

Facts about China

- Urban dwellers spend three hours and thirty-eight minutes in front of the TV set daily. This accounts for 56.6 percent of their leisure time.
- In 1984, citizens of Shenyang, Chongqing, Dalian and Chengdu spent only one hour daily watching TV or listening to the radio.
- In 1985 there were only 17.2 TV sets for every 100 urban households. The figure rose to 89.8 in 1995 and 100.5 in 1997.
- Males spend more time watching TV than females.

In 1978:

- There were only 3.69 million telephones nationwide in China.
- Only 0.38 percent of the population had access to telephone services.
- In some places it took from 1-2 days to put through one long distance phone call.
- In Beijing, only 85 per cent of long distance calls could be put through within one hour.

In 1997/98

- Eight percent of the population have their own telephone with the figure climbing to 26 percent in the cities.
- The number of long-distance lines increased from 19,000 in 1978 to 1.146 million in 1997.
- The handling capacity of long-distance telephone switches grew from 11,000 lines in 1978 to 4.368 million in 1997.
- By the end of 1997 there were 79,000 post offices nationwide. Postal transportation routes totaled 2.363 million kilometers, five times the length of 1978.

Data taken from *China Daily*, 20-10-98, and *Beijing Review*, 26-10-11,98)