

# Hong Kong Customs detects first drug trafficking case involving self-service container yard and seizes suspected methamphetamine worth about \$32 million (with photos)

Hong Kong Customs seized about 51.5 kilograms of suspected methamphetamine with an estimated market value of about \$32 million in Yuen Long on February 18. This is the first drug trafficking case detected by Customs involving a self-service container yard.

Customs officers on that day inspected a seaborne consignment, declared as carrying baby car seats, that arrived in Hong Kong from Cambodia at a container yard in Yuen Long. Upon examination, the batch of suspected methamphetamine was found concealed inside the false compartments of 32 baby car seats.

Customs' investigations revealed that drug trafficking syndicates adopted a circuitous transportation route after the drugs had arrived in Hong Kong and used a self-service container yard at Tsing Yi for temporary storage. After follow-up investigation, Customs officers arrested two men, aged 22 and 33, suspected to be in connection with the case in Kwun Tong and Chai Wan on March 7 and yesterday (March 8) respectively.

Investigation is ongoing.

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Customs reminds members of the public to stay alert and not to participate in drug trafficking activities for monetary return. They must not accept hiring or delegation from another party to carry controlled items into and out of Hong Kong. They are also reminded not to carry unknown items for other people, nor to release their personal data or home address to others for receiving parcels or goods.

Members of the public may report any suspected drug trafficking activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime reporting email account ([crimereport@customs.gov.hk](mailto:crimereport@customs.gov.hk)).



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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	: March 9, 2021
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q2110
Issue date	: March 10, 2021
Maturity date	: June 9, 2021

Amount applied : HK\$113,117 MN  
 Amount allotted : HK\$47,479 MN  
 Average yield accepted : 0.03 PCT  
 Highest yield accepted : 0.04 PCT  
 Pro rata ratio\* : About 78 PCT  
 Average tender yield : 0.07 PCT

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Tender date : March 9, 2021  
 Paper on offer : EF Bills  
 Issue number : H2139  
 Issue date : March 10, 2021  
 Maturity date : September 8, 2021  
 Amount applied : HK\$30,990 MN  
 Amount allotted : HK\$14,000 MN  
 Average yield accepted : 0.06 PCT  
 Highest yield accepted : 0.09 PCT  
 Pro rata ratio\* : About 19 PCT  
 Average tender yield : 0.09 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 March 15, 2021:

Tender date : March 16, 2021  
 Paper on offer : EF Bills  
 Issue number : Q2111  
 Issue date : March 17, 2021  
 Maturity date : June 16, 2021  
 Tenor : 91 Days  
 Amount on offer : HK\$44,347 MN

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Tender date : March 16, 2021  
 Paper on offer : EF Bills  
 Issue number : H2140  
 Issue date : March 17, 2021  
 Maturity date : September 15, 2021  
 Tenor : 182 Days  
 Amount on offer : HK\$11,000 MN

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Tender date : March 16, 2021

Paper on offer	:	EF Bills
Issue number	:	Y2187
Issue date	:	March 17, 2021
Maturity date	:	March 16, 2022
Tenor	:	364 Days
Amount on offer	:	HK\$1,300 MN

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## **Phishing email related to E.Sun Commercial Bank, Ltd.**

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by E.Sun Commercial Bank, Ltd. on phishing email, which has been reported to the HKMA. Hyperlink to the press release is available on the [HKMA website](#) for ease of reference by members of the public.

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information to the email concerned or has conducted any financial transactions through the email should contact the bank concerned using the contact information provided in the press release, and report to the Police or contact the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

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## **Fraudulent websites and phishing instant message related to The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited**

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited on fraudulent websites and phishing instant message, which has been reported to the HKMA. Hyperlink to the press release is available on the [HKMA website](#) for ease of reference by members of the public.

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information to the websites

concerned or has conducted any financial transactions through the websites should contact the bank concerned using the contact information provided in the press release, and report to the Police or contact the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

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## Results of monthly survey on business situation of small and medium-sized enterprises for February 2021

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released today (March 9) the results of the Monthly Survey on Business Situation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) for February 2021.

The current diffusion index (DI) on business receipts amongst SMEs went up notably from 38.1 in January 2021 in the contractionary zone to 44.4 in February 2021, whereas the one-month's ahead (i.e. March 2021) outlook DI on business receipts rose to 52.0. Analysed by sector, the current DIs on business receipts for all the surveyed sectors increased in February 2021 as compared with previous month, particularly for the restaurants (from 24.0 to 45.5), wholesale trade (from 37.1 to 45.6) and business services (from 40.5 to 47.9).

The current DI on new orders for the import and export trades increased from 42.4 in January 2021 to 45.7 in February 2021, whereas the outlook DI on new orders in one month's time (i.e. March 2021) was 51.1.

### Commentary

A government spokesman said that business sentiment among SMEs continued to improve in February alongside the easing of the fourth wave of local epidemic. The sub-indices across all sectors, though staying in the contractionary zone, increased by varying degrees. In particular, the sub-index for restaurants showed noticeable improvement, thanks to the gradual relaxation of social distancing measures.

The spokesman added that the large-scale counter-cyclical measures unveiled by the 2021-22 Budget will help alleviate the pressure caused by the economic downturn and the epidemic. Should the COVID-19 Vaccination Program achieve the intended results, business confidence can hopefully revive further to support a broader based recovery of the economy later in the year. The Government will monitor the situation closely.

### Further information

The Monthly Survey on Business Situation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises aims to provide a quick reference, with minimum time lag, for assessing the short-term business situation faced by SMEs. SMEs covered in this survey refer to establishments with fewer than 50 persons engaged. Respondents were asked to exclude seasonal fluctuations in reporting their views. Based on the views collected from the survey, a set of diffusion indices (including current and outlook diffusion indices) is compiled. A reading above 50 indicates that the business condition is generally favourable, whereas that below 50 indicates otherwise. As for statistics on the business prospects of prominent establishments in Hong Kong, users may refer to the publication entitled "Report on Quarterly Business Tendency Survey" released by the C&SD.

It should be noted that the results of the survey should be interpreted with care. The survey solicits feedback from a panel sample of about 600 SMEs each month and the survey findings are thus subject to sample size constraint. Views collected from the survey refer only to those of respondents on their own establishments rather than those on the respective sectors they are engaged in. Besides, in this type of opinion survey on expected business situation, the views collected in the survey are affected by the events in the community occurring around the time of enumeration, and it is difficult to establish precisely the extent to which respondents' perception of the business situation accords with the underlying trends. For this survey, main bulk of the data were collected in the last week of the reference month.

More detailed statistics are given in the "Report on Monthly Survey on the Business Situation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises". Users can download the publication at the website of the C&SD ([www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp300.jsp?productCode=B1080015](http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp300.jsp?productCode=B1080015)).

Users who have enquiries about the survey results may contact Industrial Production Statistics Section of the C&SD (Tel: 3903 7246; email: [sme-survey@censtatd.gov.hk](mailto:sme-survey@censtatd.gov.hk)).