

January 2019 issue of "Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics" now available

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) published today (January 15) the January 2019 issue of the "Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics" (HKMDS).

Apart from providing up-to-date statistics, this issue also contains two feature articles entitled "Hong Kong's External Direct Investment Statistics, 2008 to 2017" and "Pattern of Smoking".

"Hong Kong's External Direct Investment Statistics, 2008 to 2017"

Hong Kong is an international financial centre and a premier business hub. It is also a gateway to the vast market of the mainland of China (the Mainland) as well as a platform for facilitating the Mainland enterprises to gain access to the global market. External direct investment (DI) between Hong Kong and the rest of the world, including the Mainland, is very sizable. Analysis of Hong Kong's DI statistics over the past years is useful in understanding the characteristics and trend of DI in Hong Kong.

This feature article presents the salient features of Hong Kong's DI statistics in the past decade.

For enquiries about this feature article, please contact the Balance of Payments Section, C&SD (Tel: 3903 7016; email: di@censtatd.gov.hk).

"Pattern of Smoking"

The C&SD conducted a Thematic Household Survey on the pattern of smoking of the Hong Kong population aged 15 and over during June to September 2017 to collect information on the number of smokers and their smoking pattern. This feature article briefly describes the major findings of the survey.

For enquiries about this feature article, please contact the Social Surveys Section, C&SD (Tel: 2887 0416; email: thematic@censtatd.gov.hk).

Published in bilingual form, the HKMDS is a compact volume of official statistics containing about 140 tables. It collects up-to-date statistical series on various aspects of the social and economic situation of Hong Kong. Topics include population; labour; external trade; National Income and Balance of Payments; prices; business performance; energy; housing and property; government accounts, finance and insurance; and transport, communications and tourism. For selected key statistical items, over 20 charts depicting the annual trend in the past decade and quarterly or monthly trend in the recent two years are also available. Users can download the Digest free of charge at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp460.jsp?productCode=B1010002).

Enquiries about the contents of the Digest can be directed to the Statistical Information Services Section of the C&SD (Tel: 2582 4738; email: gen-enquiry@censtatd.gov.hk).

E. Tech Management (HK) Limited convicted of improper storage of chemical waste (with photo)

A recycling site operated by E. Tech Management (HK) Limited at the EcoPark in Tuen Mun failed to store chemical waste properly and was convicted and fined \$19,000 at Fanling Magistrates' Courts today (January 15) for contravening the Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation.

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Environmental Protection Department (EPD) staff conducted a surprise inspection last August and found that the recycling site operated by E. Tech Management (HK) Limited at the EcoPark in Tuen Mun did not properly handle waste printed circuit boards (PCBs), which are classified as chemical waste. After investigation and evidence collection, it was confirmed that the recycling site concerned used non-compliant containers and failed to seal chemical waste properly. The chemical waste containers were not labelled and were stored in an improper place without displaying a warning sign. The department subsequently prosecuted E. Tech Management (HK) Limited for contravening the Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation.

The EPD spokesman explained that waste PCBs are chemical waste and, if not properly handled, will pollute the environment and pose a risk to the health of relevant trade practitioners and the general public.

The EPD reminds operating companies of recycling sites that they should strictly comply with the relevant law on the control of chemical waste. They should register with the EPD in accordance with the law if they produce chemical waste. Chemical waste must be properly packaged, labelled and stored, as well as collected by licensed chemical waste collectors for delivery to licensed chemical waste disposal facilities for disposal. First-time offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and six months' imprisonment. For subsequent offences, offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$500,000 and two years' imprisonment.

The spokesman also reminded practitioners in the recycling industry that the disposal licensing control, import and export control and disposal bans at designated waste disposal facilities of regulated electrical and electronic equipment (REE) (including waste air-conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines, televisions, computers, printers, scanners and monitors) under the Waste Disposal Ordinance (WDO) came into effect on December 31,

2018. Unless with exemptions, any person who is engaged in the storage, treatment, reprocessing or recycling (but not repair) of waste REE must obtain a waste disposal licence (e-WDL) issued by the EPD under the law. A permit issued by the EPD is also required for the import and export of waste REE.



Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 is 103.4 (down 0.1 against yesterday's index).

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	: January 15, 2019
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q1903
Issue date	: January 16, 2019
Maturity date	: April 17, 2019
Amount applied	: HK\$138,305 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$59,186 MN
Average yield accepted	: 1.32 PCT
Highest yield accepted	: 1.35 PCT

Pro rata ratio	: About 57 PCT
Average tender yield	: 1.38 PCT

Tender date	: January 15, 2019
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: H1932
Issue date	: January 16, 2019
Maturity date	: July 17, 2019
Amount applied	: HK\$57,965 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$18,000 MN
Average yield accepted	: 1.53 PCT
Highest yield accepted	: 1.55 PCT
Pro rata ratio	: About 87 PCT
Average tender yield	: 1.64 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tenders to be held in the week beginning January 21, 2019 :

Tender date	: January 22, 2019
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q1904
Issue date	: January 23, 2019
Maturity date	: April 24, 2019
Tenor	: 91 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$58,466 MN

Tender date	: January 22, 2019
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: H1933
Issue date	: January 23, 2019
Maturity date	: July 24, 2019
Tenor	: 182 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$17,000 MN

Tender date	: January 22, 2019
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Y1985
Issue date	: January 23, 2019
Maturity date	: January 22, 2020
Tenor	: 364 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$5,000 MN

Special traffic arrangements for race meeting in Happy Valley tomorrow

Special traffic arrangements will be implemented in Happy Valley tomorrow (January 16). 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.