

Box 3.1

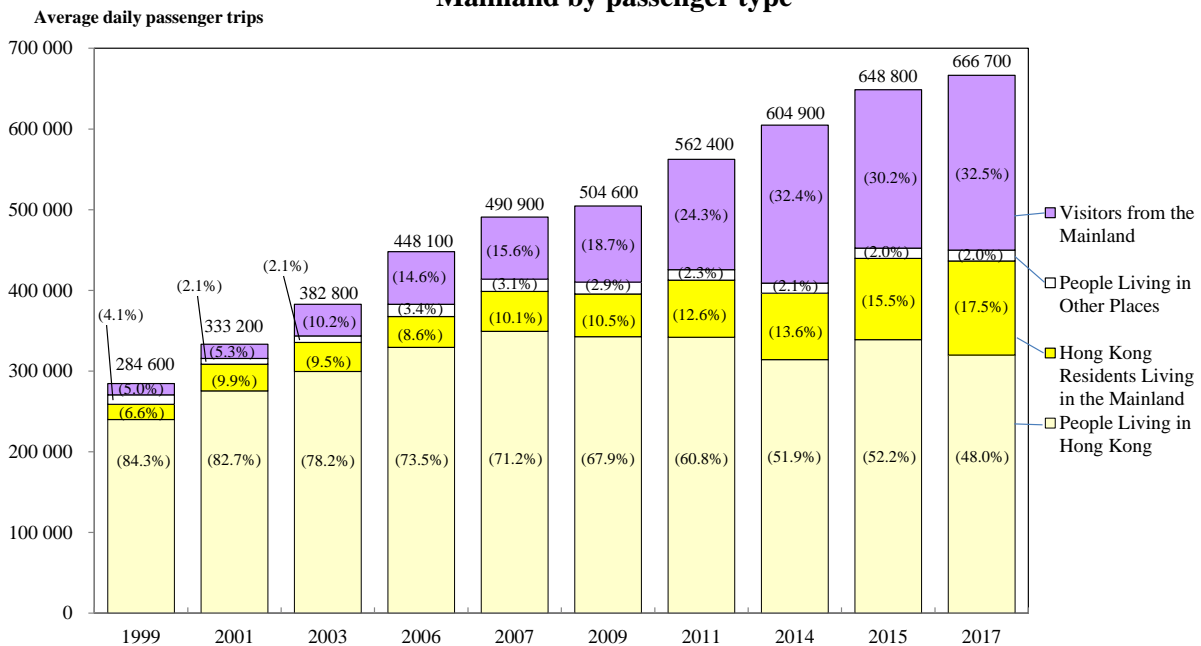
Characteristics of cross-boundary trip makers

To have a better understanding of cross-boundary travel activities, the Planning Department has been conducting surveys, once every 1-3 years, since 1999 to collect information on characteristics of cross-boundary trips and demographic profiles of trip makers. The latest survey, the tenth round of the series and entitled *Cross-boundary Travel Survey 2017* (the Survey), was conducted in November 2017, and the report was released in February 2019. This article summarises the results of the Survey.

Reflecting the closer ties and integration between Hong Kong and the Mainland in various socio-economic aspects, cross-boundary passenger trips have been on an uninterrupted rise over the past few decades. These trips reached a daily average of 666 700 in 2017⁽¹⁾, representing an increase of 3% over 2015. Compared with 1999 when the survey was first conducted, the number of these trips in 2017 surged by a cumulative 134%, equivalent to an average annual growth of 5%.

Yet trips made by different types of trip maker showed varied performance in 2017. Trips made by Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland increased further, by 16% over 2015 to a daily average of 116 600 and trips made by visitors from the Mainland by 10% to 216 600. Their shares in total trips also rose to 17.5% and 32.5% respectively. On the other hand, trips made by people living in Hong Kong declined by 6% to 319 800 per day in 2017. Its share also shrank to 48.0%, though still the largest among all types of trip maker. Meanwhile, trips made by people living in other places, which accounted for a meagre 2.0% of total trips, rose by 6% to a daily average of 13 600. The major purposes of these trips (e.g. leisure, visiting relatives and friends, work and business) are analysed in the ensuing paragraphs.

Chart 1: Average daily passenger trips between Hong Kong and the Mainland by passenger type



Notes : Figures in brackets refer to the percentage share of average daily passenger trips between Hong Kong and the Mainland. Figures may not add up due to rounding.

(1) Figures on cross-boundary passenger trips in this box article refer to the daily average in the two-week survey period, unless otherwise specified.

Box 3.1 (Cont'd)***People living in Hong Kong (319 800 trips or 48.0% of the total)***

Among the cross-boundary passenger trips made by people living in Hong Kong, the most common purpose is for leisure. The number of trips for leisure accounted for 45.7% of the total in 2017 and grew by 6% over 2015. This was followed by trips for visiting relatives and friends (with a share of 28.8%), business (14.4%) and work (5.2%).

Visitors from the Mainland (216 600 trips or 32.5% of the total)

A majority of cross-boundary passenger trips made by Mainland visitors are for leisure purpose. Such trips jumped by 15% over 2015 to 145 900 in 2017, equal to 67.4% of the total. The remaining Mainland visitor trips were for visiting relatives and friends (14.3% of the total), business (8.7%) and work (0.9%).

Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland (116 600 trips or 17.5% of the total)

By comparison, the purposes of the cross-boundary passenger trips made by Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland are more diverse. Schooling was a major purpose, with such trips jumping by 35% over 2015 to 53 000 in 2017 and equal to 45.4% of the total. This was followed by trips for work, with a share of 19.8%. Relatively speaking, leisure, visiting relatives and friends, and business were less important purposes for trips made by Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland, having shares of 15.8%, 8.8% and 3.3% respectively.

Table 1: Distribution of different types of passenger trips between Hong Kong and the Mainland by trip purpose

	Trips made by people living in Hong Kong		Trips made by visitors from the Mainland		Trips made by Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland	
	2015	2017	2015	2017	2015	2017
Leisure	40.6%	45.7%	64.8%	67.4%	15.5%	15.8%
Schooling	*	*	*	*	39.0%	45.4%
Visiting relatives and friends	30.4%	28.8%	17.1%	14.3%	10.2%	8.8%
Business	16.8%	14.4%	7.6%	8.7%	3.9%	3.3%
Work	7.1%	5.2%	1.1%	0.9%	23.2%	19.8%
Other purposes	5.1%	5.9%	9.5%	8.8%	8.2%	7.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Notes : Figures might not add up to the corresponding total due to rounding.

(*) As their shares are less than 0.5%, the figures have been included in trips for “other purposes”.