

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)081

(Question Serial No. 3127)

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 2021-22 to 2023-24);
- (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 2021-22 to 2023-24);
- (c) the total expenditure and average expenditure per head of pig by the Government on 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 2021-22 to 2023-24);
- (e) the number of registered Mainland pig farms supplying live pigs to Hong Kong, the change in that number and an 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 2021-22 to 2023-24).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

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
2021	791 566	2 169	3 259	444
2022	963 780	2 640	4 839	947
2023	1 021 537	2 799	5 186	599

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

- (b) All imported live pigs are sold through auctions. The average 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
2021	2,232	2,823	1,900
2022	1,834	2,520	1,562
2023	1,317	2,000	1,149

- (c) The revised estimate of expenditure on inspection of live food animals in slaughterhouses in 2023-24 was \$46.2 million, which included the expenditure incurred by 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 \$40 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
2021	1 304
2022	1 388
2023	1 412

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

Year	Number of registered pig farms (as at the end of December)	Number of newly added registered pig farms (compared with the previous year)	Number of registered pig farms removed (compared with the previous year)
2021	124	21	7
2022	129	25	20
2023	139	24	14

An updated list of registered pig farms is available on the official website of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China.

- (f) (i) According to the figures provided by the Census and Statistics Department, in 2021, 2022 and 2023, the total quantities of imported chilled pork were about 25 622 tonnes, 21 391 tonnes and 13 025 tonnes respectively, and those of imported frozen pork were about 218 988 tonnes, 153 829 tonnes and 171 804 tonnes respectively.

- (ii) In 2021, 2022 and 2023, the top 10 regions that supplied chilled pork to Hong Kong were Mainland China, Thailand, Australia, Brazil, the Netherlands, Canada, the United States, South Africa, Korea and Spain. As for imported frozen pork, the top 10 regions were Brazil, the Netherlands, Germany, Mainland China, Poland, Vietnam, Spain, the United States, Russia and Canada.
- (iii) The numbers of fresh provision shops eligible for selling chilled and/or frozen pork in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number
2021	1 849
2022	1 989
2023	1 890

- (iv) There were 2, 5 and 4 cases of cancellation of fresh provision shop licences by the FEHD in 2021, 2022 and 2023 respectively for breaching licensing requirements pertaining to the sale of chilled or frozen pork disguised as fresh pork.

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