Profile of Beijing

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Location:
Beijing Municipality is surrounded by Hebei Province with the exception of neighboring Tianjin Municipality to the southeast; together the three divisions forming the Jingjinji metropolitan region and the national capital region of China.

Area
• Municipality 16,410.54 k㎡
• Urban 1,368.32 k㎡
• Rural 15,042.22 k㎡
**Population (2014)**

- Municipality 21,516,000
- Density 1,300/k m²
- Urban 18,590,000
- Metro (2010) 24,900,000

**GDP in 2014**

- Total CNY 2.133 trillion US$ 347.24 billion
- Per capita CNY 99,214 US$ 16,150
- Growth 7.3%

HDI (2010) 0.821 (1st)—very high

**Overview**

Beijing, also Peking, is the capital of the People's Republic of China and one of the most populous cities in the world. The metropolis, located in northern China, is governed as a direct-controlled municipality under the national government, with 14 urban and suburban districts and two rural counties.

It is home to the headquarters of most of China's largest state-owned companies. The city's history dates back three millennia. Beijing has been the political center of the country for much of the past eight centuries. Its art treasures and universities have made it a center of culture and art in China.

Encyclopedia Britannica notes that "few cities in the world have served for so long as the political headquarters and cultural centre of an area as immense as China." About 163 countries have embassies in Beijing.
A study by the Beijing Academy of Sciences estimates that in 2010 there were on average 200,000 foreigners living in Beijing on any given day, including students, business travelers and tourists, who are not counted as registered residents.

**Economy**

Beijing's economy ranks among the most developed and prosperous in China. In 2013, the municipality's nominal gross domestic product (GDP) was CN ¥ 1.95 trillion (US$314 billion), about 3.43% of the country's total output, and ranked 13th among province-level administrative units. Per capita GDP, at CN ¥ 93,213 (US$15,051) in nominal terms and Int$21,948 at purchasing power parity, was 2.2 times the national average and ranked second among province-level administrative units. The economy tripled in size from 2004 to 2012, and grew at an annual rate of 7.7% in 2013.

Due to the concentration of state owned enterprises in the national capital, Beijing in 2013 had more Fortune Global 500 Company headquarters than any other city in the world. Beijing ranks 9th in the world in the International Financial Centres Development Index published by the Xinhua News Agency, Chicago Mercantile Exchange and Dow Jones & Company, and 29th in the world in the Global Financial Centres Index published by Z/Yen and the Qatar Financial Centre Authority. The city also ranked No. 4 in the number of billionaire residents after Moscow, New York and Hong Kong. In 2012, PricewaterhouseCoopers rated Beijing's overall economic influence as No. 1 in China.

**Sector composition**

The city has a post-industrial economy that is dominated by the tertiary sector (services), which generated 76.9% of output, followed by the secondary sector (manufacturing,
construction) at 22.2% and the primary sector (agriculture, mining) at 0.8%.

The services sector is broadly diversified with financial services, wholesale and retail, information technology, commercial real estate, scientific research, and residential real estate each contributing at least 6% to the city's economy in 2013.

The mix of industrial output has changed significantly since 2010 when the city announced that 140 highly-polluting, energy and water resource intensive enterprises would be relocated from the city in five years. In 2013, output of automobiles, aerospace products, semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, and food processing all increased. In 2013, the tonnage of vegetable, edible fungus and fruit harvested was over three times that of grain.

**Economic and technological development zones in Beijing**

In 2006, the city government identified six high-end economic output zones around Beijing as the primary engines for local economic growth. In 2012, the six zones produced 43.3% of
the city's GDP, up from 36.5% in 2007.

The six zones are:

**Zhongguancun**, China's silicon village in Haidian District northwest of the city, is home to both established and start-up tech companies. As of the second quarter of 2014, of the 9,895 companies registered in one of the six zones, 6,150 were based in Zhongguancun.

**Beijing Financial Street**

On the west side of the city, is lined with headquarters of large state banks and insurance companies. The country's leading financial regulatory agencies including the central bank, bank regulator, securities regulator, and foreign exchange authority are all located in the neighborhood.

**Beijing Central Business District (CBD)**, is actually located to the east of the city centre, near the embassies. The CBD is home to most of the city's skyscraper office buildings. Most of the city's foreign companies and professional service firms are based in the CBD.

**Beijing Economic and Technological Development Area**, better known as Yizhuang, is an industrial park the straddles the southern Fifth Ring Road in Daxing District. It has attracted pharmaceutical, information technology, and materials engineering companies.

**Beijing Airport Economic Zone**

In additional to logistics, airline services, and trading firms, this zone is also home to Beijing's automobile assembly plants.

**Beijing Olympic Center Zone** is developing into an entertainment, sports, tourism and business convention center.

Shijingshan, on the western outskirts of the city, is a traditional heavy industrial base for steel-making.
Beijing or Peking opera (京剧, Jīngjù) is a traditional form of Chinese theater well known throughout the nation. Commonly lauded as one of the highest achievements of Chinese culture, Beijing opera is performed through a combination of song, spoken dialogue, and codified action sequences involving gestures, movement, fighting and acrobatics.
Beijing cuisine is the local style of cooking. Peking Roast Duck is perhaps the best known dish. Teahouses are common in Beijing.

Places of interests
The city is renowned for its opulent palaces, temples, parks and gardens, tombs, walls and gates. Beijing has seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites – the Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace, Ming Tombs, Zhoukoudian, Great Wall, and the Grand Canal. The Forbidden City hosts the Palace Museum, which contains imperial collections of Chinese art. Surrounding the Forbidden City are several former imperial gardens, parks and scenic areas. Beijing is famous for its siheyuans, a type of residence where a common courtyard is shared by the surrounding buildings. The hutongs are generally straight and run east to west so that doorways face north and south for good Feng Shui. The Summer Palace and the Old Summer Palace both lie at the western part of the city; the former, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, contains a comprehensive collection of imperial
gardens and palaces that served as the summer retreats for the Qing imperial family.

Tai chi practitioners in Beijing

Events

Beijing has hosted numerous international and national sporting events; the most notable was the 2008 Summer Olympic and Paralympics’ Games. Beijing will host the 2015 IAAF World Championships in Athletics. On 31 July 2015, the International Olympic Committee awarded the 2022 Winter Olympics to the city.

Transportation

Beijing serves as a large rail hub in China's railway expressway, railway, and high-speed rail networks. There are five ring roads, nine expressways, eleven National Highways, nine conventional railways, and two high-speed railways. As of 1 July 2010, Beijing Railway Station had 173 trains arriving daily, Beijing West had 232 trains and Beijing South had 163. From Beijing, direct passenger train service is available to most large cities in China. International train service is available to Mongolia, Russia, Vietnam and North Korea.
Beijing is connected by road links to all parts of China. Nine expressways of China serve Beijing, as do eleven China National Highways.

Beijing's primary airport is the Beijing Capital International Airport (IATA: PEK) about 20 kilometers northeast of the city center. The airport is the second busiest airport in the world. The airport links Beijing with almost every other Chinese city with regular air passenger service.

Terminal 3 of the Beijing Capital International Airport

**Nature and wildlife**

Beijing Municipality has 20 nature reserves that have a total area of 1,339.7 k m² (517.3 sq mi). The mountains to the west and north of the city are home to a number of protected wildlife species including leopard, leopard cat, wolf, red fox, wild boar, masked palm civet, raccoon dog, hog badger, Siberian weasel, Amur hedgehog, roe deer.