

The Shenzhen Stock Exchange (opened in 1990) was China's first stock exchange since 1949. It has now been eclipsed in size and importance by the Shanghai Stock Exchange, but Shenzhen continues to play a regional role in raising capital, and has recently signed a "co-listing" agreement with Singapore. Chinese stocks are marketed as either "A" shares or "B" shares ("B" shares are the only ones that can be purchased by foreigners). Listings are controlled by the China Securities Regulatory Commission, based in Beijing.

### TRADE ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

**Guangdong's foreign trade accounts for 40% of China's total**, amounting to Cdn\$ 186 billion in 1997, up 18.3% from 1996. As the nation's top producing province, its exports are equivalent to approximately 100% of the province's gross industrial output. As well, Guangdong was the top recipient of capital invested by foreign partners in registered foreign funded enterprises, receiving 34% of the national total (Cdn\$ 139-billion out of Cdn\$ 414 billion) as of the end of 1996. In 1996, Guangdong had the highest number of foreign invested enterprises (60,597 enterprises with total investment of Cdn\$ 307 billion), the highest amount of foreign capital utilized (Cdn\$ 10 billion), and the highest value of import/export goods of foreign funded enterprises (Cdn\$ 86 billion).

Over the past decade, the population of Guangdong has experienced a substantial improvement in living standards, and a high growth rate, which averaged 11% in 1997. The per capita income has risen steadily and, as a result, the people of Guangdong enjoy better diets and greater purchasing power for durable consumer goods. In 1996, Guangdong's retail sales of consumer goods ranked the highest in China at Cdn\$ 44 billion. The total retail sales volume for Guangdong grew 13% from 1996, ranking first in China for 15 consecutive years.

In 1997, per capita annual incomes averaged RMB 8,299 (Cdn\$ 1,456) for city dwellers, and RMB 3,363 (Cdn\$ 590) for the countryside. In the same year, GDP per capita for Guangzhou and Guangdong reached RMB 24,111 (Cdn\$ 4,230) and RMB 10,078 (Cdn\$ 1,768), respectively. Guangzhou's total 1997 GDP was over RMB 160 billion (Cdn\$ 28 billion), ranking second out of China's ten major cities. In terms of total GDP, Guangzhou ranked third in the nation behind Shanghai and Beijing in 1997. It is forecast that Guangzhou's GDP per capita for the years 2002 and 2010 will be Cdn\$ 7,150 and Cdn\$ 14,300, respectively. **By 2010, Guangdong province is expected to reach the level of a medium developed country, with GDP of RMB 2,217 billion (Cdn\$ 389 billion) and per capita income of RMB 27,713 (Cdn\$4,862).**

### CANADA-GUANGDONG TRADE LINKS

Precise Canada-Guangdong trade is difficult to measure accurately, but estimates indicate approximately Cdn\$ 159 million worth of Canadian goods were sold to Guangdong in 1996. Among these were turn-key plants, telecommunications equipment, chemicals, fertilizers, wood, steel and particle board. The Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA's) Industrial Co-operation Program has supported a number of Canadian businesses in Guangdong. In 1996, Guangdong exported Cdn\$ 140 million to Canada (source: Chinese official statistics).

Canada also has academic links in Guangdong. In 1994, the Alcanta International School, the first Canadian/Chinese joint venture boarding school, was established, offering Chinese and English curriculum from kindergarten to grade 12. The school is located in the city of Shunde, in the Pearl River Delta region, and has over 1000 students.