

Head 120 — PENSIONS

Controlling officer: the Director of Accounting Services will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2008–09 **\$16,525.0m**

Controlling Officer’s Report

Programmes

Programme (1) Public and Judicial Service Pension Benefits

This programme contributes to Policy Area 26: Central Management of the Civil Service (Secretary for the Civil Service).

Programme (2) War Memorial Pensions/ Volunteer Pensions

This programme contributes to Policy Area 14: Social Welfare (Secretary for Labour and Welfare).

Detail

Programme (1): Public and Judicial Service Pension Benefits

	2006–07 (Actual)	2007–08 (Original)	2007–08 (Revised)	2008–09 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	13,616.5	15,001.0	14,881.0 (–0.8%)	16,488.2 (+10.8%)
				(or +9.9% on 2007–08 Original)

2 Expenditure on, and the number of recipients of, each of the major pension schemes are shown in Figures A and B respectively.

Figure A

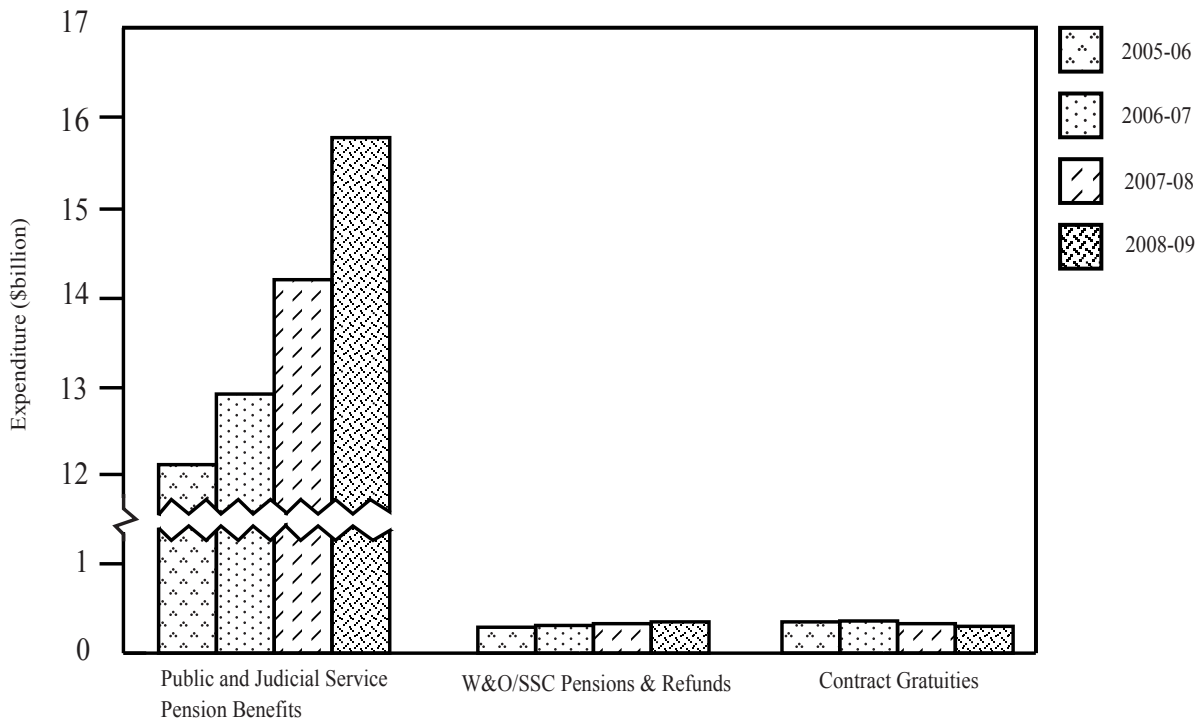
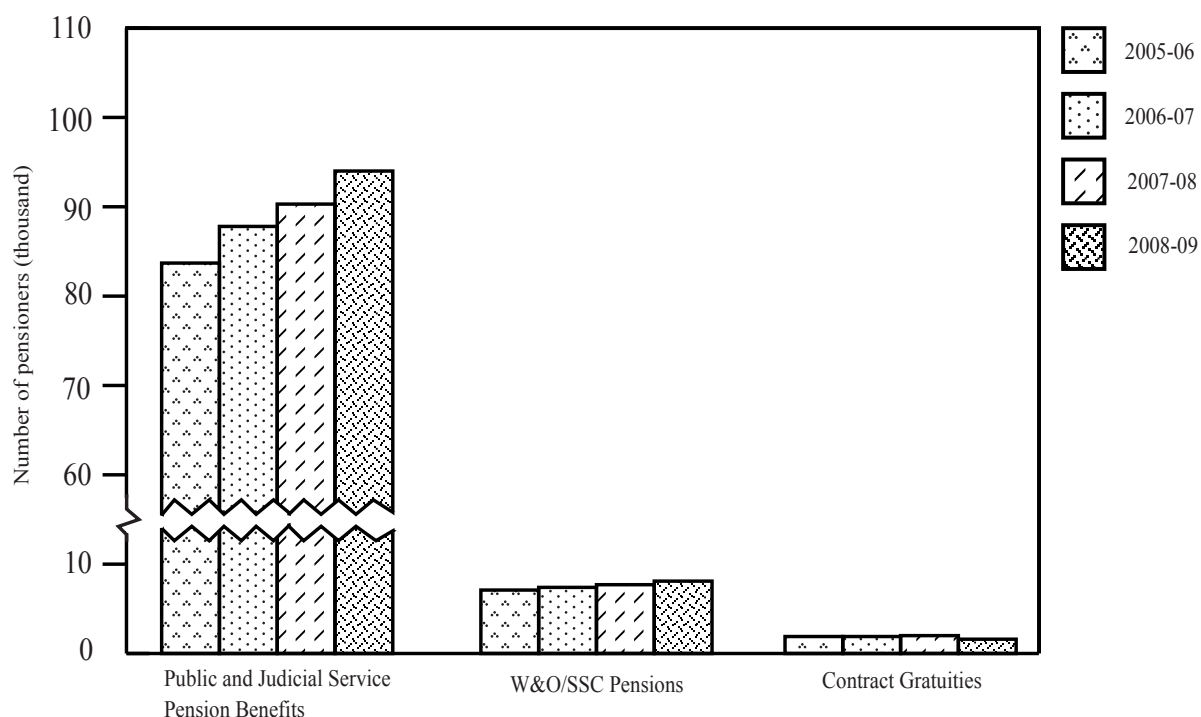


Figure B



Aim

3 The aim is to make provision for the payment of public and judicial service pension benefits.

Brief Description

4 Under this programme, funds are provided to meet payment of public and judicial service pension benefits, contract gratuities, widows' and orphans' pensions, surviving spouses' and children's pensions, employees' compensation and other miscellaneous pensions, allowances and grants.

5 The key performance measures in respect of public and judicial service pension benefits are:

Indicators

	2006 (Actual)	2007 (Actual)	2008 (Estimate)
no. of public and judicial service pensioners	86 354	89 388	93 020
no. of officers retiring	3 244	3 774	4 389
no. of agreement officers completing contract.....	2 002	1 922	1 570
no. of recipients of widows' and orphans'/surviving spouses' and children's pensions	7 310	7 627	7 960

Programme (2): War Memorial Pensions/Volunteer Pensions

	2006-07 (Actual)	2007-08 (Original)	2007-08 (Revised)	2008-09 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	37.8	39.4	36.8	36.8
			(-6.6%)	(—)
				(or -6.6% on 2007-08 Original)

6 Expenditure on, and the number of recipients of, war memorial pensions/volunteer pensions are shown in Figures C and D respectively.

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Figure C

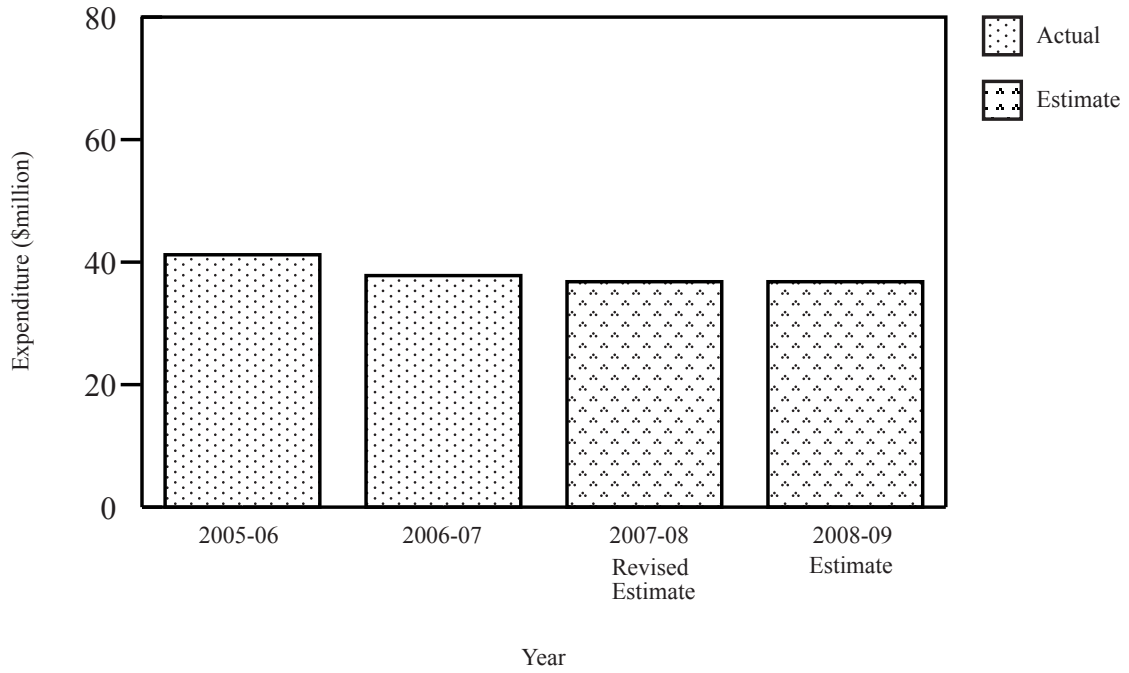
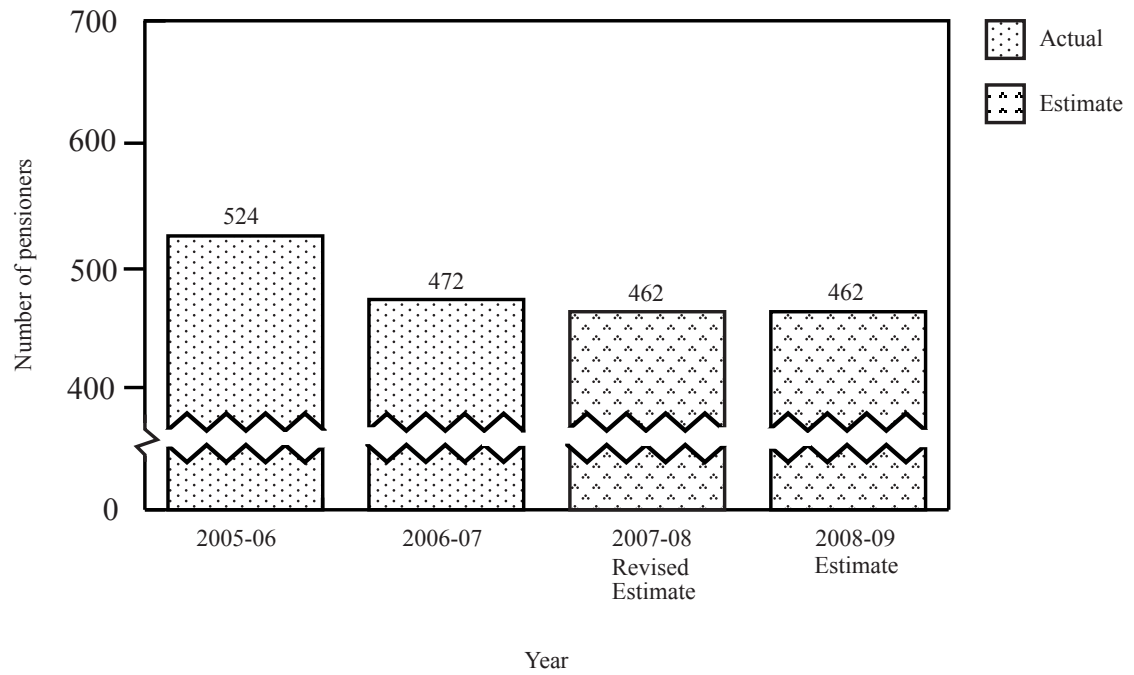


Figure D



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Aim

7 The aim is to make provision for the payment of war memorial pensions and volunteer pensions.

Brief Description

8 Under this programme, funds are provided to meet payments of war memorial pensions, volunteer and defence force pensions, allowances and grants.

9 The key performance measures in respect of war memorial and volunteer pensions are:

Indicators

	2006 (Actual)	2007 (Actual)	2008 (Estimate)
no. of war memorial pensioners.....	475	427	427
no. of new awards of war memorial pensions.....	2	1	0
no. of volunteer pensioners.....	43	35	35
no. of new awards of volunteer pensions.....	0	0	0

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2006–07 (Actual) (\$m)	2007–08 (Original) (\$m)	2007–08 (Revised) (\$m)	2008–09 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Public and Judicial Service Pension Benefits.....	13,616.5	15,001.0	14,881.0	16,488.2
(2) War Memorial Pensions/Volunteer Pensions	37.8	39.4	36.8	36.8
	13,654.3	15,040.4	14,917.8 (–0.8%)	16,525.0 (+10.8%)
				(or +9.9% on 2007–08 Original)

Analysis of Financial Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2008–09 is \$1,607.2 million (10.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2007–08. This is mainly due to an anticipated increase in payment of pension gratuities to new retirees in 2008–09 and full-year provision for new pensions awarded in 2007–08.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2008–09 is the same as the revised estimate for 2007–08.

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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2006–07	Approved estimate 2007–08	Revised estimate 2007–08	Estimate 2008–09	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
015	Public and judicial service pension benefits and compensation.....	12,903,464	14,271,229	14,182,355	15,770,418
016	Contract gratuities.....	357,773	339,849	325,253	304,832
017	Surviving spouses' and children's pensions and widows' and orphans' pensions.....	309,656	328,515	328,515	354,297
018	Volunteer and defence force pensions, allowances and grants.....	37,804	39,440	36,792	36,792
021	Ex-gratia pensions, awards and allowances	202	721	700	700
026	Employees' compensation, injury, incapacity and death related payments and expenses	45,005	60,657	44,167	57,972
	Total, Recurrent.....	<u>13,653,904</u>	<u>15,040,411</u>	<u>14,917,782</u>	<u>16,525,011</u>
Non-Recurrent					
	General non-recurrent	390	—	—	—
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	<u>390</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	Total, Operating Account	<u>13,654,294</u>	<u>15,040,411</u>	<u>14,917,782</u>	<u>16,525,011</u>
Total Expenditure					
		<u><u>13,654,294</u></u>	<u><u>15,040,411</u></u>	<u><u>14,917,782</u></u>	<u><u>16,525,011</u></u>

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2008–09 for public and judicial service pension benefits, contract gratuities, surviving spouses' and children's pensions, widows' and orphans' pensions, payments under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance, payments under the Hong Kong War Memorial Pensions Ordinance and various other pensions, gratuities, allowances and grants is \$16,525,011,000. This represents an increase of \$1,607,229,000 over the revised estimate for 2007–08 and of \$2,870,717,000 over actual expenditure in 2006–07.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$15,770,418,000 under *Subhead 015 Public and judicial service pension benefits and compensation* is for the payment of—

- (a) pensions, gratuities and other allowances under the Pensions Ordinance, the Pension Benefits Ordinance and the Pension Benefits (Judicial Officers) Ordinance to current pensioners and officers who will retire in 2008–09, and any increases in such pensions under the Pensions (Increase) Ordinance;
- (b) pensions under the Police Force Ordinance, 1932 and Police Officers (Special Cases) Pensions Ordinance, 1954 to police officers who retired on or before 1 January 1947, and any increases in such pensions under the Pensions (Increase) Ordinance; and
- (c) pensions to agreement officers, or dependant pensions to dependants of deceased agreement officers, on account of injuries suffered whilst on duty, and any increases in such pensions.

The provision comprises \$9,500,424,000 for the payment of public and judicial service pensions and other allowances, \$6,269,901,000 for pension gratuities, and \$93,000 for pensions to police officers who retired on or before 1 January 1947. The increase of \$1,588,063,000 (11.2%) over the revised estimate for 2007–08 is mainly due to full-year provision for new pensions awarded in 2007–08 and an anticipated increase in payment of pension gratuities to new retirees in 2008–09.

3 Provision of \$304,832,000 under *Subhead 016 Contract gratuities* is for the payment of contract gratuities or resettlement grants to officers who are due to complete their agreements in 2008–09.

4 Provision of \$354,297,000 under *Subhead 017 Surviving spouses' and children's pensions and widows' and orphans' pensions* is for—

- (a) the payment of pensions to surviving spouses and children of deceased contributors to either the Surviving Spouses' and Children's Pensions Scheme or the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme, and for any increases in payment for these two types of pensions under the Pensions (Increase) Ordinance and the Widows and Orphans Pension (Increase) Ordinance;
- (b) the return of contributions plus interest or addition under section 14 of the Surviving Spouses' and Children's Pensions Ordinance to contributors who, on leaving the service, are never married or are widows/widowers/divorcees or are not eligible for a public or judicial service pension; and
- (c) the refund of contributions plus interest under section 11 of the Widows and Orphans Pension Ordinance to contributors who, on leaving the public or judicial service, remain bachelors or widowers without children who are eligible to receive these pensions.

5 Provision of \$36,792,000 under *Subhead 018 Volunteer and defence force pensions, allowances and grants* comprises—

- (a) \$1,646,000 for the payment of pensions and other grants in respect of death, disablement or sickness of members of the former Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps, Hong Kong Naval Volunteer Force, or members of the other civil defence forces as provided for under the relevant legislation; and
- (b) \$35,146,000 for the payment of pensions and other benefits under the Hong Kong War Memorial Pensions Ordinance which will be adjusted in accordance with any increases in civil service pensions and any increases in payment under the Emergency Relief Fund and social security schemes.

6 Provision of \$700,000 under *Subhead 021 Ex-gratia pensions, awards and allowances* is for the payment of ex-gratia awards linked with the provisions of the pension legislation for the public and judicial services and volunteers and civil defence forces, the Surviving Spouses' and Children's Pensions Ordinance, the Widows and Orphans Pension Ordinance and the Employees' Compensation Ordinance, and also for the payment of recurrent ex-gratia pensions, allowances and any increases in such pensions already in issue.

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7 Provision of \$57,972,000 under *Subhead 026 Employees' compensation, injury, incapacity and death related payments and expenses* is for the payment of compensation to government employees under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance and other injury, incapacity and death related payments and expenses. The increase of \$13,805,000 (31.3%) over the revised estimate for 2007–08 is mainly due to the full-year provision for the expenses for medical treatment and examination by registered Chinese medicine practitioners for government employees injured on duty or suffered from occupational disease upon the commencement of Part 3 of the Certification for Employee Benefits (Chinese Medicine) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance, which provides for recognition of treatment, certification and examination by registered Chinese medicine practitioners for claiming employees benefits under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance.