

1,600 hawkers rounded up

More than 1,600 illegal hawkers were arrested by officers from the Regional Services Department in June.

The department's hawker control teams also seized 2,434 items on sale by illegal sellers in the same period.

The latest 1,698 arrests bring to 9,936 the number of arrests since January.

Of those arrested, 1,219 were itinerant hawkers and 237 were selling cooked food, all of them without a licence.

A department spokesman said: "We will step up action, particularly against illegal cooked food hawkers who pose serious public health hazards by selling food which is susceptible to disease."