

## Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Monday, May 31, 2021 is 100.1 (same as last Saturday's index).

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Saturday, May 29, 2021 is 100.1 (down 0.1 against last Friday's index).

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## Resumption of airmail postal service to Korea

Hongkong Post today (May 31) announced that airmail postal services (except air parcel service) to Korea will resume from tomorrow (June 1), as air traffic capacity provided by airlines has increased.

Members of the public may visit the web page of Hongkong Post at [www.hongkongpost.hk/en/about\\_us/whats\\_new/notices/index\\_id\\_1058.html](http://www.hongkongpost.hk/en/about_us/whats_new/notices/index_id_1058.html) to refer to the service types currently available for overseas destinations.

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## Auction of traditional vehicle registration marks to be held on June 6

The Transport Department (TD) today (May 31) announced that the auction of traditional vehicle registration marks will be held on June 6 (Sunday) in Meeting Room N101, L1, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wan Chai.

"A total of 200 vehicle registration marks will be put up for public auction. The list of marks has been posted on the department's website, [www.td.gov.hk](http://www.td.gov.hk)," 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:

(a) 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.

(b) 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.

(c) 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.

(d) 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.

(e) 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.

(f) In view of public health concerns, all persons entering the auction venue will have to undergo on-the-spot body temperature checks arranged by the TD. Any member of the public whose body temperature is higher than 37.5 degrees Celsius or who refuses to undergo a body temperature check will be denied entry to the auction hall and the payment office. The TD also requests all persons entering the auction hall and payment office to wear masks and clean their hands with alcohol-based sanitiser, and to wear masks throughout the duration of the auction and payment process.

(g) In order to reduce the risk of the virus spreading, the TD will adjust the distance between seats and the number of seats in the auction hall and the payment office, and implement crowd-control measures. The TD also appeals

to the bidders to reduce the number of accompanying persons as far as possible. Furthermore, the auctions in the morning and afternoon will each be divided into two sessions so as to shorten the duration of crowd congregation. The first session of the morning auction will commence at 9.25am while the second session will begin no earlier than 10.35am. The first session of the afternoon auction will commence at 2.25pm while the second session will begin no earlier than 3.35pm. The auction venue will be disinfected before the commencement of the second sessions. Interested bidders may arrive at the auction venue in accordance with the time schedule for the auction of vehicle registration marks.

(h) In order to more effectively assist the Department of Health in epidemiological investigations and to protect the safety of members of the public and employees, members of the public will be required to scan the "LeaveHomeSafe" QR code or register their names, contact numbers and the date and times of their visits before entering the auction venue (the auction hall and the payment office). As a result of the arrangement, members of the public are advised to remain patient as the waiting time for entering the auction venue may be longer.

For other auction details, please refer to the Guidance Notes – Auction of Vehicle Registration Marks, which can be downloaded from the department's website, [www.td.gov.hk](http://www.td.gov.hk).

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## **CFS announces food safety report for April**

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department today (May 31) released the findings of its food safety report for last month. The results of about 3 800 food samples tested were satisfactory except for five samples that were announced earlier. The overall satisfactory rate was 99.9 per cent.

A CFS spokesman said about 1 100 food samples were collected for microbiological tests, and about 2 700 samples were taken for chemical and radiation level tests.

The microbiological tests covered pathogens and hygiene indicators; the chemical tests included testing for pesticides, preservatives, metallic contaminants, colouring matters, veterinary drug residues and others; and the radiation level tests included testing of radioactive caesium and iodine from samples collected from imported food of different regions.

The samples comprised about 1 400 samples of vegetables and fruit and their products; about 200 samples of cereals, grains and their products; about 400 samples of meat and poultry and their products; about 500 samples

of milk, milk products and frozen confections; about 500 samples of aquatic and related products, and about 800 samples of other food commodities (including beverages, bakery products and snacks).

The five unsatisfactory samples comprised a grass carp sample found to contain traces of malachite green, a sample of prepackaged frozen bigeye fish found to contain a colouring matter Ponceau 4R, a sample of dried Chinese white cabbage detected with excessive chromium, a sample of chicken soup with maitake mushroom and fig found to contain excessive coagulase-positive staphylococci organisms, and a choi sum sample detected with excessive pesticide residue.

The CFS has taken follow-up actions on the unsatisfactory samples including informing the vendors concerned of the test results, instructing them to stop selling the affected food items and tracing the sources of the food items in question.

The spokesman reminded the food trade to ensure that food for sale is fit for human consumption and meets legal requirements. Consumers should patronise reliable shops when buying food and maintain a balanced diet to minimise food risks.

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## **“Quarterly Report on General Household Survey” for January to March 2021 published**

The "Quarterly Report on General Household Survey" for January to March 2021 is now available for download.

The report contains statistics on labour force, employment, unemployment and underemployment for the first quarter of 2021. It also contains detailed analyses of the characteristics of different categories of members of the labour force, including their age, sex, educational attainment, employment status, occupation, industry, hours worked per week and monthly employment earnings. Information on reasons for leaving last job and duration of unemployment for the unemployed and more is also presented.

Users can download the report from the website of the Census and Statistics Department ([www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1050001&scode=200](http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1050001&scode=200)).

The summary of broad survey findings published in the report is shown in Table 1 attached. Enquiries about the contents of the report can be directed to the Household Statistics Analysis Section, Census and Statistics

Department (Tel: 2887 5508 or email: [ghs@censtatd.gov.hk](mailto:ghs@censtatd.gov.hk)).