2026

China Retirement Outlook

Mainland China is ageing fast and holds a large share of the world's wealth, but most of it stays at home and public pensions are small. There is little evidence of older Chinese retiring abroad. Visitors from China to the Dominican Republic are few, and business is their main reason for coming, yet Chinese citizens receive many DR residencies (all types).



Prepared by Retire.do · 25 September 2026 · retire.do

CN COUNTRY OUTLOOK · 25 SEPTEMBER 2026

China Retirement Outlook 2026

2,898

DR residencies granted to Chinese citizens in 2025, the third most of any nationality. All types, not only pensioners: the file gives no reasons or ages[1]

Mainland China is ageing fast and holds a large share of the world's wealth, but most of it stays at home and public pensions are small. There is little evidence of older Chinese retiring abroad. Visitors from China to the Dominican Republic are few, and business is their main reason for coming, yet Chinese citizens receive many DR residencies (all types).

Yuan (CNY) unless marked US$ | All figures are estimates, with sources | Most of this wealth stays in China | Not legal or tax advice

Key takeaways

5.3M+

Great wealth, and most of it stays in China.

UBS estimated that mainland China held **almost 20%** of the world's personal wealth at the end of 2024, and had **over 5.3 million** dollar millionaires at the end of 2025. Most of this wealth stays at home, and capital controls limit what can leave: each person has a yearly quota of **US$50,000** for buying foreign currency, and none of it may be used to buy property abroad. [2, 3, 4, 5]

223.65M

China is ageing fast.

Mainland China counted **223.65 million** people aged 65 and over at the end of 2025, 15.9% of the population, while the population fell by 3.39 million. The UN, whose own estimate for mid-2025 is lower (211.16 million), projects **312.99 million** by 2035, 22.8% of the population. [6, 7]

US$543

Public pensions are small.

The urban employees' pension averages roughly **3,900 yuan (about US$543) a month**, and the residents' pension about **276 yuan (about US$38)** (rough averages, our calculation). Both are well below the US$1,500 a month in DR Law 171-07 as written in 2007; a Dominican lawyer must confirm today's rules. [8, 9, 10]

6,149

Few visitors come from China, and business is the main reason.

Residents of China made **6,149** air arrivals in the DR in 2025, the most since at least 2000 but 0.08% of foreign arrivals (our calculation). 43.3% came on business, against 2.7% of all foreign visitors, and only 20.6% were aged 50 or over. China does not appear as a departure country for flights to the DR. [11, 12, 13]

2,898

Chinese citizens receive many DR residencies.

The DR granted **2,898** residencies to Chinese citizens in 2025, more than to US citizens (2,069) and up 39.1% on 2018 (our calculation). The file covers every type (work, family, investment, pensioner) and gives no reasons or ages, so it cannot show how many are retirees. [1]

No cover

China's basic health insurance does not pay abroad.

China's basic medical insurance does not pay for treatment abroad, China has no double-taxation agreement with the DR, and ordinary Chinese passport holders need a DR visa. A Chinese pension can continue abroad with a yearly proof of life. [14, 15, 16, 17, 18]

1 The wealth picture

UBS estimated that mainland China held **almost 20%** of the world's personal wealth at the end of 2024, second only to the US (almost 35%), much of it in homes. Its 2026 edition gives 18.5% for Greater China, which also counts Hong Kong and Taiwan. Most of this wealth stays inside China, and capital controls limit what can leave.[2, 3, 4]

DOLLAR MILLIONAIRES

5.305M

Adults worth US$1 million or more at the end of 2025, second after the US (23.6 million); a UBS model[3]

TO CHANGE HANDS

US$5.6T+

More than US$5.6 trillion over the next 20 to 25 years, third after the US and Brazil (UBS)[2]

PASSING ON, 10 YEARS

21T yuan

About US$2.92 trillion (our conversion); Hurun's figure includes Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan[19, 9]

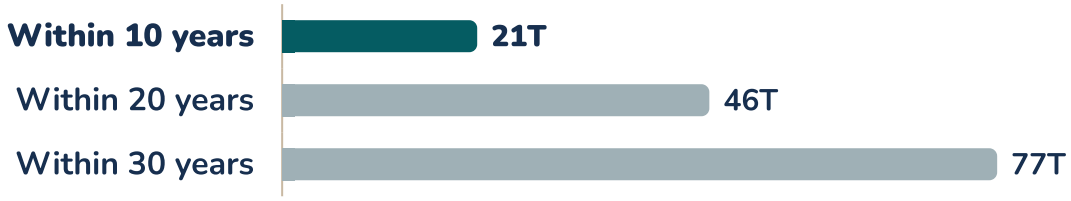
UBS and Hurun differ in scope, method, currency and period: do not compare or add them. UBS revises its millionaire counts every year; its 2025 edition gave 6.327 million for the end of 2024, which is not comparable with 5.305 million.[2, 3, 19]

Hurun: 21 trillion yuan to the next generation within 10 years

Wealth that Hurun expects to pass to the next generation, cumulative from 1 January 2025, in trillion yuan. Covers mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.

US$2.92T

the 10-year figure at 7.1875 yuan per US dollar (our conversion)



Estimates: a model. Hurun Research Institute and Bank of East Asia (China), 2025 BEA Hurun Wealth Report. The method is not published in detail. [19, 9]

Who holds the wealth

Affluent families counted by Hurun, 1 January 2025 [19]

FAMILY ASSETS OF AT LEAST	ABOUT (OUR CONVERSION)	FAMILIES
6 million yuan	US$835,000	**5.06 million**
10 million yuan	US$1.39 million	2.005 million
100 million yuan	US$13.9 million	126,000

Each row includes the rows below it. The 5.06 million families hold 145 trillion yuan in all, down 3.3% in a year, counting company shares, their own home, investment property and liquid assets. Overseas assets are 15% of their investable assets, and Hong Kong, counted as overseas, is the favourite destination. A Hurun model, not official statistics; it includes Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan. Conversions at 7.1875 yuan per US dollar.

The typical urban household. In the central bank's 2019 survey of more than 30,000 urban households, average net worth was **2.89 million yuan** and the median **1.41 million yuan**, about US$418,000 and US$204,000 at the 2019 rate (our conversion). Households headed by someone aged 56 to 64 had the highest average assets. [20, 9]

Most of this wealth stays in China. Each person has a yearly quota of US$50,000 for buying foreign currency (more needs proof of a specific need, such as study fees), and no currency bought by a person may be used to buy property abroad.[4, 5] No source estimates how much of this wealth is spent in the Dominican Republic. Read these figures as the size of the pool at home, not as money heading to the DR.

2 Homes and businesses changing hands

Homes are a large share of what Chinese households own, and very few older people use reverse mortgages. Many family firms, meanwhile, face a handover to a new generation.[20, 21, 22]

URBAN HOMEOWNERSHIP

96.0%

of urban households owned a home in 2019; 41.5% of owners had two or more (our sum)[20]

SHARE HELD IN HOUSING

59.1%

of urban household assets in 2019; average housing assets 1.878 million yuan[20]

AGED 60+, OWN A HOME

70.1%

in their own or their spouse's name, 2021 (72.0% in towns and cities)[23]

REVERSE MORTGAGES

214

older people (147 households) in reverse-mortgage pension insurance at Happy Life, the only insurer offering it, by November 2023[21]

The central bank survey covers towns and cities only, dates from October 2019, before the property downturn, and is in 2019 yuan.[20]

- **Two homes are common.** Among urban households that owned a home in 2019, 58.4% owned one, 31.0% owned two and 10.5% owned three or

more. The survey does not name the base, but the three shares add up to 100%, so we read them as shares of owners. [20]

- **About half in property.** UBS puts financial assets at 51.9% of gross household wealth in mainland China at the end of 2025 and debts at 10.6%, so non-financial assets, mainly homes, are about 48% (our calculation). The central bank survey gave housing 59.1% of urban household assets in 2019; dates and methods differ. [3, 20]
- **Little debt in old age.** Households headed by someone aged 65 or over had the lowest debt participation in 2019: 25.1% had any debt. [20]
- **Reverse mortgages are almost unused.** Reverse-mortgage pension insurance was piloted from 2014 and opened nationally in 2018, yet by the end of November 2023 only 214 older people (147 households) had joined at Happy Life, the only insurer then offering it. [21]
- **Living alone.** 14.2% of people aged 60 and over lived alone in 2021. [23]

Business owners near retirement

Private business owners and succession in China

FINDING	FIGURE	SOURCE
Registered private enterprises, end of April 2026	**61.02 million**, up 5.6% in a year	State market regulator, via People's Daily [24]
Private firms that are family businesses	**More than 80%**	China Private Economy Research Association, cited by China Economic Weekly [22]
Family firms facing a handover since 2017	**About three quarters**	China Private Economy Research Association, cited by China Economic Weekly [22]
Chairs of A-share listed private firms whose controlling owner is chair, 2022	**58%** over 55; 14% aged 60 to 65, 12% over 65	Soochow Securities, cited by China Economic Weekly [22]

Press-read estimates, not official counts. The age split covers only listed companies, not private firms in general. There is no official count of owners near retirement and no figure for what their firms are worth.

An owner who hands over a firm may also be deciding where to spend retirement. No source says how many of them look abroad.

3 Ageing: people aged 65 and over, now and in 2035

China's population is shrinking, but the number of people aged 65 and over grows by about 10 million a year on average to 2035, on UN projections (our calculation). [6, 7]

AGED 65+, END OF 2025

223.65M

15.9% of mainland China's 1,404.89 million people (official estimate)[6]

AGED 65+, 2035 (UN)

312.99M

22.8% of the population, up from 211.16 million (14.9%) in mid-2025[7]

ADDED, 2025 TO 2035

+101.8M

+48.2% in ten years (our calculation from the UN projection)[7]

AGED 60+, AROUND 2035

400M+

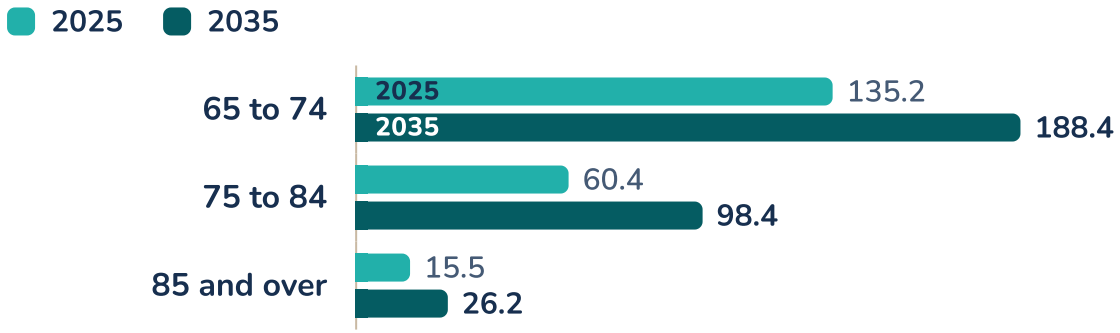
More than 30% of the population, the National Health Commission expects; the UN projects 422.1 million[25, 7]

About 102 million more people aged 65 and over by 2035

People aged 65 and over in China, in millions (UN medium variant; excludes Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan)

+48.2%

from 211.16 million in 2025 to 312.99 million in 2035 (our calculation)



Estimates. UN DESA, World Population Prospects 2024, medium variant; our sums of five-year age groups.[7]

Two series, side by side. China's statistics bureau counts **223.65 million** people aged 65 and over at the end of 2025, and 323.38 million aged 60 and over (23.0%). The UN's estimate for mid-2025 is lower, at 211.16 million aged 65 and over. The dates and methods differ, so use one series at a time; both leave out Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.[6, 7]

The oldest grow fastest. On UN projections, people aged 85 and over rise from 15.5 million in 2025 to 26.2 million in 2035, up 68.8% (our calculation).[7]

Pensions and retirement age

EMPLOYEES' PENSION

152.15M

retirees drawing the urban employees' pension at the end of 2025[8]

AVERAGE, EMPLOYEES

US$543

About 3,900 yuan a month, a rough average (our calculation)[8, 9]

RESIDENTS' PENSION

188.20M

people drawing the smaller urban and rural residents' pension[8]

AVERAGE, RESIDENTS

US$38

About 276 yuan a month, a rough average (our calculation)[8, 9]

We divided each fund's 2025 spending (7.12 trillion and 622.3 billion yuan) by the number of people drawing at the end of the year. Spending includes items other than pensions, which pushes the average up; year-end numbers are higher than the average during the year, which pushes it down. So these are rough averages, not what any one person receives.[8]

- **A later retirement age.** Since 1 January 2025 the statutory retirement age has been rising over 15 years: for men from 60 to 63, and for women from 50 and 55 to 55 and 58. From 2030 the minimum contribution period for a monthly pension rises by six months a year, from 15 years to 20 in 2039 (our calculation).[26]
- **What older people live on.** In 2021, older people in towns and cities had an average income of 47,270.8 yuan a year, about US$7,328 at the 2021 rate (our conversion); older people in the countryside had 14,105.4 yuan.[27, 9]
- **More older people does not mean more movers.** The next section shows how little is known about older Chinese abroad.

4 Retirees abroad from China

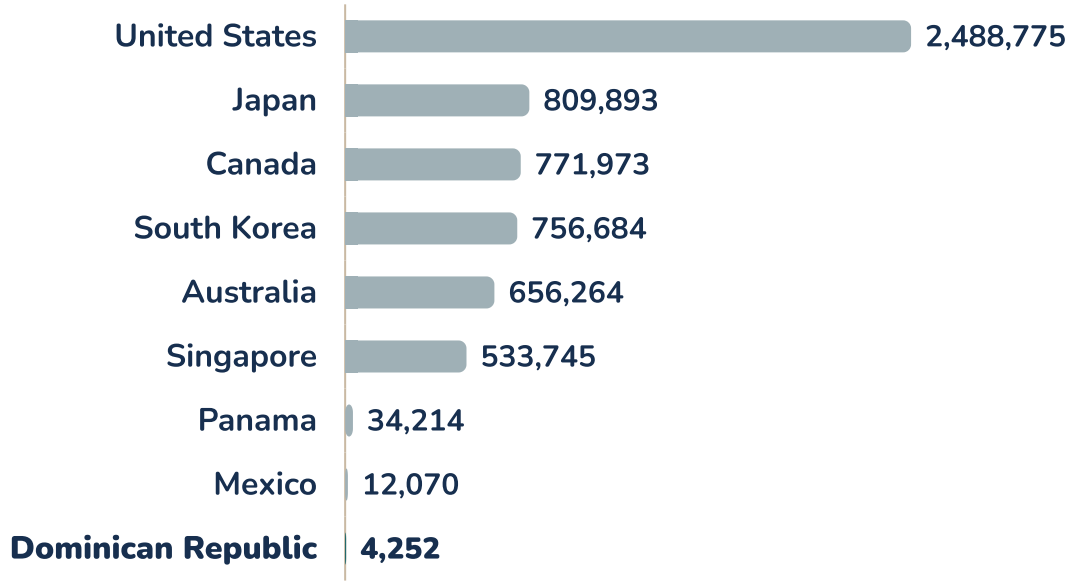
About 8.64 million people born in China live outside mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan (our calculation, mid-2024), mostly in North America and nearby Asia. No source counts how many retire abroad. [28]

Where people born in China live abroad

People born in China, all ages, mid-2024, in selected countries. Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan (3.06 million together) are left out.

55th

the DR's rank among 138 destinations outside Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan (our count)



Estimates. UN DESA, International Migrant Stock 2024, Table 1 (modelled, by country of birth); the rank is our count. [28]

Who goes abroad, and who retires there

- **Few older travellers leave the mainland.** In 2020, about 23.93 million people aged 60 and over travelled, and 1.5% of them went outside the mainland, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan included. 2020 was a pandemic year. [23]

- **Most trips out of the mainland stay close.** Mainland residents made 167.92 million trips out of the mainland in 2025, but 112.71 million were to Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, leaving about 55.21 million to other places (our calculation).[6]
- **Long stays close to home.** Chinese applicants had 10,830 of the 22,282 approvals in Malaysia's long-stay MM2H programme from 2015 to 2024 (48.6%, our calculation). The figures do not say how many are retirees.[29]
- **Some interest, weak evidence.** Among customers of one education company, EF, people over 46 rose from 6% of its Chinese overseas-study customers in 2019 to 28% in 2025. These are short courses, not moves.[30]
- **Where the DR fits.** None of these sources names the Dominican Republic as a place where older Chinese retire.

Pensions paid abroad

What is known about Chinese pensions and people living abroad

FINDING	FIGURE OR RULE
Pension proof-of-life certificates issued by Chinese embassies and consulates, about 2018 to 2021	**Nearly 140,000** in about three years, roughly 47,000 a year (our calculation)[17]
How the proof of life is done	Once each calendar year; also in the China Consular app since May 2021[17]
Retirees who settle abroad	Keep their pension, even after taking another nationality, with a certificate from a Chinese mission (a 2015 consulate page resting on a 1985 rule)[18]
People who settle abroad before retirement	Keep their pension account and claim once they meet the conditions; those who lose Chinese nationality may close the account instead[31]

Certificates, not people. There is no official count of Chinese pensioners abroad, no breakdown by country and no figure for the DR. We found no official source on how

a pension is paid to someone living abroad.

5 The Dominican Republic connection

China and the DR have had diplomatic relations only since 1 May 2018. Visitors from China are few, and business is their main reason for coming, but Chinese citizens receive many DR residencies.[32, 12, 1]

AIR ARRIVALS, 2025

6,149

by residents of China, the most since at least 2000 but 0.08% of foreign arrivals (our calculation)[11]

RESIDENCIES, 2025

2,898

granted to Chinese citizens, all types; third after Haiti and Venezuela[1]

BORN IN CHINA, IN THE DR

4,252

UN estimate for mid-2024; the DR's own 2017 survey found 2,595[28, 33]

FLIGHTS FROM CHINA

None

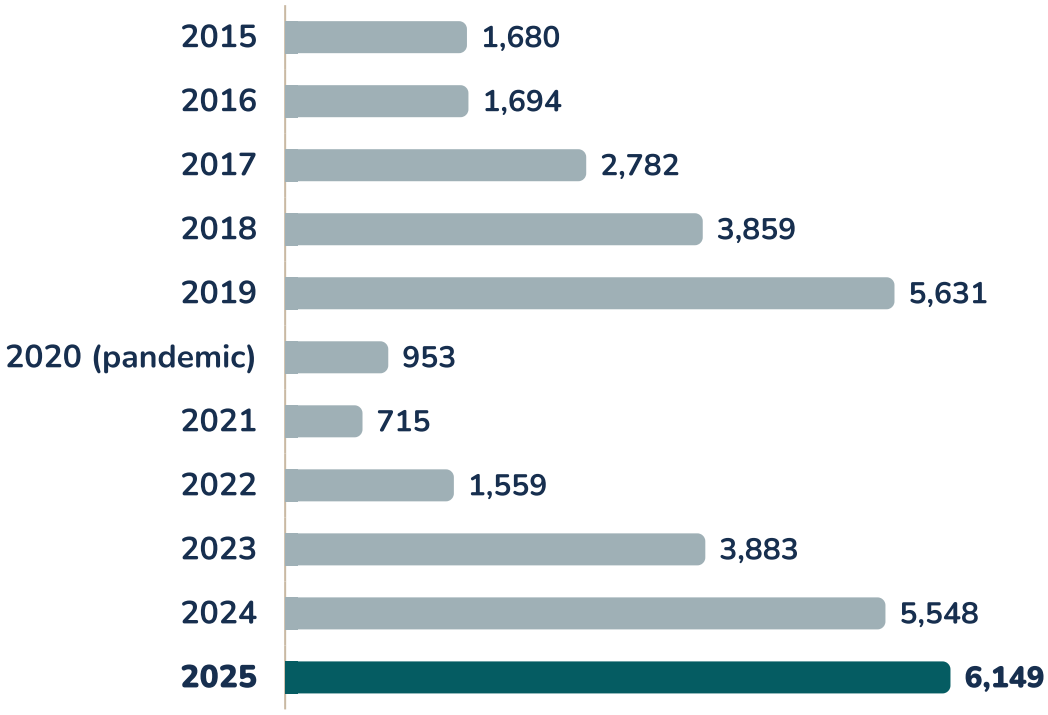
listed with China as the departure country, 2022 to August 2026; a few flights a year have no named country[13]

Arrivals from China passed their 2019 level in 2025

Air arrivals in the DR of foreign visitors living in China, by year

+9.2%

2025 against 2019, the previous high (our calculation)



Estimates. Banco Central de la República Dominicana (BCRD), air arrivals by country of residence. From 2021 the figures are Tourism Ministry e-ticket estimates, rounded here, so earlier years were counted differently. [11]

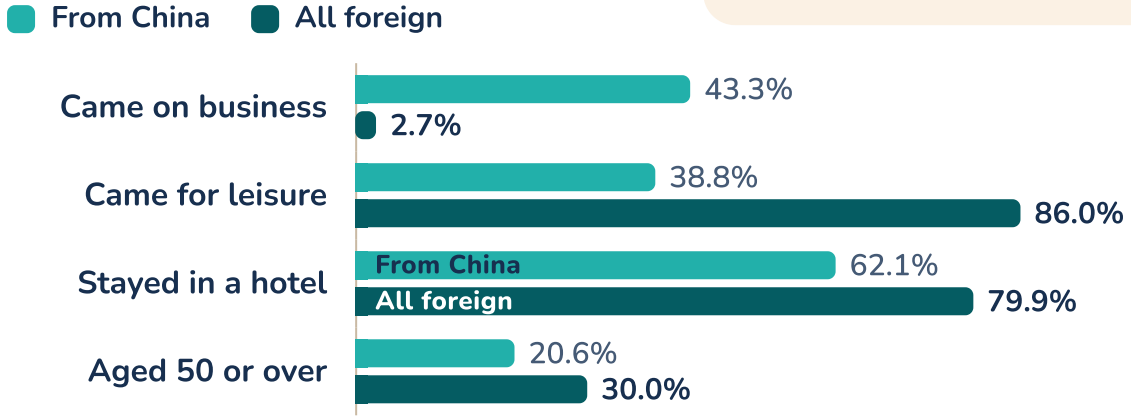
2026 so far: about the same. January to July 2026 counts 3,783 arrivals from residents of China, against 3,573 a year earlier. But arrivals of residents of Taiwan fall to zero in the central bank's 2026 file from February, so they are probably now counted under China; China and Taiwan together were about the same as a year earlier (+0.7%, our calculation). [11]

Business is the main reason visitors from China come

Air arrivals of residents of China compared with all foreign visitors, 2025, % of arrivals

43.3%

of arrivals from China came on business, against 2.7% of all foreign visitors



Estimates. BCRD, air arrivals by characteristics, 2025; shares are our calculation from the weighted counts. [12]

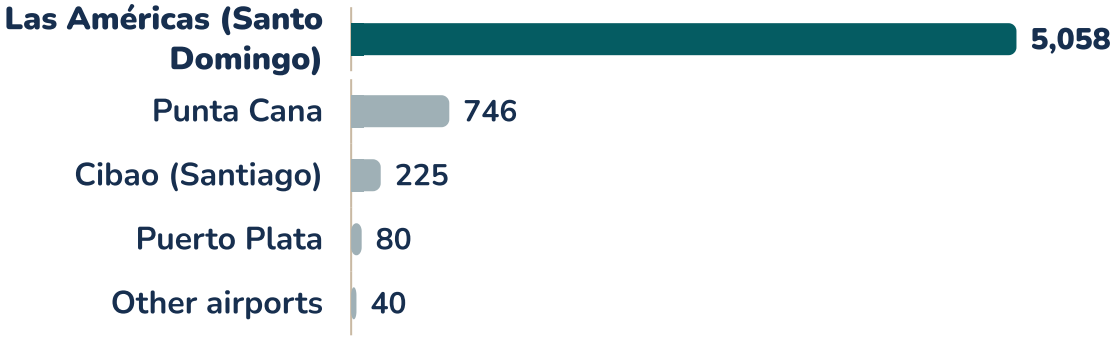
- **Mostly men.** 70.4% of arrivals from China in 2025 were men. 12.2% came to see friends or relatives and 4.9% for conferences. [12]
- **Aged 50 or over is not retired.** The top age band in the data is “50 and over”, so the figures cannot show who is retired. [12]
- **Trade between the two countries.** China sold US$4.81 billion of goods to the DR in 2025 and bought about US$0.53 billion, US$5.33 billion in all (Chinese figures). [32]

Most visitors from China land in Santo Domingo

Air arrivals of residents of China by DR airport, 2025 (weighted estimates, rounded)

82.3%

landed at Las Américas, which serves Santo Domingo (our calculation)



Estimates. BCRD, air arrivals by country of residence and airport, 2025. "Other airports" is the rest of the 6,149 total (our calculation). [11]

Chinese citizens who live elsewhere

Counted by nationality, far more Chinese citizens arrive: **28,629** air arrivals in 2025, about 22,500 of them by people who do not live in China (our rough calculation, assuming residents of China are Chinese citizens). 62.9% of all arrivals of Chinese nationality landed at Punta Cana, and roughly 77% of those not living in China (our rough calculation). December was the busiest month, with 5,199. The file does not say where they live. [34, 11]

Four counts of visits by Chinese citizens. Do not add them up. [34, 32, 35, 36]

SOURCE	WHAT IT COUNTS	COUNT
Central bank (BCRD)	Air arrivals of Chinese nationality, living outside the DR, 2025	28,629
China's foreign ministry	Trips by Chinese citizens to the DR, 2025	about 26,300
Chinese embassy in the DR	Trips by Chinese citizens, yearly average in recent years (not 2025 alone)	about 30,000
Migration office (DGM)	Airport entries by Chinese nationals, all statuses, 2025	19,791

Trips, not people, with different definitions. The central bank's nationality series shows Taiwan as 0 from 2022, so Taiwanese visitors may be counted under China there; the migration office lists Taiwan separately (877 entries in 2025). January to July 2026: 16,108 central-bank arrivals, up 6.7% on a year earlier (our calculation).

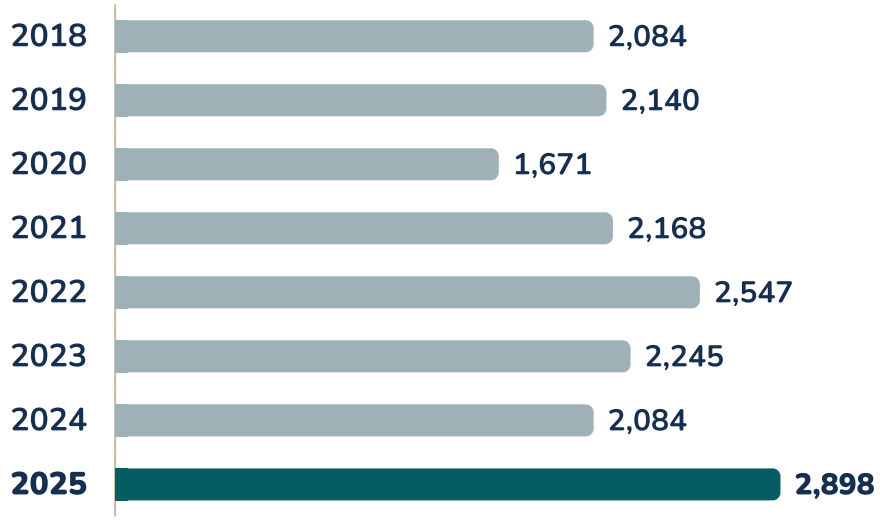
Residencies: more in 2025 and 2026, for every purpose

Residencies for Chinese citizens rose in 2025

Residencies granted by the Dominican Republic to Chinese citizens: temporary, permanent and definitive, for every purpose, not only pensioners

+39.1%

from 2018 to 2025 (our calculation); January to August 2026 is 17.1% ahead of a year earlier



Estimates. Dirección General de Migración (DGM), residencies by nationality and type; totals are our sums. [1]

In 2025, 2,898 residencies went to Chinese citizens: 51 definitive, 525 permanent and 2,322 temporary, 8.3% of all 34,778 (our calculation). Only Haitian (9,892) and Venezuelan (5,107) citizens received more. January to August 2026 counts 2,076, against 1,773 a year earlier. The file cannot show why: it gives no reason (work, family, investment or pension), no ages, and does not say whether renewals are included. [1]

How many people born in China live in the DR? Two estimates [28, 33]

YEAR	UN ESTIMATE	DR SURVEY (ENI)
2000	4,413	—
2010	1,413	—
2012	—	3,643
2015	3,776	—
2017	—	2,595
2020	3,942	—
2024	**4,252**	—

The UN figure is modelled, by country of birth, at mid-year; we found no explanation for its fall from 2000 to 2010. In 2024 it was 2,755 men and 1,497 women, 0.58% of the DR's immigrants (our calculation). The ENI is the DR's own immigrant survey; in 2017, 63.6% of China-born residents were men. Neither counts Dominicans of Chinese descent, and we found no official count of them.

Getting there

Travelling from China to the DR [13, 16, 37, 32]

QUESTION	ANSWER
Direct flights from China	None listed: China does not appear as a departure country, 2022 to August 2026, though 6 to 35 flights a year have no named country [13]
Visa for an ordinary Chinese passport	Required; apply at the DR embassy in Beijing [16]
Exception for tourists	Holders of a valid EU, US, Canadian or UK visa or residence card may visit as tourists with a tourist card, for up to 60 days (Decree 691-07) [16, 37]
Diplomatic relations	Since 1 May 2018 [32]

The 60-day limit is from China's consular page. Connecting routes are not measured. Not immigration advice.

Money, pensions and rules

- **Capital controls.** Each person in China has a yearly quota of US$50,000 for buying foreign currency; buying more needs proof of a specific need, such as study fees. Currency bought by a person may not be used to buy property, securities or life insurance abroad. Wealthy families still hold some assets overseas: 15% of their investable assets in Hurun's count, with Hong Kong the favourite. [4, 5, 19]
- **Pensions can follow the retiree.** According to the Chinese consulate in New York (2015), a Chinese retiree who settles abroad keeps the pension, even after taking another nationality, by proving once a year that they are alive. [18, 17]
- **Tax.** Chinese basic pensions are exempt from Chinese income tax, and Chinese tax residents are taxed on their worldwide income. At the end of July 2025 China had 111 signed tax treaties, 108 in force; the list includes Cuba, Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, but not the DR. [38, 15]
- **Health.** China's basic medical insurance does not pay for treatment abroad, so care in the DR has to be paid for another way, for example with private cover. [14]
- **Residency income.** As written in 2007, Law 171-07 asks a pensioner for at least US$1,500 a month. The rough average Chinese employees' pension (about US$543) is well below that, though an average says nothing about any one person's pension. A Dominican lawyer must confirm today's rules. [10, 8]

6 What it means for DR businesses serving people from China

What the figures mean for a Dominican business serving people from China.

Speak Mandarin, and know the Chinese paperwork

Pension, tax and proof-of-life papers all come from Chinese offices and missions. A business that can explain them in Mandarin makes a hard step easier. Most residents of China land in Santo Domingo: 82.3% at Las Américas in 2025 (our calculation). [11]

Know who actually comes

The figures point to three groups:

Business travellers: 43.3% of arrivals from China came on business in 2025. [12]

The Chinese community in the DR and its families: 12.2% of arrivals from China came to see friends or relatives, and residencies for Chinese citizens rose in 2025. [12, 1]

Chinese citizens who live in other countries: about 22,500 of the 28,629 arrivals of Chinese nationality in 2025 (our rough calculation), mostly through Punta Cana, with a December peak. [34, 11]

The services they need

The needs that follow from Chinese rules:

Insurers and clinics: China's basic medical insurance does not pay for treatment abroad. [14]

Banks and currency help: each person in China has a yearly quota of US$50,000 for buying foreign currency, and none of it may go on property abroad. We found no official source on how a Chinese pension is paid to someone abroad. [4, 5]

Paperwork help: a yearly proof of life keeps a Chinese pension being paid; since 2021 it can be done in the China Consular app. [17]

Tax advisers: China has no tax treaty with the DR, and Chinese tax residents are taxed on worldwide income. Both points need a Chinese tax adviser. [15, 38]

Lawyers: as written in 2007, Law 171-07 sets US$1,500 a month for a pensioner and US$2,000 a month of passive income; according to a press summary (El Inmobiliario, 26 June 2026), Law 30-26 may change how incentives combine. A Dominican lawyer must confirm the current rules, and company and visa matters too. [10, 39, 16]

What a pension looks like

The average urban employees' pension is roughly **3,900 yuan (about US$543) a month**, and the residents' pension about 276 yuan (about US$38) (rough averages, our calculation). Both are well below the US$1,500 in Law 171-07 as written in 2007. An average says nothing about any one person's pension. A Dominican lawyer must confirm today's rules. [8, 10]

Stay honest about the size

Residents of China made only 6,149 air arrivals in 2025, 43.3% of them on business, and no source counts Chinese pensioners in the DR. [11, 12] Most Chinese wealth stays in China. The opportunity is to be found early, in Mandarin, by the few who choose the DR and by the Chinese community already in the DR. Retire.do puts a business's listing next to its guides and move plan. It cannot promise customers, and the site has no traffic figures yet.

7 Risks and caveats

- **Mainland China.** “China” here means mainland China, as in China's own statistics, unless a figure says otherwise. Hurun includes Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, and the DR's central bank does not say whether its “China” includes Hong Kong or Macao. [6, 19, 11]
- **Wealth in China is not money in the DR.** No source estimates how much Chinese home-sale money, business-sale money or inherited wealth is spent abroad, and none estimates spending in the Dominican Republic. Most of it stays in China, and capital controls limit what can leave. [4]
- **Wealth estimates do not match.** UBS (US dollars, mainland only, 20 to 25 years) and Hurun (yuan, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan included, 10 to 30 years, method not published in detail) cannot be compared or added. UBS millionaire counts are not comparable across editions. [2, 3, 19]
- **Old or second-hand figures.** The central bank's household survey dates from 2019, before the property downturn, and covers towns and cities only. The older-people survey is from 2021 and was read through a repost, and the 2025 pension bulletin through a full repost because the ministry site did not load. [20, 23, 8]
- **Rough pension averages.** Our averages divide fund spending by year-end recipients; they are not what any one person receives. [8]
- **Press-read succession figures.** The family-business and chair-age figures come from a press feature, and the age split covers only listed companies. [22]
- **Arrivals are trips, not people.** Repeat visitors count each time. The BCRD method changed in 2021, it does not say whether “China” includes Hong Kong or Macao, and Taiwan appears to be counted under China from February 2026. [11]
- **Four counts of Chinese visitors.** The central bank, China's foreign ministry, the Chinese embassy and the DR migration office count

different things; do not add them. [34, 32, 35, 36]

- **Residency counts cover every type.** The DGM file gives the type of residency but not the reason (work, family, investment or pension), no ages, and does not say whether renewals are included. Residencies to all nationalities rose from 19,698 in 2018 to 34,778 in 2025 (our sums), mainly to Haitian and Venezuelan citizens. [1]
- **Two resident estimates.** The UN's 4,252 (modelled, 2024) and the DR survey's 2,595 (2017) measure at different times and in different ways. There is no official count of Dominicans of Chinese descent. [28, 33]
- **Flights.** China does not appear as a departure country, but some flights each year have no named country, and connecting routes are not measured. [13]
- **Law and tax are not advice here.** Law 171-07 (as written in 2007), Law 30-26 (known here only from a press summary), Chinese tax and pension rules and whether the DR taxes a Chinese pension all need a Dominican lawyer and a Chinese tax adviser. The Social Insurance Law was read in its 2010 text; the 2018 amended text was not opened. [10, 39, 14]
- **Safety.** China's consular service rates the DR “blue (low risk)”. It says the main tourist areas are fairly safe, other areas are average, private gun ownership is legal and robberies and serious crimes happen from time to time (page undated; read 25 September 2026, content current to August 2026). On 26 April 2025 the Chinese embassy warned of frequent robberies of phones and bags by thieves on motorbikes, of fast traffic and crashes between cars and motorbikes, and advised using only properly licensed water-sport operators. [16, 40]
- **Currency.** Yuan figures are converted at the Federal Reserve's 2025 average of 7.1875 yuan per US dollar, and the 2019 and 2021 figures at those years' rates. Rates move. [9]

8 Sources

Where only press coverage could be read, the source line says so. “Our calculation” means we derived the figure from published numbers; the publisher did not print it.

– Hide the sources

1 Dirección General de Migración (DGM), via datos.gob.do, “Residencies by nationality and type, 2018–2026”, dataset modified 3 September 2026 (copy saved 24 September 2026). All residency types; totals are our sums. The file does not say whether renewals are included. Taiwan and Hong Kong are listed separately.

2 UBS, “Global Wealth Report 2025 (press release and report)”, 18 June 2025. Shares of personal net wealth at the end of 2024 across UBS's 56-market sample. The press release says "more than USD 5 trillion" for mainland China's transfers; the report text says more than USD 5.6 trillion.

3 UBS, “Global Wealth Report 2026 (press release and report)”, 30 June 2026. Millionaire counts and wealth composition for mainland China at the end of 2025, read from the report. Greater China (mainland China, Hong Kong SAR and Taiwan) holds 18.5% of the wealth in UBS's sample. UBS says its millionaire figures are not comparable with earlier editions.

4 State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE), Tianjin branch, “Individual foreign-exchange facilitation quota”, 14 July 2025. In Chinese. A yearly facilitation quota of US$50,000 per person; current-account purchases backed by documents, such as study fees, do not use the quota.

5 Beijing municipal government services site, reporting SAFE, “Personal currency purchases may not be used to buy property abroad; the US$50,000 quota is unchanged”, 3 January 2017. In Chinese.

6 National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBS), “Statistical Communiqué on the 2025 National Economic and Social Development”, 28 February 2026. In Chinese. Mainland China only; year-end population by age from the national sample survey.

7 United Nations DESA Population Division, “World Population Prospects 2024, medium variant, population by five-year age group”, 11 July 2024. China (location 156), which excludes Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan. Age totals are our sums of five-year groups; population at 1 July.

8 Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS), 2025 statistical bulletin, read through a full repost on hrvalue.com.cn, “2025 Statistical Bulletin on Human Resources and Social Security Development”, July 2026 (repost dated 20 July 2026). In Chinese. The ministry site did not load, so the figures were checked on the repost. Average pensions are our rough division of fund spending by recipients.

9 Federal Reserve Board, “G.5A Foreign Exchange Rates (Annual): China, yuan per US dollar”, released 5 January 2026. 2025 average 7.1875; 2021 average 6.4508 and 2019 average 6.9081 from FRED series AEXCHUS. Noon buying rates in New York. All conversions are ours. (data file)

10 Congreso Nacional (text hosted by DGII), “Ley 171-07 on special incentives for pensioners and rentistas”, 2007. The law as written; current practice was not verified. Not advice.

11 Banco Central de la República Dominicana (BCRD), “Llegada mensual de pasajeros, vía aérea, por país de residencia (annual files 2015 to 2026)”, files saved 25 August 2026; downloaded 25 September 2026. Foreign non-resident arrivals whose country of residence is China; other years at the same address with the year changed. China is listed separately from 2000; 2025 is the highest year in the files from 2000 to 2025 (our check). Weighted estimates since 2021, rounded here. Totals, shares and changes are our calculation.

12 Banco Central de la República Dominicana (BCRD), “Llegada de pasajeros vía aérea, por características, 2025”, file saved 25 August 2026; downloaded 25 September 2026. Shares are our calculation from the weighted counts.

13 Ministerio de Turismo (MITUR), SITUR, from Junta de Aviación Civil data, “Commercial flight arrivals by country of departure (1. Llegadas de vuelos)”, updated 21 September 2026. China is not named as a departure country from 2022 to August 2026; 6 to 35 flights a year are listed as "Otros", "ND" or with no country (our check).

14 National People's Congress (text via ILO NATLEX), “Social Insurance Law of the People's Republic of China, Article 30”, 28 October 2010. In Chinese. Read in the 2010 text; the law was amended in 2018 and the amended text was not opened.

15 State Taxation Administration of China, “List of China's agreements for the avoidance of double taxation”, list as of the end of July 2025. In Chinese. Neither the Dominican Republic nor Dominica is listed. The DR's own treaty list was not checked.

16 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, China Consular Service, “Dominican Republic: country page (entry, travel risk level and safety advice)”, undated; read 25

September 2026 (content current to August 2026). In Chinese; the English wording is our translation. China rates travel risk by colour, not by number; the DR is "blue (low risk)".

17 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, China Consular Service, "Online pension eligibility certification for retirees living abroad in the China Consular app", 3 June 2021. In Chinese. The yearly average of certificates is our calculation.

18 Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in New York, "Pension eligibility certification for people living abroad", 28 August 2015. In Chinese. Rests on a 1985 rule; the certification form is free of consular fees from 1 July 2015.

19 Hurun Research Institute and Bank of East Asia (China), "2025 BEA Hurun Wealth Report", 30 June 2026 (data as of 1 January 2025). In Chinese. Covers 34 provincial-level units including Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan (108 cities). A model, not official statistics; the method is not published in detail.

20 People's Bank of China, Survey and Statistics Department (China Finance, 2020 no. 9), reprinted by Sina Finance, "Survey of urban household assets and liabilities in China, 2019", 24 April 2020. In Chinese; read through the reprint. More than 30,000 urban households in 30 provinces, October 2019.

21 Securities Times (stcn.com), citing Happy Life Insurance, "Housing-for-pension reverse-mortgage insurance: participants to November 2023", 7 December 2023. In Chinese. Press report. Four insurers were licensed for the product, but only Happy Life was actually offering it; the 214 are its participants.

22 China Economic Weekly (People's Daily group), "Feature on succession in private family businesses", 15 August 2024. In Chinese. Cites the China Private Economy Research Association and a 2022 Soochow Securities count of A-share listed private firms whose controlling owner is also chair.

23 China National Committee on Ageing, bulletin of the fifth national sample survey of older people's living conditions, via a Sohu repost, "Fifth sample survey of the living conditions of older people in urban and rural China", 23 October 2024 (survey reference date 1 August 2021). In Chinese; read through a repost. Valid sample 127,287 people aged 60 and over.

24 State Administration for Market Regulation, via People's Daily (reposted by the Jiangsu Party news site), "Registered private enterprises at the end of April 2026", 20 May 2026. In Chinese; read through a repost.

25 National Health Commission press conference (Wang Haidong, Department of Ageing), reported by The Paper, "More than 400 million people aged 60 and over

around 2035”, 20 September 2022. In Chinese. A statement, not a published projection table.

26 Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (text on gov.cn), “Decision on gradually raising the statutory retirement age”, 13 September 2024. In Chinese. The year the minimum contribution period reaches 20 years (2039) is our calculation.

27 China National Committee on Ageing (cncaprc.gov.cn), “Interpretation of the fifth sample survey bulletin: incomes of older people”, October 2024. In Chinese; an unsigned interpretation document. Dollar conversion at the 2021 rate is ours.

28 United Nations DESA Population Division, “International Migrant Stock 2024, Table 1”, 2024. Modelled estimates by country of birth (origin China, code 156), all ages. The 8.64 million outside Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan and the DR's rank are our calculation.

29 Malay Mail, reporting a written parliamentary reply by Malaysia's Tourism Minister, “China leads as over 22,000 MM2H applications approved since 2015”, 6 March 2025.

30 Xinhua, “Xinhua Headlines: Redefining later life, Chinese retirees turn to overseas study, travel for vibrant new chapter”, 6 May 2026. EF Education First customer data: one company's customers; programmes of two to four weeks.

31 Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, Order No. 13 (text on gov.cn), “Provisions on implementing the Social Insurance Law, Article 6”, in force since 1 July 2011 (gov.cn page 31 August 2022). In Chinese. Covers the individual account of the employees' pension scheme.

32 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, “China and the Dominican Republic: bilateral relations”, updated August 2026. In Chinese. Trade is goods trade from Chinese data; the embassy page gives US$5.334 billion.

33 Oficina Nacional de Estadística (ONE) and UNFPA, “Segunda Encuesta Nacional de Inmigrantes (ENI-2017), general report, tables 2.2 and 2.3”, September 2018. In Spanish. A survey estimate of foreign-born residents.

34 Banco Central de la República Dominicana (BCRD), “Llegada de pasajeros vía aérea, por nacionalidad (annual files 2018 to 2026)”, files saved 25 August 2026; downloaded 25 September 2026. Arrivals of Chinese nationality living anywhere outside the DR. Taiwan shows 0 from 2022. Shares are our calculation.

35 Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Dominican Republic, "China–Dominican Republic relations", updated April 2026. In Chinese.

36 Dirección General de Migración (DGM), via datos.gob.do, "Airport entries and exits by nationality, 2018–2026", dataset modified 3 September 2026. Yearly totals are our sums of the monthly figures.

37 Embajada de la República Dominicana en China (MIREX), "Preguntas frecuentes (visas and the tourist card)", undated; accessed 25 September 2026. In Spanish. Cites Decree 691-07 of 18 December 2007.

38 State Taxation Administration of China (policy database), "Individual Income Tax Law, Articles 1 and 4, as amended on 31 August 2018", 31 August 2018. In Chinese.

39 El Inmobiliario, "La Ley 30-26 introduce una restricción que toca el corazón del modelo Confotur", 26 June 2026. A secondary summary; the law text was not opened.

40 Guangming Online, reporting the Chinese Embassy in the Dominican Republic, "Embassy reminds Chinese tourists to take safety precautions", 26 April 2025. In Chinese. Issued before the May Day holiday; not a formal advisory level.

Prepared by Retire.do, 25 September 2026. Estimates from the sources above; they describe markets, not the results of any business.

Photo: Manuela Martinez (Cabarete), Unsplash License. Fonts: Nunito and Literata.