

Statistics on trade involving outward processing in the mainland of China, fourth quarter 2023

In the fourth quarter of 2023, 17.3% of Hong Kong's total exports to the mainland of China (the Mainland) were for outward processing in the Mainland. On the other hand, 29.4% of Hong Kong's imports from the Mainland were related to outward processing in the Mainland, according to statistics released today (March 11) by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD). Over the same period, 59.2% of Hong Kong's re-exports of Mainland origin to other places were produced through outward processing in the Mainland.

In the fourth quarter of 2022, the corresponding proportions were 17.8% for total exports to the Mainland, 29.6% for imports from the Mainland and 59.6% for re-exports of Mainland origin to other places.

For 2023 as a whole, 17.0% of Hong Kong's total exports to the Mainland were for outward processing in the Mainland. On the other hand, 29.5% of Hong Kong's imports from the Mainland were related to outward processing in the Mainland. Over the same period, 59.9% of Hong Kong's re-exports of Mainland origin to other places were produced through outward processing in the Mainland.

The corresponding proportions in 2022 were 18.0% for total exports to the Mainland, 30.7% for imports from the Mainland and 60.0% for re-exports of Mainland origin to other places.

In value terms, \$115.0 billion of Hong Kong's total exports to the Mainland in the fourth quarter of 2023 were for outward processing in the Mainland, representing an increase of 6.5% compared with the fourth quarter of 2022. On the other hand, the value of imports from the Mainland related to outward processing in the Mainland increased by 7.5% compared with the fourth quarter of 2022 to \$164.8 billion. Meanwhile, \$175.8 billion of Hong Kong's re-exports of Mainland origin to other places were produced through outward processing in the Mainland, representing a decrease of 1.1% compared with the fourth quarter of 2022.

For the whole year of 2023, \$396.3 billion of Hong Kong's total exports to the Mainland were for outward processing in the Mainland, representing a decrease of 14.3% compared with the whole year of 2022. On the other hand, the value of imports from the Mainland related to outward processing in the Mainland decreased by 6.8% compared with the whole year of 2022 to \$592.5 billion. Meanwhile, \$679.5 billion of Hong Kong's re-exports of Mainland origin to other places were produced through outward processing in the Mainland, representing a decrease of 10.5% compared with the whole year of 2022.

The statistics for the fourth quarter and whole year of 2023 are given in the attached tables.

Information on trade involving outward processing in the Mainland is collected in a sample survey conducted by the C&SD. For the purpose of the survey, exports to the Mainland for outward processing refer to raw materials or semi-manufactures exported from or through Hong Kong to the Mainland for processing with a contractual arrangement for subsequent re-importation of the processed goods into Hong Kong.

Imports from the Mainland related to outward processing refer to processed goods imported from the Mainland, of which all or part of the raw materials or semi-manufactures have been under contractual arrangement exported from or through Hong Kong to the Mainland for processing.

Re-exports of Mainland origin to other places involving outward processing in the Mainland refer to processed goods re-exported through Hong Kong, of which all or part of the raw materials or semi-manufactures have been exported from or through Hong Kong to the Mainland for processing with a contractual arrangement for subsequent re-importation of the processed goods into Hong Kong.

In interpreting the statistics, it should be noted that all imports and exports of goods (not including transshipments and goods-in-transit) are recorded as external trade, irrespective of whether the goods are associated with outward processing or not. Moreover, the value and proportion of imports from the Mainland and re-exports of Mainland origin to other places involving outward processing in the Mainland refer to those of the entire goods instead of just the value added contributed by outward processing in the Mainland.

A sample of import/export declarations in respect of Hong Kong's trade with the Mainland and Hong Kong's re-exports originated in the Mainland to other places is selected for enumeration to obtain the required information from the establishments concerned. The findings of the survey facilitate a more informed analysis of the nature of Hong Kong's trade with the Mainland. In this respect, the survey results are a useful supplement to the regular trade statistics.

Users can download the times series of outward processing trade statistics in Tables 410-52001 to 410-52003 (www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/scode230.html) at the website of the C&SD.

As C&SD has ceased to conduct the related survey, this series of press release and the related statistical tables will cease to be published or updated after this issue.

Enquiries on the survey results may be directed to the Electronic Trading Services and Cargo Statistics Section of the C&SD (Tel: 2582 2126 or email: ops@censtatd.gov.hk).

[InvestHK vows support for Thai community development in Hong Kong \(with photo\)](#)

Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) said today (March 11) that it supports the Royal Thai Consulate-General, Hong Kong in a series of traditional and cultural events in Hong Kong as part of an effort to nurture a long-standing partnership.

The Director-General of Investment Promotion, Ms Alpha Lau, said, "Thailand is a major trade and investment partner with Hong Kong. InvestHK works closely with its Consulate-General in Hong Kong in promoting to investors in both places about each other's business attractions and opportunities. We wish the series of Thai events in Hong Kong success and that the Thai community will continue to live happily in our city."

The Consulate-General said that three major events will take place in Hong Kong during these two months, namely the Thai Food Influence Festival (March 12 to April 30) at The Market, Hotel ICON; the Songkran Festival (April 12 to 14) at Kowloon City; and the Thai Festival 2024 (April 13 and 14) at Olympian City 2.

The events will feature Thailand's vibrant culture with exceptional Thai-themed buffets and many more authentic Thai delicacies, such as those at the Food Influence Festival, plus famous singers from Thailand, Thai boxing matches and various local traditional shows and cultural activities at the Songkran (water splashing) Festival, plus cultural workshops, performances and travel promotional offers at the Thai Festival 2024.



Arrangements of LegCo Committee meetings

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council (LegCo) Bills Committee on Safeguarding National Security Bill will hold four meetings tomorrow (March 12) in the Conference Room 1 of the LegCo Complex:

- 9am to 11am
- 11.10am to 1.10pm
- 2.30pm to 4.30pm
- 4.40pm to 6.40pm

Separately, the meeting of the Subcommittee on Promoting Carer-centric Policies originally scheduled for tomorrow at 10.45am, the meetings of Panel on Housing and Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene at 2.30pm, and the meeting of Bills Committee on Building Management (Amendment) Bill 2023 at 4.30pm, have been rescheduled.

Inspection of aquatic products imported from Japan

In response to the Japanese Government's plan to discharge nuclear-contaminated water at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Station, the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene issued a Food Safety Order which prohibits all aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds originating from the 10 metropolis/prefectures, namely Tokyo, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Miyagi, Chiba, Gunma, Tochigi, Niigata, Nagano and Saitama, from being imported into and supplied in Hong Kong.

For other Japanese aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds that are not prohibited from being imported into Hong Kong, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will conduct comprehensive radiological tests to verify that the radiation levels of these products do not exceed the guideline levels before they are allowed to be supplied in the market.

As the discharge of nuclear-contaminated water is unprecedented and will continue for 30 years or more, the Government will closely monitor and step up the testing arrangements. Should anomalies be detected, the Government

does not preclude further tightening the scope of the import ban.

From noon on March 8 to noon today (March 11), the CFS conducted tests on the radiological levels of 292 food samples imported from Japan, which were of the "aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt" category, in the past three days (including last Saturday and Sunday). No sample was found to have exceeded the safety limit. Details can be found on the CFS's thematic website titled "Control Measures on Foods Imported from Japan" (www.cfs.gov.hk/english/programme/programme_rafs/programme_rafs_fc_01_30_Nuclear_Event_and_Food_Safety.html).

In parallel, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has also tested 150 samples of local catch for radiological levels. All the samples passed the tests. Details can be found on the AFCD's website (www.afcd.gov.hk/english/fisheries/Radiological_testing/Radiological_Test.html).

The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) has also enhanced the environmental monitoring of the local waters. No anomaly has been detected so far. For details, please refer to the HKO's website (www.hko.gov.hk/en/radiation/monitoring/seawater.html).

From August 24 to noon today, the CFS and the AFCD have conducted tests on the radiological levels of 35 411 samples of food imported from Japan (including 23 733 samples of aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt) and 9 878 samples of local catch respectively. All the samples passed the tests.

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Monday, March 11, 2024 is 104.5 (down 0.1 against last Saturday's index).

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Saturday, March 9, 2024 was 104.6 (down 0.1 against last Friday's index).