

Dingzhou 定州

Dingzhou, with a population in excess of 1.1 million, is one of the largest cities in Hebei Province in northern China

Dingzhou is one of the main cities along the primary train route in China, connecting with Beijing to the north and Shijiazhuang and points south. Dingzhou was upgraded from being a "town" to a "city" in 1986. Dingzhou City is served by an international airport 37 km (23 miles) away.

The vast majority of people in Dingzhou are Han Chinese. The only minority population with a significant representation in the city are the 24,000 Hui people. The Hui are Chinese-speaking Muslims whose ancestors came from the Middle East and Central Asia at various times during the past 1,400 years.

The Dingzhou Porcelain kiln is one of five historical kilns in China. It first started producing porcelain during the late Tang Dynasty (618-907). It was during the Song Dynasty (960-1127) that production went large scale and was exported throughout China and overseas.

Dingzhou people, as well as residents of nearby Baoding, are famous for their longevity. People here have a reputation for respecting the elderly and are keen to keep in good health. The average

Population:
1,024,853 (1990)
1,116,162 (2000)
1,215,600 (2010)

Province:
Hebei

Major Ethnic Groups:
Han 97.5%
Hui 2.3%
Manchu 0.1%
Zhuang 0.1%

Christians:
53,000 (4.8%)

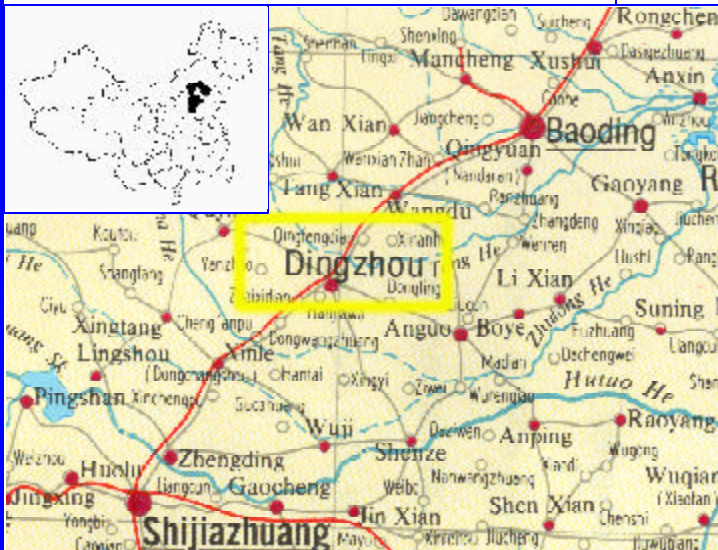
life-span of people in Dingzhou and Baoding is 6.4 years longer than the national average.

Dingzhou is also recognized as one of the four historical cities in Hebei Province. Many ancient relics have been found here. The Yuanshi Pagoda was built during the Song Dynasty. Although it was originally built to be a Buddhist structure, it was also used as a watchtower. Today it is the highest pagoda in China.

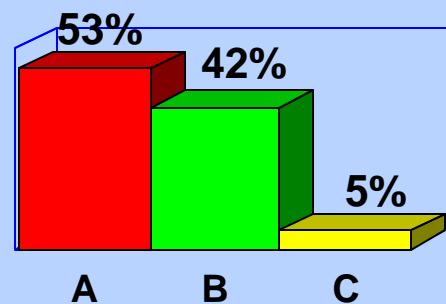
The regional economy is almost entirely based on agriculture. In 1990, an astonishing 88.5% of all employed people in Dingzhou had jobs in the agricultural sector. These figures

do not only represent farmers, but all jobs linked to agriculture and fisheries, including factory and processing workers of agricultural products.

Perhaps indicative of the city's overwhelming agriculture focus, census statistics show that very few of Dingzhou's residents have ever gained higher education. In 1990, just 622 people in Dingzhou reported having ever attended university, a remarkably low figure compared to other cities in China. An additional 7,600 people had studied in other tertiary or technical institutions. Almost half of census respondents said they had never attended school past the primary level, while 18.6% had never attended school at all, including primary school.



Status of Evangelization
(Awareness of Christ and the Gospel)



A = have never heard the Gospel or the Name of Christ
B = were evangelized but have not yet become Christians
C = Adherants to any form of Christianity



Missionary history in the Dingzhou area is overshadowed by what happened during the Boxer Rebellion, when more than a dozen missionaries were butchered to death at nearby Baoding during the dreadful summer of 1900.

Today Dingzhou is one of the strongest Catholic areas in China. As many as 40,000 Catholics live in the city, overshadowing a much smaller Protestant community of between 10,000 to 15,000. Catholics in Hebei have endured some horrific persecution for their faith. The worst incident took place on April 18th, 1989, at Youyong village south of Shijiazhuang City, when a Catholic village was brutally attacked by a large number of police. Two people were killed and hundreds injured in the attack. The police sent 270 military trucks full of police and soldiers. They rushed into a prayer meeting and forcibly dragged several dozen women a distance of four hundred meters by the hair. Six women lost consciousness. "A large number of armed personnel, wearing steel helmets and bullet proof vests and armed with electric batons, clubs, bricks and stones... beat and smashed anything they came across. The victims included teenagers, people over 80 years old, and a disabled beggar." (*China News and Church Report*, 3 May, 1989).

Pray for Dingzhou

- 1** Pray all of the Catholics in Dingzhou would truly know and trust Jesus Christ for their spiritual needs.
- 2** Pray the brutal authorities in Hebei would repent and believe in Christ.
- 3** Ask God to glorify His Name among all of the people in Dingzhou City.

Overview of Dingzhou (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation : "Ding-joe"
Old Spelling : Tinghsien
Location : central Hebei Province, north China
Population : 1,024,953 (1990 census)
Males : 514,102 (50.16%)
Females : 510,851 (49.84%)
Households : 242,624
Average Household : 4.2 people
Divorced People : 3,565
% divorced of Population: 0.35
Centurions (1990) : 5 people aged 100 or more
Immigrants to City : 17,442
From same province: 5,181 (29.7%)
From other provinces: 12,261 (70.3%)

Employed People : 570,987 (55.7% of total population)
Main Industries : Agriculture 88.5%, Industrial 3.6%
Education (highest level attended):
 University: 0.9%
 High School: 31.9%
 Primary school: 48.6%
 Never attended any school: 18.6%
Population under 15: 317,281 (31.0%)
Adult Illiteracy : 22.5% (men 14.5%; women 30.3%)
Major Nationalities : Han 1,000,195
 Hui 23,765
 Manchu 407
 Zhuang 209
 Others 377 (28 groups)
Christians (2003) : 53,000 (4.8%)