

Provisional statistics of retail sales for May 2019

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released the latest figures on retail sales today (July 2).

The value of total retail sales in May 2019, provisionally estimated at \$40.0 billion, decreased by 1.3% compared with the same month in 2018. The revised estimate of the value of total retail sales in April 2019 decreased by 4.5% compared with a year earlier. For the first five months of 2019 taken together, it was provisionally estimated that the value of total retail sales decreased by 1.8% compared with the same period in 2018.

After netting out the effect of price changes over the same period, the provisional estimate of the volume of total retail sales in May 2019 decreased by 1.7% compared with a year earlier. The revised estimate of the volume of total retail sales in April 2019 decreased by 5.0% compared with a year earlier. For the first five months of 2019 taken together, the provisional estimate of the total retail sales decreased by 2.2% in volume compared with the same period in 2018.

Analysed by broad type of retail outlet in descending order of the provisional estimate of the value of sales and comparing May 2019 with May 2018, the value of sales of jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts decreased by 2.7%. This was followed by sales of commodities in supermarkets (-0.8% in value); wearing apparel (-4.6%); electrical goods and other consumer durable goods, not elsewhere classified (-14.8%); motor vehicles and parts (-0.1%); fuels (-5.2%); furniture and fixtures (-1.3%); and optical shops (-11.3%).

On the other hand, the value of sales of commodities in department stores increased by 0.3% in May 2019 over a year earlier. This was followed by sales of medicines and cosmetics (+1.0% in value); other consumer goods, not elsewhere classified (+8.5%); food, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (+3.1%); footwear, allied products and other clothing accessories (+1.6%); books, newspapers, stationery and gifts (+0.1%); and Chinese drugs and herbs (+0.7%).

Based on the seasonally adjusted series, the provisional estimate of the value of total retail sales increased by 0.8% in the three months ending May 2019 over the preceding three-month period, while the provisional estimate of the volume of total retail sales increased by 0.5%.

These retail sales statistics measure the sales receipts in respect of goods sold by local retail establishments and are primarily intended for gauging the short-term business performance of the local retail sector. Data on retail sales are collected from local retail establishments through the Monthly Survey of Retail Sales (MRS). Local retail establishments with and without physical shops are covered in MRS and their sales, both through

conventional shops and online channels, are included in the retail sales statistics.

The retail sales statistics cover consumer spending on goods but not on services (such as those on housing, catering, medical care and health services, transport and communication, financial services, education and entertainment) which account for over 50% of the overall consumer spending. Moreover, they include spending on goods in Hong Kong by visitors but exclude spending outside Hong Kong by Hong Kong residents. Hence they should not be regarded as indicators for measuring overall consumer spending.

Users interested in the trend of overall consumer spending should refer to the data series of private consumption expenditure (PCE), which is a major component of the Gross Domestic Product published at quarterly intervals. Compiled from a wide range of data sources, PCE covers consumer spending on both goods (including goods purchased from all channels) and services by Hong Kong residents whether locally or abroad. Please refer to the C&SD publication "Gross Domestic Product (Quarterly)" for more details.

Commentary

A government spokesman said that retail sales registered a narrower decline in May, partly due to the late arrival of the Labour Day holidays in the Mainland this year, which had led to a visibly larger year-on-year rise in visitor arrivals in May. Overall, the performance of retail sales remained subdued in recent months.

The spokesman pointed out further that in the near term, the outlook for retail sales will likely be clouded by the still-cautious consumption sentiment amid an uncertain global economic environment. Nevertheless, the sustained expansion in inbound tourism and the largely stable local labour market should continue to provide some support. The Government will closely monitor the situation.

Further information

Table 1 presents the revised figures on value index and value of retail sales for all retail outlets and by broad type of retail outlet for April 2019 as well as the provisional figures for May 2019. The provisional figures on the value of retail sales for all retail outlets and by broad type of retail outlet as well as the corresponding year-on-year changes for the first five months of 2019 taken together are also shown.

Table 2 presents the revised figures on volume index of retail sales for all retail outlets and by broad type of retail outlet for April 2019 as well as the provisional figures for May 2019. The provisional figures on year-on-year changes for the first five months of 2019 taken together are also shown.

Table 3 shows the movements of the value and volume of total retail sales in terms of the year-on-year rate of change for a month compared with the same month in the preceding year based on the original series, and in terms of the rate of change for a three-month period compared with the

preceding three-month period based on the seasonally adjusted series.

The classification of retail establishments follows the Hong Kong Standard Industrial Classification (HSIC) Version 2.0, which is used in various economic surveys for classifying economic units into different industry classes.

More detailed statistics are given in the "Report on Monthly Survey of Retail Sales". Users can download this publication free of charge at the website of the C&SD

(www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp320.jsp?productCode=B1080003).

Alternatively, the historical series of retail sales statistics can be downloaded in the form of a statistical table at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp320.jsp?productCode=D5600089).

Users who have enquiries about the survey results may contact the Distribution Services Statistics Section of the C&SD (Tel: 3903 7400; email: mrs@censtatd.gov.hk).

[Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected counterfeit goods \(with photo\)](#)

Hong Kong Customs seized about 2 000 items of suspected counterfeit goods with an estimated market value of about \$480,000 at Man Kam To Control Point on June 27.

Through risk assessment, Customs officers intercepted an incoming truck at Man Kam To Control Point on June 27. The batch of suspected counterfeit goods, including watches, chargers, sunglasses and shoes, was found inside the cargo compartment of the vehicle. A 58-year-old male driver was arrested.

Investigation is ongoing and the arrested man has been released on bail pending further investigation.

Under the Trade Descriptions Ordinance, any person who imports or exports any goods to which a forged trademark is applied commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for five years.

Members of the public may report any suspected counterfeiting activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).



Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Tuesday, July 2, 2019 is 105 (up 0.2 against last Saturday's index).

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Saturday, June 29, 2019 was 104.8 (up 0.1 against last Friday's index).

Special traffic arrangements for race meeting in Happy Valley tomorrow

Special traffic arrangements will be implemented in Happy Valley tomorrow (July 3). The arrangements will come into effect one and a half hours before the start of the first race and will last until the crowds have dispersed after the race meeting.

A. Traffic arrangements before the commencement of the first race

1. Road closure

Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Queen's Road East and the up-ramp outside Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) will be closed except for vehicles heading for Aberdeen Tunnel.

2. Traffic diversions

- Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Village Road and the up-ramp outside HKJC will be re-routed one way northbound;
- Vehicles from eastbound Queen's Road East heading for Wan Chai and Happy Valley will be diverted to turn left to Morrison Hill Road;

- Traffic along southbound Morrison Hill Road heading for Happy Valley will be diverted via Sports Road and Wong Nai Chung Road;
- Traffic along Queen's Road East cannot turn right to Wong Nai Chung Road except for vehicles heading to Aberdeen Tunnel;
- Traffic from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Queen's Road East will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from southbound Canal Road flyover to Morrison Hill Road to turn right at the junction of Wong Nai Chung Road and Queen's Road East; and
- Traffic from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Happy Valley or Racecourse will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from southbound Canal Road flyover to Canal Road East, southbound Morrison Hill Road, Sports Road and Wong Nai Chung Road.

B. Traffic arrangements before the conclusion of race meeting

1. Road closure

The following roads will be closed from 35 minutes before the start of the last race:

- The up-ramp on Wong Nai Chung Road outside HKJC leading to Aberdeen Tunnel;
- Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Queen's Road East and the up-ramp leading to Aberdeen Tunnel;
- Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Village Road and the Public Stands of HKJC;
- Westbound Leighton Road between Wong Nai Chung Road and Canal Road East; and
- Southbound Morrison Hill Road between Leighton Road and Queen's Road East.

In addition, southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between the up-ramp leading to Aberdeen Tunnel and the Public Stands of HKJC will be closed from about 10 minutes before the start of the last race.

2. Traffic diversions

The following traffic arrangements will be implemented from 35 minutes before the start of the last race:

- Eastbound Queen's Road East at its junction with Morrison Hill Road will be reduced to one-lane traffic heading for northbound Canal Road flyover;
- Vehicles from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Wan Chai will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from Canal Road East, U-turn slip road beneath Canal Road flyover, Canal Road West and Hennessy Road;
- Vehicles from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Happy Valley will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from Canal Road East, eastbound Leighton Road and Wong Nai Chung Road;
- Traffic on southbound Morrison Hill Road will be diverted to turn left to eastbound Leighton Road;
- Traffic along southbound Morrison Hill Road heading for Happy Valley will be diverted via eastbound Leighton Road and Wong Nai Chung Road; and
- Traffic along westbound Leighton Road will be diverted to Wong Nai Chung Road.

C. Learner drivers prohibition

Learner drivers will be prohibited to turn left from Caroline Hill Road to Leighton Road between one and a half hours before the start of the first race and one hour after the last race. In addition, learner drivers will be prohibited from accessing the following roads within the above period of time:

- Shan Kwong Road between Yik Yam Street and Wong Nai Chung Road;
- Village Road between its upper and lower junctions with Shan Kwong Road;
- Percival Street between Hennessy Road and Leighton Road;
- Canal Road East; and
- The service road leading from Gloucester Road to Canal Road flyover.

D. Suspension of parking spaces

Parking spaces on southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Sports Road and Blue Pool Road will be suspended from 11am to 7pm during day racing, from 4.30pm to 11.59pm during evening racing, and from 5pm to 11.59pm during night racing.

Any vehicles found illegally parked within the precincts of the above affected areas will be towed away without prior notice.

Actual implementation of road closure and traffic diversion will be made by the Police at the time depending on traffic conditions in the areas. Motorists should exercise tolerance and patience, and follow the instructions of Police on site.

Exchange Fund Bills Tender Results

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

Hong Kong Monetary Authority Exchange Fund Bills Tender Results

Tender date	: July 2, 2019
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q1927
Issue date	: July 3, 2019
Maturity date	: October 2, 2019
Amount applied	: HK\$117,895 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$56,574 MN
Average yield accepted	: 2.02 PCT
Highest yield accepted	: 2.15 PCT

Pro rata ratio	: About 69 PCT
Average tender yield	: 2.16 PCT

Tender date	: July 2, 2019
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: H1956
Issue date	: July 3, 2019
Maturity date	: January 2, 2020
Amount applied	: HK\$43,755 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$16,600 MN
Average yield accepted	: 1.88 PCT
Highest yield accepted	: 1.95 PCT
Pro rata ratio	: About 37 PCT
Average tender yield	: 2.09 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tenders to be held in the week beginning July 8, 2019 :

Tender date	: July 9, 2019
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q1928
Issue date	: July 10, 2019
Maturity date	: October 9, 2019
Tenor	: 91 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$58,164 MN

Tender date	: July 9, 2019
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: H1957
Issue date	: July 10, 2019
Maturity date	: January 8, 2020
Tenor	: 182 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$18,000 MN

Tender date	: July 9, 2019
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Y1991
Issue date	: July 10, 2019
Maturity date	: July 8, 2020
Tenor	: 364 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$5,000 MN