

Hong Kong Customs strives to combat sale of suspected illicit TV set-top boxes (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs conducted a two-day operation codenamed "Trojan Horse" on May 25 and 26 to combat the sale of suspected illicit TV set-top boxes and seized a total of 354 suspected illicit TV set-top boxes with an estimated market value of about \$320,000. Eight persons were also arrested.

Customs has been stepping up patrols at hot spots selling TV set-top boxes in the past few months. Some shops were found selling suspected illicit set-top boxes which can be used to watch pay TV programmes for free by means of bypassing copyright protective measures adopted by pay TV programme copyright owners.

After in-depth investigation with the assistance of copyright owners, Customs conducted an operation on May 25 and 26. Four shops in Sham Shui Po and Wan Chai were raided and the suspected illicit TV set-top boxes were seized.

During the operation, Customs officers also arrested seven men and one woman, aged between 18 and 45. Four of them are shop owners while the other four are salespersons.

Investigation is ongoing. The arrested persons have been released on bail pending further investigation.

The Group Head (Intellectual Property Investigation (Operations)) of Customs, Mr Guy Fong, said at a press conference today (May 28) that with the imminence of the 2018 FIFA World Cup, Customs will continue to step up street and Internet patrols to curb any form of infringing activity.

He reminded traders that according to the Copyright Ordinance, a person commits an offence if the person sells or lets for hire a relevant device or provides relevant service for the purpose of a circumvention business. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for four years. He also reminded members of the public to watch pay TV programmes through legitimate means.

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



HAD to open temporary night heat shelters

The Home Affairs Department will open 15 temporary night heat shelters tonight (May 28) for people in need of the service.

The shelters will be open from 10.30pm until 8am tomorrow.

For further information, please call the department's enquiry hotline before midnight on 2835 1473.

The 15 temporary night heat shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Districts:

Central and Western –
Sai Ying Pun Community Complex Community Hall
3/F, Sai Ying Pun Community Complex,
2 High Street, Sai Ying Pun

Eastern/Wan Chai –
Causeway Bay Community Centre
7 Fook Yum Road, Causeway Bay

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:

Kwai Tsing –
Kwai Shing Community Hall
Podium, Block 6, Kwai Shing West Estate, Kwai Chung

North –
Cheung Wah Community Hall
Cheung Wah Estate, Fanling

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 –
Butterfly Bay Community Centre
Butterfly Estate (near Tip Sum House), 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

Import of poultry meat and products from Skåne County in Sweden suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (May 28) that in view of a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) about an outbreak of low-pathogenic H5 avian influenza in Skåne County in Sweden, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products, including poultry eggs, from the area with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

A CFS spokesman said that Hong Kong imported about 0.3 tonnes of frozen poultry meat and 218 000 poultry eggs from Sweden in the first three months of this year.

"The CFS has contacted the Swedish authorities over the issue and will closely monitor information issued by the OIE on avian influenza outbreaks. Appropriate action will be taken in response to the development of the situation," the spokesman said.

External merchandise trade statistics for April 2018

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released today (May 28) the external merchandise trade statistics for April 2018. In April 2018, the values of Hong Kong's total exports and imports of goods both recorded year-on-year increases, at 8.1% and 11.1% respectively.

In April 2018, the value of total exports of goods increased by 8.1% over a year earlier to \$330.2 billion, after a year-on-year increase of 8.0% in March 2018. Concurrently, the value of imports of goods increased by 11.1% over a year earlier to \$377.2 billion in April 2018, after a year-on-year increase of 10.7% in March 2018. A visible trade deficit of \$46.9 billion, equivalent to 12.4% of the value of imports of goods, was recorded in April 2018.

For the first four months of 2018 as a whole, the value of total exports of goods rose by 9.3% over the same period in 2017. Concurrently, the value of imports of goods increased by 10.7%. A visible trade deficit of \$176.8 billion, equivalent to 12.2% of the value of imports of goods, was recorded

in the first four months of 2018.

Comparing the three-month period ending April 2018 with the preceding three months on a seasonally adjusted basis, the value of total exports of goods increased by 2.9%. Meanwhile, the value of imports of goods increased by 5.2%.

Analysis by country/territory

Comparing April 2018 with April 2017, total exports to Asia as a whole grew by 7.2%. In this region, increases were registered in the values of total exports to some major destinations, in particular Taiwan (+27.8%), Singapore (+15.0%), the mainland of China (the Mainland) (+12.9%), Thailand (+12.6%) and Malaysia (+10.4%). On the other hand, decreases were recorded in the values of total exports to India (-49.5%) and Korea (-2.0%).

Apart from destinations in Asia, increases were registered in the values of total exports to some major destinations in other regions, in particular the USA (+11.7%), Germany (+8.0%) and the United Kingdom (+7.0%).

Over the same period of comparison, increases were registered in the values of imports from most major suppliers, in particular Malaysia (+93.2%), Korea (+26.3%), Taiwan (+23.8%), the Philippines (+17.2%), Japan (+10.5%) and the Mainland (+9.6%). Concurrently, decreases were registered in the values of imports from India (-26.3%) and Singapore (-3.3%).

For the first four months of 2018 as a whole, year-on-year increases were registered in the values of total exports to most major destinations, in particular Taiwan (+15.9%), the Mainland (+12.7%), Germany (+11.3%), Singapore (+10.3%), the USA (+8.5%) and Japan (+5.3%). However, a year-on-year decrease was registered in the value of total exports to India (-20.7%).

Over the same period of comparison, year-on-year increases were registered in the values of imports from most major suppliers, in particular Malaysia (+96.7%), Taiwan (+17.1%), Korea (+16.6%), the Mainland (+8.3%), the Philippines (+8.2%) and Singapore (+5.4%). On the other hand, a year-on-year decrease was registered in the value of imports from India (-16.2%).

Analysis by major commodity

Comparing April 2018 with April 2017, increases 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 \$19.3 billion or 18.3%), "office machines and automatic data processing machines" (by \$5.3 billion or 17.3%) and "miscellaneous manufactured articles (mainly jewellery, goldsmiths' and silversmiths' wares)" (by \$5.0 billion or 31.5%). However, a decrease was registered in the value of total exports of "non-metallic mineral manufactures" (by \$9.4 billion or -42.9%).

Over the same period of comparison, increases were registered in the values of imports of some principal commodity divisions, in particular "electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts

thereof" (by \$22.6 billion or 18.9%), "office machines and automatic data processing machines" (by \$7.4 billion or 28.3%) and "photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, optical goods, watches and clocks" (by \$1.7 billion or 23.0%). However, a decrease was registered in the value of imports of "miscellaneous manufactured articles (mainly jewellery, goldsmiths' and silversmiths' wares)" (by \$1.8 billion or -7.9%).

For the first four months of 2018 as a whole, year-on-year increases 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 \$77.6 billion or 19.2%), "office machines and automatic data processing machines" (by \$22.6 billion or 19.2%) and "miscellaneous manufactured articles (mainly jewellery, goldsmiths' and silversmiths' wares)" (by \$12.8 billion or 20.9 %). However, a year-on-year decrease was registered in the value of total exports of "non-metallic mineral manufactures" (by \$11.6 billion or -16.5%).

Over the same period of comparison, year-on-year increases were registered in the values of imports of most principal commodity divisions, in particular "electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof" (by \$79.7 billion or 17.1%), "office machines and automatic data processing machines" (by \$25.3 billion or 25.5%) and "petroleum, petroleum products and related materials" (by \$6.0 billion or 24.8%). However, a year-on-year decrease was registered in the value of imports of "telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment" (by \$7.7 billion or -3.5%).

Commentary

A Government spokesman noted that merchandise exports sustained notable year-on-year growth in April, thanks to robust global demand. Exports to most major markets posted visible growth from a year earlier.

The spokesman commented further that, looking ahead, the prevailing momentum of the global economy is likely to continue and should be conducive to Hong Kong's export performance in the near term. However, the external environment is still subject to uncertainties, including those associated with the rise in trade protectionism, pace of US monetary normalisation and geopolitical tensions. The Government will continue to monitor the developments closely.

Further information

Table 1 at the annex presents the analysis of external merchandise trade statistics for April 2018. Table 2 presents the original monthly trade statistics from January 2015 to April 2018, 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 2018 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 2018.

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 2018 will be released in mid-June 2018.

The April 2018 issue of "Hong Kong External Merchandise Trade" contains detailed analysis on the performance of Hong Kong's external merchandise trade in April 2018 and will be available in mid-June 2018. Users can download the publication free of charge at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp230.jsp).

Enquiries on merchandise trade statistics may be directed to the Trade Analysis Section (2) of the C&SD (Tel: 2582 5042).

Statement of Commitment to Foreign Exchange Global Code

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) issued today (May 28) the Statement of Commitment (Annex) to the Foreign Exchange Global Code. By issuing the Statement, the HKMA demonstrates its commitment to adhering to the Code when acting as a market participant in the foreign exchange market.

The Foreign Exchange Global Code is a set of global principles of good practice in the foreign exchange market, developed to provide a common set of guidelines to promote the integrity and effective functioning of the wholesale foreign exchange market. It was developed by a partnership between central banks and market participants from 16 jurisdictions, including Hong Kong, and was launched in May 2017 after it was endorsed by the Global Foreign Exchange Committee (GFXC), of which the HKMA is a member. The latest version of the Code and information about the GFXC can be found at: www.globalfx.org.

The HKMA will continue to work with other GFXC members to promote adherence to the Code in the global foreign exchange market.