

Head 181 — TRADE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT

Controlling officer: the Director-General of Trade and Industry will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2026–27 **\$1,728.1m**

Establishment ceiling 2026–27 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 498 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2026 reducing by ten posts to 488 posts as at 31 March 2027..... **\$321.2m**

In addition, there will be an estimated 11 directorate posts as at 31 March 2026 and 31 March 2027.

Commitment balance..... **\$131,667.1m**

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

<p>Programme (1) Commercial Relations Programme (2) Trade Support and Facilitation Programme (3) Support for Small and Medium Enterprises and Industries</p>	<p>These programmes contribute to Policy Area 6: Commerce and Industry (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development).</p>
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Detail

Programme (1): Commercial Relations

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	170.7	182.3	177.1 (–2.9%)	179.4 (+1.3%)
				(or –1.6% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to secure and preserve maximum access and fair treatment for Hong Kong's goods, services and investments in external markets in order to consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's role as an international trade centre under the National 15th Five-Year Plan.

Brief Description

3 The Department is responsible for Hong Kong's commercial relations with its trading partners, and for promoting and protecting Hong Kong's trade interests and rights. The rules-based multilateral trading system under the auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO) is the cornerstone of Hong Kong's external trade policy. Being a founding Member of the WTO, Hong Kong has continued its separate membership in the WTO, under the name "Hong Kong, China", since its return to the motherland.

4 The Department continues to participate actively in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum whose goal is to achieve free and open trade and investment among its member economies which account for some 80 per cent of Hong Kong's total external trade.

5 Since the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong concluded the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) in 2003, both sides have continued to explore further liberalisation measures for trade and investment and to facilitate smooth and effective implementation of announced liberalisation measures. In this regard, the Department co-ordinates with relevant bureaux and departments in discussions with the Mainland authorities.

6 According to the latest statistics compiled by the WTO, Hong Kong was the world's seventh largest economy in terms of merchandise trade and the 21st largest in terms of commercial services trade in 2024.

7 In 2025–26, the Department's key activities included the following:

- active participation in the WTO, including:
 - carrying out preparatory work for participation in the Fourteenth Ministerial Conference in Yaoundé, Cameroon in March 2026;
 - 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;

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- safeguarding Hong Kong’s rights and interests by taking actions under the WTO framework;
- monitoring the implementation of WTO agreements, including the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies which entered into force in September 2025; and
- contributing to the ongoing negotiations and discussions at the WTO, particularly on rules (i.e. additional disciplines on fisheries subsidies); electronic commerce (e-commerce); investment facilitation; matters relating to trade in services; micro, small and medium enterprises; and proposals to reform the WTO;
- active participation in various APEC activities, including:
 - taking part in the Economic Leaders’ Meeting, Ministerial Meetings and Senior Officials’ Meetings;
 - contributing to work on trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation, including regional economic integration, connectivity, sustainability, and the implementation of the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action; and
 - providing secretariat support for Hong Kong, China’s representatives to the APEC Business Advisory Council;
- overseeing the implementation of CEPA and its subsidiary agreements, including the Agreement on Trade in Goods which provides for the full implementation of zero tariff on goods of Hong Kong origin imported into the Chinese Mainland, the Second Agreement Concerning Amendment to the CEPA Agreement on Trade in Services to achieve further liberalisation of trade in services between the Mainland and Hong Kong, and trade facilitation measures for export of certain Hong Kong food products to the Mainland;
- enhancing economic co-operation with trading partners as well as assisting 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), including:
 - intensifying engagement with its members for Hong Kong’s early accession to Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP);
 - concluding the IPPA negotiations with Qatar, Peru and Bangladesh for signing after completion of internal procedures by both Parties and continuing the IPPA negotiations with, among others, Saudi Arabia and Egypt;
 - continuing the negotiations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as per the work programme of ASEAN – Hong Kong Investment Agreement (AHKIA), including finalising the First Protocol to Amend the AHKIA to give effect to the Schedules of Reservations of Parties in September 2025 for signing after the completion of internal procedures by all Parties; and
 - continuing exploratory talks with other potential FTA or IPPA partners in the Middle East and other regions along the Belt and Road;
- closely monitoring policies and actions of our major trading partners which might affect bilateral trade, responding to such policies and actions where necessary, and giving advice to local traders and manufacturers.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

8 During 2026–27, the Department will:

- participate actively in the WTO to monitor implementation of agreements and to safeguard Hong Kong’s rights and interests, and engage in work relating to the decisions/declarations adopted at WTO Ministerial Conferences;
- continue to monitor the developments with respect to actions taken under the WTO framework in order to safeguard Hong Kong’s rights and interests;
- participate in ongoing negotiations and discussions at the WTO in seeking to advance Hong Kong’s interest and contribute to multilateral efforts in trade liberalisation and greater predictability and transparency in global trade rules;
- continue to participate actively in APEC and other regional bodies, and contribute particularly to APEC’s work on regional economic integration, connectivity, sustainability, and the implementation of the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action;
- continue to seek early accession to RCEP, explore the signing of IPPAs with, among others, Qatar, Peru, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and negotiate with ASEAN as per the work programme of AHKIA;
- continue exploratory talks with other potential FTA or IPPA partners in the Middle East and other regions along the Belt and Road and countries with good potential;
- oversee the implementation of FTAs signed between Hong Kong and foreign economies;

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- discuss, in consultation with relevant bureaux and departments and the trade, with Mainland authorities measures to enrich the content of CEPA and seek further liberalisation, aiming especially at those sectors that Hong Kong enjoys competitive advantages, for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area as well as the entire Chinese Mainland, with a view to facilitating Hong Kong enterprises to tap into the nation-wide domestic consumption market; and
- continue to safeguard Hong Kong's trade interests through monitoring and responding where necessary to trade restrictive measures and changes in major trading partners' laws, regulations, and policies, and provide updated information to local traders and manufacturers.

Programme (2): Trade Support and Facilitation

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	150.0	152.1	156.6 (+3.0%)	159.1 (+1.6%)
				(or +4.6% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

9 The aim is to optimise the benefits to Hong Kong flowing from international and bilateral trade agreements, including CEPA, to fulfil Hong Kong's obligations under such agreements by way of providing licensing, certification, and registration services, and to enhance Hong Kong's role as a regional trading and distribution centre.

Brief Description

10 The Department provides licensing, certification and registration services for various goods and commodities. The Department:

- operates the voluntary Textiles Trader Registration Scheme to enable it to disseminate textiles-related regulatory and other information to the trade in a speedy manner;
- maintains a robust control system on strategic commodities and participates actively in international co-operation in strategic trade control; reviews the list of strategic commodities controlled in Hong Kong regularly to align the list of controlled items with the latest control lists of the international regimes;
- operates the Rice Control Scheme to ensure a stable supply of rice in Hong Kong and to maintain a reserve stock to cater for short-term shortage of supply and other emergencies;
- implements the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme to stop trade in “conflict diamonds” that fuels armed conflicts, terrorist activities and illicit proliferation of armament; and
- operates a powdered formula export licensing arrangement under the policy area of the Environment and Ecology Bureau to help to ensure sufficient and stable supply of powdered formula for infants and young children under 36 months of age in Hong Kong.

11 The Department operates an origin certification system to facilitate export of Hong Kong products to external markets by issuance of Certificates of Origin. It also maintains a Factory Registration service in support of the origin certification system.

12 Apart from providing a one-stop certification service for Hong Kong Service Suppliers (HKSS) and Hong Kong Investors (HKI) to support the implementation of CEPA and handling enquiries on CEPA matters, the Department actively organises and participates in various promotional and publicity activities, and handles requests for assistance from Hong Kong businesses which encounter difficulties in enjoying CEPA benefits.

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13 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target#	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Plan)
registration of textiles traders (completed processing within three working days) (%)	100	100	100	100
Certificate of Hong Kong Origin, Certificate of Origin - Processing, Certificate of Hong Kong Origin - CEPA (CO(CEPA)), Certificate of Hong Kong Origin - New Zealand (CO(NZ)), Certificate of Hong Kong Origin - Georgia (CO(Georgia)) and Certificate of Hong Kong Origin - Form AHK (CO(Form AHK)) (issued within 1.5 working days) (%)Δ ...	100	100	100	100
enquiry on CO(CEPA), CO(NZ), CO(Georgia), CO(Form AHK) and preferential rules of origin‡				
simple enquiry (replied within three working days) (%)	100	100	100	100
complicated enquiry (replied within ten working days) (%)	100	100	100	100
application for factory registration (completed processing within 14 working days) (%)	100	100	100	100
amendment of factory registration particulars				
if factory inspection is necessary (completed processing within 14 working days) (%)	100	100	100	100
if factory inspection is not necessary and the request is lodged in paper form (completed processing within three working days) (%)	100	100	100	100
if factory inspection is not necessary and the request is lodged through online system (completed processing within one working day) (%)	100	N.A.¶	N.A.¶	100
local subcontracting arrangement (LSA) registration (completed processing within one working day) (%)	100	100	100	100
outward processing arrangement (OPA) registration (completed processing within one working day) (%)	100	100	100	100
combined annual renewal of factory registration and OPA registration (completed processing within one working day) (%)	100	100	100	100
enquiry on OPA: manufacturing processes allowed to be subcontracted outside Hong Kong				
simple enquiry (completed processing within one working day) (%)	100	N.A.¶	N.A.¶	100
complicated enquiry (completed processing within four working days) (%)	100	N.A.¶	N.A.¶	100

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	Target#	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Plan)
import and export licence for reserved commodities (rice) (issued within one working day) (%)	100	100	100	100
approval as a reserved commodity (rice) storage place				
inform Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) to conduct inspection of the premises (completed within five working days) (%)	100	100	100	100
inform the applicant of the application result upon receipt of C&ED's inspection report (completed within five working days) (%)	100	100	100	100
import and export licence for ozone depleting substances (issued within two working days) (%)	100	100	100	N.A.§
import and export licence for strategic commodities				
licence application with prior approval-in-principle (issued within the same day) (%).....	100	100	100	100
other licence applications (issued within 2.5 working days) (%)Ψ	100	100	100	100
pre-classification service on strategic commodities (completed within two working days) (%)Ψ	100	100	100	100
powdered formula export licence (issued within two working days) (%)Δ.....	100	100	100	100
amendment to and cancellation of powdered formula export licence (completed within one working day) (%).....	100	100	100	100
Kimberley Process Certificate (Import) for rough diamonds (issued within 20 minutes) (%)	100	100	100	100
Kimberley Process Certificate (Export) for rough diamonds (issued within the following working day) (%)	100	100	100	100
registration for rough diamond traders (completed within one working day) (%).....	100	100	100	100
certified true copy (issued within one working day) (%).....	100	100	100	100
registration for Transshipment Cargo Exemption Scheme (completed within 14 working days) (%)	100	100	100	100
registration for importers of cereals and grain flour from the Mainland (completed within four working days) (%).....	100	100	100	100

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	Target#	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Plan)
HKSS and HKI certificates				
fresh application (completed within 14 working days) (%).....	100	100	100	100
amendment and renewal (issued within five working days) (%).....	100	100	100	100
replacement and cancellation (issued within three working days) (%).....	100	100	100	100
other written enquiries (replied within ten calendar days) (%).....	100	100	100	100

Target is applied upon receipt of all necessary documents and information.

Δ The processing time may be longer if an application is selected for pre-issue inspection. In this case, the Department will, on a best endeavor basis, send out the approval message through electronic service, or make available the licence for collection in the case of paper licence application, within two working days after completion of the inspection, provided that the inspection reveals no discrepancy.

‡ Preferential rules of origin refer to the rules of origin applicable under respective arrangements/agreements of trade liberalisation between Hong Kong and its trading partners, including CEPA, the Closer Economic Partnership Agreement with New Zealand, as well as the respective FTAs with European Free Trade Association States, Chile, the ASEAN, Georgia, Australia and Peru.

¶ No application/enquiry was received.

§ Ozone depleting substances licence was no longer issued by the Department with effect from 1 December 2025. This licence has been handled by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) since then.

Ψ The processing time may take longer for complicated cases.

Indicators

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Plan)
<i>Licence issued</i>			
textiles trader registration.....	2 547	2 297	2 300
Certificate of Hong Kong Origin, Certificate of Origin - Processing, CO(CEPA), CO(NZ), CO(Georgia) and CO(Form AHK).....	2 222	2 603	2 610
factory registration	657	649	650
OPA registration	20	20	20
LSA registration.....	1	1	1
statutory declarations of antique	0	0	0
reserved commodities (rice) licence	9 337	9 160	9 160
registration of reserved commodity (rice) stockholder	211	208	210
approval as a reserved commodity (rice) storage place.....	148	144	150
ozone depleting substances licence.....	83	53 ^β	N.A.^β
strategic commodities licence	208 000	186 653	187 000
powdered formula export licence.....	17 788	29 953	30 000
delivery verification certificate	4	6	5
international import certificate.....	31	39	40
pesticide (methyl bromide) licence	49	8 ^β	N.A.^β
Kimberley Process Certificate	1 672	1 281	1 290
registration of rough diamond traders.....	156	169	160^η
HKSS and HKI certificates ^Δ	215	223	220
permit under the Chemical Weapons (Convention) Ordinance (Cap. 578) ^Ω	0	0	0
registration for importers of cereals and grain flour from the Mainland	82	83	85

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	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Plan)
<i>CEPA</i>			
enquiries.....	3 720	4 182	4 190
visitors to the Department's CEPA website.....	46 047	38 842	38 900

- β Ozone depleting substances licence and pesticide (methyl bromide) licence were no longer issued by the Department with effect from 1 December 2025. These two licences have been handled by EPD and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department respectively since then.
- η Rough diamond trader registration is renewable on a biennial basis. The planned figure is estimated based on the actual number of trader registration in 2024 which will expire in 2026.
- Λ The figures on HKSS and HKI certificates include fresh applications as well as certificates for amendment, replacement, cancellation and renewal, and certified true copy.
- Ω Under the Chemical Weapons (Convention) Ordinance, the Department administers a permit system to control and monitor the production and related activities pertinent to scheduled chemicals. The potential demand for a permit in Hong Kong is low given the small size of the chemical industry and that the scheduled chemicals are uncommon.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

14 During 2026–27, the Department will:

- promote understanding of CEPA among the trade through timely dissemination of information to the trade, and organisation of or participation in various promotional and publicity activities including the provision of a user-friendly enquiry hotline and when new measures are introduced, organisation of a business forum to introduce further enhancements to CEPA and the related implementation arrangements;
- liaise closely with the Mainland authorities and local traders on Mainland issues of significant impact on business operations, and help reflect the trade's concerns to the relevant Mainland authorities, and collaborate with the Mainland authorities to support Hong Kong enterprises to promote their products and services to the Mainland market; and
- keep the strategic trade control system under review with a view to strengthening the robustness while streamlining procedures and requirements without compromising the integrity and effectiveness of control.

Programme (3): Support for Small and Medium Enterprises and Industries

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	2,617.2	1,984.0	1,694.8 (–14.6%)	1,389.6 (–18.0%)
				(or –30.0% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

15 The aim is to support and facilitate the development of Hong Kong's small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and industries.

Brief Description

16 The Department implements programmes to support enterprises, particularly SMEs, with a view to enhancing their competitiveness. It provides information and advisory services to SMEs through its Support and Consultation Centre for SMEs (SUCCESS) and co-ordinates the integrated services of SUCCESS and the other three SME service centres under the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) and the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, to provide advisory services on government funding schemes. In addition, "SME ReachOut", operated by the HKPC under the support of the Department, promotes the Government's funding schemes to SMEs and assists them in identifying and applying for suitable schemes as well as building their capacities.

17 The Department administers several funding schemes, including the Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales (BUD Fund), the SME Export Marketing Fund (EMF), and the Trade and Industrial Organisation Support Fund (TSF) to assist Hong Kong enterprises in developing more diversified markets and enhancing their competitiveness. In 2025, a total amount of \$2.5 billion was injected into the funding schemes to help SMEs cope with the various uncertainties in the global economy. At the same time, a series of enhancement measures were implemented to the BUD Fund, including expanding the geographical coverage of "E-commerce Easy" to the ten ASEAN countries, relaxing the application arrangement and expanding the funding scope of "Easy BUD", and providing targeted funding support for enterprises to implement green transformation projects. Besides, rationalisation measures were instituted in respect of the funding schemes with a view to ensuring their financial sustainability.

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18 The Department maintains close liaison with local industries and trade and industrial organisations. It provides secretariat support for the Trade and Industry Advisory Board and the Small and Medium Enterprises Committee, which respectively advise the Government on matters affecting Hong Kong's trade and industry, and specifically on issues affecting the development of SMEs. Moreover, in 2025–26, the Department supported the organisation of outbound business missions for exploring overseas markets under the “Economic and Trade Express” platform by gauging the interest of local SMEs and start-ups, liaising with the relevant enterprises for participation in the missions etc.

19 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target#	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Plan)
SUCCESS				
processing applications for Business Advisory Service within seven working days (%)	100	100	100	100
replying to simple enquiries on licensing requirements within one working day (%)	100	100	100	100
replying to complicated enquiries on licensing requirements within three working days (%)	100	100	100	100
replying to simple enquiries on SME support services and facilities within one working day (%)	100	100	100	100
replying to complicated enquiries on SME support services and facilities within three working days (%)	100	100	100	100
TSF				
processing applications for grant within 60 working days (%)	100	100	100	100
EMF				
processing applications for grant within 30 working days (%)	100	100	100	100
BUD Fund				
processing general and “E-commerce Easy” applications for grant within 60 working days (%)	100	100	100	100
processing “Easy BUD” applications within 30 working days (%)	100	100	100	100

Target is applied upon receipt of all necessary documents and information.

Indicators

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Plan)
SUCCESS			
enquiries ^ω	4 284	3 989	3 990
visitors to SUCCESS ^φ	2 524 [^]	3 262 [^]	3 270[^]
visits to SUCCESS and SME Link websites ^ω	2 568 034	4 948 803	4 949 000
seminars and other activities	120	120	120
e-newsletters sent to SUCCESS members	26	26	26
TSF			
applications received and processed	34	37	35
amount of government grants approved (\$m)	30.5	5.6 ^β	5.6
EMF			
applications received and processed	30 918	27 033 ^δ	18 000[¶]
no. of first time SME beneficiaries	2 705	1 335 ^δ	1 250[¶]
total no. of SME beneficiaries	10 515	7 803 ^δ	7 280[¶]
amount of government grants approved (\$m)	808.9	447.7 ^δ	221.8[¶]

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	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Plan)
BUD Fund			
applications received and processed	7 262	5 347 Δ	5 000@
amount of government grants approved (\$m).....	1 689.2	1 787.9 Δ	1 311.4@

- ω The decrease in the number of enquiries is attributed to the increase in usage of online services on SUCCESS and SME Link websites. The increased visits to websites in 2025 are in turn mainly attributed to the increased views on business information on the SUCCESS website and the newly established one-stop thematic webpage, “Decarbonisation • Business Action”, under the “SME Link” web portal.
- ϕ The increase in the number of visitors to SUCCESS in 2025 is mainly attributed to the increased usage of services.
- \wedge The number of visitors to SUCCESS excludes visitors to the EMF service counter located in SUCCESS.
- β The decrease in the amount of government grants approved in 2025 is attributed to the implementation of rationalisation measures since end December 2024.
- δ The decrease in the figures for 2025 is attributed to the implementation of rationalisation measures since 14 March 2025.
- \P The decrease in the planned figures for 2026 is attributed to the planned consolidation of the EMF into the BUD Fund upon expiry of the EMF’s special measures on 30 June 2026.
- Δ The decrease in the number of applications received and processed in 2025 is attributed to the implementation of rationalisation measures since 14 March 2025. The increase in the amount of government grants approved in 2025 is due to the larger funding amounts approved in 2025 in respect of the applications submitted before the implementation of rationalisation measures.
- $@$ The reduction in the planned number of applications received and processed as well as the planned amount of government grants approved in 2026 is attributed to the implementation of rationalisation measures, partly offset by a package of planned enhancement measures, including the expansion of geographical scope for general and “Easy BUD” applications, the increase in the funding ceiling for “Easy BUD”, the provision of targeted support to enterprises for implementing projects with artificial intelligence (AI) measures, as well as the planned consolidation of the EMF into the BUD Fund and enhanced promotion for business promotion activities under “Easy BUD”.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

20 During 2026–27, the Department will:

- closely monitor the global and domestic economic environment and the impact of any changes in the environment on Hong Kong enterprises, in particular SMEs;
- liaise closely with the trade, regularly disseminate the latest economic and trade information of the Chinese Mainland and around the world, and continue to implement the Mentorship Programme (Branding and E-commerce Development);
- administer various funding schemes and continue to implement a suite of rationalisation measures with a view to enhancing their effectiveness and financial sustainability;
- further enhance the BUD Fund by expanding its geographical scope, increasing the funding ceiling for “Easy BUD”, providing targeted support to enterprises for implementing projects with AI measures, as well as enhancing promotion and facilitating the participation of Hong Kong enterprises in exhibitions and export marketing activities through “Easy BUD”;
- continue to administer the enhanced services of “SME ReachOut” in providing SMEs capacity building services and enhancing assistance to SMEs in government funding applications; and
- continue to support the organisation of overseas business missions for local SMEs and start-ups under the “Economic and Trade Express” platform.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2024–25 (Actual) (\$m)	2025–26 (Original) (\$m)	2025–26 (Revised) (\$m)	2026–27 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
(1) Commercial Relations.....	170.7	182.3	177.1	179.4
(2) Trade Support and Facilitation.....	150.0	152.1	156.6	159.1
(3) Support for Small and Medium Enterprises and Industries	2,617.2	1,984.0	1,694.8	1,389.6
	2,937.9	2,318.4	2,028.5 (–12.5%)	1,728.1 (–14.8%)
				(or –25.5% on 2025–26 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$2.3 million (1.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increased provision for personal emoluments and personnel related expenses for filling existing vacancies, partly offset by a net decrease of four posts under this Programme in 2026–27.

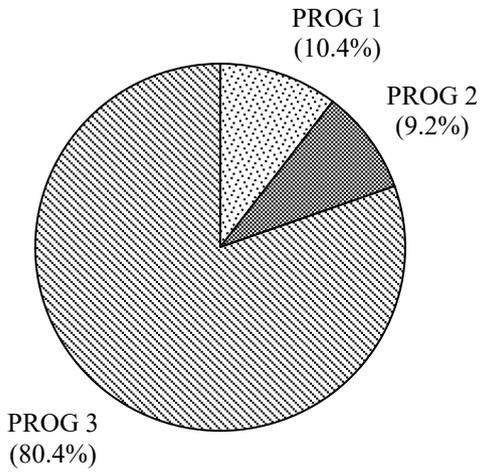
Programme (2)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$2.5 million (1.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increased provision for personal emoluments and personnel related expenses for filling existing vacancies, partly offset by a net decrease of five posts under this Programme in 2026–27.

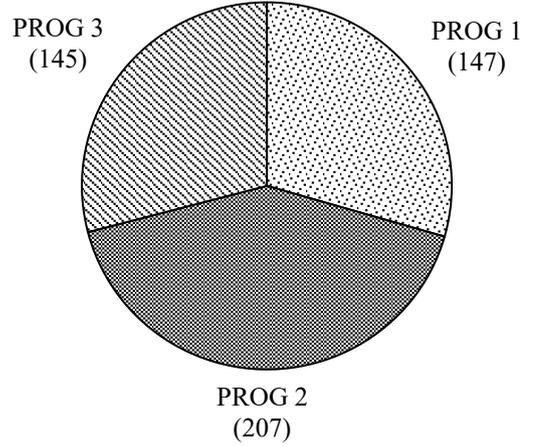
Programme (3)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$305.2 million (18.0%) lower than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirements for BUD Fund and the Export Marketing and Trade and Industrial Organisation Support Fund. There will be a net decrease of one post under this Programme in 2026–27.

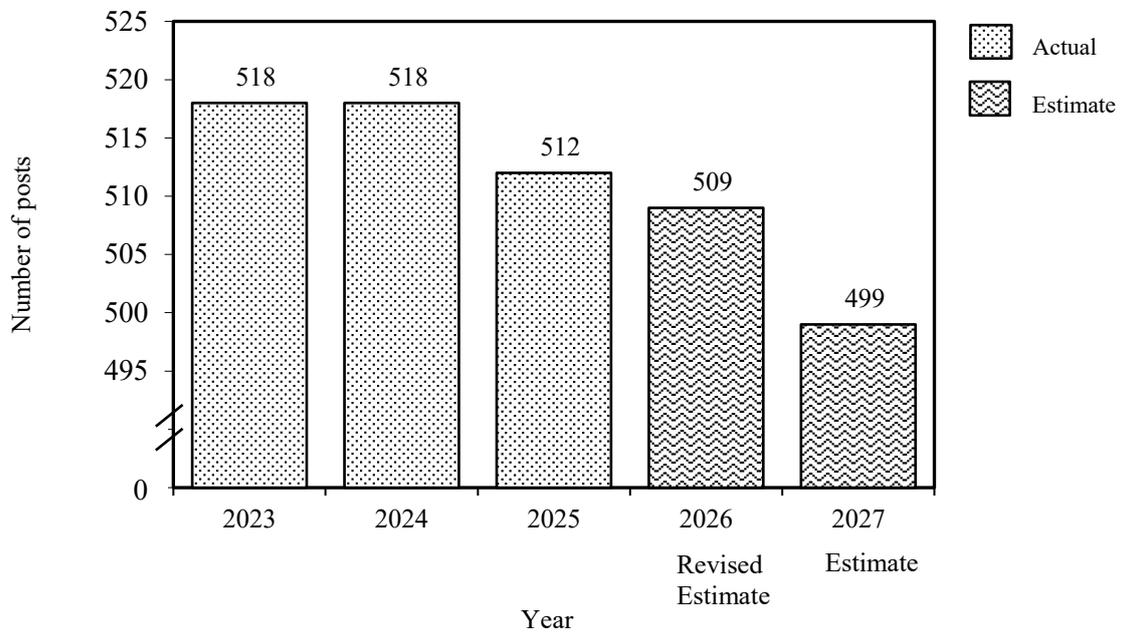
Allocation of provision to programmes (2026-27)



Staff by programme (as at 31 March 2027)



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	478,187	482,381	482,381	495,053
	Total, Recurrent.....	478,187	482,381	482,381	495,053
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent	2,459,740	1,836,000	1,546,100	1,233,000
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	2,459,740	1,836,000	1,546,100	1,233,000
	Total, Operating Account	2,937,927	2,318,381	2,028,481	1,728,053
<hr/>					
	Total Expenditure	2,937,927	2,318,381	2,028,481	1,728,053

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2026–27 for the salaries and expenses of the Trade and Industry Department is \$1,728,053,000. This represents a decrease of \$300,428,000 against the revised estimate for 2025–26 and \$1,209,874,000 against the actual expenditure in 2024–25.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$495,053,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Trade and Industry Department.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2026 will be 509 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of ten posts in 2026–27. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2026–27, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$321,172,000.

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.....	323,749	343,539	325,363	336,446
- Allowances.....	8,103	7,079	9,261	9,261
- Job-related allowances.....	—	2	2	2
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	853	882	773	790
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	27,469	29,623	29,208	30,887
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	108,082	90,195	106,567	106,654
Other Charges				
- Contribution to and participation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation	1,411	1,345	1,330	1,336
- Trade negotiations and associated activities.....	6,344	7,539	7,700	7,500
- Contribution to the organisation of the Hong Kong Awards for Industries.....	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
- Subscription to the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council.....	176	177	177	177
	478,187	482,381	482,381	495,053

Head 181 — TRADE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT

Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2025	Revised estimated expenditure for 2025–26	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Operating Account</i>						
700		<i>General non-recurrent</i>				
	520	SME Loan Guarantee Scheme	30,000,000	472,800	10,000	29,517,200
	524	Export Marketing and Trade and Industrial Organisation Support Fund	8,000,000	6,928,898	359,000	712,102
	802	Special Loan Guarantee Scheme.....	100,000,000	832,530	2,100	99,165,370
	836	Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales.....	8,750,000	5,302,540	1,175,000	2,272,460
		Total	<u>146,750,000</u>	<u>13,536,768</u>	<u>1,546,100</u>	<u>131,667,132</u>