

Is Hong Kong Overpopulated¹?



With the **aging population**² and the mainland Chinese **migration**³ over the years, Hong Kong has become one of the most **densely populated**⁴ cities in the world.

What is overpopulation?

Overpopulation occurs when **resources**⁵ in a place are not enough for the people living there. Houses, facilities and public space are examples of the resources.

Many places in Asia are overpopulated, such as India and Japan.



Is Hong Kong overpopulated?

As we all know, Hong Kong is a city that is seriously overpopulated. Over seven million people **are crammed**⁶ into an area of only about one thousand **square kilometres**⁷. Hong Kong **is surrounded**⁸ by mountains so there is simply not enough **habitable**⁹ land for housing.



▲ Photo source: Michael Wolf / Camera Press

Expensive Housing – a huge problem

Overpopulation raises house **rents**¹⁰ in Hong Kong. In **districts**¹¹ such as Sham Shui Po and Kowloon City, some people can only **afford**¹² to rent **subdivided flats**¹³. The shocking fact is that some of these flats are only about the size of a toilet **cubicle**¹⁴!

Because of the expensive rent, around 150,000 people are now waiting for public housing. Undoubtedly, the government should build more large housing estates in order to tackle the problem.



▲ Photo source: Society for Community Organization (SoCO)



Learn Fun Facts about Numbers!

Find out how to say and spell some large numbers below.

100	one hundred
1,000	one thousand
10,000	ten thousand
100,000	one hundred thousand
1,000,000	one million

e.g. University students need to pay **\$42,100 (forty-two thousand and one hundred dollars)** for their **tuition fees**¹⁵ every year.

e.g. About **150,000 (one hundred fifty thousand)** people are now waiting for public housing.



Vocabulary

1. overpopulated 人口過剩 2. aging population 人口老化 3. migration 移民 4. densely populated 人口密集的
 5. resources 資源 6. be crammed 被塞滿 7. square kilometre 平方公里 8. be surrounded 被圍繞 9. habitable 適宜居住的
 10. rent 租金 11. district 地區 12. afford 花費得起 13. subdivided flat 分間單位 14. cubicle 小隔間 15. tuition fee 學費