

Update on cases of Legionnaires' disease

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (May 29) reported the latest number of cases of Legionnaires' disease (LD), and stressed the importance of using and maintaining properly designed man-made water systems, adding that susceptible groups should strictly observe relevant precautions.

From May 21 to 27, one LD case was reported. The case involved a male patient aged 54 with good past health, who lives in Block 15, Chevalier Garden, Shatin. He had a travel history during the incubation period.

"Epidemiological investigations are ongoing to identify potential sources of infection, high-risk exposure and clusters, if any," a spokesman for the CHP said.

As of May 27, 24 LD cases had been reported this year. In 2022 and 2021, there were 80 and 69 cases respectively.

"Men, people aged over 50, smokers, alcoholics and persons with weakened immunity are more susceptible to LD. Some situations may also increase the risk of infection, including poor maintenance of water systems leading to stagnant water; living in areas with old water systems, cooling towers or fountains; using electric water heaters, whirlpools and spas or hot water spring spas; and recent stays in hotels or vessels," the spokesman said.

Legionellae are found in various environmental settings and grow well in warm water (20 to 45 degrees Celsius). They can be found in aqueous environments such as water tanks, hot and cold water systems, cooling towers, whirlpools and spas, water fountains and home apparatus that support breathing. People may become infected when they breathe in contaminated droplets (aerosols) and mist generated by artificial water systems, or when handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes.

Immunocompromised persons should:

- Use sterile or boiled water for drinking, tooth brushing and mouth rinsing;
- Avoid using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices. A shower may also generate small aerosols; and
- If using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices, fill the water tank with only sterile or cooled freshly boiled water, and not water directly from the tap. Also, clean and maintain humidifiers/devices regularly according to manufacturers' instructions. Never leave stagnant water in a humidifier/device. Empty the water tank, wipe all surfaces dry, and change the water daily.

The public should observe the health advice below:

- Observe personal hygiene;
- Do not smoke and avoid alcohol consumption;
- Strainers in water taps and shower heads should be inspected, cleaned, descaled and disinfected regularly or at a frequency recommended by the manufacturer;
- If a fresh-water plumbing system is properly maintained, it is not necessary to install domestic water filters. Use of water filters is not encouraged as clogging occurs easily, which can promote growth of micro-organisms. In case water filters are used, the pore size should be 0.2 micrometres (μm) and the filter needs to be changed periodically according to the manufacturer's recommendations;
- Drain and clean water tanks of buildings at least quarterly;
- Drain or purge for at least one minute infrequently used water outlets (e.g. water taps, shower heads and hot water outlets) and stagnant points of the pipework weekly or before use;
- Seek and follow doctors' professional advice regarding the use and maintenance of home respiratory devices and use only sterile water (not distilled or tap water) to clean and fill the reservoir. Clean and maintain the device regularly according to the manufacturer's instructions. After cleaning/disinfection, rinse the device with sterile water, cooled freshly boiled water or water filtered with 0.2 μm filters. Never leave stagnant water in the device. Empty the water tank, keep all surfaces dry, and change the water daily; and
- When handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes:
 1. Wear gloves and a face mask;
 2. Water gardens and compost gently using low pressure;
 3. Open composted potting mixes slowly and make sure the opening is directed away from the face;
 4. Wet the soil to reduce dust when potting plants; and
 5. Avoid working in poorly ventilated places such as enclosed greenhouses.

The public may visit the CHP's [LD page](#), the [Code of Practice for Prevention of LD](#) and the [Housekeeping Guidelines for Cold and Hot Water Systems for Building Management](#) of the Prevention of LD Committee, and the CHP's [risk-based strategy](#) for prevention and control of LD.

HAD opens temporary heat shelters

The Home Affairs Department is opening 19 community halls/community centres as temporary heat shelters today (May 29).

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:

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:

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:

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

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_

Tender for the re-opening of 10-year Government Bonds under the Institutional Bond Issuance Programme to be held on Wednesday, June 7

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), as representative of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSAR Government), announced today (May 29) that a tender of 5-year Government Bonds (Bonds) through the re-opening of existing 10-year Government Bond issue 10GB2706 under the Institutional Bond Issuance Programme will be held on June 7, 2023 (Wednesday), for settlement on June 8, 2023 (Thursday).

An additional amount of HK\$2.5 billion of the outstanding 10-year Bonds (issue no. 10GB2706) will be on offer. The Bonds will mature on June 29, 2027, and will carry interest at the rate of 1.25 per cent per annum payable semi-annually in arrears. The Indicative Pricings of the Bonds on May 29, 2023, are 91.67 with an annualised yield of 3.485 per cent.

Under the Institutional Bond Issuance Programme, tender is open only to Recognized Dealers which are appointed as Primary Dealers. Anyone wishing to apply for the Bonds on offer can do so through any of the Primary Dealers on the current published list, which can be obtained from the Hong Kong Government Bonds website at www.hkgeb.gov.hk. Each tender must be for an amount of HK\$50,000 or integral multiples thereof.

Tender results will be published on the HKMA's website, the Hong Kong Government Bonds website, the Refinitiv screen (HKGBINDEX), and Bloomberg (GBHK <GO>) not later than 3 pm on the tender day.

HKSAR Government Institutional Bond Issuance Programme Tender Information

Tender information of re-opening of 10-year Government Bonds under the Institutional Bond Issuance Programme:

Issue Number : 10GB2706 (Re-open)
Stock Code : 4235 (HKGB 1.25 2706)

Tender Date and Time : Wednesday, 7 June 2023
9.30am to 10.30am

Issue and Settlement Date for Tender Amount : Thursday, 8 June 2023

Amount on Offer : HK\$2.5 billion

Maturity : 5 years

Remaining Maturity : Approximately 4.06 years

Maturity Date : 29 June 2027

Interest Rate : 1.25 per cent p.a. payable semi-annually in arrears

Interest Payment Dates : 29 June 2023
29 December 2023
28 June 2024
30 December 2024
30 June 2025
29 December 2025
29 June 2026
29 December 2026
29 June 2027

Method of Tender : Competitive tender

Tender Amount : Each competitive tender must be for an amount of HK\$50,000 or integral multiples thereof. Any tender applications for the Bonds must be submitted through a Primary Dealer on the current published list.

The accrued interest to be paid by successful bidders on the issue date (8 June 2023) for the tender amount is HK\$275.68 per minimum denomination of HK\$50,000.

(The accrued interest to be paid for tender amount exceeding HK\$50,000 may not be exactly equal to the figures calculated from the accrued interest per minimum denomination of HK\$50,000 due to rounding).

Other Details : Please see Information Memorandum available on the Hong Kong Government Bonds website at www.hkgb.gov.hk or approach Primary Dealers.

Expected
commencement date
of dealing on
the Stock
Exchange
of Hong Kong
Limited

The tender amount is fully fungible with the
: existing 10GB2706 (Stock code: 4235) listed
on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong.

Price/Yield Table of the Government Bonds at tender (for reference only*):

Yield-to-Maturity	Price	Yield-to-Maturity	Price
2.485	95.32	3.485	91.71
2.535	95.13	3.535	91.54
2.585	94.95	3.585	91.36
2.635	94.76	3.635	91.19
2.685	94.58	3.685	91.02
2.735	94.40	3.735	90.84
2.785	94.22	3.785	90.67
2.835	94.04	3.835	90.49
2.885	93.85	3.885	90.32
2.935	93.67	3.935	90.15
2.985	93.49	3.985	89.98
3.035	93.31	4.035	89.81
3.085	93.13	4.085	89.64
3.135	92.96	4.135	89.47
3.185	92.78	4.185	89.30
3.235	92.60	4.235	89.13
3.285	92.42	4.285	88.96
3.335	92.24	4.335	88.79
3.385	92.07	4.385	88.62
3.435	91.89	4.435	88.45
3.485	91.71	4.485	88.28

* Disclaimer: The information provided here is for reference only. Although extreme care has been taken to ensure that the information provided is accurate and up-to-date, the HKMA does not warrant that all, or any part of, the information provided is accurate in all respects. You are encouraged to conduct your own enquiries to verify any particular piece of information provided on it. The HKMA shall not be liable for any loss or damage suffered as a result of any use or reliance on any of the information provided here.

External Merchandise Trade Statistics for April 2023

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released today (May 29) the external merchandise trade statistics for April 2023. In April 2023, the values of Hong Kong's total exports and imports of goods both recorded year-on-year decreases, at 13.0% and 11.9% respectively.

In April 2023, the value of total exports of goods decreased by 13.0% over a year earlier to \$338.3 billion, after a year-on-year decrease of 1.5% in March 2023. Concurrently, the value of imports of goods decreased by 11.9% over a year earlier to \$374.9 billion in April 2023, after a year-on-year decrease of 0.6% in March 2023. A visible trade deficit of \$36.6 billion, equivalent to 9.8% of the value of imports of goods, was recorded in April 2023.

For the first four months of 2023 as a whole, the value of total exports of goods decreased by 16.5% over the same period in 2022. Concurrently, the value of imports of goods decreased by 12.5%. A visible trade deficit of \$148.4 billion, equivalent to 10.4% of the value of imports of goods, was recorded in the first four months of 2023.

Comparing the three-month period ending April 2023 with the preceding three months on a seasonally adjusted basis, the value of total exports of goods increased by 15.4%. Meanwhile, the value of imports of goods increased by 10.7%.

Analysis by country/territory

Comparing April 2023 with April 2022, total exports to Asia as a whole dropped by 13.3%. In this region, decreases were registered in the values of total exports to most major destinations, in particular Malaysia (-26.4%), Singapore (-21.1%), India (-19.7%), Vietnam (-19.6%), Taiwan (-18.2%), the Philippines (-13.7%) and the mainland of China (the Mainland) (-12.9%). On the other hand, an increase was recorded in the value of total exports to Thailand (+3.6%).

Apart from destinations in Asia, decreases were registered in the values of total exports to most major destinations in other regions, in particular the USA (-19.9%), Germany (-15.9%) and the United Kingdom (-2.5%).

Over the same period of comparison, decreases were registered in the values of imports from most major suppliers, in particular Singapore (-35.5%), Korea (-33.8%), the USA (-28.4%), Japan (-18.5%), Vietnam (-17.9%) and the Mainland (-3.6%).

For the first four months of 2023 as a whole, year-on-year decreases were registered in the values of total exports to some major destinations, in

particular Japan (-25.0%), Singapore (-24.1%), the Mainland (-21.2%) and Taiwan (-19.3%). On the other hand, an increase was recorded in the value of total exports to United Arab Emirates (+16.3%).

Over the same period of comparison, year-on-year decreases were registered in the values of imports from most major suppliers, in particular Korea (-38.4%), Singapore (-29.5%), Thailand (-21.6%), Taiwan (-19.2%), Vietnam (-17.5%) and the Mainland (-8.4%).

Analysis by major commodity

Comparing April 2023 with April 2022, decreases 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 \$37.5 billion or -19.3%), "telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment" (by \$10.9 billion or -21.5%) and "office machines and automatic data processing machines" (by \$4.4 billion or -11.5%). On the other hand, an increase was registered in the value of total exports of "power generating machinery and equipment" (by \$4.0 billion or 75.1%).

Over the same period of comparison, decreases were registered in the values of imports of some principal commodity divisions, in particular "electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof" (by \$30.1 billion or -15.8%), "office machines and automatic data processing machines" (by \$8.6 billion or -24.1%) and "telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment" (by \$6.2 billion or -12.6%). On the other hand, an increase was registered in the value of imports of "power generating machinery and equipment" (by \$3.6 billion or 39.2%).

For the first four months of 2023 as a whole, year-on-year decreases 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 \$154.6 billion or -20.5%), "office machines and automatic data processing machines" (by \$45.9 billion or -26.8%) and "telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment" (by \$26.6 billion or -14.6%).

Over the same period of comparison, year-on-year decreases were registered in the values of imports of some principal commodity divisions, in particular "electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof" (by \$146.2 billion or -19.4%), "office machines and automatic data processing machines" (by \$40.9 billion or -28.8%) and "telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment" (by \$24.6 billion or -13.3%).

Commentary

A Government spokesman said that the value of merchandise exports declined further from a year earlier in April 2023. Exports to the Mainland,

the United States and the European Union all shrank. Exports to other major Asian markets recorded decreases of varying degree.

Looking ahead, the weakness in the advanced economies will continue to weigh on Hong Kong's export performance, though the expected faster recovery of the Mainland economy should provide some relief. The Government will monitor the situation closely.

Further information

Table 1 presents the analysis of external merchandise trade statistics for April 2023. Table 2 presents the original monthly trade statistics from January 2020 to April 2023, 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 2023 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 2023.

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 2023 will be released in mid-June 2023.

The April 2023 issue of "Hong Kong External Merchandise Trade" contains detailed analysis on the performance of Hong Kong's external merchandise trade in April 2023 and will be available in early June 2023. 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).

S for Housing to visit Beijing

The Secretary for Housing, Ms Winnie Ho, will depart for Beijing tomorrow (May 30) for a four-day visit. Representatives of the Housing Bureau and the Housing Department will also join the visit.

During her stay in Beijing, Ms Ho will call on the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council and the National Development and Reform Commission. She will also visit the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural

Development, leaders of the Beijing Municipal Government and the Beijing Public Housing Center, to exchange views on housing issues and construction technology. Moreover, Ms Ho will tour various housing projects to learn about the latest development of planning, design and adoption of intelligence technology of housing on the Mainland.

Ms Ho will return to Hong Kong on June 2. During her absence, the Under Secretary for Housing, Mr Victor Tai, will be the Acting Secretary for Housing.