

LCQ15: Earnings of youths in Hong Kong

Following is a question by the Hon Luk Chung-hung and a written reply by the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui, in the Legislative Council today (May 5):

Question:

Will the Government inform this Council of the average monthly employment earnings (at constant 2018 dollars) of full-time employees across different birth cohorts (as set out in the first column of the table below) when they reached the ages listed in the table below, broken down by selected educational attainment (i.e. (i) upper secondary educated, (ii) post-secondary non-degree educated, (iii) bachelor's degree educated, and (iv) postgraduate educated) (set out in tables of the same format as the table below)?

Educational attainment: _____

Birth cohort	Year in which the cohort aged 20-24	Earnings (\$) of cohort members when their ages reached			
		20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39
1970 – 1974	1994				
1975 – 1979	1999				
1980 – 1984	2004				
1985 – 1989	2009				–
1990 – 1994	2014			–	–
1995 – 1999	2019		–	–	–

Reply:

President,

Based on the data obtained from the General Household Survey conducted by the Census and Statistics Department, average monthly employment earnings of full-time employees (at constant 2018 dollars, excluding foreign domestic helpers) of different cohorts by selected educational attainment are provided below:

(i) Full-time employees (Note 1) with upper secondary educational attainment

Cohorts born in	Year in which the cohort aged 20-24	Average monthly employment earnings (Note 2) of the cohort concerned when their ages reached (HK\$)			
		20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39
1970 – 1974	1994	12,100	14,900	18,400	18,600
1975 – 1979	1999	11,700	14,600	16,500	17,900
1980 – 1984	2004	10,600	13,000	15,600	19,300
1985 – 1989	2009	10,700	13,700	18,200	–
1990 – 1994	2014	11,900	15,600	–	–
1995 – 1999	2019	13,500	–	–	–

(ii) Full-time employees (Note 1) with post-secondary non-degree educational attainment

Cohorts born in	Year in which the cohort aged 20-24	Average monthly employment earnings (Note 2) of the cohort concerned when their ages reached (HK\$)			
		20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39
1970 – 1974	1994	14,800	20,000	24,800	26,300
1975 – 1979	1999	14,300	18,200	21,600	23,600
1980 – 1984	2004	11,600	15,700	19,100	24,400
1985 – 1989	2009	11,600	15,100	21,400	–
1990 – 1994	2014	12,200	17,100	–	–
1995 – 1999	2019	14,400	–	–	–

(iii) Full-time employees (Note 1) with undergraduate educational attainment

Cohorts born in	Year in which the cohort aged 20-24	Average monthly employment earnings (Note 2) of the cohort concerned when their ages reached (HK\$)			
		20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39
1970 – 1974	1994	19,400	26,500	38,300	45,900
1975 – 1979	1999	17,100	24,600	37,300	40,000
1980 – 1984	2004	14,300	23,700	31,000	41,100
1985 – 1989	2009	16,900	21,700	33,700	–
1990 – 1994	2014	16,200	24,300	–	–
1995 – 1999	2019	18,000	–	–	–

(iv) Full-time employees (Note 1) with post-graduate educational attainment

Cohorts born in	Year in which the cohort aged 20-24	Average monthly employment earnings (Note 2) of the cohort concerned when their ages reached (HK\$)			
		20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39
1970 – 1974	1994	26,100	34,700	47,100	65,300
1975 – 1979	1999	21,100	29,300	47,200	51,400
1980 – 1984	2004	19,600	31,700	43,000	59,400
1985 – 1989	2009	19,900	27,100	46,000	–
1990 – 1994	2014	18,300	29,800	–	–
1995 – 1999	2019	19,400	–	–	–

Note 1: Refer to employees who work at least 35 hours, or those who work less than 35 hours due to vacation during the seven days before enumeration.

Note 2: The average monthly employment earnings are easily affected by extreme values in the survey sample, more so when reckoned for higher-end workers. They should therefore be interpreted with caution, in particular when they are compared over time.