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## Hubei, China Fact Sheet



*This fact sheet has been prepared with the assistance of the Ohio University MBA students from Hubei Province, People's Republic of China. February 2001 Columbus, Ohio*

[Ohio University-Hubei MBA Program](#)

### Geographical Location and Population

Hubei is located in central China. The Yangtze River flows through the province from west to east. Lying in the sub-tropic zone, the average temperature is 32° Fahrenheit (0° Celsius) in winter and 86° F. (30° C.) in summer. Based on year 2000 data, Hubei has a population of 59.8 million living in an area of 71,776 square miles (185,900 square kilometers).

### Transportation and Major Cities

Situated on Yangtze and Han Rivers, natural waterways of great importance, Hubei enjoys the convenience of railways and highways linking Beijing to Guangzhou, Beijing to Hong Kong, and Shanghai to Chengdu. The major airports are located in Wuhan, Yichang (Sanxia),

Xiangfan, Jingzhou and Enshi. There are fifteen cities, one autonomous region and one forest region under the jurisdiction of the provincial government. Wuhan, the capital of the province with a population of 7.3 million, is referred to as the "Thoroughfare to Nine Provinces" because of its great convenience in transportation. Other major cities include Huangshi, Yichang, Xiangfan, Jingzhou, and Shiyan.

## Natural Resources

The fertile Jiangnan Plain in central Hubei is one of the major agricultural and aquacultural bases of grain, cotton, oil-bearing crops, fishes and vegetables in the country. One hundred and ten different minerals have been identified in Hubei, of which the deposits of phosphorus, salt, silica, garnet and cement marl are the largest in China. Hubei is also rich in hydropower resources.

## Leading Industries

Hubei is an important industrial base in China for power generation (electricity), metallurgy, machinery, automobiles and textiles. There are 22,600 enterprises, of which 11,958 are engaged in heavy industry, and 10,642 in light & textile industries. Wuhan Iron and Steel (Group) Corp. is one of the famous steel giants in China. Dongfeng Automobile Co. Ltd. and Wuhan-Citroen Automotive Co. are significant in the auto industry. The Three Gorges Hydropower Plant has been under construction since 1992. When completed, it will have the largest generating capacity in the world.

## Tourism

The Three Gorges region is one of the most attractive sights in China. Shennongjia, a natural reserve park, consists of virgin forest with a rich variety of animal and plant species. Xiangfan, Jingzhou, and Chibi have many historical relics dating from the Three Kingdoms period. The ancient city of Jingzhou and the Jingzhou museum preserve the Chu culture, which is one of the main branches of Chinese culture. Mount Wudang is the birthplace of Daoism and the site of a sacred shrine, which has been inscribed in The World Heritage List by

The World Heritage Committee of UNESCO.

## Education and Research

There are more than 1,300 scientific research institutions, among which 11 institutions are key national level laboratories. Hubei has 1.13 million researchers, ranking fifth in China. The comprehensive capacity of science and technology in Hubei ranks fourth in the country. The research level and productive capacity in the new-tech fields such as laser, fiber optic communications, bioengineering and new materials are among the finest in China. The number of undergraduate students ranks fourth and graduate students ranks third in China.

## Economy and Foreign Trade

Hubei is a highly industrialized province with agricultural strength. Its GDP ranked 9th in 2000 (nationwide), making it the leader among the six provinces of central China. The percentage of the province's primary (agriculture), secondary (manufacturing), and tertiary (service) industries is around 20.2%, 47.3%, and 32.5% respectively. Hubei's exports totaled US\$1.94 billion (an increase of 28%) in 2000. The major commodities included agricultural and related products, textiles and light industrial products, chemicals and heavy industrial products. The major export markets were Japan, the United States, and Germany. Imports increased by 10.5% to US\$1.3 billion in 2000. The leading imported goods included timber, textiles, machinery, chemicals and raw materials. The primary sources of imports were Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, the United States, and Republic of Korea.

## Foreign Investment

In 2000, 331 foreign direct investment projects in the amount of \$1.18 billion were approved with an increase of 27.1% in project quantity and 21.9% in investment value over the previous year. The actual investment figure (utilized) was \$1.06 billion, an increase of 2.8%, which is higher than neighboring provinces. Through the end of last year, 8,112 foreign direct invested enterprises have been established in the province with \$6.4 billion

utilized out of the contracted amount of \$9.7 billion. Hong Kong, the United States, Canada, Singapore, Taiwan and France have been major investors in the province. The newly signed projects and labor service contracts amounted to \$367 million, increasing by 10.3% in Hubei over the previous year. Foreign investments mainly consist of medical, telecommunications, chemical, infrastructure and real estate sectors. International companies have also invested in the province such as Coca-Cola, McDonalds and Anheuser-Busch (U.S.A); Citroen (France); Siemens (Germany); Philips (Netherlands); and Ericsson (Sweden).

## Economic & Technological Development Zones

There are three state-level development zones in Hubei: Wuhan Economic & Technological Development Zone, Wuhan Donghu New Technological Development Zone, and Xiangfan Hi-Tech Development Zone. Other major development zones are located along the Han River and major transportation routes such as Gedian Economic & Technological Development Zone in Ezhou, and the Automotive Industry Development Zone in Xiangfan.

## Organization of Government

Except for the central government, all levels of government are considered to be local in China. The organizational system of Hubei government is divided into 4 levels: provincial, city, county, and town. The organs of power at each level include three major categories: the Local People's Congresses (legislative), Local Governments (executive), and the People's Court along with the People's Procuratorate (judicial).

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# Ohio University-Hubei MBA Program

## Program Description:

In 2000, the provincial government of Hubei, China made arrangements with Ohio University to train 46 mid-career government officials and individuals employed by associations or state-owned enterprises. They began their studies in June 2000 at Ohio University. Of that group, 18 participated in the inaugural OU-Hubei MBA Program and graduated on March 3, 2001.

## 2000 - 2001 Participants

Mr. Yang Hanjun, Vice Director, Training Center of Hubei Province  
Mr. Zhang Yu, Vice Director, Jingzhou Public Health Bureau  
Mr. Li Hongyun, Vice Chief Engineer, Water Conservancy Bureau of Hubei Province  
Ms. Lu Qin, Project Manager, Hubei Foreign Affairs Office  
Mr. Zhou Jianguo, Executive Director, Hubei Association for Int'l Science and Technology Cooperation  
Mr. Jiang Xiangqi, Chief, Hubei Provincial Switch Factory  
Mr. Yang Xiaobo, Director, Central-South Architectural Design Institute  
Mr. Yang Peng, General Manager, Hubei Provincial Light Industrial Products I/E Corp.  
Mr. Cheng Shuiyuan, Assistant President, Hubei Agricultural College - Jingzhou  
Mr. Li Yahua, Mayor, The People's Government of Chibi City  
Mr. Liu Xuerong, County Governor, The People's Government of Zhushan County  
Ms. Wu Hongya, Chairperson, Enshi Youth Union  
Mr. Yuan Yajie, Department Chief, Hubei Provincial Economic and Trade Committee  
Mr. Zhou Hong, General Manager, Yichang Textile Group Co., Ltd.  
Mr. Zhang Yun, Deputy Chief, Hubei Provincial Construction Department  
Mr. Guo Weidong, Chairman, The Youth Union of Huangshi City  
Mr. Liu Hanxiang, Chief Engineer, Xiangfan Water Supply General Corp.  
Mr. Zhang Xiaoshu, Manager, Hubei Chemical Fibre Group Co., Ltd.

*The above participants held the occupations listed as of June 2000.*