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Report Highlights:

Bite size local news, Post reports and activity summaries wrapped by ATO Hong Kong. In this issue: ATO Hong Kong Launches Delicious USA 2023 With Milestone Celebration; Hong Kong to Play Role of Creating Opportunities and Promoting Free Trade with Countries; Volume of Exports and Imports Decreases in August 2023; Hong Kong Employees Get Highest Salary Increases in Greater Bay Area; Group Expects Macau's Third Quarter GDP to Soar 130 Percent Year-on-Year; Hong Kong to Delay First Phase of Ban on Plastic Tableware at Restaurants; California Vinters Tour Returns to Hong Kong; Hong Kong Suspends Imports of Poultry Meat and Products from U.S. Counties in Minnesota and Utah; Hong Kong Adds Two Shark Families on Controlled Trade List.

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ATO HONG KONG LAUNCHES *DELICIOUS USA* 2023 WITH MILESTONE CELEBRATION!



On October 24, 2023, ATO Hong Kong, accompanied by U.S. Consul General, Greg May, hosted local media to kick-off the *Delicious USA* 2023 restaurant campaign and celebrate its fifth year running! Throughout the month of November, talented chefs at 44 participating restaurants, including 32 in Hong Kong and (a record) 12 in Macau, will feature U.S. food ingredients in local and international gastronomy.

Designed by ATO Hong Kong in 2019, the campaign showcases the diversity, versatility, quality, and sustainability of America's agriculture and its contribution to the local food service industry. The launch attracted a total of 37 traditional media representatives and influencers and has already resulted in dozens of stories on social media.



The launch menu featured dishes which will be available during the campaign and served as a great platform to highlight North Carolina sweet potatoes, Boston Lobster, Alaskan Cod, and U.S. fresh produce.



Guests were also treated to a pairing of wines from California, Washington State, and Oregon. Our thanks to the U.S. trade associations and partners such as the USA Rice Federation, the U.S. Dairy Export Council, the Raisin Administrative Committee, Hormel, and Eastern Zone Co. Ltd. who ensured our guests did not leave emptied handed, and the California Wine Institute.



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ECONOMY



Hong Kong to Play Role of Creating Opportunities and Promoting Free Trade with Countries, Says John Lee [[The Standard](#), Oct. 24]

Chief Executive John Lee said Hong Kong would continue to create opportunities for cooperation and collaboration with all countries while the city always supports free trade. Lee's statement came after he was asked about the city's role as a bridge for cooperation between the United States and China amid continued tensions between the two giants. He said Hong Kong has been holding several international conferences regarding different topics and would definitely continue to do that to keep its role of creating opportunities for cooperation with various countries on climate change, economic recovery, and green economy. "We welcome U.S. players to come, particularly those from the business sector, because I think business means opportunities for everybody" Lee said. The city leader added that business is the most significant force to drive economic development and people-to-people exchanges. California Governor Gavin Newsom – who opened a week-long trip to China by visiting Hong Kong on Monday - mentioned that the city will soon host an annual event bringing together the bay areas of the United States and Greater Bay Area.

Volume of Exports and Imports Decreases in August 2023 [[HKSAR - Press Release](#), Oct. 17]

According to the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD), in August 2023, the volume of Hong Kong's total exports of goods and imports decreased 6.9 percent and 3.9 percent, respectively compared to August 2022. Comparing August 2023 with August 2022, the prices of total exports of goods and imports of goods increased by 3.7 percent and 3.8 percent, respectively. Declines were recorded for the total export volume to Taiwan (-23.7 percent), the United States (-16.0 percent), India (-12.5 percent) and mainland China (-4.7 percent). On the other hand, the total export volume to Vietnam increased by 6.6 percent. Declines were recorded for the import volume from Singapore (-14.9 percent), Taiwan (-6.9 percent), Japan (-5.0 percent) and mainland (-0.6 percent). Conversely, the import volume from the United States increased 3.9 percent. Over the same period of comparison, the import prices from all main suppliers increased: Taiwan (6.6 percent), mainland (5.3 percent), Singapore (4.7 percent), Japan (2.5 percent) and the United States (1.5 percent). **ATO Notes:** The drop in August trade statistics can be attributed to higher prices and slowdowns in global demand. However, the import volume (including non-food items) from the United States increased during August while imports from other global suppliers declined. According to U.S. statistics, during the first eight months of 2023, U.S. exports of agricultural and related products to Hong Kong increased 7 percent to \$1 billion compared to the same period in 2022. There were significant increases in U.S. exports of cotton (+683 percent), poultry (+91 percent), Distilled Spirits (+75 percent), Fresh Fruits (+18 percent), and seafood (+9 percent).

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Census and Statistics Department Describes 'Concerning' Situation as Population Aged 15 - 34 Continues to Decline [[The Standard](#), Oct. 16]

Hong Kong's population is estimated to hit 8.2 million in 2046, but the continuous decline in the youth population has raised concerns. Data from the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) showed that people aged 15 to 34 have continued to fall within six months this year. As for the population projections for 2022 to 2046, C&SD believes it will generally maintain an upward trend and reach 8.19 million by mid-2046, although the aging population is expected to grow. The proportion of elderly persons aged 65 and over is projected to increase from 20.5 percent in 2021 to 36 percent in 2046. The overall labor force is expected to grow from 3.5 million in 2021 to 3.7 million in 2038, based on changes in demographic structure and labor force participation rates of various age and gender categories over time. **ATO Notes:** Hong Kong's migration trends have significantly changed the city's demographic structure. There is a significant reduction in people of studying age and young parents. The data has demonstrated that a good number of families left the city taking their children to other locations to study. The Hong Kong Government (HKG) is rolling out a "Talent Attraction Program" in response to the talent-drain experienced in recent years, and expects an inflow of fresh graduates entering the city as a result of Hong Kong's immigration offers.

Hong Kong Employees Get Highest Salary Increases in Greater Bay Area This Year [[SCMP](#), Oct. 18]

Hong Kong companies offered the biggest salary increases over the past year compared with other cities in the Greater Bay Area, but the financial hub also had a high staff turnover rate, a study by universities and other organizations has found. While the local trend was expected to continue into 2024 with pay rises of between 3.5 and 3.8 percent, the city may not retain the top spot, the researchers warned. One academic involved in the study said that even though the pay increases should help the city attract talent, the government would still need to address other key concerns, such as the pricey property market. Salary rises recorded in Hong Kong in 2019, the year before the pandemic hit, ranged from 3.9 to 4.1 percent. Hong Kong, however, has been combating a brain drain amid a wave of emigration in recent years, leading the government to launch a talent recruitment drive. Academics also warned that the situation could be short-lived as the rest of the bay area still had considerable development potential, unlike Hong Kong which was already a developed economy. **ATO Notes:** Hong Kong's per capita income is still one of the highest in the region. However, as a point of reference, according to the most recent household expenditure survey (2019/2020), housing accounted for 39 percent of monthly expenditures. Dining out and takeaway food accounted for 17 percent while food "other than dining out or takeaway" accounted for 10 percent.

Group Expects Macau's Third Quarter GDP to Soar 130 Percent Year-on-Year [[Macau Daily Times](#), Oct. 16]

The Macau Economic Association (MEA) said that the city's third quarter may rise 130 percent considering the extraordinarily weak economic performance in the third quarter of 2022. The series of festive events in the last three months of the year, which traditionally generate economic vibrancy and vitality, will improve optimism. Although the city's economy is recovering more quickly, there are internal and external factors that might affect growth. Many small and family-owned businesses have experienced even tougher conditions than in the past three years. Macau's casino gaming revenue

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growth slowed in September, falling to a five-month low as revenues fell slightly to \$1.9 billion. **ATO Notes:** The expected increase in Macau's third quarter GDP is flattered by comparison to poor pandemic lockdown influenced conditions in 2022. The fall in gaming revenue this September is attributed to the brief suspension in casino operations caused by Typhoon Signal No.9 at the start of the month.

Tourism Arrival Drops in September, Yet at 35 Percent Pre-Covid Level; Macau on Trace to Hit Another Post Pandemic High [[Macau Daily Times, Oct. 25](#); [Macau Daily Times, Oct. 25](#)]

Visitor arrivals in September dropped 29 percent month-on-month to 2.3 million, following a post-pandemic record-breaking figure in August due to the summer holidays. The figure, however, soared to 313 percent when compared to the same period last year, according to data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). Recovery is still underway as September figures were 83 percent of visitor figures in September 2019. Forecasting a consolidated gross gaming revenue of between \$2 billion in October, JP Morgan analysts DS Kim, Mufan Shi and Selina Li said that gaming revenues had normalized back to \$74 million per day, up by 20 percent week-on-week. This comes as the sector experienced a post-Golden Week slowdown, following the eight-day holiday where the city saw over 900,000 visitors. The Golden Week of the National Day holidays, which is followed the Mid-Autumn Festival holiday, has resulted in a greater number of visitors to Macau than initially forecasted. The holiday period posted a 16 percent increase on expectations stated by Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) officials. **ATO Notes:** Despite a recorded decline in gaming revenue in September, improvement compared to last year is significant. While visitor numbers have slowed with the end of the holiday season, revenues have reportedly already met 68 percent of 2019 pre-Covid levels.



HOTELS, RESTAURANTS, AND INSTITUTIONS

Hong Kong to Delay First Phase of Ban on Plastic Tableware at Restaurants, as Activists Lament Official 'Habitual Procrastination' [[SCMP, Oct. 13](#)]

This March, the government introduced a bill calling for a two-phase ban based on suggestions made by environmental affairs advisers. Phase one will include a ban on the sale and distribution of disposable plastic tableware, such as expanded polystyrene containers, straws, stirrers, and cutlery, as well as objects that have non-plastic alternatives, such as cotton buds, umbrella covers and glow sticks. Hotels and guest houses will also be barred from providing disposable toiletries and in-room plastic-bottled water for free after the first phase takes effect. Phase two will outlaw the sale and distribution of plastic food receptacles, as well as the free distribution of items such as plastic-stemmed dental floss and earplugs. Hong Kong environmental authorities have said they will postpone the said ban with rollout now scheduled for the second quarter of 2024. Leading green groups to express disappointment over the government's "habitual" procrastination. **ATO Notes:** After introducing the glass and plastic "Producer Responsibility Scheme" in Hong Kong, the government continues to roll out sustainability measures.

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Typically, Hong Kong consumers value environmentally friendly products and practices. In addition, since the pandemic, it is no longer unusual for consumers to bring their own cutlery to school or workplace. In addition, food delivery platforms tend to charge hefty fees for plastic cutlery.

Some Caterers Halt Normal Business to Support Fair Exposure [[Macau Daily Times](#), Oct. 20]

Several local caterers will suspend business to display products at food expos or fairs, local media has reported. Many local eateries have struggled since the lifting of disease control measures due to their locations in traditional residential areas. People have traveled from these areas out of Macau without a comparable number of tourists entering Macau, the representative of a regional realty agency has noted. Fung Kin Fu, deputy executive director of the United Association of Food and Beverage Merchants of Macau, echoed this opinion and added that business in the upcoming two months will generally be busier. Some caterers in traditional districts will participate in expos and display their products, departing from the usual practice of posting on social media, Fung told Macau Daily News. He said the number of caterers registering for recent expos and fairs has outnumbered the quotas provided by respective organizers. To attend these expos and fairs, such as the upcoming Food Festival, these caterers will suspend business operations to focus on the special events. Their shops will provide backing services to the operations at expos and fairs. Fung also said that most caterers would earn several times more revenue at the annual Food Festival than they would have via standard shop operations period-over-period. **ATO Notes:** Macau caterers found better business returns at food expos than a regular operation at traditional business locations. With the Governments push in conferences and international exhibition events, not only tourists but business travelers are expected to gather in Macau.

Sands Resorts Macau Participates in Tourism Roadshow in Malaysia [[Macau Daily Times](#), Oct. 16]

Sands Resorts Macau participated in the ‘Experience Macao Unlimited’ Mega Roadshow, which took place from October 12-15 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The resort highlighted its Michelin-starred and award-winning restaurants, accommodation, duty-free shopping, MICE facilities, and leisure and entertainment options. Through various avenues, the entity aims to raise Macau’s profile as a leading travel destination and support the government initiatives to diversify visitor source markets. **ATO Notes:** Macau public and private sectors continue to promote initiatives in expanding its tourism economy. Instead of focusing on its gaming businesses, Sands presented Malaysia with a new portfolio in hosting major events, shopping, and restaurant products. Currently, Sands has 5 establishments in Macau and the newly offered hotels, The Parisian and The Londoner are promoting leisure and entertainment rather than casino and gaming.

Macau International Trade & Investment Fair Return with Inaugural China-Lusophone Expo [[Macau Daily Times](#), Oct. 13]

Organized by the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), the Macau International Trade & Investment Fair (MIF) will return for the 28th time between Oct. 19 and 22 to the Venetian Macau. This year’s theme is “More than Business.” With Shandong Province as this year’s partner province and the local government’s aim to diversify the economy, the expo will feature multiple “sub-exhibitions” focusing on key industries such as the big health industry, modern financial services, high technology and conferences and exhibitions combined with commerce and trade. During the same period, International and regional chains will present in Macau to attract franchisees at the Macau

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Franchise Expo 2023 (MFE2023). The IPIM said a local beer brewery managed to make deals with a mainland food chain in last year's expo, signaling the brand's expanded presentation across China. **ATO Notes:** Macau is holding multiple international trade events in effort to diversify its economy.



RETAIL

Shorter Night Vibes to Enliven Temple Street [[The Standard](#), Oct. 16]

A series of Night Vibes Hong Kong events will be launched at Temple Street Night Market next month. The campaign aims to promote the nighttime economy and is expected to last until next spring. The government will hold a series of special nighttime events offering consumer incentives. Some tourist spots will also extend hours. Some stated that chances of the number of visitors to Hong Kong returning to pre-pandemic levels by the end of the year are slim. As of September, according to a tv interview, visitors reached 23 million and are estimated to reach at least 30 million by the end of the year, still below pre-pandemic figures. **ATO Notes:** Temple Street offers unique flavors, such as local food, traditional souvenirs, and a glimpse at cultural traditions like fortune-telling. With the HKG support in rejuvenating the location, the city hopes to revive the once special tourism spot in Hong Kong.

200K Visitors Set to Tap into \$13 Million Food-Carnival Delights [[The Standard](#), Oct. 25]

The Hong Kong Food Carnival, organized by the Chinese Manufacturer's Association of Hong Kong, expected to see 200,000 visitors and an estimated \$13 million in sales during nine days. The carnival will extend its opening hours by one hour - running from 11am to 9pm - to support the Hong Kong government's initiative to stimulate the night-time economy. With only a \$0.64 entrance fee and free entry after 7pm, visitors can explore over 300 outdoor stalls. The carnival is set to feature four major themed zones - healthy preserving food zone, leisure food zone, catering equipment zone and yummy food zone - and will return after a four-year hiatus, offering citizens and tourists a chance to indulge in over one hundred varieties of local and international cuisines. Meanwhile, during the recent Chung Yeung Festival holiday, the number of people leaving Hong Kong reached a new high at 881,000 on Saturday and Sunday. However, the president of the CMA, Allen Shi Lop-tak, expressed great confidence in retaining local consumption. "The Hong Kong government's night bazaars mainly focused on Hong Kong and Kowloon areas, while this carnival is held in the New Territories, which is believed to have a strong market," added CMA vice president Ivan Sze Wing-hang. **ATO Notes:** Hong Kong will offer another food event in October to promote good food and night vibes in the city. With minimal entrance free, visitors can get a taste on local and international dishes with attractive discounts. As previously reported, Hong Kong's food service sector and other businesses are looking for new gimmicks to lure residents to stay in the city instead of crossing the border to mainland and spending in now popular cities like Shenzhen.

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TRADE

California Vinters Tour Returns to Hong Kong [ATO Hong Kong, Oct. 20]

The celebrated Vintners Tour organized by the California Wine Institute returned to Hong Kong and the Asia-Pacific region after a multi-year hiatus during the pandemic with numerous California wineries making their first visit to the market since 2019. Around 150 local wine professionals joined the sessions in Hong Kong on October 20 featuring over 25 wineries, and a deep dive Master Class in California Pinot Noirs. In 2022, the United States was the fifth largest supplier to Hong Kong's \$1 billion dollar wine market, the city was the fifth largest export destination for U.S. wine.



Hong Kong Suspends Imports of Poultry Meat and Products from Meeker County, State of Minnesota and Sanpete County, State of Utah [[HKSAR Press Release](#), Oct. 16]

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced the suspension of imports from Meeker County of the State of Minnesota and Sanpete County of the State of Utah in the United States, in view of a notification from the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza (AI) in those areas. **ATO Notes:** As of this report, a total of 15 U.S. counties in six states are currently banned from exporting poultry meat and products to Hong Kong due to AI. However, the reinstatement of imports from various other U.S. counties spurred the value of U.S. poultry exports to the city to recover significantly, reaching \$56 million in the first eight months of 2023 and already exceeding the total value of exports in 2022. Conversely, the situation for U.S. eggs exports has not improved, during the same period, U.S. egg exports declined 67 percent compared to last year. Importers who turned to other suppliers as a result of higher U.S. prices last year have not returned to procure U.S. eggs despite improvements in price.

Hong Kong Suspends Imports of Poultry Meat and Products from Areas in Russia and Canada [[HKSAR - Press Release](#), Oct. 17]

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced the suspension of imports in view of WOAH notifications about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza (AI) in Komi Republic in Russia and Rural Municipality of Maple Creek No. 111 of Saskatchewan Province in Canada. A CFS spokesman said that Hong Kong has currently established a protocol with Russia for the import of poultry meat but not for eggs. **ATO Notes:** Canada and Russia

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are not top suppliers of poultry products to Hong Kong. In the first nine months of 2023, Hong Kong imported \$529,000 worth of Canadian poultry products and \$310,000 from Russia.

Scallops and Seaweed Imported from Japan Suspected of Breaching Food Safety Order [[The Standard](#), Oct. 16]

A pack of chilled scallops and two seaweed products imported from regulated prefectures in Japan have been marked and sealed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) after the importer was suspected of breaching the food safety order. The scallops harvested and manufactured in Miyagi Prefecture, and two seaweed products processed in Tokyo and Ibaraki were found during the food label inspection by the Centre for Food Safety (CFS). **ATO Notes:** The Hong Kong government continues to closely monitor shipments from Japan. This month, only a small portion of scallops and seaweed products have come into the city. Traditionally, Hong Kong has been a large importer of these Japanese goods. In 2022, Hong Kong imports of Japanese scallops were valued at \$127 million, growing 40 percent in the first nine months of 2023. However, imports from Japan are expected to temporarily contract in the coming due to these new regulations.

Hong Kong Adds Two Shark Families on Controlled Trade List [[The Standard](#), Oct. 13]

Hong Kong added two major shark families to a list of endangered animals whose trade in the city will be tightly controlled under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) regulations. Hong Kong is one of the world's largest markets for shark fin, which is viewed by many Chinese communities as a delicacy and often served as a soup at expensive banquets. Its trade is regulated under an international treaty on endangered species that requires export permits proving it was sustainably captured. The treaty's governing body approved in November a plan to include the requiem shark and the hammerhead shark families on their list, which includes more than 50 species. Marine experts in Hong Kong say that most of shark fins consumed in the city are blue sharks, which are part of the requiem family. **ATO Notes:** Hong Kong used to be a heavy consumer of shark fins, but due to increased consumer awareness to protect ecosystems, domestic consumption has shrunk. However, according to trade statistics, shark fins headed for mainland China and Southeast Asia still transit through Hong Kong. In 2022, Hong Kong global imports of shark fins were valued at \$79 million, Indonesia and Mexico are its top traders. Hong Kong exported \$5 million worth of shark fins to Macau and \$8 million to China. So far in 2023, the value of Hong Kong exports to Macau has increased almost six-fold to \$28 million. The surge is likely an indicator of increased demand fueled by Macau's economic recovery.

Consumer Watchdog Finds Heavy Metal Cadmium in all 29 Chocolate Samples Tested [[The Standard](#), Oct. 16]

A Consumer Council test has found the presence of heavy metal cadmium in all 29 chocolate samples available in the Hong Kong market. The watchdog warned that prolonged intake of foods of high cadmium content might pose risks to kidney functions. The Council added it has referred one sample with cadmium levels exceeding the European Union limit to the Centre for Food Safety. However, all samples did not exceed the maximum permitted levels set out in the Chinese national standard in foods, according to the watchdog. **ATO Notes:** From the sampled chocolate, an Italian brand was found

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exceeding permitted regulating cadmium levels. No U.S. samples were found with issues in the above research.

Soy Milk Contains Highest Average Protein Among 5 Types of Plant-based Milk [[The Standard](#), Oct. 17]

Soy milk was found to have the highest average protein among five types of plant-based milk samples tested by the consumer watchdog. The Consumer Council evaluated 39 samples collected from five types of prepackaged plant milk, with only the soymilk samples having a higher average protein content than other plant milk varieties. The Consumer Council reminded the public that even though 40 percent of the samples matched the definition of high calcium, consumers were advised to choose plant milk products with additional calcium and vitamins and ensure they get adequate nutrients from other dietary sources. **ATO Notes:** Hong Kong consumers are looking for healthier food options, plant-based dishes, and products, in particular, are becoming increasingly popular.

Hong Kong Customs Conducts Enforcement Action Against Trader Suspected of Supplying Fish Oil Soft Gel Capsules with False Trade Descriptions [[HKSAR - Press Release](#), Oct. 19]

Hong Kong Customs arrested a male sales manager of a wholesaler suspected of supplying fish oil soft gel capsules with false trade descriptions, in contravention of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (TDO). Acting on information provided by a relevant organization, Customs earlier test-purchased at a retailer two models of fish oil soft gel capsules which were suspected of carrying false trade descriptions. Customs officers later sent samples to the Government Laboratory for examination. The analysis results showed that the DHA and EPA contents of the two products were 30 percent to 86 percent less than the claimed value.

Hong Kong Customs Seizes Suspected Counterfeit Goods and Duty-not-paid Liquor Worth about \$1.4 Million [[HKSAR - Press Release](#), Oct. 17]

Hong Kong Customs on October 4 seized about 8,400 suspected counterfeit goods and about 260 liters of suspected duty-not-paid liquor at the Tuen Mun River Trade Terminal Customs Cargo Examination Compound. The total estimated market value was about \$1.4 million. An initial investigation revealed that the batch of suspected duty-not-paid liquor and suspected counterfeit goods would be transhipped to overseas regions. **ATO Notes:** Hong Kong does not impose tariffs on imports of food and beverages except a 100 percent tariff on liquors with alcoholic content of more than 30 percent by volume.

Hong Kong Customs in Joint Operations with Health Authorities Seizes Smuggled Hairy Crabs Worth \$1 Million [[HKSAR - Press Release](#), Oct. 19; [The Standard](#), Oct. 24]

The Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) and the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) mounted joint operations at the Shenzhen Bay Control Point and seized a total of 826 suspected smuggled hairy crabs with a total estimated market value of about \$6,282. In the same week, Customs officers seized a record 48,000 illegally imported hairy crabs worth \$1 million at the Lok Ma Chau border checkpoint. The 48,000 suspected smuggled hairy crabs weighing around 10.8 metric tons were found in a truck, which claimed to be carrying electronic goods. Customs has recently cracked down on 14 cases of smuggling hairy crabs using private vehicles. Customs has been cooperating for a three-month joint operation with the Centre for Food

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Safety conducting land, sea, and air checkpoints since September. As of Sunday, 41 similar cases have been referred to the Centre for Food Safety for follow-up with 18 cases not having health certificates for the batches of hairy crabs involved, totaling 55,800 crabs with a weight of 12.2 metric tons. **ATO**

Notes: As mentioned in previous editions, fall is the peak consumption season for hairy crab consumption in Hong Kong, sourced primarily from mainland China and Japan. However, imports from Japan are unlikely following the city's ban on Japanese seafood. According to other news sources, this year, Hong Kong has also developed a local farm production of hairy crabs. That said, limited land and climate constraints render farming operations very expensive and result in high priced locally produced hairy crabs.

One Arrested for Suspected Smuggling of 194 kg of Lobsters [The Standard, Oct. 23]

About 194 kilograms of live lobsters worth about \$30,770 were seized as Customs mounted an anti-smuggling operation at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Hong Kong Port. Officers intercepted an outbound seven-seater, which was claimed to have nothing to declare at the mega bridge's Hong Kong Port. However, ten boxes of unmanifested live lobsters were found in the car's mid-row passenger seats and boot. **ATO Notes:** In 2022, Australia, Thailand and the United States were the three largest suppliers of lobster to Hong Kong, accounting for a combined import value of \$41.2 million. In the first eight months of 2023, the city's imports of U.S. lobster dropped 32 percent in favor of Australian and Canadian lobster.

Hungry for more information about the Hong Kong and Macau markets?

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