

016 Beijing (China)

10.8 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
Beijing Urban Districts	*7,140,000	0.55 %	1,369 km ²	5,216 h/km ²
Beijing	**13,659,194	1.06 %	16,484 km ²	829 h/km ²
China	**1,286,975,468	100 %	9,596,960	134

* According to information provided by the Government of the City of Beijing on their website in Beijing en 02/2005.

**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
Beijing Urban Districts	These districts do not form a single political or administrative unit. They are the historical centre of the municipality.	8 Districts (<i>Qu</i>): 4 Urban: Dongcheng, Xicheng, Chongwen and Xuanwu 4 Suburban: Chaoyang, Haidian, Fengtai and Shijingshan.
Beijing	Beijing Municipal District	1 Municipality (<i>Shi</i>) 8 Districts (<i>Qu</i>) Urban and Suburban: Dongcheng, Xicheng, Chongwen, Xuanwu, Chaoyang, Haidian, Fengtai and Shijingshan, 8 Other Districts (<i>Qu</i>): Dongcheng, Mentougou, Fangshan, Tongzhou, Shunyi, Changping, Daxing, Pinggu and Huairou 2 Counties (<i>Xian</i>): Miyun and Yanqing 36 Cities 253 Towns 4,432 Villages
China	Popular 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

Beijing

General Aspects

Beijing is one of the four municipalities with the status of a province – Shanghai, Beijing, Tianjing and Chongqing. Unlike the municipalities that do not have this status, the Municipality of Beijing 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 Beijing

The People's Congress is the maximum organ of power in the Municipality of Beijing. 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 772 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 Beijing

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 People's Congress selects the 70 members of this Committee and a President and a Vice-president govern it.

Mayor and People's Government of the Municipality of Beijing

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. The People's Congress appoints the same Congress supervises both mayor and government and their activities. The Mayor and the other government members serve for a term of five years. The Mayor may only exercise two mandates consecutively.

Beijing Public Companies

Beijing Bus

This public company is dedicated to providing public transportation services through the operation of both bus and taxi networks. It is also the largest ground-carrying corporation in Beijing.

Beijing Subway

The public company responsible for the management and operation of the main subway four lines (include No.1, 2, 13 Line and Batong Line) with 70 stations in Beijing.

Beijing Urban Construction (Group) Corporation

The Group Corporation and its subsidiaries are the main force in municipal construction in Beijing including major infrastructure projects, such as highways, metro network, airport, track traffic, and also housing projects.

People's Republic of China

President

Head of State. Functions: sanctioning laws, establishing orders (e.g., states of emergency), appointing senior political positions (PM, ministers, etc.) and foreign representatives. Appointed by the Presidium of the National People's Congress (NPC).

National People's Congress (*Quanguo Renmin Daibiao Dahui*)

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 2,985 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 a varying number of state councillors. All the members are elected by the NPC upon the proposal of the President of the Republic.

4. Relevant websites and online documents

Municipal Government of Beijing: <http://www.ebeijing.gov.cn/>

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