



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HK'S EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER
AND WHOLE YEAR OF 1993

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) RELEASED DETAILED STATISTICS ON EXTERNAL TRADE WITH BREAKDOWN BY COUNTRY/TERRITORY AND COMMODITY FOR DECEMBER AND THE WHOLE YEAR OF 1993.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS IN DECEMBER 1993, AT \$73,774 MILLION, SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 15% OVER DECEMBER 1992, WHEREAS THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AT \$20,582 MILLION DECREASED BY 5%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO MOST OF THE MAJOR DESTINATIONS: THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+27%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+27%), THE UNITED STATES (+23%), JAPAN (+21%), GERMANY (+21%), CHINA (+17%), FRANCE (+13%), SINGAPORE (+7.3%) AND CANADA (+7.1%).

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO TAIWAN DECREASED BY 16%.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR DESTINATIONS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS IN THE WHOLE YEAR OF 1993 WAS \$823,224 MILLION, BEING 19% HIGHER THAN THAT IN 1992.

COMPARING THE YEAR 1993 WITH THE YEAR 1992, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO MOST OF THE MAJOR DESTINATIONS: CHINA (+29%), SINGAPORE (+24%), GERMANY (+23%), THE UNITED STATES (+21%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+19%), JAPAN (+18%), FRANCE (+17%), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+14%) AND CANADA (+14%).

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO TAIWAN DECREASED BY 16%.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING THE YEAR 1993 WITH THE YEAR 1992, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS OF ALL MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

MORE NOTABLE INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$18,320 MILLION OR 33%); ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$15,560 MILLION OR 91%); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$15,395 MILLION OR 29%); AND CLOTHING (BY \$12,479 MILLION OR 16%).

MORE NOTABLE INCREASES WERE ALSO REGISTERED FOR FOOTWEAR (BY \$11,899 MILLION OR 34%); MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES CONSISTING OF MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY \$10,719 MILLION OR 11%); AND PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$6,847 MILLION OR 23%).

/THE VALUE

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN DECEMBER 1993, AT \$20,582 MILLION, FELL BY 5% OVER DECEMBER 1992.

DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO GERMANY (-28%), FRANCE (-24%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (-18%), JAPAN (-12%), CHINA (-7.3%), TAIWAN (-5.3%) AND THE NETHERLANDS (-4.8%).

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES, SINGAPORE AND CANADA INCREASED BY 13%, 4.6% AND 3.8% RESPECTIVELY.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR DESTINATIONS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING THE YEAR 1993 WITH THE YEAR 1992, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO FRANCE (-14%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (-14%), GERMANY (-12%), JAPAN (-12%), THE NETHERLANDS (-7.3%), THE UNITED STATES (-6.7%), CANADA (-5.7%) AND TAIWAN (-3.7%).

HOWEVER, INCREASES OF 9.5% AND 2.3% IN VALUE WERE RECORDED FOR THOSE TO SINGAPORE AND CHINA RESPECTIVELY.

TAKING ALL DESTINATIONS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE YEAR 1993, AT \$223,027 MILLION, DECREASED BY 4.7% OVER THE YEAR 1992.

TABLE 4 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING THE YEAR 1993 WITH THE YEAR 1992, INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$2,530 MILLION OR 13%); MACHINERY SPECIALISED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES (BY \$363 MILLION OR 11%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$295 MILLION OR 2.3%); AND PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS (BY \$75 MILLION OR 2.2%).

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED FOR CLOTHING (BY \$5,299 MILLION OR 6.9%); OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES (BY \$3,283 MILLION OR 16%); AND PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$2,826 MILLION OR 15%).

DECREASES WERE ALSO RECORDED FOR MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES CONSISTING OF MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES (BY \$1,584 MILLION OR 7.2%); TEXTILES (BY \$1,046 MILLION OR 6.1%); AND MANUFACTURES OF METALS (BY \$149 MILLION OR 3.1%).

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS IN DECEMBER 1993 WAS \$96,058 MILLION, INCREASING BY 6.5% OVER THAT IN DECEMBER 1992.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 5.

COMPARING DECEMBER 1993 WITH DECEMBER 1992, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM MALAYSIA (+37%), SINGAPORE (+19%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+16%), CHINA (+14%), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+11%), ITALY (+8.4%), GERMANY (+2.5%) AND THE UNITED STATES (+2.3%).

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM JAPAN DECREASED BY 10%.

COMPARING THE YEAR 1993 WITH THE YEAR 1992, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM ALL THE MAJOR SUPPLIERS INCREASED: MALAYSIA (+24%), SINGAPORE (+22%), ITALY (+21%), GERMANY (+14%), CHINA (+13%), THE UNITED STATES (+13%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+12%), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+9.2%), TAIWAN (+8.0%) AND JAPAN (+7.1%).

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS IN THE YEAR 1993 WAS \$1,072,597 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 12% OVER THE YEAR 1992.

TABLE 6 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING THE YEAR 1993 WITH THE YEAR 1992, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS OF MOST MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

MORE NOTABLE INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$20,922 MILLION OR 22%); AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$17,717 MILLION OR 23%).

MORE NOTABLE INCREASES WERE ALSO REGISTERED FOR ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$16,813 MILLION OR 50%); CLOTHING (BY \$11,247 MILLION OR 14%); FOOTWEAR (BY \$9,978 MILLION OR 31%); AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES CONSISTING OF MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY \$7,536 MILLION OR 10%).

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, A DECREASE IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WAS RECORDED FOR TEXTILES (BY \$2,427 MILLION OR 2.4%).

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 VOLUME AND PRICE MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR DECEMBER 1993 WILL BE RELEASED IN EARLY MARCH 1994.

DETAILED TRADE STATISTICS ANALYSED BY COMMODITY AND BY COUNTRY/TERRITORY ARE PUBLISHED IN TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS.

THE DECEMBER 1993 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE" WITH DETAILED ANALYSES ON THE PERFORMANCE OF HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE IN DECEMBER AND THE WHOLE YEAR OF 1993 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT \$68.50 A COPY AROUND FEBRUARY 22.

THE REPORT CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, OR THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON THE 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE STATISTICS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL 582 4915).

TABLE 1 : RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	DEC 1993 (HKD Mn.)	DEC 93 OVER DEC 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-DEC 1993 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-DEC 93 OVER JAN-DEC 92 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	26,316	+ 17.3	274,561	+ 29.4
UNITED STATES	14,512	+ 22.9	180,349	+ 21.4
JAPAN	3,781	+ 21.1	44,156	+ 17.9
GERMANY	4,156	+ 20.7	40,798	+ 23.2
UNITED KINGDOM	2,365	+ 27.2	24,536	+ 19.2
TAIWAN	1,836	- 15.7	21,910	- 16.2
SINGAPORE	1,568	+ 7.3	17,143	+ 23.6
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1,469	+ 27.2	15,538	+ 14.3
FRANCE	1,186	+ 12.6	12,864	+ 16.5
CANADA	964	+ 7.1	12,656	+ 14.0

TABLE 2: RE-EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	DEC 1993 (HKD Mn.)	DEC 93 OVER DEC 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-DEC 1993 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-DEC 93 OVER JAN-DEC 92 (% CHANGE)
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	7,742	- 0.4	108,036	+ 11.0
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	8,353	+ 24.6	90,574	+ 16.0
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	7,648	+ 51.1	74,082	+ 32.9
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	6,300	+ 2.9	70,556	+ 4.2

/ELECTRICAL MACHINERY,

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	6,761	+ 34.7	69,141	+ 28.6
FOOTWEAR	4,019	+ 20.9	47,226	+ 33.7
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	3,125	+ 8.8	36,498	+ 23.1
ROAD VEHICLES	3,168	+ 29.1	32,747	+ 90.5
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	3,208	+ 37.5	28,756	+ 30.7
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS	2,332	+ 8.9	26,752	+ 12.3

TABLE 3: DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	DEC 1993 (HKD Mn.)	DEC 93 OVER DEC 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-DEC 1993 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-DEC 93 OVER JAN-DEC 92 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	5,450	- 7.3	63,367	+ 2.3
UNITED STATES	6,023	+ 12.6	60,292	- 6.7
GERMANY	1,421	- 28.3	13,969	- 12.5
SINGAPORE	1,046	+ 4.6	11,344	+ 9.5
UNITED KINGDOM	1,098	- 17.6	10,771	- 14.1
JAPAN	751	- 11.7	9,677	- 12.0
TAIWAN	571	- 5.3	6,261	- 3.7
CANADA	453	+ 3.8	4,734	- 5.7
NETHERLANDS	523	- 4.8	4,520	- 7.3
FRANCE	256	- 24.4	2,707	- 14.4

/TABLE 4:

TABLE 4: DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	DEC 1993 (HKD Mn.)	DEC 93 OVER DEC 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-DEC 1993 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-DEC 93 OVER JAN-DEC 92 (% CHANGE)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	7,640	- 2.5	71,857	- 6.9
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	2,286	+ 25.9	22,668	+ 12.6
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	1,714	- 0.8	20,568	7.2
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	1,612	- 17.3	17,247	- 16.0
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,288	- 14.4	16,180	- 6.1
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,250	- 24.3	16,053	- 15.0
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	1,064	- 5.4	13,278	+ 2.3
MANUFACTURES OF METALS	403	+ 1.2	4,639	- 3.1
MACHINERY SPECIALISED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES	297	- 3.4	3,588	+ 11.3
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	278	+ 1.4	3,441	+ 2.2

/TABLE 5:

TABLE 5: IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS

SUPPLIER	DEC 1993 (HKD Mn.)	DEC 93 OVER DEC 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-DEC 1993 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-DEC 93 OVER JAN-DEC 92 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	36,101	+ 13.6	402,161	+ 13.5
JAPAN	15,028	- 10.4	178,034	+ 7.1
TAIWAN	8,114	+ 0.1	93,968	+ 8.0
UNITED STATES	7,773	+ 2.3	79,419	+ 12.5
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	4,299	+ 11.3	48,220	+ 9.2
SINGAPORE	4,650	+ 19.2	47,835	+ 22.4
GERMANY	2,141	+ 2.5	24,918	+ 13.7
UNITED KINGDOM	2,101	+ 16.4	21,438	+ 11.5
ITALY	1,645	+ 8.4	17,880	+ 20.6
MALAYSIA	1,629	+ 36.7	15,855	+ 23.6

TABLE 6: IMPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	DEC 1993 (HKD Mn.)	DEC 93 OVER DEC 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-DEC 1993 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-DEC 93 OVER JAN-DEC 92 (% CHANGE)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	11,380	+ 27.4	116,357	+ 21.9
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	8,318	- 2.6	98,895	- 2.4
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	9,401	+ 30.8	93,346	+ 23.4
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	8,418	+ 20.7	91,325	+ 14.0

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	6,098	+ 1.0	79,460	+ 10.5
ROAD VEHICLES	2,802	- 41.0	50,466	+ 50.0
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	4,464	- 1.8	48,661	+ 6.1
FOOTWEAR	3,615	+ 15.6	41,668	+ 31.5
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	3,977	+ 23.1	36,915	+ 8.8
NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	2,874	+ 16.0	33,431	+ 14.0

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QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS FOR FOURTH QUARTER 1993

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IN LINE WITH PREVIOUS EXPECTATION, MANUFACTURERS REPORTED THAT BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IMPROVED IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993.

LOOKING AHEAD, SEASONAL DETERIORATION IS EXPECTED IN BOTH ASPECTS IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION OF THE BANKING INDUSTRY IMPROVED IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993. KEEN PRICE COMPETITION, SHORTAGE OF STAFF GENERALLY AND HIGH STAFF COSTS CONTINUED TO BE THE MAJOR BUSINESS PROBLEMS IN THE INDUSTRY.

LOOKING AHEAD, THE MAJORITY OF BANKS EXPECT BROADLY THE SAME BUSINESS SITUATION.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE MAJOR RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

FIRMS FROM THE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED SERVICES REPORTED THAT THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IMPROVED IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993. THE PROBLEMS OF SHORTAGE OF STAFF GENERALLY AND HIGH STAFF COSTS WERE WIDELY REPORTED.

LOOKING AHEAD, THE MAJORITY OF FIRMS EXPECT BROADLY THE SAME BUSINESS SITUATION.

FOR INDIVIDUAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, MANUFACTURERS FROM THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY REPORTED THAT BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IMPROVED IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993.

THE PROBLEMS OF KEEN PRICE COMPETITION, SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOUR AND HIGH WAGE RATES REMAINED DOMINANT IN THE INDUSTRY.

LOOKING AHEAD, SEASONAL DETERIORATION IN THE BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED.

THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION OF THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY IMPROVED IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993. THE PROBLEMS OF KEEN PRICE COMPETITION AND INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS ORDERS CONTINUED TO BOTHER THE INDUSTRY WHILE THE PROBLEM OF HIGH WAGE RATES ALLEVIATED A BIT.

LOOKING AHEAD, SEASONAL DETERIORATION IN THE BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION OF THE PRINTING INDUSTRY IMPROVED IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993, THOUGH THE IMPROVEMENT WAS BELOW PREVIOUS EXPECTATION. THE PROBLEMS OF KEEN PRICE COMPETITION AND SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOUR ALLEVIATED SIGNIFICANTLY WHILE THE PROBLEM OF HIGH WAGE RATES BECAME DOMINANT IN THE QUARTER.

LOOKING AHEAD, FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED.

MANUFACTURERS FROM THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY REPORTED THAT THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION REMAINED BROADLY THE SAME IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993. THE PROBLEM OF INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS ORDERS WAS WIDELY REPORTED. THE PROBLEM OF HIGH WAGE RATES ALSO INTENSIFIED IN THE QUARTER.

LOOKING AHEAD, DETERIORATION IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED.

THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION OF THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY REMAINED BROADLY THE SAME IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993. KEEN PRICE COMPETITION FROM OVERSEAS FIRMS, HIGH MATERIAL PRICES AND INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS ORDERS REMAINED THE BUSINESS PROBLEMS MOST CITED.

LOOKING AHEAD, IMPROVEMENT IN THE BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED.

MANUFACTURERS FROM THE ELECTRICAL MACHINERY AND APPLIANCES INDUSTRY REPORTED AN UNEXPECTED DETERIORATION IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993. THE PROBLEM OF HIGH WAGE RATES WAS WIDELY REPORTED.

PRICE COMPETITION FROM LOCAL FIRMS WAS ALSO KEEN IN THE QUARTER. LOOKING AHEAD, BROADLY THE SAME BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED.

MANUFACTURERS FROM THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY REPORTED SEASONAL DETERIORATION IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993. PRICE COMPETITION FROM LOCAL FIRMS REMAINED KEEN IN THE QUARTER WHILE THE PROBLEM OF HIGH WAGE RATES ALLEVIATED SOMEWHAT.

LOOKING AHEAD, FURTHER DETERIORATION IN THE BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IMPROVED IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993. KEEN PRICE COMPETITION FROM LOCAL FIRMS, HIGH WAGE RATES AND SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOUR CONTINUED TO BE THE MAJOR BUSINESS PROBLEMS IN THE SECTOR.

LOOKING AHEAD, FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN THE BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

FOR THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IMPROVED IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993. PRICE COMPETITION REMAINED KEEN IN THE QUARTER.

LOOKING AHEAD, FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN THE BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED.

ALTHOUGH BELOW WHAT HAD BEEN EXPECTED PREVIOUSLY, RESTAURANT OPERATORS REPORTED THAT BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IMPROVED IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993. KEEN PRICE COMPETITION AND HIGH STAFF COSTS CONTINUED TO BE THE MAJOR BUSINESS PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY THEM.

LOOKING AHEAD, THE BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN BROADLY THE SAME.

A LARGE MAJORITY OF THE HOTEL OPERATORS REPORTED THAT BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IMPROVED IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993. THE PROBLEMS OF KEEN PRICE COMPETITION, HIGH STAFF COSTS AND SHORTAGE OF STAFF GENERALLY WERE WIDELY REPORTED.

LOOKING AHEAD, SEASONAL DETERIORATION IN THE BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED.

FIRMS IN THE TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION SERVICES REPORTED BETTER IMPROVEMENT THAN PREVIOUSLY EXPECTED IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993.

KEEN PRICE COMPETITION REMAINED THE BUSINESS PROBLEM MOST CITED. LOOKING AHEAD, SEASONAL DETERIORATION IN THE BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED.

ABOUT 500 FIRMS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES AND TRADES, FORMING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, PARTICIPATED IN THE SURVEY. THEY WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS EXPERIENCES AND EXPECTATIONS AS WELL AS THE BUSINESS PROBLEMS THEY FACED.

THE RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY, OBTAINED WITH A MINIMUM TIME LAG, ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE A SOURCE OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF HONG KONG FROM A SHORT-TERM PERSPECTIVE.

IN THE SURVEY, PARTICIPATING FIRMS WERE ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER, IN THEIR OPINION, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND THE LEVEL OF CAPACITY UTILISATION HAD 'IMPROVED', 'REMAINED THE SAME' OR 'DETERIORATED' IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993 AS COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER.

THEY WERE ALSO ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER THE SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO 'IMPROVE', 'REMAIN THE SAME' OR 'DETERIORATE' IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1994.

THE OPINIONS OF RESPONDENTS WERE THEN ANALYSED AND THE SUMMARY FINDINGS PUBLISHED IN THE "REPORT ON QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY, FOURTH QUARTER 1993".

MOREOVER, THE SURVEY REPORT CONTAINS A SECTION ON THE BUSINESS PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED AND EXPECTED BY FIRMS IN THE DIFFERENT ECONOMIC SECTORS.

THE DEPARTMENT REMARKED THAT, IN A SURVEY OF THIS NATURE, THE RESULTS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED WITH CAUTION AS IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY THE EXTENT TO WHICH RESPONDENTS' RECOLLECTION OF THE PAST AND PERCEPTION OF THE FUTURE ACCORDS WITH THE UNDERLYING TRENDS.

STARTING FROM 1994, THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY WILL BE REPLACED BY A SIMILAR ENQUIRY ENTITLED "HALF-YEARLY BUSINESS PROSPECTS SURVEY".

THIS SURVEY, TO BE HELD AT HALF-YEARLY INTERVALS RATHER THAN QUARTERLY, WILL CONTINUE TO COLLECT VIEWS OF FIRMS ON THE SHORT-TERM PROSPECTS OF THE RESPECTIVE MAJOR BUSINESS SECTORS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY PURCHASE COPIES OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY REPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, OR FROM THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$12.50 A COPY.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 839 3223.

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JANUARY 1994 AIR QUALITY REPORT
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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (MONDAY) RELEASED AIR QUALITY INFORMATION FOR JANUARY 1994.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS TO KEEP THE PUBLIC INFORMED OF THE AIR QUALITY LEVELS IN THE TERRITORY AND TO EXPLAIN THE MEASUREMENTS.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT CONTAINS MONITORING RESULTS FROM MONG KOK, CENTRAL/WESTERN AND KWAI CHUNG. THESE LOCATIONS ARE TYPICAL OF THREE OF THE IMPORTANT LAND USE TYPES FOUND IN THE TERRITORY:

- * LOCATIONS CLOSE TO ROAD TRAFFIC IN BUILT-UP URBAN AREAS;
- * COMBINED COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS; AND
- * DISTRICTS CLOSE TO INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

THE DEPARTMENT CURRENTLY MONITORS AIR QUALITY CONTINUOUSLY AT EIGHT STATIONS, INCLUDING THE THREE MENTIONED. SHORT-TERM MEASUREMENT CAMPAIGNS ARE ALSO UNDERTAKEN AS AND WHERE THE NEED ARISES.

THE REPORTED AIR POLLUTANTS INCLUDE SULPHUR DIOXIDE (SO₂), NITROGEN DIOXIDE (NO₂), TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (TSP) WHICH COMPRISE ALL SIZES OF DUST PARTICLES, AND RESPIRABLE SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (RSP) WHICH ARE THE RESPIRABLE FRACTION OF THE DUST.

ALL THESE POLLUTANTS CAN AFFECT RESPIRATORY HEALTH IN SUFFICIENT CONCENTRATION.

IN JANUARY, POLLUTION CONCENTRATIONS FOLLOWED SIMILAR TRENDS AT ALL THREE REPORTED SITES SHOWING THAT METEOROLOGY WAS THE OVERRIDING FACTOR AFFECTING POLLUTANT LEVELS THIS MONTH.

AT THE STREET LEVEL SITE IN MONG KOK ON JANUARY 6 AND 26, THE 24-HOUR AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVE FOR NO₂ WAS EXCEEDED.

DURING THOSE PERIODS THERE WERE BOTH LOW WINDSPEEDS AND HIGH SUNSHINE LEVELS.

THE LOW WINDSPEEDS MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR LOCALLY EMITTED POLLUTANTS TO DISPERSE.

APART FROM THOSE TWO DAYS, LEVELS OF NO₂ WERE HIGH AT MONG KOK FOR THE REST OF THE MONTH.

THE MINIMAL RAINFALL IN JANUARY AND RESULTING DRY CONDITIONS MEANT THAT DUST LEVELS WERE HIGH, UP TO 40 PER CENT MORE THAN IN JANUARY 1993.

AT THE ROOFTOP SITES, MOST OF THE DUST WAS IN THE RESPIRABLE RANGE BECAUSE THE LARGER, HEAVIER PARTICLES HAD SETTLED OUT.

THE GASES AND PARTICLES DESCRIBED ORIGINATE FROM VARIOUS SOURCES. SO₂ IS MOSTLY PRODUCED WHEN FUELS THAT CONTAIN SULPHUR ARE BURNED. NO₂ IS FORMED DURING COMBUSTION BY THE COMBINATION OF NITROGEN AND OXYGEN.

HOWEVER, THE MAJORITY OF IT IS FORMED IN THE ATMOSPHERE BY THE OXIDATION OF NITRIC OXIDE (NO), ALSO A PRODUCT OF COMBUSTION.

VEHICLE EXHAUSTS ARE IMPORTANT SOURCES OF NO AND NO₂ IN TERMS OF IMPACT ON LOCAL AIR QUALITY.

/THESE EXHAUSTS

THESE EXHAUSTS ARE ALSO A MAJOR SOURCE OF AIRBORNE PARTICULATE MATTER, ESPECIALLY THE SMALLER RESPIRABLE PARTICLES.

OTHER SOURCES OF PARTICLES INCLUDE INDUSTRY, FURNACES AND BOILERS, CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, THE SEA AND THE SOIL.

IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT WHILST THE WEATHER AND CLIMATE ALWAYS AFFECT THE CONCENTRATIONS OF POLLUTANTS IN THE AIR, THE ONLY SURE WAY OF REDUCING THE LEVELS IS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM THE MAN-MADE SOURCES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS AIR QUALITY REPORT AND OTHER AIR QUALITY ISSUES, PLEASE CONTACT ACTING PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER MR S W PANG ON TEL 594 6401.

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LANTAU TAXI FARE RISE

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT WITH EFFECT FROM WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 16), FARES FOR LANTAU TAXIS WILL BE REVISED AS FOLLOWS:

LANTAU TAXIS

FLAGFALL FOR THE FIRST 2 KM	\$9.00
FOR EVERY 0.2 KM AFTER THE FIRST 2 KM	\$0.90
ADDITIONAL FARE FOR EACH ARTICLE OF BAGGAGE, ANIMAL OR BIRD	\$4.00
FOR EVERY HIRING ARRANGED THROUGH TELEPHONE BOOKING	\$5.00

TAXI OWNERS ARE ALSO REMINDED THAT THE TAXI FARE TABLES AT THE INTERIOR NEARSIDE REAR DOOR AND THE FRONT DASHBOARD ON THE PASSENGER SIDE OR THE FRONT NEARSIDE DOOR AS STIPULATED IN THE GAZETTE NOTICE SHOULD SHOW THE NEW FARE SCALE STARTING FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE FARE INCREASE.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1994

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"HK '94" STAMP EXHIBITION PRESS PREVIEW
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THE "HONG KONG '94", THE FIRST-EVER REGIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION IN HONG KONG, WILL BE HELD FROM FEBRUARY 18 TO 21 AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE.

THERE WILL BE 140 SALES BOOTHS RENTED TO LOCAL AND OVERSEAS STAMP DEALERS, POSTAL ADMINISTRATIONS AND THEIR AGENTS. OVER 400 FRAMES OF INVITED AND COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS WILL BE ON DISPLAY.

AT THE COURT OF HONOUR, THERE WILL BE A DISPLAY OF SOME EXTREMELY RARE AND VALUABLE COLLECTIONS WHICH INCLUDE THE FIRST USED PENNY BLACK, EXTRACTS FROM THE ROYAL COLLECTION CONSISTING OF SOME VERY RARE EARLY HONG KONG POSTAGE STAMPS AND EXHIBITS FROM THE HONG KONG MUSEUM OF HISTORY ON THE WAR-TIME POSTAL HISTORY OF HONG KONG.

TWO SECURITY PRINTERS FROM NETHERLANDS AND AUSTRALIA WILL ALSO PROVIDE DEMONSTRATION AND DISPLAY OF STAMP PRINTING PROCESS.

TO ENABLE THE PRESS TO HAVE AN EARLY SIGHT OF THESE EXHIBITS, A PRESS PREVIEW WILL BE HELD AT 3 PM ON THURSDAY (FEBRUARY 17) AT THE UPPER EXHIBITION HALL, SEVENTH FLOOR, HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, WAN CHAI.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR MIKE PAGLIARI, WILL BRIEF THE MEDIA ON THE EXHIBITION.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE PREVIEW. THEY ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE HALL AT 2.45 PM. THEY ARE ALSO REMINDED THAT FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE EXHIBITION AREA.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 67.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 394.168 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 312.518 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 53.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1994

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	14 FEBRUARY 1994
PAPER ON OFFER	EF NOTES
ISSUE NUMBER	2602
AMOUNT APPLIED	HK\$2,255 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HK\$500 MN
AVERAGE PRICE (YIELD) ACCEPTED	99.81 (4.55 PCT)
LOWEST PRICE (YIELD) ACCEPTED	99.80 (4.56PCT)
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 97.30 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER PRICE (YIELD)	99.75 (4.58 PCT)

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,282
REVERSAL OF LAF	+718
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	3,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-640
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,360
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 126.1 *-0.4* 14.2.94

/HONG KONG

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1994

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.75	16 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.70	4.03
1 MONTH	2.88	19 MONTHS	2508	4.265	100.63	4.23
3 MONTHS	3.21	22 MONTHS	2511	4.15	99.62	4.42
6 MONTHS	3.42	33 MONTHS	3610	4.20	98.44	4.88
12 MONTHS	3.76	36 MONTHS	3701	4.60	99.21	4.95

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 8,221 MN

CLOSED 14 FEBRUARY 1994

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