

Volume and price statistics of external merchandise trade in August 2021

Further to the external merchandise trade statistics in value terms for August 2021 released earlier on, the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released today (October 18) the volume and price statistics of external merchandise trade for that month.

In August 2021, the volume of Hong Kong's total exports of goods and imports of goods increased by 18.6% and 21.0% respectively over August 2020.

Comparing the first eight months of 2021 with the same period in 2020, the volume of Hong Kong's total exports of goods and imports of goods increased by 24.3% and 22.4% respectively.

Comparing the three-month period ending August 2021 with the preceding three months on a seasonally adjusted basis, the volume of total exports of goods and imports of goods increased by 1.6% and 2.0% 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 August 2021 with August 2020, the prices of total exports of goods and imports of goods increased by 6.1% and 6.0% respectively.

As regards price changes in the first eight months of 2021 over the same period in 2020, the prices of total exports of goods and imports of goods increased by 3.8% and 3.7% 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 2020, the index increased by 0.1% in both August 2021 and the first eight months of 2021.

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

Comparing August 2021 with August 2020, double-digit increases were recorded for the total export volume to Taiwan (36.3%), Japan (26.8%), the mainland of China (the Mainland) (19.1%) and the USA (16.3%). Concurrently, the total export volume to India (7.9%) also increased.

Over the same period of comparison, the total export prices to Taiwan

(9.6%), the Mainland (8.9%), India (4.6%) and Japan (0.5%) increased. On the other hand, the total export prices to the USA decreased by 0.7%.

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

Comparing August 2021 with August 2020, double-digit increases were recorded for the import volume from Korea (32.4%), Singapore (24.3%), the Mainland (22.9%), Japan (17.1%) and Taiwan (13.5%).

Over the same period of comparison, the import prices from all main suppliers increased: Taiwan (16.4%), Korea (13.3%), Singapore (11.0%), the Mainland (4.4%) and Japan (1.0%).

Further information

Details of the above statistics are published in the August 2021 issue of "Hong Kong Merchandise Trade Index Numbers". Users can download the publication 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 (1) of the C&SD (Tel: 2582 4918).