



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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RESULTS OF SURVEY ON TRADES

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THE SEPTEMBER 1979 ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS CONTAINS SUMMARY RESULTS OF A LARGE SCALE ECONOMIC CENSUS OF THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, AS WELL AS RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS.

THE SURVEY, TO PROVIDE BENCHMARK STATISTICS ON THE STRUCTURE, CONDUCT AND PERFORMANCE OF THE TRADE SECTOR, SHOWED THAT IN 1977, 50 392 WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT ESTABLISHMENTS, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS WERE FOUND IN OPERATION.

THESE ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGED A TOTAL OF 363 365 PERSONS, WITH ESTIMATED TOTAL SALES AND OTHER RECEIPTS OF \$108 578 MILLION, CENSUS VALUE ADDED OF \$15 454 MILLION, LABOUR COST OF \$5 077 MILLION AND OTHER OPERATING COSTS OF \$7 468 MILLION.

OVER 56 PER CENT OF THE 50 392 REPORTING ESTABLISHMENTS WERE IN THE RETAIL TRADE WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR 31 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED.

RESTAURANTS REPRESENTED ONLY SEVEN PER CENT OF THE NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS BUT 28 PER CENT OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT.

IMPORT/EXPORT AND WHOLESALE TRADES EACH MADE UP 21 PER CENT AND 14 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS, AND 24 PER CENT AND 12 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT.

HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES ACCOUNTED FOR ONLY ONE PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS AND FIVE PER CENT OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT.

IMPORT/EXPORT TRADE ACCOUNTED FOR 62 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF SALES AND OTHER RECEIPTS, WHILE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES EACH HAD 16 PER CENT, RESTAURANTS, FIVE PER CENT, AND HOTELS/BOARDING HOUSES, ONE PER CENT.

ON THE EXPENDITURE SIDE, RESTAURANTS WERE THE ONLY ACTIVITY WHICH SPENT MORE ON LABOUR THAN OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES. IMPORT/EXPORT TRADE WAS AT THE OTHER EXTREME, WITH OTHER OPERATING COSTS TWICE THAT OF LABOUR.

SMALL ESTABLISHMENTS WITH ONE TO FOUR PERSONS DOMINATED THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL TRADES AND IN BOARDING HOUSES. THESE SMALL ESTABLISHMENTS MADE UP 58 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS IN WHOLESALE TRADE, 80 PER CENT IN RETAIL TRADE, 52 PER CENT IN IMPORT/EXPORT TRADE AND 77 PER CENT IN BOARDING HOUSES. ONLY 24 PER CENT OF RESTAURANTS ENGAGED LESS THAN FIVE PERSONS.

IN TERMS OF SALES AND OTHER RECEIPTS, ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGING 10 TO 19 PERSONS WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT GROUP IN WHOLESALE ACTIVITY, CONTRIBUTING 27 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL TURNOVER.

A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT PATTERN WAS FOUND IN RETAIL BUSINESSES IN WHICH ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGING ONE TO FOUR PERSONS AND THOSE WITH 50 OR MORE PERSONS EACH CONTRIBUTED 25 PER CENT OF TOTAL SALES AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

/IN IMPORT/EXPORT

IN IMPORT/EXPORT TRADE, BUSINESS WAS CONCENTRATED ON A SMALL NUMBER OF LARGE FIRMS. THE SURVEY SHOWED THAT 64 LARGE FIRMS REPRESENTING ABOUT HALF A PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENT ENGAGED 100 OR MORE PERSONS. THEY ACCOUNTED FOR 22 PER CENT OF TOTAL SALES AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

RESTAURANTS WITH 100 OR MORE PERSONS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR OVER 43 PER CENT OF TOTAL SALES WHILE IN HOTELS/BOARDING HOUSES 89 PER CENT OF TOTAL SALES WERE SHARED BY THOSE ENGAGING 100 OR MORE PERSONS.

BY CENSUS DISTRICT, SHEUNG WAN AND ISLAND WEST WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT DISTRICT IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS AND BUSINESS TURNOVER IN WHOLESALE ACTIVITY. THE DISTRICT ACCOUNTED FOR 24 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF WHOLESALE ESTABLISHMENTS AND 30 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL SALES. THE NEXT IMPORTANT DISTRICT WAS CHEUNG SHA WAN, SHEK KIP MEI, FOLLOWED BY YAU MA TEI.

THE NEW TERRITORIES EXCLUDING TSUEN WAN HAD THE LARGEST NUMBER OF RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY KAI TAK AND SAN PO KONG. THE TWO DISTRICTS ACCOUNTED FOR 24 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETAILERS. IN TERMS OF SALES AND OTHER RECEIPTS, TSIM SHA TSUI WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT DISTRICT, CONTRIBUTING 18 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL RETAIL SALES.

SHEUNG WAN AND ISLAND WEST, CENTRAL AND TSIM SHA TSUI WERE THE MOST PROMINENT AREAS IN IMPORT/EXPORT BUSINESS. SHEUNG WAN AND ISLAND WEST HAD THE LARGEST NUMBER OF IMPORTERS/EXPORTERS, WITH A 20 PER CENT SHARE OF TOTAL SALES. CENTRAL, WITH THE SECOND LARGEST NUMBER OF IMPORT/EXPORT ESTABLISHMENTS, CONTRIBUTED 40 PER CENT OF TOTAL BUSINESS TURNOVER, AND TSIM SHA TSUI, 15 PER CENT.

THE NEW TERRITORIES EXCLUDING TSUEN WAN HAD THE LARGEST NUMBER OF RESTAURANTS BUT CONTRIBUTED ONLY SEVEN PER CENT OF THE TOTAL BUSINESS TURNOVER. DISTRICTS WITH THE LARGEST TURNOVERS WERE WAN CHAI (INCLUDING CAUSEWAY BAY), YAU MA TEI AND TSIM SHA TSUI, EACH CONTRIBUTING 14 PER CENT, 12 PER CENT AND 11 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OF THE TOTAL SALES AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

ABOUT 92 PER CENT OF THE HOTEL BUSINESS WAS LOCATED IN TSIM SHA TSUI, CENTRAL, AND WAN CHAI (INCLUDING CAUSEWAY BAY). CENTRAL DISTRICT HAD ONLY THREE HOTELS WITH A TURNOVER OF 21 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL. TSIM SHA TSUI, WITH 92 HOTELS/BOARDING HOUSES, CONTRIBUTED 50 PER CENT OF TOTAL BUSINESS TURNOVER. WAN CHAI (INCLUDING CAUSEWAY BAY) HAD 145 HOTELS/BOARDING HOUSES, THE LARGEST NUMBER BY CENSUS DISTRICT, AND ACCOUNTED FOR 20 PER CENT OF TOTAL SALES AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

THE MAJORITY OF ESTABLISHMENTS IN THIS SECTOR WAS SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP, FOLLOWED BY PARTNERSHIP, PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANIES AND PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANIES.

IN TERMS OF SALES, PARTNERSHIP WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT, FOLLOWED BY PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANIES IN WHOLESALE TRADE. IN RETAIL TRADE, SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP ACCOUNTED FOR 40 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL SALES, SLIGHTLY ABOVE THE SHARE OF PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANIES.

A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT PATTERN WAS SHOWN IN IMPORT/EXPORT TRADE AND RESTAURANTS IN WHICH PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANIES ACCOUNTED FOR 72 PER CENT AND 62 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OF THE TOTAL TURNOVER. IN HOTELS/BOARDING HOUSES, PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANIES HAD A 57 PER CENT SHARE OF THE TOTAL SALES, FOLLOWED BY PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANIES WITH A 37 PER CENT SHARE.

THE SEPTEMBER 1979 ISSUE OF THE MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE IN GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS A SUMMARY OF STATISTICS OBTAINED IN THE ECONOMIC CENSUS:-

SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR
REPORTING ESTABLISHMENTS BY ACTIVITY

	WHOLESALE	RETAIL	IMPORT/ EXPORT	RESTAURANTS	HOTELS	TOTAL
NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS	7 175	28 417	10 474	3 672	655	50 392
NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED	43 280	113 618	87 955	101 718	16 795	363 365
LABOUR COST (\$ MNS)	504	1 074	1 943	1 305	251	5 077
OPERATING COST (\$ MNS)	630	1 519	3 960	963	396	7 468
PURCHASES OF GOODS FOR SALE (\$ MNS)	15 611	14 262	59 963	2 570	142	92 546
CHANGES IN STOCKS (\$ MNS)	203	651	901	14	2	1 771
SALES AND OTHER RECEIPTS (\$ MNS)	17 067	17 492	67 788	5 131	1 100	108 578
CENSUS VALUE ADDED (\$ MNS)	1 451	3 486	7 623	2 100	794	15 454

(NOTE : FIGURES MAY NOT ADD UP TO THE TOTALS DUE TO ROUNDING.)

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NEW SHA TIN FIRE STATION TO OPEN IN MARCH
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THE NEW FIRE STATION FOR THE FAST DEVELOPING SHA TIN NEW TOWN IS EXPECTED TO BECOME OPERATIONAL IN EARLY MARCH.

STRUCTURAL WORK ON THE NEW DIVISIONAL STATION, A PROJECT OF THE PWD ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE, HAS BEEN COMPLETED, AND WORKMEN ARE PUTTING FINISHING TOUCHES TO IT.

A PWD SPOKESMAN SAID: +THE NEW THREE-STOREY STATION OCCUPIES A 9 000-SQUARE-METRE SITE ADJACENT TO THE SHING MUN RIVER AND WILL HAVE ROOM FOR 10 FIRE APPLIANCES.+

+IN ADDITION,+ HE SAID, +THERE WILL BE DUTY AND SERVICES ROOMS, OFFICES, A LECTURE ROOM, BARRACKS ACCOMMODATION FOR OPERATIONAL STAFF, DINING AND RECREATIONAL AREAS AND A STORE FOR DANGEROUS GOODS.+

A SEPARATE TWO-STOREY BUILDING ON THE SAME SITE WOULD PROVIDE OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES FIRE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS, HE SAID.

ONE OF THE FEATURES OF THE STATION WILL BE THE ELECTRIC-OPERATED SHUTTER DOORS ALL OF WHICH COULD BE OPENED IN LESS THAN 10 SECONDS AFTER THE CONTROL BUTTON IS ACTIVATED.

THE SYSTEM WILL REDUCE THE TIME TAKEN BY FIREMEN TO GET TO THE SCENE OF A FIRE.

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AIR LETTER MAIL TO VIETNAM RESUMED
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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT ORDINARY AIR LETTER MAIL TO VIETNAM SUSPENDED SINCE DECEMBER 21 LAST YEAR DUE TO INSUFFICIENT AIR OUTLETS, HAVE NOW BEEN RESUMED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POST OFFICE SAID THE RESUMPTION MIGHT ONLY BE OF A TEMPORARY NATURE AND WAS DEPENDENT ON THE MAINTENANCE OF AIR OUTLETS TO VIETNAM.

+AIR PARCEL AND ALL SURFACE MAIL SERVICES TO VIETNAM REMAIN SUSPENDED,+ HE ADDED.

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BUILDING ON WAN CHAI ROAD DECLARED DANGEROUS

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY (TUESDAY) DECLARED A FOUR-STOREY PRE-WAR BUILDING AT 164 WAN CHAI ROAD TO BE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION.

THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THE BUILDING HAD BEEN UNDER REGULAR OBSERVATION SINCE 1969. DURING RECENT MONTHS THE CONDITION OF THE LOAD-BEARING WALLS, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF THE REAR KITCHEN BLOCK, HAD DETERIORATED CONSIDERABLY.

+THERE IS NOW A SERIOUS RISK THAT SECTIONS OF THE KITCHEN BLOCK COULD COLLAPSE AND ACCORDINGLY THE CLOSURE AND DEMOLITION OF THIS BUILDING IS CONSIDERED NECESSARY,+ HE SAID.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER WAS POSTED ON THE BUILDING TODAY. THE APPLICATION WILL BE HEARD IN VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 AM ON FEBRUARY 5, 1980.

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FIRE SERVICES WELFARE FUND TO RECEIVE \$300 000 BOOST

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A LOCAL REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER AND BUSINESSMAN, MR. PETER LEUNG, WILL DONATE \$300 000 TO THE FIRE SERVICES WELFARE FUND IN APPRECIATION OF THE BRAVERY AND DEVOTION TO DUTY DISPLAYED BY HONG KONG'S 5 000 FIREMEN.

MR. LEUNG WILL PRESENT THE CHEQUE TO THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR. M.K. LANE AT A CEREMONY TO BE HELD TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT 11 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE 10TH FLOOR OF THE FIRE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, 323 JAVA ROAD, NORTH POINT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE PRESENTATION OF A \$300 000 DONATION TO THE FIRE SERVICES WELFARE FUND AT 11 AM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON 10TH FLOOR OF THE FIRE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, 323 JAVA ROAD, NORTH POINT.

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BUSINESS STUDENTS DO WELL IN EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS
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STUDENTS STUDYING COMMERCIAL COURSES IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND THE TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE HAVE OBTAINED GOOD RESULTS IN THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY EXAMINATIONS HELD LAST YEAR.

+OUT OF 43 CANDIDATES FROM THE COMMERCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT OF KWAI CHUNG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE WHO SAT THE ELEMENTARY STAGE OF THE BOOK-KEEPING EXAMINATION IN THE SPRING SERIES, 35 HAVE BEEN AWARDED PASSES WITH DISTINCTION, + A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

THIS MEANS THAT OVER 80 PER CENT OF THE CANDIDATES FROM THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE HAVE RECEIVED DISTINCTION.

IN THE HIGHER STAGE OF THE COSTING EXAMINATION, 12 OUT OF 16 CANDIDATES, ALSO FROM KWAI CHUNG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, HAD BEEN AWARDED PASSES WITH DISTINCTION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

STUDENTS FROM MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE TOOK PART IN THE BOOK-KEEPING EXAMINATION IN THE SUMMER SERIES LAST YEAR.

AT THE INTERMEDIATE LEVEL, 15 OUT OF 104 CANDIDATES PASSED WITH DISTINCTION, WHILE AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL EIGHT OUT OF 63 OBTAINED PASS WITH DISTINCTION.

FOURTEEN COMMERCIAL STUDENTS OF THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE PASSED WITH DISTINCTION AT THE HIGHER STAGE OF THE TYPEWRITING EXAMINATION IN THE SUMMER SERIES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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DONATIONS TO CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE WELFARE FUND
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THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE WELFARE FUND WILL GET ANOTHER BOOST TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) WHEN THE HONG KONG GROUP OF IFPI (INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PRODUCERS OF PHONOGRAMS AND VIDEOGRAMS) AND 11 RECORD COMPANIES PRESENT DONATIONS TOTALLING \$34 500 AND A BANNER IN APPRECIATION OF THE SERVICE'S COPYRIGHT PROTECTION UNIT IN STAMPING OUT RECORDING PIRACY IN HONG KONG.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND CONTROLS, MR. DOUGLAS JORDAN, WILL RECEIVE THE DONATIONS AT A CEREMONY TO BE HELD TOMORROW AT 4 PM AT THE SERVICE'S MESS ON THE NINTH FLOOR OF RUMSEY STREET MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK BUILDING.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER PRESENTATION OF DONATIONS TO THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE WELFARE FUND WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT 4 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT THE SERVICE'S MESS ON THE NINTH FLOOR OF RUMSEY STREET MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK BUILDING.

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