

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2726)

Head: (26) Census and Statistics Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Price/Industry/Service Statistics

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Census and Statistics (Leo YU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question:

Regarding companies in Hong Kong with parent companies located outside Hong Kong, please advise the Committee on the following:

1. The number of regional headquarters/regional offices/local offices of companies in Hong Kong with parent companies located outside Hong Kong in each of the past 10 years;
2. The respective numbers of regional headquarters/regional offices/local offices of the Mainland, Japan, the United States of America, Canada, Australia and European countries (including the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Switzerland, Netherlands, Italy and Sweden) in Hong Kong in each of the past 10 years; and
3. The top five lines of business of companies in Hong Kong with parent companies located outside Hong Kong in each of the past 10 years, and their respective percentages in the total number of regional headquarters/regional offices/local offices.

Asked by: Hon HONG Wen, Wendy (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

At the request of Invest Hong Kong, the Census and Statistics Department conducts the Annual Survey of Companies in Hong Kong with Parent Companies Located outside Hong Kong (the Survey) every year to collect information on the regional headquarters, regional offices and local offices in Hong Kong with their parent companies located outside Hong Kong.

- (1) According to the survey results, the number of companies in Hong Kong with parent companies located outside Hong Kong increased from 7 585 in 2014 to 9 040 in 2019, and has remained at the level of around 9 000 since then. The annual figures are set out in Table 1.

- (2) During 2014-2023, the number of regional headquarters/regional offices/local offices with parent companies located in the mainland of China increased significantly from 957 in 2014 to 2 177 in 2023. Over the same period, the number of regional headquarters/regional offices/local offices with parent companies located in Japan, the United States of America, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Switzerland, Netherlands, Italy or Sweden did not change significantly. The annual numbers of the companies concerned are set out in Table 2.
- (3) During 2014-2023, the largest number of regional headquarters/regional offices/local offices were mainly engaged in the import/export trade, wholesale and retail sector in Hong Kong, followed by financing and banking; professional, business and education services; transportation, storage and courier services; and information technology services. The annual percentages of these companies among all regional headquarters/regional offices/local offices in Hong Kong are set out in Table 3.

Table 1: Number of regional headquarters/regional offices/local offices, 2014-2023

Year	Regional headquarters	Regional office	Local office	Total
2014	1 389	2 395	3 801	7 585
2015	1 401	2 397	4 106	7 904
2016	1 379	2 352	4 255	7 986
2017	1 413	2 339	4 473	8 225
2018	1 530	2 425	4 799	8 754
2019	1 541	2 490	5 009	9 040
2020	1 504	2 479	5 042	9 025
2021	1 457	2 483	5 109	9 049
2022	1 411	2 397	5 170	8 978
2023	1 336	2 311	5 392	9 039

Table 2: Number of regional headquarters/regional offices/local offices by selected location of parent company, 2014-2023

Location of parent company	Number of regional headquarters/regional offices/local offices									
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
The mainland of China	957	1 091	1 123	1 264	1 591	1 799	1 986	2 080	2 114	2 177
Japan	1 388	1 358	1 376	1 378	1 393	1 413	1 398	1 388	1 388	1 403
United States of America	1 331	1 368	1 353	1 313	1 351	1 344	1 283	1 267	1 258	1 273
United Kingdom	584	631	656	675	712	713	665	667	655	641
Germany	335	340	357	382	396	420	400	418	424	426
France	311	315	334	343	373	371	373	369	365	346
Switzerland	242	252	244	238	235	245	251	263	255	260

Location of parent company	Number of regional headquarters/regional offices/local offices									
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Netherlands	187	190	190	178	180	189	181	186	185	187
Italy	152	159	160	160	164	177	171	182	169	166
Australia	173	182	179	174	172	185	164	169	159	160
Canada	97	110	110	106	113	119	112	109	112	112
Sweden	84	92	91	90	95	97	93	88	85	90

Note: More than 1 location of parent companies may be involved, e.g. joint venture.

Table 3: Proportion of regional headquarters/regional offices/local offices by selected major line of business in Hong Kong, 2014-2023

Major line of business in Hong Kong	Proportion among all regional headquarters/regional offices/local offices in Hong Kong (%)									
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Import/export trade, wholesale and retail	45.6	44.1	44.8	46.3	45.1	46.3	46.7	47.5	46.4	48.5
Financing and banking	17.3	18.2	19.0	19.7	20.6	19.8	19.2	19.1	18.7	18.4
Professional, business and education services	17.8	17.1	16.1	14.6	14.4	15.2	15.4	15.0	14.6	14.4
Transportation, storage and courier services	7.8	8.1	7.7	7.0	6.9	6.8	7.9	7.2	7.3	7.5
Information technology services	3.7	3.9	4.2	4.4	4.6	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.1

Note: A regional headquarters/regional office/local office may be engaged in more than 1 major line of business.

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