

Overview of Sichuan Province

Natural Geographical Features

Located in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River in southwest China, Sichuan Province finds itself between 92°21' and 108°12' east longitude and between 26°03' and 34°19' north latitude. It extends 1,075 km from east to west, and over 900 km from south to north at most. It neighbors Chongqing in the east, Yunnan and Guizhou in the south, Tibet in the west and Qinghai, Gansu and Shaanxi in the north. Sichuan covers an area of 486,000 square km, ranking fifth in the country, after Xinjiang, Tibet, Inner Mongolia and Qinghai.

The topography over the whole province varies enormously from east to west with complex and various terrains. The terrain of China's mainland forms a flight of three steps in terms of altitude. Sichuan lies between the first step - Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, and the second step - the Middle-Lower Yangtze Plain. It descends from west to east, demonstrating a distinct disparity in altitude. Plateaus and mountainous regions can be seen in west Sichuan at altitudes above 4,000 meters, while basins and hilly areas can be found in the east, at altitudes between 1,000 and 3,000 meters. The whole province can be divided into three major parts: the Sichuan Basin, the Sichuan Northwest Plateau and the Sichuan Southwest Mountains.

Climate Resources

The climate of Sichuan is complex and diverse with salient zonality and vertical change. Based on differences in hydrothermal and light conditions, the province is divided into three climate zones:

Sichuan Basin lies in the humid mid-subtropical climate zone. Within this area, there is good heat condition. Therefore, Sichuan is warm and humid all the year round with an annual average temperature of 16 to 18°C and accumulated temperature of 4,000 to 6,000°C. Besides, daily temperature range is small while annual temperature range is large. It is warm in winter and hot in summer with frost-free period of 230 to 340 days. There are heavy clouds above Sichuan Basin with fewer sunny days and short year-round sunshine duration of 1,000 to 1,400 hours, 600 to 800 hours fewer than that in the areas of the same latitude in the downstream Yangtze River basin. Besides, Sichuan has abundant rainfall with an annual precipitation of 1,000 to 1,200 mm, 50% of which is concentrated in summer, mostly at night.

Southwest Sichuan mountain area is in subtropical semi-humid zone in which relatively high temperature occurs all the year round with the annual average temperature of 12 to 20°C. Besides, the daily temperature range is large while annual temperature range is small. It is a little cold in the morning but warm at noon. The four seasons are not distinctive in the province. Due to fewer clouds and a large number of sunny days, the year-round sunshine duration amounts to 2,000 to 2,600 hours. But there is comparatively less annual rainfall, 900 to 1,200 mm, and distinctive wet and dry seasons with the dry season lasting for seven months. About 90% of the rainfall is concentrated from May to October. The valley area features typical dry-warm valley climate under the influence of foehn. The mountain area has remarkable vertical climate.

Northwest Sichuan mountain area is in plateau alpine climate zone. Elevation difference is quite large, leading to significant changes in vertical climate. From valley to ridgeway, there is respectively subtropical zone, warm temperate zone, temperate zone, cool temperate zone, subfrigid zone, frigid zone and permafrost zone. Overall, the cold temperate climate is dominant, resulting in a cold winter and cool summer. Valleys here are dry and warm while the mountains are humid and cold, lacking water and heat. The annual average temperature here is 4 to 12°C and annual rainfall 500 to 900 mm. But the

weather here is fine with abundant sunshine. The year-round sunshine duration amounts to 1,600 to 2,600 hours.

Generally, Sichuan has obvious monsoon climate with rainy and hot summer and distinctive differences in regions. In east Sichuan, there is a warm winter, an early spring, a hot summer, and rainy autumn, heavy clouds, a lack of sunshine, and a long growing season. However, in west Sichuan, generally it is cold with a long winter, a rather short summer, abundant sunshine, concentrated rainfall, and distinctive dry and wet seasons. Another feature of Sichuan's climate is that the vertical changes are remarkable with various kinds of climate. Besides, there are also many types of weather disasters with frequent occurrence and wide range, mainly including drought, intense falls, floods, and rather low temperature.

Water Resources

Sichuan has abundant water resources, ranking in the forefront in China. The average annual precipitation is about 488.975 billion cubic meters. River runoff is the richest water resource of Sichuan. Sichuan is well-known as "a province with a thousand rivers", because there are nearly 1,400 rivers and streams. The total volume of Sichuan's water resources approximates 348.97 billion cubic meters. The runoff volume of natural rivers amounts to 254.75 billion cubic meters, accounting for 73% of the total water resources. The volume of upstream water flowing into the province reaches 94.22 billion cubic meters, accounting for 27%. In addition, there are 54.69 billion cubic meters of underground water resources, with 11.5 billion cubic meters exploitable. Sichuan is covered with over 1,000 lakes, more than 200 glaciers and also swamps of a considerable area, mostly distributed in northwest and southwest Sichuan. The total water storage capacity of lakes is about 1.5 billion cubic meters. Besides, the total storage of lakes and swamps amounts to about 3.5 billion cubic meters.

The main characteristics of Sichuan's water resources are abundant in total, mainly in rivers and streams, winding rivers beneficial to agricultural irrigation, and high quality of natural water. Sichuan's water resource per capita is higher than that of the nation. But water resources are distributed unevenly, resulting in regional and seasonal water shortage. The runoff of rivers and streams mainly concentrates in the period from June to October. Therefore, some areas still suffer from floods and droughts sometimes. Although the overall quality of natural water is high, it is polluted in some areas.

Energy Resources

There are abundant energy resources in Sichuan, mainly including hydroenergy, coal and natural gas, accounting for 75%, 23.5% and 1.5% (with oil resource also contained) respectively.

Sichuan's theoretical reserves of water resources reach 143 million kilowatts, taking up 21.2% of the national total, next only to Tibet. Among them, there are 103 million kilowatts of technical available hydroenergy reserves and 76.112 million kilowatts of economical available hydroenergy reserves, accounting for 27.2% and 31.9% of the national total respectively. Both of them rank first in China, making Sichuan the largest base for hydropower development and west-east power transmission project in the country.

The retained coal resources in Sichuan reach 12.27 billion tons, mainly distributed in south Sichuan. There are relatively complete coal varieties in the province, including anthracite, meagre coal, lean coal, bituminous coal, lignite, and peat. Oil and gas resources mainly include natural gas. The reserves of oil resources are very small, with the accumulated proven geological reserves in the basin reaching 67.96 million tons. Rich in natural gas resources, Sichuan Basin is one of the principal basins with natural gas and oil in the country. Over 7 trillion cubic meters of natural gas reserves have been

discovered in Sichuan Basin, taking up 19% of the national total.

Mineral Resources

Sichuan's complex geological structure results in abundant mineral resources and a complete range of mineral species. There have been over 100 varieties of minerals and 1,906 mining areas which have been identified. Reserves of 43 kinds of minerals rank among the top 5 in China. Reserves of important mineral resources, such as coal, iron, manganese, titanium, vanadium, copper, lead, zinc, light rare earth, phosphate and limestone for cement have increased to some extent. The strong ability of mineral resource supply makes Sichuan a major raw mineral material producer and processor in west China and even in the whole country.

Tourism Resources

There are five world heritage sites in Sichuan, including three world natural heritage sites (Jiuzhaigou Valley, Huanglong and Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries), one world natural and cultural heritage site (Mount Emei – Leshan Giant Buddha) and one world cultural heritage site (Mount Qingcheng – Dujiangyan Irrigation System). Four protected areas (Jiuzhaigou Valley, Wolong Natural Reserve, Huanglong and Daocheng Yading) have been listed into the World Man and Biosphere Reserve Network. Sichuan has 14 national-level key scenic spots, 80 provincial-level scenic spots, and nine 5A scenic spots ranking third in China as well as 21 excellent national tourist cities. By the end of 2013, there had been 167 natural reserves with an area of 84,150 square km, occupying 17.3% of Sichuan's land area. Among these natural reserves, there are 29 national-level natural reserves and 27 wetland parks, of which 14 are national-level wetland parks. A total of 121 forest parks have been constructed, 33 of which are at national level and 55 at provincial level. With complex geological structure, Sichuan boasts a variety of geological landscapes and diverse geological heritages. Over 220 geological heritage sites have been discovered, among which there are two world-class geoparks in Xingwen and Zigong respectively, 16 national-level geoparks, making Sichuan take the lead in China in this regard. Sichuan has eight national-level famous historic and cultural cities. Besides, it is also renowned as a province rich in cultural relics. Currently, there are 153 museums, 230 national key protected cultural relics units and 1,062 provincial protected cultural relics units. There are 120 national-level intangible cultural heritage items and 460 provincial-level items.

Economic Situation

Audited by the National Bureau of Statistics, Sichuan's GDP in 2015 was 3,010.31 billion Yuan, an increase of 7.9% over the previous year calculated at comparable price, with the growth rate one percentage point higher than the national average. Of this total, the value added of the primary industry was 367.73 billion Yuan, up by 3.7%, that of the secondary industry was 1,429.32 billion Yuan, up by 7.8% and that of the tertiary industry was 1,213.26 billion Yuan, up by 9.4%.

Industry

In 2015, the value added of industrial enterprises above the designated size increased by 7.9%, 1.8 percentage points higher than the national average. In terms of ownership registered, the value added of the State-owned and State-holding enterprises grew by 5.6%, that of the collective enterprises went up by 4.3%, that of the share-holding enterprises increased by 9.5%, and that of the enterprises by foreign investors and investors from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan increased by 0.7%. In terms of the sectors,

the value added of the light industry grew by 9.3% and that of heavy industry by 7.3%.

Enlarged Investment Scale

In 2015, the completed investment in fixed assets of the province in 2015 was 2,597.37 billion Yuan, up by 10.2% over the previous year. Of the total investment, the investment in fixed assets (excluding rural households) was 2,496.56 billion Yuan, up by 10.2%.

In regard to industrial investment, the investment in the primary industry was 84.01 billion Yuan, up by 31.8%; that in the secondary industry was 746.2 billion Yuan, up by 3.5%, including 736.1 billion Yuan in industry, up by 2.7%; and that in the tertiary industry was 1,767.16 billion Yuan, up by 12.4%, including 315.2 billion Yuan in transportation industry, up by 7.4%.

Stable and Rapid Consumption Growth

In 2015, the total retail sales of consumer goods reached 1,387.77 billion Yuan, a growth of 12% over the previous year. An analysis on different areas showed that the retail sales of consumer goods in urban areas stood at 1,115.17 billion Yuan, up by 11.7%, and that in rural areas reached 272.61 billion Yuan, up by 13.2%, 1.5 percentage points higher than that in urban areas. Grouped by consumption patterns, the income of retail sales of commodities was 1,192.17 billion Yuan, up by 11.9%, and that of catering industry was 195.6 billion Yuan, up by 12.3%.

Major Economic Indicators of Sichuan in December 2015 and the Whole Year				
Indicator	December	Year-on-year Increase	January to December	Cumulative Growth
		(%)	Accumulative total	(%)
I. GDP (100 million Yuan)			30103.1	7.9
Value added of the primary industry			3677.3	3.7
Value added of the secondary industry			14293.2	7.8
Value added of the tertiary industry			12132.6	9.4
II. Value added of industrial enterprises above the designated size		8.2		7.9
By sector:				
# Light industry		9.9		9.3
Heavy industry		7.3		7.3

By ownership:				
# State-owned enterprises		3.4		2.7
Collective enterprises		4.0		4.3
Joint-equity cooperative enterprises		14.4		17.9
Share-holding enterprises		9.5		9.5
Enterprises by foreign investors and investors from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan		2.9		0.7
Other types of businesses		6.1		6.9
# State-owned and State-holding enterprises		7.1		5.6
Export delivery value (100 million Yuan)	249.9	-26.1	2719.3	-15.8
Output of main products				
Gasoline (10,000 tons)	22.1	27.4	217.4	11.6
Natural gas (one hundred million cubic meters)	27.4	11.8	266.2	5.5
Pig iron (10,000 tons)	157.7	14.5	1747.4	-8.3
Steel(10,000 tons)	197.8	17.1	2110.4	-5.1
Finished steel products(10,000 tons)	251.0	-0.6	2702.5	-3.8
Agricultural NPK fertilizer(10,000 tons)	41.3	10.0	497.1	7.9
Beer (10,000 kiloliters)	13.7	14.3	221.0	-3.0
Liquor(10,000 kiloliters)	44.1	8.1	370.9	6.0
Cement(10,000 tons)	1284.8	-5.1	14040.6	-3.3
Vehicle	85167	11.7	1050521	9.1
Computer (10,000 sets)	576.4	-33.0	6342.7	-16.8
III. Investment in fixed assets (100 million Yuan)			25973.7	10.2
Of the total, the investment in fixed assets (excluding rural households)			24965.6	10.2

Investment in real estate development			4813.0	9.9
By composition:				
Construction engineering			18226.3	11.3
Installation engineering			1885.6	20.5
Purchase of equipment and appliances			3054.8	12.5
Other expenses			2807.0	-3.8
By sector:				
Primary industry			840.1	31.8
Secondary industry			7462.0	3.5
Including: industry			7361.0	2.7
Tertiary industry			17671.6	12.4
Including: Transportation			3152.0	7.4
By source of investment (100 million Yuan)			26767.9	5.1
State budget fund			1956.8	28.2
Domestic loan			2447.0	-1.6
Bonds			42.8	-42.3
Foreign capital used			56.9	-40.2
Self-financing			17699.0	4.9
Other sources of funding			4565.5	3.4
VI. Total retail sales of consumer goods (100 million Yuan)	1350.5	12.3	13877.7	12.0
By place of business				
Urban areas	1075.2	12.1	11151.7	11.7
Rural areas	275.3	12.9	2726.1	13.2
By consumption patterns				

Income of catering industry	187.6	13.1	1956.0	12.3
Retail sales of commodities	1162.9	12.2	11921.7	11.9
V. Total value of imports and exports of goods (US\$100 million)	38.5	-36.1	515.9	-26.5
Value of goods exported	21.8	-39.8	333.5	-25.6
Value of goods imported	16.8	-30.4	182.4	-28.1
VI. Consumer Price		1.2		1.5
1. Food		2.3		2.9
2. Tobacco, liquor and articles		3.4		0.1
3. Clothing		0.2		1.4
4. Household appliances and maintaining services		0.4		0.4
5. Medical, health and personal articles		1.8		2.1
6. Transportation and telecommunications		-0.1		-0.7
7. Recreation, education, culture articles and services		0.9		1.1
8. Housing		0.2		0.5
VII. Producer prices		-4.0		-3.6
Means of production		-5.3		-4.7
Excavation		-13.3		-9.7
Raw materials		-4.0		-3.6
Processing		-4.4		-4.3
Consumption goods		-0.1		-0.2
Food		0.3		0.2
Clothing		8.5		3.5
General commodities		-2.4		-2.0

Consumer durables		-4.1		-1.9
VIII. Purchasing prices for manufactured goods		-4.2		-3.3
Fuel and power		-3.8		-2.9
Ferrous metal materials		-9.8		-9.0
Non-ferrous metal and wire		-9.1		-5.0
Chemical raw material		-5.3		-5.3
IX. Annual per-capita disposable income of all residents (Yuan)			17221	9.3
Annual per-capita disposable income of urban residents			26205	8.1
Annual per-capita disposable income of rural residents			10247	9.6

Note: 1. Gross domestic product (GDP), value added of industrial enterprises above the designated size and the total of classification items herein are calculated at current prices whereas their growth rates are at comparable prices; and other indicators, except for special instructions, are calculated at current prices.

2. Due to the rounding-off reasons, the subentries may not add up to the aggregate totals.