

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 is 103.6 (up 0.1 against yesterday's index).

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 137th meeting held in September 2024.

Renewal of "other licensable television programme service" licence

The CA has approved the application by Greenroll Limited for renewal of its "other licensable television programme service" licence for the provision of television programme services to hotel rooms in Hong Kong. The renewed licence will be valid for 12 years from September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2037 (both dates inclusive).

Upon the renewal of the above licence, there are 21 "other licensable television programme service" licensees providing television programme services to more than 50 hotels in Hong Kong.

Broadcast complaint

The CA considered a complaint case about a television advertisement for "Vita Green Lingzhi" broadcast on May 11, 2023, on the Jade Channel of Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB). The CA decided that TVB should be advised to observe more closely the relevant provisions of the Generic Code of Practice on Television Advertising Standards. Details of the case are at the [Appendix](#).

Exchange Fund Bills tender results

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

Exchange Fund Bills tender results:

Tender date : September 17, 2024
Paper on offer : EF Bills
Issue number : Q2438
Issue date : September 19, 2024
Maturity date : December 18, 2024
Amount applied : HK\$163,290 MN
Amount allotted : HK\$59,960 MN
Average yield accepted : 3.31 PCT
Highest yield accepted : 3.35 PCT
Pro rata ratio* : About 85 PCT
Average tender yield : 3.41 PCT

Tender date : September 17, 2024
Paper on offer : EF Bills
Issue number : H2467
Issue date : September 19, 2024
Maturity date : March 19, 2025
Amount applied : HK\$57,900 MN
Amount allotted : HK\$13,400 MN
Average yield accepted : 3.15 PCT
Highest yield accepted : 3.17 PCT
Pro rata ratio* : About 29 PCT
Average tender yield : 3.21 PCT

*"Pro rata ratio" refers to the average percentage of allotment with respect to each tender participant's tendered amount at the "highest yield accepted" level.

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tenders to be held in the week beginning September 23, 2024:

Tender date : September 24, 2024
Paper on offer : EF Bills
Issue number : Q2439
Issue date : September 25, 2024
Maturity date : December 27, 2024
Tenor : 93 Days
Amount on offer : HK\$61,854 MN

Tender date : September 24, 2024

Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: H2468
Issue date	: September 25, 2024
Maturity date	: March 26, 2025
Tenor	: 182 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$15,000 MN

Tender date	: September 24, 2024
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Y2495
Issue date	: September 25, 2024
Maturity date	: September 24, 2025
Tenor	: 364 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$5,000 MN

[Import of poultry eggs from Puri District of Odisha State in India suspended](#)

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (September 17) that in view of a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in the Puri District of Odisha State in India, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry eggs from the area with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

A CFS spokesman said that Hong Kong has currently established a protocol with India for the import of poultry eggs but not for poultry meat. According to the Census and Statistics Department, no eggs were imported into Hong Kong from India in the first six months of this year.

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

Illegal worker jailed

A Pakistani illegal worker, holding a recognisance form, was jailed by Shatin Magistrates' Courts yesterday (September 16).

During a joint operation conducted by the Immigration Department (ImmD) and the Hong Kong Police Force codenamed "Powerplayer" on July 16, investigators raided a hawker pitch on Tung Choi Street in Mong Kok District. A Pakistani man, aged 30, was arrested while assembling the hawker pitch. Upon identity checking, he produced a recognisance form issued by the ImmD for inspection, which prohibits him from taking employment. Further investigation revealed that he was a non-refoulement claimant.

The illegal worker was charged at Shatin Magistrates' Courts yesterday with taking employment while being a person in respect of whom a removal order or deportation order was in force. After trial, he was sentenced to 22 months and two weeks' imprisonment.

The ImmD spokesman warned that, as stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, an illegal immigrant, a person who is the subject of a removal order or a deportation order, an overstayer or a person who was refused permission to land is prohibited from taking any employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining in any business. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to three years' imprisonment.

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people who are not lawfully employable. Under the Immigration Ordinance, the maximum penalty for an employer employing a person who is not lawfully employable, i.e. an illegal immigrant, a person who is the subject of a removal order or a deportation order, an overstayer or a person who was refused permission to land, has been significantly increased from a fine of \$350,000 and three years' imprisonment to a fine of \$500,000 and 10 years' imprisonment to reflect the gravity of such offences. The director, manager, secretary, partner, etc, of the company concerned may also bear criminal liability. The High Court has laid down sentencing guidelines that the employer of an illegal worker should be given an immediate custodial sentence.

According to the court sentencing, employers must take all practicable steps to determine whether a person is lawfully employable prior to employment. Apart from inspecting a prospective employee's identity card, the employer has the explicit duty to make enquiries regarding the person and ensure that the answers would not cast any reasonable doubt concerning the lawful employability of the person. The court will not accept failure to do so as a defence in proceedings. It is also an offence if an employer fails to inspect the job seeker's valid travel document if the job seeker does not have a Hong Kong permanent identity card. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$150,000 and to imprisonment for one year. In that connection, the spokesman would like to remind all employers not to defy the law and employ illegal workers. The ImmD will continue to take resolute

enforcement action to combat such offences.

Under the existing mechanism, the ImmD will, as a standard procedure, conduct an initial screening of vulnerable persons, including illegal workers, illegal immigrants, sex workers and foreign domestic helpers, who are arrested during any operation, with a view to ascertaining whether they are trafficking in persons (TIP) victims. When any TIP indicator is revealed in the initial screening, the officers will conduct a full debriefing and identification by using a standardised checklist to ascertain the presence of TIP elements, such as threats and coercion in the recruitment phase and the nature of exploitation. Identified TIP victims will be provided with various forms of support and assistance, including urgent intervention, medical services, counselling, shelter, temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments immediately.