

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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China - Peoples Republic of

Post: Guangzhou

Guangdong Province- Dynamic Gateway to South China

Report Categories:

Market Development Reports

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Report Highlights:

Guangdong is one of China's economic powerhouses, its provincial capital Guangzhou and economic hub Shenzhen are amongst the most populous and important metropolises in China. Its GDP has topped the rankings since 1989 amongst all provincial-level divisions. In 2009, Guangdong province had the highest GDP per capita in China. Per annum, Guangdong contributes approximately 12 percent of China's national economic output, and is home to the production facilities and offices of a wide-ranging set of multinational and export-driven Chinese corporations. Twice a year, Guangdong also hosts the largest Import and Export Fair in China: the Canton Fair in Guangzhou.

General Information:

Overview

Located on the Southeastern Coast of the People's Republic of China, Guangdong is China's southern most provinces with a coastline of over 4,300 kilometers. The province has an area of 197,100 sq km and is bound by the South China Sea to the south, and along its coast are Hong Kong and Macau. Also bordering Guangdong are Fujian, Jiangxi, and Hunan provinces and Guangxi autonomous region.

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History

Guangdong Province has a 2200-year-long history with a long-established administrative status in China. Its history can be traced far back to the Period of Spring-Autumn (770-476 BC). Guangdong's social advancement had been much slower than Eastern and Northern China until the Song Dynasty, and then in the Ming Dynasty, Guangdong kept up with the Yangtze and the Yellow River valleys. Guangdong began stepping into the rank of advanced provinces afterwards.

Though Guangdong embarked on the road to development a bit late, its commodity production and trade started rather early. Guangdong has had extensive trade links with the rest of the world since the sixteenth century. European merchants coming northwards via the Straits of Malacca and the South China Sea, particularly the Portuguese and British, traded extensively through Guangzhou. In the nineteenth century, Guangdong was also the major port of exit for laborers traveling to Southeast Asia, the United States, and Canada. As a result, many overseas Chinese communities have their origins in Guangdong. As the southern gateway to China, Guangdong has been traditionally open-minded to influences and cooperation with both Central China and the outside world.

Guangdong Province



Population (2009):	96,380,000
Capital (largest city):	Guangzhou
GDP (2009):	\$572.12 billion (1st)
GDP per capita:	\$5,965 (6th)
Import trade (2009):	\$252 billion
Export trade (2009):	\$358.96 billion

Geography

Guangdong faces the South China Sea to the south, borders Fujian province to the northeast, Jiangxi and Hunan provinces to the north, Guangxi autonomous region to the west, and Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions to the south. Different regions and cities of Guangdong are linked by the waterways of the Pearl River system. Water transportation accounts for more than two-fifths of Guangdong's total traffic tonnage. In addition, a number of

coastal and international shipping routes are variously linked to more than 100 large and small ports. Guangdong has one of the most developed highway networks in China to promote business connections with other provinces. Additionally, Guangdong has six airports, with Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport as China's 2nd busiest airport and the world's 22nd busiest airport.

Economy

Guangdong Province, the forerunner of China's reform and opening up policy as stipulated by Deng Xiaoping in 1978, has become a strong economic backbone to China. Since 1980, Guangdong has established three Special Economic Zones in Shenzhen, Shantou and Zhuhai. Guangdong has nine pillar industries, namely, electronic information, household appliances, petrochemistry, textiles, food and beverage, building materials, paper making, automobile, and medicine, representing the economic power of Guangdong.

Despite the looming influence of the global economic slowdown in 2009, Guangdong's primary, secondary, and tertiary industries were worth \$30 billion, \$284 billion, and \$262 billion respectively. Guangdong's import and export value reached \$611 billion, which accounted for 28 percent of China's total and ranked the top among other provinces.

Besides Guangdong Province has 14 cities ranking among the Chinese GDP top 150 in 2009, including Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Foshan, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Huizhou, etc..

Foreign Agricultural Import

As the Guangdong's economic development has surpassed that of all other provinces, so has people's living standard, demand for high quality foreign agricultural products is also strengthening. By now, Guangdong is the second largest import zone of agricultural products in China, with Shandong Province in 1st and Fujian Province 3rd in rank. In 2009, the total agricultural import value of Guangdong amounted to \$83 billion, which increased by 33 percent compared to the previous year. From January to April in 2010, Guangdong's import value of agricultural products accounted to \$28 billion, of which \$700 billion were imported from the United States. Currently, China is the third largest agricultural export market to the United States. With the U.S.-China agricultural trade relations being progressively improved, and both economies growing increasingly interdependent, China will become more open to U.S. agricultural exports, while Guangdong in particular, as a large agriculturally import- dependent province, will provide greater business opportunities to U.S. agricultural exporters.

For more information about other cities in Guangdong, please refer to our city profile, or contact our local ATO Guangzhou office.