

CHINA HANDBOOK SERIES

ECONOMY

Compiled by
the *China Handbook* Editorial Committee

Translated by
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EDITOR'S NOTE

More than 30 years have elapsed since the birth of the People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949. "What is China really like today?" many people abroad wish to know. To answer this question, we plan to compile and publish a voluminous *China Handbook*, in which we intend to introduce the New China in every field of its activities. Emphasis will be on the process of development during the past three decades, the accomplishments and the problems that still remain. The book will contain accurate statistics and related materials, all of which will be ready references for an interested reader.

To enhance the usefulness of the forthcoming volume, we plan to publish 10 major sections separately at first, so that we shall have an opportunity to take into consideration the opinions of our readers before all the composite parts are put together, revised and published as one volume. These separate sections are:

- Geography
- History
- Politics
- Economy
- Education and Science
- Literature and the Arts
- Sports and Public Health
- Culture
- Life and Lifestyles
- Tourism

Here, we wish particularly to point out the following:
First, the statistics listed in each separate book exclude those of Taiwan, unless otherwise indicated.

Second, the statistics are those compiled up to the end of 1980.

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Geography

History

Politics

Economy

Culture

Education and Science

Literature and the Arts

Sports and Public Health

Life and Lifestyles

Tourism

The socialist experience in China is perhaps unique in that the country has been building a socialist economy from a situation characterized by a very poor material base and a huge population. Those from abroad who have seen Chinese exhibits at international trade fairs know that China is now able to make, in addition to her famous silks and other handicrafts and art works, such sophisticated industrial equipment as precision machine tools. But the course of socialist economic development has not been smooth. This book tells the story — offering a comprehensive view of China's economy with both its setbacks and successes. By giving detailed information and key economic statistics on industry, agriculture, communications, finance and banking as well as domestic and foreign trade, the booklet also serves to outline the trends of development in the coming years in China for both the specialist and the general reader.

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