

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM BRANCH)

Controlling officer: the Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce, Industry and Tourism) will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2021–22	\$10,063.2m
Establishment ceiling 2021–22 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 278 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2021 reducing by 13 posts to 265 posts as at 31 March 2022	\$209.1m
In addition, there will be an estimated 25 directorate posts as at 31 March 2021 and as at 31 March 2022.	
Commitment balance	\$180,350.0m

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

Programme (1) Director of Bureau's Office	This programme contributes to Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development).
Programme (2) Commerce and Industry Programme (3) Subvention: Hong Kong Trade Development Council	These programmes contribute to Policy Area 6: Commerce and Industry (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development).
Programme (4) Posts, Competition Policy and Consumer Protection Programme (5) Subvention: Consumer Council	These programmes contribute to Policy Area 4: Posts, Competition Policy and Consumer Protection (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development).
Programme (6) Travel and Tourism Programme (7) Subvention: Hong Kong Tourism Board	These programmes contribute to Policy Area 5: Travel and Tourism (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development).
Programme (8) Public Safety	This programme contributes to Policy Area 7: Public Safety (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development).
Programme (9) Subvention: Competition Commission	This programme contributes to Policy Area 4: Posts, Competition Policy and Consumer Protection (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development).

Detail

Programme (1): Director of Bureau's Office

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Original)	2020–21 (Revised)	2021–22 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	13.8	13.8	13.5 (–2.2%)	13.8 (+2.2%)
				(or same as 2020–21 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to ensure the smooth operation of the Office of the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development.

Brief Description

3 The Office of the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development is responsible for providing support to the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development in undertaking political work. This includes the support provided by the Under Secretary and the Political Assistant. The office is also responsible for providing administrative support to the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development in carrying out his duties. The work includes the planning, co-ordination and implementation of all arrangements for the Secretary's public, media and community functions.

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Programme (2): Commerce and Industry

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Original)	2020–21 (Revised)	2021–22 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	514.8	535.0	4,035.7 (+654.3%)	6,225.9 (+54.3%)
				(or +1063.7% on 2020–21 Original)

Aim

4 The aims are to encourage Hong Kong's trading partners, through multilateral, regional and bilateral means, to remove barriers to trade and investment; to promote Hong Kong's strengths so as to maintain international business confidence in Hong Kong; to develop Hong Kong as a competitive and knowledge-based economy by increasing the added value and productivity of Hong Kong's industries and enhancing the long-term competitiveness of small and medium enterprises (SMEs); to foster our trading and investment ties with the Mainland and support our businesses in seizing the opportunities created by the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), particularly in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), and the Belt and Road Initiative; to attract external direct investment into Hong Kong; to maintain a modern and comprehensive intellectual property (IP) regime which complies fully with international standards and serves Hong Kong's needs; and to foster exchanges and co-operation with Taiwan.

Brief Description

5 The Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch's main responsibilities under this programme are to:

- lead and co-ordinate the work on the Belt and Road Initiative, including strategy formulation and implementation of programmes and measures with a view to seeking out Belt and Road related business opportunities;
- oversee the policy work related to the overseas Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs), including expanding the ETO network and enhancing their functions;
- formulate policies on promotion of trade in goods and services;
- institute measures and arrangements to facilitate international trade and gain market access for Hong Kong's goods, services and investment;
- formulate policies to attract more external direct investment into Hong Kong;
- foster friendship and understanding between the business communities of Hong Kong and our major markets;
- formulate policies to support SMEs;
- formulate policies on protection of IP rights and promotion of IP trading;
- formulate policies and implementation proposals on the development of a trade single window (TSW) in Hong Kong;
- promote and safeguard market access of Hong Kong's goods and services through overseeing Hong Kong's active participation in the multilateral trading system, including seeking further trade liberalisations under the World Trade Organization (WTO);
- foster greater regional co-operation in the Asia-Pacific region through overseeing Hong Kong's active participation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC);
- enhance mutually beneficial economic relationship between Hong Kong and the Mainland through CEPA;
- enhance economic co-operation with trading partners as well as assist enterprises in diversifying markets and securing better market access through establishing co-operation arrangements, forging free trade agreements (FTAs) and investment promotion and protection agreements (IPPAs);
- provide support to local businesses operating in the Mainland; and
- support the further development of wine-related businesses in Hong Kong.

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6 During 2020–21, the Branch:

- pursued actively the Belt and Road Initiative by establishing the Innovation and Technology (I&T) Inventions Experience Sharing and Business Promotion Platform (the Platform) in June 2020, and organising joint webinars with Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia in June, August and September 2020 respectively; convening the third Joint Conference with the Mainland authorities in August 2020 to foster collaboration and follow up on the implementation of the “Arrangement between the National Development and Reform Commission and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for Advancing Hong Kong’s Full Participation in and Contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative” (the Arrangement); co-organising the fifth Belt and Road Summit with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) on 30 November and 1 December 2020; working with the Ministry of Commerce in encouraging interested Hong Kong enterprises to establish presence in the Mainland’s overseas Economic and Trade Co-operation Zones (ETCZs); and supporting HKTDC’s introduction of SME Transformation Sandbox to facilitate enterprises to capitalise on new business opportunities at ETCZs;
- worked on the formulation of external promotion strategies and messages in collaboration with the Information Services Department, Hong Kong agencies with overseas presence, local and overseas business chambers in Hong Kong and various stakeholders, in preparation for launching overseas promotional campaigns to enhance Hong Kong’s international image as the best place to do business and the premier destination for investment and tourists;
- continued to carry out the preparatory work for setting up the Dubai ETO in the United Arab Emirates;
- continued with the policy work related to ETOs, including following up on the proposals to set up new ETOs;
- closely monitored the implementation and impact of the “Economic and Trade Agreement between the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Government of the United States of America” (Phase One Trade Agreement) signed in January 2020 on Hong Kong’s economy; maintained close communication with the trade and responded to their needs in a timely manner by introducing targeted measures to assist the trade in developing markets and diversifying risks, and to relieve their financing burden;
- responded robustly to unilateral measures related to trade and commerce imposed by the United States (US) Government against Hong Kong, in particular raising strong objection on bilateral and multilateral levels to the revised origin marking requirement implemented by the US Government on imported products originating from Hong Kong and launching formal actions against the US in accordance with the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism with respect to the requirement; and maintained close communication with the trade in reviewing the situation and formulating our strategies and responses jointly;
- worked with the Trade and Industry Department (TID) in enhancing the Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales (BUD Fund) and the SME Export Marketing Fund (EMF) to assist Hong Kong enterprises in embracing the economic challenges arising from the trade conflict between the US and the Mainland, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, including expanding the scope of the BUD Fund to cover virtual exhibitions; expanding, for a period of two years, the scope of the EMF to cover large-scale exhibitions organised by organisers with proven track record targeting the local market, as well as virtual exhibitions organised by HKTDC and reputable exhibitions organisers with good track record and relaxing the eligibility criteria to cover non-SMEs;
- enhanced the 80% Guarantee Product and the 90% Guarantee Product under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme (SFGS), including increasing the maximum loan amount per enterprise, providing a one-year interest subsidy for guaranteed loans and extending the one-year principal moratorium by six months;
- introduced the new Special 100% Guarantee Product under SFGS to provide low interest loans that are 100 per cent guaranteed by the Government to help ease the cash flow problem of enterprises hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic;
- worked with the Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation (HKECIC) to assist Hong Kong exporters, including introducing through HKECIC “100% Credit Limit Top-Up Scheme” and other HKECIC’s enhanced measures to strengthen the support and protection to Hong Kong exporters amid the COVID-19 pandemic;
- strengthened the institutional arrangement for promotion of inward investment into Hong Kong;
- worked on the planning for new convention and exhibition facilities to maintain and consolidate the international status of Hong Kong’s convention and exhibition industry;
- launched the Convention and Exhibition Industry Subsidy Scheme under the Anti-epidemic Fund with a view to reinvigorating the convention and exhibition industry;
- continued to implement the Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme (PASS) to provide funding support for non-profit-making industry-led projects aimed at increasing exchanges and co-operation of Hong Kong’s professional services with their counterparts in external markets, promoting relevant publicity activities, and enhancing the standards and external competitiveness of Hong Kong’s professional services, including taking forward a number of measures to enhance the operation and user-friendliness of PASS;
- continued to oversee the implementation of various measures to promote Hong Kong as a premier IP trading hub in the Asia-Pacific region;

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- oversaw the implementation of the new Original Grant Patent system as from December 2019;
- secured the passage of the Trade Marks (Amendment) Bill 2019 by the Legislative Council in June 2020, thereby providing a legal basis for the application of the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks (Madrid Protocol) in Hong Kong;
- secured the passage of the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2019 by the Legislative Council in June 2020, thereby enhancing the copyright exceptions for persons with print disability to meet the requirements under the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled;
- continued to oversee efforts to promote awareness of and respect for IP rights in the community and the business sector;
- continued to take forward the development of TSW by further extending the coverage of the new e-platform to a total of 14 documents under Phase 1; secured the Legislative Council Finance Committee's funding approval for the implementation of Phase 2; and continued to engage stakeholders in developing detailed proposals for the implementation of Phase 3;
- continued to monitor the operation of the Government Electronic Trading Services (GETS) and carried out preparatory work for the adoption of iAM Smart in GETS;
- continued to oversee measures taken by the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) to enhance cargo clearance efficiency and expedite cross-boundary cargo flow, including the Single E-Lock Scheme and the Hong Kong Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Programme;
- oversaw participation in the work of the WTO, including safeguarding Hong Kong's rights through monitoring and responding to trade restrictive measures which impacted on Hong Kong's trade interests and posed systemic risks to the multilateral trading system;
- oversaw participation in the APEC for strengthening regional economic integration, promoting free and open trade and investment in the region and setting of the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040;
- oversaw discussions with the Mainland on further market liberalisation and facilitation of trade and investment through CEPA, and on ensuring smooth implementation of the measures announced;
- oversaw the ratification of the FTA and Investment Agreement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the IPPA with Mexico; oversaw the FTA exploratory talks with Thailand;
- collaborated with the Mainland authorities and HKTDC to help Hong Kong enterprises promote their products and services to the Mainland market;
- co-ordinated through HKTDC the participation of the Hong Kong enterprises in the third China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai;
- continued efforts in fostering co-operation with Taiwan on trade, investment and tourism fronts;
- continued to implement measures to underpin the further development of wine-related businesses in Hong Kong including trade promotion and the facilitation scheme for wine re-exports to the Mainland; and
- launched the Local Mask Production Subsidy Scheme under the Anti-epidemic Fund.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22

7 In 2021–22, the Branch's main objective is to support the economic recovery during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. The Branch will:

- continue to proactively consolidate Hong Kong's unique advantages and positioning as the prime platform and a key link for the Belt and Road Initiative by reinforcing co-operation with relevant Mainland authorities in such areas as capacity building through launching the second edition of the Policy Exchange and Capacity Building Programme; convening the fourth Joint Conference with the Mainland authorities under the Arrangement in 2021; co-organising with HKTDC the sixth Belt and Road Summit in the third quarter of 2021; taking forward the Platform to promote Hong Kong's I&T strengths and business opportunities with overseas stakeholders; organising events and professional missions to explore emerging markets and identify business opportunities in Belt and Road related countries and regions, including those in the Mainland's ETCZs to open up a larger market; and promoting closer partnership and project interfacing amongst enterprises and professional services sector of Hong Kong, such as through introducing a Mainland Enterprises Partnership Exchange and Interface Programme;
- continue to leverage digital platforms, step up global promotion of Hong Kong's business advantages, strengthen out reach to investors and attract multinational companies to set up regional or global operations in Hong Kong so as to capitalise on the opportunities arising from the Greater Bay Area Development and Belt and Road Initiative, and dynamically adjust investment promotion strategies in response to the COVID-19 situation;
- continue to collaborate with various departments, agencies and stakeholders to formulate external promotion strategies in preparation for launching overseas promotional campaigns to bolster Hong Kong's international image when the pandemic is under control;

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- continue to strengthen policy work related to ETOs, including formulating strategies on expansion of the ETO network and enhancement of their functions;
- continue to monitor developments on various regional economic integration initiatives and explore opportunities for Hong Kong's participation;
- continue to oversee discussions or negotiations with trading partners on enhancement of economic co-operation;
- continue to oversee collaboration among agencies responsible for promoting trade and inward investment;
- continue to closely monitor the progress of the Phase One Trade Agreement between China and the US and related issues as well as trade actions of the US Government against Hong Kong, and assess their impact on Hong Kong's economy; maintain close communication with the trade, and consider introducing further measures to provide timely support to the trade as necessary;
- continue to pursue under the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism the case against the US' revised origin marking requirement on products originating from Hong Kong; and continue to maintain close communication with the trade;
- continue to step up the promotion of Government funding schemes to SMEs, and conduct a pilot project to review the application process of the BUD Fund through design thinking, with a view to enhancing the utilisation of these funding schemes;
- continue to work with TID and the Hong Kong Productivity Council to implement the enhanced BUD Fund to support Hong Kong enterprises in developing their brands, upgrading and restructuring their operations and promoting sales in the Mainland and FTA markets;
- continue to work with TID to implement the enhanced EMF to support Hong Kong enterprises in exploring the Mainland and overseas markets, and in conducting promotion activities targeting the local market;
- continue to work with the HKMC Insurance Limited to implement the various guarantee products under SFGS;
- continue to work with HKECIC to enhance export credit insurance coverage for exporters through the "100% Credit Limit Top-Up Scheme" and other support measures;
- continue to work with the related industries to enhance the appeal of Hong Kong as an international convention, exhibition and tourism capital;
- continue to plan for new convention and exhibition facilities to maintain and consolidate the international status of Hong Kong's convention and exhibition industry;
- continue to implement the Convention and Exhibition Industry Subsidy Scheme under the Anti-epidemic Fund;
- continue to implement PASS to provide funding support for non-profit-making industry-led projects undertaken by non-profit distributing organisations, including setting aside \$50 million under PASS to subsidise major professional bodies to step up the promotion of Hong Kong's competitive edges and professional services to the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area and overseas markets after the pandemic is under control;
- continue to oversee various measures to promote Hong Kong as a premier IP trading hub in the region;
- continue to oversee the implementation of the Original Grant Patent system;
- continue to oversee the preparatory work for the implementation of the international trade mark registration system under the Madrid Protocol in Hong Kong, including preparing the related subsidiary legislation and setting up the required information technology system;
- continue to oversee efforts to promote awareness of and respect for IP rights in the community and the business sector;
- continue to take forward the development of TSW under Phases 2 and 3, including developing the Phase 2 information technology system and conducting technical studies for the implementation of Phase 3;
- continue to monitor the operation of GETS and roll out the adoption of iAM Smart in GETS;
- continue to oversee the work of C&ED in promoting the Single E-Lock Scheme and the Hong Kong AEO Programme to the trade, and in further extending Hong Kong's network of AEO mutual recognition arrangement to other economies so as to further enhance cross-boundary cargo clearance efficiency;
- continue to oversee participation in the work of the WTO, including participation at the Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference;
- continue to oversee participation in the work of the APEC;
- continue to oversee efforts for seeking better market access and facilitation of trade and investment in the Mainland through CEPA and for ensuring effective implementation of the measures announced;
- seek early accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership;

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- continue to oversee discussion with Thailand with a view to forging an FTA; the ratification of the IPPA with Mexico; and the signing of IPPAs with Bahrain and Myanmar respectively upon completion of all the necessary procedures;
- continue to collaborate with the Mainland authorities and HKTDC to help Hong Kong enterprises promote their products and services to the Mainland market;
- continue to co-ordinate Hong Kong's participation in CIIE;
- continue efforts in fostering co-operation between Hong Kong and Taiwan on trade, investment and tourism matters;
- continue to support the further development of wine-related businesses in Hong Kong; and
- continue to implement the Local Mask Production Subsidy Scheme under the Anti-epidemic Fund.

Programme (3): Subvention: Hong Kong Trade Development Council

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Original)	2020–21 (Revised)	2021–22 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	491.5	614.2	624.2 (+1.6%)	634.1 (+1.6%)
				(or +3.2% on 2020–21 Original)

Aim

8 The aim is to help HKTDC perform its statutory functions, i.e. to promote, assist and develop Hong Kong's trade with places outside Hong Kong, with particular reference to exports; and to make recommendations to the Government as it sees fit in relation to any measures which it considers would achieve an increase in Hong Kong's trade.

Brief Description

9 A statutory body established in 1966, HKTDC is the international marketing arm for Hong Kong-based traders, manufacturers and services providers. With 50 offices worldwide, including 13 in the Mainland, the HKTDC:

- promotes Hong Kong as a platform for doing business with the Mainland and worldwide, as a commercial hub for the Belt and Road Initiative, and as a two-way platform for the Greater Bay Area;
- organises trade fairs and major conferences, e-marketplace on hktdc.com, international trade promotion events and business missions to help Hong Kong companies seize opportunities in the Mainland and around the world;
- provides market information through trade publications, research reports and its research portal, and a market intelligence website "Hong Kong Means Business";
- organises workshops to assist Hong Kong companies to enhance their capabilities; and
- reinforces Hong Kong as a global marketplace in the Asia-Pacific region through corporate relations and business promotion activities around the world, including support for six bilateral committees and 46 Hong Kong business associations in 35 countries.

10 The key performance measures in respect of promoting Hong Kong's external trade are:

Indicators

	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Estimate)
trade and services promotion			
events	846	634@	610@
companies participating	79 505	51 464@	60 000@
local fairs			
no. of Mainland and overseas buyers.....	419 690	133 955@	206 320@
no. of fairs	37	12@	28@
business-matching enquiries worldwide			
no. of business enquiries handled	3 215 107	3 218 543	3 218 500
no. of business connections made	19 885 466	19 896 593	19 897 000

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	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Estimate)
trade publications			
worldwide circulation (million)	3.1	1.9 [^]	2.0 [^]
no. of issues.....	108	35 [^]	35 [^]
no. of advertisers on HKTDC's trade portal (hktde.com).....	29 619	21 905	20 830

@ The drops in 2020 and 2021 compared to 2019 reflect the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak and associated travel restrictions on HKTDC's activities.

^ The drop from 2020 onwards was due to HKTDC's shift of focus from printed publications to digital channels.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22

11 In 2021–22, to meet the Branch's main objective of supporting the economic recovery during and after the pandemic, HKTDC will:

- step up efforts and support to help Hong Kong SMEs to ride out the pandemic challenges;
- reposition its two mega promotions in mature and emerging markets under a unified brand “Think Business, Think Hong Kong” as part of the effort to re-establish Hong Kong as an international business and investment hub post-pandemic;
- help Hong Kong and international businesses capitalise on the promising opportunities offered by the steady recovery of the Mainland from the pandemic, with Greater Bay Area development as the central theme;
- promote a “Hong Kong-Mainland-ASEAN” tripartite partnership;
- promote Hong Kong as an investment hub for the healthcare sector; and
- make hybrid mode comprising both physical and virtual offerings as regular features in its anchor events to widen their reach to global audience.

Programme (4): Posts, Competition Policy and Consumer Protection

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Original)	2020–21 (Revised)	2021–22 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	10.8	10.8	10.2 (–5.6%)	10.2 (—)

(or –5.6% on
2020–21 Original)

Aim

12 The aims are to promote economic efficiency in the delivery of postal services; to promote competition; and to protect consumer interests.

Brief Description

13 The Branch's main responsibilities under this programme are to formulate policies and programmes in relation to postal services, the promotion of economic efficiency and free market through competition, and the protection of consumer interests.

14 During 2020–21, the Branch:

- monitored the implementation of the Competition Ordinance (Cap. 619) (CO);
- published the annual report of the Competition Policy Advisory Group (COMPAG) for the year 2019 on the COMPAG website, and continued to co-ordinate the work of government bureaux and departments in promoting competition;
- considered the views collected during the public consultation on the proposed framework for implementing a statutory cooling-off period for certain consumer contracts, and monitored the operation of concerned industries at the same time, with a view to enhancing consumer protection on the one hand, and addressing the concerns of the trades on the other;
- monitored the implementation of the amended Trade Descriptions Ordinance (Cap. 362) in tackling unfair trade practices that are deployed in consumer transactions;
- monitored the operation of the Post Office Trading Fund (POTF) and worked with Hongkong Post (HKP) on measures to improve POTF's financial position;

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- monitored the project to re-provision the HKP's Headquarters; and
- worked with HKP in preparing for the redevelopment of the Air Mail Centre (AMC) with a view to enhancing its handling capacity and efficiency.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22

15 During 2021–22, the Branch will continue to:

- monitor the implementation of the CO in tackling anti-competitive conduct in different sectors;
- support the work of COMPAG;
- review the legislative proposal for a statutory cooling-off period for certain consumer contracts, as well as the timing for introducing the legislation, in view of the social environment, economic situation and consumption sentiment;
- monitor the implementation of the amended Trade Descriptions Ordinance in tackling unfair trade practices that may be deployed in consumer transactions;
- monitor the operation of the POTF and work with HKP on measures to improve POTF's financial position;
- monitor the project of work to re-provision the HKP's Headquarters; and
- work with HKP in preparing for the redevelopment of the AMC.

Programme (5): Subvention: Consumer Council

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Original)	2020–21 (Revised)	2021–22 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	151.6	144.9	146.4 (+1.0%)	138.6 (–5.3%)
				(or –4.3% on 2020–21 Original)

Aim

16 The aim is to protect and promote the interests of consumers of goods and services.

Brief Description

17 The Consumer Council (the Council) is an independent body established under the Consumer Council Ordinance (Cap. 216). The Council discharges its functions by:

- collecting, receiving and disseminating information concerning goods, services and immovable property;
- examining complaints and giving advice to consumers;
- tendering advice to the Government on ways to enhance consumer protection;
- conducting product tests and research;
- encouraging business and professional associations to establish codes of practice to regulate the activities of their members;
- monitoring trade practices;
- facilitating consumers to seek redress through the use of the Consumer Legal Action Fund; and
- empowering consumers through education and publicity campaigns.

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18 The key performance measures in respect of protection and promotion of consumer interests are:

Targets

	Target	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Plan)
handling consumer enquiries				
telephone calls answered within three minutes (%).....	80	89	77@	89
waiting time for over-the-counter enquiry service not to exceed ten minutes (%).....	100	100	100	100
issuing reply in writing within 15 working days (%)◇.....	100	100	100	100
handling consumer complaints				
telephone calls answered within three minutes (%).....	80	90	78@	89
in writing				
issuing preliminary reply within seven working days (%)υ.....	100	99.5	98.9	97.0
notifying complainants of results/progress within 16 working days (%)ω.....	100	99.7	99.8	97.0
publications of “CHOICE” and release of product testing, research and survey results once per month (%).....	100	100	100	100

@ The actual percentage achieved was lower than target due to the implementation of work from home arrangements during the year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

◇ This target was shortened from 15 to ten working days as from 2020. The figures for 2020 and 2021 are measured against the new target.

υ This target was shortened from seven to five working days as from 2020. The figures for 2020 and 2021 are measured against the new target.

ω This target was shortened from 16 to nine working days as from 2020. The figures for 2020 and 2021 are measured against the new target.

Indicators

	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Estimate)
consumer complaints.....	24 615	30 935	27 000
consumer enquiries.....	70 128	68 737	68 000
product tests^.....	43	46	44
consumer surveys^.....	30	27	27
in-depth studies^.....	11	12	15
studies of general interest^.....	21	19	19
response to consultation from the Government and other public bodies#.....	14	5	5
consumer education programmes@.....	202	162	240
circulation of publications.....	280 500	269 000	269 000

^ Each year, the Council conducts product tests, consumer surveys, in-depth studies and studies of general interest. Manpower and resources are deployed in accordance with the respective resource demands of researches and studies scheduled for the year.

The number of responses to consultation depends on the number of consultations conducted by the Government and other public bodies during the year. The figure for the coming year is an indicative forecast only.

@ The number of consumer education programmes dropped in 2020 because of the prolonged class suspension in schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22

19 During 2021–22, the Council will complete various systems development projects, namely:

- the redevelopment of the Council’s official website;
- the enhancement of the Council’s Complaint Case Management System to implement the recommendations in The Director of Audit’s Report No. 70;

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- the development of the customer relationship management system for the “CHOICE” Magazine; and
- the procurement of backup infrastructure enhancements and mobile device security management solution for the Council.

Programme (6): Travel and Tourism

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Original)	2020–21 (Revised)	2021–22 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	716.9	465.0	4,837.5 (+940.3%)	1,408.5 (–70.9%)
				(or +202.9% on 2020–21 Original)

Aim

20 The aim is to maintain Hong Kong’s position as a key tourist destination in Asia.

Brief Description

21 The Branch’s main responsibilities under this programme are to:

- formulate policies on tourism development and regulation; and
- co-ordinate implementation of tourism projects and initiatives in consultation with the industry, relevant government departments and agencies.

22 During 2020–21, the Branch:

- supported the Travel Industry Authority (TIA), as a new statutory regulatory body primarily responsible for the licensing and regulation of travel agents, tourist guides and tour escorts, to embark on formulating the new regulatory regime for the travel industry;
- worked with the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) and the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong (TIC) to take forward various measures to help the tourism industry cope with the austere business environment;
- initiated co-ordination with government departments and relevant bodies on policy and projects/initiatives to promote tourism development. Projects included “Yim Tin Tsai Arts Festival”, a new pilot arts cum historical, cultural and green tourism project at Yim Tin Tsai; “City in Time”, a new tourism project making use of augmented reality and multimedia creative technology; as well as the “Lei Yue Mun Waterfront Enhancement Project”;
- supported the promotion and marketing work of the HKTB, including initiatives for recovery of Hong Kong tourism and relevant work on multi-destination itineraries, in key source markets, and new markets, etc.;
- co-ordinated with the HKTB and relevant parties to further showcase Hong Kong as a premier destination for fine food and wine;
- continued to monitor the implementation of pilot scheme by the HKTB on supporting tourism events showcasing Hong Kong’s local characteristics;
- continued the work with the HKTB to enhance promotion of Hong Kong as a premier Meetings, Incentive Travels, Conventions and Exhibitions (MICE) destination and offer necessary support to prominent MICE events;
- continued to work with the HKTB, the tourism sector and relevant government departments to diversify and promote the green tourism products on offer in Hong Kong, through enhancing the tourism supporting facilities of hiking trails; upgrading the facilities of the Wong Nai Chung Gap Trail so as to strengthen its appeal as a heritage and green tourism attraction; reviewing possible improvements to the facilities in the Hong Kong Wetland Park; and developing a hiking hub in Lantau, while also exploring similar possibility at Pak Tam Chung;
- continued to work with the trade, the HKTB, the TIC, the Consumer Council and the Mainland authorities to promote quality and honest tourism;
- continued to monitor and support the operation of the HKTB;
- continued to monitor the operation of the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal and facilitate the development of cruise industry in Hong Kong;
- continued to work through the joint venture company to facilitate Hong Kong Disneyland Resort’s operation and to take forward its expansion projects;
- collaborated with the Hong Kong Design Centre to take forward the creative tourism project “Design District Hong Kong”;

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- continued with the housekeeping responsibility for the Ocean Park Corporation, including the disbursement of government funding to the Ocean Park Corporation to support the Ocean Park's operation and facilitating its implementation of the waterpark and hotel projects;
- supported the Ocean Park Corporation in promoting education tourism and staging a 3D project-cum-water light show to enhance its competitiveness and attract more family segment visitors;
- undertook the Rethink Exercise to chart the way forward for Ocean Park's future;
- continued to work with the TIC on the regulation of travel agents, tourist guides and tour escorts under the existing regulatory regime of the travel industry;
- supported the TIC in taking forward different initiatives to enhance the competitiveness and service quality of the travel trade, including implementing the Pilot Information Technology Development Matching Fund Scheme for Travel Agents, developing a new web-based tourism resource platform about Belt and Road related countries and regions and Greater Bay Area cities, strengthening training for the trade such as development of e-learning, organising trade visits to the Greater Bay Area to deepen co-operation with the Mainland travel trade, etc.;
- pursued further facilitating measures for overseas travellers visiting the Mainland via Hong Kong, including through the Agreement Concerning Amendment to the CEPA Agreement on Trade in Services signed in November 2019;
- co-ordinated with relevant government departments and the tourism sector to facilitate the smooth operation of the Hong Kong Wetland Park, Ngong Ping 360 and the peak tramway;
- continued to monitor the implementation of the pilot scheme on food trucks during the extension period and completed a review;
- further extended the official landing page "Visit Hong Kong" (visithongkong.gov.hk) to facilitate access to key tourism information on mobile devices by visitors at key boundary control points;
- steered the consultancy study on smart tourism development;
- explored travel bubble arrangement with overseas economies and reached agreement on the Hong Kong-Singapore Air Travel Bubble arrangement to facilitate the resumption of cross-border travel in a gradual and orderly manner with health precautionary measures; and
- arranged voluntary COVID-19 testing services for frontline staff of hotels with Government fund.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22

- 23** During 2021–22, to support the recovery of the tourism industry during and after the pandemic, the Branch will:
- continue to work with relevant government departments, including the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and the Civil Engineering and Development Department, to diversify and promote the green tourism products on offer in Hong Kong through enhancing the tourism supporting facilities of hiking trails; upgrading the facilities of the Wong Nai Chung Gap Trail so as to strengthen its appeal as a heritage and green tourism attraction; taking forward the upgrading of the facilities in the Hong Kong Wetland Park; face-lifting of Yim Tin Tsai Pier and Ma Liu Shui Ferry Pier; developing a hiking hub in Lantau; and planning for a similar development at Pak Tam Chung;
 - continue to further extend and maintain the official landing page to cover more boundary control points to provide visitors with useful tourism information;
 - consider the recommendations of the consultancy study on smart tourism development upon its completion;
 - continue to work with the HKTB to enhance promotion of Hong Kong as a premier MICE destination and offer necessary support to prominent MICE events;
 - continue to work closely with the Advisory Committee on Cruise Industry, the operators of the two cruise terminals, and the HKTB to promote cruise tourism when cruise operation resumes;
 - continue to work through the joint venture company to facilitate Hong Kong Disneyland Resort's operation and development;
 - plan for a new phase of the arts cum historical, cultural and green tourism project at Yim Tin Tsai as well as the creative tourism project "Design District Hong Kong";
 - maintain the smooth operation and implement second phase of the City in Time project;
 - take forward, together with the Ocean Park Corporation, the recommendations of the Rethink Exercise on the Ocean Park rebirth;
 - continue to work closely with the Ocean Park Corporation to facilitate its implementation of the waterpark and hotel projects, as well as its education tourism projects;
 - continue to co-ordinate with relevant government departments and the tourism sector to facilitate the smooth operation of the Hong Kong Wetland Park, Ngong Ping 360 and the peak tramway;

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- continue to monitor the implementation of the pilot scheme on food trucks during the further extension period;
- continue to liaise with the relevant Mainland authorities to facilitate the implementation of CEPA and other tourism-related measure;
- continue to support HKTB in taking forward initiatives for the recovery of Hong Kong tourism and resuming promotion and marketing work in different source markets;
- continue to monitor the implementation of pilot scheme by the HKTB on supporting tourism events showcasing Hong Kong's local characteristics;
- continue to work with the HKTB, the tourism sector, relevant stakeholders and government departments in promoting tourism products in Hong Kong as enshrined in the Development Blueprint for Hong Kong's Tourism Industry;
- continue to work with the trade, the HKTB, the TIC, the Consumer Council and Mainland authorities to promote quality and honest tourism;
- continue to work with the TIC on the regulation of travel agents, tourist guides and tour escorts under the existing regulatory regime of the travel industry;
- continue to support the TIA regarding its preparation for the full implementation of the new regulatory regime for the travel industry and prepare for its takeover of functions of the Travel Agents Registry and regulatory functions of TIC;
- continue to support the TIC to take forward different initiatives to enhance the competitiveness and service quality of the travel trade, including implementing the Pilot Information Technology Development Matching Fund Scheme of Travel Agents, enhancing and promoting the web-based tourism resource platform about Belt and Road related countries and regions and Greater Bay Area cities, strengthening training for the trade such as development of e-learning, etc.;
- continue to work with the HKTB and the TIC to take forward helping measures for the tourism industry; and
- continue to explore travel bubble arrangement with overseas economies to facilitate the resumption of cross-border travel in a gradual and orderly manner with health precautionary measures.

Programme (7): Subvention: Hong Kong Tourism Board

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Original)	2020–21 (Revised)	2021–22 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	1,084.9	1,502.2	1,498.2 (–0.3%)	1,493.2 (–0.3%)
				(or –0.6% on 2020–21 Original)

Aim

24 The aim is to promote inbound tourism and maximise the socio-economic contribution that tourism makes to Hong Kong.

Brief Description

25 The HKTB is a statutory body subvented by the Government. The objectives of the HKTB are to:

- endeavour to increase the contribution of tourism to Hong Kong;
- promote Hong Kong globally as a leading international city in Asia and a world-class tourist destination;
- promote the improvement of facilities for visitors;
- support the Government in promoting to the community the importance of tourism;
- support, as appropriate, the activities of persons and organisations providing services for visitors to Hong Kong; and
- make recommendations to and advise the Government on measures which may further any of the foregoing objectives.

26 Funds invested by the HKTB in promotional activities aim at growing high value visitors to Hong Kong and maximising their spending.

27 The effectiveness of the performance of the HKTB cannot be assessed entirely in quantifiable terms. However, the statistics below help illustrate the overall position and forecasts of the Hong Kong tourism industry.

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Indicators

	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Revised Estimate) Δ	2021 (Estimate) Δ
visitor arrivals (million)	55.9	3.6	9.6
increase on previous year (%) Ψ	- 14	- 94	+170
tourism expenditure associated with inbound tourism (\$ billion) \P	256.2	15.9	44.7
change over the previous year (%) Ψ	- 23	- 94	+180
per capita expenditure of overnight visitor (\$) Ω	5,818	5,426	5,625
change over the previous year (%) Ψ	- 12	- 7	+4
length of stay of overnight visitors (nights) β	3.3	10.4	6.5
satisfaction of overnight visitors (score out of 10) β	8.5	8.8	8.7

Δ The 2020 Revised Estimate and 2021 Estimate are subject to further revision in light of the uncertain development of COVID-19 pandemic and global or regional economic outlook.

Ψ The percentage change is based on the comparison of absolute figures before rounding up.

\P This includes receipts of Hong Kong-based carriers for the cross-boundary transportation of non-resident visitors as estimated by the Census and Statistics Department. The expenditure was \$49.6 billion for 2019. The projections for 2020 and 2021 are \$3.1 billion and \$11.9 billion respectively.

Ω The figure for 2020 is estimated based on HKTB's Departing Visitor Survey (DVS) conducted at major control points from 1 January to 4 February 2020 before the survey was temporarily stopped due to the suspension of passenger clearance services at various boundary control points. Spending by servicemen, aircrew members and transit/transfer passengers is excluded.

β Length of stay of overnight visitors is derived based on the visitor entry/exit statistics provided by the Immigration Department. Satisfaction score is estimated based on the HKTB's DVS conducted at major control points from 1 January to 4 February 2020. It is represented by a ten-point scale, in which "ten" (maximum score) means "very satisfied" and "one" means "very dissatisfied".

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22

28 During 2021–22, to support the recovery of the tourism industry during and after the pandemic, the HKTB will:

- continue with the "Holiday at Home" campaign as a platform to encourage domestic consumption and support the tourism industry before the resumption of travel, while sending a positive message to source markets and building up visitors' confidence in choosing Hong Kong as a preferred destination when travel resumes;
- raise Hong Kong's profile and exposure in source markets, in preparation for relaunch and rebuilding Hong Kong as a leading international destination when markets reopen by:
 - using new virtual and augmented reality technologies to develop immersive videos and content in diverse formats to drive engagement, and capitalising on digital and social media channels to expand the reach of promotions;
 - mobilising friends and fans of Hong Kong as a medium for global promotions by circulating positive word-of-mouth testimonials and personal stories; and
 - launching the Open House Hong Kong platform as markets reopen to drive global awareness and promote tactical campaigns by phases in source markets, according to the travel readiness of each market;
- rebuild Hong Kong's destination image in the Mainland by:
 - focusing marketing efforts in the Greater Bay Area first and gradually extend to other parts of the Mainland, to drive visits and visitor spending through consumer promotions and trade and media partnerships;
 - launching "Open House Hong Kong" campaign in the Mainland, starting with activities to uphold Hong Kong's profile as a preferred destination and to create a desire to visit, followed by conversion campaigns with attractive offers when cross-boundary travel resumes;
 - expanding the reach to younger people through social video platforms and partnerships with digital lifestyle and payment platforms; and
 - generating positive messages through the news media and other channels to convey a safe and hospitable image of Hong Kong to potential visitors;
- reinvent Hong Kong's tourism image through the Tourism Rebranding Project, which aims to review and re-define Hong Kong's positioning and creating an overarching brand strategy for future direction;
- promote smart tourism and enhance visitors' digital experience by:
 - laying the foundations for the development and implementation of digital tools and solutions to strengthen and enhance visitors' experience;

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- continuing to provide information to visitors at different digital touchpoints to help them plan and conduct their trips; and
- stepping up support for chat services on various digital platforms, and deploying AI chatbot technology to help handle visitors' enquiries;
- further develop and promote the Greater Bay Area tourism brand, showcasing Hong Kong as its international gateway, by:
 - establishing and building the Greater Bay Area as a brand destination in overseas markets, and highlighting Hong Kong as the region's hub for business and leisure;
 - working in partnership with the travel trade in the Greater Bay Area to develop and promote multi-destination tourism products;
 - strengthening the co-operation with the culture and tourism authorities in Guangdong, Macao, and other Greater Bay Area destinations to consolidate resources for overseas promotions; and
 - establishing Hong Kong as the Greater Bay Area's MICE hub internationally;
- continue to support the travel trade and related trades by:
 - supporting trade partners to take part in the Anti-Epidemic Hygiene Measures Certification Scheme which promotes a safe and hygienic travel experience for visitors; and
 - launching new programmes, including new products development, supporting the upgrading of service quality, and overseeing funding schemes that provide support for the travel trade in post-pandemic environment;and, upon reopening of markets:
 - waiving the participation fee and subsidising airfares and hotel costs for members of the travel trade to attend HKTB-hosted trade shows, and providing marketing and promotion support;
 - continuing to participate in overseas trade shows and organise travel missions and familiarisation programmes for the travel trade to convey positive messages about Hong Kong from first-hand experience;
 - encouraging the travel trade to develop new tour products and stepping up consumer and trade promotions in source markets; and
 - further strengthening efforts to help the travel and related trades by increasing matching funds support and formulating additional support measures as and when necessary;
- continue to adopt the ongoing strategies by:
 - promoting Hong Kong's unique heritage and culture through the Hong Kong Neighbourhoods district programmes, and stepping up promotion of green, outdoor, and art and design experiences;
 - hosting mega events such as the Wine & Dine Festival and the Cyclothon while building in flexibility and scalability to comply with social distancing measures, and promoting international events and home-grown city events to strengthen Hong Kong's image as a destination with diverse appeal;
 - staging "A Symphony of Lights" to showcase the night vista of Hong Kong;
 - driving the recovery of MICE industry by putting forward competitive bidding packages to retain and win large and medium-sized international MICE events, stepping up efforts to cultivate the growth of small-sized MICE groups, and engaging leaders of professional and business communities, associations, and academic institutions to be MICE ambassadors who help attract high-profile MICE events;
 - retaining ship calls through Asia Cruise Fund and various promotion support to cruise lines, preparing for the resumption of cruise sailings, and working on consumer demand generation campaigns when source markets are ready; and
 - promoting and reinforcing Hong Kong's quality service and hospitality culture with the launch of the Quality Tourism Scheme Hospitality campaign, while continuing to promote the Quality Tourism Service to raise visitor awareness.

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Programme (8): Public Safety

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Original)	2020–21 (Revised)	2021–22 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	0.5	0.5	0.5 (—)	0.5 (—)
				(or same as 2020–21 Original)

Aim

29 The aim is to provide high standards of weather information services for the public and specialised users such as the aviation and shipping community.

Brief Description

30 The Branch's main responsibility under this programme is to formulate policies in relation to weather services.

31 During 2020–21, the Branch continued to oversee the provision of weather information services by the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) to the general public and other specialised users, including HKO's progress in replacing or upgrading meteorological equipment and facilities to meet latest operational needs in weather forecasting.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22

32 During 2021–22, the Branch will continue to oversee the provision of weather information services by HKO, including enhancement of forecasting services on high-impact weather, and HKO's progress in replacing or upgrading meteorological equipment and facilities to meet latest operational needs in weather forecasting.

Programme (9): Subvention: Competition Commission

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Original)	2020–21 (Revised)	2021–22 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	123.3	146.2	143.1 (–2.1%)	138.4 (–3.3%)
				(or –5.3% on 2020–21 Original)

Aim

33 The aim is to help the Commission to implement the CO.

Brief Description

34 The Commission is an independent statutory body established under the CO in 2013. The Commission's statutory functions are to:

- investigate conduct that may contravene the competition rules and enforce the provisions of the CO;
- promote public understanding of the value of competition and how the CO promotes competition;
- promote the adoption by undertakings carrying on business in Hong Kong of appropriate internal controls and risk management systems, to ensure their compliance with the CO;
- advise the Government on competition matters in Hong Kong and outside Hong Kong;
- conduct market studies into matters affecting competition in markets in Hong Kong; and
- promote research into and the development of skills in relation to the legal, economic and policy aspects of competition law in Hong Kong.

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35 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Plan)
handling enquiries and complaints				
acknowledge enquiries or complaints within two working days of receipt (%)	95	99	100	99
reply to enquiries or complaints on the result or progress within 28 working days of receipt (%)	95	95	99	95
handling applications for Decisions and Block Exemption Orders				
acknowledge applications within two working days of receipt (%)	95	100	N.A.	95
respond to requests for fee waiver or reduction within seven working days of receipt (%).....	95	100	N.A.	95
handling requests for seminars and presentations				
acknowledge requests within two working days of receipt (%)	95	100	99	95
respond to requests within ten working days of receipt (%)	95	98	99	95

Indicators

	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Estimate)
enforcement			
enquiries or complaints received.....	613	620	600
initial assessments commenced@.....	23	9Δ	—^
cases escalated to in-depth investigations (% of cases initially assessed)@.....	60	11Δ	—^
cases brought to the Competition Tribunal.....	1	3	—^
applications for Decisions and Block Exemption Orders received.....	1	0	—^
major market study launched	0	0	1
publicity and advocacy			
major publicity or education campaigns launched.....	1	2	1
events, seminars, conferences and exhibitions conducted.....	72	46v	38v
major international events, seminars and conferences participated in	8	7	8
newsletters published	3	3	3

@ The Commission considers any enquiry and complaint it receives, and escalates those warranting further assessment to the Initial Assessment phase, and subsequently to in-depth investigation.

Δ The actual figure is closely related to the quality of enquiries and complaints received. In 2020, in addition to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were fewer cases of sufficient quality to be escalated to the assessment/investigation phase.

^ Not possible to estimate.

v The drop is due to more business getting familiarised with the CO, in addition to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22

36 During 2021–22, the Commission will:

- continue to handle complaints of and conduct investigations into cases alleging to contravene a competition rule and to escalate suitable cases to in-depth investigation;
- continue the in-depth investigation with the aim to settling suitable cases by issuing warning notices or commitments or bringing cases to the Competition Tribunal;
- continue the litigation processes for cases already brought to the Competition Tribunal;

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- continue to promote understanding and compliance of the CO by businesses and the public through campaigns, education programmes, outreach activities, publications, seminars and presentations;
- continue to consider applications for Decisions whether or not an agreement or conduct is excluded or exempt from the First or Second Conduct Rules and for Block Exemption Orders; and
- continue to advise the Government and public bodies on competition matters.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2019–20 (Actual) (\$m)	2020–21 (Original) (\$m)	2020–21 (Revised) (\$m)	2021–22 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Director of Bureau's Office	13.8	13.8	13.5	13.8
(2) Commerce and Industry	514.8	535.0	4,035.7	6,225.9
(3) Subvention: Hong Kong Trade Development Council	491.5	614.2	624.2	634.1
(4) Posts, Competition Policy and Consumer Protection	10.8	10.8	10.2	10.2
(5) Subvention: Consumer Council	151.6	144.9	146.4	138.6
(6) Travel and Tourism	716.9	465.0	4,837.5	1,408.5
(7) Subvention: Hong Kong Tourism Board	1,084.9	1,502.2	1,498.2	1,493.2
(8) Public Safety	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
(9) Subvention: Competition Commission..	123.3	146.2	143.1	138.4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,108.1	3,432.6	11,309.3 (+229.5%)	10,063.2 (–11.0%)
				(or +193.2% on 2020–21 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2021–22 is \$0.3 million (2.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020–21. This is mainly due to the increased provision for salary expenses.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2021–22 is \$2,190.2 million (54.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020–21. This is mainly due to the increased estimate for the subscription to the WTO and the increased cash flow requirement for the SFGS – Guarantee Products.

Programme (3)

Provision for 2021–22 is \$9.9 million (1.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020–21. The actual amount of annual subvention to HKTDC is determined having regard to a number of factors, including the Government's financial position and HKTDC's funding requirements. The increase of the provision for 2021–22 over the revised estimate of 2020–21 is due to the additional subvention for HKTDC to strengthen its capabilities to organise virtual events and go digitalisation; and to take forward various promotional initiatives amidst the difficult business environment.

Programme (4)

Provision for 2021–22 is the same as the revised estimate for 2020–21.

Programme (5)

Provision for 2021–22 is \$7.8 million (5.3%) lower than the revised estimate for 2020–21. This is mainly due to additional funding to the Consumer Council in 2020–21 for carrying out consumer education programmes and various information technology improvement projects.

Programme (6)

Provision for 2021–22 is \$3,429.0 million (70.9%) lower than the revised estimate for 2020–21. This is mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirement for the non-recurrent funding support to the Ocean Park Corporation and the lapse of time-limited provision for tourism initiatives. In addition, there will be a net decrease of 13 posts in 2021–22.

Programme (7)

Provision for 2021–22 is \$5.0 million (0.3%) lower than the revised estimate for 2020–21.

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Programme (8)

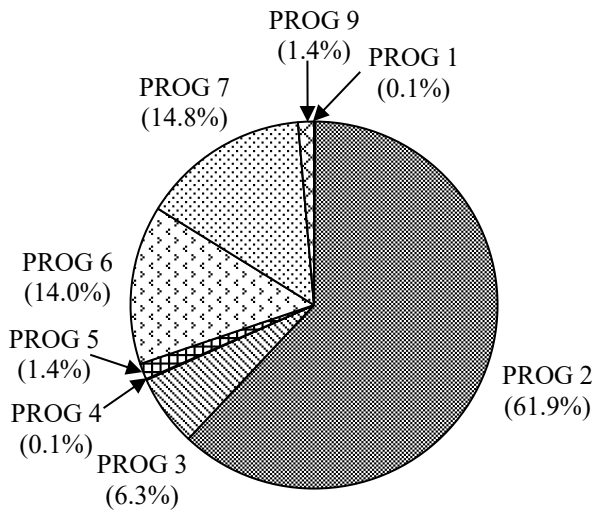
Provision for 2021–22 is the same as the revised estimate for 2020–21.

Programme (9)

Provision for 2021–22 is \$4.7 million (3.3%) lower than the revised estimate for 2020–21. This is due to the expected decrease in expenditure on litigation as estimated by the Competition Commission.

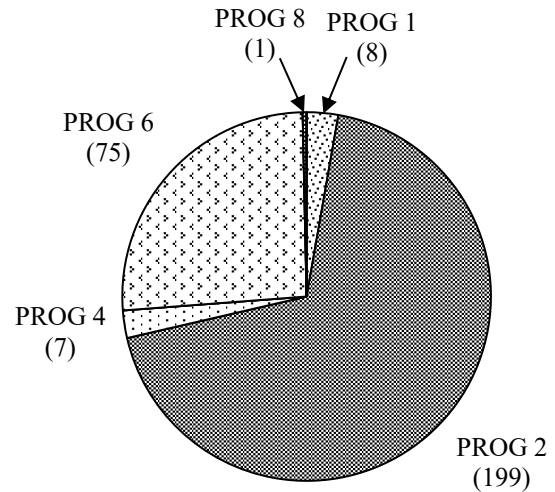
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Allocation of provision to programmes (2021-22)



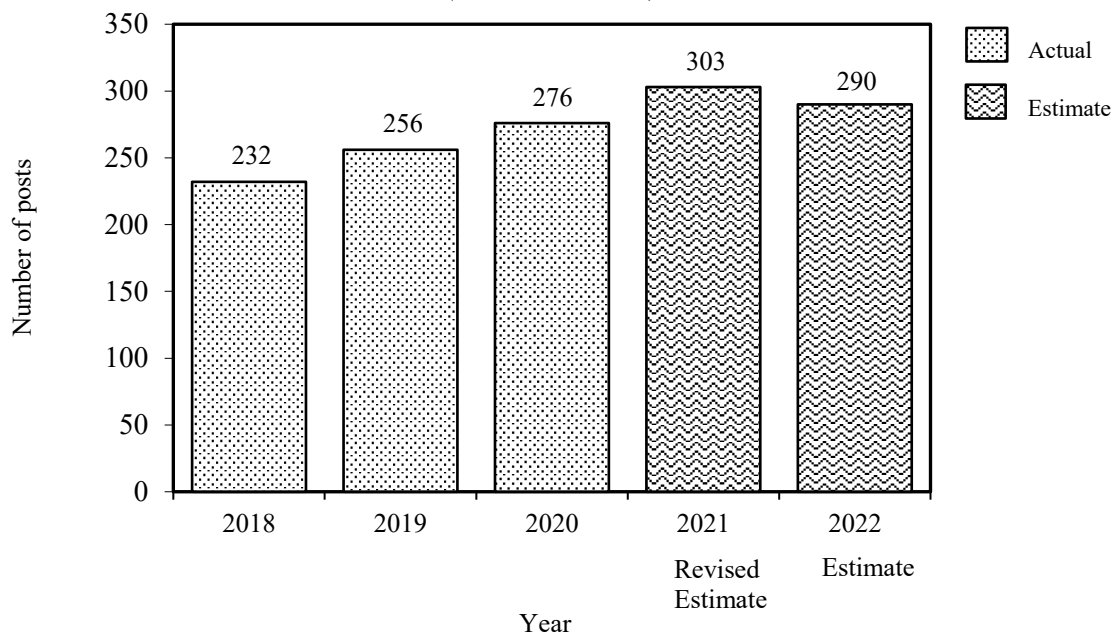
(Provision for PROG 8 represents 0.01 per cent of the overall provision. The percentage is not shown here due to rounding.)

Staff by programme (as at 31 March 2022)



(No government staff under PROG 3, 5, 7 & 9)

Changes in the size of the establishment (as at 31 March)



**Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM BRANCH)**

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2019–20	Approved estimate 2020–21	Revised estimate 2020–21	Estimate 2021–22	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	2,478,672	3,257,800	3,134,368	2,989,655
	Total, Recurrent.....	2,478,672	3,257,800	3,134,368	2,989,655
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent	607,744	163,857	8,163,941	6,961,910
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	607,744	163,857	8,163,941	6,961,910
	Total, Operating Account	3,086,416	3,421,657	11,298,309	9,951,565
Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
605	Minor capital works (block vote).....	—	—	—	5,900
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	—	—	—	5,900
Subventions					
85G	Hong Kong Trade Development Council	—	—	—	101,000
970	Consumer Council (block vote).....	9,490	5,978	5,978	4,709
	Hong Kong Tourism Board (block vote).....	12,178	5,000	5,000	—
	Total, Subventions	21,668	10,978	10,978	105,709
	Total, Capital Account.....	21,668	10,978	10,978	111,609
	Total Expenditure	3,108,084	3,432,635	11,309,287	10,063,174

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2021–22 for the salaries and expenses of the Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch is \$10,063,174,000. This represents a decrease of \$1,246,113,000 against the revised estimate for 2020–21 and an increase of \$6,955,090,000 over the actual expenditure in 2019–20.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$2,989,655,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2021 will be 303 posts including three supernumerary posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of 13 posts in 2021–22. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2021–22, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$209,065,000.

4 An analysis of the financial provision under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is as follows:

	2019–20 (Actual) (\$'000)	2020–21 (Original) (\$'000)	2020–21 (Revised) (\$'000)	2021–22 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	225,311	275,948	235,269	263,210
- Allowances	6,824	6,983	8,163	8,089
- Job-related allowances.....	2	5	1	4
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	381	270	376	294
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	12,536	17,295	13,832	17,596
- Disturbance allowance.....	—	259	200	—
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	360,286	538,251	453,300	369,042
Other Charges				
- Subscription to the World Trade Organization	44,187	47,907	44,832	49,364
Subventions				
- Consumer Council	142,136	138,942	140,455	133,919
- Hong Kong-Japan Business Co-operation Committee	3,610	—	—	—
- Hong Kong Tourism Board	1,072,652	1,497,223	1,493,223	1,493,223
- Hong Kong Trade Development Council	491,523	614,221	624,221	533,133
- Competition Commission	119,224	120,496	120,496	121,781
	2,478,672	3,257,800	3,134,368	2,989,655

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

5 Provision of \$5,900,000 under Subhead 605 Minor Capital works (block vote) is for minor capital works with the cost of individual projects above \$200,000 but not exceeding \$10 million. The provision is for the face-lifting works at Yim Tin Tsai Pier and Ma Liu Shui Ferry Pier.

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Subventions

6 Provision of \$101 million under Subhead 85G Hong Kong Trade Development Council for 2021–22 is for the development of virtual event platform, virtual business matching platform and related development/enhancement of related in-house systems.

7 Provision of \$4,709,000 under Subhead 970 Consumer Council (block vote) is for the procurement of plant, vehicles and equipment each costing above \$200,000 but not exceeding \$10 million. The decrease of \$1,269,000 (21%) against the revised estimate for 2020–21 is mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirement for the implementation of information technology projects for the Consumer Council.

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM BRANCH)

Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment \$'000	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2020 \$'000	Revised estimated expenditure for 2020–21 \$'000	Balance \$'000
<i>Operating Account</i>						
700	<i>General non-recurrent</i>					
801	Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme		200,000	36,872	11,000	152,128
804	Funding for Competition Commission's litigation work.....		238,346	32,760	22,600	182,986
808	Funding Support to the Ocean Park Corporation		5,425,638	—	4,387,560	1,038,078
818	Measures for Manpower Development of Retail Industry		130,000	40,413	781	88,806
833	SME Financing Guarantee Scheme – Guarantee Products.....		183,000,000	671,000	3,742,000	178,587,000
			<u>188,993,984</u>	<u>781,045</u>	<u>8,163,941</u>	<u>180,048,998</u>
<i>Capital Account</i>						
85G	<i>Hong Kong Trade Development Council</i>					
810	Development of virtual event platform, virtual business matching platform and related development/enhancement of related in-house systems§		301,000§	—	—	301,000
			<u>301,000</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>301,000</u>
	Total		<u>189,294,984</u>	<u>781,045</u>	<u>8,163,941</u>	<u>180,349,998</u>

§ This is a new item, funding for which is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2021.