

# 雪上加霜

*xue3 shang4 jia1 shuang1*

The headline says: “Salt to wounds of tourism industry.” The “wounds” refer to the slackening (減縮) of the local tourism industry and related sectors as fewer mainland visitors are coming.

The “salt” added to the “wounds” is the devaluation (貶值) of the yuan. A weaker yuan means, for our visitors from across the border, goods in Hong Kong are more expensive, even if we do not put up the prices.

When prices go up, people tend to spend less, and businesses will feel more pain, like rubbing salt into a wound.

The Chinese language describes the aggravation of a bad situation differently. The idiom to use is “雪上加霜” (*xue3 shang4 jia1 shuang1*), which involves no salt.

“雪” (*xue3*) is “snow,” “上” (*shang4*) means “on top of,” “加” (*jia1*) is “to add,” and “霜” (*shuang1*) is

## Idiom by Lon Yan

“frost.” Literally, “雪上加霜” (*xue3 shang4 jia1 shuang1*) is “adding frost on top of snow.”

In the idiom, the snow and frost are an analogy for a situation that is bad or undesirable. If a person is already feeling cold being covered in snow, adding frost to the snow will just increase their suffering.

“雪上加霜” (*xue3 shang4 jia1 shuang1*) means to go from bad to worse or a bad situation being aggravated by new problems.

The expression “rub salt into someone’s wounds” means to make someone feel even worse about something. If you lost money on an investment and someone laughed at you, that is rubbing salt into your wounds.

### Terms containing the character “雪” (*xue3*) include:

落雪 (*luo4 xue3*) - snows

雪糕 (*xue3 gao1*) - ice cream.

大風雪 (*da4 feng1 xue3*) - a snow blizzard

雪白 (*xue3 bai2*) - white as snow