

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (April 26) released the latest grading of water quality of 38 gazetted beaches that are open for swimming and one non-gazetted beach (i.e. Discovery Bay*).

Twenty-three beaches were rated as good (grade 1), 15 as fair (grade 2) and one as poor (grade 3).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Cafeteria New Beach	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach
Chung Hom Kok Beach	Middle Bay Beach
Clear Water Bay Second Beach	Pui O Beach
Deep Water Bay Beach	Repulse Bay Beach
Discovery Bay	South Bay Beach
Hap Mun Bay Beach	St Stephen's Beach
Hung Shing Yeh Beach	Stanley Main Beach
Kiu Tsui Beach	Tong Fuk Beach
Kwun Yam Beach	Trio Beach
Lido Beach	Turtle Cove Beach
Lo So Shing Beach	Upper Cheung Sha Beach
Lower Cheung Sha Beach	

Grade 2 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach	Golden Beach
Approach Beach	Hoi Mei Wan Beach
Big Wave Bay Beach	Kadoorie Beach
Butterfly Beach	Shek O Beach
Cafeteria Old Beach	Silver Mine Bay Beach
Casam Beach	Silverstrand Beach
Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach	Ting Kau Beach
Clear Water Bay First Beach	

Grade 3 beach is:

Castle Peak Beach

*Discovery Bay is a non-gazetted beach without lifeguard service.

Compared with the grading released last week, Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach, Clear Water Bay First Beach, Golden Beach, Kadoorie Beach, Shek O Beach, Silver Mine Bay Beach and Silverstrand Beach have been changed from grade 1 to grade 2.

"The changes are generally within the normal range of fluctuation of the bacteriological water quality of the beaches," an EPD spokesman said.

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades according to the level of E. coli in the water. Grades are calculated on the basis of the geometric mean of the E. coli counts on the five most recent sampling occasions.

While the ratings represent the general water quality at the beaches, the EPD spokesman reminded members of the public that water quality could be temporarily affected during and after periods of heavy rain. Bathers should avoid swimming at beaches for up to three days after a storm or heavy rainfall.

A summary of beach grades is published weekly before the weekend. Latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the department's website on Beach Water Quality (www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.

"HA Risk Alert" latest issue published

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The 53rd issue of "HA Risk Alert" was published today (April 26) by the Hospital Authority (HA) as a risk management and communication initiative to further strengthen the reporting and monitoring of medical incidents in public hospitals.

In the fourth quarter of 2018 (October to December), there were 10 Sentinel Events reported, including five cases of retained instrument after surgery/interventional procedure, three cases of inpatient suicide and two cases of wrong side procedure. Among the 27 reported Serious Untoward Events, there were 26 related to medication error and one patient misidentification.

"Subsequent to incident review and analysis of root causes of these incidents, important lessons of patient safety are identified, while recommendations are made and shared in this publication to avoid similar events in future," the HA spokesperson said.

The HA Head Office has released the latest "HA Risk Alert" to all staff. It can also be accessed by the public at www.ha.org.hk/riskalert. "HA Risk

Alert" is published on a quarterly basis and posted on the HA website every last working Friday in the months of January, April, July and October. The next issue is scheduled for July 26 (Friday).

Results of CPC election announced

The Education Bureau (EDB) today (April 26) announced that 21 candidates had been elected to the 13th Council on Professional Conduct in Education (CPC) under the teacher-nominated and the organisation-nominated categories.

Voting for the teacher-nominated category was conducted on April 10. Thirteen candidates were elected to the council. They were:

Teacher-nominated Category ---	Name of Elected Candidate ---	Number of Votes ---
<u>Secondary Schools</u>		
Aided	Mr Chen Yan-kai	6 897
	Mr Fong King-lok	6 572
	Mr Andy Lai Kam-chi	5 343
Government	Mr Cheung Yat-fung	Uncontested
Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) and Private	Dr Tsang Sui-ming	1 297
<u>Primary Schools</u>		
Aided	Ms Wong Mo-yee	9 057
	Mr Chung Chun-yu	8 193
	Mr Wong Yuen-ho	6 927
Government	Ms Siu Chang-kwun	822
Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) and Private	Ms Law Pei-lee	Uncontested
<u>Special Schools</u>		
	Mr King Chi-yu	Uncontested
<u>Kindergartens</u>		

Ms Elaine Kwan Shuk-ling	5 095
Mr Fung Ka-chun	4 069

Votes for the organisation-nominated category were counted yesterday (April 25) by representatives of the EDB, witnessed by the representative from the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Ms Yvonne Ching, and the representative from the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, Mr Raymond Lui.

Eight candidates were elected in this category. Five of them were: Mr Li Chin-wa (Teacher Education Universities); Mr Richard Cheung Chung-lap, Mr Alan Chow Ping-yan, Mr Tse Chang-keung (School Sponsoring Bodies); and Mr Cheung-wong (Associations of Teachers).

The other three, Ms Lee Suet-ying, Dr Leung Ping-wa and Mr Wong Wing-tung (School Councils and Associations of School Principals), were elected uncontested.

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The list of council members of the new term has been uploaded to the council's website (cpc.edb.org.hk).

The Committee on Home-School Co-operation will nominate three parent representatives to the council, and the Permanent Secretary for Education will nominate four council members, comprising an EDB representative and three lay members.

Business expectations for second quarter of 2019

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released today (April 26) the results of the Quarterly Business Tendency Survey for the second quarter (Q2) of 2019.

Business situation

For all surveyed sectors taken together, the proportion of respondents expecting their business situation to be better (12%) in Q2 2019 over Q1 2019 is broadly similar to that expecting it to be worse (13%).

When compared with the results of the Q1 2019 survey round, the proportion of respondents expecting a worse business situation in Q2 2019 as compared with the preceding quarter has decreased to 13%, against the corresponding proportion of 21% in Q1 2019.

Analysed by sector, more respondents in the information and communications sector expect their business situation to be better in Q2 2019 as compared with Q1 2019, relative to those expecting a worse business situation. In the construction sector, however, more respondents expect their business situation to be worse, as compared to those expecting a better business situation.

A Government spokesman cautioned that the results of the survey should be interpreted with care. He said, "In this type of survey on expectations, the views collected in the survey are affected by the events in the community occurring around the time of enumeration, and it is difficult to establish precisely the extent to which respondents' perception of the future accords with the underlying trends." The enumeration period for this survey round was from March 4, 2019 to April 15, 2019.

Volume of business/output

Respondents in quite a number of the surveyed sectors expect their volume of business/output to increase on balance in Q2 2019 as compared with Q1 2019. In particular, more respondents in the information and communications; manufacturing; financing and insurance; and real estate sectors expect their volume of business/output to increase, as compared to those expecting it to decrease. On the other hand, more respondents in the construction sector expect their volume of output to decrease, as compared to those expecting it to increase.

Employment

Respondents in quite a number of the surveyed sectors expect their employment to increase on balance in Q2 2019 as compared with Q1 2019. In particular, more respondents in the accommodation and food services; financing and insurance; and information and communications sectors expect their employment to increase in Q2 2019 over Q1 2019.

Selling price/service charge

Respondents in quite a number of the surveyed sectors expect their selling prices/service charges to go up on balance in Q2 2019 as compared with Q1 2019. However, more respondents in the construction sector and manufacturing sector expect the tender prices/selling prices to go down, as compared to those expecting an increase in tender prices/selling prices.

Further information

The survey gathers views on short-term business performance from the senior management of about 560 prominent establishments in various sectors in Hong Kong with a view to providing a quick reference, with minimum time lag, for predicting the short-term future economic performance of the local economy.

The survey covers 10 major sectors in Hong Kong, namely manufacturing;

construction; import/export trade and wholesale; retail; accommodation and food services (mainly covering services rendered by hotels and restaurants); transportation, storage and courier services; information and communications; financing and insurance; real estate; and professional and business services sectors.

Views collected in the survey refer only to those of respondents on their own establishments rather than those on the respective sectors they are engaged in, and are limited to the expected direction of quarter-to-quarter change (e.g. "up", "same" or "down") but not the magnitude of change. In collecting views on the quarter-to-quarter changes, if the variable in question is subject to seasonal variations, respondents are asked to provide the expected changes after excluding the normal seasonal variations.

Survey results are generally presented as "net balance", i.e. the difference between the percentage of respondents choosing "up" and that choosing "down". The percentage distribution of respondents among various response categories (e.g. "up", "same" and "down") reflects how varied their business expectations are. The "net balance", with its appropriate sign, indicates the direction of expected change in the variable concerned. A positive sign indicates a likely upward trend while a negative sign indicates a likely downward trend. However, the magnitude of the "net balance" reflects only the prevalence of optimism or pessimism, but not the magnitude of expected change, since information relating to such magnitude is not collected in the survey.

Furthermore, owing to sample size constraint, care should be taken in interpreting survey results involving a small percentage (e.g. less than 10%) of respondents in individual sectors.

Chart 1 shows the views on expected changes in business situation for the period Q2 2018 to Q2 2019.

Table 1 shows the net balances of views on expectations in respect of different variables for Q2 2019.

The survey results are published in greater detail in the "Report on Quarterly Business Tendency Survey, Q2 2019". Users can download the publication free of charge at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp300.jsp?productCode=B1110008).

Users who have enquiries about the survey results may contact the Business Expectation Statistics Section of the C&SD (Tel: 3903 7263 or email: business-prospects@censtatd.gov.hk).

HKMA Annual Report 2018

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) today (April 26) published its annual report for 2018 including the financial statements of the Exchange Fund. The report reviews trends and major events in monetary and banking affairs, and reports on the HKMA's work during 2018. It also sets out the HKMA's work plans for 2019.

The HKMA Annual Report 2018 is available on the [HKMA website](#) free of charge. It may also be purchased by post or at the HKMA Information Centre on 55th Floor, Two International Finance Centre at HK\$100 per copy.