

China Economic & Social Data

A Curated Reference Guide to Key Databases

This document compiles authoritative databases for research on the Chinese economy, covering macroeconomic aggregates, household surveys, firm-level data, and international sources.

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Wind Database

The most widely used commercial database for macroeconomic variables covering the Chinese economy—often described as the Chinese Bloomberg. Covers GDP, monetary variables, interest rates, and financial markets.

Link: <https://www.wind.com.cn/portal/en/EDB/index.html>

Note: A guide on retrieving data from Wind is available via the Becker Friedman Institute: <https://bfi.uchicago.edu/event/wind-data-service-session-how-to-effectively-collect-chinas-financial-and-economic-data-t>

Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta — China Macroeconomy Database

Maintained by Atlanta Fed researchers. Draws from CEIC and Wind Info, with original sources including China's National Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Finance, and the People's Bank of China. Provides quarterly and annual time-series data updated semi-annually.

Link: <https://www.atlantafed.org/cqer/research/china-macroeconomy#Tab2>

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of China

The primary official source for China's statistical releases, including GDP, industrial output, consumer prices, employment, and trade. Releases are available in English.

Link: <https://www.stats.gov.cn/english/>

FRED — Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (China Series)

Over 1,000 freely downloadable economic data series tagged for China, covering trade, monetary aggregates, exchange rates, and output. Easily graphed and tracked online.

Link: <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/tags/series?t=china>

Bruegel China Economic Database

A repository of macroeconomic data on China and EU–China relations, originally produced under the EU Horizon-funded DWARC project and continuously updated by Bruegel.

Link: <https://www.bruegel.org/dataset/china-economic-database>

China Statistical Year Books Database

Digitised collection of China’s official Statistical Yearbooks, providing historical series on population, GDP, agriculture, industry, trade, and social indicators.

Link: <https://www.chinayearbooks.com/2023/11>

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Chinese Household Income Project (CHIP)

Five waves of nationally representative household surveys conducted in 1989, 1996, 2003, 2008, and 2013. Covers income, consumption, and inequality across urban and rural households.

Link: <http://www.ciidbnu.org/chip/index.asp?lang=EN>

China Family Panel Studies (CFPS)

A nationally representative, biennial longitudinal survey launched in 2010 by Peking University’s Institute of Social Science Survey. Covers economic activities, education, family dynamics, migration, and health at the individual, family, and community levels. Target sample: 16,000 households in 25 provinces.

Link: <https://www.issp.pku.edu.cn/cfps/en/>

China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS)

A nationally representative longitudinal study of Chinese residents aged 45 and older. Baseline (2011) covers roughly 10,000 households and 17,500 individuals across 150 counties. Followed every two years. All data freely available to researchers.

Link: <http://charls.pku.edu.cn/index/en.html>

China Health and Nutrition Survey (CHNS)

A longitudinal survey run jointly by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Chinese partner institutions since 1989. Covers nearly 5,000 households and 15,000 individuals with data on nutrition, health, and economic wellbeing.

Link: <https://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/china/>

Chinese General Social Survey (CGSS)

An annual or biannual questionnaire survey of urban and rural households, monitoring the relationship between social structure and quality of life. Part of the broader East Asia Social Survey (EASS) network alongside surveys in Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. Available since 2003.

Link: <http://cgss.ruc.edu.cn/>

Peking University Open Research Data Platform (China Survey Data Archive)

Provides centralised access to multiple national surveys including CFPS and CHARLS in one place, with free registration for researchers.

Link: <https://opendata.pku.edu.cn/>

Chinese National Survey Data Archive (CNSDA)

A central repository for publicly available Chinese survey microdata, hosted by Renmin University of China. Includes dozens of surveys across health, labour, education, and social topics.

Link: <https://www.cnsda.org/>

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China Stock Market & Accounting Research (CSMAR)

Comprehensive data on China's stock markets and financial statements of listed companies on the Shanghai and Shenzhen exchanges. Also covers macroeconomic indicators, corporate governance, and M&A. Accessible via WRDS for institutional subscribers.

Link: <https://www.csmar.com/en/>

Annual Survey of Industrial Enterprises (ASIE / CASIF) — NBS

A nationwide mandatory census administered annually by China's NBS covering mining, manufacturing,

and utility firms. Covers roughly one million unique manufacturing firms (1998–present) and provides the firm-level data underlying China’s official GDP calculations. Firms covered account for approximately 95% of total industrial output and 98% of industrial exports.

Link: <https://www.stats.gov.cn/english/>

Note: Access typically via institutional arrangements or data vendors such as CSMAR.

Chinese Customs Trade Statistics (CCTS)

Published by China’s customs office, providing foreign trade data by product, destination country, exporting firm, and time period. Widely matched with ASIE/CASIF for research on trade and firm productivity.

Link: <https://stats.customs.gov.cn/>

Note: Access via institutional arrangements.

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World Bank — China Data

GDP, poverty headcounts, development indicators, and policy research for China, updated regularly. Includes World Development Indicators and China Economic Update reports.

Link: <https://data.worldbank.org/country/china>

IMF Data — China

Balance of payments, exchange rates, financial statistics, and Direction of Trade Statistics for China, drawn from the IMF’s International Financial Statistics (IFS) and related databases.

Link: <https://www.imf.org/en/Countries/CHN>

OECD Data — China

Cross-country comparable indicators including trade, investment, productivity, and structural statistics where China is included as a partner/non-member economy.

Link: <https://data.oecd.org/>

Compiled for research reference. Links verified as of May 2026. Some databases require institutional access or registration.