

[Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected dangerous drugs \(with photo\)](#)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (July 19) seized about 500 grams of suspected crack cocaine and about 250 grams of suspected cocaine with an estimated market value of about \$900,000 in Tsim Sha Tsui and Causeway Bay.

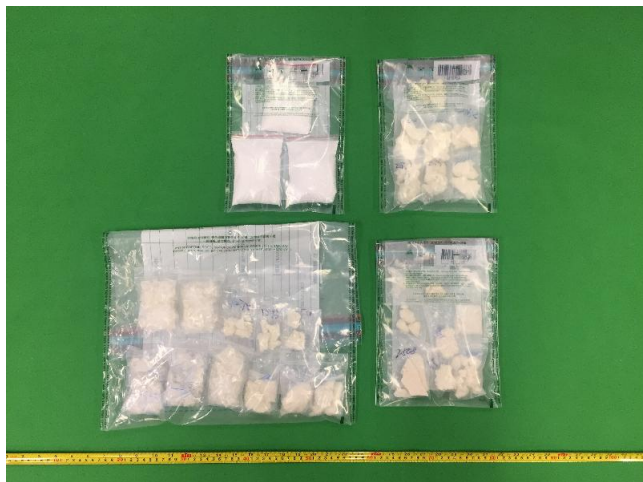
During an anti-narcotics operation in Tsim Sha Tsui yesterday evening, Customs officers intercepted a man and found about 250 grams of suspected crack cocaine inside a plastic bag carried by him. The 27-year-old man was then arrested.

After follow-up investigation, the arrested man was escorted to a residential premises in Causeway Bay where about 250g of suspected crack cocaine, about 250g of suspected cocaine and a batch of drug packaging paraphernalia were further seized.

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.

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



[Business expectations for third](#)

quarter of 2018

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released today (July 20) the results of the Quarterly Business Tendency Survey for the third quarter (Q3) of 2018.

Business situation

For all surveyed sectors taken together, the proportion of respondents expecting their business situation to be better (14%) in Q3 2018 over Q2 2018 is higher than that expecting it to be worse (8%).

When compared with the results of the Q2 2018 survey round, the proportion of respondents expecting a worse business situation in Q3 2018 as compared with the preceding quarter has slightly decreased to 8%, against the corresponding proportion of 9% in Q2 2018.

Analysed by sector, more respondents in the manufacturing, financing and insurance, and information and communications sectors expect their business situation to be better in Q3 2018 as compared with Q2 2018, relative to those expecting a worse business situation. In the construction sector and accommodation and food services sector, however, more respondents expect their business situation to be worse, as compared 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, 2018, to July 13, 2018.

Volume of business/output

Respondents in most of the surveyed sectors expect their volume of business/output to increase on balance in Q3 2018 as compared with Q2 2018. In particular, more respondents in the financing and insurance; construction; transportation, storage and courier services; manufacturing; and information and communications sectors expect their volume of business/output 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 2018 as compared with Q2 2018. More respondents in the financing and insurance; construction; accommodation and food services; retail; and transportation, storage and courier services sectors expect their employment to increase in Q3 2018 over Q2 2018.

Selling price/service charge

Respondents in most of the surveyed sectors expect their selling prices/service charges to remain broadly unchanged or to go up on balance in Q3 2018 as compared with Q2 2018. In particular, more respondents in the retail sector and transportation, storage and courier services sector expect their selling prices/service charges to go up.

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 2017 to Q3 2018.

Table 1 shows the net balances of views on expectations in respect of different variables for Q3 2018.

The survey results are published in greater detail in the "Report on

Quarterly Business Tendency Survey, Q3 2018". 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).

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).

SCS visits Innovation and Technology Commission (with photo)

The Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Joshua Law, visited the Innovation and Technology Commission today (July 20) to learn more about the work of the department and meet with staff of various grades to exchange views on matters of concern.

Accompanied by the Permanent Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Thomas Chow, Mr Law met with the Commissioner for Innovation and Technology, Ms Annie Choi, and the directorate staff to get an update on the department's work in promoting the development of innovation and technology.

Mr Law then toured the Standards and Calibration Laboratory, which serves as the custodian of Hong Kong's reference standards of physical measurements. It also provides comprehensive calibration services to ensure that measurements made in Hong Kong are traceable to the International System of Units.

He also toured the Hong Kong Accreditation Service to learn more about its work, which includes improving the standard of local conformity assessment services and providing a wide range of accreditation services to support the development of the industry.

Mr Law later visited the Product Standards Information Bureau to learn about how colleagues assist local enterprises to comply with related requirements in their manufacturing, exports and provision of services so as to enhance quality and competitiveness.

He said he was pleased to note that metrology, accredited conformity assessment service and standards together support the production of safe, fit-for-use and high-quality goods and services throughout the global supply chain. This not only protects public health and safety, but also drives innovation and technology development.

Before concluding his visit, Mr Law met with staff representatives of various grades at a tea gathering to exchange views on matters that concerned

them. He commended colleagues for their professionalism, and encouraged them to continue to contribute to innovation and technology development.



[Appeal for information on missing man in Ma On Shan \(with photo\)](#)

Police today (July 20) appealed to the public for information on a man who went missing in Ma On Shan.

Tam Wai-lun, aged 33, went missing after he left his residence in Yiu On Estate yesterday (July 19) morning. His family made a report to Police on the same day.

He is about 1.64 metres tall, 77 kilograms in weight and of fat build. He has a round face with yellow complexion and short straight black hair. He was last seen wearing a dark blue short-sleeved T-shirt, green shorts, light grey slippers, and carrying a recycle bag in light blue colour.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing man or may have seen him is urged to contact the Regional Missing Person Unit of New Territories South on 3661 1174 or 5745 2558, or email to rmpu-nts-1@police.gov.hk, or contact any police station.



Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Friday, July 20, 2018 is 103.8 (up 0.1 against yesterday's index).