

China

China is the world's most populous country and one of the largest producers and consumers of agricultural products. China's population is about 4.5 times that of the United States. Its cropland area is only 75 percent of the U.S. total, but China still produced crops and livestock valued at \$257 billion in 2001, about 30 percent more than the U.S. total. Despite limited supplies of land, water and other natural resources, China grows most of its own food and is a major exporter of many agricultural commodities.

Country Statistics

Total Population: 1,276,000,000

Density: 345 people per sq mi

Urban Population: 40%

Rural Population: 60%

Total land area: 3,695,500 sq mi

Arable Land: 10%

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): \$6 trillion

GDP per capita: \$4,600

Agriculture share of GDP: 18%

Industry share of GDP: 49%

Services share of GDP: 33%

General Economy

In 1997, agriculture, forestry, and fishing employed 47 percent of the workforce. Mining, manufacturing and construction employed 20 percent. The remaining 13 percent worked in the service sector, which includes banking, government, transportation, tourism and retail trade.

Agriculture

China has seven percent of the world's arable land from which it must feed one-fifth of the world's population. China now produces enough grain to provide a basic diet for its large population. China's agriculture is also a major source of raw materials for the country's industries.

About three-quarters of China's cultivated area is devoted to food crops. China is the world's largest rice producer, and rice is the country's most important crop, raised on 26 percent of the cultivated land. Oilseeds play a major role in Chinese agriculture, supplying edible and industrial oils as well as other food products, and constituting an important share of exports. The most important oilseed is the soybean. Chinese soybeans are particularly good for making tofu (bean curd), and the oil made from soybeans is used in cooking. Tea is a traditional export crop of China, and the country produces more than 20 percent of the world supply. China obtains sugar both from sugarcane and sugar beets.

China maintains a large livestock population, and livestock and animal products are important for domestic uses and for export. China is the world leader in pork production, and in 2000, it supplied 437 million pigs to its domestic and export markets. Other livestock raised in China include cattle, water buffalo, horses, mules and donkeys. China's total catch of fish, shellfish and mollusks in the 1990s was more than that of any other nation. Aquaculture, the breeding of fish in ponds and lakes, accounted for 54 percent of the total catch, and wild-caught fish accounted for 46 percent.

Principal crops, 2001 production (million metric tons)

Rice	177.6	Corn	114.1	Wheat	93.9
Soybeans	15.5	Cotton	5.3		

Livestock products, 2001 production (million metric tons)

Meat	63.3	Pork	41.8	Beef	5.5	Dairy	11.2	Eggs	23.4
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Agricultural exports, 2001: \$24 (U.S. billion)

Agricultural imports, 2001 : \$21(U.S. billion)

Manufacturing

Manufacturing, mining and construction constitute China's industrial sector. China manufactures airplanes, ships, automobiles, satellites and modern industrial equipment.

The country manufactures steel products, including tungsten steels, stainless steels, heavy steel plates, and seamless pipes. The Chinese textile industry is the largest in the world. China also produces cement, paper and paperboard, television sets, bicycles, sewing machines, washing machines, refrigerators, and motor vehicles.

Foreign Trade

Exports, 2002: \$312.8 billion

Commodities: machinery and equipment, textiles and clothing, footwear, toys and sporting goods, mineral fuels

Partners: U.S. (20.4%), Hong Kong (17.5%), Japan (16.9%), South Korea (4.7%), Germany (3.7%), Netherlands (2.7%), U.K. (2.6%)

Imports, 2002: \$268.6 billion

Commodities: machinery and equipment, mineral fuels, plastics, iron and steel, chemical products

Partners: Japan (17.6%), Taiwan (11.2%), U.S. (10.8%), South Korea (9.6%), Germany (5.7%), Hong Kong (3.9%), Russia (3.3%)

Transportation

Highways	1.4 million km	Railways	67,524 km
Paved	.271 million km	Waterways	110,000 km