

## Public holidays in the People's Republic of China

There are currently seven official public holidays in the mainland territory of the People's Republic of China. There was a major reform in 2008, abolishing the Labour Day Golden Week and reintroducing pre-Liberation public holidays such as the Qingming Festival.<sup>[1]</sup> A notable feature of mainland Chinese holidays is that people are often required to work at weekends in lieu of weekday holidays.

Date	English name	Chinese name	Duration (2008-)	Duration (2000-2007)	Dates (2009) <sup>[2]</sup>
January 1	New Year	元旦	1 day	1 day	Thu 1-Fri 2 January <sup>[3]</sup>
1st day of 1st lunar month	Chinese New Year	春节	3 days <sup>[4]</sup>	3 days <sup>[4]</sup>	Sun 25-Sat 31 January <sup>[5]</sup>
5th Solar Term (April 4th or April 5th)	Qing Ming Festival	清明节	1 day	N/A	Mon 6 April <sup>[6]</sup>
May 1	Labor Day	劳动节	1 day	3 days	Fri 1 May <sup>[7]</sup>
5th day of 5th lunar month	Dragon Boat Festival	端午节	1 day	N/A	Thu 28-Fri 29 May <sup>[8]</sup>
15th day of 8th lunar month	Mid-Autumn Festival	中秋节	1 day	N/A	Combined with National Day <sup>[9]</sup>
October 1	National Day	国庆节	3 days	3 days	Sat 26 September-Sat 3 October <sup>[9]</sup>

Note on duration and 2009 dates: Most sources in China count the total number of days off (including statutory holidays, transferred days and weekends), which is important for Chinese people working a seven-day week. E.g. a holiday on a Friday is always announced as a three day holiday (Friday-Sunday). See the references for details of transferred holidays in 2009. The table above does not count weekends.

### **Transferred holidays**

In all these holidays, if the holiday lands on a weekend, the days will be reimbursed after the weekend.

The Chinese New Year and National Day holidays are three days long. The week-long holidays on May (Labor) Day and National Day began in 2000, as a measure to increase and encourage holiday spending. The resulting seven-day holidays are called "Golden Weeks" (黄金周), and have become peak seasons for travel and tourism. From 2008, the Labor Day holiday was shortened to one day, and three traditional Chinese holidays will be added.

Generally, if there is a 3 day holiday, the government will declare it to be a 7 day holiday, making the weekend after normal working days. This means that shops, banks, schools, etc., treat Saturday and Sunday as if they were Monday and Tuesday (or whatever weekdays they have been 'swapped' with). The resulting disruption is accepted as normal.

In addition to these holidays, applicable to the whole population, there are four official public holidays applicable to specific sections of the population:

Date	English name	Chinese name	Duration	Applicable to
March 8	International Women's Day	国际妇女节	half-day	Women
May 4	Youth Day	青年节	half-day	Youth above the age of 14
June 1	Children's Day	六一儿童节	1 day	Children below the age of 14
August 1	Army Day	建军节	half-day	Military personnel in active service

The closeness of Labor Day and Youth Day resulted in an unexpectedly long break for schools in 2008 - the Youth Day half-holiday entitlement had been largely forgotten because it has been subsumed into the Golden Week.

### Traditional holiday scheme

Date	English name	Local name	Remarks
January 1	New Year	元旦	
March 8	International Women's Day	国际妇女节	
March 12	Arbor Day	植树节	Also known as National Tree Planting Day (全民义务植树日)
May 1	Labor Day	劳动	

		节	
May 4	Youth Day	青年节	Commemorating the May Fourth Movement
June 1	Children's Day	六一儿童节	
July 1	CPC Founding Day	建党节	Formation of 1st National Congress on July 1, 1921
July 11	Maritime Day	中国航海日	The anniversary of Zheng He's first voyage
August 1	Army Day	建军节	Nanchang Uprising (南昌起义) on August 1, 1927
October 1	National Day	国庆节	Founding of PRC on October 1, 1949
1st day of 1st lunar month	Spring Festival (Chinese New Year)	春节	Based on Chinese calendar
2nd day of 2nd lunar month	Zhonghe Festival (Dragon Raising its Head)	中和节	Based on Chinese calendar
15th day of 1st lunar month	Lantern Festival	元宵节	Based on Chinese calendar

5th Solar Term. April 4 or 5	Qing Ming Jie (Chinese Memorial Day)	清明节	Appeared only on Chinese Calendar, but it's a "Jieqi" that is based on solar calendar instead of lunar calendar, jieqi is used to indicated agriculture.
5th day of 5th lunar month	Dragon Boat Festival (Duanwujie)	端午节	Based on Chinese calendar
7th day of 7th lunar month	Double Seven Festival	七夕	The Chinese Valentine's Day, based on Chinese calendar
15th day of 7th lunar month	Spirit Festival (Ghost Festival)	中元节	Based on Chinese calendar
15th day of 8th lunar month	Mid-Autumn Festival (Moon Festival)	中秋节	Based on Chinese calendar
9th day of 9th lunar month	Double Ninth Festival	重阳节	Based on Chinese calendar

[edit] Novel holidays

Some Chinese young adults have begun to celebrate 11 November as Singles' Day because of the many ones (1s) in the date.

**2006 example**

New Year's Day Holiday, 2006										
Dec				Jan						
28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Weekdays			Weekend		Weekdays					Weekend

becomes

Weekdays				Holiday	Moved Weekend		Weekdays			Weekend
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Chinese New Year Holiday, 2006										
Jan					Feb					
27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M
Weekdays	Weekend		Weekdays				Weekend		Weekdays	

becomes

Weekdays		Holiday			Moved Weekend		Moved Weekend		Weekdays	
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Labor Day Holiday, 2006										
Apr		May								
29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T
Weekend		Weekdays					Weekend		Weekdays	

becomes

Weekdays		Holiday			Moved Weekend		Weekend		"Weekdays"	
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National Day Holiday, 2006										
Sept		Oct								
29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M
Weekdays	Weekend		Weekdays					Weekend		Weekdays

becomes

Weekdays		Holiday			Moved Weekend		Moved Weekend		Weekdays	
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