

2023 Edition of "Hong Kong Annual Digest of Statistics" published

The 2023 Edition of the "Hong Kong Annual Digest of Statistics" was published by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) today (October 27). The Digest is available for downloading at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1010003&scode=460).

The Digest is a comprehensive and convenient collection of official statistics. It contains some 310 statistical tables on a wide range of topics, including:

- Population
- Labour
- External trade
- National income and Balance of Payments
- Prices
- Business performance
- Innovation and technology
- Energy
- Housing and property
- Government accounts, finance and insurance
- Transport, communications and tourism
- Education
- Health
- Social welfare
- Law and order
- Culture, entertainment and recreation
- Environment, climate and geography

This Digest aims to provide key annual statistical series on various aspects of the social and economic developments of Hong Kong. Most of the data series presented reflect the latest situation covering a time span of the last decade, enabling readers to understand the trends of development in recent years. Descriptions of the scope of the statistical data and definitions of the terms used in this Digest are provided in the "Concepts and methods" in each chapter.

Enquiries about the "Hong Kong Annual Digest of Statistics" can be directed to the Statistical Information Dissemination Section (1) of the C&SD (Tel: 2582 5073; email: gen-enquiry@censtatd.gov.hk).

Research Grants Council to present public lecture on “Happy, Healthy, Longevity” on November 4

The following is issued on behalf of the University Grants Committee:

In line with the Government's initiative to promote STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) education for all, for fun and for diversity in support of the direction of promoting innovation and technology development, the Research Grants Council (RGC) will organise a series of public lectures from October 2023 to January 2024, covering areas including technology, innovation, health and culture.

The second lecture titled "Happy, Healthy, Longevity" will be held at the Hong Kong Central Library on November 4 (Saturday). All are welcome.

The RGC has invited four scholars of the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University to share their knowledge and research findings. Assistant Professor Dr Wong Min Ney and Associate Professor of Practice Dr Janet Ng will talk about post-stroke language impairment, while Associate Professor Dr Elaine Kwong and Associate Professor and Associate Head Dr Cindy Ngai will explain swallowing disorders in the ageing population. Details are as follows:

Time: 3pm to 5pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre, G/F, Hong Kong Central Library

Language: Cantonese

Admission: Free (seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis)

Members of the public can also watch a live broadcast of the lecture through the YouTube Channel of the Hong Kong Public Libraries (www.youtube.com/channel/UCJUipdvSACZj01ldo03YQBA).

First session: A path to language recovery following stroke: Neurological functions, impairments, and therapy

Language impairment is one of the common consequences of stroke. Patients will experience difficulties in understanding the language, troubles with expressing and unclear speech. These could greatly affect daily communication and activities. Dr Wong and Dr Ng will provide an overview of language processing in the brain, review symptoms of post-stroke language impairment, examine language recovery with speech therapy and discuss possibilities of new treatments with reference to local research evidence.

Second session: Navigating swallowing disorders: Enhancing diagnosis, treatment, and therapist-patient collaboration in an ageing population

Dr Kwong and Dr Ngai will delve into the realm of swallowing disorders in an ageing population to unravel the diagnostic techniques and illustrate the latest advancements in treatment modalities, as well as exploring how an open and effective communication between therapists and patients will enhance therapeutic outcomes.

The RGC has been regularly organising public lectures since 2009, featuring various distinguished scholars as speakers. These lectures aim to promote research knowledge of Hong Kong's tertiary institutions and to raise public awareness of the significance and values of local research work.

For enquiries, please call 2524 3987 or visit the University Grants Committee webpage (www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/rgc/about/events/lectures/lectures.html). In addition, members of the public can register for the RGC's email subscription service at www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/rgc/about/subscribe to receive regular updates.

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (October 27) released the latest grading of water quality for 39 gazetted beaches (see Note 1) and one non-gazetted beach (see Note 2).

Twenty-six beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 13 as Fair (Grade 2), and one as Poor (Grade 3).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Butterfly Beach*	Lower Cheung Sha Beach
Cafeteria New Beach*	Middle Bay Beach*
Cafeteria Old Beach	Pui O Beach*
Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach*	Repulse Bay Beach*
Chung Hom Kok Beach	Shek O Beach*
Clear Water Bay First Beach*	South Bay Beach*
Golden Beach*	St Stephen's Beach*
Hap Mun Bay Beach*	Stanley Main Beach
Hung Shing Yeh Beach*	Tai Po Lung Mei Beach*
Kadoorie Beach*	Tong Fuk Beach
Kiu Tsui Beach	Trio Beach*
Kwun Yam Beach	Turtle Cove Beach
Lo So Shing Beach	Upper Cheung Sha Beach

Grade 2 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach*	Discovery Bay
Approach Beach	Hoi Mei Wan Beach
Big Wave Bay Beach*	Lido Beach*
Casam Beach*	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach*
Castle Peak Beach	Silverstrand Beach*
Clear Water Bay Second Beach*	Ting Kau Beach*
Deep Water Bay Beach*	

Grade 3 beach is:

Silver Mine Bay Beach*

Compared with the grading released last week, Kadoorie Beach and Kwun Yam Beach have been upgraded from Grade 2 to Grade 1.

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades, namely Good (Grade 1), Fair (Grade 2), Poor (Grade 3) and Very Poor (Grade 4), 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, an 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 tropical cyclone or heavy rainfall.

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

In line with the vision to develop Hong Kong into a smart city, the EPD launched the Beach Water Quality Forecast System on August 15 to provide daily water quality forecasts for all gazetted beaches in Hong Kong that are open for swimming, to supplement the existing beach water quality monitoring programme and further enhance services to the public (see Note 3). Members of the public can obtain the latest daily water quality forecast information for all beaches through the Beach Water Quality Forecast mobile application (available for download from: www.epd.gov.hk/en/BWQApp) or the dedicated beach water quality forecast page (www.epd.gov.hk/en/BWQForecast) on the EPD's beach thematic website.

Note 1: Lifeguard services are provided by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department at 26 gazetted beaches, marked with an asterisk (*) above, from September 28. Stanley Main Beach is temporarily closed for clearance and urgent repair works. For details, please refer to the Leisure and Cultural

Services Department's Special Announcement
(www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/beach/index.html).

Note 2: This refers to the non-gazetted beach in Discovery Bay which has no lifeguard service.

Note 3: The EPD launched the Beach Water Quality Forecast System on August 15, 2023. For the press release, please visit www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202308/15/P2023081400345.htm.

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Friday, October 27, 2023 is 106.7 (same as yesterday's index).

Missing woman in Hung Hom located

A woman who went missing in Hung Hom has been located.

Leung Tsui-ling, aged 48, went missing after she left her residence on Ha Heung Road on June 13 afternoon. Her family made a report to Police on June 14.

The woman was located on Argyle Street, Mong Kok yesterday (October 26) afternoon. She sustained no injuries and no suspicious circumstances were detected.