



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Restaurant receipts and purchases for third quarter	1
Provisional figures of external trade for November 1994	4
Pet shop dogs and cats must be vaccinated	7
Eight more HIV-infected cases confirmed	8
News media urged to support election work	9
Government publishes booklet on education	10
Welfare payment arrangements for New Year holidays	11
Codes of Practice for Fossil-fuel Boilers & Thermal Oil Heaters to be published	12
Eight clinics remain open on New Year holidays	13
New District Officer for Wan Chai	13
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	14

Restaurant receipts and purchases for third quarter

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The value of total receipts for the restaurant sector in the third quarter of this year, estimated at \$12.5 billion, decreased by 2% when compared with the same quarter of last year, according to provisional statistics released today (Thursday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

After discounting the effect of price changes over the period, total receipts decreased by 9% in volume terms.

The value of total purchases of restaurants in the third quarter of 1994, estimated at \$4.5 billion, was 3% lower than that in the same quarter of 1993.

Compared with a year ago, the total receipts of bars and Chinese restaurants registered decreases of 3% and 4% in value, and 8% and 11% in volume respectively in the third quarter of 1994.

The total receipts of fast food shops and non-Chinese restaurants increased slightly by 3% and 1% in value respectively. However, they dropped by 4% and 6% respectively in volume terms.

Comparing the first three quarters in 1994 with the same period of 1993, total restaurant receipts rose by 7% in value but decreased by 2% in volume.

Comparing the third quarter of 1994 with the preceding quarter, and bearing in mind that the comparison may be affected by seasonal factors, total restaurant receipts increased by 4% in value and 3% in volume.

Restaurant receipts in volume terms are derived from receipts in value terms after adjusting for price changes. The relevant components of the Consumer Price Index are used as deflators.

Table 1 presents the revised figures for the total receipts and total purchases of the restaurant sector for the second quarter of 1994 and the provisional figures for the third quarter of 1994.

Table 2 shows the value and volume indices of total receipts by type of restaurant for the second quarter of 1994 and the third quarter of 1994, with the quarterly average from October 1989 to September 1990 taken as 100. Also tabulated are comparisons of the results of the third quarter of 1994 with those of the second quarter of 1994 and the third quarter of 1993; comparisons of total receipts for the first three quarters in 1994 with the same period in 1993 are also given.

The Report on the Quarterly Survey of Restaurant Receipts and Purchases for the third quarter of 1994 is now on sale at \$3 a copy at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, Ground Floor, 66 Queensway; and the Publications Section of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 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 tel 802 1258.

TABLE 1: TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES

		2nd qtr. 1994 (Revised figures)	3rd qtr. 1994 (Provisional figures)
Total restaurant receipts	(HK\$ million)	11 964.0	12 470.2
Total purchases by restaurants	(HK\$ million)	4 246.2	4 459.6

TABLE 2: VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF RESTAURANT RECEIPTS FOR 2nd QUARTER 1994 AND 3rd QUARTER 1994

(Quarterly average of Oct. 89 - Sept. 90 = 100)

Type of restaurant	Type of index	Index number		3rd qtr. 1994 compared with 2nd qtr. 1994		3rd qtr. 1994 compared with 3rd qtr. 1993		1st-3rd qtr. 1994 compared with 1st-3rd qtr. 1993	
		2nd quarter 1994 (Revised figures)	3rd quarter 1994 (Provisional figures)	(Points) (%)	(Points) (%)	(Points) (%)	(Points) (%)		
Chinese restaurants	Value	124.5	125.0	+0.5	+0.4	-5.2	-4.0	+8.0	+6.5
	Volume	81.4	80.5	-0.9	-1.2	-10.4	-11.4	-1.7	-2.0
Non-Chinese restaurants	Value	148.5	161.4	+12.9	+8.7	+2.0	+1.2	+9.4	+6.6
	Volume	99.0	106.2	+7.1	+7.2	-6.8	-6.0	-0.9	-0.9
Fast food shops	Value	205.4	235.2	+29.8	+14.5	+5.7	+2.5	+10.2	+5.1
	Volume	144.6	164.6	+20.0	+13.8	-6.4	-3.7	-2.5	-1.7
Bars	Value	229.2	218.3	-10.9	-4.8	-7.4	-3.3	+26.9	+13.3
	Volume	144.9	133.7	-11.2	-7.7	-10.9	-7.5	+6.0	+4.4
Other eating and drinking places	Value	180.4	232.6	+52.2	+28.9	+23.3	+11.1	+9.0	+4.8
	Volume	120.3	151.5	+31.1	+25.9	+0.9	+0.6	-5.1	-3.8
All restaurant types	Value	139.2	145.1	+5.9	+4.2	-2.6	-1.7	+8.8	+6.5
	Volume	92.3	95.0	+2.7	+2.9	-9.2	-8.8	-1.5	-1.6

End/Thursday, December 29, 1994

Provisional figures of external trade for November 1994

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Both re-exports and imports continued to show marked increases in November 1994 compared with November 1993. Domestic exports also showed sustained growth.

These are shown in the provisional figures of external trade for November released today (Thursday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

The value of total exports (comprising re-exports and domestic exports) increased by \$15.77 billion or 17% to \$107.2 billion in November 1994.

Within total exports, the value of re-exports, at \$86.8 billion in November 1994, was \$14.4 billion or 20% higher than a year earlier.

The value of domestic exports also increased, by \$1.3 billion or 6.8% over a year earlier to \$20.5 billion in November.

Meanwhile, the value of imports showed an accelerated increase, by \$24.6 billion or 27% to \$117.1 billion.

As the value of total exports in November 1994 was smaller than that of total imports, a visible trade deficit of \$9.8 billion, equivalent to 8.4% of the value of imports, was recorded.

This was significantly larger than the corresponding deficit of \$974 million, equivalent to 1.1% of the value of imports, in November 1993.

In the first 11 months of 1994, the value of total exports grew by 12% over the same period last year.

Among this, the value of re-exports rose by 16%, while that of domestic exports fell marginally by 0.2%. The value of imports showed an increase of 17%.

In the first 11 months of 1994, a visible trade deficit of \$71.2 billion, equivalent to 6.3% of the value of imports, was recorded.

This compared with a deficit of \$24.7 billion, equivalent to 2.5% of the value of imports, recorded in the first 11 months of 1993.

Commenting on the latest trade figures, a Government spokesman said export performance improved further in November.

The growth in re-exports accelerated and domestic exports continued to show a notable increase, he said.

Owing to greater import requirements arising from the recovery in domestic exports and continued increase in capital investment locally, retained imports remained robust, rising by 41% in November over a year earlier.

The visible trade deficit thus widened further.

A more detailed analysis of Hong Kong's external trade for November 1994, by commodity and country, will be released in mid-January.

PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR NOVEMBER 1994

MERCHANDISE: Domestic Exports :	\$20,450 million
Re-exports :	\$86,779 million
Total Exports :	\$107,229 million
Imports :	\$117,068 million
Trade balance :	-\$9,838 million

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Latest 3 months	Sep 94 to	Sep 93 to	Change	
	Nov 94	Nov 93	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	61,686	58,266	+3,420	+5.9
(% of Total Exports)	(18.8%)	(20.6%)		
Re-exports	266,215	224,255	+41,960	+18.7
Total Exports	327,901	282,521	+45,380	+16.1
Imports	346,749	278,097	+68,652	+24.7
Trade balance	-18,848	4,424	-23,272	
Same month last year	November	November	Change	
	1994	1993	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	20,450	19,145	+1,306	+6.8
(% of Total Exports)	(19.1%)	(20.9%)		
Re-exports	86,779	72,351	+14,428	+19.9
Total Exports	107,229	91,495	+15,734	+17.2
Imports	117,068	92,469	+24,598	+26.6
Trade balance	-9,838	-974	-8,864	
Last month	November	October	Change	
	1994	1994	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	20,450	21,345	-895	-4.2
(% of Total Exports)	(19.1%)	(18.9%)		
Re-exports	86,779	91,340	-4,561	-5.0
Total Exports	107,229	112,685	-5,456	-4.8
Imports	117,068	116,174	+893	+0.8
Trade balance	-9,838	-3,489	-6,349	
Calendar year to-date	Jan-Nov	Jan-Nov	Change	
	1994	1993	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	201,968	202,444	-476	-0.2
(% of Total Exports)	(18.9%)	(21.3%)		
Re-exports	865,892	749,450	+116,442	+15.5
Total Exports	1,067,860	951,894	+115,966	+12.2
Imports	1,139,106	976,548	+162,558	+16.6
Trade balance	-71,246	-24,654	-46,592	
Last 12 months	Dec 93 to	Dec 92 to	Change	
	Nov 94	Nov 93	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	222,550	224,103	-1,553	-0.7
(% of Total Exports)	(19.1%)	(21.6%)		
Re-exports	939,666	813,733	+125,932	+15.5
Total Exports	1,162,216	1,037,836	+124,380	+12.0
Imports	1,235,156	1,066,779	+168,376	+15.8
Trade balance	-72,939	-28,943	-43,996	

End/Thursday, December 29, 1994

Pet shop dogs and cats must be vaccinated

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Beginning January 1, all dogs and cats on sale at licensed pet shops must be appropriately vaccinated against the common canine or feline diseases by a duly qualified veterinary surgeon, the Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD) announced today (Thursday).

This is one of the additional conditions imposed on all animal trading licences involved in the trading of dogs and cats.

Making the announcement, veterinary officer Dr Peter Grandison said the additional conditions had been introduced for the need to safeguard animal health through improvement of the immune status of the Hong Kong dog and cat population at large.

"The changes will help create greater confidence in dog and cat health within the pet trade, regulate against fraudulent practices, improve pet care through public education and provide for greater consumer protection."

Dr Grandison said despite the fact that vaccination was a vital component of protecting animal health, it did not guarantee perfect protection.

Vaccination must be complemented by good management practices, including hygiene, disinfection, attention to welfare and prompt attention to health problems, he added.

Turning to other additional conditions, he said an original vaccination certificate issued and signed by a duly qualified veterinary surgeon must be available in the licensed premises for inspection by an authorised officer at all times.

"It is necessary that any dog or cat being offered for sale must be accompanied by a valid original vaccination certificate which should be given to the purchaser upon a transaction," he said, adding that certificates must cover individual animals only, but not groups.

Other existing conditions cover disease control and animal welfare for dogs and cats inside pet shops.

On disease control, Dr Grandison said licensees should take all possible precautions to prevent the occurrence or spread of any infectious or contagious disease in any animals kept in the licensed premises.

He stressed that the additional conditions and the AFD-provided notice depicting the vaccination requirement must be prominently displayed along with the animal trading licence within the premises.

In addition, a second copy of the notice should be displayed in a prominent position at the entrance to the shop.

End/Thursday, December 29, 1994

Eight more HIV-infected cases confirmed

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Two women and six men were found to be positive for the HIV Antibody test last month, the Department of Health announced today (Thursday).

This brings the number of HIV-infected persons in Hong Kong to 513.

Five new AIDS cases were reported during the month.

The total number of confirmed AIDS cases is 127 with 72 deaths reported.

Of the 513 HIV-infected, 189 acquired the infection through homosexual or bisexual sex and 206 through heterosexual sex; 11 were injecting drug users; one was a mother-to-child transmission around the time of birth; and 66 acquired the infection through contaminated blood or blood products before 1985 when HIV Antibody test and safe heat treated clotting concentrates were not available.

As for the remaining 40, the information available was inadequate for classification.

Under the HIV surveillance programme which started in 1985, a total of 349,573 blood specimens have been tested for the HIV Antibody.

The Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service has also screened all blood donors for the antibody.

Up to last month, 1,507,439 units of blood had been tested and 35 donors were found positive.

End/Thursday, December 29, 1994

News media urged to support election work

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The following is issued on behalf of the Boundary and Election Commission:

The Chairman of the Boundary and Election Commission, Mr Justice Woo Kwok-hing, today urged the news media to continue their support for the work of the commission in the forthcoming year.

Speaking at a year-end tea-reception, Mr Justice Woo said: "I hope that you would report election news under the fair and equal principle, to ensure that future election activities can be conducted fairly, openly and honestly."

The Chairman also took the opportunity to introduce the new commission member Mr Chan Wing-tai to the media. A distinguished academic in sociology and social research and head of the Department of Applied Social Studies in the City University of Hong Kong, Mr Chan replaced Professor Leung Chi-keung who resigned from the commission from October 1.

1994 is an eventful year for the commission. It launched a massive voter registration drive from April to July 1 and conducted the District Board Elections in September.

It has also completed reports on the delineation of the geographical constituency boundaries for Municipal Councils and Legislative Council Elections and a review of District Board Elections to the Governor in December.

More, it prepared election guidelines in July and revised the guidelines in December, not to mention the more than 1,700 election-related complaints handled during and after the September elections.

Looking ahead, Mr Justice Woo said work abounded next year: voter registration drive from January to June 1, Municipal Council Elections on March 5, Legislative Council Elections on September 17, preparation of election guides for LegCo's functional constituencies and electoral procedure for LegCo Elections, two election reviews to the Governor and so on.

End/Thursday, December 29, 1994

Government publishes booklet on education

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The Government published a booklet entitled "A Guide to Education and Training in Hong Kong", in Chinese and English, today (Thursday).

"The booklet describes in easily readable language Hong Kong's education system, focusing particularly on its institutional framework and relevant support infrastructure," a Government spokesman said.

"The booklet covers all levels of education, from kindergarten to tertiary, and from special education to international schools," the spokesman said.

"It also takes stock of the achievements we have made over the past few decades, and describes how change is being managed," he added.

Developments planned or already being implemented for the rest of the decade and beyond are also outlined in the booklet.

"The booklet is an informative reference for local people as well as those from overseas," he said.

Copies of the booklets will be distributed to all schools and major educational institutions.

The booklet is also available for members of the public at District Offices, District Education Offices, the Education Department and the Education and Manpower Branch.

For enquiries, please contact the Education and Manpower Branch on telephone 810 3031.

End/Thursday, December 29, 1994

Welfare payment arrangements for New Year holidays

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Recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance under the bank payment system may receive their payments on Saturday (December 31) if their pay-days fall on the New Year public holidays (January 1 and 2).

A spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Thursday) that special payment arrangements would also be made for recipients of Social Security Allowance whose pay-days fell on the two days.

Those who have bank accounts in Hong Kong Bank or Hang Seng Bank will receive their payments on Saturday (December 31) whereas those with accounts in other banks will receive their payments next Tuesday (January 3).

In case of doubt, they are advised to contact their respective social security field units.

End/Thursday, December 29, 1994

Codes of Practice for Fossil-fuel Boilers
& Thermal Oil Heaters to be published

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The Labour Department will publish the Code of Practice for Fossil-fuel Boilers and the Code of Practice for Thermal Oil Heaters tomorrow (Friday).

Principal Surveyor of the Labour Department's Pressure Equipment Division, Mr Michael Lee, said the purpose of issuing these codes was to ensure acceptable standards in the design, manufacture, installation, maintenance, examination, testing and operation of boilers and pressure vessels.

"These codes are issued by the Commissioner for Labour, who is the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Authority, under the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Ordinance," he added.

Both codes provide detailed advice on the safe practice and requirements relating to safety fittings, operation, inspection, maintenance, report of accident and defects of fossil-fuel boilers and thermal oil heaters.

Mr Lee urged owners, competent persons, contractors, appointed examiners and inspection bodies to pay attention to the requirements of the codes.

Both English and Chinese copies of the codes can be obtained from the Pressure Equipment Division, Labour Department, 17th floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, from tomorrow.

End/Thursday, December 29, 1994

Eight clinics remain open on New Year holidays

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The Department of Health today (Thursday) announced that eight General Out-Patient clinics would stay open on January 1 and 2.

The eight clinics are: The Violet Peel Health Centre and Shau Kei Wan Jockey Club Clinic on Hong Kong Island; Kwun Tong Jockey Club Health Centre, the Robert Black Health Centre and Yau Ma Tei Jockey Club Clinic in Kowloon; the Lady Trench Polyclinic, Shek Wu Hui Jockey Club Clinic and Yuen Long Jockey Club Health Centre in the New Territories.

They will be open from 9 am to 1 pm. All other General Out-Patient and evening clinics will be closed.

End/Thursday, December 29, 1994

New District Officer for Wan Chai

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Mrs Karen Pong Leung Kwok-hing has taken up the post as the Wan Chai District Officer today (Thursday).

She is succeeding Mr Peter Mann who has been transferred to the Housing Branch.

Mrs Pong, who joined the Government as Executive Officer II in 1972, became Assistant Trade Officer in 1976 and was promoted to Principal Trade Officer in August 1987.

Her previous posting was Principal Assistant Secretary for Security.

End/ Thursday, December 29, 1994

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
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Opening balance in the account	1,818	0930	+156
Closing balance in the account	2,034	1000	+156
Change attributable to :		1100	+256
Money market activity	+256	1200	+256
LAF today	-40	1500	+256
		1600	+256

LAF rate 3.75% bid/5.75% offer TWI 121.5 *-0.3* 29.12.94

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills

EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds

Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.43	17 months	2605	6.35	98.82	7.39
1 month	5.28	23 months	2611	6.90	98.85	7.70
3 months	5.65	28 months	3704	6.15	96.61	7.91
6 months	6.26	34 months	3710	7.25	98.47	8.01
12 months	7.02	60 months	5912	8.15	99.70	8.39

Total turnover of bills and bonds - 11,969 million

Closed December 29, 1994

End/Thursday, December 29, 1994