

024 Tianjin (China)

9.3 million inhabitants according to the UN's *Urban Agglomerations 2003*.

1. Territorial Levels, Population and Area

Name	Population	% of total	Area, km ²	Density, people/km ²
Tianjin Urban Districts (Urban Area)	*3,902,400	0.30 %	167.8	23,273
Municipality of Tianjin	*10,071,800	0.78 %	11,944	843
China	**1,286,975,468	100 %	9,596,960	134

* Estimation by Geohive for 2001 based on 2000 census data.

** Data for December 2002 provided by the National Bureau of Statistics of China.

2. Administrative Designation and Number of Municipalities

Name	Designation	Number of Municipalities
Tianjin Urban Districts	These districts do not conform a single political or administrative unit. They are the historical centre of the municipality.	6 Districts (<i>Qu</i>): Hedong, Heping, Hexi, Hong Qiao, Hebei and Nankai.
Tianjin	Municipality of Tianjin <i>Tianjin Shi</i>	1 Municipality composed by: 6 Urban Districts: Heping, Hedong, Nankai, Hexi, Hebei and Hong Qiao; 11 Suburban Districts: Tanggu, Hangu, Dagang, Teda, Baoshui, Dongli, Xiqing, Jinnan, Beichen, Wuqing and Baodi; 3 Counties: Jinghai, Ninghe and Jixian
China	People's Republic of China <i>Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo</i>	Four administrative levels: A) Provincial: 4 Municipalities with provincial status, 23 Provinces, 5 Autonomous Regions 2 Special Administrative Regions, B) Prefectural, 283 Prefecture Cities, 17 Prefectures, 30 Autonomous Prefectures, 3 Leagues C) County, 851 Districts 374 County Cities 1,465 Counties 117 Autonomous Counties 55 Other typologies D) Local: 44,067 local administrations (towns and villages).

3. Institutional framework and political powers

Municipality of Tianjin

General Aspects

Tianjin is one of the four municipalities with the status of a province. Unlike the municipalities that do not have this status, the Municipality of Tianjin is able to directly interact with the government of the People's Republic. As a municipal administration it develops its activities in the following areas: infrastructure provision (highways, subway, bridges, airport, etc.), urban promotion (housing and offices), water management, port management, the environment, primary-school education, public health, economic promotion, industry, trade, tourism, science and technology, agriculture, healthcare and waste management.

People's Congress of the Municipality of Tianjin

The People's Congress is the maximum organ of power in the Municipality of Tianjin. This organ is part of the structure of Popular Councils, that is the main form in which political power is organised in the People's Republic of China. Its 710 members serve in office for 5 years and they are elected by the Peoples Congress of Districts and Counties of the same Municipality. The Congress is responsible for the implementation of law and regulations in the municipality. It exercises legislative functions. Responsibilities include approving the following instruments: regulations and rules at the municipal level, economic plans and budgets; as well as reviewing acts and agreements of the institutions at the corresponding administrative level, districts and counties. The Congress also reviews and checks compliance with the law and provisions in its territory.

Standing Committee of the People's Congress of the Municipality of Tianjin

The Standing Committee debates and decides over administrative issues of the municipality; supervises the activity of municipality government and the mayor; it has powers to overcome and cancel decisions made by districts, counties, cities and towns under its jurisdiction; it appoints high-level officials of the municipality. The 57 members of this Committee are selected by the People's Congress and it is governed by a President and a Vice-president.

Mayor and People's Government of the Municipality of Tianjin

The mayor is responsible of the direction and co-ordination of the work of the Municipality's Government, which is composed by 45 departments and depending bodies. Both mayor and government are appointed by the People's Congress and their activities are supervised by the same Congress. The Mayor and the other government members serve for a term of five years. The Mayor may only exercise two mandates consecutively.

General Office of People's Government of the Municipality of Tianjin

Leads the administration of the municipality. Activity consists of applying and enforcing programs, projects and initiatives agreed upon by the People's Government of the Municipality.

Tianjin Public Companies

Tianjin Water

A company owned by the Tianjin Government and devoted to water management in Tianjin. Company responsible for the supply of drinking water and the sewerage system.

Powers also extend to the construction, maintenance and renovation of the collection and storage water system in Tianjin.

Tianjin Electric Power Corp.

Tianjin Electric Power Corporation is a large state owned enterprise which is responsible for the power supply for Tianjin area and industrial thermal supply for some of enterprise, institutions, public facilities and residential areas in 4 administrative districts.

Tianjin Public Transportation Group

The public company is dedicated to providing public transportation services and operates the bus and taxi systems in Tianjin.

People's Republic of China

President

He is the Head of State its most important functions are: sanctioning laws, establishing orders (e.g., states of emergency), appointing senior political positions (Prime Minister, ministers, supreme court members, etc.) and foreign representatives. He is appointed by the Presidium of the National People's Congress (NPC).

National People's Congress, NPC (*Quanguo Renmin Daibiao Dahu*)

The main responsibilities include approving laws and constitutional reforms; granting the status of autonomous region and municipality; choosing and removing the President and Vice President of the Republic, the members of the NPC Standing Committee and other senior public servants; approving economic plans and State budgets. Made up of 2,984 members elected by territories, provinces, municipalities and the armed forces for five-year mandates. The NPC is obliged by the statute to meet once a year.

NPC Standing Committee

This is the permanent organ of the NPC and carries out its functions when the NPC is not in session. It interprets the Constitution and thus supervises its implementation, cancelling acts by the State Council that contravene it. When the NPC is not in session, the Standing Committee sanctions important laws; exercises legislative functions and economic planning functions in line with the matters approved by the NPC; supervises the activity of the main organs of the State and cancels local regulations and acts that do not meet the legislation. The Standing Committee is made up of 159 members elected from among the members of the NPC. The members of the Committee cannot combine this institutional responsibility with any other work.

State Council

This is the maximum administrative organ and acts as the executive power in the Republic. Its main functions include authority over the regulation development of the Constitution and laws; leading the central, local and regional administrations and managing the economic development plan. It is made up of the Prime Minister, the Vice President and 28 ministries. All the 40 members are elected by the NPC upon the proposal of the President of the Republic.

4. Relevant websites and online documents

Municipality of Tianjin <http://www.tianjin.gov.cn>

Popular Republic of China <http://www1.china.org.cn/english/index.htm>

Tianjin Water: <http://www.tj.gov.cn>

Tianjin Electric Power Corp.: <http://www.tjep.net/tjonnew/jtyd/dianli/jianjie.htm>

Tianjin Public Transportation Group: <http://www.tjbus.com>