

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)106

(Question Serial No. 0003)

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

Question:

Please advise on the number of Mainland farms or processing plants supplying live, chilled and frozen chickens to Hong Kong, the quantities of live, chilled and frozen chickens imported from the Mainland into Hong Kong, their respective share and average import price in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2016 to 2018). Besides, please advise on the number of inspections to these farms or processing plants, as well as the manpower and expenditure required, in each of these years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

There were 34, 28 and 29 Mainland registered poultry farms eligible for supplying live poultry to Hong Kong in 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively. The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) inspected 25, 25 and 16 of them in the respective years.

There were 15, 16 and 16 Mainland processing plants eligible for supplying chilled chickens to Hong Kong in 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively. CFS inspected 16, 14 and 17 of them in the respective years, including those then applying for CFS' approval.

There were 90 and 92 Mainland processing plants eligible for supplying frozen chickens to Hong Kong in 2017 and 2018 respectively. CFS inspected 2 and 1 of them in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

The quantities of live, chilled and frozen chickens imported from the Mainland into Hong Kong in 2016, 2017 and 2018 are as follows –

	Live chicken			Chilled chicken			Frozen chicken		
	Quantity (kg)*	%	Average import price (\$/kg)*#	Quantity (kg)@	%	Average import price (\$/kg)#	Quantity (kg)@	%	Average import price (\$/kg)#
2016	55 000	0.05	11.3	57 418 000	52.16	19.7	52 606 000	47.79	17.3
2017	-	-	-	61 996 000	51.87	20.9	57 532 000	48.13	16.1
2018	-	-	-	61 174 000	53.22	20.5	53 770 000	46.78	17.3

* The information is provided by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. The import data on live chickens as given in the trade declarations is on a per chicken basis. To facilitate comparison, the quantity and the price are presented in terms of kg by a conversion factor of 1.72 kg per live chicken in 2016.

@ This is based on information from the Hong Kong Merchandise Trade Statistics.

The information is provided by the Census and Statistics Department, based on trader's import declarations to the Customs and Excise Department.

Inspections of live poultry farms outside Hong Kong are undertaken by an inspection unit in CFS comprising 11 officers. The actual expenditure for conducting inspections of this type of farms was \$6.3 million in 2016-17 and \$6.4 million in 2017-18. The revised estimate of expenditure in 2018-19 is \$7.6 million.

Inspections of food processing plants outside Hong Kong are undertaken by the Food Import and Export Section of CFS. The actual expenditure for conducting inspections of these types of plants was \$2.55 million in 2016-17 and \$2.11 million in 2017-18. The revised estimate of expenditure in 2018-19 is \$2.1 million. There is no separate breakdown on the resources specifically for conducting inspections to the Mainland chilled and frozen chicken processing plants.

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