

Hong Kong

Geography

Location: Eastern Asia, bordering the South China Sea and China

Geographic coordinates: 22 15 N, 114 10 E

Map references: Southeast Asia

Area: *land:* 1,042 sq km

Coastline: 733 km

Climate: tropical monsoon; warm and humid spring, hot and rainy summer, warm dry and sunny fall, cool and humid winter

Terrain: hilly to mountainous with steep slopes; lowlands in north, highest point Tai Mo Shan 958 m

Natural resources: outstanding deepwater harbor

Land use: arable land 6%, permanent crops 1%, permanent pastures 1%, forests and woodland 20%, other: 72% (1997 est.)

Irrigated land: 20 sq km (1997 est.)

Natural hazards: occasional typhoons

Environment - current issues: air and water pollution from rapid urbanization

Geography - note: more than 200 islands

People

Population: 7,116,302 (July 2000 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 18% (male 676,756; female 602,434)

15-64 years: 71% (male 2,520,473; female 2,563,355)

65 years and over: 11% (male 342,942; female 410,342) (2000 est.)

Population growth rate: 1.35% (2000 est.)

Birth rate: 11.29 births/1,000 population (2000 est.)

Death rate: 5.93 deaths/1,000 population (2000 est.)

Net migration rate: 8.12 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2000 est.)

Sex ratio:

at birth: 1.07 male(s)/female

under 15 years: 1.12 male(s)/female

15-64 years: 0.98 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.84 male(s)/female

total population: 0.99 male(s)/female (2000 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 5.93 deaths/1,000 live births (2000 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 79.54 years

male: 76.85 years

female: 82.41 years (2000 est.)

Total fertility rate: 1.27 children born/woman (2000 est.)

Ethnic groups: Chinese 95%, other 5%

Religions: eclectic mixture of local religions 90%, Christian 10%

Languages: Chinese (Cantonese), English; both are official

Literacy:

definition: age 15 and over has ever attended school

total population: 92.2%

male: 96%

female: 88.2% (1996 est.)

Government

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Dependency status: special administrative region of China

National holiday: National Day, 1-2 October; note - 1 July 1997 is celebrated as Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Establishment Day

Constitution: Basic Law approved in March 1990 by China's National People's Congress is Hong Kong's "mini-constitution"

Legal system: based on English common law

Suffrage: direct election 18 years of age; universal for permanent residents living in the territory of Hong Kong for the past seven years; indirect election limited to about 100,000 members of functional constituencies and an 800-member election committee drawn from broad regional groupings, municipal organizations, and central government bodies

Executive branch:

head of government: Chief Executive

Executive Branch: Executive Council consists of three ex-officio members and 10 appointed members

Legislative branch: unicameral Legislative Council or LEGCO (60 seats; 30 indirectly elected by functional constituencies, 20 elected by popular vote, and 10 elected by an 800-member election committee; members serve four-year terms)

Judicial branch: The Court of Final Appeal in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Economy

Economy - overview: Hong Kong has a bustling free market economy highly dependent on international trade. Natural resources are limited, and food and raw materials must be imported. Indeed, imports and exports, including re-exports, each exceed GDP in dollar value. Even before Hong Kong reverted to Chinese administration on 1 July 1997 it had extensive trade and investment ties with China. Per capita GDP compares with the level in the four big countries of Western Europe.

GDP: purchasing power parity - \$158.2 billion (1999 est.)

GDP - real growth rate: 1.8% (1999 est.)

GDP - per capita: purchasing power parity - \$23,100 (1999 est.)

GDP - composition by sector:

agriculture: 0.1%

industry: 14.7%

services: 85.2% (1997 est.)

Labor force: 3.36 million (1998 est.)

Labor force - by occupation: wholesale and retail trade, restaurants, and hotels 31.9%, social services 9.9%, manufacturing 9.2%, financing, insurance, and real estate 13.1%, transport and communications 5.7%, construction 2.6%, other 27.6% (October 1998)

Budget:

revenues: \$23.1 billion

expenditures: \$25.1 billion, including capital expenditures of \$NA (FY98/99)

Industries: textiles, clothing, tourism, electronics, plastics, toys, watches, clocks

Electricity - production: 29.529 billion kWh (1998)

Electricity - consumption: 34.612 billion kWh (1998)

Agriculture - products: fresh vegetables; poultry

Exports: \$169.98 billion (including re-exports; f.o.b., 1999 est.)
Exports - commodities: clothing, textiles, footwear, electrical appliances, watches and clocks, toys
Exports - partners: China 34%, US 23%, Japan 5%, Germany 4%, UK 4%, Singapore 2% (1998)
Imports: \$174.4 billion (c.i.f., 1999)
Imports - commodities: foodstuffs, transport equipment, raw materials, semi-manufactures, petroleum; a large share is re-exported
Imports - partners: China 41%, Japan 13%, US 8%, Taiwan 7%, South Korea 5%, Singapore 4% (1998)
Debt - external: \$48.1 billion (1999)
Economic aid - recipient: none
Currency: 1 Hong Kong dollar (HK\$) = 100 cents
Exchange rates: linked to the US dollar at about 7.8 HK\$ per 1 US\$
Fiscal year: 1 April - 31 March

Communications

Telephones - main lines in use: 3.708 million (1998)
Telephones - mobile cellular: 2.4 million (July 1998)
Telephone system: modern facilities provide excellent domestic and international services
domestic: microwave radio relay links and extensive fiber-optic network
international: satellite earth stations - 3 Intelsat (1 Pacific Ocean and 2 Indian Ocean); coaxial cable to Guangzhou, China; access to 5 international submarine cables providing connections to ASEAN member nations, Japan, Taiwan, Australia, Middle East, and Western Europe
Radio broadcast stations: AM 7, FM 13, shortwave 0 (1998)
Radios: 4.45 million (1997)
Television broadcast stations: 4 (plus two repeaters) (1997)
Televisions: 1.84 million (1997)
Internet Service Providers (ISPs): 49 (1999)

Transportation

Railways:
total: 34 km
standard gauge: 34 km 1.435-m gauge (all electrified) (1996 est.)
Highways:
total: 1,831 km
Merchant marine:
total: 271 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 7,942,646 GRT/13,101,275 DWT
ships by type: barge carrier 1, bulk 157, cargo 28, chemical tanker 5, combination bulk 2, container 53, liquified gas 5, multi-functional large load carrier 2, petroleum tanker 14, short-sea passenger 1, vehicle carrier 3 (1999 est.)
International Airports: A modern international airport located on Lantau Island
Heliports: 2 (1999 est.)

Notes to Visitors and Users:

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