

# Provisional statistics of restaurant receipts and purchases for fourth quarter of 2019 and for whole year of 2019

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released the latest provisional figures on restaurant receipts and purchases today (February 5).

The value of total receipts of the restaurants sector in the fourth quarter of 2019, provisionally estimated at \$26.0 billion, decreased by 14.3% over a year earlier. Over the same period, the provisional estimate of the value of total purchases by restaurants decreased by 13.0% to \$8.4 billion.

After netting out the effect of price changes over the same period, the provisional estimate of the volume of total restaurant receipts decreased by 16.0% in the fourth quarter of 2019 compared with a year earlier.

Analysed by type of restaurant and comparing the fourth quarter of 2019 with the fourth quarter of 2018, total receipts of Chinese restaurants decreased by 19.2% in value and 21.1% in volume. Total receipts of non-Chinese restaurants decreased by 15.1% in value and 16.6% in volume. Total receipts of fast food shops decreased by 3.7% in value and 4.9% in volume. Total receipts of bars decreased by 14.5% in value and 17.4% in volume. As for miscellaneous eating and drinking places, total receipts decreased by 8.2% in value and 10.6% in volume.

Based on the seasonally adjusted series, the provisional estimate of total restaurant receipts decreased by 3.1% in value and 3.4% in volume in the fourth quarter of 2019 compared with the preceding quarter.

For 2019 as a whole, the value of total receipts of the restaurants sector was provisionally estimated at \$112.5 billion, decreased by 5.9% in value and 8.0% in volume compared with the whole year of 2018. Over the same period, the provisional estimate of the total purchases of restaurants decreased by 5.1% to \$36.1 billion.

Analysed by type of restaurant and comparing the whole year of 2019 with the whole year of 2018, total receipts of Chinese restaurants decreased by 10.0% in value and 12.1% in volume. Total receipts of non-Chinese restaurants decreased by 6.4% in value and 8.3% in volume. Total receipts of fast food shops increased by 1.9% in value and 0.1% in volume. Total receipts of bars decreased by 9.0% in value and 10.7% in volume. As for miscellaneous eating and drinking places, total receipts increased by 1.6% in value, but decreased by 1.7% in volume.

To facilitate further understanding of the short-term business performance of the restaurants sector, statistics in respect of the

restaurant receipts and purchases in individual months of the reference quarter are also compiled.

Analysed by month, it was provisionally estimated that the value of total receipts of the restaurants sector decreased by 14.2%, 14.9% and 14.0% respectively in October, November and December 2019, compared with the corresponding months a year earlier.

After discounting the effect of price changes, it was provisionally estimated that the volume of total restaurant receipts decreased by 15.9%, 16.7% and 15.6% respectively in October, November and December 2019, compared with the corresponding months a year earlier.

## Commentary

A Government spokesman noted that the value of total restaurant receipts showed a steeper plunge of 14.3% in the fourth quarter of 2019 from a year earlier, marking the largest fall since the outbreak of SARS in the second quarter of 2003, as the local social incidents with intensified violence in the quarter caused severe disruptions to food and beverage businesses. For 2019 as a whole, total restaurant receipts declined by 5.9% in value terms, the first annual decline since 2003.

The spokesman further pointed out that the food and beverage sector has been facing an even more difficult business environment recently due to the threat of the novel coronavirus infection. The outlook down the road depends critically on how the situation of the novel coronavirus infection will evolve. The Government will continue to monitor the developments closely.

## Further information

Table 1 presents the revised figures of restaurant receipts by type of restaurant and total purchases by the restaurants sector for the third quarter of 2019 as well as the provisional figures for the fourth quarter of 2019.

Table 2 and Table 3 present the revised value and volume indices respectively of restaurant receipts by type of restaurant for the third quarter of 2019 and the provisional indices for the fourth quarter of 2019.

Table 4 presents the year-on-year rate of change in total restaurant receipts in value and volume terms based on the original quarterly series, as well as the quarter-to-quarter rate of change based on the seasonally adjusted series.

The revised figures on restaurant receipts and purchases for the fourth quarter of 2019 (with breakdown by month) will be released through the website of C&SD ([www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/bbs.jsp](http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/bbs.jsp)) and relevant publications of the Department from March 20, 2020.

The classification of restaurants 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 Quarterly Survey of Restaurant Receipts and Purchases". Users can download this publication free of charge at the website of C&SD ([www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp320.jsp?productCode=B1080002](http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp320.jsp?productCode=B1080002)).

Users who have enquiries about the survey results may contact the Distribution Services Statistics Section of C&SD (Tel: 3903 7401; email: [qsr@censtatd.gov.hk](mailto:qsr@censtatd.gov.hk)).

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## Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 is 107 (up 0.2 against yesterday's index).

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## Senior appointment (with photo)

The Government announced today (February 5) that Dr Cheng Cho-ming, Assistant Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, will succeed Mr Shun Chi-ming as Director of the Hong Kong Observatory on February 15, 2020. Mr Shun will retire from the civil service on the same day.

Commenting on the appointment of Dr Cheng, the Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Joshua Law, said, "Dr Cheng has acquired extensive expertise and rich experience in different areas of operation of the Hong Kong Observatory. He possesses proven leadership and management skills. I am confident that he will be able to lead the Hong Kong Observatory to meet the challenges ahead and continue to deliver quality services to the community."

On the retirement of Mr Shun from the civil service, Mr Law said, "Mr Shun has served with zeal and dedication in the civil service throughout the past 34 years. He has made exemplary contributions to enhancing the standard and professionalism of the weather forecast and warning services to better safeguard public safety under hazardous weather. He has also actively participated in the work of the World Meteorological Organization and enhanced the profile and standing of Hong Kong in the international meteorological community. I wish him every success in his future endeavours."

Brief biographical notes of the two officers are set out below:

Mr Shun Chi-ming

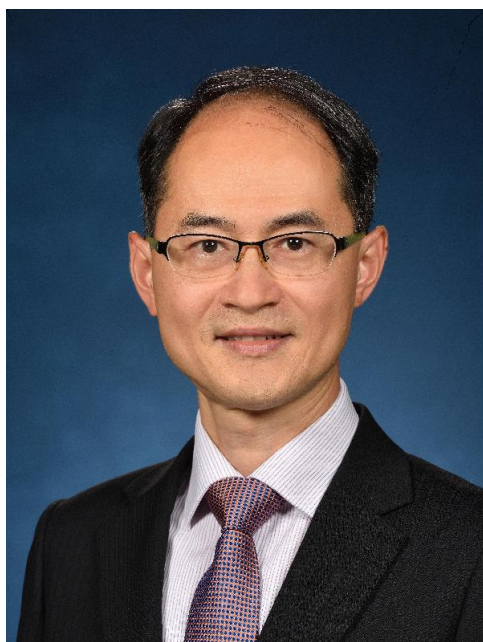
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Mr Shun joined the Government as a Scientific Officer in February 1986. He was promoted to Assistant Director of the Hong Kong Observatory in December 2008. He has been the Director of the Hong Kong Observatory since April 2011.

Dr Cheng Cho-ming

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Dr Cheng joined the Government as a Scientific Officer in February 1989. He was promoted to Assistant Director of the Hong Kong Observatory in October 2011.



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## Import of poultry meat and products from Quang Ninh Province in Vietnam suspended

â€‹The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (February 5) that in view of a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N6 avian influenza in Quang Ninh Province in Vietnam, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the province with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

A CFS spokesman said that Hong Kong has currently established a protocol with Vietnam for the import of poultry eggs but not for poultry meat. Hong

Kong imported about 975 000 poultry eggs from Vietnam last year, according to the Census and Statistics Department.

"The CFS has contacted the Vietnamese authorities over the issue and will closely monitor information issued by the OIE on avian influenza outbreaks. Appropriate action will be taken in response to the development of the situation," the spokesman said.

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## **Postal services to Macao subject to delay**

Hongkong Post announced today (February 5) that, as advised by the postal administration of Macao, all mail delivery services (including Speedpost) to Macao are subject to delay.