

# About Qinghai

## Overview

Qinghai Province, located between 89°35'E-103°04'E and 31°36'N-39°19'N, measures more than 1,200km long from east to west and more than 800km wide from north to south. The total area of the province is 722,300km<sup>2</sup>, which accounts for 1/13 of the national total area, ranking the fourth of China following Xinjiang, Tibet, and Inner Mongolia. Qinghai borders on Gansu Province in the north and east, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in northwest, Tibet Autonomous Region in the south and southwest and Sichuan in the southeast, and is a link connecting Tibet and Xinjiang to the inland. Qinghai Province has an average elevation of over 3,000m.

### Climate:

Qinghai Province, inland and far from the ocean, is located in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, which endows it the features of plateau continental climate: Long sunshine duration with strong radiation; long winter and cool summer; great temperature different in a day but slight different in a year; low precipitation; great geographical difference in precipitation – more rainfall in the east but dryness, more winds, lack of oxygen and coldness in the west.

### Land resources

In 2015, the latest measured land area of Qinghai totaled 696,600km<sup>2</sup> (69.66 million hectares), including 45.105 million hectares of agricultural land (accounting for 64.75% of the total land area of the province). The area of cultivated land in the agricultural land was 585,700 hectares; the grassland area was 40,812,100 hectares; the forest land area was 3.5415 million hectares; the park area was 6,100 hectares; the construction land area was 339,900 hectares (accounting for 0.49% of the total land area in Qinghai); the unused land area was 24.2199 million hectares (accounting for 34.77% of the total in Qinghai).

### Water resources

Qinghai has 380 rivers with the catchment area of more than 500km<sup>2</sup>. The annual runoff of the province totals 61.123 billion cubic meters; the total amount of water resources ranks the 15<sup>th</sup> in China, with the per-capita quantity 5.3 times to the national average; 49% of the total runoff of the Yellow River, 1.8% of the total runoff of the Yangtze River, 17% of the total runoff of the Lancang River and 45.1% of the total runoff of the Heihe River flow out of Qinghai, aggregating 59.6 billion cubic meters every year.

## Population

By the end of 2017, the resident population of Qinghai was 5,983,800, with an increase of 49,200 from the end of 2016. By urban and rural areas, the resident population in urban areas was 3,175,400, accounting for 53.07% of the total population (urbanization rate of the resident population) in Qinghai, with an increase of 1.44 ppts from the end of 2016; and the resident population in rural areas was 2,808,400, accounting for 46.93% of the total.

## **Gross domestic product**

Upon preliminary estimation, the GDP of Qinghai amounted to RMB264.280 billion (up by 7.3% YoY, calculated at comparable price, including: (i) RMB23.841 billion from primary industry (up by 4.9% YoY); (ii) RMB118.038 billion from secondary industry (up by 7.2% YoY); and (iii) RMB122.401 billion from tertiary industry (up by 7.9% YoY). The added value of the primary industry, secondary industry and tertiary industry accounted for 9.0%, 44.7% and 46.3% of the total GDP of Qinghai, respectively. The per capita GDP of Qinghai was RMB44,348, with an increase of 6.4% over 2016.

## **Domestic trading**

In 2017, the retail sales of social consumer goods totaled RMB83.903 billion (up by 9.3% YoY). By places of operation, the retail sales of consumer goods in cities & towns was RMB72.808 billion (up by 9.3% YoY), of which the retail sales of consumer goods in urban areas reached RMB42.719 billion (up by 8.7% YoY); and the retail sales of consumer goods in rural areas was RMB11.095 billion, up by 9.9% YoY. By type of consumption, the retail sales of commodities was RMB77.422 billion (up by 9.4% YoY), and the food service income reached RMB6.481 billion (up by 9.3% YoY).

## **Foreign economy**

In 2017, the imports and exports of Qinghai Province totaled RMB4.442 billion (down by 55.9% YoY), including RMB2.875 billion (down by 68.2% YoY) from exports and RMB1.567 billion (up by 50.7% YoY) from imports.

In 2017, 14 new foreign investment projects were approved in Qinghai, with an increase of 8 over 2016. The foreign direct investment for contractual use amounted to USD160 million, up by 66.7% YoY; the foreign direct investment in actual use totaled USD18 million, up by 20.0% YoY. In 2017, the turnover of foreign contracted projects aggregated USD390 million (up by 26.1% YoY), and 517 laborers were dispatched for overseas cooperation.