

# TAC briefed on Government's review and recommendations on requirements for physical fitness certification of driving licence applicants/holders

The following is issued on behalf of the Transport Advisory Committee:

The Transport Advisory Committee (TAC) was briefed today (June 27) on the Government's review of the requirements for physical fitness certification of driving licence applicants/holders and the recommendations to enhance such requirements.

The TAC Chairman, Professor Stephen Cheung, said, "Due to the ageing population in Hong Kong, the number of aged driving licence holders has been on the rise. In view of the increasing number of traffic accidents committed by elderly commercial vehicle drivers in recent years and public concerns, the TAC acknowledges the need for an enhanced mechanism for physical fitness certification for aged drivers as well as commercial vehicle drivers in order to promote health awareness among drivers and further enhance their and other road users' safety."

In the meeting, the Government gave a briefing on the six recommendations, namely (1) tightening the requirements by amending the diseases or physical disabilities specified in the First Schedule to the Road Traffic (Driving Licences) Regulations (Cap. 374B); (2) enhancing the requirements for submission of physical fitness certification by commercial vehicle drivers; (3) enriching the content of the medical examination certificate and adopting more stringent physical fitness standards for drivers of commercial vehicles; (4) drawing up relevant medical guidelines; (5) empowering the Commissioner for Transport to require submission of medical reports by driving licence applicants/holders; and (6) imposing a more stringent age threshold for submission of physical fitness certification by driving instructors in one go. Members expressed their views and welcomed the recommendations.

The Government will keep seeking the views of relevant stakeholders so as to finalise specific arrangements as soon as possible. The Government plans to submit relevant legislative amendment proposals to the Legislative Council in the first half of 2024. Subject to the passage of the legislative amendments and the completion of system upgrades, the arrangements are expected to be implemented between the third quarter and the end of 2024.

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# HAD opens temporary heat shelters

The Home Affairs Department is opening 18 community halls/community centres as temporary heat shelters today (June 27).

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 –

Wah Kwai Community Centre  
Wah Kwai Estate, Kellett Bay

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 –  
Wu Shan Road Community Hall  
101 Wu Shan Road, Tuen Mun

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

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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## Exchange Fund Bills tender results

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

Exchange Fund Bills tender results:

Tender date	: June 27, 2023
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: M2313
Issue date	: June 28, 2023
Maturity date	: July 26, 2023
Amount applied	: HK\$5,700 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$2,000 MN
Average yield accepted	: 4.28 PCT
Highest yield accepted	: 4.35 PCT
Pro rata ratio*	: About 18 PCT
Average tender yield	: 4.36 PCT

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Tender date	: June 27, 2023
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q2326
Issue date	: June 28, 2023
Maturity date	: September 27, 2023
Amount applied	: HK\$177,090 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$61,410 MN
Average yield accepted	: 4.14 PCT
Highest yield accepted	: 4.19 PCT
Pro rata ratio*	: About 62 PCT
Average tender yield	: 4.44 PCT

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Tender date	: June 27, 2023
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: H2355
Issue date	: June 28, 2023

Maturity date : December 27, 2023  
Amount applied : HK\$84,800 MN  
Amount allotted : HK\$19,800 MN  
Average yield accepted : 4.16 PCT  
Highest yield accepted : 4.19 PCT  
Pro rata ratio\* : About 27 PCT  
Average tender yield : 4.26 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.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority tenders to be held in the week beginning July 3, 2023:

Tender date : July 4, 2023  
Paper on offer : EF Bills  
Issue number : M2314  
Issue date : July 5, 2023  
Maturity date : August 2, 2023  
Tenor : 28 Days  
Amount on offer : HK\$2,000 MN

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Tender date : July 4, 2023  
Paper on offer : EF Bills  
Issue number : Q2327  
Issue date : July 5, 2023  
Maturity date : October 4, 2023  
Tenor : 91 Days  
Amount on offer : HK\$65,162 MN

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Tender date : July 4, 2023  
Paper on offer : EF Bills  
Issue number : H2356  
Issue date : July 5, 2023  
Maturity date : January 3, 2024  
Tenor : 182 Days  
Amount on offer : HK\$18,800 MN

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Tender date : July 4, 2023  
Paper on offer : EF Bills  
Issue number : Y2391  
Issue date : July 5, 2023

Maturity date : July 3, 2024  
Tenor : 364 Days  
Amount on offer : HK\$5,000 MN

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## Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 is 104.4 (down 0.2 against yesterday's index).

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## Wage and payroll statistics for March 2023

### Overall wage and payroll statistics

According to the figures released today (June 27) by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD), the average wage rate for all the selected industry sections surveyed, as measured by the wage index, increased by 3.2% in nominal terms in March 2023 over a year earlier.

About 62% of the companies reported increase in average wage rates in March 2023 compared with a year ago. A total of 34% of the companies recorded decrease in average wage rates over the same period. The remaining 4% reported virtually no change in average wage rates.

After discounting the changes in consumer prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index (A), the overall average wage rate for all the selected industry sections surveyed increased by 1.5% in real terms in March 2023 over a year earlier.

As for payroll, the index of payroll per person engaged for all the industry sections surveyed increased by 3.0% in nominal terms in the first quarter of 2023 over a year earlier.

After discounting the changes in consumer prices as measured by the Composite Consumer Price Index, the average payroll per person engaged increased by 1.1% in real terms in the first quarter of 2023 compared with a year earlier.

The wage rate includes basic wages and other regular and guaranteed allowances and bonuses. Payroll includes elements covered by wage rate as

well as other irregular payments to workers such as discretionary bonuses and overtime allowances. The payroll statistics therefore tend to show relatively larger quarter-to-quarter changes, affected by the number of hours actually worked and the timing of payment of bonuses and back-pay.

## Sectoral changes

For the nominal wage indices, year-on-year increases were recorded in all selected industry sections in March 2023, ranging from 2.3% to 5.3%.

For the real wage indices, year-on-year increases were recorded in all selected industry sections in March 2023, ranging from 0.6% to 3.5%.

The year-on-year changes in the nominal and real wage indices for the selected industry sections from March 2022 to March 2023 are shown in Table 1.

As for the nominal indices of payroll per person engaged, year-on-year increases were recorded in all selected industry sections in the first quarter of 2023, ranging from 1.7% to 6.7%.

For the real payroll indices, year-on-year increases ranging from 0.2% to 4.7% were recorded in all selected industry sections surveyed in the first quarter of 2023, except the social and personal services section where a year-on-year decrease of 0.3% was recorded.

The year-on-year changes in the nominal and real indices of payroll per person engaged for selected industry sections from the first quarter of 2022 to the first quarter of 2023 are shown in Table 2. The quarterly changes in the seasonally adjusted nominal and real indices of payroll per person engaged in the same period are shown in Table 3.

## Commentary

A Government spokesman said that the year-on-year increases in nominal wages and labour earnings accelerated further in the first quarter of 2023 as labour market conditions continued to improve. After discounting for inflation, both wages and labour earnings also showed faster increases in real terms.

The average nominal wage rate for all selected industries rose by 3.2% year-on-year in March 2023, faster than the increase three months ago. After discounting for inflation, the average wage rate showed an accelerated increase of 1.5% in real terms.

Nominal payroll per person engaged, which includes basic wage, discretionary bonuses and other irregular payments, increased by 3.0% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2023, also faster than the increase in the preceding quarter. After discounting for inflation, payroll per person engaged showed an accelerated increase of 1.1% in real terms. All selected industries saw increases in nominal payroll per person engaged, and the

increases were faster than the preceding quarter for almost all industries.

Looking ahead, the ongoing economic recovery should drive labour demand, and thus render support to growth in wages and labour earnings.

#### Other information

Both wage indices and payroll indices are compiled quarterly based on the results of the Labour Earnings Survey (LES) conducted by the C&SD. Wage index only covers employees up to the supervisory level (i.e. not including managerial and professional employees), whereas payroll index covers employees at all levels and proprietors actively engaged in the work of the establishment.

Apart from the differences in employee coverage, wage statistics are conceptually different from the payroll statistics. Firstly, wage rate for an employee refers to the sum earned for his normal hours of work. It covers basic wages and other regular and guaranteed allowances and bonuses, but excludes earnings from overtime work and discretionary bonuses, which are however included in payroll per person engaged. Secondly, the payroll index of an industry is an indicator of the simple average payroll received per person engaged in the industry. Its movement is therefore affected by changes in wage rates, number of hours of work and occupational composition in the industry. In contrast, the wage index of an industry is devised to reflect the pure changes in wage rate, with the occupational composition between two successive statistical periods being kept unchanged. In other words, the wage index reflects the change in the price of labour. Because of these conceptual and enumeration differences between payroll and wage statistics, the movements in payroll indices and in wage indices do not necessarily match closely with each other.

It should also be noted that different consumer price indices are used for compiling the real indices of wage and payroll to take into account the differences in their respective occupation coverage. Specifically, the Composite Consumer Price Index, being an indicator of overall consumer prices, is taken as the price deflator for payroll of workers at all levels of the occupational hierarchy. The Consumer Price Index (A), being an indicator of consumer prices for the relatively low expenditure group, is taken as the price deflator for wages in respect of employees engaged in occupations up to the supervisory level.

Detailed breakdowns of the payroll and wage statistics are published in the "Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics, March 2023". Users can browse and download the publication at the website of the C&SD ([www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1050009&scode=210](http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1050009&scode=210)).

For enquiries on wage and payroll statistics, please contact the Wages and Labour Costs Statistics Section (1) of the C&SD (Tel: 2887 5550 or email: [wage@censtatd.gov.hk](mailto:wage@censtatd.gov.hk)).