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## China Economic Review

Volume 11, Issue 1, Spring 2000, Pages 1-15

# Determinants of economic growth in China: Private enterprise, education, and openness

Baizhu Chen ... Yi Feng  

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[https://doi.org/10.1016/S1043-951X\(99\)00014-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1043-951X(99)00014-0)

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## Abstract

This essay investigates the source of cross-provincial variations of economic growth in China. A statistical analysis of data on 29 provinces, municipalities, and autonomous regions from 1978 through 1989 confirms the findings in the literature of empirical studies of economic growth based upon cross-country empirical analyses, and uncovers some characteristics unique to China. We find that private and semi-private enterprises, higher education and international trade all lead to an increase in economic growth in China. We also find that high fertility, high inflation, and the presence of state-owned enterprises (SOE) reduce growth rates among the provinces. Finally, our evidence indicates that the convergence hypothesis holds in China.



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