

Tourism

Domestic Tourism

In 2005, the Pearl River Delta Economic Zone received approximately 72.49 million domestic tourists staying at least one night. Revenues from these tourists reached 105.95 billion yuan (US\$12.94 billion). These figures represent slight overstatements in that they include all of Huizhou and Zhaoqing. These areas did not provide a statistical breakdown that would allow for the exclusion of areas not part of the official definition of the Pearl River Delta Economic Zone. The Yangtze River Delta region received 354.18 million domestic tourists and revenues of 379.25 billion yuan (US\$46.31 billion) in 2005. These figures are overstated due to the inclusion in the data for Zhejiang province of visitors who did not stay overnight. As with the other Yangtze River Delta region statistics in this document, these numbers were generated by summing up data from the 16 cities in the region.²⁴

International Tourism

For jurisdictions in the Chinese Mainland, the number of international tourists is defined as the number of foreigners; overseas Chinese; and compatriots from Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan coming to China for sightseeing, visits, tours, family reunions, vacations, or study tours and does not include the number of employees of foreign organisations stationed in China such as embassies, consulates, news agencies, the offices of corporations and enterprises, foreign experts, and students residing in China, and persons staying briefly in China but not overnight. Foreign exchange earnings from international tourism refer

²⁴ These figures are preliminary figures from statistics bureaux of China, Guangdong Province, Shanghai, Jiangsu Province, Zhejiang Province, and local jurisdictions in Guangdong, Jiangsu, and Zhejiang Provinces.

to the total expenditures of foreigners; overseas Chinese; and Chinese compatriots from Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan during their stay in the Chinese Mainland, which are earnings of foreign exchange from international tourism from the point of view of China.

In 2005, the Pearl River Delta Economic Zone received 17.10 million international tourists, or 36.53 percent of the total for the Chinese Mainland. Revenue from international tourists in the region was US\$6.16 billion or 50.45 billion yuan, or 21.02 percent of the Chinese Mainland total. In 2005, the jurisdictions of the Yangtze River Delta region received in total 12.55 million international tourists, or 26.81 percent of the Chinese Mainland total. Revenue from international tourism was US\$7.02 billion or 57.49 billion yuan, or 23.95 percent of the total for the Chinese Mainland. It should be noted that the statistics refer to tourists that spend at least one night in the Chinese Mainland.

Hong Kong registered 15.04 million international tourist arrivals in 2005 and US\$8.83 billion in international tourism revenues. While Hong Kong once dwarfed the Pearl River Delta Economic Zone and the Yangtze River Delta region in terms of international tourism, that is clearly no longer the case, mostly due to Hong Kong tourist travel and Hong Kong facilitated tourist travel to the Pearl River Delta region. Macao recorded 9.01 million international tourists staying overnight in 2005 and 18.71 million tourists in total. No attempts have been made here to correct the figures for intra-regional tourism within the Greater Pearl River Delta region or to create the same type of figures (tourists from destinations other than Hong Kong, Macao, and the Chinese Mainland) for the Greater Pearl River Delta region and the Yangtze River Delta region due to data limitations.

Tourism Statistics, 2005*

	Pearl River Delta Economic Zone	Yangtze River Delta Region	Hong Kong	Macao
Domestic tourists (million persons)	(a) 72.49	354.18	N/A	N/A
Revenue from domestic tourists (RMB billion)	(a) 105.95	379.25	N/A	N/A
(US\$ billion)	12.94	46.31		
International tourists staying overnight (million persons)	(a) 17.10	12.55	15.04	9.01
Revenue from international tourists (US\$ billion)	(a) 6.16	7.02	8.83	N/A

Notes: * 2005 tourism data for jurisdictions in the Yangtze River Delta region are preliminary data based on official sources. Exchange rate: US\$ 1=RMB 8.19.

(a) Includes all of Huizhou and Zhaoqing and thus overstates the Pearl River Delta Economic Zone slightly.

Sources: Statistics bureaux of Shanghai municipality and local jurisdictions in Guangdong Province, Jiangsu Province, and Zhejiang Province, Hong Kong Tourism Board, and Macao Statistics and Census Services.

Comments

The tourism figures reported show that there can be inconsistencies in the underlying data that one uses to build up aggregate data for the regions of China. In particular, there is a mismatch in terms of the availability of data for domestic and international tourism for the jurisdictions of Zhejiang Province. This makes it impossible to produce precise figures for domestic tourism. While a more comprehensive set of figures allows one to do better for international tourism, there are still some discrepancies.