

External merchandise trade statistics for April 2025

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released today (May 26) the external merchandise trade statistics for April 2025. In April 2025, the values of Hong Kong's total exports and imports of goods both recorded year-on-year increases, at 14.7% and 15.8% respectively.

In April 2025, the value of total exports of goods increased by 14.7% over a year earlier to \$434.5 billion, after a year-on-year increase by 18.5% in March 2025. Concurrently, the value of imports of goods increased by 15.8% over a year earlier to \$450.5 billion in April 2025, after a year-on-year increase by 16.6% in March 2025. A visible trade deficit of \$16.0 billion, equivalent to 3.6% of the value of imports of goods, was recorded in April 2025.

For the first four months of 2025 as a whole, the value of total exports of goods increased by 11.9% over the same period in 2024. Concurrently, the value of imports of goods increased by 11.4%. A visible trade deficit of \$96.9 billion, equivalent to 5.7% of the value of imports of goods, was recorded in the first four months of 2025.

Comparing the three-month period ending April 2025 with the preceding three months on a seasonally adjusted basis, the value of total exports of goods increased by 13.8%. Meanwhile, the value of imports of goods increased by 12.6%.

Analysis by country/territory

Comparing April 2025 with April 2024, total exports to Asia as a whole grew by 20.8%. In this region, increases were registered in the values of total exports to some major destinations, in particular Malaysia (+61.5%), Vietnam (+48.3%), Taiwan (+24.1%), the mainland of China (the Mainland) (+23.0%) and India (+22.5%). On the other hand, a decrease was recorded in the value of total exports to Korea (-26.7%).

Apart from destinations in Asia, decreases were registered in the values of total exports to some major destinations in other regions, in particular the Netherlands (-38.4%) and the United Kingdom (-24.1%). On the other hand, an increase was recorded in the value of total exports to Germany (+30.8%).

Over the same period of comparison, increases were registered in the values of imports from most major suppliers, in particular Vietnam (+107.3%), the United Kingdom (+59.5%), Taiwan (+50.6%) and the Mainland (+14.8%). On the other hand, a decrease was recorded in the value of imports from Korea (-21.3%).

For the first four months of 2025 as a whole, increases were registered

in the values of total exports to some major destinations, in particular Vietnam (+63.7%), Taiwan (+36.3%) and the Mainland (+18.1%). On the other hand, a decrease was recorded in the value of total exports to the United Arab Emirates (-28.6%).

Over the same period of comparison, increases were registered in the values of imports from some major suppliers, in particular Vietnam (+78.9%), the United Kingdom (+57.9%), Taiwan (+53.1%), Malaysia (+35.8%) and the Mainland (+6.9%). On the other hand, a decrease was recorded in the value of imports from Korea (-23.0%).

Analysis by major commodity

Comparing April 2025 with April 2024, increases were registered in the values of total exports of some principal commodity divisions, in particular "electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof" (by \$33.5 billion or +18.7%) and "office machines and automatic data processing machines" (by \$19.5 billion or +46.0%).

Over the same period of comparison, increases were registered in the values of imports of some principal commodity divisions, in particular "electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof" (by \$29.9 billion or +16.8%) and "office machines and automatic data processing machines" (by \$19.5 billion or +67.1%).

For the first four months of 2025 as a whole, increases were registered in the values of total exports of some principal commodity divisions, in particular "office machines and automatic data processing machines" (by \$106.2 billion or +72.1%) and "electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof" (by \$76.4 billion or +11.2%).

Over the same period of comparison, increases were registered in the values of imports of some principal commodity divisions, in particular "office machines and automatic data processing machines" (by \$94.2 billion or +84.7%) and "electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof" (by \$82.4 billion or +12.3%).

Commentary

A Government spokesman said that the value of merchandise exports grew visibly by 14.7% in April over a year earlier. Exports to the Mainland and many other Asian markets grew visibly. Exports to the United States rose marginally, while exports to the European Union fell.

Looking ahead, as international trade tensions have eased somewhat of late, the headwinds and uncertainties in the external environment have lessened to some extent. The sustained steady growth in the Mainland economy, together with Hong Kong's proactive efforts in enhancing economic and trade ties with different markets, should help buttress trade performance. The Government will continue to closely monitor changes in the external environment and stay vigilant to the potential impacts brought about by

shifts in trade policies.

Further information

Table 1 presents the analysis of external merchandise trade statistics for April 2025. Table 2 presents the original monthly trade statistics from January 2022 to April 2025, and Table 3 gives the seasonally adjusted series for the same period.

The values of total exports of goods to 10 main destinations for April 2025 are shown in Table 4, whereas the values of imports of goods from 10 main suppliers are given in Table 5.

Tables 6 and 7 show the values of total exports and imports of 10 principal commodity divisions for April 2025.

All the merchandise trade statistics described here are measured at current prices and no account has been taken of changes in prices between the periods of comparison. A separate analysis of the volume and price movements of external merchandise trade for April 2025 will be released in mid-June 2025.

The April 2025 issue of "Hong Kong External Merchandise Trade" contains detailed analysis on the performance of Hong Kong's external merchandise trade in April 2025 and will be available in early June 2025. Users can browse and download the report at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1020005&scode=230).

Enquiries on merchandise trade statistics may be directed to the Trade Analysis Section of the C&SD (Tel: 2582 4691).

Inspection of aquatic products imported from Japan

In response to the Japanese Government's plan to discharge nuclear-contaminated water at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Station, the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene issued a Food Safety Order which prohibits all aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds originating from the 10 metropolis/prefectures, namely Tokyo, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Miyagi, Chiba, Gunma, Tochigi, Niigata, Nagano and Saitama, from being imported into and supplied in Hong Kong.

For other Japanese aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds that are not prohibited from being imported into Hong Kong, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is conducting

comprehensive radiological tests to verify that the radiation levels of these products do not exceed the guideline levels before they are allowed to be supplied in the market.

As the discharge of nuclear-contaminated water is unprecedented and will continue for 30 years or more, the Government will closely monitor the situation and continue to implement the enhanced testing arrangements. Should anomalies be detected, the Government does not preclude further tightening the scope of the import ban.

From noon on May 23 to noon today (May 26), the CFS conducted tests on the radiological levels of 317 food samples imported from Japan, which were of the "aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt" category, in the past three days (including last Saturday and Sunday). No sample was found to have exceeded the safety limit. Details can be found on the CFS's thematic website titled "Control Measures on Foods Imported from Japan" (www.cfs.gov.hk/english/programme/programme_rafs/programme_rafs_fc_01_30_Nuclear_Event_and_Food_Safety.html).

In parallel, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has also tested 150 samples of local catch for radiological levels. All the samples passed the tests. Details can be found on the AFCD's website (www.afcd.gov.hk/english/fisheries/Radiological_testing/Radiological_Test.html).

The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) has also enhanced the environmental monitoring of the local waters. No anomaly has been detected so far. For details, please refer to the HKO's website (www.hko.gov.hk/en/radiation/monitoring/seawater.html).

From August 24, 2023, to noon today, the CFS and the AFCD have conducted tests on the radiological levels of 138 507 samples of food imported from Japan (including 91 229 samples of aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt) and 31 888 samples of local catch respectively. All the samples passed the tests.

Adjustment of monthly subsidy threshold under Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme

The Transport Department (TD) today (May 26) reminded members of the public that from June 1 onwards, the threshold of monthly public transport expenses incurred for receiving a subsidy under the Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme will be raised from \$400 to \$500, while the subsidy rate and

the monthly subsidy cap remain unchanged.

In other words, from June 1 onwards, the Government will provide commuters with a subsidy amounting to one-third of the actual monthly public transport expenses in excess of \$500, subject to a maximum of \$400 per month for each Octopus and each AlipayHK account. The TD reminded commuters that they can collect the subsidy of the previous month from the 16th of each month. The subsidy is valid for collection within three months. The subsidy collection methods will also remain unchanged.

The public can visit the website (ptfss.gov.hk) for details of the Scheme. For enquiries regarding the record of public transport expenses and the subsidy amount, Octopus users can visit the Octopus Mobile App, the website (subsidy-enquiry.octopus.com.hk) or call the hotline at 2969 5500, while AlipayHK users can visit the AlipayHK Mobile App or call the hotline at 3002 0905.

First Chest Pain Centre in Hong Kong receives national accreditation (with photos)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Hospital Authority (HA) spokesperson announced today (May 26) that Queen Mary Hospital (QMH) has obtained national accreditation for its Chest Pain Centre, becoming the first accredited chest pain centre in Hong Kong. An accreditation ceremony was held today to mark this milestone.

QMH began preparations for establishing the Chest Pain Centre in 2023, aligning with the Policy Address initiative to establish Hong Kong's first chest pain centre at QMH according to national accreditation standards, aimed at improving the diagnosis process and treatment outcomes for cardiovascular patients. QMH experts subsequently visited various chest pain centres on the Mainland to learn from their experience and processes in managing cardiac patients. Mainland experts were also invited to Hong Kong to exchange insights in preparation for developing operational procedures. Hong Kong's first chest pain centre at QMH commenced operations in November 2024. Following national accreditation standards, the centre has improved the diagnosis process for acute high-risk cardiac patients, including those with acute myocardial infarction, while promoting national chest pain centre certification as an international standard. These standards encompass standardised management, treatment efficiency improvement, and interdepartmental collaboration.

The Chief Executive of the HA, Dr Tony Ko, said, "QMH's successful accreditation according to national standards validates its professional expertise in acute cardiac care and strengthens the HA's ongoing commitment to enhancing cardiac services in public hospitals. The HA maintains a patient-centred approach, continuously improving healthcare service quality through multidisciplinary collaboration, streamlined treatment processes, and innovative technology adoption."

Dr Ko added that QMH Chest Pain Centre's successful experience will serve as an important reference for developing similar services across other HA clusters. The HA will continue to invest resources to enhance service efficiency and quality, providing better healthcare services for the public.

The China Chest Pain Centre Accreditation Committee recently sent experts, including the Chairman of the China Chest Pain Centre Expert Committee, Professor Huo Yong, and the Chairman of the China Chest Pain Centre Executive Expert Committee, Professor Xiang Dingchen, to conduct an on-site evaluation at QMH. The experts affirmed QMH Chest Pain Centre's appropriate timing control for patient examinations and treatments, standardised and efficient overall processes, and reasonable patient care pathways, reflecting that the centre meets all certification requirements for proper handling of acute cardiac patients.

The Hospital Chief Executive of QMH, Dr Theresa Li, thanked the Mainland expert team and the Health Bureau for their support in establishing Hong Kong's first chest pain centre and obtaining national accreditation. Dr Li said, "Every step in the treatment process is interconnected and affects patient outcomes. The accreditation standards strictly regulate each component, requiring close cooperation between different departments to ensure smooth implementation. With the completion of QMH's new building, both hardware and software capabilities have been enhanced, which we believe will help patients secure golden treatment time and improve survival rates and post-operative recovery."

Dr Li also expressed gratitude to the various hospital teams for their efforts in establishing and achieving accreditation for the Chest Pain Centre.

The HA will continue to optimise services and, drawing from QMH's experience, establish a second chest pain centre at Prince of Wales Hospital according to national accreditation standards. The goal is to build a chest pain treatment network in Hong Kong to improve diagnostic efficiency, enhance treatment effectiveness, and increase patient survival rates.



Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Monday, May 26, 2025 is 103.4 (down 0.2 against last Saturday's index).

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Saturday, May 24, 2025 was 103.6 (down 0.3 against last Friday's index).