HONG KONG'S BAY AREA VISION

Hong Kong is one of 11 Greater Bay Area cities that collectively form a strategic fulcrum in the country's new development vision. The bay area will be a demonstration zone of high-quality development, according to the city's first five-year plan. It will be a hotbed of groundbreaking research and innovation and a place for talent to work, live and play.

See full **5-year plan** online

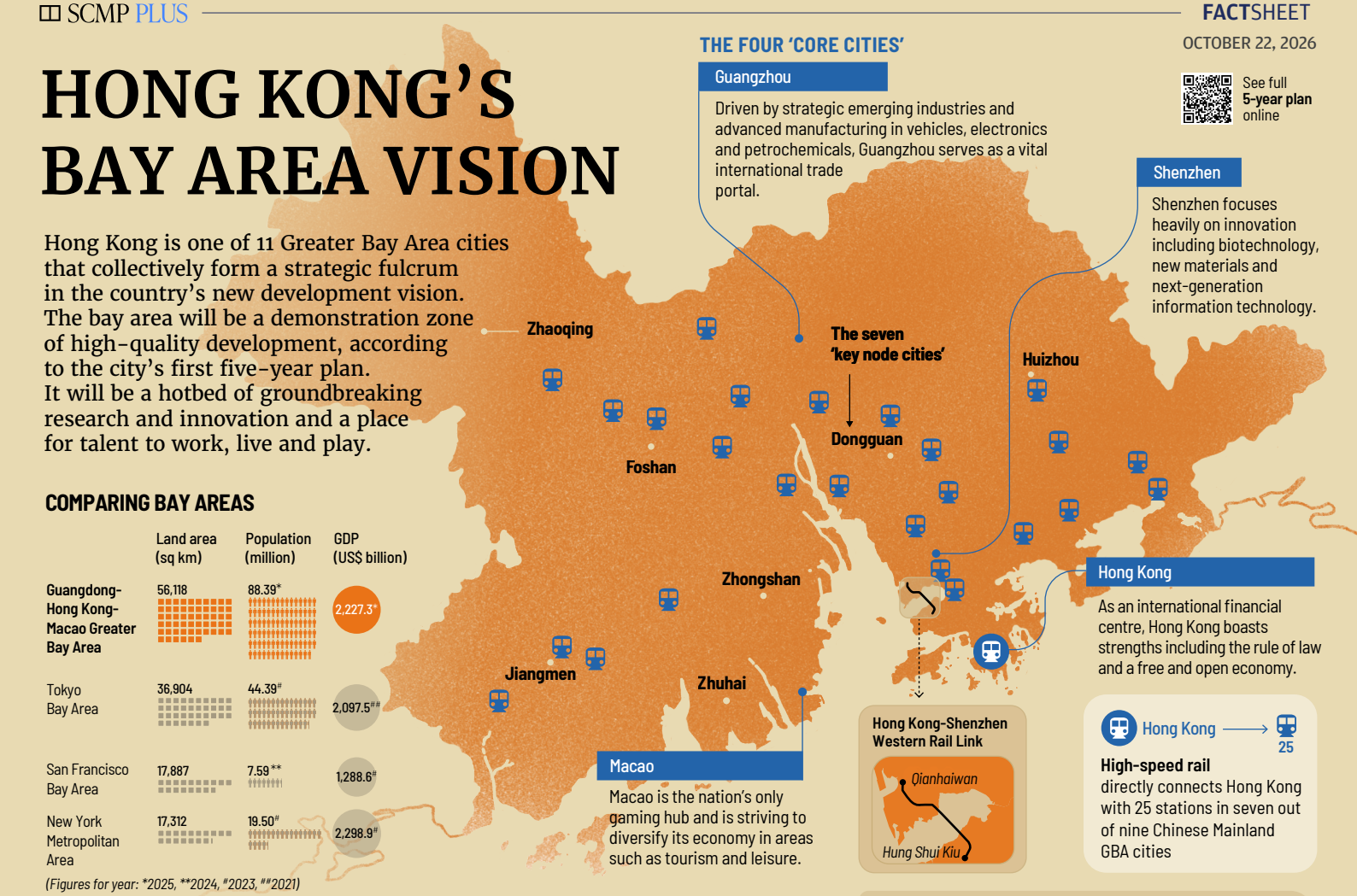
THE FOUR 'CORE CITIES'

Guangzhou

Driven by strategic emerging industries and advanced manufacturing in vehicles, electronics and petrochemicals, Guangzhou serves as a vital international trade portal.

Shenzhen

Shenzhen focuses heavily on innovation including biotechnology, new materials and next-generation information technology.



Hong Kong

As an international financial centre, Hong Kong boasts strengths including the rule of law and a free and open economy.

Macao

Macao is the nation's only gaming hub and is striving to diversify its economy in areas such as tourism and leisure.

Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link

Hong Kong → 25

High-speed rail directly connects Hong Kong with 25 stations in seven out of nine Chinese Mainland GBA cities

COMPARING BAY AREAS

	Land area (sq km)	Population (million)	GDP (US$ billion)
Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area	56,118	88.39*	2,227.3*
Tokyo Bay Area	36,904	44.39#	2,097.5##
San Francisco Bay Area	17,887	7.59**	1,288.6#
New York Metropolitan Area	17,312	19.50#	2,298.9#

*(Figures for year: *2025, **2024, #2023, ##2021)*

SOFT CONNECTIVITY

Authorities have vowed in the five-year plan to roll out new measures and strengthen existing ones to foster the soft connectivity of the Greater Bay Area, encouraging Hong Kong people to study, work and live in other cities.

Youth employment

Continue to implement a scheme that encourages enterprises to offer jobs and support Hong Kong youth to work in nearby Chinese Mainland cities.

HARD CONNECTIVITY

Hong Kong has pledged to expedite the preparatory work for the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link in the five-year plan. The 18.1km project will take passengers from Hung Shui Kiu to Qianhaiwan in just 15 minutes.

See **SCMP Plus** for more



Joint events

The 11 cities in the Greater Bay Area have jointly organised several mega-events, such as the 15th National Games in 2025.

Alignment of rules and mechanisms

Facilitate the mutual recognition of professional qualifications to allow Hong Kong and Macao residents to practise directly in Chinese Mainland GBA cities.

Education

Strengthen cooperation between Hong Kong's higher education institutions and those in the Greater Bay Area.

Medical cooperation

Establish a cross-boundary medical network and strengthen cross-boundary healthcare collaboration.

Facilitation of cross-boundary flow

Foster cross-boundary vehicle transport and promote the development of cross-boundary autonomous driving.

DEEPENING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND EXCHANGES



Hong Kong is positioned as the "superconnector" between China and the rest of the world. The city has pledged to leverage its institutional advantages to foster regional cooperation, attract international organisations to establish offices, and support China's global engagement.

CEPA CONNECTION



First signed in 2003, the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (Cepa) grants firms in the city preferential access to Chinese Mainland markets, while allowing Chinese Mainland businesses to use it as a springboard for global expansion. The plan aims to further expand cross-boundary trade and investment.

FOREIGN PRESENCE IN GBA

The nine Chinese Mainland GBA cities have reported consecutive gains in investment volume from both developed economies and emerging markets.

US tech giant Intel set up its Greater Bay Area Innovation Centre in Shenzhen in 2023, focusing on AI, chip applications and edge computing.

Global energy leader ExxonMobil is building a US$10 billion petrochemical complex including an R&D centre in Huizhou to produce high-end chemical products.

The number of foreign firm offices

Hong Kong (2025)	7,980
Macao (2024)	779

SEAMLESS MOVEMENT



Simplified visitor arrangements

Shenzhen residents are eligible for a one-year multi-entry permit into Hong Kong, with each visit capped at seven days.

Six types of talent including those working in the scientific research, education, healthcare and legal sectors, in Chinese Mainland GBA cities can apply for a talent permit, allowing them multiple entries into Hong Kong and Macao, with each stay capped at 30 days.

Vehicle travel schemes

Northbound travel scheme for Hong Kong vehicles

Approved Hong Kong vehicles can enter Guangdong without the need to obtain regular cross-boundary vehicle quotas.

Southbound travel scheme for Guangdong vehicles

Approved vehicles from Guangdong can enter Hong Kong urban areas for up to three days, or use a parking facility near the city's airport for flights or to transit to public transport to enter urban Hong Kong.

Sources: HKSAR Government, Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Macao and Guangdong governments

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