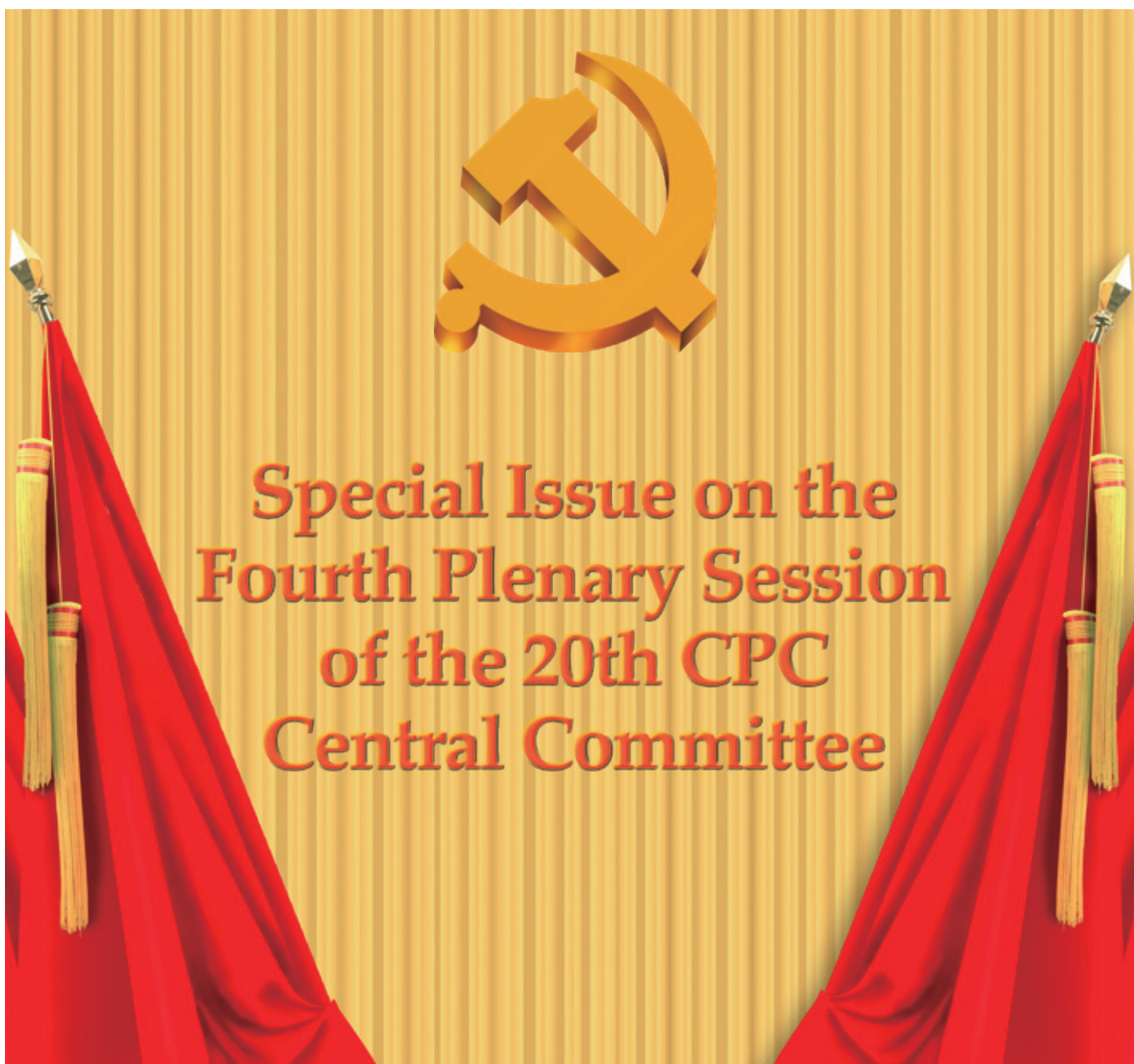


SPECIAL ISSUE ON THE FOURTH PLENARY SESSION
OF THE 20TH CPC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

THE PRESS OFFICE, INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT
OF THE CPC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

China nsight



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Key Takeaways of the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee

The Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee Concludes, Adopting Recommendations for China's 15th Five-Year Plan



Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, delivers an important address at the fourth plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee in Beijing, capital of China. The 20th Central Committee of the CPC convened its fourth plenary session in Beijing from October 20 to 23 (XINHUA)

The draft document consists of 15 parts, which are divided into three main sections.

The first section, which consists of the first and second parts, gives a general overview of China's major development achievements in the 14th Five-Year Plan period, the important position of the 15th Five-Year Plan period as a critical stage in building on past successes to break new ground for basically achieving socialist modernization, profound and intricate changes facing China's development environment in the 15th Five-Year Plan period, the guiding philosophy for economic and social development in the 15th Five-Year Plan period, and the core principles to follow and major objectives to pursue during this period.

The second section is the discussion section, which comprises 12 parts (the 3rd through the 14th part). This section mainly focuses on the key issues bearing on overall and long-term interests and makes sector-specific arrangements for strategic tasks and main measures during the 15th Five-Year Plan period.

The third and final section consists of the 15th part and concluding remarks. This section primarily makes arrangements for tasks related to upholding and strengthening the Party Central Committee's centralized and unified leadership, advancing socialist democracy and rule of law, carrying out work concerning Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan, promoting the building of a community with a shared future for humanity, and mobilizing the initiative, enthusiasm, and creativity of the whole society.

Key Points of the Recommendations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China for Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development

The 15th Five-Year Plan period as a critical stage in building on past successes to break new ground for basically realizing socialist modernization

Socialist modernization can only be realized through a historical process of gradual and ongoing development. It requires the unremitting hard work of one generation after another. The period covered by the 15th Five-Year Plan will be critical in this process as we work to reinforce the foundations and push ahead on all fronts toward basically realizing socialist modernization by 2035.

Guiding Principles and Major Objectives for Economic and Social Development in the 15th Five-Year Plan Period

- Upholding the Party's overall leadership
- Putting the people first
- Pursuing high-quality development
- Comprehensively deepening reform
- Promoting both an efficient market and a well-functioning government
- Ensuring both development and security

Building a Modernized Industrial System and Reinforcing the Foundations of the Real Economy

- Upgrading traditional industries
- Fostering emerging industries and industries of the future
- Promoting the high-quality, efficient development of the service sector
- Developing a modernized infrastructure system



A drone photo shows the automated production at the Seres Super Factory in Liangjiang New Area, southwest China's Chongqing, on September 19, 2025 (XINHUA)



Visitors learn about a manned aircraft during the China International Digital Economy Expo 2025 in Shijiazhuang, north China's Hebei Province, on October 17, 2025 (XINHUA)

Achieving Greater Self-Reliance and Strength in Science and Technology and Steering the Development of New Quality Productive Forces

Promoting advances in original innovation and breakthroughs in core technologies in key fields

Promoting full integration between technological and industrial innovation

Pursuing the integrated development of education, science and technology, and human resources

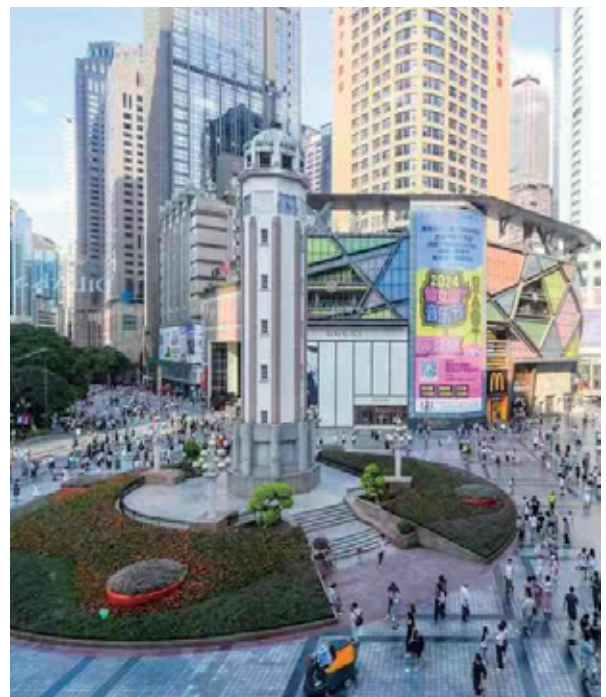
Advancing the Digital China Initiative

Building a Robust Domestic Market and Fostering a New Pattern of Development

Boosting consumption

Expanding effective investment

Eliminating bottlenecks and obstacles hindering the development of a unified national market



Tourists visit Jiefangbei, a business area in southwest China's Chongqing, on August 21, 2024 (XINHUA)



An aerial drone photo shows a view of the container terminal of Zhoushan Port in Ningbo, east China's Zhejiang Province, on January 4, 2025 (XINHUA)

Developing a High-Standard Socialist Market Economy and Boosting the Momentum for High-Quality Development

Stimulating the vitality of all market entities

Moving faster to improve the institutions and mechanisms for market-based allocation of production factors

Making macroeconomic governance more effective

Promoting High-Standard Opening Up and Creating New Horizons for Mutually Beneficial Cooperation

Opening China wider to the outside world

Promoting the innovative development of trade

Expanding two-way investment cooperation

Pursuing high-quality Belt and Road cooperation

Accelerating Agricultural and Rural Modernization and Advancing All-Around Rural Revitalization

Enhancing the overall production capacity, quality, and performance of agriculture

Building a beautiful and harmonious countryside for people to live and work in

Ensuring that policies aimed at strengthening agriculture, benefiting farmers, and enriching rural areas deliver greater outcomes

Refining the Regional Economic Layout and Promoting Coordinated Regional Development

Promoting more coordinated regional development

Boosting interconnected development between regions

Improving the development of territorial spaces

Promoting people-centered new urbanization

Strengthening marine development, utilization, and protection



An aerial drone photo shows farmers loading newly harvested grains into a vehicle in Daoxiang Village of Suihua City, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on October 13, 2024 (XINHUA)



An aerial drone photo taken on October 19, 2025 shows an entrance of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge in south China (XINHUA)

Inspiring the Cultural Creativity of Our Entire Nation and Fostering a Thriving Socialist Culture

- Promoting and practicing the core socialist values
- Boosting cultural programs
- Accelerating the development of cultural industries
- Extending the reach and appeal of Chinese civilization

Ensuring and Improving Public Wellbeing and Promoting Common Prosperity for All

- Promoting high-quality full employment
- Improving the income distribution system
- Developing education that meets the people's expectations
- Improving the social security system



Champion Team Taizhou celebrated during the award ceremony after the 2025 Jiangsu Football City League (Su Super League) final against Nantong in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province, on November 1, 2025 (XINHUA)



People enjoy themselves at a homestay in Xincang Village of Haining City in Jiaxing, east China's Zhejiang Province, on August 26, 2021 (XINHUA)

Promoting high-quality development in the real estate sector

Advancing the Healthy China Initiative

Promoting high-quality population development

Ensuring more equitable access to basic public services

Accelerating the Green Transition across the Board and Building a Beautiful China

Pressing ahead with the critical battle against pollution and the drive to upgrade ecosystems

Moving faster to develop a new type of energy system
Working actively and prudently toward peaking carbon emissions

Accelerating the shift to eco-friendly production practices and lifestyles

Modernizing China's National Security System and Capacity and Building a Peaceful China

Improving the national security system

Building up national security capacity in key sectors

Enhancing public safety governance

Improving the social governance system

Achieving the Centenary Goals of the People's Liberation Army and Modernizing National Defense and the Armed Forces

Speeding up the development of advanced combat capabilities

Modernizing military governance

Consolidating and improving integrated national strategies and strategic capabilities



An aerial view of a village in Yongzhou City, south China's Hunan Province, on September 14, 2025 (VCG)

Basic Information of the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee



Name: the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China



Time: October 20 to 23, 2025



Venue: Beijing



Attendance: A total of 168 members and 147 alternate members of the Central Committee attended the session. Members of the Standing Committee of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and leading officials from other relevant departments were present at the meeting in a non-voting capacity. Some of our primary-level colleagues and a number of experts and scholars who served as delegates to the 20th National Party Congress also attended the meeting in a non-voting capacity.

China's Five-Year Plans at a Glance and Implementation of the 14th Five-Year Plan

Strategic Guidance Proves Governance Efficacy as China Propels Modernization

By Ji Haisheng from *China Daily*

In 1954, one year after China initiated the inaugural Five-Year Plan (1953-57), a specialized factory for manufacturing bearings, core components of mechanical equipment, was set up in Luoyang, Henan province.

It was one of the 156 key projects launched nationwide during the period when the country was striving to build up the basic industries essential for national industrialization. These projects, spanning sectors such as steel, machinery, energy and chemical engineering, laid the foundation for China's industrialization in its early days, marking a determined stride from an agricultural society toward industrial prowess.

Over 70 years later, Luoyang Bearing Group stands as a testament to this enduring vision, as it has evolved into an innovation-driven enterprise manufacturing over 30,000 types of high-precision bearings, vital to industries ranging from aerospace and wind power to rail transit and marine engineering.

During a visit to the company in May, President Xi Jinping, who is also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military

Commission, reflected on this remarkable progress, saying: "China has always adhered to the path of developing the real economy. From the past reliance on imported matches, soap and iron, to now becoming the world's largest manufacturing country with the most complete industrial categories, we have taken the right path."

Sticking to this path, China has remained the world's largest manufacturing country for 15 consecutive years. Observers noted that this transformative journey underscores the profound efficacy of the five-year plan system as a fundamental instrument of China's governance.

Five-year plans are crucial strategic documents that outline national goals,

major tasks and policy directions in various sectors for each five-year period.

It is an approach that experts say maintains policy continuity and stability toward established goals, and ensures the efficient and well-calibrated allocation of resources.

Formulating and implementing five-year plans has been a hallmark of the Communist Party of China's governance, enabling China to promote coordinated economic and social development over the medium and long terms. For China, the consistent theme from the first Five-Year Plan to the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25), as President Xi pointed out, has been to build China into a modern socialist country.

The five-year plans are not merely economic plans but comprehensive national development blueprints, and the robust implementation of these blueprints is the highlight of China's governance.

For more than seven decades, a key to the enduring vitality of the five-year plan system lies in “a synergistic relationship in which the top-level design and long-term perspective of national planning effectively complement the microlevel efficiency and innovative drive of the market economy”, said Yan Yilong, deputy dean of the Institute for Contemporary China Studies at Tsinghua University.

“This system operates on three pillars: building consensus on national goals through political guidance and

scientific planning, breaking down goals into actionable tasks with evaluation and supervision, and ensuring resource allocation to support these objectives,” Yan said.

The five-year plans are not merely economic plans but comprehensive national development blueprints, and the robust implementation of these blueprints is the highlight of China’s governance, he added.

Acknowledging the nature and significance of China’s five-year plan system, *The Diplomat*, a Washington,

DC-based foreign affairs magazine, noted that “the plans are neither rigid blueprints nor mere guidelines. Instead, they act as authoritative signals that shape the behavior of ministries, provincial governments, State-owned enterprises, private firms, and increasingly foreign investors”.

Over the decades, China’s five-year plans have guided continuous progress in national development and living standards, from ensuring adequate food and clothing after completing the sixth and seventh five-year plans in the



Two R&D members from the Technology Center of Luoyang Bearing Group discuss the technical parameters of wind power bearings in Zhengzhou, Henan province, on May 26, 2025 (XINHUA)

1980s to propelling China's total economic output to become the world's second-largest in the 11th Five-Year Plan (2006-10) period.

"Five-year plans illustrate the nation's shift from a planned economy to a socialist market economy," said Zhang Zhanbin, director of the Chinese Modernization Research Center at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee.

He highlighted the transformative power of these plans by citing the example of the revitalization of Northeast China, comprising Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning provinces.

The region became the nation's heavy-industry heartland during the first Five-Year Plan period and was reinvigorated decades later by the 10th Five-Year Plan (2001-05), which proposed to support the adjustment and transformation of the old industrial base. Each subsequent five-year plan has included dedicated sections outlining tasks for Northeast China's revitalization.

The 14th Five-Year Plan has initiated a more comprehensive revitalization phase for Northeast China, with a State Council-approved implementation plan outlining a clear road map for the region's future.

"The elevating of the strategic positioning of Northeast China in the recent five-year plans reflects the Party and the country's earnest expectations for its comprehensive revitalization in the new era," Zhang said.

Pivotal stage

The year 2025 signifies the conclusion of the 14th Five-Year Plan and is pivotal in shaping the subsequent five-year agenda.

The 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) is tasked with achieving "decisive progress" in basically realizing socialist modernization by 2035, said Yan.

Speaking at a symposium with pro-

"Five-year plans illustrate the nation's shift from a planned economy to a socialist market economy."

—Zhang Zhanbin, director of the Chinese Modernization Research Center at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee.

vincial leaders in Shanghai in April, Xi pointed out that the scientific formulation and consistent implementation of five-year plans represent an important experience of the Party in governing the country and a major political strength of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Xi, who previously led the drafting groups for both the 13th and 14th five-year plans, has consistently emphasized strategic foresight in guiding each phase of national development.

During the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) period, he underscored that this stage was decisive for building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and highlighted the importance of leveraging strategic opportunities. For the 14th Five-Year Plan, he outlined the historic mission of advancing toward the second centenary goal and called for a profound understanding of the new stage of development, including its characteristics and requirements.

Broad consensus

Looking ahead to the 15th Five-Year Plan, Xi has highlighted that the formulation and implementation of this plan has immense significance for fully realizing the strategic initiatives outlined at the 20th CPC National Congress and advancing Chinese mod-

ernization.

In an instruction in May, he emphasized the importance of integrating top-level design with seeking advice from the public, enhancing research and discussions, and building broad consensus, and stressed sound, democratic and law-based decision-making to ensure that the next five-year plan is formulated with high quality.

A key feature of the planning process has been the emphasis on public participation. From May 20 to June 20, an online campaign soliciting opinions for the 15th Five-Year Plan received over 3.11 million suggestions from the public. Xi described this as a vivid example of whole-process people's democracy and urged relevant departments to carefully study and absorb these valuable insights.

By integrating visionary guidance with inclusive governance, China's "target governance mechanism", exemplified by the five-year plan system, continues to be a vital tool for aligning national ambitions with the aspirations of its people, said Yan, the Tsinghua expert.

As China navigates a complex landscape of technological acceleration, economic transformation and strategic competition, the next five-year plan represents a critical step toward securing sustainable and high-quality development, he added. **CI**

China's Five-Year Plans at a Glance

The 1st Five-Year Plan (1953-1957)

Focus: Establishing the foundations of heavy industry and socialist industrialization.

Developments: Socialist transformation of agriculture, handicrafts, and capitalist sectors.

economic aggregate has increased significantly compared with the past.

The 2nd Five-Year Plan (1958-1962)

Focus: Industrial technological transformation and heavy industry.

Developments: Advanced socialist transformation.

The Fifth Five-Year Plan (1976-1980)

Focus: Balanced and rational economic development.

Developments: The period was defined by the 11th CPC Central Committee's third plenary session, which launched China's reform and opening-up policy, a pivotal economic shift.

The 3rd and 4th Five-Year Plans (1966-1975)

Focus: Industrial transportation and defense technology.

Developments: A large number of backbone enterprises, key projects and infrastructure facilities have been built, and the country's

The Sixth Five-Year Plan (1981-1985)

Focus: Economic reform and opening up.

Developments: A dramatic increase in agricultural production, the opening of China's economy to the world and the onset of a take-off stage in national economic development, driven by key reforms such as the Household Contract Responsibility System and the establishment of Special Economic Zones.



The Seventh Five-Year Plan (1986-1990)

Focus: Steady economic growth, sectoral improvements, and economic system reform.

Developments: The national economy maintained steady growth during this period, with major improvements across agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, and fishery, which helped further alleviate shortages in agricultural and consumer products.

reached \$850, moving the country into the lower-middle-income category. Major agricultural and industrial outputs ranked among the world's top, and the general living standards of the people had reached a modest level of prosperity.



The Eighth Five-Year Plan (1991-1995)

Focus: Reforming the socialist market economy.

Developments: The role of market mechanisms became a central aspect of this period. With a faster pace of reform, China's GDP grew at an average annual rate of 12 percent.



The Tenth Five-Year Plan (2001-2005)

Focus: Economic restructuring, driving IT application across the national economy and society, and navigating the challenges and opportunities presented by its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Developments: China's accession to the WTO accelerated the growth of its export-oriented economy. The pace of industrialization and urbanization quickened, with notable growth in automobile and housing consumption. GDP grew at an average annual rate of 9.8 percent, and the country's total economic output ranked fourth in the world.



The Ninth Five-Year Plan (1996-2000)

Focus: By the end of the 20th century, to double the 1980 GNP and enable the people to achieve a moderately prosperous standard of living.

Developments: The actual performance in GNP far exceeded the target. Despite the Asian financial crisis, China's GDP surpassed \$1 trillion in 2000, and per-capita GDP



The Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2006-2010)

Focus: The formal transition from a planned economy to a socialist market economy took place during this period. Significant shifts occurred in development philosophy, with the Scientific Outlook on Development guiding socioeconomic progress. Key priorities included accelerating the transformation of the economic

growth model, enhancing indigenous innovation capabilities, and promoting social harmony.

Developments: Despite the impact of the global financial crisis, China's GDP continued to grow at an annual rate of 11.2 percent. The country's total economic output became the second-largest in the world, and China entered the upper-middle-income category. Notably, the core concept of plan began to reflect a more flexible and indicative approach to national development.



The Twelfth Five-Year Plan (2011-2015)

Focus: Pivoting from pure GDP growth to sustainable, high quality development. It targeted 7 percent annual growth while restructuring, inclusive growth with matching income rises, and binding environmental targets.

Developments: Socialism with Chinese characteristics entered a new era under this plan. China maintained its position as the world's second-largest economy, contributing more than 25 percent of world economic growth.



The Thirteenth Five-Year Plan (2016-2020)

Focus: Key priorities included addressing challenges related to growth drivers, imbalanced development, harmony

between humanity and nature, open development, and achieving shared prosperity.

Developments: China's economy maintained steady and high-speed growth, with per capita GDP surpassing \$10,000, reaching the level of upper-middle-income countries, and contributing over 30 percent of global growth. Manufacturing shifted to higher-end industries, and the digital economy flourished. Technological progress continued to be a major driver of economic growth. The country also made historic achievements in poverty alleviation, environmental improvement, and the expansion of its social security system.



The Fourteenth Five-Year Plan (2021-2025)

Focus: To drive China's transition from "becoming prosperous" to "becoming strong," pursuing higher-quality, more efficient, more equitable, more sustainable, and more secure development.

Developments: Amid the complex and evolving international landscape and the demanding tasks of domestic reform, development, and maintaining stability, China has withstood the severe impact of a once-in-a-century pandemic and met a series of major risks and challenges. The nation's economic strength, scientific and technological capabilities, and overall national power have all reached new heights.

China's Economic and Social Achievements During the 14th Five-Year Plan Period

Economic Development

China's total economic output is expected to reach around 140 trillion yuan (\$19.72 trillion) this year.

The incremental growth in the past five year is expected to exceed 35 trillion yuan (\$4.93 trillion), equivalent to creating another Yangtze River Delta economic region from scratch. This amount equals the combined economic output of China's three largest provinces — Guangdong, Jiangsu and Shandong — which together surpass the GDP of the world's third-largest economy.

In the first four years, China's economy grew at an average rate of 5.5 percent.

increase of 1.2 trillion yuan (\$169.03 billion), and the intensity of R&D investment increased to 2.68 percent, close to the average level of OECD countries.

At sea, China's first domestically-made aircraft carrier with electromagnetic catapult systems, the Fujian, has been launched. The country's first domestically built large cruise ship, the Adora Magic City, has entered into service. Together with our globally leading large LNG carriers, we now possess the "three pearls" in the crown of the shipbuilding industry.

On land, the world's first fourth-generation nuclear power plant, Shidaowan, was put into commercial operation.

In the air, the first Chinese space station, Tiangong, was fully completed and put into operation; the Chang'e 6 spacecraft completed the world's first unmanned sample-return mission from the far side of the moon; and the C919, China's first domestically developed large passenger aircraft built to international airworthiness standards, has begun commercial flights.

Innovation-Driven Development

In 2024, spending on R&D increased by nearly 50 percent compared with the end of the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020), with an

People's Well-Being

From a macroeconomic perspective, China has built the world's largest education, social security, and health care systems. Compulsory education retention rates exceed 95 percent, as do coverage rates for basic pension insurance and basic medical insurance.

We have ensured that 97 percent of children of migrant workers in cities attend public schools or benefit from government-funded school places.

We have established 114 national regional medical centers during the 14th Five-Year Plan period, bringing the total to 125. The nationwide direct settlement system for cross-provincial medical treatment has been built from the ground up and now benefits over 400 million people.

Long-term care insurance now covers over 180 million people. Childcare capacity has reached 5.74 million slots, an increase of 125 percent from the end of the 13th Five-Year Plan period.

More than 10,000 kilometers of new high-speed rail have been put into operation. As of now, China's high-speed rail operating mileage is twice that of all other countries combined.

Governance Efficiency

The national negative list of foreign investment access restrictions has been reduced to 29 items. Moreover, number of private enterprises has increased to more than 58 million, an increase of more than 40 percent compared to the end of the 13th Five-Year Plan period.

Green Development

China leads the world in expanding green coverage, with forest coverage rising to over 25 percent.

Pollution control has achieved remarkable results, with air quality reaching good or excellent levels on about 87 percent of days, an increase of 3 percentage points from the 13th Five-Year Plan period. The main channels of the Yangtze and Yellow Rivers, China's two "mother rivers," have both reached Class II water quality standards.

China has built the world's largest clean power generation system, with 1 in every 3 kilowatt-hours of electricity now coming from green energy sources.

Recycling has developed rapidly, with more than 20 percent of steel production now using recycled scrap steel as raw material, achieving significant energy savings and carbon reduction.

Security Assurance

More than 1 billion mu of high-standard farmland has been built, equivalent to the combined area of Heilongjiang and Henan, the top two grain-producing provinces.

China has built the world's largest power infrastructure system, with installed power generation capacity accounting for one-third of the global total.

China has the world's largest, most complete, and most comprehensive manufacturing system.

China's 14th Five-Year Plan in Numbers

This page highlights targets already exceeded ahead of schedule, from urbanization and patents to healthcare, forestry, water quality, food, and energy security.

Steady growth with rising urbanization

China's economy is expected to remain stable in 2025, the final year of China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025). [Read more.](#)

GDP growth rate (%)



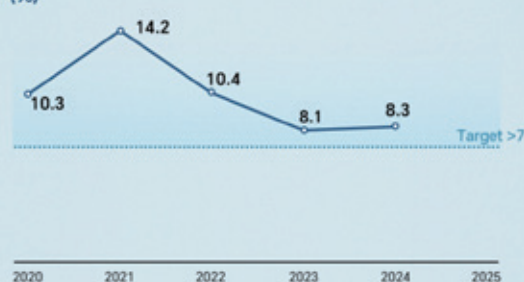
Growth of per capita disposable income of residents (%)



Number of practicing (assistant) physicians per 1,000 people



Growth of total R&D spending (%)



Number of high-value patents per 10,000 people



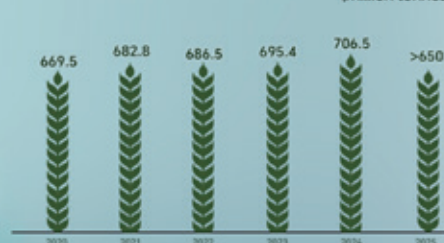
Proportion of days with good air quality in cities at prefecture level and above (%)



Proportion of surface water that has reached or exceeded Grade III (%)



Total grain output (million tonnes)





A staff member works in a data room of the supercomputing center in Gui'an New Area, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on August 29, 2024 (XINHUA)

China's Sustainable Growth Brings Shared Benefits to the World

As China approaches the end of its 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), the country stands at a new starting point in its long-term modernization drive.

Despite a challenging global landscape marked by a sluggish recovery and supply chain fragmentation caused by protectionism, China has consistently served as a reliable engine of growth and a pillar of stability for the world economy.

During the past five years, China has contributed around 30 percent on average to global economic growth each year. Its share of the world economy has risen from 11.3 percent in 2012 to 17.1 percent last year. The country has remained the world's largest trader in goods for many

years, while also ranking among the top globally in both attracting foreign investment and making outbound investment.

Behind this sustained momentum lies one of the hallmarks of China's governance: the five-year plan mechanism, which enables the country to pursue long-term goals with policy consistency, while allowing flexibility to adapt to shifting domestic and global landscapes.

China's roadmap for the next five years is already taking shape. While the full 15th Five-Year Plan is expected to be unveiled in March 2026, a communique from the recent fourth plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China has outlined key priorities,

which include steering the development of new quality productive forces, building a robust domestic market and promoting high-standard opening up.

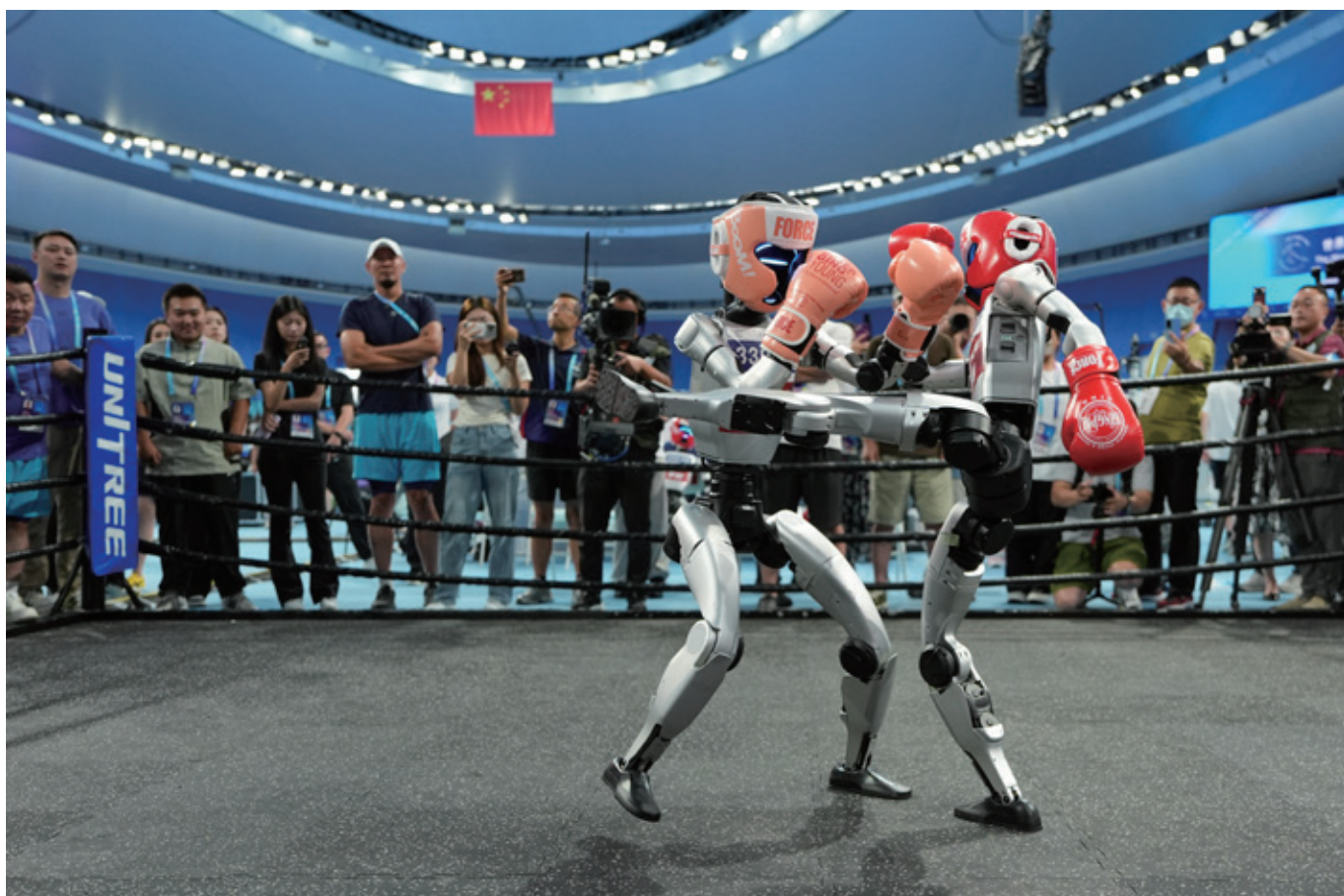
With steadfast emphasis on innovation and sustainability in its top-level planning, China has effectively powered its technological advancement and green transformation. The rapid rise of artificial intelligence exemplifies this shift. Smart manufacturing, intelligent driving, robotics and digitalized urban management are reshaping traditional industries and opening new frontiers for China's economic advancement.

At present, China stands as a global hub for green innovation and manufacturing, particularly in electric vehicles and solar panels. And it is playing an indispensable role in driving the world's transition to a sustainable, green economy.

Beijing has deepened international cooperation on green development. Working with over 100 countries and regions, China's wind and solar exports have helped reduce global carbon emissions by an estimated 4.1 billion tonnes over the past five years.

Meanwhile, China's vast market is steadily transforming its domestic demand into global opportunities. With a population of over 1.4 billion and more than 400 million people in the middle-income bracket, China records nearly 50 trillion yuan (about \$7.02 trillion) in annual consumption and over 20 trillion yuan (\$2.81 trillion) in imports. For more than a decade, the country has remained the world's second-largest consumer market and the largest online retail market.

More importantly, this market is undergoing a profound



Humanoid robots compete in a kickboxing match at the 2025 World Humanoid Robot Games in Beijing, capital of China, on August 15, 2025 (XINHUA)

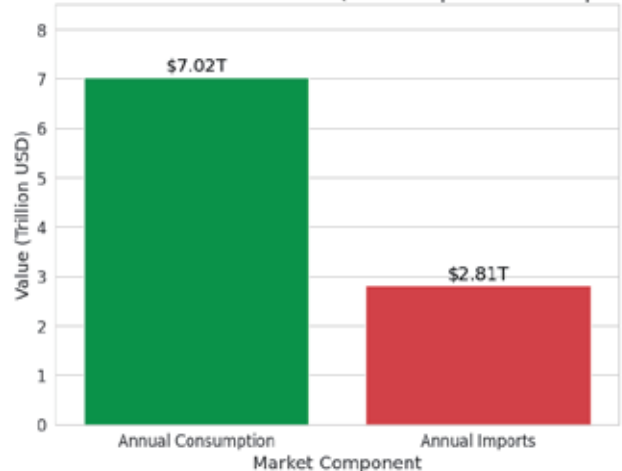


A drone photo taken on September 14, 2025 shows vehicles to be loaded onto a cargo ferry at a cargo dock in Yantai, east China's Shandong Province (XINHUA)

structural upgrade. From expanding and improving goods consumption to making services a new growth engine, from building international consumption hub cities to upgrading county-level consumption, a more diversified, robust and promising domestic market is emerging, offering a broader stage for goods and services from around the world.

China's steady advance toward high-level opening up continues to send a strong signal of confidence and stability to the world. The country has removed foreign investment restrictions in manufacturing, broadened market access in sectors such as telecommunications, healthcare, and education, and established 22 pilot free trade zones as well as the Hainan Free Trade Port to further facilitate global

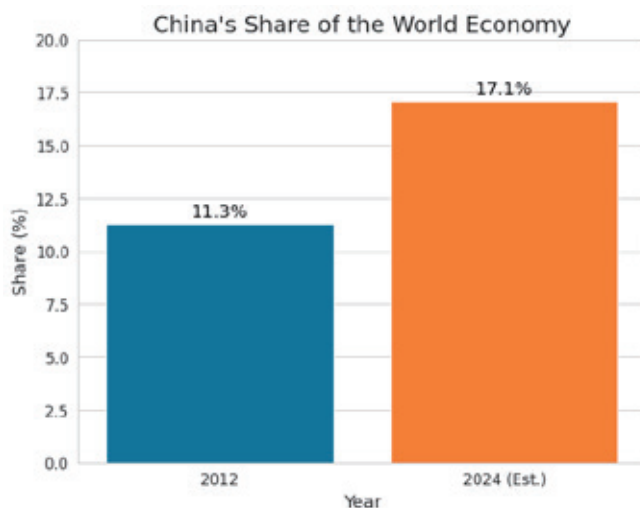
China's Annual Market Size (Consumption and Imports)



business and investment.

High-quality Belt and Road cooperation has further broadened China's partnerships. From 2021 to the first half of this year, two-way investment between China and Belt and Road participating countries surpassed 240 billion dollars. New memorandums on cooperation in the digital, green, and blue economies have been signed with more than 50 partner countries, boosting emerging industries and sustainable growth.

China charts the course for its next five-year plan, its steadfast commitment to reform, innovation and openness will continue to drive its development and create new opportunities for the global economy. **CI**



This photo taken on Oct. 31, 2025 shows the north square of the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai), the main venue for the eighth China International Import Expo (CIIE), in east China's Shanghai (XINHUA)

Xi Jinping and China's 15th Five-Year Plan

The Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) is the paramount political event that determines the nation's direction for the next five years. The Recommendations of the CPC Central Committee for Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development, reviewed and adopted at the plenum, reflects the detailed work, personal planning, and significant effort poured in by General Secretary Xi Jinping.

“Consolidating foundations and pressing ahead on all fronts”

Xi Jinping personally served as the head of the drafting group for the Fourth Plenary Session's document, which inherently established the highest political standing and strategic level of the planning recommendations. In defining the 15th Five-Year Plan period, Xi put forth the guiding principle: “consolidating foundations and pressing ahead on all fronts.”

During the group discussions at the plenum, Xi pointed out: “The period covered by the 15th Five-Year Plan will be critical as we work to reinforce these foundations and push ahead on all fronts toward this goal. A well-conceived 15th Five-Year Plan and its effective implementation will ensure we have even stronger foundations for basically achieving socialist modernization by 2035.”

He emphasized socialist modernization can only be realized through “a historical process of gradual and ongoing development.” The mindset of goal orientation and phased advancement runs through the entire top-level design of the plan. This strategic resolve is key for China to maintain its development momentum and resist global uncertainties, especially given the accelerating

changes in the world and the increase in unpredictable factors.

A member of the drafting group noted that Xi's leadership as head of the drafting group played a decisive role, guiding the direction and contributing immense efforts to the 15th Five-Year Plan recommendations. Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era is the “key principle” and “soul” running through the draft recommendations.

“Actively develop new quality productive forces”

The drafting process of the planning recommendations is also a vivid embodiment of whole-process people's democracy. Xi not only required soliciting public opinions online but also conducted on-site investigations to ensure the plan's scientific rigor and feasibility.

Details from his speeches on various occasions provided micro-level guidance for the 15th Five-Year Plan's economic deployment. He personally inspected a bearing manufacturing enterprise in Luoyang, Henan, and a valve manufacturing enterprise in Yangquan, Shanxi, repeatedly stressing the importance of “continuing to do a good job in manufacturing for advancing Chinese modernization” and “revitalizing the country through industry, building the nation through solid work.” This resulted in “building a modernized industrial system and reinforcing the foundations of the real economy” being placed in the first section of the plan's chapters.

Especially on the core issue of developing new quality productive forces, Xi, while proposing at the Shanghai symposium to place it in a “more prominent strategic position,” also reminded the plenum: “It should be noted that the development of new quality productive forces is contin-

gent on the presence of certain resource endowments, which means we must properly assess the feasibility of all relevant plans. In highlighting the need to develop new quality productive forces in line with local conditions in the document, we aim to guide all parties concerned to adopt a sound, rational, and realistic approach in their work and refrain from rushing headlong into new initiatives.” This dialectical thinking, which both encourages innovation and stresses rationality, ensures the solid advancement of the national strategy.

“Making solid progress toward realizing common prosperity for all”

In Chinese modernization, people’s well-being is paramount. During the planning of the 14th Five-Year Plan, the central plenum document first proposed achieving more visible and substantive progress in the common prosperity of all people as a long-range goal.

At this plenum, Xi stated: “The draft ‘Recommendations’ prominently emphasizes the solid steps taken toward common prosperity for all people in its guiding principles. This is an overarching requirement guiding the economic and social development during the 15th Five-Year Plan period.”



Cover of the single-volume edition of The Recommendations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China for Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development (Courtesy Photo)

Firmly anchored in the goal of common prosperity for all and the need to ensure and improve the people’s well-being, the document recommends a series of balanced and accessible policies and measures to promote high-quality full employment, optimize the income distribution system, develop education that meets the people’s expectations, refine the social security system, promote high-quality development in the real estate sector, advance the Healthy China Initiative, bolster high-quality population development, and make steady efforts to ensure equitable access to basic public services.

A grassroots official attending the session was deeply moved, noting: The draft recommendations are filled with warmth for the people; they discuss “top-level matters” while caring for “grassroots concerns.” It is not just a grand blueprint for national

development but also a vision of a happy life for every individual.

General Secretary Xi Jinping, with strategic clarity, historical initiative, and profound devotion to the people, has laid a solid political foundation and a scientific strategic framework for the beginning of a new chapter in Chinese modernization during the 15th Five-Year Plan period. **CI**



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