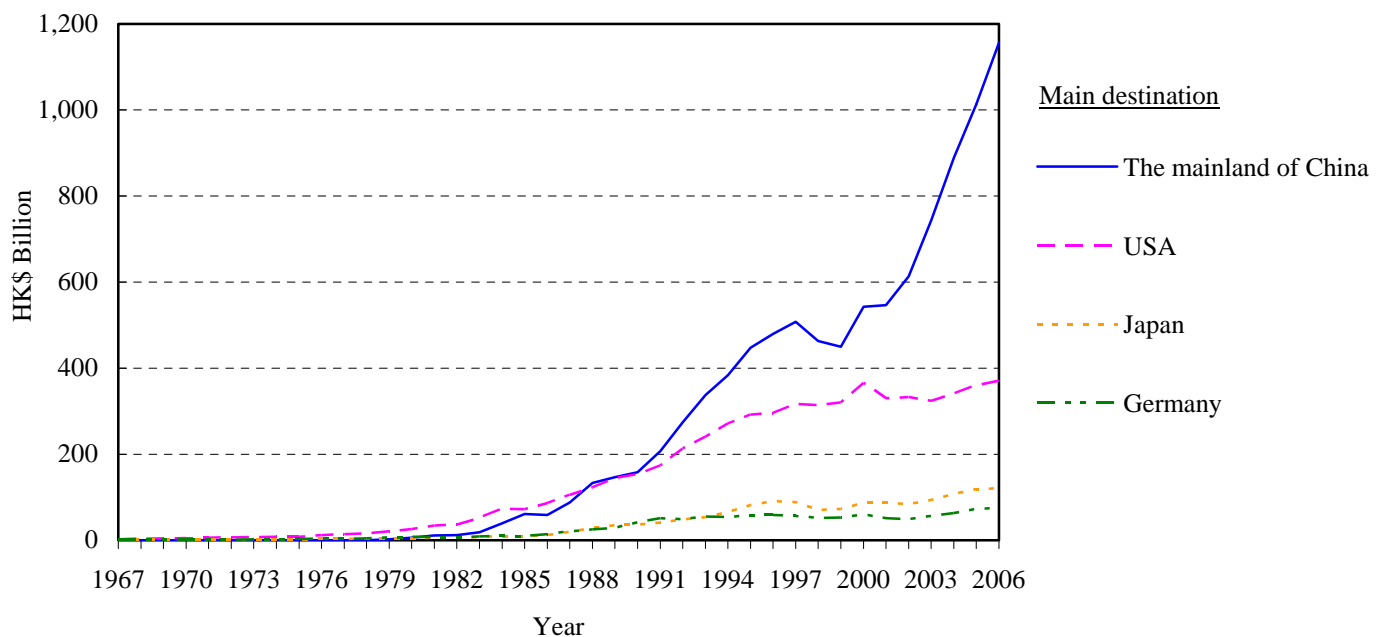


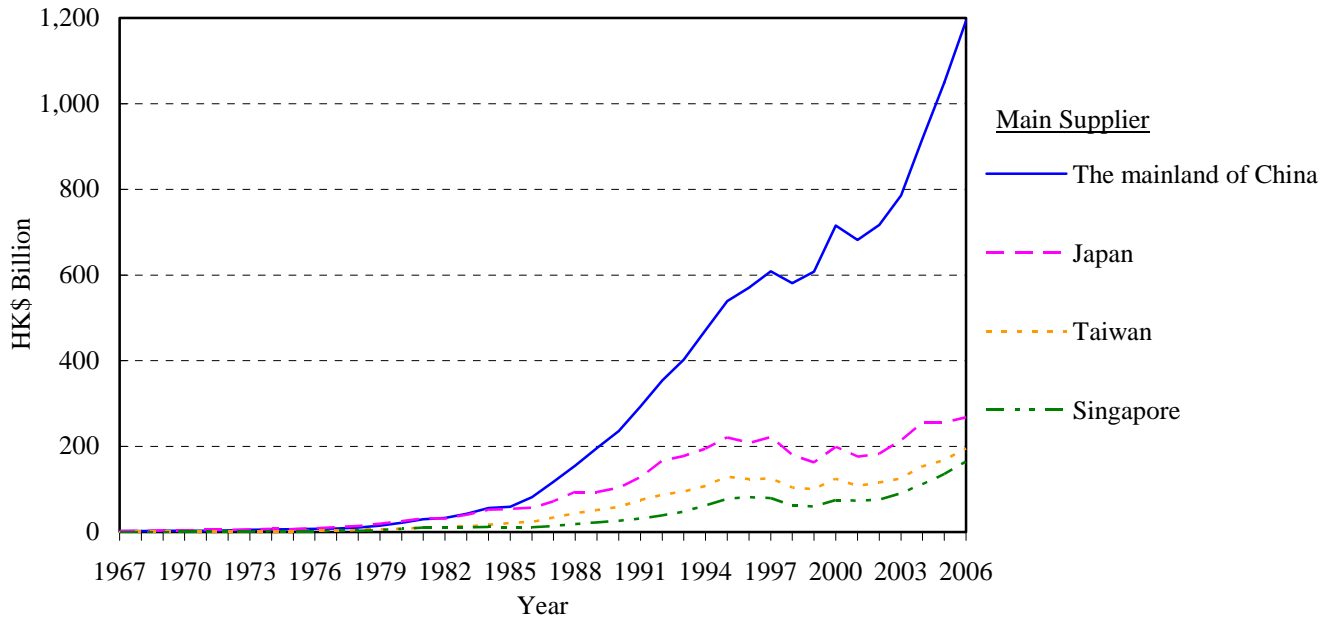
Hong Kong's External Merchandise Trade in the Past 40 Years

- Hong Kong is one of the most open and externally oriented economies in the world. The development of the local economy is highly associated with the performance of its external merchandise trade.
- The mainland of China (the Mainland) and the USA were the two major destinations of Hong Kong's exports (i.e. sum of domestic exports and re-exports) in the past 40 years. Since 1988, the Mainland outperformed the USA to become the largest destination. From 1988 to 2006, the average annual growth rate in the trade value of Hong Kong's exports to the Mainland was 12.8%, twice the corresponding figure for the USA (6.4%).
- As for imports, the Mainland and Japan have been the most important suppliers since 1967. The Mainland outperformed Japan to become the largest supplier since 1982. From 1982 to 2006, the average annual growth rate in the trade value of Hong Kong's imports from the Mainland was 16.1%, much higher than the corresponding figure for Japan (9.3%).
- In 2006, Hong Kong was the eleventh largest trade entity in the world. The total value of its external merchandise trade amounted to US\$659 billion.

Total Exports of Goods by Main Destination, 1967-2006

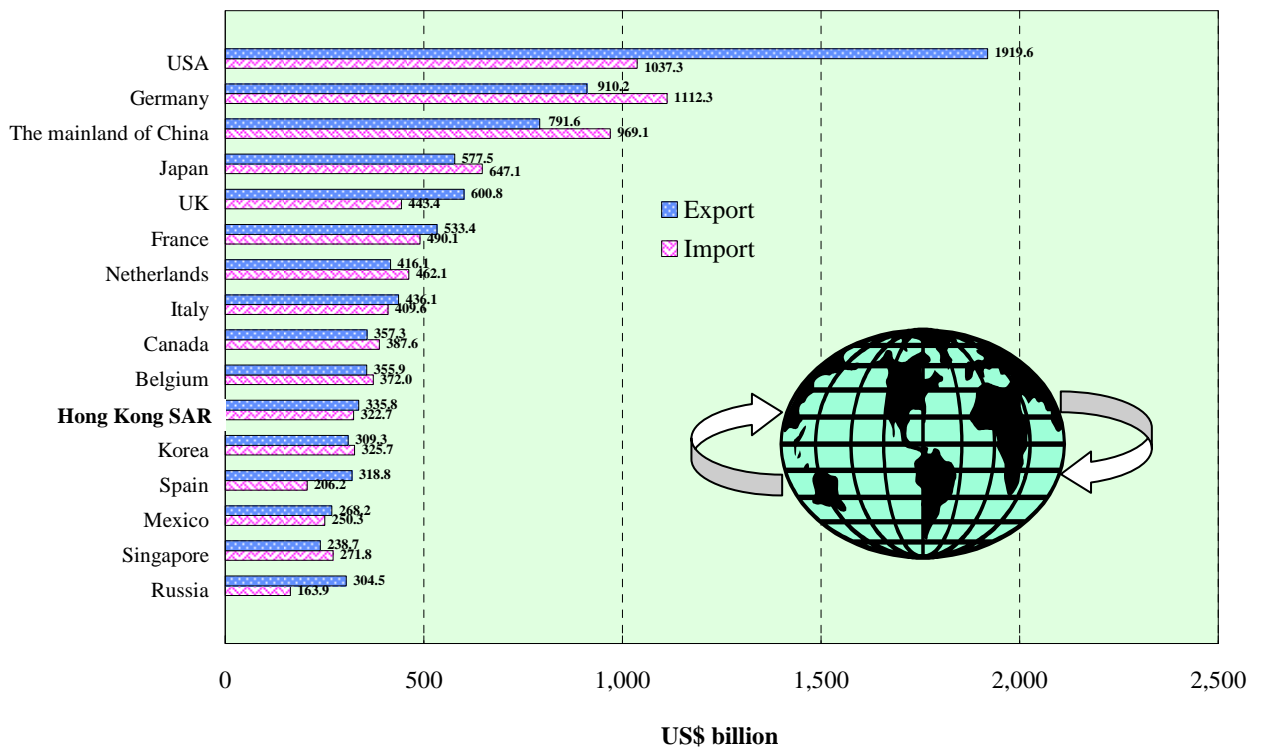


Imports of Goods by Main Supplier, 1967-2006



Hong Kong's Position among Leading Importers/Exporters in the World

Reference year : 2006



For further information on this series of articles, please write to the General Statistics Branch(2) of the Census and Statistics Department at 21/F, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong, call 2582 4004, or e-mail to g2b_1@censtatd.gov.hk.