

示威升級令業界重創 Trade badly hurt as protests escalate



記得六月底時，示威活動雖然爆發了兩星期左右，但對業界的影響仍未浮現。比如說，六月內地入境團的數字仍比去年同期增加了百分之二十三，而整體訪港旅客六月也增加了百分之九。

可是，在接下來的三個月裡，示威越見頻繁、激烈，入境業與外遊業同樣陷入嚴峻境況——內地入境團：七月，增加百分之二；八月，大跌百分之六十三；九月，很可能會暴挫百分之九十。整體訪港旅客：七月，減少百分之五；八月，大跌百分之四十；九月，估計會下挫百分之四十。外遊印花費：七月，減少百分之十六；八月，減少百分之九；九月，可能會大跌百分之四十。

據有些業者所說，目前形勢之嚴峻，或許猶在非典型肺炎肆虐香港的二零零三年之上。外面的旅客不願到來，而本地人又不想出去，在這種情況下，業界及議會唯有冀望局面早日好轉而已。儘管如此，議會仍在力所能及的範圍內，已為或將為會員及業界從業員稍盡綿力，包括退回二零一九至二零年度會費，豁免內地入境旅行團登記費六個月，發出公開信呼籲業主減租，資助導遊進修以達到導遊持續專業進修計劃的要求。

此外，議會還與政府及其他機構商議，務求相關各方推出各種有助業者的措施，例如政府已宣佈豁免旅行代理商牌照費用以及優化多個基金，而香港旅遊發展局、僱員再培訓局也都已推出或快將推出協助業者的方案。不過，無論推出甚麼措施，只要香港的局面不平靜下來，旅遊業就無法收復失地。暴力產生暴力，卻不能解決任何問題。暴力必須停止！[🔗](#)

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remember by the end of June, protests had already lasted for about a fortnight but their impact on the industry had yet to be felt. For instance, the number of inbound tours from the mainland increased in June by 23% year on year and there were 9% more overall visitor arrivals in June than a year before.

Nevertheless, as protests became more frequent and violent in the following three months, both the inbound and outbound industries plunged into deep crisis: as far as mainland inbound tours were concerned, a 2% increase was recorded in July, followed by a 63% drop in August and most likely a 90% dive in September; when it came to overall visitor arrivals, there was a decrease of 5% in July, a slump of 40% in August and a probable plunge of 40% in September. As for the outbound levy, July and August saw a 16% and 9% decline respectively, and it is likely that the September figure would plummet by 40%.

The current crisis, as some traders have mentioned, may be more severe than when SARS was ravaging Hong Kong in 2003. When tourists do not want to come here and local people are unwilling to travel, there is little the industry and the TIC could do except hoping the situation would soon change for the better. That said, the TIC has done or is going to do whatever it could in order to help members and trade practitioners, including refunding membership subscription fees for 2019/2020, waiving the registration fee for mainland inbound tours for six months, issuing an open letter to urge landlords to reduce rentals and subsidising tourist guides to fulfil the requirements of the Continuing Professional Development Scheme for Tourist Guides.

Apart from the above, the TIC has also negotiated with the Government and other related organisations in order that measures helpful to the traders will be introduced. For example, the Government has announced that travel agent licence fees are waived and various funding schemes enhanced, and the Hong Kong Tourism Board and the Employees Retraining Board have launched or will soon launch measures to help the traders. No measures, however, could help the tourism industry to bounce back unless and until Hong Kong is calm again. Violence begets violence, but solves no problem. Violence must stop![🔗](#)

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