

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****EEB(F)091****(Question Serial No. 2735)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Donald NG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

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 2022-23 to 2024-25);
- (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 2022-23 to 2024-25);
- (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 2022-23 to 2024-25);
- (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 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department pertaining to these shops selling chilled and frozen pork disguised as fresh pork in the past 3 years (i.e. from 2022-23 to 2024-25).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)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
2022	963 780	2 640	4 839	947
2023	1 021 537	2 799	5 186	599
2024	1 040 205	2 842	4 516	720

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
2022	1,834	2,520	1,562
2023	1,317	2,000	1,149
2024	1,384	1,823	1,271

- (c) The revised estimate of the expenditure on inspection of live food animals in slaughterhouses in 2024-25 was \$50.2 million, which included the expenditure on 90 posts in the Centre for Food Safety of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. In the year, the average expenditure on inspection of each live food animal (including pigs, cattle and goats) slaughtered was about \$44. 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
2022	1 388
2023	1 412
2024	1 402

- (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)
2022	129	25	20
2023	139	24	14
2024	136	15	18

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 2022, 2023 and 2024, the total quantities of imported chilled pork were about 21 391 tonnes, 13 025 tonnes and 14 153 tonnes respectively, and those of imported frozen pork were about 153 829 tonnes, 171 804 tonnes and 165 470 tonnes respectively.

(ii) In 2022, 2023 and 2024, the top 10 regions that supplied chilled pork to Hong Kong were Mainland China, Thailand, Australia, Canada, Korea, the United States, Brazil, the Netherlands, Spain and Italy. As for imported frozen pork, the top 10 regions were Brazil, Mainland China, the Netherlands, Vietnam, Poland, Russia, Germany, Spain, the United States 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>
2022	1 989
2023	1 890
2024	1 720

(iv) 5, 4 and 0 fresh provision shops were found to have sold chilled or frozen pork disguised as fresh pork in 2022, 2023 and 2024 respectively. These shops had their licences cancelled for breaching licensing conditions. The above figures do not include cases where the licensees surrendered their licences voluntarily.

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