

November 2018 issue of “Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics” now available

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) published today (November 15) the November 2018 issue of the "Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics" (HKMDS).

Apart from providing up-to-date statistics, this issue also contains two feature articles entitled "Dependency Trend in Hong Kong" and "Human Capital in Hong Kong".

"Dependency Trend in Hong Kong"

An ageing trend of the Hong Kong population was observed in the past 30 years or so. The median age of the population (excluding foreign domestic helpers) increased from 26.7 in 1982 to 45.3 (provisional) in 2018. Analyses of the changing structure of the population in terms of age and economic activity status are crucial for understanding the dependency trend in Hong Kong. This feature article analyses the dependency trend in Hong Kong through various indicators.

For enquiries about this feature article, please contact the Household Statistics Analysis Section, C&SD (Tel: 2887 5208; email: ghs@censtatd.gov.hk).

"Human Capital in Hong Kong"

Human capital development has long been seen as one of the thrusts for enhancing competitiveness and sustaining economic development of an economy. This feature article focuses on two groups in human capital, viz. persons with post-secondary education and persons working as professionals/associate professionals, who are crucial to the development of a knowledge-based economy.

For enquiries about this feature article, please contact the Science and Technology Statistics Section, C&SD (Tel: 3903 7282; email: stbl@censtatd.gov.hk).

Published in bilingual form, the HKMDS is a compact volume of official statistics containing about 140 tables. It collects up-to-date statistical series on various aspects of the social and economic situation of Hong Kong. Topics include population; labour; external trade; National Income and Balance of Payments; prices; business performance; energy; housing and property; government accounts, finance and insurance; and transport, communications and tourism. For selected key statistical items, over 20 charts depicting the annual trend in the past decade and quarterly or monthly trend in the recent two years are also available. Users can download the

Digest free of charge at the website of the C&SD
(www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp460.jsp?productCode=B1010002).

Enquiries about the contents of the Digest can be directed to the Statistical Information Services Section of the C&SD (Tel: 2582 4738; email: gen-enquiry@censtatd.gov.hk).

Manager of unlicensed guesthouse fined

A man was fined \$8,000 at the Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts today (November 15) for contravening the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance.

The courts heard that in January this year, officers of the Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA), the Home Affairs Department, inspected a suspected unlicensed guesthouse on Nathan Road in Tsim Sha Tsui. During the inspection, the OLA officers posed as lodgers and successfully rented a room in the guesthouse on a daily basis.

According to the OLA's records, the guesthouse did not possess a licence under the Ordinance on the day of inspection. The man responsible for managing the premise was 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), by fax (2504 5805) using the report form downloaded from the OLA website (www.hadla.gov.hk), or through the mobile application "Hong Kong Licensed Hotels and Guesthouses".

LegCo committee meetings

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council (LegCo) Subcommittee on Two Orders Made under Section 49 (1A) of the Inland Revenue Ordinance and Gazetted on 14 September

2018 will hold a meeting tomorrow (November 16) at 8.30am in Conference Room 2B of the LegCo Complex.

The first meeting of LegCo Subcommittee on Pharmacy and Poisons (Amendment) (No. 6) Regulation 2018 originally scheduled for tomorrow at 10.45am has been cancelled.

Meanwhile, the meeting of LegCo Finance Committee (FC) originally scheduled at 3pm tomorrow in Conference Room 1 of the LegCo Complex will start at 3.30pm (or an earlier time between 3.15pm and 3.30pm). If the preceding House Committee (HC) meeting ends before 3.15pm, the FC meeting will start at 3.15pm; if the preceding HC meeting ends between 3.15pm and 3.30pm, the FC meeting will start immediately after the HC meeting.

Immigration Department to hold new smart Hong Kong identity card roving exhibition

A new smart Hong Kong identity card (HKIC) roving exhibition organised by the Immigration Department will be held this Saturday and Sunday (November 17 and 18) from 11am to 7pm at the Atrium, Expo & Board Game Area, L1 of D&S Park, Tsuen Wan. Members of the public are invited to attend and admission is free.

Through various forms of display panels, a touchscreen display and promotional videos, the exhibition will introduce the new smart HKIC, contents of the Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise and the history of the HKIC. In addition, a games stall will be set up and relevant promotional materials and souvenirs will be distributed. Members of the public may gain a better understanding of the new smart HKIC and details of the Replacement Exercise through the exhibition.

The roving exhibition will later be held at other districts and the details shall be announced in due course.

Volume and price statistics of

external merchandise trade in

September 2018

Further to the external merchandise trade statistics in value terms for September 2018 released earlier on, the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released today (November 15) the volume and price statistics of external merchandise trade for that month.

In September 2018, the volume of Hong Kong's total exports of goods increased by 1.9% over September 2017. Concurrently, the volume of imports of goods increased by 2.1%.

Comparing the first nine months of 2018 with the same period in 2017, the volume of Hong Kong's total exports of goods increased by 6.6%. Concurrently, the volume of imports of goods increased by 8.2%.

Comparing the third quarter of 2018 with the preceding quarter on a seasonally adjusted basis, the volume of total exports of goods increased by 1.2%. Concurrently, the volume of imports of goods increased by 2.1%.

Changes in volume of external merchandise trade are derived from changes in external merchandise trade value with the effect of price changes discounted.

Comparing September 2018 with September 2017, the prices of total exports of goods increased by 2.7%. Concurrently, the prices of imports of goods increased by 2.9%.

As regards price changes in the first nine months of 2018 over the same period in 2017, the prices of total exports of goods increased by 2.5%. Concurrently, the prices of imports of goods increased by 2.6%.

Price changes in external merchandise trade are reflected by changes in unit value indices of external merchandise trade, which are compiled based on average unit values or, for certain commodities, specific price data.

The terms of trade index is derived from the ratio of price index of total exports of goods to that of imports of goods. Compared with the same periods in 2017, the index decreased by 0.2% and 0.1% in September 2018 and in the first nine months of 2018 respectively.

Changes in the unit value and volume of total exports of goods by main destination are shown in Table 1.

Comparing September 2018 with September 2017, the total export volume to India, the USA, the mainland of China (the Mainland) and Vietnam increased by 8.3%, 3.3%, 2.8% and 2.4% respectively. On the other hand, the total export volume to Japan decreased by 14.7%.

Over the same period of comparison, the total export prices to the Mainland, Japan, the USA and Vietnam increased by 3.9%, 2.5%, 2.4% and 1.1% respectively. On the other hand, the total export prices to India decreased by 1.9%.

Changes in the unit value and volume of imports of goods by main supplier are shown in Table 2.

Comparing September 2018 with September 2017, a double-digit growth of 15.4% was recorded for the import volume from Singapore. Concurrently, the import volume from Korea increased by 1.4%. On the other hand, the import volume from Japan, the Mainland and Taiwan decreased by 0.1%, 0.7% and 4.8% respectively.

Over the same period of comparison, the import prices from all main suppliers increased: Korea (+8.2%), the Mainland (+3.6%), Singapore (+3.3%), Japan (+2.7%) and Taiwan (+0.7%).

Further information

Details of the above statistics are published in the September 2018 issue of "Hong Kong Merchandise Trade Index Numbers". Users can download the publication free of charge at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp230.jsp?productCode=B1020006).

Enquiries on merchandise trade indices may be directed to the Trade Analysis Section (1) of the C&SD (Tel: 2582 4918).