

# Fraudulent website and social media account related to Public Finance Limited

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by Public Finance Limited relating to a fraudulent website and a social media account, which has been reported to the HKMA. A hyperlink to the press release is available on the [HKMA website](#).

The HKMA wishes to remind the public that banks will not send SMS or emails with embedded hyperlinks which direct them to the banks' websites to carry out transactions. They will not ask customers for sensitive personal information, such as login passwords or one-time password, by phone, email or SMS (including via embedded hyperlinks).

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information, or who has conducted any financial transactions, through or in response to the website or social media account concerned, should contact the bank using the contact information provided in the press release, and report the matter to the Police by contacting the Crime Wing Information Centre of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

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## CSSA caseload for August 2024

The overall Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) caseload in August slightly rose by 62 cases, remaining more or less the same as that of July, according to the latest CSSA caseload statistics released by the Social Welfare Department today (September 19).

The total CSSA caseload at the end of August stood at 197 771 (see attached table), with a total of 268 758 recipients.

Analysed by case nature, single parent cases registered a month-to-month decrease of 0.7 per cent to 19 836 cases. Permanent disability cases decreased by 0.3 per cent to 16 998 cases. Unemployment cases declined by 0.1 per cent to 16 571 cases.

Ill-health cases registered an increase of 0.5 per cent to 28 050 cases. Old age cases increased by 0.1 per cent to 110 899 cases. Low-earnings cases remained unchanged at 1 467 cases.

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## HAD opens temporary heat shelters

The Home Affairs Department will continue to open 19 community halls/community centres as temporary heat shelters today (September 19).

The temporary heat shelters will remain open for people to take refuge from the heat when the Very Hot Weather Warning is in force. From 10.30pm to 8am the next day, the temporary heat shelters will also provide bedding and a sleeping place for people in need. The shelters are manned by duty attendants.

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

The heat shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Island:

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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 –

Lei Tung Community Hall  
Lei Tung Estate, Ap Lei Chau

Wan Chai –

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

Kowloon Districts:

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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:  
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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 –  
Hang Hau Community Hall  
G/F, Sai Kung Tseung Kwan O Government Complex, 38 Pui Shing Road, Hang Hau,  
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 –  
Butterfly Bay Community Centre  
Butterfly Estate (near Tip Sum House), Tuen Mun

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

Yuen Long –

Tin Yiu Community Centre  
Tin Yiu Estate, Tin Shui Wai

In addition to the above heat shelters, a number of community halls/community centres can also be used for taking refuge from the heat during their operating hours. For their address details, please browse the following document: [www.had.gov.hk/file\\_manager/en/documents/public\\_services/emergency\\_services/List\\_CH\\_CC\\_Day\\_E.pdf](http://www.had.gov.hk/file_manager/en/documents/public_services/emergency_services/List_CH_CC_Day_E.pdf).

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## Unemployment and underemployment statistics for June – August 2024

According to the latest labour force statistics (i.e. provisional figures for June – August 2024) released today (September 19) by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD), the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stood at 3.0% in June – August 2024, same as that in May – July 2024. The underemployment rate also remained unchanged at 1.2% in the two periods.

Comparing June – August 2024 with May – July 2024, movements in the unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) and underemployment rate in different industry sectors varied, but the magnitudes were generally not large.

Total employment in June – August 2024 was 3 708 500, about the same as that in May – July 2024 (3 708 600). Over the same period, the labour force increased by around 4 400 from 3 826 400 to 3 830 800.

The number of unemployed persons (not seasonally adjusted) increased by around 4 500 from 117 800 in May – July 2024 to 122 300 in June – August 2024. The number of underemployed persons in June – August 2024 was 47 500, the same as that in May – July 2024.

### Commentary

Commenting on the latest unemployment figures, the Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Mr Chris Sun, said, "The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stayed low at 3.0% in June – August 2024, same as May – July 2024. The underemployment rate also remained unchanged at 1.2%. The labour force increased further by 4 400 to 3 830 800. Total employment stayed largely steady at 3 708 500. The number of unemployed persons increased slightly by 4 500 to 122 300."

The unemployment rates of various sectors showed diverse movements in June – August 2024 compared with the preceding three-month period. The

unemployment rate of the retail sector stayed unchanged at 4.3%. The unemployment rate of the accommodation services sector went up by 0.4 percentage point to 3.5%, and that of the food and beverage service activities sector edged up by 0.1 percentage point to 5.1%. The unemployment rates of some other sectors also increased, notably the decoration, repair and maintenance for buildings sector and the information and communications sector. On the other hand, the unemployment rates of some sectors declined, notably the insurance sector, the import/export trade and wholesale sector and the transportation sector.

Looking ahead, Mr Sun said, "The overall labour market should remain tight in the near term alongside the continued economic growth, though the employment situation in some sectors may be under pressure as their businesses continue to face challenges."

In June – August 2024, the Labour Department (LD) recorded a monthly average of 68 209 vacancies from the private sector, representing a year-on-year decrease of 35.2% and a decrease of 4.9% over the average figure in May – July 2024.

On large-scale job fairs, the LD will organise the Job Fair for Residential Care Home Service Industry at the MacPherson Stadium in Mong Kok on September 26 and 27, 2024. About 30 employers will participate, offering a large number of vacancies. Job seekers may also make use of the LD's online platforms, such as the Interactive Employment Service website, for obtaining more information on available vacancies.

#### Further information

The unemployment and underemployment statistics were compiled from the findings of the continuous General Household Survey.

In the survey, the definitions used in measuring unemployment and underemployment follow closely those recommended by the International Labour Organization. The employed population covers all employers, self-employed persons, employees (including full-time, part-time, casual workers, etc.) and unpaid family workers. Unemployed persons by industry (or occupation) are classified according to their previous industry (or occupation).

The survey for June – August 2024 covered a sample of some 26 000 households or 68 000 persons, selected in accordance with a scientifically designed sampling scheme to represent the population of Hong Kong. Labour force statistics compiled from this sample represented the situation in the moving three-month period of June to August 2024.

Data on labour force characteristics were obtained from the survey by interviewing each member aged 15 or over in the sampled households.

Statistical tables on the latest labour force statistics can be downloaded at the website of the C&SD ([www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/scode200.html](http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/scode200.html)). More detailed analysis of the labour force characteristics is given in the

"Quarterly Report on General Household Survey" which is published four times a year. The latest issue of the report contains statistics for the quarter April – June 2024 while the next issue covering the quarter July – September 2024 will be available by end November 2024. Users can also browse and download this publication at the website of the C&SD ([www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1050001&scode=200](http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1050001&scode=200)).

For enquiries about labour force statistics, please contact the General Household Survey Section (3) of the C&SD (Tel: 2887 5508 or email: [ghs@censtatd.gov.hk](mailto:ghs@censtatd.gov.hk)).

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## **Auctions of traditional vehicle registration marks to be held on October 5 and 6**

The Transport Department (TD) today (September 19) announced that two auctions of traditional vehicle registration marks will be held on October 5 (Saturday) and 6 (Sunday) in Meeting Room S421, L4, Old Wing, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wan Chai.

"A total of 350 vehicle registration marks will be put up for public sale at each auction. The lists of marks have been uploaded to the department's website, [www.td.gov.hk/en/public\\_services/vehicle\\_registration\\_mark/index.html](http://www.td.gov.hk/en/public_services/vehicle_registration_mark/index.html)," a department spokesman said.

Applicants who have paid a deposit of \$1,000 to reserve a mark for auction should also participate in the bidding (including the first bid at the reserve price of \$1,000). Otherwise, the mark concerned may be sold to another bidder at the reserve price.

People who wish to participate in the bidding at the auction should take note of the following important points:

- (1) Successful bidders are required to produce the following documents for completion of registration and payment procedures immediately after the successful bidding:
  - (i) the identity document of the successful bidder;
  - (ii) the identity document of the purchaser if it is different from the successful bidder;
  - (iii) a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation if the purchaser is a body corporate; and
  - (iv) a crossed cheque made payable to "The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region" or "The Government of the HKSAR". (For an auctioned mark paid for by cheque, the first three working days after the

date of auction will be required for cheque clearance confirmation before processing of the application for mark assignment can be completed.) Successful bidders can also pay through the Easy Pay System (EPS). Payment by post-dated cheques, cash or other methods will not be accepted.

(2) Purchasers must make payment of the purchase price through EPS or by crossed cheque and complete the Memorandum of Sale of Registration Mark immediately after the bidding. Subsequent alteration of the particulars in the memorandum will not be permitted.

(3) A vehicle registration mark can only be assigned to a motor vehicle which is registered in the name of the purchaser. The Certificate of Incorporation must be produced immediately by the purchaser if a vehicle registration mark purchased is to be registered under the name of a body corporate.

(4) Special registration marks are non-transferable. Where the ownership of a motor vehicle with a special registration mark is transferred, the allocation of the special registration mark shall be cancelled.

(5) The purchaser shall, within 12 months after the date of auction, apply to the Commissioner for Transport for the registration mark to be assigned to a motor vehicle registered in the name of the purchaser. If the purchaser fails to assign the registration mark within 12 months, allocation of the mark will be cancelled and arranged for re-allocation in accordance with the statutory provision without prior notice to the purchaser.

For other auction details, please refer to the Guidance Notes – Auction of Traditional Vehicle Registration Marks, which can be downloaded from the department's website, [www.td.gov.hk/en/public\\_services/vehicle\\_registration\\_mark/tvrm\\_auction/index.html](http://www.td.gov.hk/en/public_services/vehicle_registration_mark/tvrm_auction/index.html).