

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)097

(Question Serial No. 0682)

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:

With regard to the wholesale of live pigs, please advise on:

- (a) the total number, the average daily number, as well as the highest and the lowest daily wholesale numbers of live pigs supplied to Hong Kong in each of the past 3 years (i.e. from 2017-18 to 2019-20);
- (b) the monthly average, the highest and the lowest prices of live pigs supplied to Hong Kong in each of the past 3 years (i.e. from 2017-18 to 2019-20);
- (c) the total expenditure and average expenditure per head of pig by the Government in handling live pigs (such as the arrangements for slaughterhouses and quarantine management), as well as the manpower involved;
- (d) the number of registered Mainland pig farms supplying live pigs to Hong Kong, the change in that number and the up-to-date list of the farms, in each quarter since August last year;
- (e) (i) the total quantity of import of chilled and frozen pork, (ii) the top 10 regions that supplied the largest quantities of chilled and frozen pork to Hong Kong, (iii) the changes in the number of fresh provision shops eligible for selling chilled and frozen pork, and (iv) the number of cases uncovered by the Department pertaining to these shops selling chilled and frozen pork disguised as fresh pork, in the past 3 years (i.e. from 2017-18 to 2019-20).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

- (a) The number of live pigs imported in the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Total number of live pigs imported	Daily number of live pigs imported		
		Average	Highest	Lowest
2017	1 455 379	3 987	5 747	1 930
2018	1 468 150	4 022	7 049	1 188
2019	843 422	2 311	5 586	805

- (b) All imported live pigs are sold through auctions. The auction prices of live pigs imported in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Auction prices per picul of imported live pigs (HK\$)		
	Average	Average Highest	Average Lowest
2017	1,302	1,534	1,166
2018	1,211	1,571	1,053
2019	2,387	2,897*	1,953

- * The auction prices of live pigs increased substantially in the second half of 2019 due to lower supply of imported live pigs following the outbreak of African Swine Fever. The maximum auction price of a pig consignment reached HK\$4,711 per picul on 20 August 2019.

- (c) The revised estimate of expenditure on inspection of live food animals in slaughterhouses in 2019-20 was \$47.4 million, which included the expenditure incurred for 92 staff posts of the Centre for Food Safety of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. In the year, the average expenditure on inspection of live food animals (including pigs, cattle and goats) admitted for slaughtering was about \$48.9 per head. The cost for handling live pigs cannot be separately quantified.
- (d) Quarterly changes in the number of Mainland pig farms supplying live pigs to Hong Kong (registered pig farms) since August 2019 are tabulated below:

Quarter	Number of registered pig farms	Number of newly added registered pig farms (compared with the previous quarter)	Number of registered pig farms removed (compared with the previous quarter)
2019 3 rd quarter	127	-	-
2019 4 th quarter	120	2	9
2020 1 st quarter (as at 29 February)	123	10	7

The updated list of registered pig farms is available on the website of the General Administration of Customs of the Mainland.

(e) (i) According to the figures provided by the Census and Statistics Department, in 2017, 2018 and 2019, the total quantities of imported chilled pork were about 10 751 tonnes, 9 809 tonnes and 15 850 tonnes respectively, and those of imported frozen pork were about 348 621 tonnes, 240 581 tonnes and 184 760 tonnes respectively.

(ii) In 2017, 2018 and 2019, the top ten regions that supplied chilled pork to Hong Kong were Mainland China, Brazil, Thailand, Australia, Canada, Spain, the United States, the Netherlands, Japan and the United Kingdom. As for imported frozen pork, the top ten regions were Brazil, the United States, Mainland China, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Vietnam, Spain, Italy and Canada.

(iii) The number of fresh provision shops eligible for selling chilled and frozen pork in the past 3 years is as follows:

Year	Number
2017	794
2018	790
2019	848

(iv) In the past 3 years (from 2017 to 2019), there was 1 case of cancellation of licence by the Department pertaining to sale of chilled and frozen pork disguised as fresh pork.

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