

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1682)

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:

The Chief Executive has announced initiatives in the Policy Address that the Government will be proactive in competing for enterprises and competing for talents, while it is also stated in paragraph 65 of the Budget Speech that the Government plans to propose legislative amendments in order to attract overseas companies to re-domicile in Hong Kong, as well as to develop a headquarters economy in Hong Kong. In this connection, please advise on the following:

- 1) the number of regional headquarters, regional offices and local offices in Hong Kong in the past 3 years, with country breakdowns of Mainland China and other territories;
- 2) the methodology adopted by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) in conducting the annual survey; the expenditure and manpower involved;
- 3) the smart initiatives to be adopted to enhance efficiency, increase sample sizes and shorten the time required for conducting surveys; whether the C&SD can currently obtain data and information from other departments directly;
- 4) taking into account that competing for enterprises has been a priority of the current-term Government's policy agenda, as well as the rapid changes in the socio-economic environment in recent years, the plans to be adopted by the C&SD to expedite reporting on the development progress of the headquarters economy so as to facilitate decision-making by relevant policy bureaux, for example, whether the C&SD will consider publishing a brief half-yearly report between the annual surveys.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

At the request of Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK), the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) 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 has remained at around 9 000 during 2020 to 2022. The breakdowns of such companies with parent companies located in the Mainland of China and other countries/territories are at Annex Table.
- 2) The Survey is a voluntary statistical survey conducted under Part IIIA of the Census and Statistics Ordinance (Chapter 316). The latest round of the Survey was conducted during early June to mid-September 2022. Companies selected for the Survey could submit their questionnaires online, by email or by post. In addition, to enhance the survey response rate, telephone interviews and face-to-face interviews were conducted to assist the companies concerned in completing the questionnaires and to follow up with those non-responding companies.

The expenditure for conducting the 2022 round of the Survey was about \$1.6 million, which mainly involved emoluments for time-limited posts, including the employment of 46 university students and 6 Non-Civil Service Contract Survey Interviewers / Statistical Assistants to assist in conducting the Survey under the supervision of a Statistician and a few Census and Survey Officers / Statistical Officers.

- 3) The C&SD continues to make use of information technology to improve data quality and efficiency in data processing of the Survey in recent years, including the enhancement of the End-User Computing Systems for data processing and validation to increase the speed and accuracy of the processes, as well as the introduction of online questionnaires for company respondents to complete the questionnaires more conveniently. Furthermore, company data from different sources were collected to enhance the sampling frame of the Survey. In the compilation of the sampling frame for the 2022 round of the Survey, reference was made to the data collected from the following channels in addition to the relevant information available from the C&SD:
 - (i) up-to-date information from the Companies Registry;
 - (ii) Consulates, trade commissions and chambers of commerce of overseas countries in Hong Kong; and
 - (iii) business directories, media reports, online information and working contacts of InvestHK, etc.
- 4) The Survey is currently conducted in around June to September every year with survey results released swiftly in the fourth quarter of the same year. Taking into account factors such as the respondents' time and efforts required in completing the questionnaire and availability of government resources, the Survey continues to be conducted annually. The C&SD would maintain close liaison with InvestHK and other relevant government bureaux/departments and review in good time the statistical needs.

Annex Table: Number of regional headquarters / regional offices / local offices by country/territory where the parent company was located, 2020 to 2022

Regional headquarters / regional offices / local offices	Country/Territory where the parent company was located	2020	2021	2022
Regional headquarters	The Mainland of China	238	252	251
	Other countries/territories	1 266	1 205	1 161
	Overall	1 504	1 457	1 411
Regional offices	The Mainland of China	344	377	327
	Other countries/territories	2 138	2 109	2 074
	Overall	2 479	2 483	2 397
Local offices	The Mainland of China	1 404	1 451	1 536
	Other countries/territories	3 641	3 663	3 636
	Overall	5 042	5 109	5 170
Total	The Mainland of China	1 986	2 080	2 114
	Other countries/territories	7 045	6 977	6 871
	Overall	9 025	9 049	8 978

Note: In the case of a joint-venture regional headquarters / regional office / local office, there may be more than 1 country/territory where its parent companies are located. Therefore, figures may not add up to the overall.

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