

Guangdong, China 中国广东省

Guangdong Province is the southern economic powerhouse of China. Formerly known as Canton or Kwangtung to the English speaking world, it is the largest and most prosperous province in China with a population of 108 million.

Guangdong has been known as China 'capital of trade' owing to its history as the trading port city, its current shares of China trade and the established business culture.

- Guangdong produces 1 in 10 pounds of China's economy (Guangdong GDP: RMB 7.95 trillion in 2016, the equivalent of £900 billion or \$1.16 trillion), and 1 in 4 pounds of China's import and export. The total import & export value is \$1 trillion in 2016. Both has ranked 1st in China for 28 consecutive year.
- As the leading driver of China's economic grow, the province is the national hubs of manufacturing for a wide range of sectors.
- Home to the world famous Canton Fair – China Import and Export Commodity Fair which is held twice a year in April and October with 12000 stands, visited by 200,000 buyers each session including a large number of importers from UK.
- Guangdong is the most popular destination for foreign direct investment in the last 4 decades. By the end of 2015, Guangdong had attracted 32,000 projects of direct foreign investment, valued US\$ 124 billion in contractual value.
- It has been the most active source of Chinese investors in the UK. Chinese companies such as China Merchants Bank, Huawei, TPLink, ZTE, Hytera, and Pin An Insurance are from Guangdong. Globally Guangdong's 5600 companies invest a total of \$35 billion in overseas countries (2015).
- The largest group of British Chinese are Cantonese from Guangdong. Cantonese cuisine is synonymous to Chinese cuisine in the UK.
- The size of economy in Guangdong is similar to that of the Netherland or South Korea, greater than many countries in the G20
- Geographically it consists of 21 prefectures (cities), 121 counties, 1642 townships
- The province has been in the forefront of Chinese open door reform and featured 3 of the 4 national Special Economic Zones – Cities of Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Shantou – a large of number of high-tech, economic and industrial parks.
- In the recently launched Free Trade Areas initiative, which has been set up to pilot more advanced and new open door policies, Nansha of Guangzhou (Canton), Qianhai

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of Shenzhen and Hengqin of Zhuhai together form the 110 square kilometer areas where new business opportunities are making waves. The City of Shantou has also recently launched another pilot area: Shantou Overseas Chinese Pilot Zone

- The Province, which is next to Hong Kong, Macao and near to Taiwan, will be at the heart of the proposed mega-metropolitans of Greater Pearl River Bay Area of Guangdong-Hong Kong and Macao.

