645	24.8
TOTAL EXPORTS	675,565	578,782	96,783	16.7
IMPORTS	687,702	568,152	119,550	21.0
TRADE BALANCE	-12,137	10,630	-22,767	

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ANTI-DUMPING TALKS IN U.S. ENDED WITHOUT AGREEMENT

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TALKS IN THE UNITED STATES ON ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES AGAINST MAN-MADE FIBRE SWEATERS FROM HONG KONG HAVE ENDED AFTER TWO DAYS WITHOUT AGREEMENT.

THE TALKS, WHICH CONCLUDED YESTERDAY (FRIDAY), WERE BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONG KONG AND U.S. GOVERNMENTS.

THE LEADER OF THE HONG KONG DELEGATION, DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE MR ROBERT FOOTMAN SAID THE CONSULTATIONS HAD COVERED THE FULL RANGE OF ISSUES CONCERNING THE CASE.

"WE HAD A USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. BOTH SIDES NOW HAVE A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER'S POSITION," HE SAID.

"WE SAID THE FINDINGS AGAINST HONG KONG WERE UNJUSTIFIED. WE ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THIS CASE, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF ITS ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR INDUSTRY.

"WE WILL NOW NEED TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO SEEK A FURTHER ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS WITH THE U.S. WE WILL ALSO NEED TO CONSIDER WHAT FURTHER ACTION WE MIGHT TAKE UNDER THE GATT ANTI-DUMPING CODE."

THE CONSULTATIONS WERE HELD IN WASHINGTON UNDER THE GATT ANTI-DUMPING CODE.

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DB'S TO ELECT REPRESENTATIVES TO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS
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SEVEN DISTRICT BOARDS WILL ELECT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL FROM MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY NEXT WEEK (MAY 27 TO 29).

THERE IS ONLY ONE CANDIDATE EACH FOR THE SAI KUNG, TAI PO, YUEN LONG AND EASTERN DB'S, AND MORE THAN ONE CANDIDATE FOR THE OTHER DB'S.

THE ELECTION DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

DISTRICT -----	DATE/TIME -----	CANDIDATES -----
SHA TIN	MAY 27/9.30 AM	1. MR CHING CHEUNG-YING 2. MR WONG LUEN-KIN
SAI KUNG	MAY 27/2.30 PM	MR WAN YUET-KAU
ISLANDS	MAY 27/2 PM	1. MR CHONG CHU-CHOI 2. MR CHOW YUK-TONG
TAI PO	MAY 28/9.30 AM	MR TANG PUI-TAT
WONG TAI SIN	MAY 28/2.30 PM	1. MR FUNG KWONG-CHUNG 2. MR ALBERT LI SZE-BAY
EASTERN	MAY 28/2.30 PM	MS CHRISTINA TING YUK-CHEE
YUEN LONG	MAY 29/10 AM	MR LAI KWOK-IU

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✓ SEMINAR ON INTRODUCTION OF A-LEVEL COMPUTER STUDIES
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A SEMINAR ON MONDAY (MAY 27) TO PREPARE SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF ADVANCED LEVEL COMPUTER STUDIES IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

ATTENDING WILL BE COMPUTER STUDIES TEACHERS. HEADS OF SCHOOLS WISHING TO ATTEND WILL ALSO BE WELCOME.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED WOULD INCLUDE THE MODE OF OPERATION, TEACHER TRAINING, PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AND ROOM CONVERSION.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE HELD AT THE COMPUTER EDUCATION CENTRE IN HOK YUEN STREET, HUNG HOM.

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SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1991

- 5 -

MEANWHILE, A SEMINAR ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION THROUGH COMPUTER STUDIES HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 22 AT THE SAME VENUE.

GUEST SPEAKERS AT THIS SEMINAR ON COMPUTER AND ITS RELATED AILMENTS WILL BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF MEDICAL INFORMATICS, DR C.P. WONG, AND THE SENIOR LECTURER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING, HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, MISS W.L. MOK.

THEY WILL TALK ON THE HEALTH HAZARDS OF AND THE OPTIMAL ENVIRONMENT FOR COMPUTER USERS.

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SAFETY URGED FOR CONFINED SPACE WORKERS
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) URGED ALL CONSTRUCTION SITE WORKERS TO TAKE EXTRA CARE AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS WHEN ENTERING MANHOLES, CAISSON OPENINGS OR OTHER CONFINED SPACE WORKPLACES.

THE APPEAL FOLLOWED A RECENT CASE AT THE SAN PO KONG MAGISTRACY IN WHICH THE GAMMON CONSTRUCTION LTD WAS FINED \$30,000 FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING (CONFINED SPACES) REGULATIONS.

THE COMPANY WAS FOUND TO HAVE FAILED TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF APPROVED BREATHING APPARATUS, SUITABLE RECEIVING APPARATUS AND OXYGEN VESSELS TO WORKERS, AND ALLOWED TWO WORKERS TO ENTER A CONFINED WORKPLACE WITHOUT WEARING AN APPROVED BREATHING APPARATUS AND SAFETY BELT.

THE TWO WORKERS WERE OVERCOME BY AN UNKNOWN GAS INSIDE A MANHOLE.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR CHAN TAT-KING, CAUTIONED THAT IT WAS AN OBLIGATION OF THE PROPRIETOR UNDER THE LAW TO ENSURE THAT SUFFICIENT APPROVED BREATHING APPARATUS AND EMERGENCY ESCAPE EQUIPMENT WERE PROVIDED FOR WORKERS IN CONFINED SPACE WORKPLACES.

"AS A STANDARD PRACTICE, AN AIR TEST SHOULD BE CONDUCTED BEFORE ENTERING A CONFINED SPACE EACH TIME," MR CHAN ADDED.

"OTHER PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES INCLUDE THE SUPPLY OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, DUST EXTRACTION, FRESH AIR SUPPLY AND EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR EMERGENCY ESCAPE," HE SAID.

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SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1991

- 6 -

SEMINAR ON PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT IN CATERING INDUSTRY
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PROBLEMS RELATING TO HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND LABOUR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS IN THE CATERING INDUSTRY WILL BE PUT UNDER THE MICROSCOPE AT A SEMINAR EARLY NEXT MONTH.

THE HALF-DAY SEMINAR IS ORGANISED BY THE CATERING TRADE TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE MADE UP OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS, EMPLOYEES' TRADE UNIONS AND THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

DESIGNED FOR ALL CATERING PERSONNEL AND MEMBERS OF MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATIONS AND TRADE UNIONS, THE SEMINAR AIMS TO HELP THEM SOLVE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS AND TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY IN THE TRADE.

IT ALSO PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTICIPANTS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES IN LABOUR RELATIONS AND MANAGEMENT.

EXPERTS IN THE FIELD AND LABOUR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WILL SPEAK ON LABOUR RELATIONS, HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND MANPOWER TRAINING, FOLLOWED BY GENERAL DISCUSSION.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE. THE ADMISSION FEE IS \$80.

IT WILL BE HELD FROM 2.45 PM TO 5.30 PM ON JUNE 6 (THURSDAY) AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GOLDEN MILE, TSIM SHA TSUI.

ENQUIRIES ON THE SEMINAR CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 834 9311, 776 5128 OR 394 8261.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	24.5.91	380
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	25.5.91	NEUTRAL
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		NEUTRAL

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