

Volume and price statistics of external merchandise trade in April 2019

Further to the external merchandise trade statistics in value terms for April 2019 released earlier on, the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released today (June 17) the volume and price statistics of external merchandise trade for that month.

In April 2019, the volume of Hong Kong's total exports of goods decreased by 4.2% over April 2018. Concurrently, the volume of imports of goods decreased by 7.2%.

Comparing the first four months of 2019 with the same period in 2018, the volume of Hong Kong's total exports of goods decreased by 4.2%. Concurrently, the volume of imports of goods decreased by 5.6%.

Comparing the three-month period ending April 2019 with the preceding three months on a seasonally adjusted basis, the volume of total exports of goods decreased by 1.8%. Concurrently, the volume of imports of goods decreased by 0.9%.

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

Comparing April 2019 with April 2018, the prices of total exports of goods increased by 2.0%. Concurrently, the prices of imports of goods also increased by 2.0%.

As regards price changes in the first four months of 2019 over the same period in 2018, the prices of total exports of goods increased by 2.1%. Concurrently, the prices of imports of goods also increased by 2.1%.

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 2018, the index remained virtually unchanged in both April 2019 and the first four months of 2019.

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

Comparing April 2019 with April 2018, double-digit declines were

recorded for the total export volume to the USA (-18.2%), India (-15.5%) and Japan (-14.0%). Concurrently, the total export volume to the mainland of China (the Mainland) decreased by 4.0%. On the other hand, a double-digit growth of 38.8% was recorded for the total export volume to Singapore.

Over the same period of comparison, the total export prices to the Mainland, Japan, the USA and India increased by 2.9%, 2.6%, 2.5% and 1.2% respectively. On the other hand, the total export prices to Singapore decreased by 3.4%.

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

Comparing April 2019 with April 2018, a double-digit decline of 11.5% was recorded for the import volume from Taiwan. Concurrently, the import volume from the USA, Singapore, Japan and the Mainland decreased by 7.4%, 5.5%, 4.3% and 3.8% respectively.

Over the same period of comparison, the import prices from all main suppliers increased: Singapore (+4.5%), the Mainland (+2.6%), Japan (+2.1%), the USA (+1.6%) and Taiwan (+1.5%).

Further information

Details of the above statistics are published in the April 2019 issue of "Hong Kong Merchandise Trade Index Numbers". Users can download the publication free of charge at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp230.jsp?productCode=B1020006).

Enquiries on merchandise trade indices may be directed to the Trade Analysis Section (1) of the C&SD (Tel: 2582 4918).