

Highway, Yangzi-Ganyu Highway, Jinan-Qingdao Highway meets here.

The city is home to **Weifang Fresico Food Industries Co., Ltd.**, a joint venture company between Fredag Holding AG of Root, Luzern, COFCO in Beijing and Sinameg of Singapore. Fresico started its operation about four years ago. Further expansion and investment are planned. Most of Fresico's products are in the specialty premium poultry sector. They are destined both for the Asian market and for export to over 14 countries worldwide.

Xi'an – the Heart of China and Door to the West

Xi'an, also known as Chang'an in ancient times, is located on the Central Shaanxi Plains (population 35 million) in the Northwest of China. With a total area of 9,983 km, Xi'an exercises jurisdiction over 8 districts and 5 counties with a population of more than 6 million. As one of China's 6 metropolitan areas, Xi'an has a history of more than 3,100 years. While Xi'an belongs to the Northwest of China, it actually is located in the centre of China. It was a world famous ancient capital city. From the 11th century B.C. on, for a period lasting more than 1,100 years, it has enjoyed a reputation as one of the 6 great ancient capitals in China where rich relics remain. It is one of the four ancient capitals of world, along with Athens, Rome, and Cairo. The eighth Wonder, "Terra Cotta Warriors" and the horses of the Qin dynasty were found here. It is a rich land with a good location. Today Xi'an is the largest centre of industry, science education, trade, tourism, and culture in the Northwest part of China. It has established a complete industrial system in electronic and light textile industry. It has forty-four institutions of higher learning, five hundred scientific research institutions, and three hundred and forty thousand scientists and technical staff. In the areas of comprehensive science and technology, Xi'an ranks third in China. Xi'an has become a major metropolitan area with numerous assets, an advanced economy and a strong momentum towards modernism.

North Economic & Technological Development Zone (XETDZ)

XETDZ is situated outside of the north gate of Xi'an city. It is 5.5 km to the city's centre and 5 km to the Xi'an railway station and cargo station. It holds a distinct superiority in transportation. Its total area is 23.6 square km of infrastructure facilities where 3.4 square km have been

Are Qingdao or Weifang places for Swiss businesses?

Qingdao and Weifang are definitely places where other Swiss companies could invest or establish a foothold in China.

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Director Wen Chang Sheng of the Northern Development Zone.

completed. The XETDZ has perfected telecommunications and infrastructure, a powerful supply of water and electricity, scientific & technological strength, an excellent financial structure and an efficient operation system. In June 2000, XETDZ attracted 241 projects with a total investment of RMB 15.6 billion CNY (USD 450 million). World-famous companies have invested in XETDZ, such as Coca Cola, General Electric, Pratt & Whitney (U.S.A), Rolls & Royce, Swire Group (British), Siemens (Germany), Mitsubishi (Japan), ABB (Switzerland), Hydro (Norway), Volvo (Sweden) and Tingxin Group from Taiwan. Investment in the following fields will be encouraged in XETDZ:

- New material industries: newly-developed aluminium, titanium, magnesium and plastic products, glassfiber, and rare-earth materials products.
- Bio-pharmaceutical industry: all kinds of medicine, DNA chip, biomedicine and medical equipment.

- Light industry and food: light industry products, food and beverage products.
- Machinery & Electronic industry: aerospace components, auto-parts, household electronics, electric appliances, industrial products and parts.
- Finance, trade, service and other related industries.

- the city is gradually being free from cumbersome large traffic,
- the city is set to step up its traffic planning system within the next two years (the minimum period for investigation) including its traffic signal system,
- a Project for the first part of an underground traffic system is under examination with the Planning Commission of the Government.

What further developments lie ahead?

Rome was not built in a day and there is always room for further improvement. We are working hard, therefore, to resolve any backlogs as quickly as we can. The motorway within the City:

- the 2nd Ring Road was totally complete by 2001,
- a project for a 3'd Ring Road deflecting transit traffic is under examination with the Planning Commission of the Government. It should be ready by 2002,

Similarly, railway links are about to be extended, not only in the northern part of the country but predominantly with Xi'an as the pivotal point (extension of the rail system towards the north and south-west to be completed by this year). In addition, a new railway terminal equipped with all the facilities of a container terminal will be completed by 2004. Construction work for the extension of Xi'an International Airport has just begun and will be completed in this year.

(continued on next page)

LABOUR COST STRUCTURE OF THE PROVINCE SHAANXI

Types of Jobs	Payment Job Start	Medium Scale	Highest Scale
Skilled worker	450.00CNY	600.00CNY	800.00CNY
Technician	550.00CNY	1000.00CNY	2000.00CNY
Foreman	750.00CNY	1200.00CNY	1500.00CNY
Engineer production	800.00CNY	1500.00CNY	2000.00CNY
Engineer r&d	1200.00CNY	1800.00CNY	3000.00CNY
Manager workshop	1500.00CNY	2000.00CNY	4000.00CNY
Secretary admin.	500.00CNY	1000.00CNY	1500.00CNY
Secretary bilingual	800.00CNY	1000.00CNY	1500.00CNY
Bookkeeper	450.00CNY	650.00CNY	1000.00CNY
Manager financial	1000.00CNY	2000.00CNY	3000.00CNY
Assistant comm.	800.00CNY	1200.00CNY	2000.00CNY
Manager comm.	1500.00CNY	2000.00CNY	3000.00CNY
Assistant shop	600.00CNY	850.00CNY	1200.00CNY
Storekeeper	400.00CNY	800.00CNY	1000.00CNY
IT-Personnel, skilled	1000.00CNY	2000.00CNY	4000.00CNY
IT-Personnel, graduate	2400.00CNY	3600.00CNY	6000.00CNY
Unskilled worker	300.00CNY	400.00CNY	500.00CNY



Xi'an Northern Development Zone, Xi'an Downtown.

The new High Tech Industrial Development Zone (HTDZ)

HTDZ has just opened a new Technology Park in the south of Xi'an (Chang'an county) which will be developed and gradually united with the core part of the Zone. This infers further vigorous development work to reinforce Xi'an's position as a new high-tech centre of the central and north-west of China. HTDZ has applied for the opening of a new Free Trade Park, a Free Trade Zone comparable to the Free Trade Zones of the coastal areas. This capitalises on Xi'an's affluence of skilled labour and the low costs of the region, thus being able to cater more efficiently for the needs of foreign producers and inexpensive production areas. The application has passed the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation (MOFTEC) and is now under review at the State Council. Against the backdrop of the "Go West Policy". Beyond this, HTDZ is working hard to further invigorate its service abilities for new investors and for those companies already operating within the Zone. This means that HTDZ is fully aware of its social commitments, its service commitments and service abilities.

Your Partner Company in Xi'an

Crane Ltd. a Chinese company with close relationship to Xilex AG (member of Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce). Crane Ltd. is registered in XEDTZ, and has a share capital of CNY 500'000.00. Crane Ltd. knows the

Western and Chinese culture and mentality very well. You can communicate in English or German language.

Crane is able to assist:

- Representing Swiss/European in the Shaanxi Province* or in whole China
- Preparations for representing Chinese companies in Europe and Switzerland
- Searching for various partners, such as: distributors, licensees, joint venture parties, etc.
- Facilitating communication among parties
- Assisting in negotiations
- Follow-up on a short, medium or long term basis
- Market research in various domains
- Import & Export of goods

* Crane's has further good established relations to western -, eastern -, and northern China as well as to Taiwan.

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BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPACITIES/XIAN

Infrastructure in terms of		Operating expenses
Fresh water	Available, no cuts any more	CNY 2.16/t for industry; RMB 1.80/t for private use
Electricity	Available, brown outs have become rare	CNY 0.448/KWH (<10KV) resp. CNY 0.52/KVH (>10KV) for power industrial use CNY 0.673/KWH for lighting (industrial) CNY 0.525/KWH for power (private use)
Natural Gas	Available, unlimited	—
Telecom	Available (DDD within days, IDD ~ 3 days)	—
Heating	Available, unlimited	one month for industry CNY 5.00 per m ² one month for private use CNY 2.40 per m ²
Treatment of sewage water	Available, unlimited	Surcharge of CNY 0.16 per ton water
Hospitals	Available; one in the City interna. standard	—
International schools	One	
Availability of prefabricated buildings	Yes; 1850.00 CNY/m ² for sale; for rent 30.00 - 50.00 CNY per m ²	—

TRAFFIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Types	Direct Destinations	Travelling time	Remarks
Motorways	Beijing	9h	
	Shanghai	15h	Shanghai (expected time of completion 2005) Wuhan (expected time of completion 2005)
National Highways	Xi'an to Beijing	18h	
	Xi'an to Tianjing	20h	
	Xi'an to Shanghai	24h	
	Xi'an to Yinchuan	15h	
	Xi'an to Tianshui	7h	
East-West Passage	Yinchuan to Xi'an	13h	ready middle of the year 2002
	Xi'an to Hefei	20h	ready in the year 2003
	Baotou to Beijing	13h	ready middle of the year 2002
Railways	Essential destinations:		
	Beijing (Northwest)	13.5h	twin rail
	Chengdu (south)	16h	twin rail
	Lanzhou (west)	14h	twin rail
	Shanghai (south)	17h	twin rail
	Tianjin (east)	22h	twin rail
	Wuhan (Southeast)	32h	Under construction
Taiyuan (north)	15h	Under examination	
Airways	Domestic		All major cities in China (69 departures a day)
	Hong Kong	3.5h	8 times a week
	Japan	5h	18 times a week (6 cities)
	Macao	3.5h	6 times a week
	Korea	3.5h	4 times a week
			Direct flights to EU, USA are projected, Xi'an get a new internat. Airport