The Hong Kong commercial market is poised for a moderate acceleration in transactions during the Year of the Snake, which begins on January 29th.

INCREASED ACTIVITY



- More transactions in the coming year led by bargain purchasers taking advantage of some investors needing to revalue, refinance, or sell their assets.
- Examples include:
- > The purchase of 152 Queens Road Central by a Southeast Asian F&B conglomerate for HK\$1.1B.
- > The en-bloc forced sale by a receiver of Cheung Kei HQ, Hung Hom to the HK Metropolitan University for HK\$2.64B, a 42% discount off 2016 pricing.

MARKET PRESSURE



- We see a further rental decline of 10%, under the continuous pressure of rising supply.
- There is a noticeable shift among tenants towards higher-quality Grade A properties with reduced rentals.
- A prime example is The Henderson which will be 70% occupied by Q1 2025.
- Flight to quality will create a domino effect, further accelerating rental declines in Grade B & C buildings as vacancy continues to rise to 20%+.

TENANT DEMAND



SUPPLY IS EXPECTED TO OUTPACE DEMAND UNTIL EARLY 2027. UNTIL THIS SHIFTS LANDLORDS WILL CONTINUE TO FACE A CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT.

- The overall market remains sluggish, however demand is slowly rising from the following sources:
- > Mainland insurance, fintech and new IPO entrants.
- > Southeast Asian firms establishing operations in Hong Kong and the GBA.
- > Expansion in AI and global family offices.
- > Hedge Fund expansion Point72, Millennium, Abrdn & others.
- > Successful local & PRC companies such as Webank, Preface, BYD, Xiaomi, AIA, Bakehouse, MTR, Casetfiy, Midea, and Maison Fashion Brands will lead the way for future retail and office space expansion.
- Continued signs of growth in the office or retail footprint of these type of firms will bode well for the Hong Kong commercial property.
- Demand from the West, especially large US and European corporate entities will continue to be moderate.

FOR BUYERS AND LESSEES, THE MARKET WILL CONTINUE TO SOFTEN THROUGHOUT 2025 PROVIDING POCKETS OF EXCEPTIONAL VALUE - MUCH NEEDED FOR HONG KONG TO COMPETE IN ASIA AND AGAIN ON A GLOBAL SCALE.

Analysis reveals a complex landscape in the Hong Kong commercial investment and leasing market, characterized by broad challenges with many snippets of opportunity for investors and tenants. While landlords and holding investors face a tough road ahead, some positive signs are emerging for late 2025 and into 2026 as the conditions of a further market rebalance are worked through.