

《Beijing tops study of cashless living in cities》

GUANGZHOU - Beijing is the "smartest" city in China, according to a report on the cashless society released on Monday.

The report was jointly published by Chinese tech giant Tencent, the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China and French market research firm Ipsos.

It measured in 324 Chinese cities using different indexes, such as transportation, education, shopping and food delivery, and polled more than 6,500 residents on their use of mobile payments.

Overall, Beijing ranked first in the penetration of a cashless society, followed by Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Shanghai.

The cities of Dongguan and Foshan of Guangdong province were the dark horses in the top 10, ranking sixth and 10th, respectively.

The report also showed that 40 percent of Chinese carry less than 100 yuan (\$15) in cash when going out, while 52 percent only use cash for 20 percent of their total monthly consumption.

More than 70 percent of respondents said they could live more than a week with only 100 yuan in cash, and 84 percent were "comfortable" going out with only mobile phones, no cash.

The report was part of a weeklong celebration of WeChat's annual "Cashless Day", which is scheduled for Aug 8.

"Cashless Day" aims to promote a green, fashionable and efficient lifestyle. Even though a completely cashless society is unlikely to happen, a new age of smart life has already arrived, according to WeChat, China's largest social media platform, which is owned by Tencent.