

Consumer Price Indices for December 2021

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released today (January 20) the Consumer Price Index (CPI) figures for December 2021. According to the Composite CPI, overall consumer prices rose by 2.4% in December 2021 over the same month a year earlier, larger than the corresponding increase (1.8%) in November 2021. Netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures, the year-on-year rate of increase in the Composite CPI (i.e. the underlying inflation rate) in December 2021 was 1.4%, also larger than that in November 2021 (1.2%). The larger increase was mainly due to the enlarged increases in costs for meals out and takeaway food as well as electricity charges.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the average monthly rate of increase in the Composite CPI for the three-month period ending December 2021 was 1.0%, and that for the three-month period ending November 2021 was 0.2%. Netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures, the corresponding rates of increase were both 0.1%.

Analysed by sub-index, the year-on-year rates of increase in the CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C) were 3.0%, 2.2% and 2.0% respectively in December 2021, as compared to 2.2%, 1.7% and 1.5% respectively in November 2021. Netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures, the year-on-year rates of increase in the CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C) were 1.5%, 1.3% and 1.4% respectively in December 2021, as compared to 1.2%, 1.1% and 1.2% respectively in November 2021.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, for the three-month period ending December 2021, the average monthly rates of increase in the seasonally adjusted CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C) were 2.5%, 0.4% and 0.1% respectively. The corresponding rates of increase for the three-month period ending November 2021 were all 0.2%. Netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures, the average monthly rates of increase in the seasonally adjusted CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C) for the three-month period ending December 2021 were 0.1%, 0.1% and 0.0% respectively, and the corresponding rates of increase for the three-month period ending November 2021 were all 0.1%.

Amongst the various components of the Composite CPI, year-on-year increases in prices were recorded in December 2021 for electricity, gas and water (54.2%); clothing and footwear (8.7%); transport (4.1%); meals out and takeaway food (3.7%); durable goods (2.1%); basic food (1.9%); miscellaneous services (1.0%) and alcoholic drinks and tobacco (0.6%).

On the other hand, year-on-year decreases in the components of the Composite CPI were recorded in December 2021 for miscellaneous goods (-1.1%) and housing (-0.5%).

In the fourth quarter of 2021, the Composite CPI rose by 2.0% over a

year earlier, while the CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C) rose by 2.5%, 1.8% and 1.7% respectively. The corresponding increases after netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures were 1.2%, 1.2%, 1.1% and 1.3% respectively.

For 2021 as a whole, the Composite CPI was 1.6% higher than that in the preceding year. The respective increases in the CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C) were 2.9%, 1.0% and 0.9% respectively. The corresponding increases after netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures were 0.6%, 0.8%, 0.4% and 0.6% respectively.

Commentary

A Government spokesman said that the underlying consumer price inflation rate went up to 1.4% in December 2021. Prices of meals out and takeaway food showed a widened year-on-year increase against a lower base of comparison a year earlier due to the fourth wave of local epidemic. The increase in prices of energy-related items accelerated further, and those of certain major CPI components such as clothing and footwear and transport were more visible. Nonetheless, price pressures on other major components remained moderate. For 2021 as a whole, the underlying consumer price inflation rate averaged 0.6%.

Looking ahead, external price pressures may increase further amid elevated global inflation and the pandemic-induced logistic disruptions. Yet, as the latest wave of local epidemic has weighed on some consumption-related activities and domestic cost pressures remain limited, the underlying inflation should stay broadly in check in the near term. The Government will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Further information

The CPIs and year-on-year rates of change at section level for December 2021 are shown in Table 1. The time series on the year-on-year rates of change in the CPIs before and after netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures are shown in Table 2. For discerning the latest trend in consumer prices, it is also useful to look at the changes in the seasonally adjusted CPIs. The corresponding time series on the average monthly rates of change during the latest three months for the seasonally adjusted CPIs are shown in Table 3. The rates of change in the original and the seasonally adjusted Composite CPI and the underlying inflation rate are presented graphically in Chart 1.

More detailed CPI data (including year-on-year comparison, month-to-month comparison, seasonally adjusted data series and the CPIs by the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP)) are available in the monthly reports. Users can download the December 2021 issue of the "Monthly Report on the Consumer Price Index"

(www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1060001&scode=270), the time series of CPIs at detailed level

(www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=D5600001&scode=270), the time series of CPIs at COICOP division level

(www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=D5600002&scode=270) and

the time series of CPIs after netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures (www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=D5600003&scode=270) at the website of the C&SD.

The new 2019/20-based CPI series, as was first announced by the C&SD on May 28, 2021, is compiled on the basis of the expenditure patterns obtained from the Household Expenditure Survey (HES) conducted during October 2019 to September 2020. It replaces the old 2014/15-based series for analysing consumer price changes. After the reference month of December 2021 (i.e. the current month), the old 2014/15-based CPI series will cease to be compiled. It is an established practice in Hong Kong for the HES to be conducted and for the CPI series to be rebased once every five years. Both the old and the new series of CPIs have been exhibiting a similar trend in recent months.

For enquiries about the CPIs, please contact the Consumer Price Index Section of the C&SD (Tel: 3903 7374 or email: cpi@censtatd.gov.hk).

Communications Authority press release

The following is issued on behalf of the Communications Authority:

This press release summarises the decisions of the Communications Authority (CA) following its 114th meeting held in January 2022.

CA approves changes in shareholding structures of Hong Kong Cable Television Limited (HKCTV) and Fantastic Television Limited (Fantastic TV)

The CA has approved the applications by HKCTV and Fantastic TV for changes in their shareholding structures arising from the transfer of certain shares of Forever Top (Asia) Limited (Forever Top), which holds 43.22 per cent of the voting shares in i-CABLE Communications Limited (i-CABLE), from its existing shareholders to Celestial Pioneer Limited (Celestial Pioneer). The CA's approval would enable Celestial Pioneer to proceed to make a general offer for the shares of i-CABLE.

According to HKCTV and Fantastic TV, the shareholding changes would not bring about any material change to the legal and beneficial ownership of the licensees. Upon completion of the changes in the shareholding structures of HKCTV and Fantastic TV, Forever Top will maintain its present level of shareholding of 43.22 per cent in i-CABLE, the major shareholder of HKCTV and Fantastic TV.

In approving the applications, the CA is satisfied that HKCTV and Fantastic TV will continue to comply with all applicable regulatory

requirements under the Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap. 562) and the licences concerned, and that they will be able to honour the investment and programming commitments they have made under their respective licences after completion of the shareholding changes.

Broadcast complaint

The CA considered a complaint case about the radio programme "On a Clear Day" broadcast on September 10, 2020, on the CR 2 Channel of Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Company Limited (CRHK). The CA decided that CRHK should be advised to observe more closely the relevant provision of the Radio Code of Practice on Programme Standards. Details of the case are at www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/en/content_713/appx_20220120.pdf.

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Thursday, January 20, 2022 is 95.1 (down 0.1 against yesterday's index).

Hospital Authority announces senior appointments (with photos)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Hospital Authority (HA) spokesperson announced the following senior appointments today (January 20).

The Director of Cluster Services, Dr Deacons Yeung, will be rotated to serve as Cluster Chief Executive of Kowloon East and Hospital Chief Executive (HCE) of United Christian Hospital with effect from June 1, 2022, succeeding Dr Tom Kam-tim upon his retirement. The rotation of senior executives among the HA Head Office and Clusters ensures the continuous development and grooming of leaders with the management skills, experience and exposure.

Dr Yeung is a specialist in radiology by background. Dr Yeung is a seasoned senior executive with extensive management experience both at cluster and corporate levels. Prior to his current position, he was the HCE of Pok Oi Hospital from 2014 to 2019, and Tin Shui Wai Hospital from 2016 to 2019. In his current role as Director of Cluster Services, Dr Yeung directs

the development of corporate Key Performance Indicators, oversees the services of all hospitals and institutions; Public-Private Partnership programmes; HA Drug Formulary; clinical services ranging from cancer, cardiac, stroke, renal, psychiatric to organ transplant services, clinical grades management, Integrated Chinese and Western Medicine Services; as well as the community treatment facility for COVID-19.

Dr Chan Kam-hoi will be appointed as the HCE of the Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital at Sandy Bay, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Fung Yiu King Hospital and MacLehose Medical Rehabilitation Centre with effect from February 1, 2022.

Dr Chan is a specialist in gastroenterology and hepatology. He is currently the Chief Manager (Planning and Commissioning) of Hong Kong West Cluster. Dr Chan is a seasoned senior executive with solid track records in a wide scope of management duties including handling doctor work reform, Public-Private Partnership programmes and hospital redevelopment programmes of Kwong Wah Hospital, Queen Mary Hospital and Grantham Hospital.

The HA Chairman, Mr Henry Fan, and Chief Executive, Dr Tony Ko, congratulate Dr Yeung and Dr Chan on their new appointments and wish them every success in taking up the new roles. Mr Fan and Dr Ko also express sincere appreciation to Dr Tom for his distinctive contributions to public healthcare services for over 30 years, and wish him a happy retirement.



[EMSD releases lift and escalator contractors' latest performance ratings](#)

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) today (January 20) announced the performance ratings of the registered lift and escalator contractors for the past 12 months (from January 2021 to December 2021) for

public reference.

According to the rating results, 33 registered lift contractors and 27 registered escalator contractors were awarded the Safety Star. Among these contractors, 13 registered lift contractors and 12 registered escalator contractors had not been found non-compliant with the safety and maintenance requirements as reported in the last two consecutive announcements of performance results, and were therefore given the highest rating of five Quality Stars. The EMSD conducted 28 826 inspections of lifts and escalators during the period.

The rating results, conviction records, summaries of warning letters and equipment failure records are available on the EMSD's website (www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/eng/pps/le_pub_mpr.shtml).