

# Scaling: How China-Based VancelInfo Grows Big Fast

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## Why is this happening?



### Chongqing in action

Chongqing sits in the world's most important new region for important cities: interior China. These interior Chinese cities, notes architect Adam Mayer, offer a healthy alternative to coastal megacities such as Shanghai, Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Guangzhou, which suffer from congestion, high prices and increasingly wide class disparities. China's bold urban diversification strategy hinges both on forging new transportation links and nurturing businesses in these interior cities. For example, in Chengdu, capital of the Sichuan province, new plane, road and rail connections are tying the city to both coastal China and the rest of the world. And the city is abuzz with new construction, including an increasing concentration of high-tech firms such as Dell and Cisco.

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### Growing and growing Bigger and Bigger

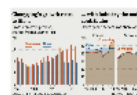
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A gross domestic product that nudged past 2 trillion yuan (332.65 billion) in 2011 means Chongqing's economy accounts for just over 1% of the national total. But a massive population (over 28 million, all told, more) and strategic position as gateway to China's west give it an outsized importance.



### Reaches the skyline

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### The fastest growing city

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### How big So fast

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The towering tower blocks of Chongqing stand testament to the healthy economic growth that is changing the face of millions of Chinese. Most towns and the metropolitan area itself combine two contrasting features of the US post-war boom: by copying the world's fastest growing city.

Located in the far western province of Sichuan, on the banks of the Yangtze River, Chongqing is a place that few people in the West seem to have heard of. But it is the fastest growing city in China — and therefore, one night, today concludes the week. This morning had given the city a certain dynamic, significant from the moment you stepped out of the airport and climbed into one of the small yellow taxis.

'So god damn big -noticeable!'

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# The fastest growing city

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Now hiring

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# How big So fast

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The thrusting tower blocks of Chongqing stand testament to the headlong economic growth that is changing the lives of millions of Chinese. Mick Brown and the photographer Alec Soth continue their investigation into the contrasting fortunes of the US and China by exploring the world's fastest-growing city.

Located in the far western province of Sichuan, on the banks of the Yangtse river, Chongqing is a place that few people in the West seem to have heard of. But it is the fastest-growing city in China – and therefore, one might safely conclude, the world. This startling fact gives the city a certain dynamic, apparent from the moment you step out of the airport and climb into one of the small yellow taxis.

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# Growing and growing

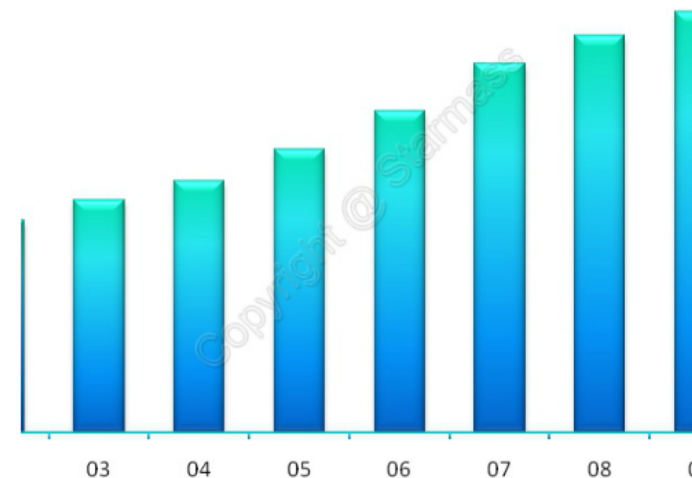
## Bigger and Bigger

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A gross domestic product that nudged past 1 trillion yuan (\$158.5 billion) in 2011 means Chongqing's economy accounts for just over 2% of the national total. But a massive population (more than 29 million at last count) and strategic position as gateway to China's west give it an outsize importance.

■ Total population of Chongqing (in million)

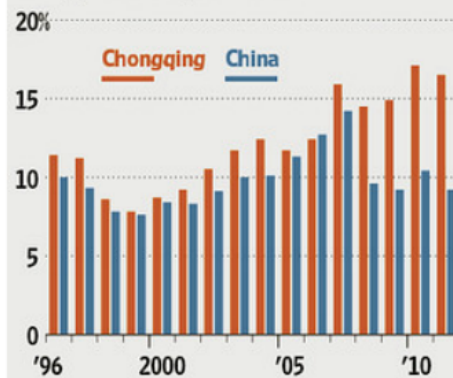


# Reaches the skyline

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### Chongqing's growth roars to life...

Gross domestic product, change from a year earlier



Sources: CEIC; Chongqing government

### ... with industry the main contributor

Industry and services as share of GDP



The Wall Street Journal



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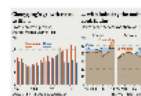
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