

HONG KONG: BASIC DATA

GEOGRAPHY	Hong Kong is on the southern coast of China and consists of 236 islands and islets, and is part of the Chinese mainland. Its total area is 1,074 square kilometres consisting of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, and the New Territories.						
CLIMATE	Sub-tropical, the hottest months are July and August (24-34°C), the coldest month is March (4-26°C). The driest month is December (47 mm average rainfall), and the wettest month is July (547 mm average rainfall).						
POPULATION	5.8 million (1992)						
MAIN REGIONS	<table><tr><td>Hong Kong Island</td><td>1,279,000</td></tr><tr><td>New Territories</td><td>2,083,000</td></tr><tr><td>Kowloon</td><td>2,438,000</td></tr></table>	Hong Kong Island	1,279,000	New Territories	2,083,000	Kowloon	2,438,000
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TIME	Hong Kong is eight hours ahead of GMT.						
MEASURES	The UK imperial system is used, but Hong Kong is changing to the metric system. Local measures include: 10 tsun = 0.371 m; 10 tsin = 37.8 gm; kan = 0.605 kg.						
LANGUAGE	Hong Kong has two official languages, Chinese (Cantonese) and English. They are used with equal status in all manner of communications.						
LEGAL SYSTEM	Generally, the law of Hong Kong follows that of England and Wales. The judiciary and the courts are independent of the administration. English common law and the rules of equity prevail insofar as they may be applicable to local circumstances.						
RELIGION	The leading Chinese religions are Buddhism and Taoism, but the majority of the population also practice ancestral worship as advocated by Confucius.						
EDUCATION	About one-quarter of Hong Kong's population is enrolled in schools, colleges or other educational institutions.						
STANDARDS	Living standards vary widely in Hong Kong, but have been steadily improving, particularly at the lower and middle management levels. Hong Kong's per capita GDP ranks among the highest in Asia, and among the world's top 20 economies.						
CURRENCY	One Hong Kong dollar (HK\$) is divided into 100 cents. As of April 1993, the exchange rate between Canada and Hong Kong was HK\$ = .17¢ Cdn.						
HOLIDAYS	Holidays are January 1, Chinese New Year, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Easter Monday, the Queen's Birthday and the following Monday, Dragon Boat Festival (mid-June), 1st weekday in July, first Monday in August, Saturday preceding the last Monday in August, Liberation Day, the day following Chinese mid-autumn festival, Chung Yeung (mid-October), December 25-27.						