



Hong Kong



Background The UK seized Hong Kong in 1841, and China formally ceded it the following year at the end of the First Opium War. The Kowloon Peninsula was added in 1860 at the end of the Second Opium War, and the UK obtained a 99-year lease of the New Territories in 1898. Pursuant to a UK-China agreement in 1984, Hong Kong became the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China as of 1 July 1997. In this agreement, China promised that, under its "one country, two systems" formula, China's socialist economic and strict political system would not be imposed on Hong Kong and that Hong Kong would enjoy a "high degree of autonomy" in all matters except foreign and defense affairs for the next 50 years.

After the handover, Hong Kong continued to enjoy success as an international financial center. However, growing Chinese political influence and dissatisfaction with the Hong Kong Government in the 2010s became central issues and led to considerable civil unrest, including large-scale pro-democracy demonstrations in 2019 after the HKSAR attempted to revise a local ordinance to allow extraditions to mainland China. In response to the protests, the governments of the HKSAR and China reduced the city's autonomy and placed new restrictions on the rights of Hong Kong residents, moves that were widely criticized as contravening obligations under the Hong Kong Basic Law and the Sino-British Joint Declaration. Democratic lawmakers and political figures were arrested in a widespread crackdown, while others fled abroad. At the same time, dozens of civil society groups and several independent media outlets were closed or disbanded. In 2021, Beijing imposed a more restrictive electoral system, restructuring the Legislative Council (LegCo) and allowing only government-approved candidates to run for office. The changes ensured that virtually all seats in the 2021 LegCo election went to pro-establishment candidates and effectively ended political opposition to Beijing. In 2024, the LegCo passed a new national security law (Article 23 of the Basic Law) further expanding the Hong Kong Government's power to curb dissent.

Government type	presidential limited democracy; a special administrative region of the People's Republic of China
Area	total : 1,108 sq km land: 1,073 sq km water: 35 sq km
Climate	subtropical monsoon; cool and humid in winter, hot and rainy from spring through summer, warm and sunny in fall
Natural resources	outstanding deepwater harbor, feldspar
Population	total: 7,297,821 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	0.09% (2025 est.)
Ethnic groups	Chinese 91.6%, Filipino 2.7%, Indonesian 1.9%, other 3.7% (2021 est.)

Religions	Buddhist or Taoist 27.9%, Protestant 6.7%, Roman Catholic 5.3%, Muslim 4.2%, Hindu 1.4%, Sikh 0.2%, other or none 54.3% (2016 est.)
Languages	Cantonese (official) 85.4%, English (official) 4.5%, Putonghua (official) 2.2%, other Chinese dialects 2.8%, other 2%, persons under 5 or mute 3.2% (2021 est.)
Executive branch	chief of state: President of China XI Jinping (since 14 March 2013) head of government: Chief Executive John LEE Ka-chiu (since 1 July 2022)
Legislative branch	legislature name: Legislative Council or LegCo
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: none (Special Administrative Region of China)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Consul General Julie EADEH (since August 2025); note - also accredited to Macau
Economic overview	high-income tourism- and services-based economy; global financial hub; COVID-19 and political protests fueled recent recession; ongoing recovery but lower-skilled unemployment remains high; investing in job-reskilling programs
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$497.88 billion (2024 est.) \$485.541 billion (2023 est.) \$470.42 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$66,200 (2024 est.) \$64,400 (2023 est.) \$64,000 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$739.915 billion (2024 est.) \$673.738 billion (2023 est.) \$697.583 billion (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	China 22%, Vietnam 12%, S. Korea 8%, Netherlands 5%, Switzerland 4% (2023)
Exports - commodities	gold, integrated circuits, gas turbines, broadcasting equipment, jewelry (2023)
Imports	\$723.397 billion (2024 est.) \$671.492 billion (2023 est.) \$682.881 billion (2022 est.)
Imports - partners	China 40%, Taiwan 10%, Singapore 7%, Japan 5%, S. Korea 4% (2023)
Imports - commodities	integrated circuits, broadcasting equipment, gold, machine parts, jewelry (2023)

Population Pyramid

