

## Managers of unlicensed guesthouses convicted

Two men and a woman were charged with contravening the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance at the Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts today (August 1). One man was sentenced to two months' imprisonment and the other man and the woman were fined \$10,000 and \$8,000.

The courts heard that in January and February this year, officers of the Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA), the Home Affairs Department, inspected three suspected unlicensed guesthouses on Shanghai Street, Lai Chi Kok Road and Nam Kok Road in Kowloon. During the inspections, the OLA officers posed as lodgers and successfully rented rooms in these guesthouses on a daily basis.

According to the OLA's records, these guesthouses did not possess licences under the Ordinance on the days of inspection. The men and the woman responsible for managing the premises were charged with contravening section 5(1) of the Ordinance.

A department spokesman stressed that operating or managing an unlicensed guesthouse is a criminal offence and will lead to a criminal record. Upon conviction, the offender is liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and two years' imprisonment.

The spokesman appealed to anyone with information about suspected unlicensed guesthouses to report it to the OLA through the hotline (Tel: 2881 7498), by email ([hadlaeng@had.gov.hk](mailto:hadlaeng@had.gov.hk)), by fax (2504 5805) using the report form downloaded from the OLA website ([www.hadla.gov.hk](http://www.hadla.gov.hk)), or through the mobile application "Hong Kong Licensed Hotels and Guesthouses".

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## Government strengthens control on commercial possession of pre-Convention ivory and bans its import and re-export

A spokesman for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) reminded the public today (August 1) that Step 2 of the three steps under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (Amendment Ordinance) has come into effect. The

import and re-export of pre-Convention ivory is banned and control on the commercial possession of pre-Convention ivory has been strengthened to phase out the local ivory trade.

The spokesman said, "The Government is highly concerned over endangered species. Species listed in the Appendices to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), including elephants, are regulated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance in Hong Kong. The first step of the plan, under which the import and re-export of elephant hunting trophies and post-Convention ivory have been banned, came into effect on May 1.

"Under Step 2 which has been implemented today, the import and re-export of pre-Convention ivory have been banned. Except for antique ivory, the commercial possession of pre-Convention ivory in the local market is subject to the same licensing control as the one on post-Convention ivory. Generally, the AFCD will not issue a new Licence to Possess to non-registered pre-Convention ivory.

"The whole process will be completed by December 31, 2021, and the local trade in all ivory (except antique ivory) will be completely closed down."

Meanwhile, various departments, including the AFCD, the Customs and Excise Department and the Hong Kong Police Force, will continue to take vigorous enforcement action against smuggling and illegal trade in ivory.

The spokesman also reminded the public that the penalties for violating the Amendment Ordinance have been increased since May 1. The maximum penalty is a fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years. The specimens will also be forfeited upon conviction. For more details of the Amendment Ordinance and the control of endangered species, please visit [www.cites.hk](http://www.cites.hk) or call the AFCD on 1823.

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## **Provisional statistics of retail sales for June 2018**

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released the latest figures on retail sales today (August 1).

The value of total retail sales in June 2018, provisionally estimated at \$37.8 billion, increased by 12.0% over the same month in 2017. The revised estimate of the value of total retail sales in May 2018 increased by 12.9% over a year earlier. For the first half of 2018, it was provisionally estimated that the value of total retail sales increased by 13.4% over the same period in 2017.

After netting out the effect of price changes over the same period, the provisional estimate of the volume of total retail sales in June 2018 increased by 9.8% over a year earlier. The revised estimate of the volume of total retail sales in May 2018 increased by 11.5% over a year earlier. For the first half of 2018, the provisional estimate of the total retail sales increased by 11.8% in volume over the same period in 2017.

Analysed by broad type of retail outlet in descending order of the provisional estimate of the value of sales and comparing June 2018 with June 2017, the value of sales of jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts increased by 27.8%. This was followed by sales of commodities in supermarkets (+1.1% in value); wearing apparel (+5.4%); medicines and cosmetics (+18.3%); commodities in department stores (+15.0%); other consumer goods, not elsewhere classified (+14.9%); food, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (+8.9%); electrical goods and other consumer durable goods, not elsewhere classified (+0.4%); motor vehicles and parts (+11.3%); fuels (+13.9%); footwear, allied products and other clothing accessories (+11.4%); furniture and fixtures (+8.9%); books, newspapers, stationery and gifts (+3.1%); Chinese drugs and herbs (+10.3%); and optical shops (+6.9%).

Based on the seasonally adjusted series, the provisional estimate of the value of total retail sales decreased by 0.2% in the second quarter of 2018 compared with the preceding quarter, while the provisional estimate of the volume of total retail sales decreased by 0.1%.

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. They 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 indicated that retail sales value sustained double-digit growth over a year earlier in June, as local consumer sentiment stayed favourable amid a tight labour market while visitor arrivals continued to record solid growth.

Looking ahead, favourable job and income conditions and buoyant inbound

tourism should continue to provide support to the retail sector in the near term. Yet, we need to closely monitor how the heightened external uncertainties might affect consumption sentiment going forward.

#### 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 May 2018 as well as the provisional figures for June 2018. 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 half of 2018 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 May 2018 as well as the provisional figures for June 2018. The provisional figures on year-on-year changes for the first half of 2018 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:mrs@censtatd.gov.hk))

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**Film Archive's "Hidden Treasures"**  
**features unsung heroes of Hong Kong**

## cinema (with photos)

The Hong Kong Film Archive of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (HKFA) will present "One-Man Entertainment Machine: Chan Cheuk-sang and His United Film" as the launch of the "Hidden Treasures" series, which will recognise neglected forerunners of Hong Kong cinema. Six films that are significant in Chan Cheuk-sang's career as the owner of United Film will be screened on September 1, 8 and 9 at the HKFA Cinema. Post-screening talks will also be arranged for all the screenings.

Chan entered the film industry by accident. He first landed a job at the World Theatre through his elder brother, and then later, by starting a restaurant business, Chan got to know the Kwan Family, who owned several important theatre chains. He then began distributing films for second runs. Chan was active in the 1950s and '60s and owned his film companies United Film and Ngai Sing, producing films financed by the theatre chains. He even took up numerous roles himself, including producing, directing, scriptwriting and shooting film stills, to save on expenses. Chan and his wife Wong May-yei worked closely to operate their film business, which produced and distributed over 200 titles across different film genres. Chan died in 2017 at the age of 95.

The Chinese New Year film "As You Desire" (1952) was Chan's first foray into filmmaking and starred the biggest draws of Cantonese cinema. The film was a blockbuster in Hong Kong and Macao at the time, bringing about a good start for Chan's over 20-year-career in producing. In the story, a miser (Ma Si-tsang) plans to arrange a marriage between his son (Sun Ma Si-tsang) and a rich girl, while an heir (Leung Sing-por) forces her younger sister (Hung Sin Nui) to marry a tycoon. The film is the only existing narrative film starring both Ma and Sun Ma, which makes it a rare gem to witness these two geniuses playing off each other.

Sing-song films were very popular in the '50s, and the genre was a major one produced by United. The contemporary sing-song comedy "Sing Her a Love Song" (1955) features three operatic giants – Sun Ma Si-tsang, Yam Kim-fai and Pak Suet-sin – who sing about the struggles in living and love of ordinary folks. Yam and Pak are a lovesick pair in the film and Sun Ma is Yam's ex-schoolmate who entertains the audience with his messiness.

"Ms Chan's Boat Chase" (1955) was made to commemorate the third anniversary of United, and was billed as an "All-Singing Story of the People", enabling the leads Yam and Pak as well as Leung Sing-por to unleash their respective signature operatic skills. The story was adapted from Zhang Henshui's novel "Autumn River" and takes reference to the opera favourite "The Jade Hairpin". Pak falls pregnant with Yam's baby but the duo are forced to separate, leaving Pak to perform on the street with Leung for a living.

The "Headless Empress" series was a remarkable work of United, and also a milestone in the acting career of Yu Lai-zhen. "The Headless Empress Bears a Son, Part 1" (1957) follows the pregnant Empress of East Palace (Yu) who is

sent to the guillotine because of the scheming of the evil Empress of West Palace (Fung Wong Nui). Yu gives birth to a baby boy before she dies, and luckily the baby is rescued by a fairy and Yu becomes a ghost to look after her son.

Effects-driven martial arts fantasy surged in the '50s and '60s, but Chan faced constraints in technology and budget. As a result, he drew animation effects himself in "Monkey Saint Raids the Monastery" (1965) to fulfil audiences' expectations for excitement and novelty. The film tells of the schemes of the Spider Demon (Lee Hong-kum), who seduces the Dragon King to steal treasure and teams up with another demon (Yuen Siu-fai) to capture a monk – an action that puts the life of the powerful Money King (Yu Kai) at risk.

Sun Ma Si-tsang starred in Chan's first production, and Sun Ma's last film as the lead, "The Scores" (1969), was directed by Chan. With Tina Ti as the female lead, the film seems to be an erotic work but, by nature, is not lascivious. The story uncovers offences associated with pornography and money in society through the characters' experiences in job seeking and romance.

All films are in Cantonese and without subtitles.

Tickets priced at \$45 are now available at URBTIX ([www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk)). For credit card telephone bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries, please call 2739 2139 or visit [www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/HKFA/en\\_US/web/hkfa/programmesandexhibitions/2018ht-ccs/index.html](http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/HKFA/en_US/web/hkfa/programmesandexhibitions/2018ht-ccs/index.html).





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## Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Wednesday, August 1, 2018 is 104 (up 0.1 against yesterday's index).