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Experts say China key to global recovery

Nation set to overtake United States in economic ranking earlier than forecast

By ANDREW MOODY

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China could emerge from the coronavirus pandemic with a more dominant economy, replacing the United States as the world's largest within the current decade, according to experts.

The world's second-largest economy recorded 3.2 percent growth in the second quarter, according to the National Bureau of Statistics, and has the potential to lead the global economy out of recession in the months ahead.

Jeremy Stevens, chief China economist at Standard Bank, said China is the only major country to successfully balance containing the COVID-19 pandemic and reviving its economy.

"The Chinese economy will certainly outperform almost all others, probably by quite a wide margin," said Stevens, who is based in Beijing.

"China's response to the pandemic has been far more focused, forceful and effective than elsewhere. Policy has focused on keeping businesses afloat and people employed, and this has paved the foundation for the swift recovery."

In the US, there have been more than 155,000 deaths from the virus, according to Johns Hopkins University. With the US economy contracting by a record 32.9 percent in the second



indepth

quarter and on track for an 8 percent yearly slump, China's economy may become bigger than that of the US sooner than previously anticipated.

The Centre for Economics and Business Research, a consultancy based in London, predicts this could happen as early as 2029, four years ahead of the forecast in its annual World Economic League Table published before the coronavirus crisis began.

Douglas McWilliams, the consultancy's deputy chairman, said, "We will not have a definitive prediction until we update our table later this year, but our best guess at this stage is that China will overtake the US at least two years earlier than expected and possibly up to four years earlier."

"China has managed the aftermath of coronavirus much more efficiently than Western economies and will therefore catch up with these economies rather more quickly," he said.

Stevens said the gap between the growth rates in China and the US has not been as wide since the start of the past decade, when China was still enjoying double-digit economic growth.

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Major cities' GDP growth in 1st half indicates resilience

By JIANG XUEQING

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The Chinese economy has again displayed its resilience and capacity for self-healing, experts said after more than 30 major cities released their key economic indicators, with the majority of them registering positive year-on-year gross domestic product growth in the first half of this year.

Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi province, ranked top with 2.8 percent GDP growth year-on-year in the first half. Several other emerging first-tier cities, including Changsha, capital of Hunan province, and Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu province, also saw their GDP increase by 2.2 percent.

High-tech industries and new technologies as well as new forms and models of business flourished. They have become key drivers of economic growth in some cities, especially in emerging first-tier cities, officials and experts said.

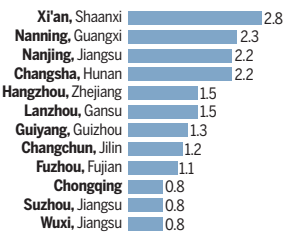
Xi'an achieved fast growth in industrial output during the first six months. Its electronic equipment manufacturing industry — which includes computers and communications gear — maintained high growth at a rate of 43.1 percent, according to the Xi'an Development and Reform Commission.

Nanjing also posted double-digit growth in value-added industrial output in the sectors of integrated circuits, new energy vehicles, smart grid and rail transit. The development of the new economy further accelerated, with investment in 5G mobile networks increasing by 110.6 percent, according to the city's statistics bureau.

"Boosting effective demand is the

Top 12 Chinese cities with fast GDP growth in H1 of 2020 (year-on-year)

Unit: Percent



Sources: Local bureaus of statistics

CHINA DAILY

key to promoting further economic recovery," said Wen Bin, chief analyst at China Minsheng Banking Corp.

"While vigorously promoting the development of new infrastructure such as 5G networks, China should also continue to develop traditional infrastructure projects. It is important for the country to support the construction of new infrastructure, the new model of urbanization, and major transportation and water infrastructure projects."

He advised the government to fully mobilize the enthusiasm of private sector investors and foreign investors to secure sources of funds for these projects through multiple channels.

Tao Jin, a senior research fellow at the Suning Institute of Finance, said some of the emerging first-tier cities gave full play to their advantages in areas such as industrial manufacturing and the internet economy, in order to mitigate the impact of social distancing on the service sector.

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Help on the way



Community workers deliver daily necessities to residents in a neighborhood in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, on Tuesday. Twenty-eight new COVID-19 cases were reported in the region on Tuesday. ZHOU PENG / FOR CHINA DAILY

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Beijing vows response to press visa curbs

By ZHOU JIN

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China vowed on Tuesday to make a necessary and legitimate response if Washington continues escalating its political suppression of Chinese journalists based in the United States.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said at a daily news conference that no Chinese journalist in the US has had their application for a visa extension granted since May, when Washington limited their visas to 90 days with an option for an extension. Their visas are due to expire later this month.

The US has been escalating its suppression of Chinese media due to a Cold War mentality and ideological prejudice, Wang said, urging Washington to immediately correct its mistakes.

According to Wang, since 2018, the US has indefinitely delayed its approval or denied visas to over 20 US-based Chinese journalists. In December 2018, it demanded that certain Chinese

media organizations' US offices register as "foreign agents".

China and the US have exchanged several measures involving journalists in recent months, amid deteriorating bilateral ties.

In February, the US designated five Chinese media entities in the US as "foreign missions" and imposed a cap on the number of their employees, in effect expelling 60 Chinese journalists. China has since taken countermeasures against US media outlets in the country in response.

In June, Washington listed four additional Chinese media outlets in the US as "foreign missions". The move brings the total of Chinese news organizations the US has designated with that label to nine. In retaliation, China demanded in July that four US media outlets in China file declarations regarding their staff, financial operations, real estate ownership and other matters.

"Such US moves seriously disrupt Chinese media's normal reporting in the US, damage the reputation of Chinese media and

affect bilateral people-to-people exchanges," Wang said.

While boasting about freedom of the press, the US interferes with and obstructs normal coverage by Chinese media in the country, which exposes its hypocrisy, double standards and hegemonic bullying, he added.

He repeated that the US caused and bears responsibility for the current situation.

"If the US is bent on going down the wrong path and doubles down on its mistakes, China will take necessary and legitimate measures to safeguard its legitimate rights," he added.

Wang did not say how many Chinese journalists were affected or what countermeasures China might consider, but the editor-in-chief of Global Times newspaper said earlier that US journalists based in Hong Kong would be among those targeted.

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Critic calls Washington's TikTok move 'mafia' deal

By LIA ZHU in San Francisco

and CHEN YINGQUN in Beijing

TikTok's roller-coaster ride in the United States continued on Monday as President Donald Trump said he would approve the video-sharing app's sale to Microsoft only if the US government gets a cut, a condition that one expert called a "mafia" deal.

The president also gave Microsoft and TikTok's Chinese owner, ByteDance, a deadline of Sept 15 to complete the deal, or the app will be banned in the US.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said at a regular media briefing in Beijing on Tuesday that the US treatment of TikTok is "outright bullying," and the US only uses a "national security risk" as an excuse to suppress Chinese tech enterprises.

"The relevant enterprises carry out business activities in the US following market principles and international rules and abiding by local laws and regulations," he said. "However, the US has set restrictions and suppressed them with unwarranted charges, which is political manipulation."

Wang said that if the wrongdoing by the US continues, then any country could take similar measures against any American enterprise on the grounds of national security.

"The US side must not open this Pandora's box, otherwise it will suffer its consequences," he said.

The increased scrutiny of TikTok culminated on Friday when Trump threatened to ban the app from operating in the US due to a "national security risk". The negotiations between the two companies were then halted.

But after a weekend phone call with Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, Trump reversed his stance and reportedly gave the two companies 45 days to close the deal. This was confirmed by Microsoft on Sunday, which said in a statement it "will move quickly to pursue discussions" with ByteDance and complete the talks "no later than" Sept 15.

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Inside

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US doctor comforts patients in last days



HELPING HANDS

Editor's note: When the planet's most populous country thrives, the rest of world does too, and friends from other lands have been willing to help. This series explores the contributions of foreigners to China's success.

By XIN WEN, SUN RUISENG in Yangquan, Shanxi, and RANDY WRIGHT

Like an angel descending from the heavens, Eric Miller, a 52-year-old American doctor with light skin and blue eyes, makes his appearance in a remote village in Shanxi province, known for hardworking coal miners and the Loess Plateau.

Miller's arrival is always a blessing, the beginning of a season of serenity.

He came to the village to comfort the dying, to relieve their suffering in their last days and help them exit the world with dignity.



Eric Miller and his team members cheer up a patient at Yangquan You'ai Hospital in Yangquan, Shanxi province.

WEI XIAOHAO / CHINA DAILY

Palliative care — also known as hospice care — which Miller provides, helps vanquish pain and anxiety, both for the patient and family members, through a combination of counseling and medication. It allows peace and love to settle in before the final breath is drawn.

"Palliative" refers to relieving pain and suffering without treating the underlying cause. In the sorts of cases Miller deals with, there are no cures. Death is certain.

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