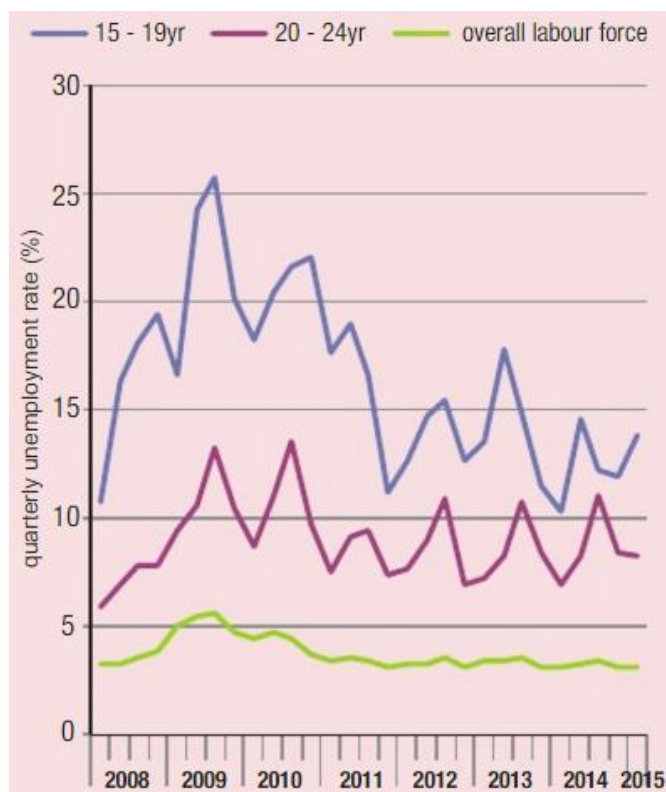


Youth Trends in Hong Kong 2015

Employment

Youth unemployment continues to be 2-4 times higher than in the overall population (See Figure 1). In early 2015, unemployment rates for 15-19 year-olds and 20-24 year-olds were 13.9% and 8.2% respectively, equivalent to 29,200 unemployed. 28,000 15-24 year-olds in the labour force have only junior secondary education or below. With little work experience they find it difficult to get jobs. Official data in 2013 gave the median wage for 15-19 year-olds as HK\$4,000 for females and HK\$6,000 for males.

Figure 1 Youth unemployment

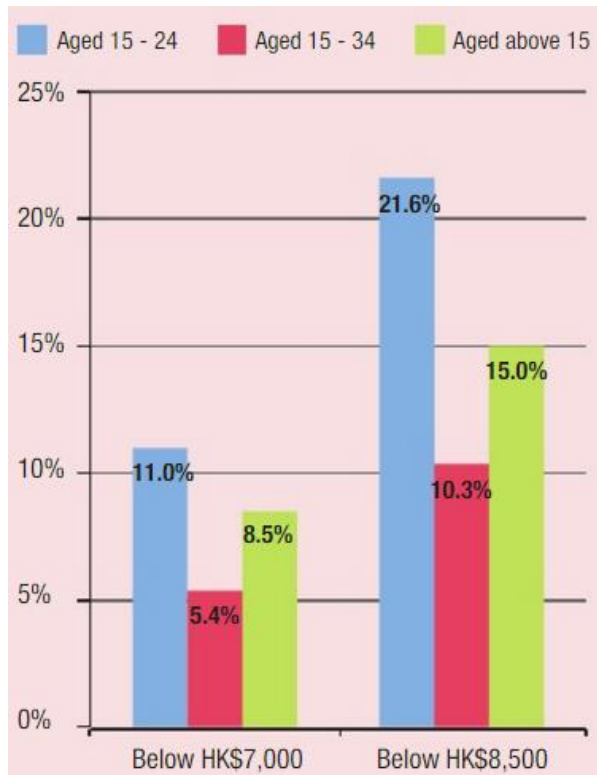


Source HKSARG Census and Statistics Department

Poverty

After government cash transfers there were still about a million people living below the poverty line in Hong Kong in 2013, including 210,000 people or 20% of those under 18. According to a HKFYG study^A in 2014, the number of working poor aged 15-34 was 104,300 or 10.3% of the young working population. Figure 2 shows that 21.6% of young people* age 15-24 are among the working poor. Their monthly income is below HK\$8,500.

Figure 2 The young working poor



Note Excluding full-time students and foreign domestic workers

Sources povertyrelief.gov.hk/eng/pdf/poverty_report13_rev2.pdf

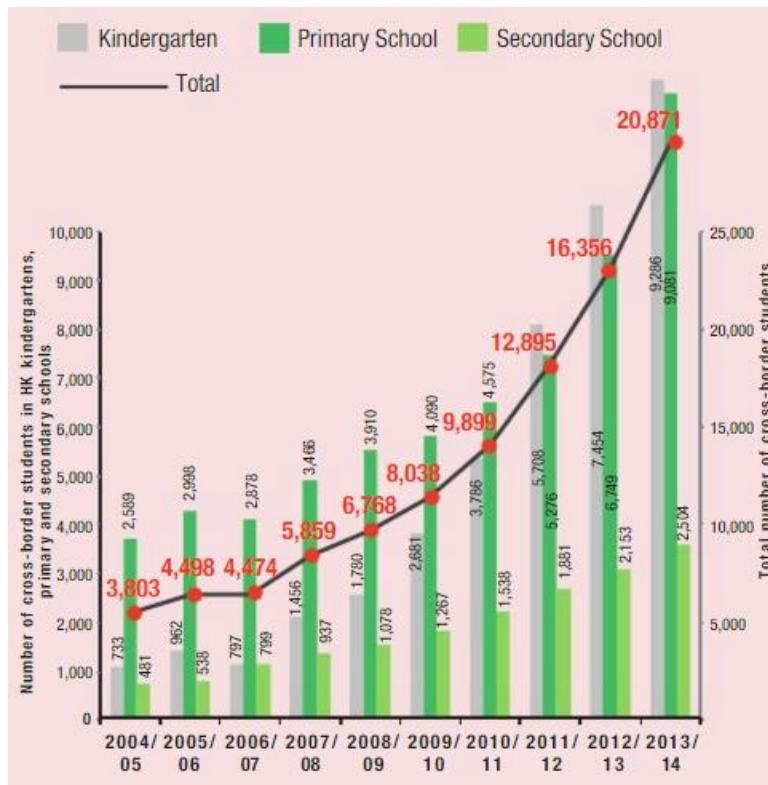
HKSARG Census and Statistics Department

Δ HKFYG Youth Research Centre. Youth Studies: *A Study on Young Working Poor in Hong Kong* (YS52), 2014.

Cross-border students

Permanent residency rights are granted by the Basic Law to Chinese citizens who are born in Hong Kong and until 2013 children born to mainland mothers could legally live and study here even if their parents were not permanent Hong Kong residents. “A zero delivery quota” policy for mainland mothers whose husbands are not Hong Kong residents was imposed in 2013 because of the resulting pressure on medical, education and other services. Nevertheless, the number of mainland children crossing the border daily to go to schools at all levels has continued to climb, from 3,803 in 2004-2005 to 20,871 in 2013-2014. (See Figure 3.)

Figure 3 Cross-border students



Source HKSARG Census and Statistics Department

Housing

Most unmarried young people in Hong Kong live with their parents. They find property prices and rents unaffordable because their income remains low relative to the cost of accommodation. Consequently, the number of young people applying for public housing is on the rise, with non-elderly single-person applicants aged 18-29 more than quadrupling in six years, from 14,600 in 2008 to 67,800 in 2014. (See Figure 4.) The average age of young applicants for public housing has been decreasing and it will continue to be very difficult for young people to live independently of their parents. Although they are eligible, they have very little chance of being allocated a flat, a given a Quota and Points System that is weighted in favour of age and time on the waiting list.

Figure 4 Single applicants for public housing up to 59 years old

Age	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Under 30	14,600 (38%)	16,500 (38%)	21,000 (41%)	29,100 (46%)	45,700 (52%)	60,400 (54%)	67,800 (54%)
30 or over	24,100 (62%)	26,600 (62%)	30,600 (59%)	34,700 (54%)	42,600 (48%)	51,800 (46%)	58,500 (46%)
Total	38,700 (100%)	43,100 (100%)	51,600 (100%)	63,800 (100%)	88,300 (100%)	112,200 (100%)	126,300 (100%)
Average age	35	36	35	34	32	32	32

Source Hong Kong Housing Authority

Published in Chinese by the HKFYG Youth Research Centre, *Youth Trends in Hong Kong 2015* compiles and analyses statistical data and research findings about Hong Kong youth. It includes a survey of *Indicators of Youth Values* and *International Youth Values Comparison* in an attempt to reveal trends in Hong Kong Young people's values.

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