

Head 79 — INVEST HONG KONG

Controlling officer: the Director-General of Investment Promotion will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2026–27 **\$361.4m**

Establishment ceiling 2026–27 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 41 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2026 rising by two posts to 43 posts as at 31 March 2027..... **\$38.1m**

In addition, there will be an estimated two directorate posts as at 31 March 2026 and 31 March 2027.

Controlling Officer’s Report

Programme

Investment Promotion

This programme contributes to Policy Area 6: Commerce and Industry (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development).

Detail

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	305.6	303.8	303.8 (—)	361.4 (+19.0%)
				(or +19.0% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to attract and assist overseas and Chinese Mainland companies to set up, retain and expand their investments and operations in Hong Kong and to promote Hong Kong’s advantages as a leading international business hub.

Brief Description

3 As the investment promotion agency of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Invest Hong Kong’s mission is to attract and retain foreign direct investment. It places emphasis on attracting investors and companies from priority sectors aligned with Hong Kong’s economic development and encourage them to set up their global or regional headquarters and other strategic functions in Hong Kong.

4 Invest Hong Kong provides one-to-one support services to investors and companies throughout the planning and execution of their setup and expansion in Hong Kong. The Department continues to strengthen its aftercare support service to companies already established in Hong Kong, and works closely with investment promotion and other government agencies, chambers of commerce, consulates in Hong Kong and professional partners from around the world to outreach to the Chinese Mainland and foreign businesses.

5 In 2025, Invest Hong Kong conducted around 9 300 meetings with target investors and companies in key geographic markets, focusing on various priority sectors. It stepped up collaboration with relevant Chinese Mainland and overseas agencies to promote Hong Kong as an ideal platform for Mainland enterprises to go global. Invest Hong Kong also organised promotion activities in major overseas locations with a view to encouraging overseas enterprises to make use of Hong Kong as a preferred platform to tap into the plentiful business and investment opportunities in the Chinese Mainland, in particular the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA).

6 Invest Hong Kong organised the Wealth for Good in Hong Kong Summit on 26 March 2025 in collaboration with the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB) to bring together leading influential family offices, asset owners and wealth successors from around the world to showcase Hong Kong’s vision as a leading global family office hub and international asset and wealth management centre.

7 Invest Hong Kong organised the “Hong Kong FinTech Week (HKFW) x StartmeupHK Festival 2025 (SMUF)” from 3 to 7 November 2025 in collaboration with the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, FSTB, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the Securities and Futures Commission and the Insurance Authority. As 2025 marks the tenth anniversary of both HKFW and SMUF, the two events were held together for the first time for better synergy.

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8 Foreign direct investment figures related to Hong Kong are:

	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)
foreign direct investment inflow into Hong Kong (\$ billion)	859.0	962.6	1,076.3^β
share of foreign direct investment inflow into Hong Kong in the overall inflow into South, East and South-East Asia (%)	18.4	22.9 [§]	26.0^φ

^β The increase in foreign direct investment inflow into Hong Kong in 2024 was mainly attributable to the increase in the inflow of inter-company debts from overseas affiliated companies to Hong Kong companies.

[§] The figure of 2023 has been amended following the updated figures for South, East and South-East Asia in the World Investment Report 2025.

^φ According to the World Investment Report 2025, while the overall inflow into South, East and South-East Asia declined in 2024, the foreign direct investment inflow into Hong Kong increased, leading to an increased share of Hong Kong.

9 The key performance measures are:

Indicators

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Estimate)
no. of new projects generated [#]	976	992	1 080
no. of projects completed [^]	539 ^Ψ	560	600

[#] New projects with the potential of becoming completed projects in the coming 18 months. It reflects Invest Hong Kong's investment promotion efforts in a particular year, discounting projects carried forward from previous years.

[^] Investment projects each resulting in a non-local company setting up or undergoing a significant expansion in Hong Kong with the assistance of Invest Hong Kong.

^Ψ Included completed projects of Invest Hong Kong in providing support to companies served by the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

10 During 2026–27, Invest Hong Kong will:

- continue to strengthen global investment promotion efforts and enhance promotion strategies to encourage multinational companies, startups, scaleups and family offices to set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong, including those from the Chinese Mainland and Belt and Road markets, so as to capitalise on the business opportunities arising from the key national strategies including GBA development and the Belt and Road Initiative;
- continue to strengthen its overseas and Chinese Mainland network comprising Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents in overseas Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) and Mainland Offices as well as overseas consultants, and step up efforts to attract target companies to Hong Kong;
- support the Task Force on Supporting Mainland Enterprises in Going Global (GoGlobal Task Force) in formulating customised support for Chinese Mainland enterprises to leverage Hong Kong's strengths to expand their businesses overseas;
- support the Financial Secretary in leading the relevant policy bureaux, departments, and public organisations in formulating packages of preferential policies including land grants, land premium, financial subsidies, and tax incentives, to attract high value-added industries and high-potential enterprises to set up in Hong Kong;
- collaborate with the Development Bureau, as well as other relevant bureaux and departments, to promote the opportunities presented in the Northern Metropolis, thereby attracting and assisting targeted industries to establish operations there;
- collaborate with overseas ETOs and overseas offices of Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) in supporting missions comprising Hong Kong enterprises and startup companies in exploring and expanding their businesses in overseas markets, and bringing potential foreign enterprises to Hong Kong under the Economic and Trade Express (ETE) to facilitate two-way trade flows;
- continue to strengthen the aftercare services for overseas and Chinese Mainland enterprises and investors in Hong Kong;
- continue to focus investment promotion efforts on priority sectors such as innovation and technology (I&T), business and professional services, creative industries, sports and entertainment, transport and logistics, financial services, family offices, as well as fintech sectors;

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- continue and expand the StartmeupHK programme to support the startup community in Hong Kong and enhance our promotion of the Hong Kong startup ecosystem overseas and on the Chinese Mainland; and continue to attract global startups, scaleups, investors and corporate ventures to set up businesses in Hong Kong;
- continue to conduct global promotion activities across sectors and arrange events to attract leading carbon neutrality solutions and potential investors to Hong Kong, leveraging Hong Kong's commitments and business opportunities to achieving carbon neutrality before 2050;
- continue to implement FSTB's New Capital Investment Entrant Scheme jointly with the Immigration Department with a view to attracting more new capital to Hong Kong, strengthening the development of our asset and wealth management business, financial services and related professional services and further enriching the talent pool;
- in collaboration with the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, continue to strengthen the promotion of the business advantages and opportunities of the GBA development to global investors, particularly through the Pan-GBA Inward Investment Liaison Group;
- in collaboration with the Investment Promotion Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality, continue to conduct joint investment promotion activities on the business environment and advantages of Hong Kong and Shenzhen;
- in collaboration with the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau and agencies/organisations under its purview, continue to bolster investment promotion and marketing efforts in the I&T sector, and enhance collaboration with key stakeholders such as the HKTDC, Hong Kong Tourism Board, and research centres;
- in collaboration with FSTB, continue to promote Hong Kong as a leading international financial centre, fintech hub and a family office hub, including stepping up the offering of one-stop services to family offices interested in establishing presence in Hong Kong; and
- in collaboration with the Transport and Logistics Bureau, continue to promote the aircraft leasing regime of Hong Kong, and Hong Kong as an international aviation and maritime centre.

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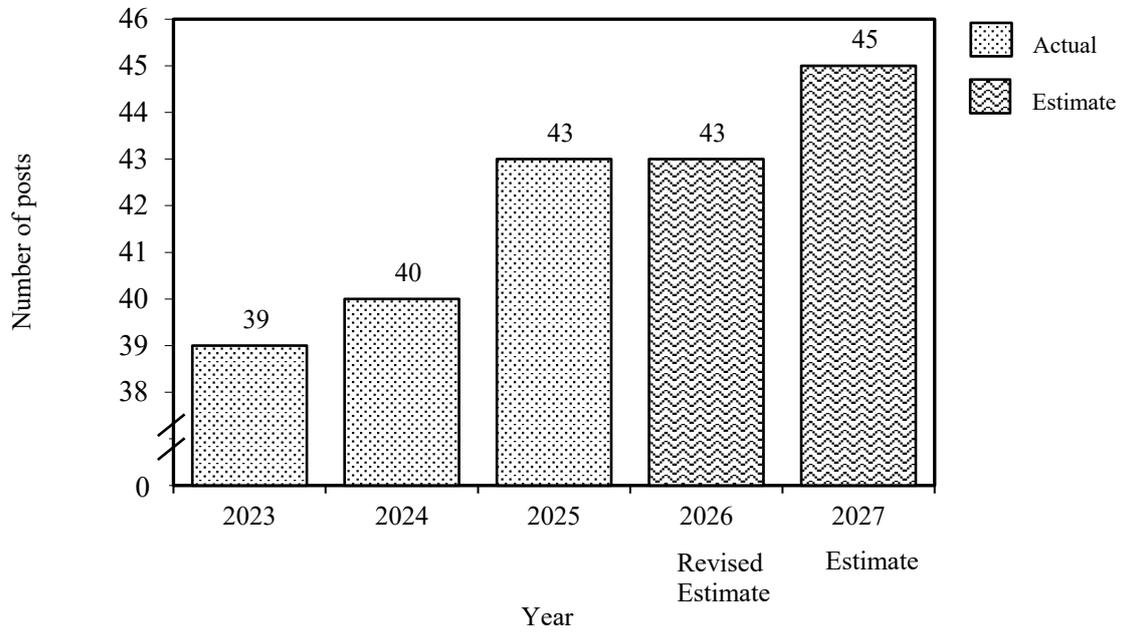
ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2024–25 (Actual) (\$m)	2025–26 (Original) (\$m)	2025–26 (Revised) (\$m)	2026–27 (Estimate) (\$m)
Investment Promotion	305.6	303.8	303.8 (—)	361.4 (+19.0%)
				(or +19.0% on 2025–26 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2026–27 is \$57.6 million (19.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increased provisions for supporting Chinese Mainland enterprises under the GoGlobal Task Force, attracting strategic industries and enterprises to set up or expand businesses in Hong Kong by using the preferential policy packages, supporting ETE activities and promoting family office related initiatives. There will be a net increase of two posts in 2026–27.

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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2024–25	Approved estimate 2025–26	Revised estimate 2025–26	Estimate 2026–27	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	305,559	303,826	303,826	361,350
	Total, Recurrent	305,559	303,826	303,826	361,350
	Total, Operating Account	305,559	303,826	303,826	361,350
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	Total Expenditure	305,559	303,826	303,826	361,350

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2026–27 for the salaries and expenses of Invest Hong Kong is \$361,350,000. This represents an increase of \$57,524,000 over the revised estimate for 2025–26 and \$55,791,000 over the actual expenditure in 2024–25.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$361,350,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of Invest Hong Kong. The increase of \$57,524,000 (18.9%) over the revised estimate for 2025–26 is mainly due to the increased provisions for supporting Chinese Mainland enterprises under the GoGlobal Task Force, attracting strategic industries and enterprises to set up or expand businesses in Hong Kong by using the preferential policy packages, supporting the Economic and Trade Express activities and promoting family office related initiatives.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2026 will be 43 posts. It is expected that there will be a net increase of two posts in 2026–27. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may create or delete non-directorate posts under delegated authority during 2026–27, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$38,059,000.

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

	2024–25 (Actual) (\$'000)	2025–26 (Original) (\$'000)	2025–26 (Revised) (\$'000)	2026–27 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	38,873	41,009	38,207	42,850
- Allowances.....	517	512	616	551
- Job-related allowances.....	—	1	1	1
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	56	63	60	29
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	2,599	2,730	2,883	4,000
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	263,514	259,511	262,059	313,919
	305,559	303,826	303,826	361,350