

FOCUS

H1 GDP grows steadily by 6.3 percent

China's economic transformation and upgrading shows effect

China National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) announced on July 15th that the country achieved an estimated GDP of 45093.3 billion yuan in the first half of 2019, up 6.3 percent year on year at constant prices. "China's national economy continued to operate in a reasonable range in the first two quarters. Overall, the country achieved stable performance while securing progress in its economic development," said Mao Shengyong, spokesperson for NBS.

Such an economic growth rate is one of the highest among the world's major economies. The interviewed economists believe that China maintained overall stability in employment, a moderate increase in prices and a relatively fast income increase of urban residents. The energy consumption per 10,000 yuan of GDP decreased by 2.7 percent than previous year, and the ecological environment improved

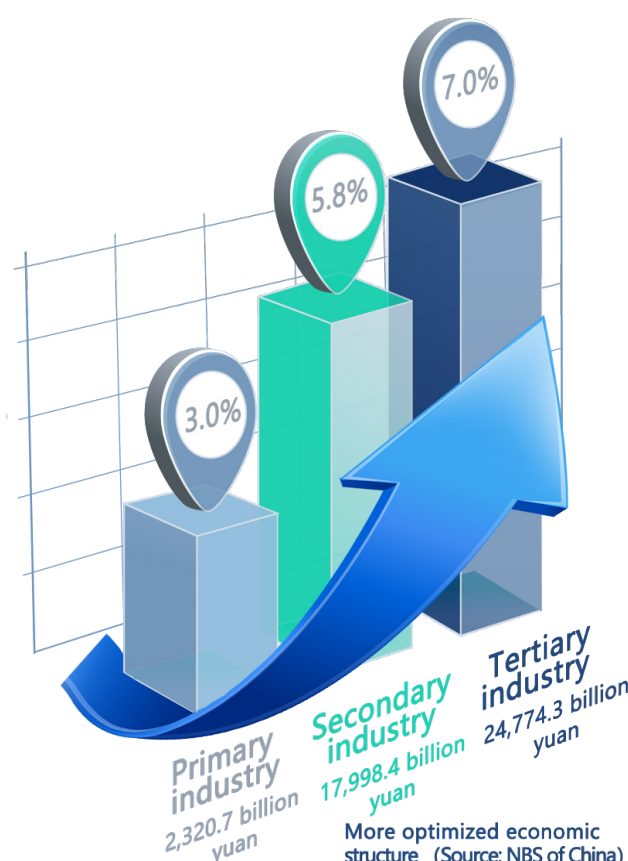
across the board, indicating that the 6.3 percent growth is of high quality and sustainable.

According to Cheng Shi, chief economist of ICBC International, China's economy went through trade frictions and other challenges in the second quarter, but still achieved the target growth rate of 6.0 to 6.5 percent as set forth in the government work report and continued to advance its industrial structural upgrade. In the past six months, both the value added of industrial enterprises above the designated size and the rate of year-on-year increase in consumption were significantly higher than market expectations, proving that China's economic growth is still resilient.

"China's economy has withstood a test," said Wang Jun, member of the Academic Committee of the China Centre for International

Economic Exchange. In his view, the economic growth is within the expected range. As highlights of China's economy in the first half of 2019, no obvious risk of inflation or austerity occurred, and no systematic risks are likely. The 6.3 percent growth rate has laid a good foundation for fulfilling the annual target.

“China's economic structure continued to optimize. In the first half, the value added of tertiary industry accounted for 54.9 percent of the total GDP, 0.5 percentage point higher than the same period last year; 15.0 percentage points higher than the secondary industry, contributing 60.3 percent to GDP growth, 23.2 percentage points higher than the secondary industry.



Nine data highlights of China's economy in H1

6.3%
GDP growth
China's economy grew 6.3 percent year-on-year in the first six months of this year, in line with the government's annual target of 6.0 to 6.5 percent. The economic performance was generally stable, NBS spokesman Mao Shengyong said, adding that China was still one of the world's fastest-growing major economies.

5.8%
Fixed-asset investment growth
Fixed-asset investment grew by 5.8 percent year-on-year in H1. Investment in high-tech manufacturing surged 10.4 percent, 4.6 percentage points faster than total investment growth, while investment in high-tech services also registered faster-than-average growth of 13.5 percent.

\$ 2.8 trillion
Retail sales of consumer goods
Retail sales of consumer goods rose by 8.4 percent year-on-year in the first half to 19.52 trillion yuan (about \$2.8 trillion). Service consumption accounted for 49.4 percent of total national consumption expenditures, 0.6 percentage points higher from a year earlier.

3.9%
Foreign trade growth
Foreign trade increased by 3.9 percent year-on-year, totaling 14.67 trillion yuan, with exports growing by 6.1 percent to 7.95 trillion yuan and imports rising 1.4 percent to 6.72 trillion yuan, data from the General Administration of Customs showed.

20,131
New Foreign funded enterprises
The actually utilized foreign investment in China rose 7.2 percent from a year ago to reach 478.33 billion yuan (\$68 billion) during the first half of this year, with a total of 20,131 new foreign-funded enterprises established, data from the Ministry of Commerce showed. The determination of the Chinese government to support the development of foreign enterprises in China will not change, said Gao Feng, a spokesperson for the ministry.

7.37 million
New urban jobs
The country created 7.37 million new urban jobs in the first half of 2019, finishing 67 percent of the target for the whole year. China's job market remained stable in June, with the surveyed unemployment rate in urban areas standing at 5.1 percent. The booming service industry has played a vital role in promoting employment.

8.8%
Per capita disposable income
China's per capita disposable income stood at 15,294 yuan in the first half of 2019, up 8.8 percent year-on-year in nominal terms, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. The inflation-adjusted growth was 6.5 percent, 0.2 percentage points higher than the 6.3 percent growth rate for the

Chinese economy from January to June. During the period, the per capita disposable income in rural areas continued to grow faster than that in urban regions, indicating the closing of the urban-rural income gap.

9.0%
High-tech manufacturing industry expansion
High-tech industries maintained fast expansion, with the output for high-tech manufacturing up 9 percent year-on-year in the first half, 3 percentage points faster than overall growth. The output of new energy vehicles and solar cells grew 34.6 percent and 20.1 percent, respectively. It shows that middle- and high-end manufacturing, together with consumer goods manufacturing, are promoting economic growth, said Zhao Qinghe, a senior official of the National Bureau of Statistics.

2.2%
Rise in CPI
Prices remained stable, with the consumer price

index rising moderately by 2.2 percent year-on-year for the first half of this year. Liu Xuezhi, a senior researcher with the Bank of Communications' Financial Research Center, said that there will be no obvious inflationary pressures during the second half of this year.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Confidence boosting and education lift Jingpo people out of poverty



At Yingpan Minzu Primary School of Xishan Township, 85 percent of the students are from Jingpo ethnic group. (Xinhua)

Editor's Note: In Yunnan, nine ethnic groups—the Derung, De'ang, Jino, Nu, Bulang, Jingpo, Lisu, Lahu and Wa—have directly moved from primitive or slave societies into modern societies. In the battle against poverty, Yunnan focuses on the areas inhabited by these ethnic groups and other minorities. The province has taken unusual, targeted measures and formulated special poverty alleviation plans in recent years. This issue, we continue publishing a report on how these ethnic groups have shaken off poverty.

12,000. And Jingpo people account for 92.8 percent of the township's population. Despite the abundant resources, the township used to be isolated and underdeveloped. By 2014, it still had a poverty headcount ratio of 23 percent.

In the past, Mu Lepao, a Jingpo villager, almost lost hope in life. He and his wife were in poor health, and their two sons were low in employability. They led a miserable life by farming.

In 2014, a poverty alleviation team came to the village, and organized training workshops to improve the villagers' employability. Now, Mu Lepao's two sons are working in Zhejiang, a more de-

veloped coastal province in China, and the old couple raise seven head of beef cattle at home.

In 2017, the family shook off poverty, and their life became better and better. Mu Lepao, who was always sad, now always smiles.

At Yingpan Minzu Primary School in Xishan Township, the students are from nine ethnic groups and 85 percent of them are Jingpo children. To preserve the traditional Jingpo culture, the school offers lessons in both Chinese and Jingpo languages, and teaches ethnic dances as well.

"We don't have a single dropout here. All villagers send their children to school," said Yang Anjia, head teacher of the primary school.

"Education will make the kids go farther," said Shi Legan, who teaches English.

In the battle against poverty, the local government pays special attention to helping people increase confidence in their own ability to lift themselves out of poverty, and see that they can access the education they need. At present, the township has brought down the poverty headcount ratio to 5.8 percent.

(Xinhua)

BELT AND ROAD

South and Southeast Asian Medical Education and Health Alliance established in Kunming

BY CHEN XINLONG

On July 12th, the inaugural ceremony of South and Southeast Asian Medical Education and Health Alliance was held in Kunming.

Kunming Medical University and Shanghai Jiaotong University School of Medicine jointly initiated the alliance. The founding members were 20 medical education and health institutions in China and 19 medical education and health institutions in South and Southeast Asia, including China Medical University and Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences. The permanent secretariat of the alliance is at Kunming Medical University.

The alliance will engage its member institutions in cultivating medical talents and promoting cross-country and cross-institutional exchanges. The cooperation among member institutions will cover joint training, exchanges of students, mutual recognition of credits, mutual conferring of degrees and joint teaching programmes.

The member institutions will

jointly carry out teacher training and jointly hire world-class experts in the field of medical and health to carry out teaching, research and clinical guidance.

They will jointly carry out cooperation in scientific research. They will actively share literature, information and resources, and hold various high-end academic seminars on medical education and health.

The members will jointly establish international health service, exchange and cooperation platforms. They will explore and propose solutions regarding major public medical and health issues in the region and the world, and build a regional disease prevention and control system as well as public health exchange and cooperation platforms.

The institutions will also jointly organise clinical internships, knowledge contests, academic seminars and other exchanges, which will focus on medical courses and cultural experience and aim to improve skills of participants.

XI'S VOICE

China follows the principle of achieving shared growth through discussion and collaboration in engaging in global governance. China stands for democracy in international relations and the equality of all countries, big or small, strong or weak, rich or poor. China supports the United Nations in playing an active role in international affairs, and supports the efforts of other developing countries to increase their representation and strengthen

their voice in international affairs. China will continue to play its part as a major and responsible country, take an active part in reforming and developing the global governance system, and keep contributing Chinese wisdom and strength to global governance.

—From the report delivered by Chinese President Xi Jinping to the 19th CPC National Congress on October 18, 2017

HERITAGES

Xu Zuokun: A master kite-maker



Xu Zuokun and his kites. Photo by Long Zhou

BY LONG ZHOU

The mention of Yunnan kites often reminds people of Xu Zuokun, a master kite-maker and a city-level successor of intangible cultural heritage in Kunming. Xu, 73, has been making kites in his spare time since the 1980s. In 2003, he won the first prize in an international kite festival and became a member of the International Kite Federation, making Yunnan Bee kites famous all over the world.

Xu's home is simply a fairyland of kites: an eagle kite on the ceiling, a dragon kite by the TV set, and hand-painted mini kites on the antique-and-curious shelves. He keeps hundreds of kites in his apartment. You name any of them, and he can readily locate it.

According to Xu, the bamboo-framed kites were brought to Kunming from the Central Plains when Kublai Khan attacked the Kingdom

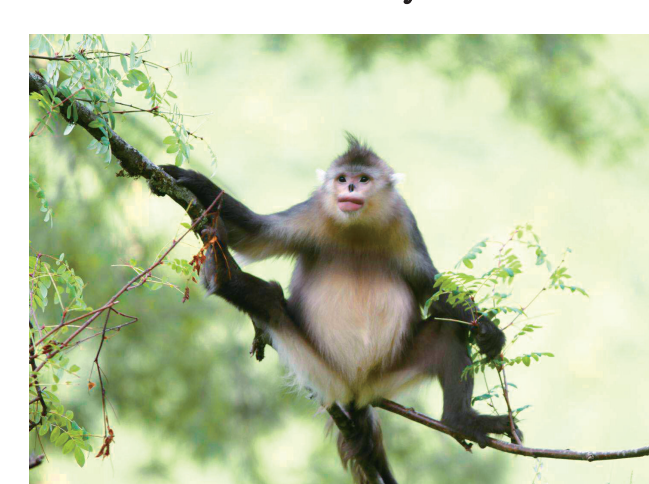
of Dali (937-1253). Based on these kites, which could only fly on fine, windless days, people developed the current Yunnan bee kites. Unlike the kites of other styles, Yunnan-style kites have downward wings and can cope with stronger winds. In Kunming, spring days are particularly windy and ideal for flying such kites.

The biggest kite that Xu has ever made is the dragon kite he brought to the Shanghai World Expo. It was 256 meters long and weighed about 8 kilograms. The dragon head alone was made up of more than 170 bamboo sticks. To fly this kite, he spent more than 10,000 yuan buying a thumb-thick mountaineering rope. "It was so big that the smallest mistake would have prevented it from rising in the air," he said.

Xu put all his heart in every kite that he makes. "Life is short. I'm contented to be able to make good kites," he said.

ECO

China builds protection network for Yunnan golden snub-nosed monkeys



The number of the snub-nosed monkeys has risen to 3,500 in China after years of protection. Photo by Zhang Fan

Southwest China's Yunnan Province announced on July 15 the establishment of a protection network for the province's golden snub-nosed monkeys, also known as the black-and-white snub-nosed monkeys.

The network is the province's first wildlife safety network and will be managed by both the local government and the private sector.

"Protecting the Yunnan golden snub-nosed monkeys and their habitats is of strategic significance for the conservation of global biodiversity and maintaining inter-regional species and ecological balance," said Xiao Wen, head of the Institute of Eastern-Himalaya

Biodiversity Research of Dali University.

The monkeys live in the mountainous forests in Yunnan and neighboring Tibet Autonomous Region, with most in the Baima Snow Mountain National Nature Reserve.

As one of the world's most endangered primates, the monkey is considered a bellwether species for biodiversity in the high-altitude region.

Local poachers drove them close to extinction in the 1980s, but their number has since risen above 3,500 nationally thanks to the joint efforts of government, researchers and local villagers.

(CGTN)