

Helping measures announced by the Government
from August to December 2019

1st round of helping measures announced on 15 August 2019

1.	Increase the reductions of salaries tax, tax under personal assessment and profits tax for the year of assessment 2018/19 to 100% while retaining the ceiling of \$20,000
2.	Waive 27 groups of government fees and charges for 12 months to benefit a wide range of sectors from maritime, logistics, retail, catering, tourism, construction, to agriculture and fisheries
3.	Reduce the rental for most short-term 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 (GPA), Public Cargo Working Areas leased by the Marine Department (MD) and stalls/facilities in the four wholesale markets managed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) by 50% for six months
4.	Implement a fee review moratorium on government fees and charges set on a cost recovery basis with immediate effect until December 31, 2020
5.	Further enhancements to the Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales (BUD Fund) and the SME Export Marketing Fund and provide additional injections into these Funds
6.	Extra allowance to social security recipients. Similar arrangements will apply to recipients of Working Family Allowance and Work Incentive Transport Subsidy
7.	Subsidy to kindergarten, primary and secondary day-school students in Hong Kong at \$2,500 per head in the 2019/20 school year
8.	Pay one month's rent for lower income tenants living in the public rental units of the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS)
9.	Provide an electricity charge subsidy of \$2,000 to each residential electricity account
10.	The Employees Retraining Board (ERB) will plan for specific training programmes to assist unemployed/under-employed workers in trades suffering from the downturn and provide special allowance

11.	Continue to explore room for increasing or expediting minor works projects both to meet public needs and to create more employment opportunities for the construction sector. An Enhancement to the existing Building Maintenance Grant Scheme for Elderly Owners, an Operation Building Bright 2.0, a Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme, and a Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme will also be considered
12.	The Community Care Fund will provide a one-off living subsidy for low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (commonly known as the "N have-nots")

2nd round of helping measures announced in September 2019

1.	Introduce a new loan guarantee product under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme (SFGS), under which the Government will provide for a 90% guarantee for approved loans, up to the maximum of \$6 million each, with a maximum loan guarantee period of five years and enhance the relief measure under 80% guarantee product of the SFGS
2.	Reduce the rental for all tenants in EcoPark by 50% for six months
3.	Reduce the rental for food trucks in government venues by 50% for six months
4.	Use the funding for the Travel Industry Council to subsidise tourist guides in enrolling in training courses before their licence renewal
5.	Starting from September, waive annual fees to be paid by travel agents (main companies or their branches)

3rd round of helping measures announced on 22 October 2019

1.	Reduce the rental for short-term tenancies of government land for fee-paying public car parks and harbourfront recreational or event venues under the Lands Department by 50% for six months
2.	Reduce the rental for fee-paying public car parks under the GPA by 50% for six months
3.	Extend the coverage of the rental concession of 50% for six months for catering establishments and retail stores leased by the GPA to supermarkets, superstores, a shopping mall and vending machines
4.	Reduce the rental for fee-paying public car parks and catering and retail premises under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) by 50% for six months
5.	Reduce the hire charges of facilities of civic centres managed by the LCSD by 50% for six months
6.	Reduce fees of short-term waivers and temporary waivers issued to most waiver holders by 50% for six months
7.	Provide fuel subsidy for the transport trade for six months or a one-off fuel subsidy
8.	Provide a one-off survey fee subsidy for local commercial marine vessels
9.	Cash incentive scheme to travel agents
10.	The HKHA, the HKHS, the Airport Authority Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and the Cyberport, as well as the MTR Corporation, also announced rental concessions to provide relief for their tenants. The Construction Industry Council has waived the registration fees for construction workers

4th round of helping measures announced on 4 December 2019

1.	Waive water and sewage charges for non-domestic households, subject to a monthly cap of \$20,000 and \$12,500 respectively per household per month
2.	Provide an enhanced rates concession to all non-domestic properties. The exemption ceiling for each non-domestic property chargeable to rates will be increased from \$1,500 to \$5,000 for that quarter
3.	Waive the surcharge on tax outstanding for taxpayers who applied and obtained approval for payment of tax by instalments. The waiver is applicable for the 2018/19 year of assessment, and covers profits tax, salaries tax, and personal assessment
4.	Offer fees and rent reduction for cruise lines and existing tenants of Kai Tak Cruise Terminal for six months
5.	Introduce the following additional support measures for most of the short-term tenancies of government land and short term and temporary waivers for varying the terms of the land grants under the Lands Department issued for community and business use: (i) Freeze the rent and waiver fee payable under the short-term tenancies/waivers from October 1, 2019 until December 31, 2020; (ii) Suspend re-tendering of the short-term tenancies from October 1, 2019 until December 31, 2020, to allow the existing tenants to stay on under existing terms
6.	For stalls/facilities/carparks in Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Food Market and Western Wholesale Food Market managed by AFCD, any monthly rental increase as a result of the rental review conducted between October 1, 2019 and December 31, 2020 will be waived until the next review
7.	For Public Cargo Working Areas managed by MD, any monthly fee increase according to the Berth Licence Agreements between October 1, 2019 and December 31, 2020 will be waived until the next adjustment cycle
8.	Provide an electricity subsidy to each non-residential electricity account holder, subject to a cap of \$5,000 per account per month for four months
9.	Launch a one-time rental subsidy scheme to recycling enterprises through the Recycling Fund
10.	The ERB will enhance and extend the Love Upgrading Special Scheme
11.	Enhance the Youth Employment and Training Programme to assist young people to enter the labour market
12.	The Securities and Futures Commission will waive the annual licence fees for all licensed individuals and intermediaries