Hong Kong's mobile residents and Hong Kong permanent residents residing in the Guangdong Province

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1. Introduction

1.1 Hong Kong has a resident population of over 7.4 million, comprising predominantly Hong Kong permanent residents¹ ("HKPRs"). Some of these HKPRs, though being part of resident population, may stay on the Mainland or overseas for prolonged periods or travel frequently for work, education and other purposes. are also HKPRs falling outside the scope of Hong Kong resident population since they reside mainly on the Mainland or overseas. As HKPRs have the right to freely enter, work and establish business in Hong Kong, HKPRs staying overseas and on the Mainland have implications on Hong Kong's social and economic policy. At the request of Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, the Research Office has completed a research task on (a) Hong Kong's mobile residents within Hong Kong resident population, as defined by the amount of time they spent in Hong Kong, and (b) HKPRs residing in the Guangdong Province². As the Government does not have comprehensive statistics on HKPRs on the Mainland and overseas, this research relies mainly on population census data and estimation provided by the Census and Statistics Department ("C&SD"). The relevant analysis and related policy documents are organized into an information pack folder with key findings outlined below.

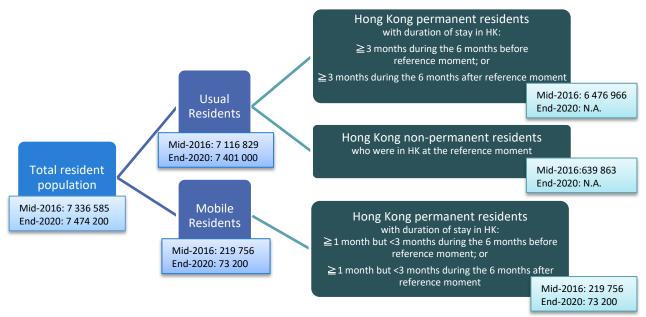
2. HKPRs who are mobile residents

Among Hong Kong's total resident population of 7 474 200 as of end-2020, 73 200 (1%) were defined as **mobile residents**, who are HKPRs who had stayed in Hong Kong "between one to three months out of six months" during the specified period. According to C&SD, mobile residents may include persons staying most of the week on the Mainland and regularly staying in Hong Kong during the weekends; Hong Kong students studying abroad and returning for vacations; and persons staying overseas but frequently traveling to Hong Kong for business, work or family reasons. Statistics on the countries/territories where they usually stay, however, is not available. The remaining 7 401 000 persons (99%) were **usual residents** and comprise both HKPRs and non-HKPRs. The definitions of usual and mobile residents are illustrated in the **Figure 1**.

Hong Kong permanent resident means a person who belongs to a class or description of persons specified under Article 24 of the Basic Law and in Schedule 1 to the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115).

As the Government does not have comprehensive statistical information on HKPRs on the Mainland, this research relies on statistics on HKPRs usually staying in the Guangdong Province compiled by C&SD.

Figure 1 – Classification of Hong Kong's total resident population by residency and mobility patterns^{(1), (2)}



Notes: (1) The figures in boxes indicate the sizes of the respective groups as at mid-2016 and end-2020, where available.

- (2) Hong Kong permanent residents whose mobility patterns fall outside the scope of usual residents and mobile residents are not included in Hong Kong's resident population figures above. The number of such non-residents is unknown.
- 2.2 Mobile residents consistently accounted for approximately 3% of Hong Kong's population from 2000 to 2018, but the share shrank to 2% and 1% as at end-2019 and end-2020 respectively (Appendix I). Such fluctuation can be attributed to the border control measures and quarantine requirements of Hong Kong and other countries/territories amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and is expected to be temporary.
- The **age composition** of mobile residents has changed over time, with the share of persons aged 25-64 (which is considered the most economically active group) decreasing from 62% in 2001 to 53% in 2016, while the share of elderly (aged 65+) increased by nine percentage points and the share of children (aged 0-14) remained largely flat during the 15-year period (**Appendix II**). In comparison, the share of elderly in the overall population had gained only five percentage points while that of children had declined by five percentage points during the same period. Mobile residents comprised more men than women. According to the 2016 by-census, the sex ratio of the mobile residents was 1 268 men per 1 000 women, compared with 852 men per 1000 women in the total resident population.

3. HKPRs usually staying in the Guangdong Province

3.1 Another dataset published since 2016 (with data backdated to mid-2013), compiled by C&SD based on arrival and departure records at relevant border control points, provides an overview of HKPRs usually staying (i.e. spending at least half of their

time during a year) in the Guangdong Province.³ As at end-2019, the number of HKPRs usually staying in Guangdong was **538 000** (**Appendix III**). Notably, over 75% of this group (414 300 as at end-2019) are not considered as part of Hong Kong resident population as their duration of stay in Hong Kong was too short to be counted as residents. The biggest group among these **non-resident HKPRs** are children aged 0-14, who made up 42% of this group, followed by elderly aged 65 or above, who accounted for 16% of this group (**Appendix IV**). This may reflect the prevalence of children with HKPR status who reside with their families on the Mainland⁴, as well as the growing trend of Hong Kong elderly retiring on the Mainland.

4. Hong Kong-born people in other countries

4.1 Some overseas countries publish statistics of their usual residents by country of birth. The numbers of Hong Kong-born population in selected top destination countries, as summarized below, provide a ballpark estimate of HKPRs residing overseas. For example, latest data show that there are roughly 100 000 and 210 000 Hong Kong-born residents in Australia and the United States respectively. These figures, however, are not equivalent to HKPRs in these countries as these Hong Kong-born people may include individuals who had never obtained HKPR status or had lost their HKPR status for had lost their HKPR status.

Table 1 – Hong Kong-born population in selected countries

Country	Hong Kong-born population			
Australia (2019) ⁽¹⁾	101 290			
Canada (2016) ⁽²⁾	208 940			
United Kingdom (2011) ⁽³⁾	111 733			
United States (2016) ⁽⁴⁾	212 253			

Notes: (1) Estimated resident population by country of birth.

- (2) Immigrants by place of birth.
- (3) Usual residents by country of birth.
- (4) Foreign-born population in the United States by place of birth.

Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Statistics Canada, Office for National Statistics (UK), and US Census Bureau.

Specifically, the figure covers HKPRs who have stayed in Guangdong for 6 months and above during the 1-year period from 6 months before the reference time-point to 6 months after the reference time-point. The duration of stay in the 1-year reference period is on a cumulative basis and is not necessarily consecutive.

Between 2005 and 2019, there were 296 015 babies born in Hong Kong to Mainland women, including 198 595 whose fathers are non-HKPRs.

This refers to those who do not qualify as permanent residents under Article 24 of the Basic Law and Schedule 1 to the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115). For example, persons were born in Hong Kong but are neither Chinese nationals nor have a parent who is a HKPR.

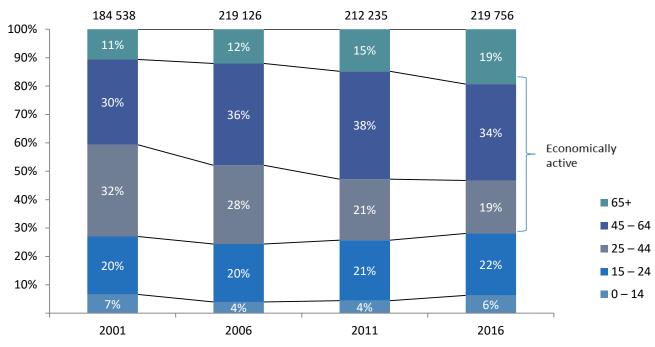
For example, HKPRs who are not Chinese citizens would lose the permanent residency status if they are absent from Hong Kong for any continuous period of three years or more, as stipulated in paragraph 7 of Schedule 1 to the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115).

Hong Kong resident population, end-2000 to end-2020

	Usual residents	Mobile residents	Total population		
End-2000	6 680 500 (97.3%)	185 100 (2.7%)	6 865 600		
End-2001	6 536 300 (97.1%)	194 000 (2.9%)	6 730 300		
End-2002	6 535 500 (97.2%)	190 300 (2.8%)	6 725 800		
End-2003	6 557 800 (96.9%)	206 400 (3.1%)	6 764 200		
End-2004	6 576 800 (96.8%)	220 900 (3.2%)	6 797 700		
End-2005	6 614 800 (96.7%)	223 000 (3.3%)	6 837 800		
End-2006	6 681 200 (96.7%)	228 300 (3.3%)	6 909 500		
End-2007	6 727 000 (96.8%)	225 800 (3.2%)	6 952 800		
End-2008	6 775 300 (96.9%)	213 600 (3.1%)	6 988 900		
End-2009	6 781 800 (96.9%)	214 600 (3.1%)	6 996 400		
End-2010	6 832 500 (96.9%)	219 600 (3.1%)	7 052 100		
End-2011	6 886 800 (96.9%)	222 700 (3.1%)	7 109 500		
End-2012	6 949 700 (96.9%)	221 300 (3.1%)	7 171 000		
End-2013	6 986 200 (96.9%)	224 700 (3.1%)	7 210 900		
End-2014	7 022 600 (96.8%)	230 300 (3.2%)	7 252 900		
End-2015	7 079 800 (96.9%)	229 900 (3.1%)	7 309 700		
End-2016	7 146 400 (96.9%)	230 700 (3.1%)	7 377 100		
End-2017	7 181 400 (96.9%)	231 700 (3.1%)	7 413 100		
End-2018	7 257 900 (96.9%)	228 500 (3.1%)	7 486 400		
Mid-2019	7 311 400 (97.4%)	196 000 (2.6%)	7 507 400		
End-2019	7 365 300 (97.9%)	155 500 (2.1%)	7 520 800		
Mid-2020	7 391 600 (98.8%)	90 200 (1.2%)	7 481 800		
End-2020	7 401 000 (99.0%)	73 200 (1.0%)	7 474 200		

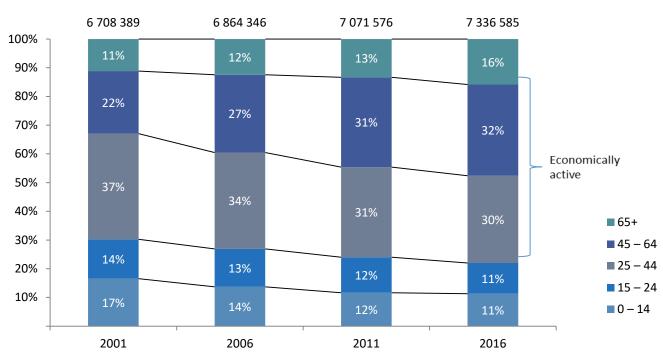
Age distribution of mobile residents and total resident population, 2001-2016⁽¹⁾

Mobile residents



Source: Census and Statistics Department.

Total resident population



Source: Census and Statistics Department.

Note: (1) Latest available data are as of mid-2016.

Statistics on Hong Kong residents usually staying in the Guangdong Province, Mid-2013 to End-2019

	Hong Kong Resident Population		Non-Hong Ko	Total	
	No.	% of total	No.	% of total	
Mid-2013	129 300	25.0%	387 300	75.0%	516 700
End-2013	128 900	25.3%	380 800	74.7%	509 700
Mid-2014	131 400	25.4%	385 200	74.6%	516 600
End-2014	128 500	25.1%	382 500	74.9%	511 000
Mid-2015	129 500	25.1%	386 500	74.9%	516 000
End-2015	125 600	24.4%	389 100	75.6%	514 800
Mid-2016	127 500	24.5%	393 500	75.5%	521 000
End-2016	125 900	24.1%	396 200	75.9%	522 100
Mid-2017	127 800	24.1%	403 200	75.9%	531 000
End-2017	124 900	23.8%	400 600	76.2%	525 500
Mid-2018	133 700	24.9%	404 000	75.1%	537 700
End-2018	126 800	24.0%	401 200	76.0%	528 000
Mid-2019	129 400	23.9%	412 500	76.1%	541 900
End-2019	123 700	23.0%	414 300	77.0%	538 000

Age distribution of non-resident HKPRs usually staying in the Guangdong Province, End-2013 to End-2019

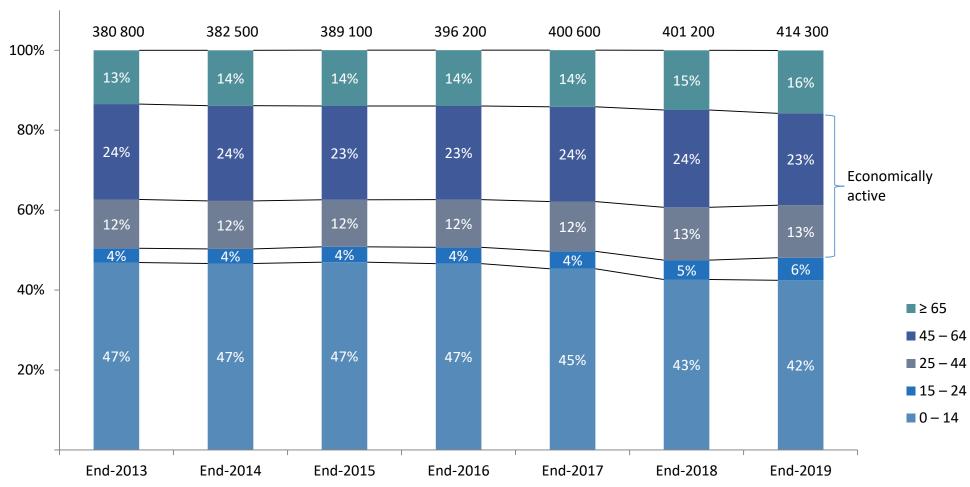


Figure 1 – Number of usual residents and mobile residents within Hong Kong's resident population

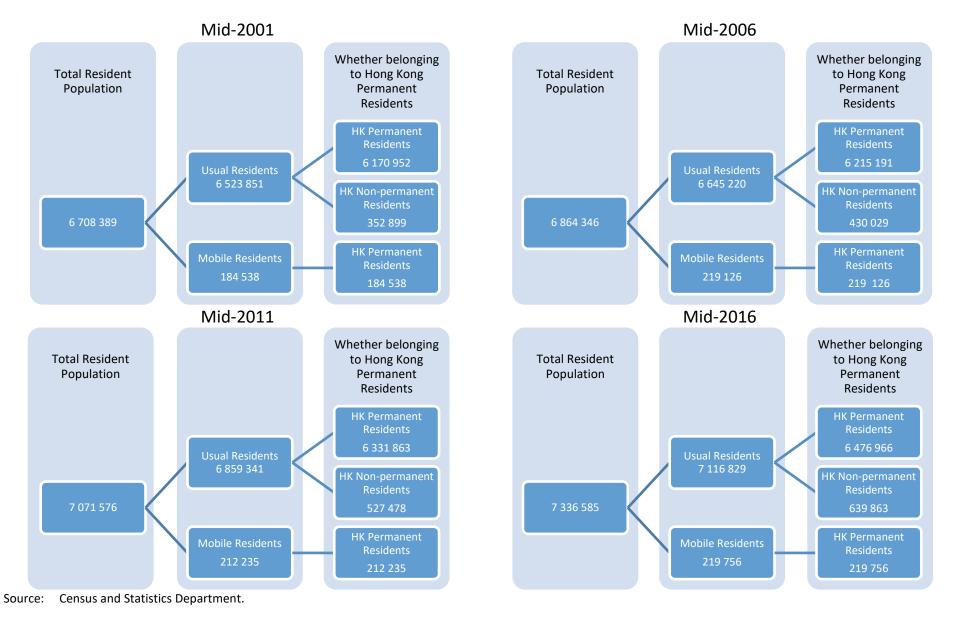


Figure 2 – Growth rate by age groups of mobile residents

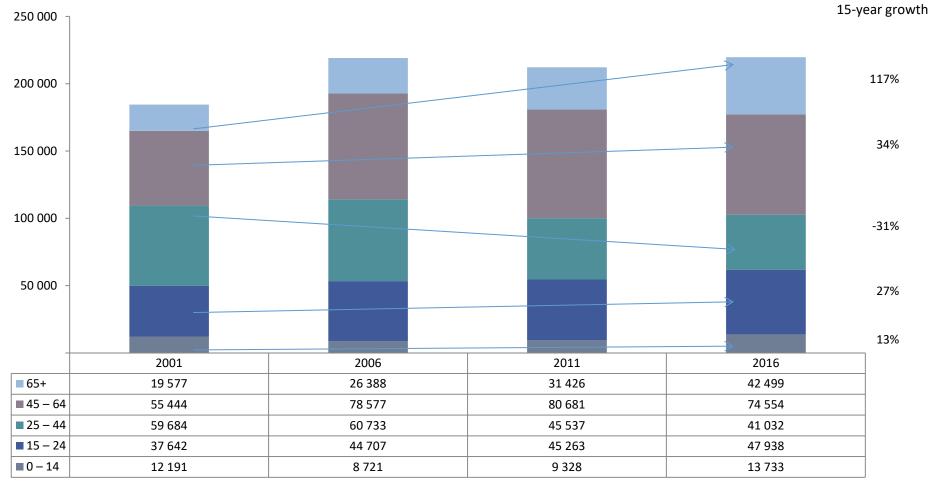


Figure 3 – Educational attainment of selected age groups of mobile residents and usual residents, mid-2016

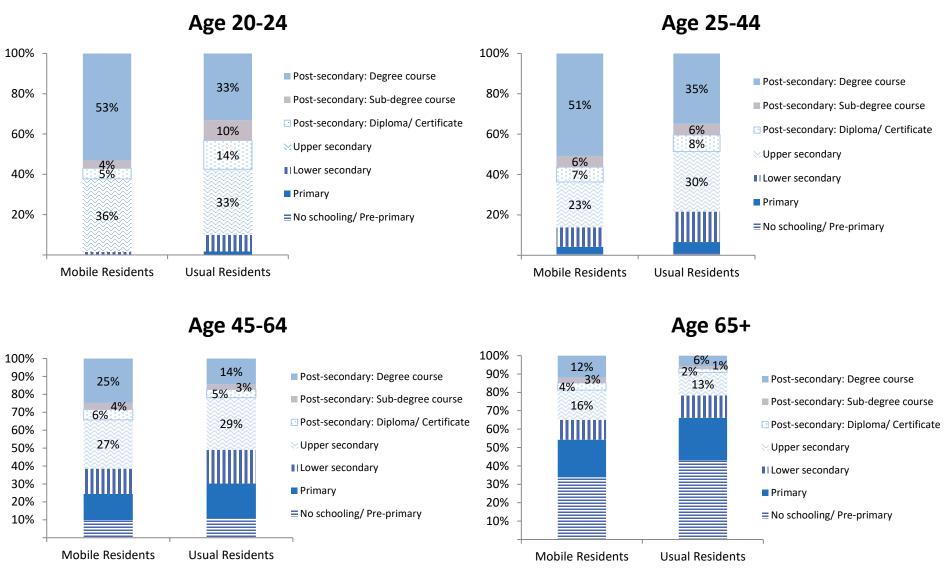


Figure 4 – Economic activity status of mobile residents aged 25-64, mid-2016

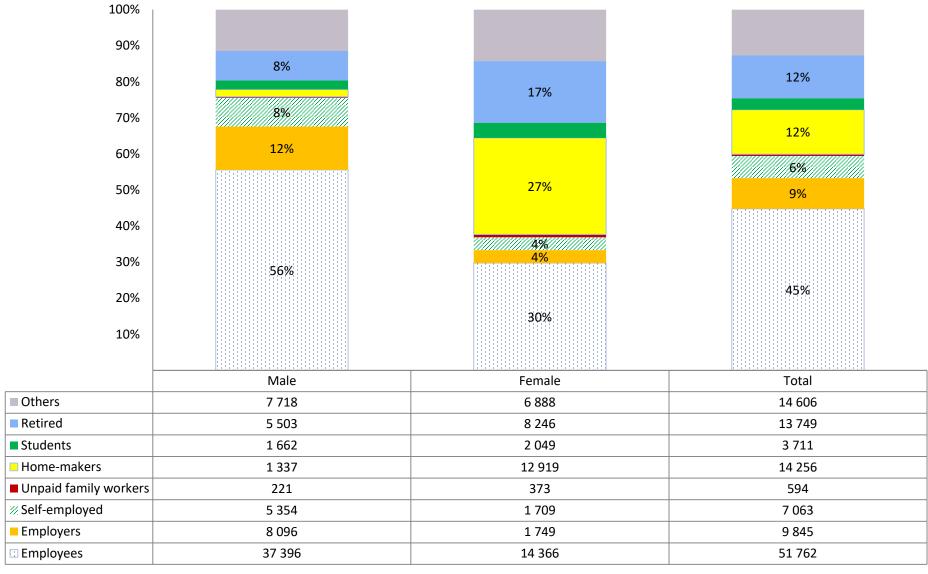


Figure 5 – Number of usual residents and mobile residents by district council districts, mid-2016

	Mobile r	esidents	Usual residents		
	Number	% of mobile residents	Number	% of usual residents	
Sha Tin	20 624	9.4%	639 170	9.0%	
Yuen Long	19 160	8.7%	595 018	8.4%	
Eastern	17 480	8.0%	537 554	7.6%	
Kwun Tong	16 631	7.6%	631 910	8.9%	
Sai Kung	14 759	6.7%	447 105	6.3%	
Kowloon City	14 668	6.7%	404 064	5.7%	
Yau Chim Mong	14 028	6.4%	328 942	4.6%	
Tuen Mun	13 206	6.0%	476 093	6.7%	
Kwai Tsing	12 796	5.8%	507 776	7.1%	
Wong Tai Sin	10 333	4.7%	414 902	5.8%	
Sham Shui Po	10 199	4.6%	395 670	5.6%	
North	9 677	4.4%	305 593	4.3%	
Tsuen Wan	9 572	4.4%	309 344	4.3%	
Central and Western	8 424	3.8%	234 842	3.3%	
Tai Po	8 312	3.8%	295 614	4.2%	
Southern	7 955	3.6%	267 039	3.8%	
Wan Chai	6 194	2.8%	173 929	2.4%	
Islands	5 714	2.6%	151 087	2.1%	

Figure 6 – Working mobile residents by place of work, mid-2016

Total working mobile residents: 78 009

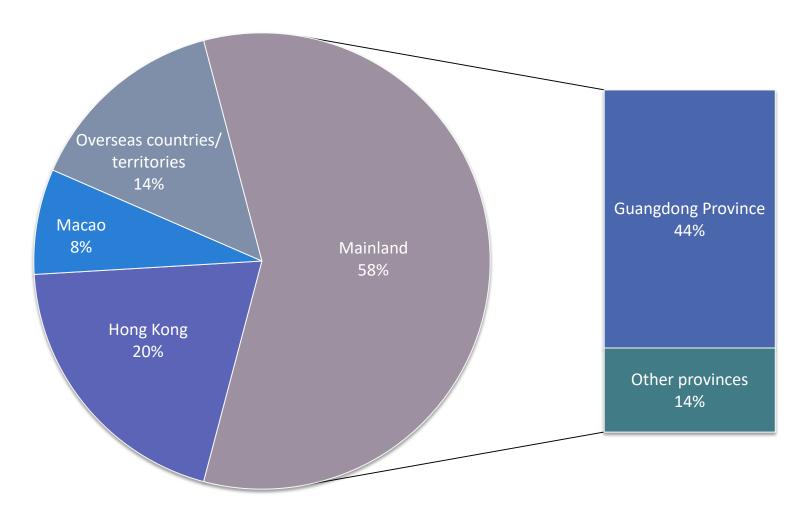
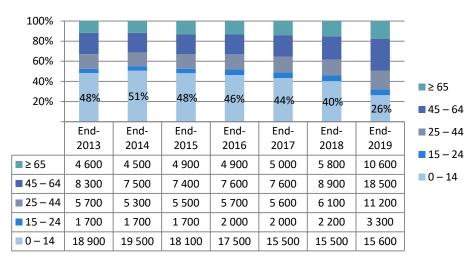


Figure 7 – Statistics on Hong Kong residents usually staying in the Guangdong Province, Mid-2013 to End-2019

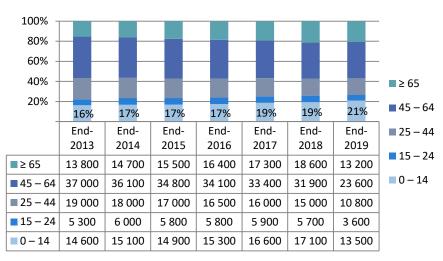
	Hong Kong Resident Population					Non-Hong Kong Resident Population		Total	
	Usual R	esidents	Mobile Residents Subtotal						
	No.	% of total	No.	% of total	No.	% of total	No.	% of total	
Mid-2013	39 100	7.6%	90 200	17.5%	129 300	25.0%	387 300	75.0%	516 700
End-2013	39 300	7.7%	89 600	17.6%	128 900	25.3%	380 800	74.7%	509 700
Mid-2014	40 800	7.9%	90 700	17.6%	131 400	25.4%	385 200	74.6%	516 600
End-2014	38 500	7.5%	89 900	17.6%	128 500	25.1%	382 500	74.9%	511 000
Mid-2015	39 700	7.7%	89 800	17.4%	129 500	25.1%	386 500	74.9%	516 000
End-2015	37 700	7.3%	88 000	17.1%	125 600	24.4%	389 100	75.6%	514 800
Mid-2016	39 000	7.5%	88 500	17.0%	127 500	24.5%	393 500	75.5%	521 000
End-2016	37 700	7.2%	88 100	16.9%	125 900	24.1%	396 200	75.9%	522 100
Mid-2017	39 800	7.5%	88 000	16.6%	127 800	24.1%	403 200	75.9%	531 000
End-2017	35 600	6.8%	89 300	17.0%	124 900	23.8%	400 600	76.2%	525 500
Mid-2018	43 300	8.1%	90 400	16.8%	133 700	24.9%	404 000	75.1%	537 700
End-2018	38 400	7.3%	88 400	16.7%	126 800	24.0%	401 200	76.0%	528 000
Mid-2019	49 800	9.2%	79 600	14.7%	129 400	23.9%	412 500	76.1%	541 900
End-2019	59 100	11.0%	64 600	12.0%	123 700	23.0%	414 300	77.0%	538 000

Figure 8 – Age distribution of Hong Kong permanent residents usually staying in the Guangdong Province, by resident pattern in Hong Kong

Hong Kong resident population (usual residents)



Hong Kong resident population (mobile residents)



Non-Hong Kong resident population

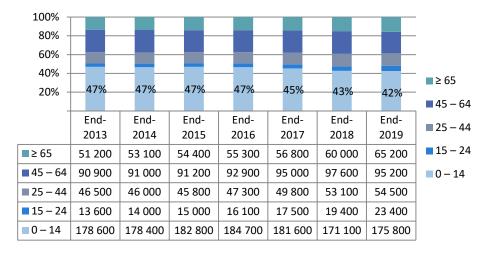
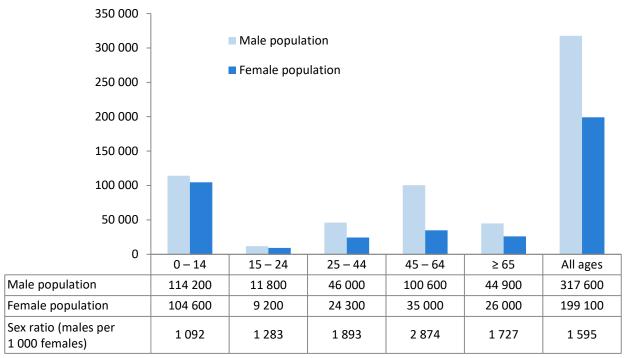
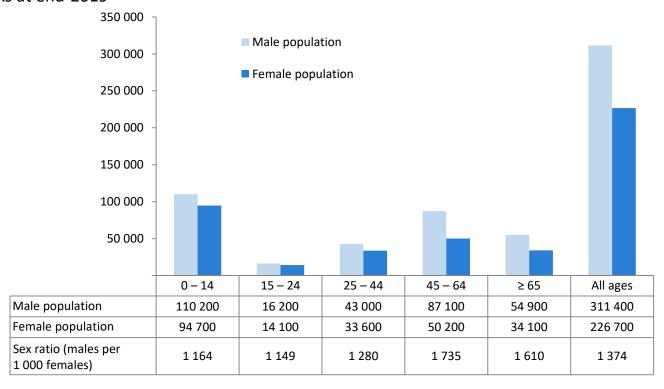


Figure 9 – Sex ratio of Hong Kong permanent residents usually staying in the Guangdong Province, by age group

As at end-2014



As at end-2019



Hong Kong's mobile residents and Hong Kong permanent residents residing in the Guangdong Province

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