

HAD to open temporary night heat shelters

The Home Affairs Department will open 18 temporary night heat shelters tonight (July 25) for people in need of the service.

The shelters will be open from 10.30pm until 8am tomorrow.

In light of the implementation of mandatory use of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile application when entering government premises, all persons are required to use the app to scan the venue QR code before they are allowed to enter temporary night heat shelters, except for exempted persons (including persons who are aged below 12 or aged 65 or above, persons with disabilities that render use of the app difficult and persons without smartphones). All exempted persons are required to complete a prescribed form to register their personal particulars, contact phone number and the date and time of entry. The staff will verify the information provided.

For further information, please call the department's hotline before midnight on 2572 8427.

The night heat shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Districts:

Central and Western –

Sai Ying Pun Community Complex Community Hall
3/F, Sai Ying Pun Community Complex
2 High Street, Sai Ying Pun

Eastern –

Causeway Bay Community Centre
3/F, 7 Fook Yum Road, Causeway Bay

Southern –

Wah Kwai Community Centre
Wah Kwai Estate, Kellett Bay

Wan Chai –

Wan Chai Activities Centre
LG/F, Wan Chai Market, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai

Kowloon Districts:

Kowloon City –

Hung Hom Community Hall

1/F, Kowloon City Government Offices
42 Bailey Street, Hung Hom

Kwun Tong –
Lam Tin (West) Estate Community Centre
71 Kai Tin Road, Lam Tin

Sham Shui Po –
Shek Kip Mei Community Hall
G/F, Block 42, Shek Kip Mei Estate, Sham Shui Po

Wong Tai Sin –
Tsz Wan Shan (South) Estate Community Centre
45 Wan Wah Street, Tsz Wan Shan

Yau Tsim Mong –
Henry G Leong Yaumatei Community Centre
60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei

New Territories Districts:

Islands –
Tung Chung Community Hall
G/F, Tung Chung Municipal Services Building, 39 Man Tung Road, Tung Chung

Kwai Tsing –
Kwai Shing Community Hall
Podium, Block 6, Kwai Shing West Estate, Kwai Chung

North –
Cheung Wah Community Hall
Cheung Wah Estate, Fanling

Sai Kung –
Chi Shin Activity Centre
G/F, Tseung Kwan O South Ancillary Facilities Block, 5 Chi Shin Street,
Tseung Kwan O

Sha Tin –
Lung Hang Estate Community Centre
Lung Hang Estate, Sha Tin

Tai Po –
Tai Po Community Centre
2 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po

Tsuen Wan –
Lei Muk Shue Community Hall
G/F, Hong Shue House, Lei Muk Shue Estate, Tsuen Wan

Tuen Mun –
Wu Shan Road Community Hall
101 Wu Shan Road, Tuen Mun

Yuen Long –
Long Ping Community Hall
Long Ping Estate, Yuen Long

The temporary night heat shelters will resume their functions as community centres or community halls in the daytime for hire by the local community.

People may choose to take refuge from the heat during the daytime in the common areas of the designated community centres and community halls. For the addresses of these designated community centres and community halls, please browse the following document: www.had.gov.hk/file_manager/en/documents/public_services/emergency_services/List_CH_CC_Day_E.pdf.

Results of Language Proficiency Assessment for Teachers released

The Education Bureau (EDB) today (July 25) announced that candidates of the Language Proficiency Assessment for Teachers (LPAT) 2022 (written and speaking papers), held in May and June this year, will receive results notices by post from the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) from tomorrow (July 26).

A total of 1 295 candidates sat for the English Language papers while 1 195 sat for the Putonghua papers this year.

The results of the assessment are as follows:

English Language papers:

	Number of Candidates	Number and Percentage of Candidates Meeting the LPR* (Level 3 or above)
Reading	977	793 (81.2%)
Writing	1 025	564 (55.0%)
Listening	888	690 (77.7%)
Speaking	916	653 (71.3%)

Putonghua papers:

	Number of Candidates	Number and Percentage of Candidates Meeting the LPR* (Level 3 or above)
Listening and Recognition	1 027	680 (66.2%)
Pinyin	956	606 (63.4%)
Speaking	501	417 (83.2%)

* LPR = Language Proficiency Requirement

A spokesman for the EDB said, "The EDB administers the LPAT every year to provide a channel for teachers and people aspiring to be teachers of English or Putonghua to attain the Language Proficiency Requirement. Candidates of the LPAT include members of the public and teachers teaching subjects other than the two languages."

Candidates who have not received the results notices by this Friday (July 29) should contact the HKEAA on 3628 8860.

Applications for rechecking of results will be accepted on or before August 1. Candidates will be informed individually of their appeal results by August 31.

The Assessment Reports, which provide observations on candidates' performance, including their strengths and areas for improvement, will be released in September through the websites of the HKEAA (www.hkeaa.edu.hk) and the EDB (www.edb.gov.hk) for the reference of candidates, schools and teacher education institutions. The question papers, together with a CD for the listening papers, suggested answers and Assessment Reports, will be available for sale in September.

The spokesman added, "Concerning the Classroom Language Assessment (CLA) paper, teachers holding a permanent post have to meet the LPR within the first year of teaching the two languages. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic and suspension of face-to-face classes, the EDB has already extended the deadline in the 2021/22 school year for one year. All the results notices for the CLA will be issued by the HKEAA in October this year at the earliest, if feasible."

Hong Kong Science Museum enhances booking arrangements for “The Hong Kong Jockey Club Series: The Big Eight – Dinosaur Revelation” exhibition

The Hong Kong Science Museum's large-scale dinosaur exhibition, "The Hong Kong Jockey Club Series: The Big Eight – Dinosaur Revelation", has received an overwhelming response since its opening on July 8. During the first two weeks, the exhibition attracted nearly 100 000 visitors. The museum has been closely monitoring the operation of the e-booking system. After reviewing the situation, the museum will enhance the booking arrangements for the exhibition from August 1 (Monday) to enable members of the public to make bookings.

Under the new arrangements, the e-booking system will be updated at 10am every Monday, and bookings can be made for the upcoming week (excluding the regular closing day on Thursday) upon the system's update. The updates will be made on a weekly basis. To facilitate the change of the booking arrangement, the e-booking system will be suspended from midnight on August 1 and will resume service at 10am on the same day for advance bookings of time slots between August 2 and 8. The next update of the e-booking system will be at 10am on August 8.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), "The Hong Kong Jockey Club Series: The Big Eight – Dinosaur Revelation" runs until November 16 at the Hong Kong Science Museum located at 2 Science Museum Road, Tsim Sha Tsui East, Kowloon. With free admission, the public can visit eight of the world's most iconic creatures from the age of dinosaurs, rare fossil bones and some of the most complete original dinosaur skeletons. Through the use of a multimedia projection technique; special lighting effects; and the fusion of the latest scientific research, palaeontology artwork and unique scenography; the exhibition offers an immersive experience and a thrilling journey back in time to a world ruled by giant reptiles. All visitors to the exhibition, including Museum Pass holders and children under the age of 4, are required to make an advance booking through the e-booking system (hk-science-museum.partner.klook.com/zh-HK/activity/73613-hongkong-science-museum-special-exhibition). Visitors who make a booking should arrive within the admission time and present the QR code on the confirmation email for free admission to "The Hong Kong Jockey Club Series: The Big Eight – Dinosaur Revelation" and other permanent exhibitions of the museum. Members of the public are advised to plan their visits beforehand.

The exhibition is jointly presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services

Department (LCSD) and the First Initiative Foundation (FIF), and jointly organised by the Hong Kong Science Museum and the FIF. The exhibition is exclusively sponsored by the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC), and supported by the MTR Corporation. For more details of the exhibition and activities, please visit big8dinosaurs.hk or call 2732 3232 for enquiries.

The exhibition is one of the many initiatives supported by the HKJC's approved donation of \$630 million to the Government to mark the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, demonstrating that the HKJC is resolute in pursuing its purpose of acting continuously for the betterment of society, all in support of creating a stronger community together.

The exhibition production team is a respected group of internationally acclaimed professionals, comprising members from Hong Kong, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, etc. The exhibition is supported by the FIF, and the foundation's move demonstrates its dedication to contributing to the community and bridging the gap between Hong Kong and the world.

In order to comply with the requirements stipulated in the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F) and relevant requirements of administrative instructions, visitors are required to scan the "LeaveHomeSafe" venue QR code with their mobile phones/other mobile devices before being allowed to enter the museum for necessary contact tracing if a confirmed case is found. In accordance with the Prevention and Control of Disease (Vaccine Pass) Regulation (Cap. 599L) and relevant requirements of administrative instructions, all persons entering indoor venues under the management of the LCSD must comply with the relevant requirement of the Vaccine Pass.

External merchandise trade statistics for June 2022

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released today (July 25) the external merchandise trade statistics for June 2022. In June 2022, the value of Hong Kong's total exports of goods decreased by 6.4%, whereas the value of imports of goods increased by 0.5% over a year earlier.

In June 2022, the value of total exports of goods decreased by 6.4% over a year earlier to \$380.7 billion, after a year-on-year decrease of 1.4% in May 2022. Concurrently, the value of imports of goods increased by 0.5% over a year earlier to \$449.2 billion in June 2022, after a year-on-year increase of 1.3% in May 2022. A visible trade deficit of \$68.5 billion, equivalent to 15.3% of the value of imports of goods, was recorded in June 2022.

For the first half of 2022 as a whole, the value of total exports of

goods increased by 0.4% over the same period in 2021. Concurrently, the value of imports of goods increased by 2.1%. A visible trade deficit of \$206.1 billion, equivalent to 8.2% of the value of imports of goods, was recorded in the first half of 2022.

Comparing the second quarter of 2022 with the preceding quarter on a seasonally adjusted basis, the value of total exports of goods decreased by 4.2%. Meanwhile, the value of imports of goods decreased by 0.6%.

Analysis by country/territory

Comparing June 2022 with June 2021, total exports to Asia as a whole dropped by 5.4%. In this region, decreases were registered in the values of total exports to some major destinations, in particular Japan (-18.3%) and the mainland of China (the Mainland) (-10.4%). On the other hand, increases were recorded in the values of total exports to India (+76.5%), Vietnam (+37.8%), Singapore (+24.0%) and Thailand (+19.4%).

Apart from destinations in Asia, decreases were registered in the values of total exports to some major destinations in other regions, in particular the United Kingdom (-28.9%), the USA (-6.1%) and Germany (-2.6%).

Over the same period of comparison, increases were registered in the values of imports from some major suppliers, in particular Vietnam (+40.5%), Taiwan (+18.0%), Malaysia (+14.8%) and Singapore (+14.2%). Concurrently, decreases were recorded in the values of imports from Korea (-25.4%), the Mainland (-8.8%) and Japan (-4.5%).

For the first half of 2022 as a whole, year-on-year increases were registered in the values of total exports to most major destinations, in particular India (+62.6%), Singapore (+29.1%), the United Arab Emirates (+28.0%) and Taiwan (+25.1%). However, the value of total exports to the Mainland decreased by 5.7%.

Over the same period of comparison, year-on-year increases were registered in the values of imports from some major suppliers, in particular Taiwan (+23.8%), Vietnam (+17.7%), the USA (+11.0%) and Malaysia (+9.3%). However, decreases were recorded in the values of imports from the Mainland (-4.7%), Japan (-4.2%) and Korea (-1.5%).

Analysis by major commodity

Comparing June 2022 with June 2021, decreases were registered in the values of total exports of some principal commodity divisions, in particular "telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment" (by \$19.4 billion or -33.8%), "electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof" (by \$2.7 billion or -1.4%), "miscellaneous manufactured articles (mainly jewellery, goldsmiths' and silversmiths' wares)" (by \$2.6 billion or -12.1%) and "non-ferrous metals" (by \$2.6 billion or -33.5%). However, an increase was registered in the value of total exports of "professional, scientific and controlling instruments and

apparatus" (by \$4.4 billion or 52.4%).

Over the same period of comparison, increases were registered in the values of imports of some principal commodity divisions, in particular "electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof" (by \$9.8 billion or 4.9%), "professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus" (by \$3.6 billion or 37.4%), "power generating machinery and equipment" (by \$2.6 billion or 33.3%) and "petroleum, petroleum products and related materials" (by \$2.3 billion or 66.8%). However, a decrease was registered in the value of imports of "telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment" (by \$16.0 billion or -26.1%).

For the first half of 2022 as a whole, year-on-year increases were registered in the values of total exports of some principal commodity divisions, in particular "electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof" (by \$88.1 billion or 8.4%), "professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus" (by \$25.9 billion or 52.7%), "office machines and automatic data processing machines" (by \$15.3 billion or 6.3%) and "non-metallic mineral manufactures" (by \$6.3 billion or 7.7%). However, a year-on-year decrease was registered in the value of total exports of "telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment" (by \$85.8 billion or -24.5%).

Over the same period of comparison, year-on-year increases were registered in the values of imports of most principal commodity divisions, in particular "electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof" (by \$80.1 billion or 7.4%), "office machines and automatic data processing machines" (by \$23.0 billion or 11.8%), "professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus" (by \$21.3 billion or 42.2%) and "petroleum, petroleum products and related materials" (by \$11.5 billion or 45.9%). However, a year-on-year decrease was registered in the value of imports of "telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment" (by \$77.6 billion or -22.1%).

Commentary

A Government spokesman said that the value of merchandise exports fell further year-on-year in June 2022 alongside the deteriorated global economic situation. Exports to the Mainland continued to fall, while those to the US and the EU turned to declines. Meanwhile, exports to many other major Asian markets showed increases of varying degree.

Looking forward, the worsening global economic outlook will pile on the pressure facing Hong Kong's exports. Global financial conditions are expected to tighten further as many major central banks continue to raise interest rates to curb inflation, weighing on global economic momentum. The continued tensions in Ukraine and the evolving global pandemic also pose challenges. The Government will monitor the situation closely.

Further information

Table 1 presents the analysis of external merchandise trade statistics for June 2022. Table 2 presents the original monthly trade statistics from January 2019 to June 2022, and Table 3 gives the seasonally adjusted series for the same period.

The values of total exports of goods to 10 main destinations for June 2022 are shown in Table 4, whereas the values of imports of goods from 10 main suppliers are given in Table 5.

Tables 6 and 7 show the values of total exports and imports of 10 principal commodity divisions for June 2022.

All the merchandise trade statistics described here are measured at current prices and no account has been taken of changes in prices between the periods of comparison. A separate analysis of the volume and price movements of external merchandise trade for June 2022 will be released in mid-August 2022.

The June 2022 issue of "Hong Kong External Merchandise Trade" contains detailed analysis on the performance of Hong Kong's external merchandise trade in June 2022 and will be available in mid-August 2022. Users can download the publication at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/scode230.html).

Enquiries on merchandise trade statistics may be directed to the Trade Analysis Section (2) of the C&SD (Tel: 2582 5042).

Government follows up on positive results of sewage surveillance and appeals to residents to undergo virus testing

The Government announced today (July 25) that in order to fight the coronavirus epidemic, the Environmental Protection Department and the Drainage Services Department have been collecting sewage samples for virus testing in all districts, and had detected positive results in some areas, indicating that there may be hidden cases in the premises within these areas.

Rapid test

As regards positive sewage testing results with relatively high viral loads in the following areas, the Housing Department and the respective

District Offices will commence distributing about 300 000 sets of the COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) kits to residents, cleaning workers and property management staff working in the following areas for them to take the test on their own, in order to help identify infected persons:

- Kwun Tong District – residential premises around Mut Wah Street and Shung Yan Street (See Annex)
- Tai Po District – St Martin, The Horizon, Centra Horizon, Solaria, Mayfair By The Sea I, Mayfair By The Sea II, Providence Bay, ONTOL0, Providence Peak, The Graces, Providence Bay, Villa Castell, Deerhill Bay and San Uk Ka
- Tsuen Wan District – Lei Muk Shue Estate, Lei Muk Shue (1) Estate, Lei Muk Shue (2) Estate, Primrose Hill, The Rise, Yau Ma Hom Resite Village, Chung Kwai Chung Tsuen, Tai Pak Tin Village, Sheung Kwai Chung Village and Hoi Pa San Tsuen Section Two
- Yuen Long District – Tin Heng Estate, Tin Chung Court, Vianni Cove, Wetland Seasons Park and Yuccie Square
- Central & Western District – Sai Wan Estate

Members of the public may refer to (www.coronavirus.gov.hk/rat/eng/rat.html) for enquiries relating to the use of the RAT kits.

When using an RAT kit, please pay attention to and follow the instructions from the manufacturer to perform the test and read the result properly. It is advisable to record the displayed result by taking a photo immediately after reading. Users should wash their hands before and after performing the tests, and avoid placing non-essential items within the specimen collection area. After completing the test, wrap and seal all components of the test kit carefully and dispose of them properly. If the household environment is contaminated during the specimen collecting process, disinfection should be conducted with 1 in 49 diluted bleach solution or 70 per cent alcohol.

People who obtained a positive result through an RAT for the first time can report via the online platform "Declaration System for individuals tested positive for COVID-19 using Rapid Antigen Test" (www.chp.gov.hk/ratp). If individuals encounter difficulties using the online platform, they can call the automated system at 183 6119 to register their identification document and telephone number. The Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health will contact the relevant person later to finish the report procedure.