



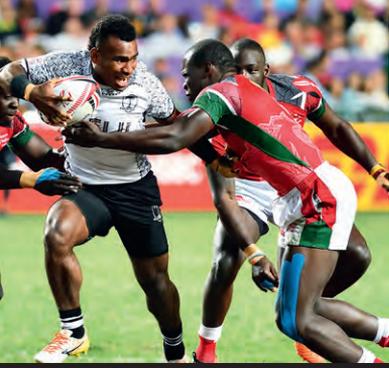
CONNECT AND EXCEL



2018 HONG KONG in brief







HONG
KONG
ASIA'S WORLD CITY



CONNECT AND EXCEL

Brand HK's visual identity and brandline have become familiar to people at home and around the world — the flying dragon and 'Asia's world city' have become synonymous with Hong Kong. The blue and green ribbons that extend from the dragon symbolise blue sky and a sustainable environment, while Lion Rock — the famous landmark that represents Hong Kong people's 'can-do' spirit — is silhouetted by the red ribbon. The fluid shape of the ribbons evokes versatility, and the multiple colours signify the city's diversity and dynamism.

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About Hong Kong

Described as a 'barren rock' some 150 years ago, Hong Kong is a world-class financial, trading and business centre today and, indeed, a great world city. There are not many natural resources, and yet its great harbour is one of the finest deepwater ports in the world. A hardworking, entrepreneurial and well-educated population of more than 7.39 million forms the foundation of Hong Kong's productivity and creativity.

Hong Kong became a Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) on July 1, 1997, after a century and a half of British rule. Under Hong Kong's constitutional document, the Basic Law, the existing economic, legal and social systems will be maintained for 50 years. The HKSAR enjoys a high degree of autonomy except in defence and foreign affairs.

Location

Hong Kong's position, at the south-eastern tip of China and in the heart of the rapidly developing East Asia, gives it economic and strategic importance out of proportion to its size. Covering 1 106.42 square kilometres, the territory comprises Hong Kong Island, the Kowloon Peninsula, the New Territories — including the more rural part of Hong Kong — and about 260 outlying islands.

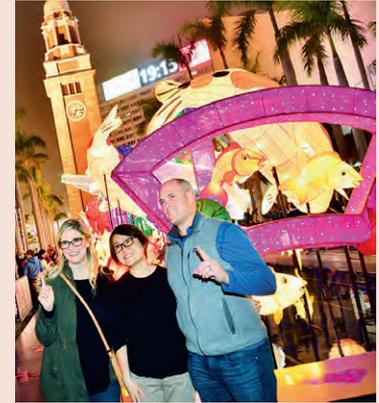
Population

As at mid-2017, the population was about 7.39 million, predominantly of Chinese ethnicity but also including 638 336 non-PRC nationals. The three largest foreign groups were from the Philippines (190 176), Indonesia (169 855) stood at and India (32 895). Average population density was 6 830 people per square kilometre.



Language

Chinese and English are the official languages. English is widely used within the Government and also by the legal, professional and business sectors. There is no shortage of well-educated, competent bilingual and trilingual professionals who speak English, Cantonese and Putonghua — important for doing business locally or with the Mainland and Taiwan.



Climate

The climate is subtropical, tending towards temperate for nearly half the year. Temperatures can drop below 10 degrees Celsius in winter and often exceed 31 degrees Celsius in summer. About 80 per cent of the rainfall occurs between May and September.

International Trading Centre

Hong Kong is one of the world's leading exporters of a wide range of consumer goods, being the world's seventh largest merchandise trading entity in 2017. It was also the world's sixth largest banking centre and Asia's third largest stock market in 2017, and the world's fourth largest foreign exchange market according to a triennial survey in 2016.

Global Services Centre

Hong Kong was the world's 15th largest exporter of services in 2016. Travel, transport, and financial services are the main components of the city's trade in services.

International Corporate Base



In 2017, the HKSAR Government helped a record 402 overseas and Mainland companies, including startups, set up or expand their presence in Hong Kong. These companies came from a variety of sectors, including: business and professional services, consumer products, creative industries, financial services, financial technology, information and communications technology, innovation and technology, tourism and hospitality, and transport and logistics. Taken together, they accounted for direct investment of around HK\$17 billion and will create over 8 700 new jobs within the first two years of operation or expansion in Hong Kong. As at June 1, 2017, Hong Kong was home to 8 225 overseas and Mainland companies representing their parent companies located outside Hong Kong. Of those, 3 752 served as regional headquarters or regional offices.

Free Trade and Free Market

Hong Kong advocates and practises free trade. It has a free and liberal investment regime with virtually no trade barriers or discrimination against non-local investors. There is freedom of capital movement, a well-established rule of law, transparent and straightforward regulations, and a simple, low-tax system.

Efficient Government

The HKSAR Government is well known for its efficiency, transparency and fairness. The Government takes a proactive approach to provide favourable conditions for businesses to thrive. It strives to remove market restrictions and promote fair competition.

Monetary System

The aim of Hong Kong's monetary policy is to maintain currency stability. The Linked Exchange Rate System, introduced in October 1983, accommodates this aim by linking the Hong Kong dollar's exchange rate to the US dollar, set at HK\$7.8 to US\$1.

Rule of Law

Hong Kong has a well-established and trusted legal system based on the common law. The rights and freedoms of Hong Kong residents are safeguarded by the rule of law, an independent judiciary, legal aid, and a free and active press.



Airport

Hong Kong is a major international and regional aviation hub. The Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) is the world's busiest international cargo gateway and among the 10 busiest passenger airports. It is served by over 110 airlines providing passenger and/or freight services to around 220 destinations worldwide, including 50 cities on the Mainland.



The HKIA achieved a successful year in 2017 with all three traffic categories setting new annual records. During the year, it welcomed 72.9 million passengers and handled 420 630 aircraft movements, representing annual growth of 3.3 per cent and 2.2 per cent respectively over 2016. Cargo throughput was 4.94 million tonnes, up 9.2 per cent year on year.

Since opening in July 1998, the HKIA has been named the world's best airport over 50 times in different surveys.

Hong Kong Port

In 2017, Hong Kong's harbour handled 20.8 million TEUs (20-foot equivalent units) of containers, making it one of the world's busiest container ports. The nine container terminals at Kwai Chung-Tsing Yi are managed by five operators. They cover 279 hectares and provide 24 berths with a frontage of 7 694 metres. The water depth at the Kwai Chung-Tsing Yi basin is 17 metres.

During the year, 101 771 cargo vessels, comprising 25 261 ocean vessels and 76 510 river vessels, called at the Hong Kong port. Together they carried 282 million tonnes of cargo. In addition, there were 1 532 ocean passenger vessels and 82 117 river passenger vessels taking about 29.2 million cross-boundary ferry and cruise passenger journeys.



Economic Competitiveness

Economic Development

Hong Kong is an international and cosmopolitan city, known for its business-friendly environment, rule of law, free trade and free flow of information, open and fair competition, well-established and comprehensive financial networks, superb transport and communications infrastructure, sophisticated support services, a flexible labour market with a well-educated and highly motivated workforce, and a pool of energetic entrepreneurs. Hong Kong has substantial foreign exchange reserves, a fully convertible and stable currency, and a simple, low-tax system.

Free and Competitive Economy

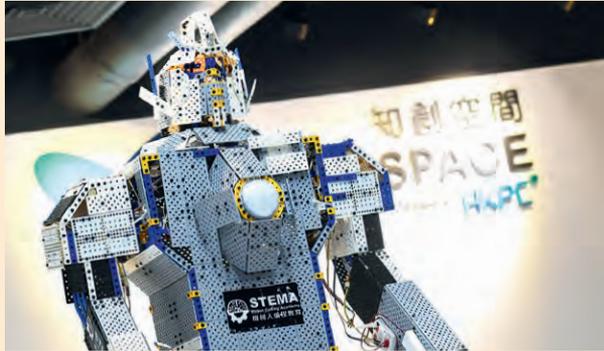
In 2018, Hong Kong was ranked the world's freest economy by the US-based Heritage Foundation for the 24th consecutive year. The Fraser Institute in Canada has also consistently ranked Hong Kong number one in the world in terms of economic freedom every year since its first ranking report came out in 1996. In addition, the Swiss based International Institute for Management Development recognised Hong Kong as the most competitive economy in the world for the second year in a row in its *World Competitiveness Yearbook 2017*, while the World Economic Forum rated Hong Kong 6th in its *Global Competitiveness Report 2017-18*. In terms of investment, Hong Kong was the world's fourth largest foreign direct investment destination and the second biggest in Asia in 2016, according to the *World Investment Report 2017* published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Real Growth

Over the past two decades, the Hong Kong economy grew by about 90 per cent, with GDP increasing at an average annual rate of 3.3 per cent in real terms. This means that Hong Kong has outperformed most of the economies of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. Hong Kong's per capita

GDP rose nearly 70 per cent with an average annual growth rate of 2.6 per cent in real terms during the same period; in 2017, per capita GDP reached US\$46,200 at current market prices.

Economic Policy



The HKSAR Government respects market forces when formulating economic policies, recognising that the market is the most efficient mechanism to allocate resources under normal circumstances. On top of discharging its responsibilities as a service provider and a regulator, the Government also takes up the roles as facilitator and promoter, as manifested in its various initiatives to promote innovation and technology for example. The Government has also been making bold investments for the future, to break through development bottlenecks in land and manpower.

Level Playing Field

The Government aims to provide the most business-friendly conditions possible. These include the fundamental software of personal liberty, the rule of law, a clean and efficient administration and a level playing field for all businesses, as well as infrastructural hardware such as schools and roads vital to Hong Kong's growth. In addition, the Government has a special responsibility to remove market restrictions and promote fair competition. It has made considerable strides in facilitating the development of financial markets in a fair

and efficient manner, and in opening up the information and telecommunications technology and broadcasting markets. The Government also has a responsibility to help industries where Hong Kong enjoys competitive advantages to tap new markets.

In the international arena, the Government protects and promotes Hong Kong's trade interests, through participation in the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council, and by forging bilateral arrangements with other economies.



Prudent Fiscal Management

The Government adopts to prudent fiscal management while maintaining a simple and low-tax regime that provides people with the incentive to work and entrepreneurs the incentive to invest. For the 2017-18 year of assessment, the corporate profits tax rate of 16.5 per cent and salaries tax rate of 15 per cent are among the lowest in the world. Following the launch of a two-tiered profits tax rate regime in the year of assessment 2018-19, the corporate profits tax rate for the first HK\$2 million of profits will be lowered to 8.25 per cent.

International Financial Centre

Hong Kong is an international financial centre with an integrated network of financial institutions and markets. The Government's policy is to maintain and develop a sound legal, regulatory, infrastructural and administrative framework that provides a level playing field for all, to maintain the stability of the financial and monetary systems, and to enable Hong Kong to compete effectively against other financial centres.

In addition, Hong Kong enjoys the advantages of a favourable geographical position that bridges the time gap between North America and Europe, strong links with the Mainland and other economies in Southeast Asia and excellent communications with the rest of the world. There are no restrictions on capital flows into and out of Hong Kong.

These factors have enabled Hong Kong to become a leading international financial centre.

Financial Markets

Hong Kong's financial markets are distinguished by a high degree of liquidity. They operate under effective and transparent regulations that meet international standards. A highly educated workforce and ease of entry for overseas professionals further contribute to the development of the financial markets.

Banking Sector

The international financial community has a strong presence in Hong Kong. At the end of 2017, there were 155 licensed banks, of which 148 were foreign-owned.



Of the world's top 100 banks, 75 had operations in the HKSAR. A further 49 overseas banks had representative offices here.

Foreign Exchange Market

Hong Kong has a mature and active foreign exchange market that is an integral part of the global market. Links with centres overseas facilitate foreign exchange dealing 24 hours a day worldwide. Hong Kong is the world's fourth largest centre for foreign exchange trading, according to the 2016 triennial global survey by the Bank for International Settlements.

Stock and Bond Markets

Hong Kong's stock market is one of the world's largest in terms of market capitalisation. The launch of the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect in 2014, followed by Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect in 2016, reinforces Hong Kong's position as an international financial centre and a global offshore Renminbi (RMB) business hub. At the end of 2017, 2 118 public companies were listed on the stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited. Total market capitalisation stood at HK\$33,999 billion (US\$4,351 billion), making Hong Kong the third largest stock market in Asia.

Hong Kong is also a leading bond market in Asia and will benefit further from Government plans to launch an array of measures to develop the market. These measures include a three-year Pilot Bond Grant Scheme to attract local and overseas enterprises to issue bonds in Hong Kong; the refinement of the qualifying debt instrument scheme by increasing the types of qualified instruments and expanding the scope of tax exemption; and, under the Government Bond Programme, the continued issuance of institutional bonds as well as Silver Bond for Hong Kong resident of at least age 65.

In July 2017, northbound trading under the Bond Connect scheme was rolled out, marking an important milestone in the further development of mutual capital market access between the Mainland and Hong Kong. The Bond Connect enables eligible overseas investors to access, for the first time, the Mainland interbank bond market through a financial infrastructural connection established between the Mainland and overseas bond markets.

Economic Links with Mainland

Hong Kong is the premier gateway for trade and investment on the Mainland, and for Mainland trade with the rest of the world. Since the Mainland adopted a economic reform and an open-door policy in 1978, its economic links with Hong Kong have gone from strength to strength.

China's accession to the WTO in 2001 signalled the success of its economic reform policies. With rapid economic growth

over the past three decades, the Mainland is now the second largest economy in the world.

Hong Kong, with its international outlook, has the unique advantage of having the Mainland as its hinterland. As the Mainland economy enters a stage of high-quality development, at the same time maintaining a medium to high pace of economic growth, the resulting enormous demand unleashed for various services will continue to benefit Hong Kong. The Belt and Road Initiative and the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area will further consolidate Hong Kong's position as the nation's international financial, business and trading hub.

Trade with the Mainland

The Mainland is Hong Kong's largest trading partner, accounting for slightly more than half of Hong Kong's total trade value in 2017.

Hong Kong is a major services centre for the Mainland generally and for the Pearl River Delta in particular, providing a wide range of business support services such as banking and finance, insurance, transport, accounting, legal and dispute resolution and sales promotion.

Investments between Hong Kong and Mainland

Hong Kong is the Mainland's largest source of realised foreign direct investment. According to the Mainland's statistics, the cumulative value of Hong Kong's realised direct investment amounted to US\$1 trillion, accounting for more than half of the total value of inward direct investment as at end-2017. Guangdong's economic links with Hong Kong are the closest amongst the Mainland provinces. Hong Kong accounted for more than 60 per cent, exceeded US\$200 billion, of Guangdong Province's total realised direct investment.

The Mainland is also a major investor in Hong Kong's economy. As at June 2017, 1 264 Mainland companies were operating a regional headquarters, regional offices and local offices in Hong Kong.

Total direct investment from the Mainland amounted to US\$418 billion at end-2016, making it the second largest source of inward direct investment.

Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA)

CEPA has significantly enhanced economic links between Hong Kong and the Mainland since it came into effect on 1 January 2004.

The arrangement covers four main areas: (1) trade in goods - all Hong Kong products can enjoy zero tariff upon importation into the Mainland market provided that the relevant CEPA rules of origin are agreed and met. (2) trade in services - the two sides have basically achieved liberalisation of trade in services and Hong Kong service suppliers can enjoy preferential access in most service sectors in the Mainland market. (3) investment - Hong Kong investors can enjoy investment protection and facilitation in the Mainland; and (4) economic and technical cooperation, both sides commit to enhancing cooperation in 22 areas to cater for the developmental trends and needs of the two places and set the direction for closer cooperation in the future.

Offshore RMB business

Together with the relevant financial regulators and the markets, the HKSAR Government has been promoting the development of offshore RMB business in Hong Kong since 2004.

Hong Kong is the world's offshore RMB business hub, with the largest offshore pool of RMB funds. As at the end of 2017, RMB customer deposits and outstanding RMB certificates of deposit issued totalled RMB618.4 billion. A wide range of RMB products are available in the market, including bonds, listed and unlisted investment funds, insurance products, currency futures, real estate investment trusts, shares and derivative products.



Living in Hong Kong

Government Structure

Under the Basic Law, the HKSAR enjoys a high degree of autonomy except in foreign affairs and defence. The HKSAR exercises executive, legislative and independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication.

Chief Executive

The Chief Executive is the head of the HKSAR and is advised on major decisions by the Executive Council, the members of which are appointed by the Chief Executive.

Representative Government

The HKSAR has a two-tier system of representative government. The Legislative Council enacts laws, examines and approves budgets introduced by the government, and approves taxation and public expenditure. All 70 members of the Legislative Council are elected, with the term of office being four years. The sixth-term Legislative Council election was held on 4 September 2016.



At the local level, 18 District Councils advise on the implementation of policies in their respective districts. The fifth-term District Council ordinary election was held on 22 November 2015. There are a total of 458 seats, comprising 431 elected seats and 27 ex-officio seats. The term of office is four years from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2019.

Administrative Structure

The Government introduced the Political Appointment System in 2002. Under the system, the offices of Secretaries of Department and Directors of Bureau are held by political appointees, who assume political



responsibility for matters falling within their respective portfolios. In 2008, two additional layers of political appointees, namely Deputy Directors of Bureau and Political Assistants, were created to help them carry out political work. The Civil Service, the backbone of the Government, continues to assist in policy formulation and implementation.

Legal System

The legal system is firmly based on the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary. Under the 'one country, two systems' principle, sanctioned by the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, the HKSAR maintains a separate legal system based on common law.

Judiciary

A key element in the HKSAR's continuing success is its judicial system, which operates on the principle of independence from the executive authorities and legislature — factors fundamental to the common law system. The courts make their own judgments in disputes involving private individuals, corporate bodies or the Government itself.

Court of Final Appeal

The Court of Final Appeal (CFA), the highest appellate court in the HKSAR, is headed by the Chief Justice. The

CFA consists of three permanent judges, a panel of three non-permanent Hong Kong judges and 12 non-permanent judges from other common law jurisdictions. A five-judge bench hears and rules on appeals, and the court may, as required, invite a non-permanent Hong Kong judge or a non-permanent judge from



other common law jurisdictions to sit on the court. The Chief Justice heads the Judiciary, assisted in overall administration by the Judiciary Administrator.

Employment

Manpower is Hong Kong's most valued asset and key to its economic competitiveness. The Government strives to ensure that the workforce remains dynamic, well motivated and adaptable, and has ample opportunity for continuous improvement.

Labour Market and Wages

In 2017, the labour force comprised about 3.95 million people, whom 50.5 per cent were men and 49.5 per cent were women. Most of them were engaged in the services sector, with 30 per cent[@] in import / export, wholesale and retail trades, and accommodation¹ and food services; 27 per cent[@] in public administration, and social and personal services; 20 per cent[@] in financing and insurance, real estate, and professional and business services; and 11 per cent[@] in transportation, storage, postal and courier services, and information and communications. Only 2 per cent[@] worked in the manufacturing sector.

In May-June 2017, the median monthly wage of non-government employees and non-live-in domestic workers was HK\$16,800 (US\$2,156[#]).

¹ The accommodation services sector covers hotels, guesthouses, boarding houses and other establishments providing short-term accommodation.

[@] Figures are subject to revision later on.

[#] Calculated by the average of the exchange rate in May-June 2016 (US\$1 = HK\$7.763).

Education

Education is the largest element of government spending, accounting for about one-fifth of total government expenditure in 2017-18. The Government provides student financial assistance to ensure that no student is denied access to education due to lack of means and implements various measures to maintain a high standard of education.

Kindergarten Education

The new kindergarten (KG) education policy was launched the 2017-18 school year. The policy objectives are to provide good quality and highly affordable KG education and enhance the accessibility of students to different modes of services that suit their specific needs.



12 Years' Free Education

Starting from the 2008-09 school year, free education was extended from nine years to 12 to include senior secondary education provided by public-sector secondary schools. The Government also began providing full subvention to secondary 3 school-leavers taking full-time programmes offered by the Vocational Training Council, thus making available an alternative free avenue for students to further their studies other than through mainstream education.

Higher Education

Hong Kong has 20 degree-awarding higher education institutions, comprising 10 universities, an academy for performing arts and nine post-secondary institutions.

In 2018, four of the institutions were ranked among the world's top 50 universities and four institutions were also rated third, fifth, eighth and tenth among Asian universities by Quacquarelli Symonds.

Health

The Government's healthcare policy aims to ensure that no one is denied adequate medical treatment due to lack of means. To this end, a range of services and facilities is provided to complement those in the private healthcare sector and to meet the needs of patients who cannot afford medical attention.



At the end of 2017, there were 39 683¹ hospital beds and 14 290 registered doctors, providing 5.4* beds and 1.9* doctors per 1 000 people.

¹ The number of hospital beds includes all hospital beds in Hospital Authority hospitals, private hospitals, nursing homes and correctional institutions.

* Provisional figures.

Public Services

There are 42 public hospitals and institutions. Fees and charges for public healthcare services for eligible persons are heavily subsidised by the Government. With effect from 18 June 2017, eligible persons pay a daily maintenance fee of \$120 for an acute general bed and \$100 for a convalescent/rehabilitation, infirmary and psychiatric bed. An admission fee of \$75 will be charged for the first day of hospitalisation in respect of acute general beds. The public ward maintenance fee covers clinical, biochemical and pathological investigations, including consultation and diagnostic imaging and other examinations; vaccines and general nursing, where such examinations or treatments are necessary; and prescriptions within the scale provided at the hospitals and clinics.

Private Services

There are 12 private hospitals. The daily charge for a hospital bed depends on the room type. Patients pay for hospital services such as diagnostic tests and drugs in addition to the doctor's fees.

Community Health Services

Hong Kong people enjoy good health, thanks to extensive

preventive measures implemented by the Government through its Family Health Service, Port Health Service, Student Health Service, School Dental Care Service and many other community health services. These contribute to Hong Kong's remarkably low infant and maternal mortality rates, which are comparable to the best in the world.

Housing

Government spending on housing accounted for 5.9 per cent of total public expenditure in 2016-17.

The Government announced the Long Term Housing Strategy (LTHS) in December 2014.

The LTHS adopts "supply-led" and "flexible" principles, and sets out three major strategic



directions : (1) to provide more public rental housing (PRH) units and to ensure the rational use of existing resources; (2) to provide more subsidised sale flats, expand the forms of subsidised home ownership and facilitate the market circulation of existing stock; and (3) to stabilise the residential market through steady land supply and appropriate demand-side management measures, and promote good sales and tenancy practices for private residential properties.

Public Rental Housing

PRH is the first rung of the housing ladder. The Government's objective is to provide PRH to low-income families who cannot afford private rental accommodation.

As at December 2017, about 29 per cent of the population lived in about 808 300 PRH flats provided by the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS).

Subsidised Home Ownership

Subsidised home ownership is one of the essential elements of the housing ladder. It serves as the first step for low to middle-income families to achieve home ownership. It also provides an opportunity for PRH tenants whose financial conditions have improved to achieve home ownership,

thereby releasing their PRH units to those who are waiting for PRH allocation. As at December 2017, about 16 per cent of Hong Kong's population lived in subsidised sale flats of the HKHA and HKHS.



Private Housing

About 55 per cent of the population lived in private residential premises as at December 2017.

The Government's policy is to maintain a free, stable and transparent environment to facilitate the healthy development of the private residential market, and to ensure that home buyers have access to accurate and comprehensive property information.

The Residential Properties (First-hand Sales) Ordinance and the work of the Sales of First-hand Residential Properties Authority (SRPA) have enhanced the transparency and fairness of sales in first-hand homes, strengthened consumer protection and provided a level playing field for vendors. Since the ordinance took effect in April 2013 and up to December 2017, the SRPA had conducted about 38 200 examinations on sales-related documents and about 2 900 site inspections to sales offices and show flats.

Transport

Hong Kong has one of the best public transport systems in the world. People make over 12.7 million passenger journeys daily, using an efficient, economical and multimodal public transport system that includes railways, trams, buses, public light buses, taxis and ferries. Public transport services are provided by private operators or public corporations without direct Government subsidies.

Railways

Railways are an important part of the public transport system, accounting for nearly 42 per cent of the total



daily public transport volume in 2017. The rail network comprises the Mass Transit Railway (MTR), Airport Express and Light Rail.

The MTR is a heavily used railway, having a total length of 230.9 km with 675 km of tracks. It consists of 10 lines — the Kwun Tong Line, Tsuen Wan Line, Island Line, South Island Line, Tung Chung Line, Tseung Kwan O Line, Disneyland Resort Line, East Rail Line, Ma On Shan Line and West Rail Line. The Airport Express of MTR plies between central Hong Kong and Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) and AsiaWorld-Expo. The MTR and Airport Express networks comprise a total of 93 stations and recorded about 4.85 million passenger trips daily in 2017.

The Light Rail network, spanning 36.2 km (track length of 73 km) across 68 stops, serves the northwest New Territories. It carried about 489 000 passengers daily in 2017.

Trams have been running on Hong Kong Island since 1904. The 161 trams make up the world's largest fleet of double-decker trams in operation, handling about 172 100 passenger trips daily in 2017.



Buses, Public Light Buses and Taxis

Franchised buses account for 31.2 per cent of the total daily public transport volume, or some 3.97 million passengers every day. Five franchised bus companies operate 600 bus routes. These companies manage a fleet of 5 983 buses, most of which are air-conditioned double-deckers. There are also 4 350 public light buses, which have up to 19 seats. They carry about 1.82 million passengers daily.

There are 18 163 taxis carrying a daily average of about 897 200 passengers.



Ferries

Ferries provide an essential transport link to the outlying islands and an alternative means of public transport in the inner harbour and to some new towns. In 2017, about 128 200 passengers used ferry services daily.

Road Network

In 2017, Hong Kong had about 2 112 km of roadways, including 1 349 flyovers and bridges, three cross-harbour road tunnels, 13 road tunnels through hills and five major cable-supported bridges.

There are 759 889 licensed vehicles, including 552 710 private cars.

Pollution and Environmental Control

The government has been stepping up efforts in the battle against pollution since the late 1980s. It has achieved much in providing safe and environmentally sound systems for handling waste, and in reducing street-level air pollution.

Pollution Control

Hong Kong is one of Asia's leading cities in terms of vehicle emission control and fuel quality standards. Diesel vehicles are responsible for most of the roadside pollution in urban



areas, and government strategies include tighter control on vehicle emissions and introducing environment-friendly vehicles, including electric vehicles. Besides, Hong Kong is the first city in Asia mandating ocean-going vessels to use low-sulphur fuels while berthing, and imposes emission caps on power plants to restrict their air pollutant emissions.

The Harbour Area Treatment Scheme was developed to collect all sewage generated from districts around Victoria Harbour for centralised treatment. It comprises a network of 45 km of large tunnels constructed deep under the central urban area and a major sewage treatment works on Stonecutters Island. The Government is also implementing multi-pronged measures, including the provision of dry weather flow interceptors and rehabilitation of ageing sewers and drains, to alleviate the pollution and odour nuisance caused by the discharge of urban residual pollutants into the coastal waters.

To tackle regional environmental issues, Hong Kong cooperates with Guangdong Province. The joint efforts in reducing air pollutant emissions to meet agreed emission reduction targets have borne fruit. Results of the Pearl River Delta regional air monitoring network from 2006 to 2016 show substantial reductions in the average annual

concentrations of the major air pollutants in the region.

Environmental Protection

The Government is taking action to reduce solid waste at source through legislation and targeted campaigns, such as those on food waste reduction and glass bottle recycling, and to enhance waste-related infrastructure.

The target is to reduce the per capita disposal rate of municipal solid waste by 40 per cent by 2022 compared with 2011.

Waste reduction and recovery play an important role in waste management.

The Government is preparing to implement municipal solid waste (MSW) charging to provide financial incentives for the community to generate less waste at source. Meanwhile, more than 50 community involvement projects funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund have started in succession, for non-profit-making organisations to try out MSW charging in different types of premises. The experience gained through these projects will be useful in developing best-practice guides on the implementation of MSW charging.



On producer responsibility schemes (PRSs), the WEEE-PARK treatment and recycling facility, developed to underpin such schemes, began full operation in March 2018, while the scheme for waste electrical and electronic equipment will be fully implemented in the same year. Preparatory work is underway for the full implementation of the PRS on glass beverage containers, scheduled for 2018-19. In parallel, a feasibility study on how to implement a PRS for suitable plastic product containers to better promote their recycling has been commissioned. The Source Separation of Waste Programme encourages residential buildings and the commercial and industrial sectors to set up waste

separation and recovery facilities, so as to promote waste separation at source and to broaden the types of waste collected for recycling. The programme now covers over 80 per cent of Hong Kong's population

To face the challenge of food waste, four strategies have been mapped out, namely, reduction at source, reuse and donation, recyclable collection, and turning food waste into energy, to reduce the amount of food waste disposed at landfills by 40 per cent by 2022.

Law and Order

Hong Kong is a safe city. Its overall crime rate is low compared with many other international cities. In 2017, there were 56 017 crimes, registering a new low since 1975.



Strict firearms controls make it very difficult to own a gun in Hong Kong. Police patrol both urban and rural areas to maintain law and order. As a result, the streets are safe for anyone to walk, day and night.

The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) adopts a holistic strategy of enforcement, prevention and education to safeguard Hong Kong's culture of probity. As an independent agency, the ICAC fights corruption impartially and effectively and ensures that government bodies and private firms operate fairly and honestly.

The Customs and Excise Department takes vigorous action against copyright piracy and trademark counterfeiting, making Hong Kong a regional leader in the fight against pirated goods.

Tax System

Hong Kong's simple, low-tax system is one of the most business-friendly in the world. Taxes are levied on only three types of income — salaries, property and profits. There is no value-added tax, sales tax, capital gains tax or inheritance tax. Only income sourced in Hong Kong is taxable.

Profits Tax

Profits are taxed if they arise in or are derived from a trade, profession or business in Hong Kong. For the year of assessment 2017-18, the tax rate is 16.5 per cent for corporations and 15 per cent for individuals.

Salaries Tax

Everyone with an income arising in or derived from any office, employment or pension in Hong Kong is liable to salaries tax. Salaries tax is calculated at progressive rates on the net chargeable income, but the total salaries tax charged will not exceed 15 per cent of a person's net assessable income after deductions.

Property Tax

Owners of land and/or buildings in Hong Kong are charged property tax based on rental income from property. The rate is 15 per cent of the actual rent received after allowing 20 per cent for repairs and outgoings.

Mandatory Provident Fund



As at May 2018, All employees aged 18 to 64, unless specifically exempted, must contribute 5 per cent of their relevant income to their Mandatory Provident Fund, up to a maximum of HK\$1,500 per month. This is matched by an equal contribution from the employer.

In mid-2018, 100 per cent of employers and relevant employees and 70 per cent of self-employed people were enrolled in Mandatory Provident Fund schemes.

Media

The media plays a key role in Hong Kong's success, since an unrestricted flow of information and ideas support a free economy, especially one centred on information and services. This role will remain crucial in the years to come, as information becomes an even more important factor in economic development.

The Press



Hong Kong's print media are among the most vibrant in Asia.

As at end of 2017, there were 68 newspapers, including 37 in Chinese, 13 in English, 13 bilingual and five in other languages; and 607 periodicals, of which 400 were in Chinese, 100 in English, 97 were bilingual and 10 in other languages. Magazines cover a wide range of subjects from public affairs to technology and entertainment.

About 90 international media organisations maintain offices in Hong Kong, which is also the base for regional publications. *The Financial Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today International*, *The New York Times International Edition* and *The Nikkei* are also printed in Hong Kong.

Broadcasting

Hong Kong is a regional broadcasting hub, with 15 satellite broadcasters uplinking signals from the territory. Satellite and cable operators together offer more than 800 channels, with programmes on news and information, entertainment and infotainment, sports, movies, documentaries and more.

There are three free-of-charge domestic television programme service licensees providing three channels in analogue format and eight digital channels (including simulcasting the three analogue channels). On average they broadcast about 1 800 hours of television programmes weekly, reaching 6.55 million viewers, or 2.5 million television households.



Hong Kong has 13 analogue radio channels, including seven operated by a publicly funded, editorially independent broadcaster whose mission is to inform, educate and entertain the public through balanced, objective programmes.

Telecommunications

Hong Kong is a global communications hub with excellent communications infrastructure. It was the first major city in the world to have a fully digitised telephone network and to implement operator number portability.

Telephone Services

As at December 2017, Hong Kong had a fixed-line household penetration rate of 92 per cent.

The number of subscribers to cellular phone was about 18.34 million, a penetration rate of about 248 per cent — one of the world's highest. Among them, about 16.89 million were subscription to 3G/4G service.

Subsequent to the progressive deployment of Long Term Evolution technology by mobile network operators in the 900MHz, 1800MHz, 2.3GHz and 2.5/2.6GHz bands, consumers can enjoy mobile data services with downlink speeds of up to 800 Mbps. The popularity of smartphones has prompted the rapid development of mobile data services in Hong Kong. In December 2017, the monthly mobile data usage was 30 467 terabytes, about 30 per cent more than the data usage recorded during the same period in 2016.



Internet



A broadband network covers virtually all households and commercial buildings.

As at December 2017, there were about 2.65 million registered customer accounts for broadband internet access services, with speeds ranging from a few Mbps to 10 Gbps. The broadband household penetration rate was 92.8 per cent, one of the highest in the world. Public Wi-Fi services are provided by both public and private organisations offering over 49 000 Wi-Fi hot spots across the city.

The Government is implementing the following measures of the Wi-Fi Connected City programme to progressively expand the coverage of the free Wi-Fi.HK service, which currently has over 21 000 hot spots:

- encouraging public and private organisations to join the Wi-Fi.HK brand;
- providing Wi-Fi services at government venues through public-private collaboration; and
- subsidising youth service centres and study rooms operated by non-profit-making organisations to provide Wi-Fi services.

With keen public demand for Wi-Fi services, the Government will continue to provide free Wi-Fi services at its venues of lower commercial value.

Coming to Hong Kong

Tourism

A premier tourist destination, Hong Kong is a blend of East and West, featuring Chinese traditions, European heritage, high-tech modernity and Cantonese gusto.

Visitors can look forward to a diverse and exciting travel experience — great shopping, dining, theme parks, countryside pursuits, arts, culture and sports. Heritage attractions abound in the form of temples, monasteries, walled villages, clan halls and colonial structures.



Hong Kong received 58.5 million visitors in 2017. Total spending by inbound tourists was estimated to be about \$296.7 billion. The Mainland remained the largest source of visitors, representing 76 per cent of Hong Kong's total visitor arrivals.

Tourism Development

The Government is implementing full steam ahead the 'Development Blueprint for Hong Kong's Tourism Industry' released in October 2017. The blueprint outlines the vision and mission to develop Hong Kong into a world-class premier tourism destination and ensure the balanced, healthy and sustainable development of the industry, and sets out a series of relevant short, medium and long-term measures. The Government is committed to developing Hong Kong into a leading cruise hub in Asia. Commissioned in June 2013, the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal provides two berths which can accommodate the largest cruise ships in the world simultaneously.

The Hong Kong Disneyland Resort launched the new ride-through attraction 'Iron Man Experience' featuring a story based in Hong Kong in January 2017 and the new resort-style hotel, Disney Explorers Lodge in April 2017. The Resort is implementing an expansion and development plan, aimed at launching new attractions progressively from 2018 to 2023, the first being the 'IMOANA: A Homecoming Celebration' stage show in May 2018.

The Ocean Park is pressing ahead with the development of an all-weather waterpark and two hotels, which are scheduled for completion from 2018 to 2021.

Hong Kong is a gourmet's paradise and a leading wine hub. *The Michelin Guide Hong Kong Macau 2018* features 227 local culinary attractions, and the Hong Kong Wine and Dine Festival, which has received a number of awards such as 'one of the top 10 international food and wine festivals of 2009' by *ForbesTraveler.com*, has become an annual signature event since its inception in 2009.



To enrich visitors' travel experience, Hong Kong is developing more signature events, including the 'Hong Kong Cyclothon', 'Hong Kong Pulse Light Show', 'International Chinese New Year Night Parade', 'Hong Kong Dragon Boat Carnival', 'New Year Countdown Celebrations', 'FIA Formula E Hong Kong E-Prix' and international football, rugby, tennis and golf tournaments.



Immigration

Hong Kong maintains autonomy over its immigration control. An open immigration policy allows nationals of about 170 countries and territories visa-free visits ranging from seven to 180 days.

Professionals with special skills, knowledge or experience of value to and not readily available in Hong Kong, and business people who can make substantial contributions to Hong Kong's economy, are welcome to work and invest in Hong Kong. People coming to work, study or establish or join any business or take up residence in the HKSAR are required to obtain an appropriate visa or entry permit before arrival.

Cross-boundary Traffic

Hong Kong has three rail-based boundary crossings to the Mainland. In 2017, the Lo Wu crossing handled an average of 223 900 cross-boundary passengers a day. The Lok Ma Chau



Spur Line crossing handled a daily average of about 162 900 cross-boundary passengers, of which 92 000 took the railway. The newest addition is the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, which commenced service in September 2018.

There are four road-based crossings between Hong Kong and the Mainland, namely Lok Ma Chau, Sha Tau Kok, Man Kam To and Shenzhen Bay Port. These four crossings handled an average of 210 000 travellers and 43 900 vehicles daily.

Inward and Outward Traffic

Hong Kong is one of the world's busiest ports in terms of vessel arrivals and departures. In 2017, 372 610 vessels arrived and departed from Hong Kong, involving about 29.2 million cross-boundary ferry and cruise passenger journeys.

The Hong Kong International Airport is one of the busiest in the world. In 2017, 72.9 million passengers passed through the airport. Aircraft movements totalled 420 630.

Leisure and Culture

Hong Kong's universal appeal is evident in a variety of leisure and cultural options, a reflection of the city's cosmopolitan population and its diverse range of pastimes.

The Government nurtures an environment in which artistic freedom, pluralistic development of the arts, sporting excellence, community recreation and sports programmes can thrive.

Cultural and Leisure Events

The cultural and leisure events hosted by Hong Kong include the premier annual arts events including Hong Kong Arts Festival, the Hong Kong International Film Festival, Le French May, Chinese Opera Festival, International Arts Carnival, Museum Festival, New Vision Arts Festival/World Cultures Festival and Hong Kong Flower Show, as well as many traditional festive programmes.



Sporting Events

Major sporting events include the annual Hong Kong Sevens (rugby), Hong Kong Marathon, FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix - Hong Kong, Harbour Race, Hong Kong Open Championship (golf), Hong Kong Squash Open, Hong Kong Open Badminton Championships (part of the BWF World Superseries), Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races, Hong Kong DanceSport Festival WDSF GrandSlam Hong Kong, UCI Track Cycling World Championships, Hong Kong Tennis Open, Masters of Hong Kong (equestrian), ICF Canoe Ocean Racing World Championships - Hong Kong, BISFed 2017 Asia and Oceania Championships - Hong Kong, Hong Kong Masters 2017, 2017 1st BFA Women's Baseball Asian Cup,



1st Asian Canoe Ocean Racing Championships 2017, 2017 Optimist Asian and Oceanian Championship, Asian Judo Championships 2017 and Asian Fencing Championships 2017.

Museums



Hong Kong's mix of traditions — Chinese and Western, historical and modern — can also be seen in its museums. There are stimulating interactive exhibits at the Hong Kong Science Museum and Omnimax films at the Hong Kong Space Museum. The Hong Kong Museum of Art¹ showcases magnificent collections of ancient and modern works of

art. The Hong Kong Museum of History and the Hong Kong Heritage Museum present the historical and cultural aspects of Hong Kong. The Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware, housed in a historical building at Hong Kong Park, shows the history and importance of tea in Chinese culture.

¹ The Hong Kong Museum of Art is closed for expansion and renovation until 2019.

Country and Marine Parks

About 40 per cent of Hong Kong's total land area is reserved for conservation and recreation, encompassing 24 country parks and 22 special areas. This extensive green belt is popular with hikers, nature lovers and tourists. There are also five marine parks and one marine reserve, occupying about 3 400 hectares of sea area in total. They feature scenic coastal areas, seascapes and important marine habitats.

Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site

The Mai Po Inner Deep Bay area is listed as a 'Wetland of International Importance' under the Ramsar Convention. It is one of the most important over-wintering sites in Asia for migratory birds. Covering some 1 500 hectares, the Ramsar Site comprises intertidal mudflats, mangals, *gei wai* and fish ponds, providing diverse habitats for both migratory and resident birds. About 400 species of birds have been recorded in the area. In winter, the wetland is home to 50 000 to 80 000 waterbirds.

Hong Kong Wetland Park

The Hong Kong Wetland Park is designated as a special area which aims to promote wetland conservation and education, as well as nature-based tourism. It comprises a 10 000-square-metre visitor centre with exhibition galleries showcasing the functions and value of wetlands, and a 60-hectare wetland reserve for visitors to explore the amazing wetland wildlife in Hong Kong.

Geopark

The Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark is located in the northeast of Hong Kong and consists of two regions: the Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region with hexagonal rock columns, which is considered world-class in terms of both size and coverage; and the Northeast New Territories Sedimentary Rock Region, which displays the most comprehensive stratigraphy of sedimentary rocks in Hong Kong.



Traditional Festivals

There are five major festivals in the Chinese calendar. During the Lunar New Year, the most important festival, people exchange gifts and visit friends and relatives, while children receive 'lucky money' in red paper packets. During the Ching Ming Festival in spring, people visit ancestral graves. On the fifth day of the fifth lunar month in early summer, dragon boats race across Hong Kong's waterways and the sea to celebrate the Tuen Ng Festival. The Mid-Autumn Festival falls on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month, when gifts of mooncakes, wine and fruit are exchanged, and adults and children carrying colourful lanterns visit parks, beaches and the countryside to admire the full moon.



The Chung Yeung Festival occurs on the ninth day of the ninth lunar month, when many people visit their ancestors' graves or hike up mountains to commemorate a Chinese family's legendary escape from the plague.

Future of Hong Kong

Capitalising on Advantages to Unleash Hong Kong's Potential

Continuous and sustainable economic growth is a prerequisite for Hong Kong's further development. Hong Kong is committed to maintaining a business-friendly environment and investing in world-class infrastructure to support the economic development.

Hong Kong will strive for innovation to develop a high value-added and diversified economy, as well as capitalise on opportunities presented by the national Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area development to generate new impetus for the growth of those industries where Hong Kong enjoy advantages.

Some initiatives are:

- To continue with the development of Hong Kong as a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region and the enhancement of Hong Kong's status in the international legal, dispute resolution and business arenas. To create a favourable environment and infrastructure to facilitate international legal and dispute resolution institutions' operation of services or offices in Hong Kong.
- To entrench Hong Kong's position as an international maritime centre amidst intense international competition. The Government will work with the industry to formulate holistic strategies, and develop Hong Kong into an international arbitration centre for disputes arising from maritime businesses.
- To amend legislation governing the regulatory regime to maintain Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre and its competitive edge in the financial services industry, and develop Hong Kong into a broader and deeper platform for fund raising to cater for the new economy.
- To devote resources to further develop creative industries, especially the nurturing of young talent. To review the operation of the Film Development Fund

with a view to driving the further development of the local film industry and nurturing more professionals for film production or post-production to better respond to market needs.

- To set up key technology collaborative platforms in areas where Hong Kong has strong research and development capabilities, such as biotechnology and bring in internationally-renowned universities, research institutes and innovation and technology companies to join force for those projects. To collaborate with Shenzhen to develop a "Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park" in the Lok Ma Chau Loop Area. To establish "Inno Space" with the Hong Kong Productivity Council to promote the translation of innovative and technological ideas into industrial designs or products, nurture a start-up culture in Hong Kong and support re-industrialisation.
- To introduce tax concessions where appropriate to promote economic development and enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness in the long run.

Asia's Cyber City for a Cyber Century

Hong Kong has set itself on a course to become the centre for innovation and technology in East Asia — a cyber city in the cyber century. Much is being done to realise this goal and to capitalise on the enormous opportunities presented by the information revolution.

Cyberport

Cyberport is a creative digital community with a cluster of over 900 technology and digital tenants. It is managed by Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited, which is wholly owned by the HKSAR Government.

With a view to establishing itself as a leading global innovation and technology hub, Cyberport is committed to facilitating the local economy by nurturing information



and communication technology industry start-ups and entrepreneurs, driving collaboration to pool resources and create business opportunities, and accelerating digital adoption through strategic initiatives and partnerships.

Science Park

Completed in April 2016, the three-phase Hong Kong Science Park is located on a 22-hectare site. The park is developing five technology clusters, namely biomedical technology, electronics, green technology, information and communications technology, and material and precision engineering.



In addition, it operates three over-arching cross-disciplinary platforms, in healthy ageing, robotics and smart city development, to facilitate integration of technologies in innovative products.

Stage 1 of the Science Park expansion programme started in 2016, and is expected to be completed by 2020. This will increase the total gross floor area of the park from 330 000 square metres to around 400 000 square metres.

To foster the development of the innovation and technology ecosystem, an InnoCell adjacent to the Science Park will be developed to provide residential units with flexible designs and ancillary facilities for affordable leasing, to tenants and incubatees of the Science Park, as well as visitors from the Mainland and overseas. The InnoCell is expected to be completed in 2020.

Infrastructure Projects for 21st Century

Efficient and reliable infrastructure has played a key role in maintaining Hong Kong's position as a leading trade, finance, business and tourism centre in the region. Infrastructure development enables Hong Kong to meet demands arising from population growth and support economic and trade development.

The Government is moving ahead with a number of major infrastructure projects, including the:

- Sha Tin to Central Link
- Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link
- Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge
- Three-Runway System of the Hong Kong International Airport
- Central Kowloon Route
- Lok Ma Chau Loop
- Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and associated works
- West Kowloon Cultural District
- Kai Tak Development
- New Development Areas
- Development of Lantau Island — Tung Chung New Town Extension
- Reclamation on an appropriate scale outside Victoria Harbour
- Rock cavern and underground space development
- Topside development at HZMB's Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities Island
- 10-year Hospital Development Plan
- Kai Tak Sports Park
- Cross Bay Link, Tseung Kwan O

By improving transport and other infrastructure, these projects will enable Hong Kong's further development and foster more socio-cultural and business activities.

In addition, with closer and more efficient transport links between Hong Kong and the neighbouring regions of Shenzhen and the Pearl River Delta, cross-boundary integration will be strengthened.

The Government will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach and step up its efforts to meet housing and other needs. For this purpose, the Government will increase the supply of land in the short, medium and long terms through optimal use of developed land and identifying new land for development at the same time.

Apart from the major infrastructure projects, other works are in progress to improve the urban environment. Annual expenditure on capital works in 2016-17 exceed \$80 billion, and this level of spending is expected to continue in the next few years, bringing a continuous driving force to the construction industry and economic development.

Railway Development

Railways play a vital role in serving the transport needs of Hong Kong. They provide fast, reliable and comfortable services, reduce pressure on the road network and are more environmentally friendly.

Hong Kong's railway development has progressed rapidly over the past few years. Having regard to transport demand, cost-effectiveness and the development needs of New Development Areas and other new development projects, a new railway development strategy recommends that seven new railway projects be completed by 2031.

The projects are the Northern Link (and Kwu Tung Station), Tuen Mun South Extension, East Kowloon Line, Tung Chung West Extension, Hung Shui Kiu Station, South Island Line (West) and North Island Line. When all these new projects are completed, the railway network will increase from 270 km in 2021 to over 300 km by 2031.

Road Projects

Strategic new roads reduce urban congestion and provide vital new links to the New Territories and beyond. Major projects on road reconstruction and improvement in the New Territories and on Hong Kong Island, are being implemented.

To cope with an expected increase in traffic demand in the New Territories, the section of Tolo Highway between the Island House Interchange and Tai Hang has been widened. The widening works of Fanling Highway between Tai Hang and the Wo Hop Shek Interchange started in 2013 and are anticipated to be completed in 2019.



To relieve traffic congestion along the existing east-western Connaught Road Central/Harcourt Road/Gloucester Road Corridor on Hong Kong Island, the Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link are under construction to connect the Rumsey Street Flyover in Central and the Island Eastern Corridor in North Point. Upon commissioning, it will take about five minutes to drive from Central to the Island Eastern Corridor in North Point.

The Central Kowloon Route (CKR) under construction is a dual three-lane truck road of about 4.7 km connecting West Kowloon with the proposed Kai Tak Development. It will further connect to the road network in Kowloon Bay. It will provide a new strategic road link across central Kowloon and relieve traffic congestion at peak hours on the existing east-west road links. Upon commissioning of the CKR, the journey time between West Kowloon and Kowloon Bay via CKR would take only an estimated five minutes. The CKR started construction in December 2017 and is anticipated to be commissioned in 2025.

The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge links three major cities in the Pearl River Delta. The bridge, at about 55 km, is the longest bridge-tunnel sea crossing in the world. The bridge will make it possible to travel from Hong Kong to Macao and Zhuhai in one hour, and within three hours to most of the major cities of the western Pearl River Delta.

Hong Kong : The Facts

Population: 7.39 million (mid-2017)

Overall density

6 830 people per square kilometre

Area: 1 106.34 square kilometres

Hong Kong Island	80.68 square km
Kowloon	46.94 square km
New Territories — mainland	748.18 square km
New Territories — islands	230.54 square km

Weather

Annual rainfall (2017)

2 572.1mm

Highest temperature

36.6°C (22 August 2017)

Lowest temperature

0.0°C (18 January 1893)

Highest wind speed

259 km/h at Hong Kong Observatory, 284 km/h at Tate's Cairn (Typhoon Wanda, 1 September 1962)

Public Housing

About 2.14 million people live in 808 300 rental housing flats

Transport

Roads

2 112 kilometres of roads, 759 889 licensed vehicles

Bridges

Tsing Ma Bridge (main span 1 377 metres) — the world's longest road-rail suspension bridge

Kap Shui Mun Bridge (main span 430 metres) — road-rail cable-stayed bridge

Ting Kau Bridge (two main spans totalling 923 metres) — cable-stayed road bridge

Stonecutters Bridge (main span 1 018 metres) — span cable-stayed road bridge

Shenzhen Bay Bridge (main span 210 metres) — single plane cable-stayed road bridge

Air movements

420 630 flights; 72.9 million passengers; 4.94 million tonnes of freight

Shipping movements

Arrival: 26 793 ocean vessels; 158 627 river vessels; port cargo throughput 282 million tonnes

Container throughput

20.8 million TEUs (20-foot equivalent units)

Employment in 2017

Total employment: 3.83 million

Major employment sectors

	% of total employment [Ⓜ]
Import/export, wholesale and retail trades, and accommodation ⁽¹⁾ and food services	30%
Public administration, and social and personal services	27%
Financing and insurance, real estate, and professional and business services	20%
Transportation, storage, postal and courier services, and information and communications	11%
Construction	9%
Manufacturing	2%

⁽¹⁾ Accommodation services cover hotels, guesthouses, boarding houses and other establishments providing short-term accommodation.

[Ⓜ] Figures are subject to revision later on.

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October 2018

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www.gov.hk

Published and designed by the Information Services Department
Printed by the Government Logistics Department
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government
(Printed on paper made from woodpulp derived from renewable forests)



Information Services Department