

Administrative Divisions of Shandong Province



Shandong Province (山东省) is located on China's eastern sea board, between Beijing and Shanghai. It is the third richest province in China (after Guangdong and Jiangsu) and the second most populous (after Guangdong).

Shandong is a large agricultural and a major industrial province with a high proportion of power, cement, coal, steel, petrochemicals and textile industries. As a result it has been a key contributor to Beijing's air pollution and has been singled out for its 'cancer villages'.

Shandong is sometimes called Qilu (齐鲁) after the name of two ancient kingdoms that ruled the area. In 551 BC, the scholar Confucius was born in what is now Shandong and his home town, Qufu, is now a centre of Confucianism. The province has the reputation of being culturally conservative and politically loyal to the centre.

Shandong Province is divided into 17 prefectures, each named for the prefectural capital. The city of Jinan is the both the capital of Jinan Prefecture and of Shandong Province.

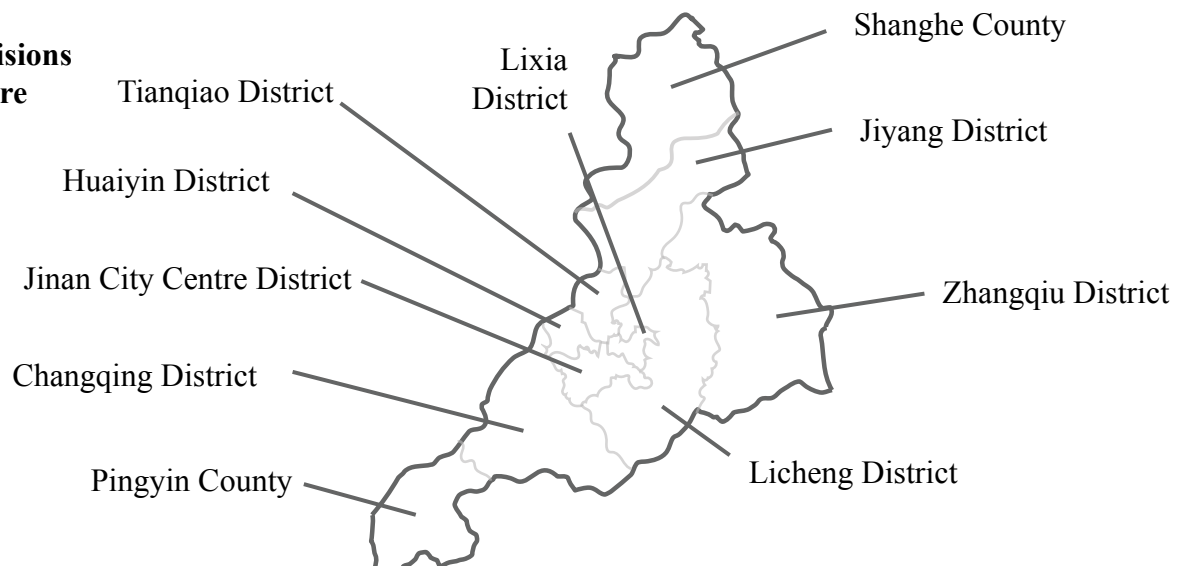
The city of Qingdao is the capital of Shandong's richest prefecture and is afforded a special administrative status. Linyi is the largest city in Shandong, by both area and population.

The province has large development gap. Per capita GDP in Qingdao, which has been rated as China's most liveable city every year since 2016, is five times higher than in rural Heze.



Each prefecture is divided into some number of county-level units. For instance, Jinan Prefecture is divided into 12 counties, county-level districts and county-level cities. Districts are strictly within the jurisdiction of the prefectural city. County-level cities are more highly ranked and more urbanised than counties. Counties and districts are further composed of townships and street-level offices (urban) or villages (rural).

County-level Divisions of Jinan Prefecture



All prefecture and province EPBs across China were mandated to open Weibo accounts in 2013. However, Shandong is a national experiment in their decision to expand this to the county-level (and below).