



Regional Report 2020 - Hong Kong Special Administration Region (HKSAR)

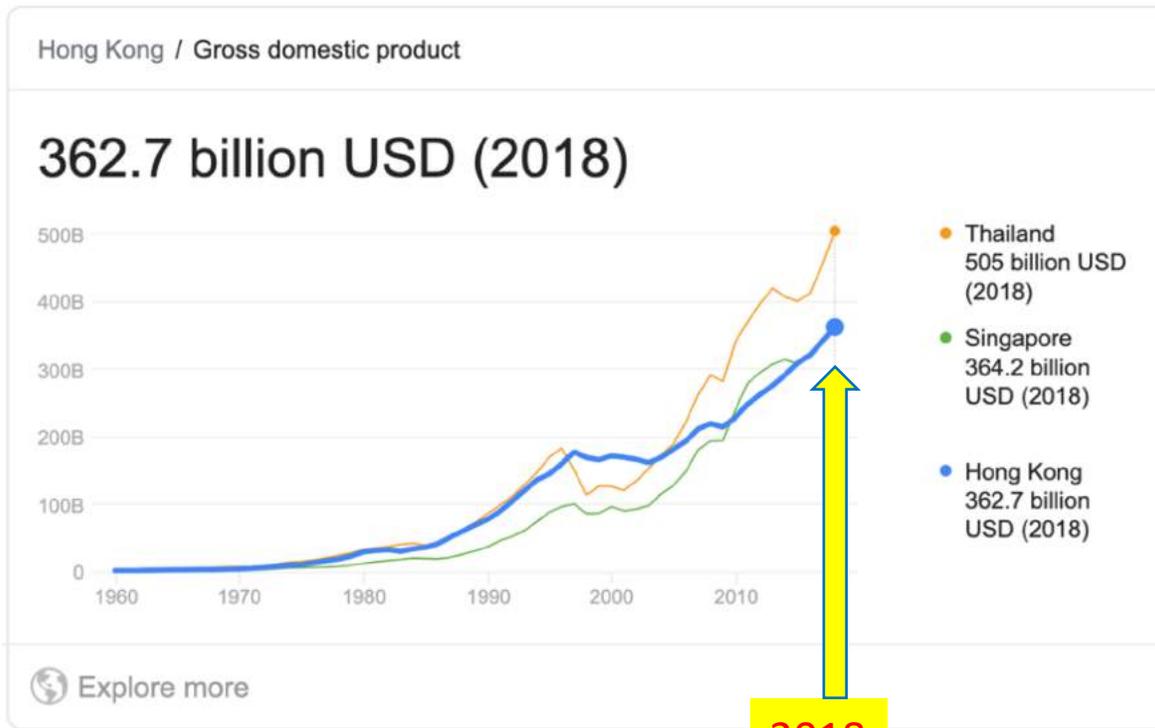
Impacts under the Pandemic Situation

Donny Siu

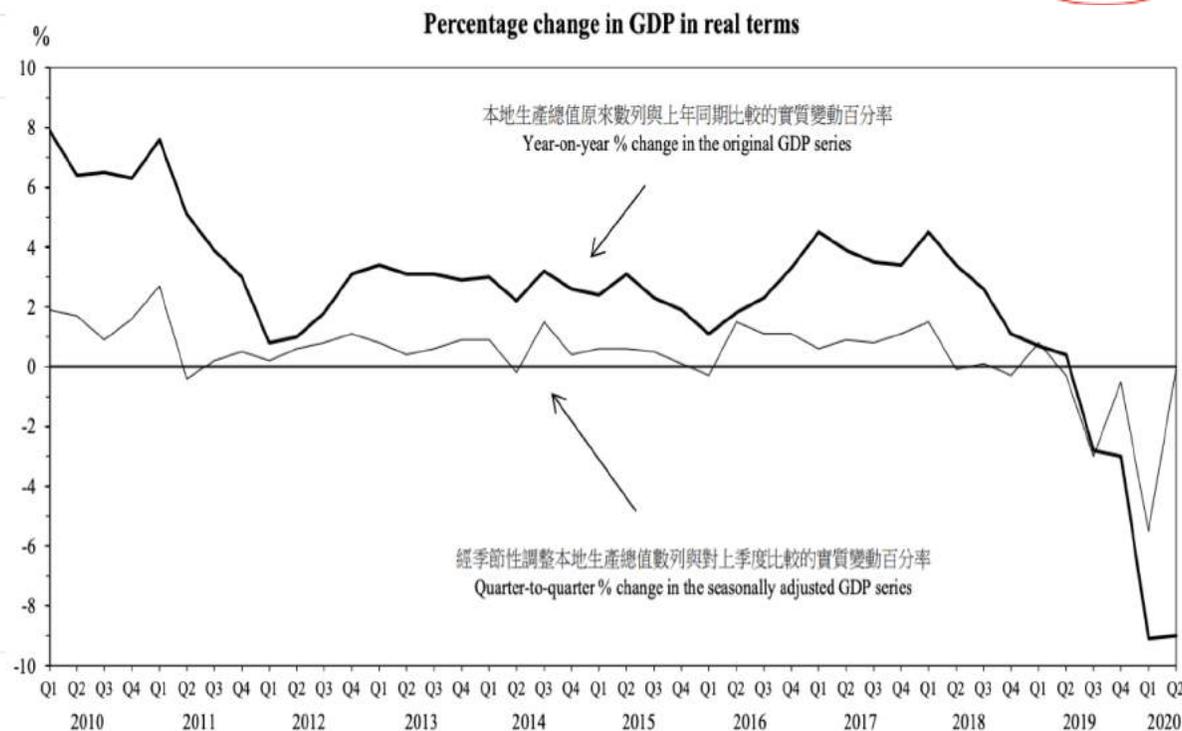
Hong Kong University of Science & Technology



同心抗疫 Together, We Fight the Virus!



Source: Worldbank



Source: Hong Kong SAR Government

Serious Impact to Everyone and Every Entity in Hong Kong SAR, caused by social unrest, pandemic and other reasons

2019



Higher Education in HKSAR

Recent hits to HKSAR

- Social unrest started June 2019
- Covid-19 started Feb 2020
- Hong Kong National Security Law passed on 30 June 2020

Recruitment of Students

From outside of HKSAR

- Universities in HKSAR have launched initiatives to retain local students who might otherwise have headed to foreign shores and to attract international scholars potentially blocked from Western countries
- Yet, proportion of local students considering overseas studies, if they did not get into their top-choice Hong Kong university, rose from 19% to 25% this year
- <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/07/24/hong-kong-seeks-attract-international-students>

From HKSAR

- Hong Kong universities enrol students unable to travel



Hong Kong's beautiful and prosperous but



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Career development for university students:

Hong Kong's economy slipped into recession nearly a year ago, with US-China trade tensions compounding the impact of the protests and the Covid-19

Jobless rate hits 6.4% (Oct 2020), highest in nearly 16 years

Expected to reach an all-time high (8.5% in 2003) by the end of the year

- due to worsening pandemic economy
 - situation in Europe and America
 - exports harder hit and small firms to lay off etc.,
- Sectors hit heavily:
 - tourism: 15.2%
 - food services: 14.3%
 - arts, entertainment and recreation: 11.4%
 - construction: 10.9%
- Openings are increasing in:
 - Property management & security;
 - nursing homes and elderly care centre



Jobless speak of the struggle to find work in city blighted by economic fallout of health crisis, anti-government protests.



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Conflict between students and university:

- On-campus classes suspended since Sept 2019 amid coronavirus
- 8 public university students' unions push for partial refund of tuition fee

Conflict between Hong Kong SAR students and Mainland students:

- Difficulties continues for integration of students from Mainland China and HKSAR students , fuelled by the recent political social unrest

Observation:

- there are signs that some prospective students concerned about the escalating violence are looking further afield to English-speaking countries including Singapore, Australia and Britain



There is a gap between students from HKSAR and the Mainland China



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Mental health issues amide Covid-19 pandemic:

Alarming rise in Hong Kong young people struggling with mental health issues amid Covid-19 pandemic

- sparked by school closures, feelings of isolation, family arguments, and uncertainty over the future
- The Samaritans, which works to prevent suicides: over 70% of those using its email services are students
 - younger people prefer to use email services rather than calling
- increasing number of young Hongkongers are seeking help for emotional distress and suicidal thoughts amid the pandemic



Surveys and experts said Hongkongers' mental health situation had worsened over the past year



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Looking forward

A recent study by Lingnan University researchers:

- 2,739 respondents, 84% showed no interest in studying abroad after the pandemic
- For those respondents who will still pursue further degrees abroad, top five:
 - HKSAR, Japan, Taiwan, US and UK
- While the pandemic has significantly decreased international student mobility, it is also shifting the mobility flow of international students -- East Asian countries and regions are facing more opportunities in the increasingly competitive higher education sector for international students
- <https://www.researchcghe.org/events/cghe-seminar/impact-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-international-higher-education-and-student-mobility-student-perspectives-from-mainland-china-and-hong-kong/>



- **The situation is returning to normal though it takes time to recover from the many damages already caused.**
- **New opportunities and offers are available especially in the higher education sector and the national policy support and development in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) and entrepreneurship and innovation development**



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Together we overcome the challenges and shine again!

