

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(F)098**

**(Question Serial No. 3156)**

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 (Ms Irene YOUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

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

- (a) the total quantity and weight, the average daily quantity and weight, 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 2020-21 to 2022-23);
- (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 2020-21 to 2022-23);
- (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 fresh provision shops eligible for selling fresh pork in the past 3 years (i.e. from 2020-21 to 2022-23);
- (e) 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;
- (f) (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 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 2020-21 to 2022-23).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 61)

Reply:

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

Year	Total number of live pigs imported	Daily number of live pigs imported		
		Average	Highest	Lowest
2020	638 138	1 744	2 219	222
2021	791 566	2 169	3 259	444
2022	963 780	2 640	4 839	947

There is no record on the weight of live pigs supplied to Hong Kong.

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

Year	Monthly auction price per picul of imported live pigs (HK\$)		
	Average	Average highest	Average lowest
2020	3,149	3,588	2,710
2021	2,232	2,823	1,900
2022	1,834	2,520	1,562

- (c) The revised estimate of expenditure on inspection of live food animals in slaughterhouses in 2022-23 was \$45.3 million, which included the expenditure incurred for 95 posts of the Centre for Food Safety of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). In the year, the average expenditure on inspection of live food animals (including pigs, cattle and goats) admitted for slaughtering was about \$41 per head. The manpower and expenditure for handling live pigs cannot be separately quantified.
- (d) The numbers of fresh provision shops eligible for selling fresh pork in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number
2020	1 236
2021	1 304
2022	1 388

- (e) The numbers of registered Mainland pig farms supplying live pigs to Hong Kong and the numbers of farms added/removed are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of registered pig farms (as at the end of December)</b>	<b>Number of newly added registered pig farms (compared with the previous year)</b>	<b>Number of registered pig farms removed (compared with the previous year)</b>
2020	110	25	35
2021	124	21	7
2022	129	25	20

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

- (f)(i) According to the figures provided by the Census and Statistics Department, in 2020, 2021 and 2022, the total quantities of imported chilled pork were about 30 746 tonnes, 25 622 tonnes and 21 391 tonnes respectively, and those of imported frozen pork were about 197 591 tonnes, 218 988 tonnes and 153 829 tonnes respectively.
- (ii) In 2020, 2021 and 2022, the top 10 regions that supplied chilled pork to Hong Kong were Thailand, Mainland China, Australia, Brazil, the Netherlands, the United States, Canada, Spain, South Africa and Korea. As for imported frozen pork, the top 10 regions were Brazil, Germany, the Netherlands, Mainland China, Poland, the United States, Spain, Vietnam, Russia and Canada.
- (iii) The numbers of fresh provision shops eligible for selling chilled and frozen pork in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number</b>
2020	957
2021	1 015
2022	1 042

- (iv) In the past 3 years, there were 2 and 5 cases of cancellation of fresh provision shop licences by the FEHD in 2021 and 2022 respectively for breaching licensing requirements pertaining to the sale of chilled or frozen pork disguised as fresh pork.

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