

Shenzhen

China's Modern Gateway



A Modern Metropolis

Shenzhen, adjacent to Hong Kong, is located in the southern coastal area of Guangdong Province and enjoys a subtropical maritime climate. The city was founded in 1979 with a total area of 2,020 square kilometres, 327.5 square kilometres of which was designated as the Special Economic Zone in 1980. With a coastline stretching 230 kilometres, it abounds in good harbours and bays and is rich in marine resources.

Shenzhen faces Hong Kong, separated only by a stretch of water. Between them are many sea and land ports, which make Shenzhen the major link between China and the world market, and the gateway for cargo, passenger transportation and economic and trade exchange for the country, especially for South China.

After the return of Hong Kong to China, the cooperation and link between Shenzhen and Hong Kong has become much stronger. Personnel, cargo and information exchanges, together with transportation and financing between the two cities is more advanced. In the past 18 years, Shenzhen has achieved tremendous economic development

and has created "Shenzhen Speed and Shenzhen Efficiency", transforming itself from a frontier village to a booming modern city on the Pacific Ocean.

Economic Development

In 1997, the GDP of Shenzhen reached USD 13.651 billion (note: 1 RMB=0.1208 USD similarly hereinafter), ranking 7th among all cities in China; the industrial output value was USD 15.166 billion, ranking 7th in the whole country. Its international trade amounted to USD 45.008 billion, making the city the largest importer and exporter in the nation for the fifth year in succession.

In the same year, the output values of the primary, secondary and tertiary industries accounted for 1.4%, 49.3% and 49.3%, respectively, of the city's GDP. An industrial pattern with a wide assortment of trades has emerged and over 2,000 types of products are being produced. Recently, the city's high-tech industries have undergone rapid development, with computer and software, telecommunications, bioengineering, microelectronics and basic components as the pillars. In 1997, the proportion of high-tech industrial output value to the gross industrial output value of Shenzhen City was the highest in the whole country. The city also enjoys advanced agricultural production, which ensures an ample supply of farm and sideline produce. Over 100 production bases for vegetables, poultry and livestock, aquatic products and fruit have been set up. The tertiary industry, also thriving with finance, information, tourism, commerce and trade, real estate, storage and transportation, has become a competitive industry in Shenzhen. With one of the only two stock exchanges in China and many financial institutions, Shenzhen is striding toward the goal of a regional financial centre. By the end of 1997, there were 100 financial institutions, 30,000 professional personnel, and more than 120 countries and regions that had established economic and trade links with Shenzhen.

Science and technology is playing a more significant role in the economic development of Shenzhen, which now has nearly 200 various scientific research and development institutions.

Infrastructure

Shenzhen has 17 ports, among which Luohu Port is the largest passenger port, Huanggang Port the largest cargo port, Yantian Port the second largest container seaport, and Huangtian International Airport the fourth largest airport in China. (Note: figures exclude Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan). In 1997, the number of passengers crossing the border

