

Box 3.1**Characteristics of cross-boundary trip makers**

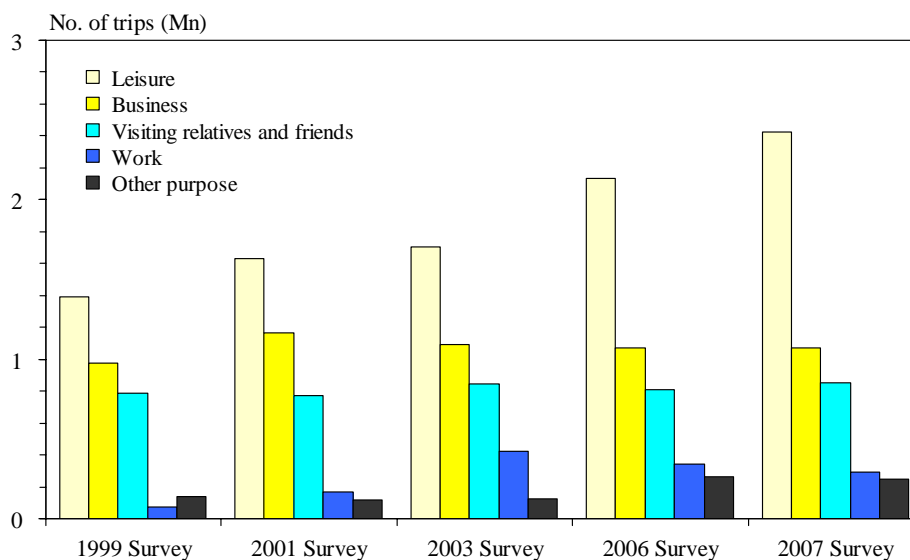
Steadily rising cross-boundary travel is a good indicator of the ever growing economic integration between Hong Kong and the Mainland. The Planning Department (PlanD) has recently released its 2007 Cross-Boundary Travel Survey. The results provide a wealth of knowledge about the characteristics of cross-boundary passengers.

Purpose of trips to the Mainland made by people living in Hong Kong ⁽¹⁾

PlanD's study conducted in 2007 revealed that people living in Hong Kong continued to make up the majority of cross-boundary trips, albeit with a declining share (to 71% in the latest survey) as other clusters have grown considerably in the past years. It should be noted that in absolute terms the number of trips they made still increased steadily over the past few years.

Cross-boundary trips made by people living in Hong Kong travelling for "leisure" have become even more dominant, stretching its share from 41% in the 1999 survey to almost 50% in 2007. On the other hand, the number of cross-boundary trips "for business" has been flat since 2003 at about 1 million within the 2 weeks when the survey was conducted while the number of trips for "work" purpose has actually fallen by 30% from 421 100 in 2003 to only 293 100 in 2007.

Number of passenger trips made by people living in Hong Kong to the Mainland by trip purpose



Box 3.1 (Cont'd)

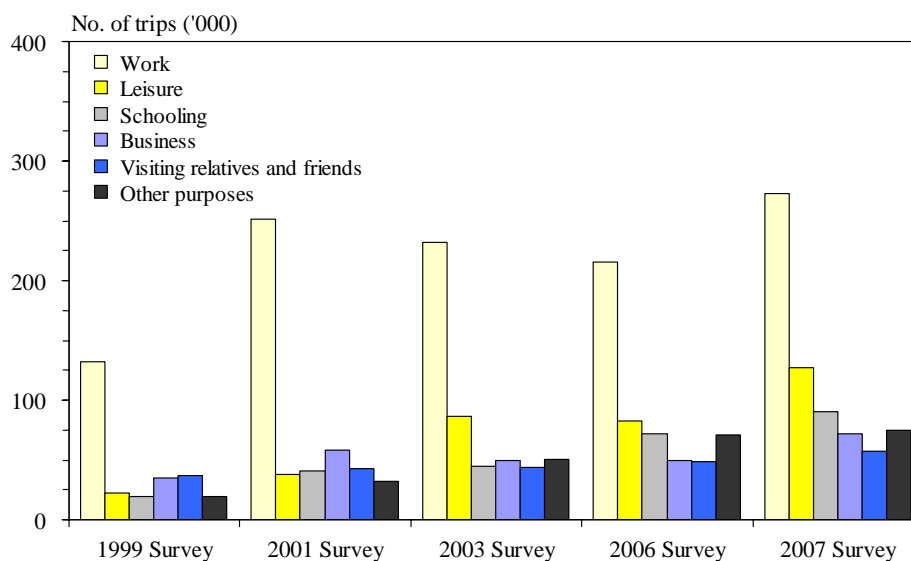
Several developments contributed to the evolution. On the one hand, more of the people who work or run a business in the Mainland nowadays tend to station in the Mainland rather than making frequent trips back and forth. On the other hand, the advancement in communications technology in the past decade has allowed business managers to monitor their operations remotely from their Hong Kong offices, thereby reducing the need for travelling.

Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland ⁽²⁾

Another notable trend is that the number of trips to Hong Kong made by people who were Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland has increased from 264 000 in 1999 to 693 600 in 2007, an increase of over 160%. Even though “work” was still the most common purpose for Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland to return to Hong Kong, the number of these trips grew at a slower pace in recent years than the overall figures.

In contrast, the numbers of “leisure” and “schooling” trips have increased substantially since 1999. They together accounted for more than 30% of the passenger flow in the 2007 survey. Enhanced accessibility, improved quality of living in the Mainland (particularly Shenzhen) and changing demographics are among the factors leading to this trend.

Number of passenger trips made by Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland to Hong Kong by trip purpose

**Notes :**

(1) People living in Hong Kong: People who reported “Hong Kong” as their usual place of residence during the enumeration.

(2) Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland: All Hong Kong permanent and non-permanent residents who reported the Mainland as their usual places of residence during the enumeration.