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Report Highlights:

Bite size local news, Post reports and activity summaries wrapped by ATO Hong Kong. In this issue: ATO Brings Renaissance of American Spirits to Hong Kong's Vibrant Cocktail Scene; Hong Kong Corporate Governance Tumbles to Decades Low; "Fly-Via-Zhuhai-HK" Passenger Transfer Service to Start on Tuesday; Uneven Recovery Still Problematic in Macau; Government Reiterates Economic Benefits of Close Ties with Mainland; Economy Secretary Confident in Tourist Arrival Reaching 28 Million; MTR Steps Up Efforts to Go Plastic-free; Hong Kong's Homegrown Spirits Industry Is Seeking a Second Act; Galaxy to Add Another Hotel in Newly Inaugurated Phase 3; Chef Maxime Michelot Dazzles Local Bakers with U.S. Tart Cherries; Hong Kong to Cull 900 Pigs Amid Outbreak of Deadly Swine Fever; Hong Kong Suspends Imports of Poultry Meat and Products from 16 Counties in the United States and from Areas in UK, Poland, Hungary, Denmark, Italy, Canada and Lithuania.

ATO Brings “The Renaissance of American Spirits” To Hong Kong’s Vibrant Cocktail Scene



Cocktail Creations Featured at the Renaissance of American Spirits Mixology Event

In 2023, Hong Kong’s dynamic bar scene contributed eight award winning establishments to Asia’s 50 Best Bars. Leveraging this vibrant atmosphere, this year, ATO Hong Kong set up to bring U.S. distilled spirits to the forefront of Hong Kong’s top bartenders and hospitality sector. Partnering with Tasting Kitchen, a regional epicurian lifestyle publication, ATO reached out to the U.S. Distilled Spirits Council to collaborate in a series of unique promotional activities. A feature story highlighting the *Renaissance of American Spirits*, including interviews with U.S. distillers, was published this November. In addition to Hong Kong and Macau, this story is set to reach an audience of 500,000 affluent readers in Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and Chengdu. The article is available in [English](#), [Simplified](#), and [Traditional](#) Chinese.



To showcase the wide range of U.S. spirits, in late November, ATO Hong Kong, accompanied by U.S. Consul General Greg May, hosted a mixology event celebrating the *Renaissance of American Spirits*. Around 30 industry professionals, a combination of top bartenders, restaurant and bar managers, beverage directors, and industry influencers attended the event and enjoyed live mixing demonstrations featuring six cocktail recipes designed by two top mixologists. Accompanying the U.S. cocktail tasting, a selection of six canapés made with U.S. sustainable ingredients provided a platform to showcase mussels from Washington State, Cornish hens from Arkansas, potatoes from Idaho, sweet potatoes from North Carolina, and pecans from California. In collaboration with the U.S. Dairy Export Council, guests were also introduced to a variety of U.S. artisan cheeses. Catch event highlights on [our LinkedIn page](#).

In recent years, U.S. exports of distilled spirits to Hong Kong have been one of the best performing U.S. export categories. Last year, the United States was the fifth largest supplier to the city’s \$502 million distilled spirits market. In the first ten months of 2023, U.S. spirits exports to Hong Kong leaped 72 percent to \$4.1 million year-on-year and already doubled the total value of sales in 2022.

**Hong Kong Corporate Governance Tumbles to Decades Low [[The Standard](#), Dec. 15]**

Hong Kong's corporate governance ranking in Asia tumbled to the lowest level in decades, falling behind those of Japan and Singapore, amid concerns about the deterioration of minority shareholder rights and the independence of the judiciary in the city, according to a research report. The financial hub dropped to sixth place this year from second, according to the Asian Corporate Governance Association's CG Watch rankings. It's the first time Hong Kong dropped out of the top three spots in the rankings since they began in 2003. The report marks the latest setback to Hong Kong's efforts to revive its image as the region's premier international finance center. Banks have been eliminating jobs in the city amid a slump in deals, while the city's benchmark Hang Seng Index is one of the worst performers among major bourses this year. Hong Kong's introduction of a Beijing-led national security law and its crackdown on political activists has also eroded perceptions about the strength of its institutions and the free flow of information in the city. **ATO Notes:** Meanwhile, Australia, ranked No. 1 since 2016. Japan jumped to No. 2 for the first time due to its "strong" government reforms and efforts by the local stock exchange to improve governance. Singapore came third, tied with Taiwan, followed by Malaysia.

"Fly-Via-Zhuhai-HK" Passenger Transfer Service to Start on Tuesday [[The Standard](#), Dec. 10]

China announced the "Fly-Via-Zhuhai-HK" passenger transfer service, which streamlined customs procedures for the Zhuhai Airport and Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) travelers. The seamless passenger link service will allow mainland passengers arriving from the Zhuhai Airport to reach worldwide destinations via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB) and HKIA without undergoing immigration clearance in Hong Kong. At the same time, HKIA's international passengers can also travel to mainland cities via Zhuhai Airport. **ATO Notes:** After the opening of HZMB in October 2023, an average of 69,000 people a day passed through the mega bridge's Hong Kong checkpoint. The seamless passenger link service is expected to add efficiency and reduce waiting time on immigration clearances.

Uneven Recovery Still Problematic in Macau [[Macau Daily Times](#), Dec. 18]

The uneven recovery of the city's economy remains a problem, the Macau Economic Association (MEA) has noted. The group said that although tourism districts, hotels and resorts saw an influx of customers resulting in packed shops and restaurants after travel resumed earlier this year, more traditional residential areas are not benefitting to the same extent. The group said community businesses are facing challenges because locals are shopping across the border and tourists are not visiting these districts. Moreover, tourists' consumption habits have changed. They are now seeking better products or services rather than merely looking at price tags. The group has suggested local businesses acknowledge a shift in the market and make appropriate changes to survive. **ATO Notes:** Macau seems to have a better recovery than Hong Kong, but so far, the benefits of the recovery have reportedly not reached other sectors beyond tourism. As traditional districts are struggling to survive, they report similar observations as in Hong Kong's food service and hospitality sectors: tourists' consumption habits are changing while locals have shifted their spending to mainland.

Fitch Raises The Bar And Forecasts \$29.6 Billion GGR for Next Year [[Macau Daily Times](#), Dec. 8] Fitch Ratings has forecast Macau’s gaming industry to reach some \$29.6 billion in revenue, according to the American credit rating agency’s Global Gaming Outlook 2024 report. In the report, the agency said it expects local gaming revenue to recover in 2024 to 79 percent of the level seen back in 2019 (pre-pandemic). **ATO Notes:** According to figures from the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) the casino revenues may total \$37.5 billion in 2023.

Government Reiterates Economic Benefits of Close Ties with Mainland [[Macau Daily Times](#), Dec. 8]

“Moody’s Investors Service” (Moody’s) announced that it will maintain the long-term issuer credit rating assigned to the Macau Special Administrative Region at “Aa3.” According to Moody’s rating definition, the “Aa3” rating is the fourth highest level, meaning the risk of default is very low. In response to an unfavorable economic rating, the local government reiterated the potential benefits of positioning the city in step with national policies. At a time when the global economy is facing complex challenges and multiple uncertainties, mainland China’s economy still grew 5.2 percent in real terms in the first three quarters of 2023, which will have a positive impact on Macau’s external demand. **ATO Notes:** In addition to Macau, Hong Kong’s credit rating has also been downgraded from “stable” to “negative” in their recent reports. Both the Hong Kong and Macau Government disagreed with the new grading. As stated by the institution, economic and political conditions are considered when evaluating a location’s grading.

Economy Secretary Confident in Tourist Arrival Reaching 28 Million [[Macau Daily Times](#), Dec. 11]

The Secretary for Economy and Finance is confident that Macau will see 28 million tourists by the end of the year, given there have been over 25 million tourists in the first 11 months of the year. He said that the proportion of non-Greater China visitors to Macau had grown from 10 percent in January to 70 percent in October, suggesting that strategies employed by the government had been effective. The official believes the numbers show the city’s recovery is going well, with an increase in tourist expenditures. He expressed hopes for a continuation of this upwards trajectory in the coming year. In his recent “Policy Address,” he announced that a total sum of \$30 million has been reserved to attract international visitors. **ATO Notes:** Supported by the high level of tourists coming to the city, Macau’s GDP grew 116 percent during the third quarter of 2023.



Hong Kong’s Revamped Temple Street Night Market Boosts Businesses and Footfall, Most Visitors Are Locals, Sector Leader Says [[SCMP](#), Dec. 18; [SCMP](#), Dec. 15]

The newly revamped night market at Hong Kong’s Temple Street has helped drum up businesses and boost footfall at the Jordan attraction, though most of those visiting are locals. Hundreds of people flocked to the long-awaited Temple Street night market in Kowloon that opened on Friday to enjoy a range of local delicacies sold at more than 30 stalls. The night bazaar, which runs from 2 pm to 11 pm each day, is initially set to last for six months, with authorities planning to conduct a review on footfall and visitor reactions afterwards to determine next steps. The overhauled market, running from Jordan Road to Yau Ma Tei’s Tin Hau Temple Complex, includes 10 stalls with popular local delicacies such as dim sum, beef offal stew, fish balls, imitation shark’s fin soup and “fried three stuffed treasures” – a colorful vegetable snack filled with fish paste. **ATO Notes:** As part of the Night Vibes Hong Kong campaign, local food stalls actively joined efforts to infuse new life into the territory’s after-hours economy. The night market will provide hot food including traditional Hong Kong styled street snacks. It is understood that many of the stalls will be run by restaurants on Temple Street, while the rest will be operated by establishments from neighboring streets.

MGM Joins Hands With Robb Report Hong Kong To Launch The First-Ever ‘Best Of The Best’ Awards Gala Dinner In Macau [[Macau Daily Times](#), Dec. 19]

Building upon the successful collaboration between MGM and Robb Report Hong Kong for Asia’s inaugural RR1 Culinary Masters Macau, held in August of this year, MGM and Robb Report Hong Kong joined hands once again on December 16 to bring the Best of the Best 2024 awards event for the first time to Macau. This is an internationally acclaimed award which was launched 35 years ago in the United States, celebrating luxury experiences and products that showcase exquisite craftsmanship. **ATO Notes:** This event will not only recognize outstanding industry pioneers but is also intended to serve as a good platform to highlight fine dining, wine, and spirits.

\$2.6 Million Night Treat for Residents [[The Standard](#), Dec. 13]

The Hong Kong Tourism Board will be distributing a total of 200,000 sets of Hong Kong Night Treats dining coupons to residents, in a bid to spur local consumption during the holidays. Each coupon is worth \$12.80 and residents will be able to enjoy a discount upon spending \$12.8 or more on dine-in services after 6 pm at over 1,100 establishments approved by the Quality Tourism Services, as well as roughly 100 bars. According to the board, the local version of the ‘Hong Kong Night Treats’ coupons will be distributed in two batches, with 100,000 vouchers available on December 20 and another 100,000 vouchers on January 10, 2023. **ATO Notes:** The Hong Kong Tourism Board has secured funding to promote the revival of Hong Kong’s night life. The coupon covers only around 10 percent of establishments that have food business licenses in Hong Kong. According to 2022 statistics, there were 12,630 licensed restaurants and 9,200 liqueur licenses in Hong Kong. Post has heard anecdotal concerns from vendors that a lot of Hongkongers are planning to be away from the city during the holidays, with

some restaurateurs less optimistic that the expected uptick in holiday spending will materialize. That said, some contacts report that overseas Hongkongers are looking to return to spend Christmas with family for the first time in three years which they hope will help balance holiday sales.

Enjoy Your Disposable Plastic-free Takeaway as MTR Steps Up Efforts to Go Plastic-free Across Its Entire Network [[The Standard](#), Dec. 13]

MTR Corporation has joined forces with eateries and shops to reduce plastic use and has installed Hong Kong's first reusable self-service food container lending machine at MTR Hong Kong Station so that customers can also say "no" to disposable lunch boxes. Nearly 99 percent of over 280 takeaway food and beverage outlets in the MTR network have signed the Environmental Protection Pledge, which promises to refrain from providing disposable utensils and avoid the use of polystyrene. Eateries at MTR Malls are also invited to join the plastic reduction initiative and practice waste reduction at the source by signing the Environmental Protection Pledge. In addition, green clauses are introduced to MTR's tenancy agreements to make concerted efforts to support environmental protection. **ATO Notes:** Hong Kong is pushing out different policies on environmental protection. In 2022, the city already eliminated the excess use of plastic bags. Moving forward, the city is working to exercise a waste tax scheme in April 2024, which will require residents to pay \$0.11 for each liter of garbage they throw away.

Hong Kong's Homegrown Spirits Industry Is Seeking a Second Act [[The Standard](#), Dec. 15]

Hong Kong's glitzy skyscrapers and narrow streets offer an array of some 1,300 bars slinging spirits from around the world. However, one exception remains, local Cantonese liquor has been overlooked for decades. Kinsman aims to change that with cocktails that focus on traditional tipples such as Papaya wine, snake wine and Yuk Bing Siu, a pork fat-washed rice spirit. Now in soft opening, it marks the strongest move yet in the nascent revival of Hong Kong's once-vibrant homegrown spirits' culture. By prioritizing Cantonese and Chinese spirits over Western ones, Yeung courted challenges such as supply, a lack of preexisting drink recipes to draw inspiration from and a lack of funding for brand sponsorship (often key to new bars). Educating customers on Cantonese spirits will be key. Each cocktail will be served alongside a tasting glass of the liquor used in their cocktail. **ATO Notes:** This restaurant in Hong Kong is striving to make a presence in the bar industry with the adaptation of local liquor. Their experience highlights useful information about local bar owners' expectations on spirits suppliers: maintaining a consistent supply is important, as well as investing consistently in marketing a brand.

Galaxy to Add Another Hotel in Newly Inaugurated Phase 3 [[Macau Daily Times](#), Dec. 14]

A new hotel that caters to a boutique clientele will open at the Galaxy Resort in Cotai. The casino operator officially launched the resort's third phase. The project includes a convention center, multi-purpose arena and two hotels: Andaz Macau and Raffles at Galaxy Macau. While the fourth phase of the resort is planned to be a resort-in-resort, featuring multiple high-end hotel brands, extensive food, and beverage as well as retail outlets, non-gaming amenities, landscaping, and a water resort deck, alongside a 4,000-seat international music and performing arts theater to invigorate the local arts and culture scene. **ATO Notes:** Major hotels brands have been opening new establishments in Macau and for Galaxy, their phase three and four included plans for additional hotel rooms, restaurants, and retail outlets. Conversely, investment on gaming elements is minimal which signals the city's ongoing intention to move away from expanding its gaming industry and diversifying its economy.

Hotels and Students Boosting LRT Operations [[Macau Daily Times](#), Dec. 12]

The hospitality industry and students from several institutions in Taipa are contributing to the boosting of operations of the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) system, particularly with the recent opening of the Barra station. An investigation by the Times on the Taipa Line of the LRT found that many of the people filling the train cars since last Friday are tourists. Some tourists had been advised by local hotels to use the LRT for commuting and visiting various local landmarks. According to a staff member from the LRT company, since the opening of the Barra Station (December 8) the number of passengers using the system has increased significantly and maybe doubled. **ATO Notes:** The city has established a public-private-academia collaboration to promote the use of the LRT system. It is known that the LRT system has not been greatly used since its opening. The system has limited stations and coverage; in addition, public awareness or promotion about the LRT system has not been prominent. Hotels are now joining this collaboration as another way to offer an additional amenity to their guests.

MGM Cotai Announces Exclusive, One Night Only Performance By Award-winning Superstar Bruno Mars in January [[Macau Daily Times](#), Dec. 9]

On the heels of his sold-out shows at MGM Resorts' Dolby Live theater in Las Vegas, MGM Resorts is bringing award-winning superstar Bruno Mars to partner property MGM COTAI in Macau. Named as the "World Center of Tourism and Leisure," Macau has lived up to its reputation with its non-gaming and overseas-marketing investments, and entertainment being one of the city's key initiatives to attract international travelers. MGM prides itself on being at the forefront of its multi-faceted non-gaming investments and it has kept elevating Macau's increasingly international reputation as the destination for mega-events by surprising local and global audiences with impeccable entertainment line-ups. **ATO Notes:** A great deal of effort in both Macau and Hong Kong are underway to increase big ticket events continuing to compete with other countries in the region. Recently, after singer Taylor Swift announced five concert dates in Singapore, local media picked up on local business and fan disappointment at the artists' choice of venue over Hong Kong or Macau, with some calling on the Tourism Bureau to increase efforts to attract big acts away from competing neighbors.



RETAIL

Sino Group Answers Government's Call to Boost Economy with Christmas Market [[The Standard](#), Dec. 8]

In response to the Hong Kong government's efforts to revive the local economy, Sino Group will host the inaugural "Christmas Car Boot Market." The market will take place each weekend in December as well as over the Christmas holiday. Not only does it hope to uplift Hong Kong's economy, but it also aims to support local artisans and small businesses. By providing a platform for sellers to offer their sustainable and eco-conscious products, the market cultivates a lively and festive spirit for the community to experience this celebratory season. Drawing inspiration from similar UK-style markets, the "Christmas Car Boot Market" will feature clusters of vehicle owners showcasing a variety of goods from their car trunks. Across 11 action-packed days, vehicle owners will showcase artisan crafts, pre-

loved fashion, food items and more directly from their vehicles, while taking in the gorgeous Victoria Harbor views and festive atmosphere. Shoppers can also enjoy live music performances on-site. Additionally, weekend visitors can enjoy the spectacular fireworks displays erupting over the water in the evenings. **ATO Notes:** This is an editorial describing the kind of tourist promotion Hong Kong is trying to offer residents and visitors. By recreating thematic scene from different places, the event aims to bring together cultural, musical, festive, and shopping experiences to draw crowds and boost consumer spending.

Enjoy Numerous Offers as New Mall THE SOUTHSIDE Opens Its First Phase Right Next to Wong Chuk Hang MTR Station [[The Standard](#), Dec. 12]

The brand-new retail and dining landmark of MTR Corporation, THE SOUTHSIDE, has a 510,000-square-foot total floor area. The mall offers a variety of dining options, household supplies, and retail stores to fulfill the daily needs of the local community. The first group of 30 merchants - centralizing on one of the mall's five retail floors and covering approximately 20 percent of the total floor area - have opened. **ATO Notes:** After the opening of new mall in Taiwai, New Territories in July; and Airside, Kowloon in September; Hong Kong is going to open another mall in Hong Kong Island this Christmas. These new establishments highlight the city's efforts to revive itself as "a shopping paradise," as it once was pre-pandemic. It will be interesting to see whether product offerings at these malls will adapt to new shopping patterns as these have changed since the re-opening of the borders (less luxury purchases in favor of more practical or more experience-based purchases).

Sands China Successfully Concludes 'Quality Retail Service' Seminar Series [[Macau Daily Times](#), Dec. 8]

Sands China recently wrapped up the successful Quality Retail Service seminar series, attracting over 430 participants to enhance their knowledge of the retail industry and improve customers' shopping experiences in Macau. Co-organized by Sands China, MGTO, and the Macau Consumer Council, the seminar series targeted retail and tourism industry practitioners in Macau, merchants of the Quality Tourism Services Accreditation Scheme, and Certified Shops and Adherents. Each seminar at The Londoner Macau or The Venetian Macau covered a specific theme: integrity of service, successful selling, quality affirmation, or complaint resolution. **ATO Notes:** This conference event held in Macau is considered one of its kind, especially as it pertains to training retail practitioners to improve quality of service. As captioned in previous news, consumer trends have evolved and visitors are not only looking for favorable prices, but service, quality, and more thematic dining and shopping experiences. Hongkongers traveling to mainland to dine and shop comment that the quality of service and product offerings in mainland cities like Shenzhen are now competing with those in Hong Kong and Macau. Hence, this conference is part of many efforts to lure back residents to spend at home.



Chef Maxime Michelot Dazzles Local Bakers with U.S. Tart Cherries [ATO Hong Kong Dec. 6]

On December 6, the Cherry Marketing Institute organized a U.S. Tart Cherry Bakery Workshop in Hong Kong. The training featured three pastry recipes introduced by famous pastry Chef Maxime Michelot. The workshop enabled around 25 bakery chefs from different restaurants, bakery chain stores, and bakery online shops

to learn more about U.S. Tart Cherry products and their versatility in bakery applications. **ATO Notes:** With a health-conscious population, Hong Kong is one of the top Asian markets that appreciates high value/premium food products. In 2022, the United States was the second largest supplier to Hong Kong's \$167 million processed fruit market. As the city has a rooted afternoon-tea culture, Hongkongers are increasingly interested in healthier bakery products with multiple health benefits.



Dongjiang Water-supply Agreement Set To Be Renewed [[The Standard](#), Dec. 11]

The current supply agreement, which was signed in 2020, will expire at the end of this year, and the Development Bureau has started negotiation with the Guangdong government on the new three-year agreement. The "package deal deductible sum" approach - which was first adopted in 2020 to allow water prices to be deducted according to the actual amount of Dongjiang water supplied - will remain in the new agreement. For example, if the Hong Kong rainwater collection is high and less water from Dongjiang is needed in a year, the approach can avoid wasting superfluous Dongjiang water resources and save water transportation costs. The new supply agreement will also continue retaining an annual ceiling of 820 million cubic meters and maintain an ultimate quantity of 1,100 million cubic meters to better guarantee sufficient water supply to Hong Kong. **ATO Notes:** Dongjiang water supply accounts for more than 70 percent of the city's yearly fresh water supply. It is one of the three tributaries of the Pearl River, flowing from northeast to southwest in Guangdong province. As of 2020, Hong Kong has signed a total of 12 Dongjiang water supply agreements with the Guangdong government since the first signing in 1960.

All 30 Chinese Sausage Samples High in Sodium, Over 80 Percent High in Fat [[The Standard](#), Dec. 14]

The Consumer Council found all 30 tested samples of Chinese preserved sausage to have high sodium levels, and over 80 percent of the samples were high in sugar. Based on per 100g samples, 29 Chinese sausage samples were high in fat with a total fat content ranging between 21.7g to 47g, including eight samples labeled "lean" in the product description. Four of the samples also had differences between their nutrition labels and their actual sugar, fat or sodium content, exceeding the council's tolerance limit.

ATO Notes: Six non-prepackaged samples were also detected with coloring matter not permitted for use

in food in Hong Kong, including one sample containing Red 2G and five with Rhodamine B. Test results showed that the plasticizer dibutyl phthalate (DBP) was detected in two prepackaged samples exceed the Centre for Food Safety's action level of 0.3 mg/kg. Hong Kong consumers are increasingly health conscious and are looking for healthier food choices.

New Law Aimed at Shark Fin Trade to Kick in Friday [[The Standard](#), Dec. 14]

A new law on endangered animal and plant species will take effect on December 15, requiring people to obtain permits to carry regulated items - such as shark fin and Rhodiola root, in and out of Hong Kong. Customs said in a press conference that anyone who has yet to receive a permit and imports or exports goods on the list such as shark fin and roseroot powder is committing an offense and may risk their goods being confiscated. Members of the public were reminded not to carry the restricted goods in and out of the territory when going on holiday. **ATO Notes:** Hong Kong controls the importation of fins from endangered species. Recently, media has reported increasing smuggling cases of shark fin.

Hong Kong to Cull 900 Pigs Amid Outbreak of Deadly Swine Fever [[The Standard](#), Dec. 9]

Hong Kong has ordered the culling of more than 900 pigs after detecting the presence of the deadly African swine fever (ASF) in animals at a licensed farm in the New Territories district. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) said 19 of 30 pigs tested had swine fever and that transportation of pigs from the farm had been immediately suspended. AFCD staff has arranged to inspect the other eight pig farms within three kilometers (two miles) of the index farm and will collect samples for ASF testing. **ATO Notes:** As of this report, Hong Kong has already culled 8,500 pigs because of recent outbreak of ASF. This number is quite substantial for local pig farms as the average production is 300 pigs per month. However, as most of Hong Kong's live pigs (for slaughter) are supplied by mainland China and as long as supplies from mainland are secured, the effect from ASF on live pork production is expected to be minimal. According to local records, the average live pig price remained at \$157 per head.

Hong Kong Suspends Imports of Poultry Meat and Products from 16 Counties in the United States [[HKSAR - Press Release](#), Dec. 11; [HKSAR - Press Release](#), Dec. 18; and [HKSAR - Press Release](#), Dec. 19]

In view of a notification from the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza (AI), the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has suspended imports from Stanislaus County, San Benito County and San Joaquin County, State of California; Barron County, State of Wisconsin; Johnson County, State of Arkansas; Darke County and Hardin County, State of Ohio; Bent County, State of Colorado; Hamlin County and Bon Homme County, State of South Dakota; Montmorency County, State of Michigan; Todd County and Olmsted County, State of Minnesota; Dutchess County, State of New York; and Rice and McPherson County, State of Kansas. **ATO Notes:** As of this report, a total of 67 U.S. counties in 17 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 have spurred the value of U.S. poultry exports to the city to recover significantly, reaching \$81 million in the first ten 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 60 percent compared to last year.

Hong Kong Suspends Imports of Poultry Meat and Products from Areas in UK, Poland, Hungary, Denmark, Italy, Canada and Lithuania [[HKSAR - Press Release, Dec. 11](#); [HKSAR - Press Release, Dec. 14](#); [HKSAR - Press Release, Dec. 15](#); [HKSAR - Press Release, Dec. 18](#); [HKSAR - Press Release, Dec. 19](#); and [HKSAR - Press Release, Dec. 20](#)]

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced that in view of a notification from the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) about outbreaks of the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza it suspended imports from areas in the above listed countries. **ATO Notes:** The affected countries mentioned in this story are not top suppliers to Hong Kong. Last year, Hong Kong's global imports of poultry meat were \$935 million while global imports of eggs and egg products were \$302 million. During the first ten months of 2023, global of imports of these products have increased.

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

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