

DH announced latest situation of Legionnaires' Disease cases

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (December 16) reported the latest number of cases of Legionnaires' disease (LD), and reminded the public of the importance of using and maintaining properly designed man-made water systems, adding that susceptible groups should strictly observe relevant precautions.

From December 8 to 14, the CHP recorded the following two community-acquired LD cases:

1. A 60-year-old male patient with underlying illnesses living in Sha Tin District; and
2. A 79-year-old female patient with underlying illnesses living in North District.

"Epidemiological investigations are ongoing to identify potential sources of infection, high-risk exposure and clusters, if any," a spokesman for the CHP said.

As of December 14, 133 LD cases had been recorded this year. In 2023 and 2022, there were 121 and 80 cases respectively.

"Men, people aged over 50, smokers, alcoholics and persons with weakened immunity are more susceptible to LD. Some situations may also increase the risk of infection, including poor maintenance of water systems; living in areas with old water systems, cooling towers or fountains; using electric water heaters, whirlpools and spas or hot water spring spas; and recent stays in hotels or vessels," the spokesman said.

Legionellae are found in various environmental settings and grow well in warm water (20 to 45 degrees Celsius). They can be found in aqueous environments such as water tanks, hot and cold water systems, cooling towers, whirlpools and spas, water fountains and home apparatus that support breathing. People may become infected when they breathe in contaminated droplets (aerosols) and mist generated by artificial water systems, or when handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes.

Immunocompromised persons should:

- Use sterile or boiled water for drinking, tooth brushing and mouth rinsing;
- Avoid using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices; and
- If using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices, fill the water tank with only sterile or cooled freshly boiled water, and not

water directly from the tap. Also, clean and maintain humidifiers/devices regularly according to manufacturers' instructions. Never leave stagnant water in a humidifier/device. Empty the water tank, wipe all surfaces dry, and change the water daily.

The public should observe the health advice below:

- Observe personal hygiene;
- Do not smoke and avoid alcohol consumption;
- Strainers in water taps and shower heads should be inspected, cleaned, descaled and disinfected regularly or at a frequency recommended by the manufacturer;
- If a fresh-water plumbing system is properly maintained, it is not necessary to install domestic water filters. Use of water filters is not encouraged as clogging occurs easily, which can promote growth of micro-organisms. In case water filters are used, the pore size should be 0.2 micrometres (μm) and the filter needs to be changed periodically according to the manufacturer's recommendations;
- Drain and clean water tanks of buildings at least quarterly;
- Drain or purge for at least one minute infrequently used water outlets (e.g. water taps, shower heads and hot water outlets) and stagnant points of the pipework weekly or before use;
- Seek and follow doctors' professional advice regarding the use and maintenance of home respiratory devices and use only sterile water (not distilled or tap water) to clean and fill the reservoir. Clean and maintain the device regularly according to the manufacturer's instructions. After cleaning/disinfection, rinse the device with sterile water, cooled freshly boiled water or water filtered with 0.2 μm filters. Never leave stagnant water in the device. Empty the water tank, keep all surfaces dry, and change the water daily; and
- When handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes:
 - Wear gloves and a face mask;
 - Water gardens and compost gently using low pressure;
 - Open composted potting mixes slowly and make sure the opening is directed away from the face;
 - Wet the soil to reduce dust when potting plants; and
 - Avoid working in poorly ventilated places such as enclosed greenhouses.

The public may visit the CHP's [LD page](#), the [Code of Practice for Prevention of LD](#) and the [Housekeeping Guidelines for Cold and Hot Water Systems for Building Management](#) of the Prevention of LD Committee, and the CHP's [risk-based strategy](#) for prevention and control of LD.

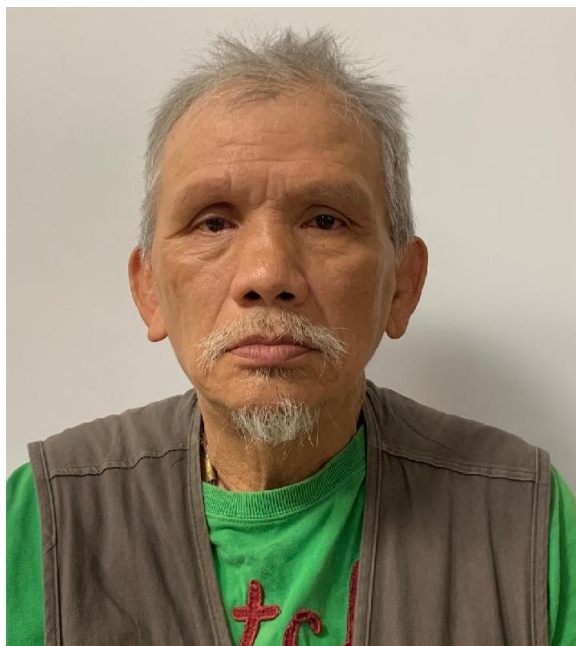
Appeal for information on missing man in Mong Kok (with photo)

Police today (December 16) appealed to the public for information on a man who went missing in Mong Kok.

Leung Kam-sun, aged 65, went missing after he was last seen in a hostel on Ka Shin Street on December 6 afternoon. His social worker made a report to Police on December 13.

He is about 1.65 metres tall, 65 kilograms in weight and of medium build. He has a long face with yellow complexion and short white hair. He was last seen wearing a beige jacket, a white T-shirt, blue jeans, a blue bucket hat and carrying a black backpack.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing man or may have seen him is urged to contact the Regional Missing Persons Unit of Kowloon West on 3661 8036 or 9020 6542 or email to rmpu-kw@police.gov.hk, or contact any police station.



Import of poultry meat and products from Adair County of State of Oklahoma in US suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene

Department announced today (December 16) that in view of a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in Adair County of the State of Oklahoma in the United States (US), 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 according to the Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong imported about 63 470 tonnes of chilled and frozen poultry meat, and about 17.2 million poultry eggs from the US in the first nine months of this year.

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

[Volume and price statistics of external merchandise trade in October 2024](#)

Further to the external merchandise trade statistics in value terms for October 2024 released earlier on, the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released today (December 16) the volume and price statistics of external merchandise trade for that month.

In October 2024, the volume of Hong Kong's total exports of goods and imports of goods increased by 0.3% and 1.5% respectively over October 2023.

Comparing the first ten months of 2024 with the same period in 2023, the volume of Hong Kong's total exports of goods and imports of goods increased by 5.8% and 3.3% respectively.

Comparing the three-month period ending October 2024 with the preceding three months on a seasonally adjusted basis, the volume of total exports of goods and imports of goods decreased by 4.5% and 0.5% respectively.

Changes in volume of external merchandise trade are derived from changes in external merchandise trade value with the effect of price changes discounted.

Comparing October 2024 with October 2023, the prices of total exports of goods and imports of goods increased by 3.4% and 3.0% respectively.

As regards price changes in the first ten months of 2024 over the same period in 2023, the prices of total exports of goods and imports of goods increased by 3.8% and 3.3% respectively.

Price changes in external merchandise trade are reflected by changes in unit value indices of external merchandise trade, which are compiled based on average unit values or, for certain commodities, specific price data.

The terms of trade index is derived from the ratio of price index of total exports of goods to that of imports of goods. Compared with the same periods in 2023, the index increased by 0.4% in October 2024 and 0.5% in the first ten months of 2024.

Changes in the unit value and volume of total exports of goods by main destination are shown in Table 1.

Comparing October 2024 with October 2023, increases were recorded for the total export volume to Vietnam (29.9%), the mainland of China (the Mainland) (4.4%) and the USA (1.0%). On the other hand, the total export volume to Taiwan (-3.4%) and India (-34.0%) decreased.

Over the same period of comparison, the total export prices to the USA (4.4%), the Mainland (4.3%), Taiwan (3.6%) and Vietnam (1.7%) increased. On the other hand, the total export prices to India decreased by 1.0%.

Changes in the unit value and volume of imports of goods by main supplier are shown in Table 2.

Comparing October 2024 with October 2023, increases were recorded for the import volume from Taiwan (11.4%), Singapore (10.5%), Japan (6.3%) and the Mainland (0.7%). On the other hand, the import volume from Korea decreased by 13.1%.

Over the same period of comparison, the import prices from all main suppliers increased: Korea (6.8%), Singapore (5.9%), Taiwan (5.1%), the Mainland (2.1%) and Japan (1.0%).

Further information

Details of the above statistics are published in the October 2024 issue of "Hong Kong Merchandise Trade Index Numbers". Users can browse and download the report at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1020006&scode=230).

Enquiries on merchandise trade indices may be directed to the Trade Analysis Section of the C&SD (Tel: 2582 4918).

[December 2024 issue of "Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics" now available](#)

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) published today (December 16) the December 2024 issue of the "Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics" (HKMDS).

Apart from providing up-to-date statistics, this issue also contains two feature articles entitled "The Four Key Industries in the Hong Kong Economy" and "Analysis of Hong Kong's External Merchandise Trade by Industry".

"The Four Key Industries in the Hong Kong Economy"

The Government has been actively pursuing economic development in order to keep up the competitive advantage of Hong Kong. The traditional Four Key Industries in Hong Kong, namely financial services, tourism, trading and logistics, and professional and producer services, have been the driving force of Hong Kong's economic growth, providing impetus to growth of other sectors and creating employment.

This feature article analyses the economic contribution and employment situation in respect of the Four Key Industries in 2023. Taken together, the share of the total value added of the Four Key Industries in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was 57.1%, while the percentage share of total employment was 42.4%.

For enquiries about this feature article, please contact the National Income Branch (2) of the C&SD (Tel: 3903 7002; email: gdp-p@censtatd.gov.hk).

"Analysis of Hong Kong's External Merchandise Trade by Industry"

The C&SD has compiled a set of statistics on trade by industry of importers/exporters in order to provide insights into the external merchandise trading activities of individual industries.

In 2023, "transportation, storage, postal and courier services" and "import/export and wholesale trades" were the two major industries, together contributing about 92% of the total trade value. On the export side, the contribution of small and medium sized enterprises in these two industries was 52% and 62% of their respective exports.

This feature article also presents further analyses of imports and exports of major industries by major trading partner and major commodity group.

For enquiries about this feature article, please contact the Trade

Analysis Section of the C&SD (Tel: 2582 4914; email: trade@censtatd.gov.hk).

Published in bilingual form, the HKMDS is a compact volume of official statistics containing about 130 tables. It collects up-to-date statistical series on various aspects of the social and economic situation of Hong Kong. Topics include population; labour; external trade; National Income and Balance of Payments; prices; business performance; energy; housing and property; government accounts, finance and insurance; and transport, communications and tourism. For selected key statistical items, over 20 charts depicting the annual trend in the past decade and quarterly or monthly trend in the recent two years are also available. Users can download the Digest at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1010002&scode=460).

Enquiries about the contents of the Digest can be directed to the Statistical Information Dissemination Section (1) of the C&SD (Tel: 2582 4738; email: gen-enquiry@censtatd.gov.hk).