OVERVIEW OF XI’AN

Xi’an, formerly known as Chang’an, is the starting point of the ancient Silk Road. As the provincial capital of Shaanxi and a sub-provincial city, it has been developed into a national metropolis. The city is located in the Guanzhong Plain, the middle part of the Weihe River Basin in western China. Xi’an lies on the Weihe River to the north and Qinling Mountains to the south. It covers a municipal administrative area of 10,702 square kilometers, with a registered population of 12.5 million. The sub-provincial city administers eleven districts, two counties, and seven national-level development zones. As a city, it has jurisdiction over the state-level Xi’an New Area. Xi’an is also home to the National Film Service Center and Geographic Ornaments.

As the ancient capital spanning the three empires, Xi’an is a historically developed city with its own history. China has a history of more than 3,100 years during which, for over 1,100 years, it served as a capital. The exhibits one of the three main cultural sites in China, defined by Confucius.

STRATEGIC POSITION

- One of the three international metropolises
- One of the nine national central cities
- The core hub city of the Belt and Road
- The core city among the Guanzhong Plain Urban Cluster
- A key node city in China Western Development

XI’AN IP

- The Comprehensive Innovation Reform Pilot Zone
- The National Airport Economic Demonstration Zone
- China (Xi’an) Cross-Border E-Commerce Comprehensive Pilot Zone
- Among the 40 Cities with Most Booming Economy during the 40-year-long reform and opening-up
- China’s Happiest City
- The Global Hard & Core Technology City
- The Most Attractive City for International Investment
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship Bases for High-Level Overseas Talents
- A national new-generation artificial intelligence (AI) innovation development pilot zone

DEVELOPMENT TARGETS

1. TWO BASIC TARGETS
   Build Xi’an into a national metropolis and an international cultural heritage city.

2. SIX SUPPORT PILLARS
   Build Xi’an into a key economic center of western China, a center for culture exchanges, a Silk Road South Asia Innovation Center, a Silk Road Cultural Hub, an innovation highland in open innovation, and an international comprehensive transportation hub.

Ten Key Tasks

1. Build a comprehensive innovation system.
2. Promote green development and build an “ecological city”.
3. Accelerate the construction of the Silk Road International Conference Center, Silk Road International Exhibition Center, and Olympic Sports Center, as well as the urban planning & construction management.
4. Promote the construction of major projects to improve business environment quality.
5. Develop the modern economy and build a “powerhouse with advanced manufacturing industry”.
6. Strengthen social security and knowledge, the integrated development of culture and tourism.
7. Safeguard and improve people’s livelihood.
8. Implement rural revitalization strategy to promote urban-rural integration.
10. Carry out talent introduction and training programs as well as technology promotion initiatives.
**ECONOMIC PROFILE**

The GDP of Xian reached 502,119 billion Yuan in 2019, with an increase of 7.9%. The ratio of the three industries is 2:5:3.8.5. Revenue in the fiscal government's general public budget exceeded 70 billion Yuan. Domestic investment introduced 364.3 billion Yuan, and foreign investments introduced 73.97 billion US Dollars.

Along with the vigorous development of High Economy, Gateway Economy, and Rail Economy, Xian has formed five major industrial clusters: Aerospace, Automobiles, New materials and new energy, Biomedical and pharmaceutical industry, and High-end equipment.

**Strengthen the “Six Industrial Cluster Pillars”**

1. **Transform and upgrade the cultural tourism industry**
2. **Optimize “six production-related service industries”**
3. **Enlarge “five emerging industries”**
   - AI, 5G, additive manufacturing, robotics, big data, and cloud computing

**TALENTS, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION**

Xi'an boasts abundant human resources and innovation elements, making it China's third most comprehensive strength in science and education. Moreover, it is home to more than 80 universities and colleges, over 1.3 million college students. 62 academic centers of CAS & CAS, 343 key laboratories and engineering research centers above the provincial or ministerial level, more than 400 scientific research institutions, 23 state-level science and technology incubators, and 2,139 state-level high-tech enterprises. Xi'an is also among the first batch of pilot cities for property rights operation in China and one of the "Top Ten Innovative Cities in China". In 2018, two Xi'an-based enterprises, Western Superconductor Technologies and Xi'an Bright Laser Technologies, have been registered in the Eco-Tech Innovation Board.

**EXTERNAL EXCHANGE**

Xi'an is the economic, cultural, and commercial center of the Silk Road Economic Belt, a comprehensive reform and opening-up pilot zone of the Belt and Road Initiative, and a new interior highlight in reform and opening-up. Four countries have set up consular offices here while 26 countries have set up visa application centers in the city. Thirty-six cities have established an International Friendship with Xi'an, and 73 have conducted friendly international exchanges with Xi'an. Twenty-one cities have established economic and trade relations with Xi'an, and 21 have established representative offices of overseas Chinese affairs. Xi'an has been elected as the Co-Presidential City of UCLG.

**GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

Xi'an has deepened the reform of streamlining approval procedures, and delivered applications across various governmental offices at one window and one step. The local government has processed over 60% of the registration services in the cloud and promises ease of doing business by “onlines first”. With these combined efforts to improve its governing efficiency in comprehensive areas, Xi'an aims to provide everyone with a business environment that is convenient, international, and welcoming by law. According to The World Cities Report issued by the UN, Xi'an has been ranked as one of "The World's Most Competitive Cities" and "A Model City in China for Building an International Business Environment".