



The Government's Economy Stimulus & Relief Measures

2019-2020



Since August 2019, the Hong Kong Government has announced a series of measures to provide impetus for the economy and relief the financial burdens of enterprises and people against challenges arising from economic uncertainties. Specifically, in view of the challenges arising from COVID-19, in addition to the HK\$120 billion relief package announced in the 2020-21 Budget, the Government has launched two rounds of Anti-Epidemic Fund totaled HK\$168 billion with a view to helping businesses to stay afloat and workers to retain employment. We have summarized these measures below. Details on how to access these benefits are available on the website of various government departments or will be announced shortly.

Providing relief to enterprises

Measures		Amount HK\$ million	Details
A *	Wage Subsidy Scheme	80,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A subsidy of up to HK\$9,000 per employee for a period of 6 months to employers who have been making Mandatory Provident Fund ("MPF") contributions Provide support to employers in the catering, construction and transport sectors which are not completely covered by the MPF scheme One-off subsidy to self-employed persons who made MPF contributions
B *	Relief to hard-hit sectors	20,000	<p>Provide one-off relief to 16 sectors including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private tutorial schools Local primary producer Passenger transport sector Service providers and suppliers for schools Certain non-profit-making organizations Licensed individuals of the estate agency sector Sectors completely or partly closed due to the measures for safeguarding public health Exchange participants and Securities and Futures Commission licensed individuals Catering sector Construction sector Private refuse collector Instructors of interest classes Registered sports coaches Creative industries Tourism industry Aviation sector
C	Retail Sector Subsidy Scheme	5,600	One-off subsidy of HK\$80,000 will be provided to each eligible retail store with business commenced before 1 January 2020 and is still in operation at the time of application. The maximum amount of subsidy for a parent company that operates retail groups or chain stores under the same business registration is HK\$3 million
D	Electricity charges subsidy to non-residential account	5,200	Subsidy to each eligible non-residential account holder to cover 75% of their monthly electricity charges for 8 months, subject to a cap of HK\$5,000 per month
E	Food Licence Holders Subsidy Scheme	3,730	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidy of HK\$200,000 to each eligible holder of i) general restaurant licence; ii) marine restaurant licence; iii) factory canteen licence Subsidy of HK\$80,000 to each eligible holder of i) light refreshment restaurant licence; ii) food factory licence; iii) bakery licence; iv) fresh provision shop licence; and v) siu mei and lo mei shop licence
F	Subsidy for the transport sector	3,230	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HK\$1 discount (1/3 discount) per litre of LPG for 12 months for LPG taxi and public light buses Reimburse 1/3 of actual fuel/electricity cost of franchised bus, ferry and tram companies One-off subsidy of HK\$10,000 for each specified vehicles (e.g. school bus, goods vehicles, hire cars) One-off subsidy of HK\$1 million for each cross-boundary ferry
G	Enhancements to Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales and SME Export Marketing Fund	2,000	Injection of HK\$1,000 million to each fund to better support enterprises in exploring business opportunities, promoting sales and participating in business missions organised by the Government and related organisations for market development
H *	Relief measures for the aviation sector	2,000	Airport Authority to provide further relief measures for the aviation sector

* New / enhanced measures announced by the Hong Kong Government on 8 April 2020.

Measures		Amount HK\$ million	Details
I	Waiver of government fees and charges	1,600	Waive 27 groups of government fees and charges for 12 months covering various sectors including maritime, logistics, retail, catering, tourism, construction, agriculture and fisheries
J	Convention & Exhibition Industry Subsidy Scheme	1,020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All participants of HKTDC's exhibition and major conventions (i.e., over 400 participants) will be subsidised 50% of their participation fee per participation in HKTDC's exhibitions, subject to a cap of HK\$10,000, for a period of 12 months from the time when HKTDC is holding event again subsidises all organisers of exhibitions and international conventions/conferences (i.e. conventions/conferences with over 400 participants and at least 50% of which are non-local participants) at HKCEC and AWE 100% of the venue rental for one year
K *	Waiver of water and sewage charges for non-domestic households	1,020	Waive 75% of water and sewage charges until November 2020, subject to a monthly cap of HK\$20,000 and HK\$12,500 respectively per household per month
L	Reduce the rental for tenancies of government land for community and business use	873	Reduce the rental for tenancies of government land for community and business use under the Lands Department, public market stalls leased by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, catering establishments and retail stores leased by the Government Property Agency, public cargo working areas leased by the Marine Department and stalls/facilities in the four wholesale markets managed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department by 50% for 12 months
M *	Job advancement	800	Help enterprises to apply technology and encourage staff in various professions to learn new skills
N *	Interest-free deferral of loans for the educational sector	430	One-off interest-free deferral of loan repayment for 2 years to self-financing post-secondary institutions under the Start-up Loan Scheme, non-profit-making international schools and students receiving loans from the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
O	Rental waivers for tenants at the Science Park, industrial estates and Cyberport	380	6 months rental waiver for tenants and start-ups
P	Reduce fees for varying the terms of land grants	300	50% reduction in fees for 6 months
Q	Subsidies for live marine fish wholesale traders and fishing vessels with Mainland deckhands	270	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a subsidy of HK\$200,000 to the operator of each live marine fish wholesale stall in the Fish Marketing Organization markets; a subsidy to the owner of each fishing vessel and fish collector vessel with Mainland deckhands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HK\$200,000 for each vessel of 25 meters or above in length; and HK\$80,000 for each vessel of less than 25 meters in length
R	Support to children care centres	220	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special grant of HK\$21 million per month to 258 aided CCCs for 4 months Special grant of HK\$34 million per month to 299 non-aided CCCs for 4 months
S	Arts and Culture Sector Subsidy Scheme	150	Disburse funding to arts and cultural organisations to support staff especially freelance artists as well as workers doing menial and other supportive tasks
T	Licensed Guesthouses Subsidy Scheme	150	Subsidy of HK\$80,000 per licensed guesthouse
U	Travel Agents Subsidy Scheme	140	Subsidy of HK\$80,000 per licensed travel agents
V *	Enhancement the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme ("SFGS")	117	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce enhancements to the 80%, 90% and Special 100% Guarantee Products under the SGFS Additional guarantee commitment of HK\$30 billion
W	Support to training bodies	90	Special grant to appointed training bodies

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	Measures	Amount HK\$ million	Details
X	Licensed Hawkers Subsidy Scheme	30	Subsidy of HK\$5,000 to each hawker licence
Y *	Measures in addressing cash-flow pressure of borrowers	-	Hong Kong Monetary Authority will work with the banking industry to provide HK\$1,000 billion loan capacity and implement "principal repayment holiday period" arrangement
Z *	Rental reduction for short-term tenancies of government land for fee-paying public car parks and harbour front recreational or event venues	-	75% reduction in fees from April to September 2020
AA *	Flexible handling of Government works and non-works contracts and other development projects	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend the deadline for project completion Relax the payment schedules of Government works and non-works contracts Extend the Building Covenant period for development projects by up to 6 months in land leases
AB	New measures under SFGS	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new loan guarantee product which the Government will provide for a 90% guarantee for approved loans, up to HK\$6 million each. The maximum guarantee period for each approved loan is proposed to be 5 years from the first drawdown of the facility SME borrowers under the 80% Guarantee Product of the SFGS may apply for their lenders under the SFGS for principal moratorium of up to 6 months which is renewable, subject to a maximum of 12 months in total

Tax related measures

	Measures	Amount HK\$ million	Details
A	Reductions of profits tax, salaries tax and tax under personal assessment for 2019/20	18,800	100% reduction of profits tax, salaries tax and tax under personal assessment for 2019/20, subject to a ceiling of HK\$20,000
B	Waiving rates of residential properties	13,300	Waive rates for four quarters of 2020-21, subject to a ceiling of HK\$1,500 per quarter for each rateable property
C	Enhanced rate concession for non-domestic properties	3,800	<p>Increase the rates concession to HK\$5,000 in the fourth quarter of 2019-20 (i.e. 1 January to 31 March 2020) to all non-domestic properties with the exemption ceiling for each non-domestic property</p> <p>Waive rates for non-domestic properties for four quarters of 2020-21, subject to a ceiling of HK\$5,000 per quarter in the first two quarters and a ceiling of HK\$1,500 per quarter in the remaining two quarters</p>
D	Increased reductions of profits tax, salaries tax and tax under personal assessment for 2018/19	1,800	Increase the tax reductions from 75% to 100%, with ceiling remained at HK\$20,000
E *	Deferral of tax payments	-	Extend the deadline for payment of profits tax, salaries tax and tax under personal assessment for the year of assessment 2018/19 for 3 months
F	Extension of tax filing deadlines	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Profits Tax returns and tax returns for individuals for the year of assessment 2019/20 will be issued on 4 May 2020 and 1 June 2020 respectively (representing a deferral of around 1 month) Due date for N-code taxpayers represented by tax representatives is extended to 30 June 2020 The Country-by-Country Reporting notification deadline for the accounting period ended between 31 December 2019 and 29 February 2020 is extended to 1 June 2020
G	Paying tax by instalments	-	Waive surcharge for 2018/19 tax payment instalment plans approved by the IRD

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Providing relief to Individual

Measures		Amount HK\$ million	Details
A	Cash payout	71,000	Disburse HK\$10,000 to Hong Kong permanent residents aged 18 or above
B *	Job creation	6,000	Create around 30,000 time-limited jobs (up to 12 months) in the public and private sectors in the coming 2 years
C	Electricity charges subsidy to residential account	5,600	One-off subsidy of HK\$2,000 to each residential electricity account
D	Extra allowance to social security recipients	4,000	1 month allowance of standard Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) payment, Old Age Allowance, Old Age Living Allowance, Disability Allowance, Working Family Allowance and individual-based Work Incentive Transport Subsidy
E	Student study grant for 2019-20 school year	3,200	Subsidy of HK\$3,500 to each recipient
F	Rental subsidy for lower income tenants living in public rental units	1,400	Pay 1 month's rent for lower income tenants living in the public rental units of the Hong Kong Housing Authority and the Hong Kong Housing Society
G	Special allowance for eligible Working Family Allowance (WFA) and Student Financial Assistance (SFA) households	990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WFA household – one-off special allowance equivalent to 2-month WFA allowance to each beneficiary household SFA household – additional HK\$4,640 allowance
H	MTR Fare Reduction	800	20% fare reduction for 6 months from 1 July 2020
I	Enhance and extend the Love Upgrading Special Scheme	400	Enhance and extend the Love Upgrading Special Scheme, including to consider increasing the maximum amount of monthly allowance per trainee to HK\$5,800, expanding the choices of trades and courses, and offering more training places based on demand.
J *	Reduce expense threshold of Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme	-	Relax the expense threshold from HK\$400 to HK\$200 for 6 months start from July 2020
K *	Relief measures for insurance policyholders	-	Insurance Authority and insurance companies or intermediaries offer grace period of premium payment up to 30 to 180 days for holders of individual life, critical illness and medical policies
L *	Waiver of registration / enrolment fees for healthcare professionals	-	Waiver of registration / enrolment fees for healthcare professionals fees starting from July 2020 for 3 years
M *	Relax the asset limits of CSSA Scheme	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide unemployment support scheme through CSSA Scheme Asset limits for an able-bodied applicant will be increased by 100% for a period of 6 months

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Enhancing anti-epidemic capability

Measures		Amount HK\$ million	Details
A	Enhancing support to the HA in combatting the epidemic	4,700	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> personnel-related expenditure for frontline staff involved in anti-epidemic efforts (HK\$2,500 million) procuring additional personal protective equipment (PPE) and other necessary accessories for healthcare staff (HK\$1,500 million) special rental allowance to staff who need to rent hotel rooms or other premises for temporary stay and temporary accommodation arrangements (HK\$350 million) enhancing support for laboratory testing and procuring drug and medical equipment (HK\$260 million) additional cleansing, security, laundry, transportation, storage, clinical waste disposal, IT support services, etc. and hospital supplies (HK\$90 million)
B	Support local mask production	1,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) to (a) set up expeditiously a production line for surgical masks, if necessary (HK\$10 million) provide subsidies to private entities to set up production lines on surgical masks in Hong Kong (HK\$50 million) underwrite to buy 480 million masks (HK\$1,440 million)
C	Global procurement of personal protective equipment	1,000	Ensure funding is reserved for the procurement of personal protective equipment
D	Support Property Management sector in anti-epidemic efforts	1,000	HK\$1,000 "hardship allowance" for front line cleaning/security workers for 4 months
E	Technology applications to enable reusability of masks	800	HK\$2,000 subsidy per building block for four months for stepping up cleaning efforts
F	Support construction sector in anti-epidemic efforts	710	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HK\$5,000 subsidy to eligible contractor, subcontractor and consultant to strengthen hygienic control measures HK\$1,500 subsidy to each registered construction worker to purchase protective/antiseptic equipment
G	Support cleansing and security staff engaged by Government and Housing Authority service contractors in anti-epidemic efforts	250	HK\$1,000 allowance for no fewer than 4 months throughout the epidemic period for each cleansing worker, toilet attendant and security worker
H	Installation of emergency alert system	150	Install and operate a new emergency alert system for the Government to send instant messages to all mobile telephone users.
I	Home quarantine support	50	Procurement of electronic wristbands
J	Ex-gratia payment to households of the two public housing estates designated as quarantine centres	30	HK\$6,000 allowance to each prospective tenant of Fai Ming Estate in North District and Chun Yeung Estate in Sha Tin

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