

# Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (July 19) released the latest grading of water quality for 38 gazetted beaches that are open for swimming and one non-gazetted beach (i.e. Discovery Bay\*).

Fourteen beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 18 as Fair (Grade 2) and seven as Poor (Grade 3).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach	Lo So Shing Beach
Chung Hom Kok Beach	Repulse Bay Beach
Clear Water Bay Second Beach	St Stephen's Beach
Hap Mun Bay Beach	Stanley Main Beach
Hung Shing Yeh Beach	Tong Fuk Beach
Kiu Tsui Beach	Trio Beach
Kwun Yam Beach	Turtle Cove Beach

Grade 2 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach	Lower Cheung Sha Beach
Butterfly Beach	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach
Cafeteria New Beach	Middle Bay Beach
Castle Peak Beach	Pui O Beach
Clear Water Bay First Beach	Shek O Beach
Deep Water Bay Beach	Silver Mine Bay Beach
Discovery Bay	Silverstrand Beach
Golden Beach	South Bay Beach
Kadoorie Beach	Upper Cheung Sha Beach

Grade 3 beaches are:

Approach Beach	Hoi Mei Wan Beach
Big Wave Bay Beach	Lido Beach
Cafeteria Old Beach	Ting Kau Beach
Casam Beach	

\* Discovery Bay is a non-gazetted beach without lifeguard service.

Compared with the grading released last week, Clear Water Bay Second Beach has been upgraded from Grade 2 to Grade 1 and Silver Mine Bay Beach from Grade 3 to Grade 2. Discovery Bay has been changed from Grade 1 to Grade 2 and Approach Beach from Grade 2 to Grade 3.

"The changes are generally within the normal range of fluctuation of the bacteriological water quality of the beaches," an EPD spokesman said.

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades according to the level of E. coli in the water. Grades are calculated on the basis of the geometric mean of the E. coli counts on the five most recent sampling occasions.

While the ratings represent the general water quality at the beaches, the EPD spokesman reminded members of the public that water quality could be temporarily affected during and after periods of heavy rain. Bathers should avoid swimming at beaches for up to three days after a storm or heavy rainfall.

A summary of beach grades is published weekly before the weekend. The latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the department's website on Beach Water Quality ([www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach](http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach)) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.

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## **Business expectations for third quarter of 2019**

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released today (July 19) the results of the Quarterly Business Tendency Survey for the third quarter (Q3) of 2019.

### Business situation

For all surveyed sectors taken together, the proportion of respondents expecting their business situation to be worse (17%) in Q3 2019 over Q2 2019 is higher than that expecting it to be better (9%).

When compared with the results of the Q2 2019 survey round, the proportion of respondents expecting a worse business situation in Q3 2019 as compared with the preceding quarter has increased to 17%, against the corresponding proportion of 13% in Q2 2019.

Analysed by sector, respondents in all of the surveyed sectors, except for information and communications sector, expect their business situation to

be worse on balance in Q3 2019 as compared with Q2 2019. In particular, more respondents in the retail; accommodation and food services; and real estate sectors expect their business situation to be worse in Q3 2019 as compared with Q2 2019, relative to those expecting a better business situation.

A Government spokesman cautioned that the results of the survey should be interpreted with care. He said, "In this type of survey on expectations, 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 future accords with the underlying trends." The enumeration period for this survey round was from June 4, 2019 to July 12, 2019.

#### Volume of business/output

Respondents in quite a number of the surveyed sectors expect their volume of business/output to decrease on balance in Q3 2019 as compared with Q2 2019. In particular, more respondents in the retail sector expect their volume of sales to decrease, as compared to those expecting it to increase. On the other hand, more respondents in the information and communications sector expect their volume of business to increase, as compared to those expecting it to decrease.

#### Employment

Respondents in quite a number of the surveyed sectors expect their employment to increase on balance in Q3 2019 as compared with Q2 2019. More respondents in the accommodation and food services; and construction sectors expect their employment to increase in Q3 2019 over Q2 2019. On the other hand, slightly more respondents in the import/export trade and wholesale sector expect their employment to decrease, as compared to those expecting it to increase.

#### Selling price/service charge

Respondents in quite a number of the surveyed sectors expect their selling prices/service charges to go down on balance in Q3 2019 as compared with Q2 2019. However, slightly more respondents in the transportation, storage and courier sector expect their service charges to go up, as compared to those expecting a decrease in service charges.

#### Further information

The survey gathers views on short-term business performance from the senior management of about 560 prominent establishments in various sectors in Hong Kong with a view to providing a quick reference, with minimum time lag, for predicting the short-term future economic performance of the local economy.

The survey covers 10 major sectors in Hong Kong, namely manufacturing; construction; import/export trade and wholesale; retail; accommodation and

food services (mainly covering services rendered by hotels and restaurants); transportation, storage and courier services; information and communications; financing and insurance; real estate; and professional and business services sectors.

Views collected in the survey refer only to those of respondents on their own establishments rather than those on the respective sectors they are engaged in, and are limited to the expected direction of quarter-to-quarter change (e.g. "up", "same" or "down") but not the magnitude of change. In collecting views on the quarter-to-quarter changes, if the variable in question is subject to seasonal variations, respondents are asked to provide the expected changes after excluding the normal seasonal variations.

Survey results are generally presented as "net balance", i.e. the difference between the percentage of respondents choosing "up" and that choosing "down". The percentage distribution of respondents among various response categories (e.g. "up", "same" and "down") reflects how varied their business expectations are. The "net balance", with its appropriate sign, indicates the direction of expected change in the variable concerned. A positive sign indicates a likely upward trend while a negative sign indicates a likely downward trend. However, the magnitude of the "net balance" reflects only the prevalence of optimism or pessimism, but not the magnitude of expected change, since information relating to such magnitude is not collected in the survey.

Furthermore, owing to sample size constraint, care should be taken in interpreting survey results involving a small percentage (e.g. less than 10%) of respondents in individual sectors.

Chart 1 shows the views on expected changes in business situation for the period Q3 2018 to Q3 2019.

Table 1 shows the net balances of views on expectations in respect of different variables for Q3 2019.

The survey results are published in greater detail in the "Report on Quarterly Business Tendency Survey, Q3 2019". Users can download the publication free of charge at the website of the C&SD ([www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp300.jsp?productCode=B1110008](http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp300.jsp?productCode=B1110008)).

Users who have enquiries about the survey results may contact the Business Expectation Statistics Section of the C&SD (Tel: 3903 7263 or email: [business-prospects@censtatd.gov.hk](mailto:business-prospects@censtatd.gov.hk)).

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## **Employer fined \$160,000 for late payment of wages**

Eastside Holdings Limited was prosecuted by the Labour Department (LD) for failing to pay eight employees' wages, totalling about \$332,000, within seven days after the expiry of the wage period as required by the Employment Ordinance (EO). The employer was fined \$160,000 after pleading guilty at Shatin Magistrates' Courts today (July 19).

"The ruling helps disseminate a strong message to all employers that they have to pay wages to employees within the time limit stipulated in the EO," an LD spokesman said.

"The LD will not tolerate these offences and will spare no effort in enforcing the law and safeguarding employees' statutory rights," the spokesman added.

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## **Fraudulent website related to United Overseas 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 United Overseas Bank Ltd on fraudulent website, 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 website concerned or has conducted any financial transactions through the website 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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## **Draft URA Queen's Road West/In Ku Lane**

# Development Scheme Plan approved

The Chief Executive in Council has approved the draft Urban Renewal Authority (URA) Queen's Road West/In Ku Lane Development Scheme Plan (DSP).

"The approved DSP provides a statutory land use planning framework to guide the implementation of the URA Queen's Road West/In Ku Lane Development Scheme," a spokesman for the Town Planning Board said today (July 19).

The Development Scheme Area covers a total area of 2 046 square metres. The Area comprises a row of tenement buildings, the In Ku Lane refuse collection point and public toilet, a five-a-side soccer pitch (being part of the Li Sing Street Playground), government lanes and a pavement area. The Area is broadly bounded by the Ko Shing Building and In Ku Lane to the north, Kam Yu Mansion and Largos Residences to the east, Queen's Road West to the south and No. 153 Queen's Road West and the Li Sing Street Playground to the west.

The area is zoned "Residential (Group A)23", which was primarily intended for high-density residential development with a government refuse collection point and public toilet, a neighbourhood elderly centre sub-base and a public open space. Commercial uses are always permitted on the lowest three floors of a building or in the purpose-designed non-residential portion of an existing building. The maximum building height of the area is restricted to 130 metres above Principal Datum or the height of the existing building, whichever is the greater.

The approved DSP No. S/H3/URA3/2 is now available for public inspection during office hours at the Secretariat of the Town Planning Board, the Planning Enquiry Counters, the Hong Kong District Planning Office and the Central and Western Home Affairs Enquiry Centre.

Copies of the approved plan are available for sale at the Map Publications Centres in North Point and Yau Ma Tei. The electronic version of the plan can be viewed at the Town Planning Board's website ([www.info.gov.hk/tpb](http://www.info.gov.hk/tpb)).