

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)128****(Question Serial No. 0898)**

- Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
- Subhead (No. & title): ( - ) Not Specified
- Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health
- Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
- Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
- This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 248 (if applicable)
- Question (Member Question No. 46):

Regarding the wholesale of live pigs, please advise on the following:

- (a) the total number, the average daily number, as well as the highest and lowest daily wholesale number of live pigs supplied to Hong Kong and supplied locally in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2011-12 to 2013-14);
- (b) the monthly average, highest and lowest price of live pigs supplied to Hong Kong and supplied locally in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2011-12 to 2013-14); and
- (c) the total expenditure and average expenditure per head of pig by the Government in handling live pigs supplied to Hong Kong (such as the arrangements for slaughterhouses, quarantine management, etc), as well as the manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) Information on the number of live pigs imported from the Mainland in the past three years is tabulated as follows –

Calendar year	Total number of live pigs imported from the Mainland	Daily number of live pigs		
		Average	Highest	Lowest
2011	1 464 211	4 012	6 232	2 031
2012	1 540 756	4 210	5 960	1 513
2013	1 575 810	4 317	5 565	1 942

Information on the number of live pigs supplied by local farms in the past three years is tabulated as follows –

Calendar year	Total number of live pigs supplied by local farms	Daily number of live pigs		
		Average	Highest	Lowest
2011	92 959	255	807	39
2012	97 477	266	644	31
2013	96 488	264	529	24

- (b) The monthly auction prices of live pigs imported from the Mainland in the past three years are tabulated below -

Calendar year	Monthly auction prices per picul of live pigs imported from the Mainland (HK\$)		
	Average	Highest	Lowest
2011	1,482	1,632	1,353
2012	1,329	1,484	1,195
2013	1,350	1,499	1,228

Since local pigs are not sold by auction, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not have information on their wholesale price.

- (c) The expenditure incurred in 2011-12 and 2012-13 on live food animal inspection in the slaughterhouses was \$24.9 million and \$27.7 million respectively. The revised estimate in 2013-14 is \$31.5 million. In each of these three years, 85 staff are involved in this area of work. Pigs, cattle and goats are slaughtered in the slaughterhouses. The average expenditure of live animal inspection on each live food animal slaughtered is \$15.6, \$16.6 and \$18.6 in the same period. The cost for handling live pigs cannot be separately identified.