

SHENZHEN AT A GLANCE

Location:
South China's Guangdong province and neighboring Hong Kong

Area: 1,997.47 sq km

Coastline: 260.5 km

Climate:
Warm and humid with an average annual rainfall of 1,925.8 mm and average annual temperature of 23°C

Permanent population:
13.44 million in 2019

City flower:
Bougainvillea

City trees:
Litchi and mangrove



Transport: 8 railway stations, 15 container berths capable of handling 200,000-tonnage vessels, 60 international flight routes and 8 subway lines

GDP

2.69

trillion yuan

2019

Unit: billion yuan	
2018	2,422.20
2017	2,249.01
2016	2,007.97
2015	1,801.41
2014	1,644.95
2013	1,497.94
2012	1,331.97
2011	1,180.72
2010	1,000.22
2009	848.56
2008	794.14
2007	692.52
2006	592.07
2005	503.58
2004	435.03
2003	364.01
2002	301.72
2001	252.29
2000	221.92
1999	84.28
1998	17.17
1997	3.90
1996	0.27

SMART 40TH SHENZHEN

One of the pioneers and front-runners of China's reform and opening-up since it was designated as a special economic zone 40 years ago, the southern city has grown from a lesser-known fishing town into a bustling metropolis. As a core city in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and a pilot demonstrative zone to further reform and opening-up, Shenzhen is in a better position to achieve high-quality development.

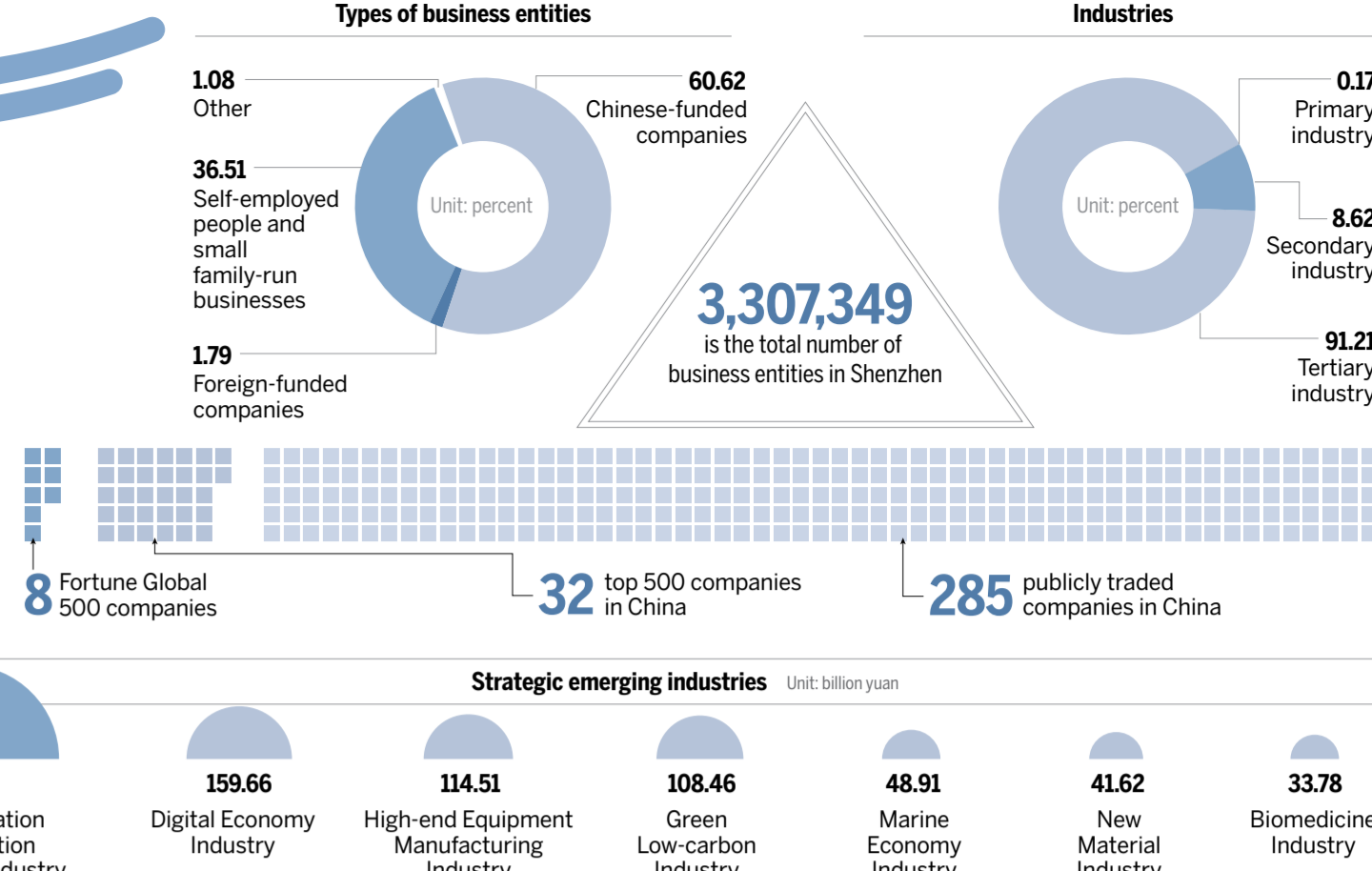
Unit: billion yuan	
3,600.06	2018
3,355.04	2017
2,854.78	2016
2,660.81	2015
2,580.99	2014
2,404.40	2013
2,230.90	2012
2,127.31	2011
1,887.97	2010
1,582.86	2009
1,628.38	2008
1,436.29	2007
1,227.85	2006
1,017.45	2005
858.88	2004
679.76	2003
468.24	2002
374.77	2001
307.15	2000
129.22	1999
22.02	1998
2.47	1997
0.11	1996

Gross output value of industry

3.68

trillion yuan

2019



"WHILE ITS EXPERIENCE ACCUMULATED OVER THE PAST 40 YEARS HAS BEEN PRACTICED IN OTHER CITIES, IT IS TIME FOR THE CITY TO SET OFF AGAIN ON NEW EXPERIMENTS AND ENDEAVORS."

Fan Gang, an economist and president of the China Development Institute

Friendly business environment attracts influx of entrepreneurs

By CAO YINGYING

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Thanks to efforts aimed at improving its business environment, Shenzhen in South China's Guangdong province has become one of the most attractive destinations in China for global entrepreneurs.

The city released in March this year's key tasks for further optimizing its business environment. The package comprises 210 reforms covering 14 areas, including business registration, project approval, urban facility access and services, real estate registration, intellectual property protection and application, and market supervision.

Shenzhen will also utilize big data, 5G, artificial intelligence and cloud services to create intelligent platforms to make registrations, investment, tax filing and other services more convenient.

The measures aim to create a world-class open and transparent business environment. The city will continue to support the healthy and sustainable development of companies and boost their confidence in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the local government said.

Last year's measures have been claimed a success by the government. They included China's first intelligent business license approval system that can process individual business registrations within seconds.

The official Shenzhen app, which was launched last year, can be used for 4200 services, and can process 98 percent of all administrative examination and approval items online, reducing by 70 percent government submissions from businesses and individuals.

Through the app, customs clearance time for imports and exports has been reduced by 54 percent and 76 percent respectively, making the city top in the country in terms of customs clearance efficiency.

The Shenzhen government has established Entrepreneur Day which is celebrated every Nov. 1 and is the first day of its kind in China. On that day, government

officials communicate with entrepreneurs and provide them with policy consultancy, including tax advice and administrative fee reductions, as well as other helpful services.

Measures have also been released to increase support for the development of the city's private economy, reducing costs by more than 100 billion yuan (\$14.4 billion), raising bank credit lines by more than 100 billion yuan, increasing issuance of debt by more than 100 billion yuan and setting up a development fund of 100 billion yuan for private companies.

The authorities also attach great importance to legal innovation and IP protection.

A public legal service has been established that covers 700 platforms in Shenzhen to cooperate with legal institutions and provide legal services and advice for private businesses and small and medium-sized enterprises.

According to the China Business Environment and Private Entrepreneurs Evaluation Report released by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences last December, the comprehensive score of Shenzhen's business environment ranked second among 34 cities in the country. And Shenzhen is the best in terms of opening-up and legal environment, according to the report.

Last year, the city reported it was home to more than 400,000 newly-registered commercial entities and had attracted 280,000 professionals.

According to the local government, Shenzhen will deepen market-oriented reform in the fields of medical care and other services closely related to people's life quality and encourage companies to open high-level medical institutions, elderly care homes and international schools.

Meanwhile, the city will promote reform in its administrative examination and approval system, housing and environmental protection to build a better business environment through coordinated and efficient measures.

From left:

Chinese automaker BYD's global headquarters is a landmark building in Shenzhen, which houses an array of research and development facilities.

Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneur Hub attracts hundreds of startup businesses.

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Out of the past year's award winners for design, two were companies headquartered in Shenzhen — DJI and carmaker BYD.

Economy bustling with tech giants and a vast pool of professionals

By HU YUYAN

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One thing many major Chinese tech companies have in common is that they have all made a presence in Shenzhen in South China's Guangdong province, a city "born out of innovation," which houses an array of research and development facilities.

Since it became a special economic zone 40 years ago, Shenzhen has established the Shenzhen Intellectual Property Court and the China (South) Intellectual Property Court, the first stock certificate and the establishment of the first law firm since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

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The city is also strengthening its protection of intellectual property, to provide an important guarantee for innovation-driven development.

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