

Water Utility	WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT Address : 48/F Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong, China Telephone : (85-2) 2829 4500 Fax : (85-2) 2824 0578 E-mail : wsdinfo@wsd.gov.hk Head : William G. C. Ko, Director The Water Supplies Department (WSD) of the Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (Government of the HKSAR) is tasked with developing and managing water services for the city. The utility, which dates back to 1863, buys about 78% of its water supply from mainland People's Republic of China, treats the water, and distributes it to the urban population of 6,865,600 people. It also distributes seawater for flushing purposes.																																															
General Data About Water Utility	Connections : 2,430,000 Staff : 5,673 Annual O&M Costs : US\$794,151,600 Annual Revenue : US\$329,870,460 Annual Capital Expenditure : US\$279,466,460 Source of Investment Funds : 100% government grant																																															
Water Resources Management	Since 1960, the Government of the HKSAR has made agreements with Guangdong authorities for the supply of raw water from the East River. In 2001, this river contributed about 78% of the water supply; rainwater, impounded in 120 km of channels and 17 reservoirs, supplied the remaining 22%. The freshwater supply is supplemented by a unique seawater supply system, which saves about 20% of freshwater needs.																																															
Tariff Structure	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Category</th> <th colspan="2">Rate (4-month period)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>HK\$/m³</th> <th>US\$/m³</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Domestic</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>First 12 m³</td> <td>Free</td> <td>Free</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Next 31 m³</td> <td>4.16</td> <td>0.534</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Next 19 m³</td> <td>6.45</td> <td>0.827</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Remainder</td> <td>9.05</td> <td>1.161</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nondomestic</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trade</td> <td>4.58</td> <td>0.587</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Construction</td> <td>7.11</td> <td>0.912</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shipping</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> Ocean going</td> <td>10.93</td> <td>1.402</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Nonocean going</td> <td>4.58</td> <td>0.587</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flushing Water</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>First 30 m³</td> <td>Free</td> <td>Free</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Remainder</td> <td>4.58</td> <td>0.587</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Notes:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This tariff structure has been in effect since 16 February 1995. 2. Charges are for 4-month periods. Flushing water is billed separately to registered customers. 3. All consumers pay on metered use and most are billed every 4 months; large consumers are billed monthly. 4. Consumers pay at banks, post offices, automated teller machines, the utility office or at government collection offices. 5. The connection fee for pipes up to 20 mm in diameter and for any length up to 100 meters is HK\$1,140 (US\$146.21). 6. There is a sewerage surcharge of approximately 20% in the water bill. 	Category	Rate (4-month period)		HK\$/m ³	US\$/m ³	Domestic			First 12 m ³	Free	Free	Next 31 m ³	4.16	0.534	Next 19 m ³	6.45	0.827	Remainder	9.05	1.161	Nondomestic			Trade	4.58	0.587	Construction	7.11	0.912	Shipping			Ocean going	10.93	1.402	Nonocean going	4.58	0.587	Flushing Water			First 30 m ³	Free	Free	Remainder	4.58	0.587
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Policy and Regulation	The water policy objective of the Government of the HKSAR is to ensure the provision of reliable, adequate, and quality water and an efficient water supply service, as stated in the vision, mission, and values statements of WSD. In setting water charges, the major factors considered are the financial impact on customers, cost recovery and return on assets, prevention of waste, and avoidance of cross subsidy. WSD is a government utility and is self-regulated, but is accountable to the Waterworks Account Committee. Other government departments monitor health (Health Department), radiological (Hong Kong Observatory), and environmental (Environmental Protection Department) aspects of the water supply.																																															
Wastewater and Sanitation	The entire city population of Hong Kong has access to sewerage. Septic tanks are used only in remote villages where desludging is done by tankers. The Environmental Protection Department regulates industrial effluent disposal and water pollution control including issuance of standards for effluents discharged into the drainage and sewerage systems and coastal waters. The Drainage Services Department invested about US\$1,140 million in sanitation during 1997–2002.																																															