

The Economic Development in Yulin after Reform and Opening-up

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Abstract

Since the reform and opening up, the national economy began to recover gradually. Yulin, as the representative of Shaanxi province's per capita GDP, has now risen to the 22nd place in the country. The main reason is that Yulin, led by the development and construction of its energy and chemical industry base, has experienced a rapid economic rise and its per capita GDP has risen sharply, the living standard of the people has been continuously improved. However, this mode of relying on non-renewable resources for economic development is worrying and needs to be improved step by step.

Keywords

Economy; GDP per capita; Reform and opening up; The 21st century.

1. Introduction

Shaanxi North Energy Source Heavy Chemical Industry Base is one of the four bases proposed in the first meeting of the 10th Shaanxi Provincial People's Congress, including seven industrial zones. Except Yan 'an Petrochemical Industry Zone, the other six industrial zones are all located in Yulin City. Therefore, Yulin City is the core area of Shaanxi North Energy Heavy Chemical Industry Base [1]. Under the guidance of promoting the "three transformations" (coal to electric power, coal to energy-carrying industrial products, coal, oil, gas and salt to chemical products), and under the guidance of deepening the "12363" strategy, the Shaanxi Provincial Party Committee and the provincial government established the "three transformations" strategy [2], the installed scale of coal power in the base continues to rise. It has become the world's largest orchid carbon production base, China's largest methanol production base, and an important domestic chlor-alkali industry production base. Relying on the advantages of abundant resources and unique geographical advantages, Yulin's economic aggregate has been ranking the second place in the province for 15 consecutive years since 2005, second only to Xi 'an [3].

2. Overview of the Study Area

Yulin Energy and Chemical Industry Base is located in the most northern part of Shaanxi Province, between 107°28 ' -111°15' E and 36°57 ' -39°34' N. It is 385km long from east to west and 263km wide from north to south, with a total area of 43070km² and an average altitude of 1246m. It is adjacent to Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in the north, Ningxia Hui

Autonomous Region and Gansu Province in the west, Yan 'an City in the south, the Yellow River in the east, and Shanxi Province across the river [4].

3. The Economic Situation

3.1. Overall Situation of the Economy after Reform and Opening up

According to the statistics of Shaanxi 60 years (1949-2009) [5] and Shaanxi Statistical Yearbook (2020) [6], since the reform and opening up, the economic development of Yulin has roughly experienced three development stages: agriculture and animal husbandry dominated from 1978 to 1996, young heavy industry promoted from 1997 to 2005, and chemical industry dominated from 2006 to now [7]. In the agriculture-animal husbandry dominated stage, the economy seems to have no significant changes. Since the parallel development of light industry, the per capita GDP has shown exponential growth, as shown in Figure 1.

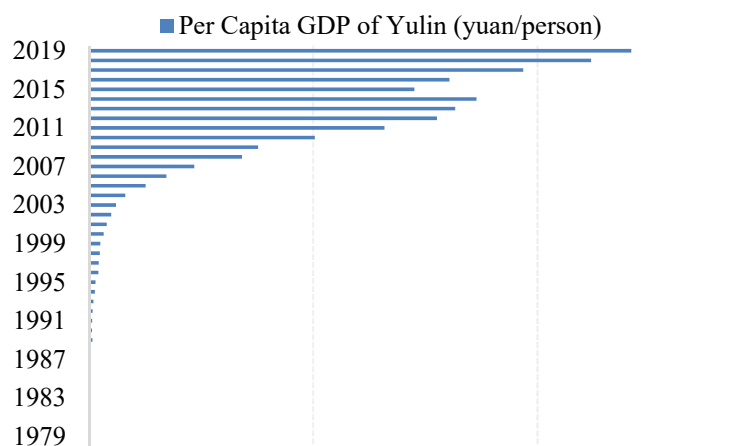


Figure 1. Growth trend of per capita GDP in Yulin after the reform and opening up

During the period after the reform and opening up, the per capita GDP increased somewhat, but the relative change was not obvious. Especially in the first 10 years, the per capita GDP increased from 158 yuan to 471 yuan, an increase of 1.98 times, with an average annual growth rate of 12.21%. From 1978 to 1996, when agriculture and animal husbandry were the main sectors, per capita GDP increased from 158 yuan to 2,115 yuan, an increase of 12.39 times, with an average annual growth rate of 16.98 percent. From 1997 to 2005, during the parallel development of young heavy industry, the per capita GDP increased from 2,180 yuan to 12,630 yuan, an increase of 4.79 times, with an average annual growth rate of 22.91%. Since 2006, in the leading stage of energy industry, per capita GDP has increased from 17,282 yuan to 120,908 yuan, an increase of 6.00 times, with an average annual growth rate of 18.61%. Since 2007, Yulin's per capita GDP has been ranked first among all cities in Shaanxi Province, and now it has risen to 22nd in China.

3.2. Economic Overview of Yulin Before the 21st Century

From the reform and opening up to the eve of the 21st century, Yulin was mainly in the stage of agriculture and animal husbandry, but its per capita GDP increased exponentially, as shown in Figure 2.

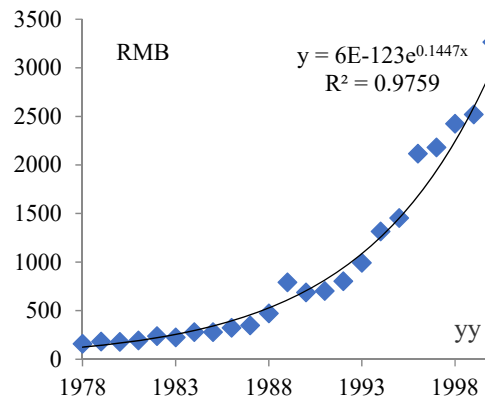


Figure 2. Growth trend of per capita GDP in Yulin City from 1978 to 2000

Although the per capita GDP grew by 1.98 times in 10 years after the reform and opening up, the economy rose rapidly thereafter. From 1978 to 2000, the per capita GDP of Yulin increased from 158 yuan to 3264 yuan, an increase of 19.66 times, with an average annual growth rate of 16.06%. From 1988 to 2000, the per capita GDP of Yulin increased from 471 yuan to 3264 yuan, an increase of 5.93 times, with an average annual growth rate of 20.54%.

3.3. Economic Overview of Yulin in the 21st Century

Since the 21st century, Yulin's economy has entered a stage of rapid development, with per capita GDP growing in a straight line and showing a significant correlation with year growth, as shown in Figure 3. Although 2015 and 2016 were down from the previous two years, the overall trend was still straight up. Per capita GDP increased from 3,264 yuan in 2000 to 120,908 yuan in 2019, an increase of 117,264 yuan or 36.04 times, with an average annual growth rate of 22.43%.

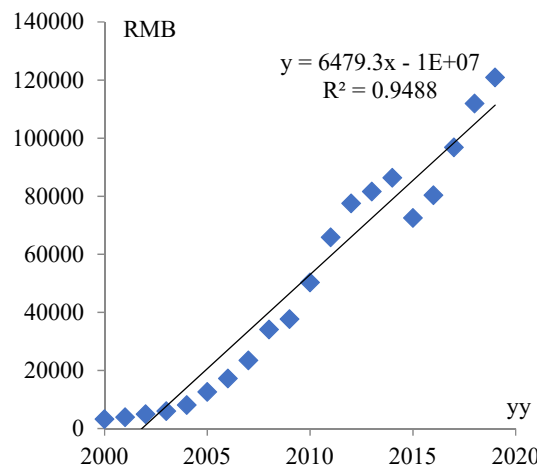


Figure 3. Growth trend of per capita GDP in Yulin City in the 21st century

4. Conclusion

Although the economy of Yulin has achieved rapid development and people's living standard has been continuously improved, but the economic development mode depending on resources needs further study.

Acknowledgments

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