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Construction and application of short-term economic indicator of China (draft)

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Construction and Application of Short-term Economic Indicator of China (draft)

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There are several short-term economic indicators in China. Industrial Growth Rate (IGR) is the major one of them. The paper will mainly introduce the construction and application of Industrial Growth Rate of China.

1. Background

Industrial growth rate is the major indicator to reflect the development of industrial economy. Since the founding of the republic, the total indicator of industrial gross output value was applied and the industrial growth rate was calculated by a constant price approach, which was applicable to the planned economy.

With on-going development of reform in economy system, the defect of calculating growth rate with industrial gross output value appears gradually, thus the industrial growth rate which we calculated with industrial gross output value deviated from the actual industrial economic development. The causes are as followings:

1) Shifted value increased. Industrial gross output value is the total of achievements of industrial enterprises, not the final result of industrial production, and it involves repeated calculations among enterprises. Professional cooperation prevails broadly in economy reform, big factories have some of their parts produced by others quite part of newly-established town- and village firms produce on the basis of contract for big factories. This increases turnovers among enterprises and adds to the ratio of shifted value

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every year to gross value, thus falsely increasing industrial growth rate.

2) Development of diverse operation causes errors in industry classification. To promote production, industrial enterprises in reform produce products trans-industrially. For example, enterprises in war industry produce civilian goods. Industrial gross output value is classified by industry according to the products an enterprise mainly produces and war industrial enterprises are still classified according to the war products they used to produce, which has brought on an inconsistency in coverage of industrial gross output value and output produced by some industries and difference between the growth rate of industrial gross output value and growth rate of major products.

3) Statistical rules are not followed strictly. Accurate calculation on gross output value is demanded. After reform and opening, many small industrial firms have emerged. The statisticians are not good enough at their job. They usually apply current prices instead of constant prices, sales income instead of industrial gross output value and etc. Some managers of enterprises and officials at town government report falsely on the output value and exaggerate the achievements, which leads to a false adding to the national industrial growth rate.

4) The implementation of the new national accounting system. With the system, industrial added value becomes the prime indicator and the industrial gross output value acts as the secondary one, so industrial gross output value is no more suitable for calculation of industrial growth rate.

It is clear as showed above that the method to calculate industrial growth rate with gross output value at constant price is getting out of date and can not catch up with the development of the reform in industry system. There is a demand for an overall reform to meet the need of the developing situation.

The need for improvement of the method to calculate industrial growth rate was put forward in 1980’s. It was started in 1987 to carry out extensive research, exploration and test calculations on industrial production index. We tested calculation of 1985-1997 annual index of production with annual output of 900 products reported by the all industrial enterprises and production units and 1998-1999 month and annual index of production

with month output of 480 products reported by all state-owned industrial enterprises and non state-owned enterprises with an annual sales of over 5 million yuan.

The test result shows that industrial production index has evident deficiency and is not suitable for Chinese condition as following:

a) It is very difficult to meet the demands of various level governments. In China, governments at all levels have a duty to regulate and control economic, so they need rapid and detail economic statistical date. In general, the industrial growth rate has to report to government at all level before 10^{th} of each month. And government at all level needs the detail information on industry growth rate by register status, region and sectors, etc.

b) It is very difficult to meet the demand of calculation of GDP. Industrial production index reflect the change of quantity of industrial development, but it can not be used to calculate the added value of industry.

c) It can not reflect the advance of science and technology of industrial development and do not match with economic benefit.

National Bureau of Statistics decided that the industrial growth rate is calculated base on industrial added value by deflation of price index since 2004.

2. Coverage

1) Sector classification

The coverage of calculation of industrial growth rate of China includes three sectors as following:

- Mining
- Manufacturing
- Production and supply of power & gas and water.

This is in consistency with ISIC. But more detail industrial classifications, such as three digit level and four digit level of sectors within mining, manufacturing, production and supply of power & gas and water are not in consistency with ISIC. China present industrial classification in 2002 (GB/T 4754-2002) covers 40 two-digit level, 191 three-digit level and 525 four-digit level of sectors.

To meet the needs of macro-economic regulation by the ministries and administrative leaders at various levels of China and to have data comparison as well as matching, and to be linked with other indicators, there establish five groups in the calculation program such as light and heavy industries.

2) Enterprise size

The calculation of industrial growth rate doesn't involve all industrial enterprise. The coverage includes all state-owned enterprises and the non-state-owned enterprises with annual sales income over 5 million Yuan (about 200 thousand respondents, as over 75% of all industrial output).

3. Method

1) Concept and formula

Industrial growth rate is the growth rate of added vale of industry. The growth of added value of industry in current price includes not only the quantity change of industrial products but also the price change of industrial products. In order to reflect the development of industrial economy accurately, the price change of industrial products should be removed and the added value of industry in comparable price is calculated. Then the growth of added value of industry in comparable price can be calculated. That is to say, we can get the industrial growth rate which reflects the quantity change of industrial products.

According to the China condition and the result of test calculation, **the single deflation of price index is applied to calculate the growth of added value of industry in comparable price.**

The calculation formula of growth of added value of industry is following:

$$\text{added value of industry in comparable price on reporting period} = \frac{\text{industrial gross output value in current price on reporting period} * \text{rate of added value of industry}}{\text{producer price index of industrial goods on reporting period}}$$

$$\text{industrial growth rate} = \frac{\text{added value of industry in comparable price on reporting period}}{\text{added value of industry in current price on base period}}$$

The same period of preceding year is usually chosen as base period in China.

2) Process of calculation

The calculation method of growth of added value of industry can be divided into four steps as following:

a) Calculation of industrial gross output value

The industrial gross output value on reporting period can be got from Industrial Enterprise Survey on Production every month.

For large and medium enterprises, the total of industrial gross output value have to be allocated into 3-digit level during the reporting period when they fill in the survey questionnaires.

For small enterprises, the industrial gross output value has to be reported and need not be allocated into 3-didit level. NBS will allocate the total of gross output value of all small enterprise into 3-digit level according to the proportion of each 3-digit level from First National Economic Census.

b) Calculation of producer price index

The producer price index is a relative number which reflects the change tendency of producer price of industrial goods. It is calculated by the following steps:

- ✓ Calculation of price index of each representative specification product

$$k_{ij} = \sqrt[m]{k_{ij}^1 \times k_{ij}^2 \times ..... \times k_{ij}^m}$$

Where, k_{ij}^m represents price index (the price on reporting period divided by the price on base period) of representative specification product *i* of representative product *j* of enterprise *m*.

✓ Calculation of price index of representative product

$$K_j = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{I} k_{ij}}{n_j}$$

Where, k_{ij} represents price index of representative specification product *i* of representative product *j*. K_j represents price index of representative product *j*.

✓ Calculation of producer price index

$$K = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{J} K_j W_j}{\sum_{j=1}^{J} W_j}$$

Where, K_j represents price index of representative product *j*. W_j represents weight of representative product *j*.

c) Calculation of industrial added value in comparable price

The industrial added value in comparable price is calculated by deflating price index in 3-digit level sectors.

✓ Calculation of industrial added value in current price (IAVCU) on reporting period by sectors

$$IAVCU_i = IGOV_i \times ROAV_i$$

Where, $IGOV_i$ represents industrial gross output value of sector *i* in 3-digit level on reporting period. $ROAV_i$ represents rate of added value of sector *i* in 3-digit level.

✓ Calculation of industrial added value in comparable price (IAVCM) on reporting period by sectors

$$IAVCM_i = \frac{IAVCU_i}{K_i}$$

Where, K_i represents producer price index on reporting period of sector *i* in 3-digit level.

✓ Calculation of total industrial added value in comparable price (TIAVCM) on reporting period

$$TIAVCM = \sum_{i=1}^{I} IAVCM_i$$

The rate of added value of sector *i* in 3-digit level was calculated by the annual industrial survey of last year. The annual added value can be calculated according to the detail finance information from enterprises.

d) Calculation of industrial growth rate

The industrial growth rate (IGR) can be calculated by dividing industrial added value in comparable price on reporting period by industrial added value in current price on base period.

$$IGR_t = \frac{TIAVCM_t}{TIAVCU_{t-1}}$$

Where, $TIAVCM_t$ represents industrial added value in comparable price on reporting period *t*. $TIAVCu_{t-1}$ represents industrial added value in current price on base period *t-1*.

The industrial growth rate by light & heavy industry, status of registration can be calculated according to above method.

4. Publication

The national result of monthly production survey in China can be available on the 6th of each month. Normally, monthly industrial growth rate can be compiled about the 10th of each month. But the releasing date is various in different month. The following table is the releasing date of monthly report on industrial production in 2006, of course, including the industrial growth rate.

Month	Releasing date
February	No survey in Jan.
March	15
April	21
May	17
June	14
July	21
August	15
September	13
October	25
November	15
December	13

The releasing report of industrial growth rate includes not only national industrial growth rate and the added value of industry, but also industrial growth rate and added value by:

a) Light and heavy industries
b) Registration status, such as state-owned, Private Enterprises, Collective Enterprises, Share-holding Corporations Ltd., Share-holding Enterprises, Foreign Funded, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Funded Enterprises, etc.
c) Region, including 31 provinces in mainland, not including Hong Kong, Macao. And Taiwan.
d) Sectors, in 2-digit level.

The main result in April 2006 is as following:

Table 1: Added Value of Industry (2006.04)

Unit: 100 million yuan

Indicators	Accumulated	This month	Increase rate over the same period of last year %	
			Accumulated	This month
Value added of Industry	**24611.11**	**6819.78**	**16.7**	**16.6**
Of which: Light Industry	7636.92	2071.9	15	14.2
Heavy Industry	16974.19	4747.87	17.5	17.7
Of which: State-owned and State-holding Industrial Enterprises	9237.22	2463.15	10.6	10.8
Of which: Private Enterprises	4367.75	1260.42	26.4	24.8
Of which: Collective Enterprises	778.19	224.67	13.4	13
Share-holding Corporations Ltd.	270.4	79.6	17.9	17.9
Share-holding Enterprises	12145.82	3361.35	17.4	17.2
Foreign Funded, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Funded Enterprises	7064.06	1968.74	19	18.6

Table 2: Added Value of Industry by Region (2006.04)

Regions	Value added of Industry (100 million yuan)		Increase rate over the same period of last year (%)	
	Accumulated	This month	Accumulated	This month
National Total	**24611.1**	**6819.8**	**16.7**	**16.6**
Beijing	515	136.5	18.2	15.6
Tianjin	675.5	186.6	21.1	22.5
Hebei	1042.5	294	18.2	20.8
Shanxi	589.7	166.7	13.7	22.1
Inner Mongolia	390.2	107.4	29.8	27
Liaoning	1076.2	298.6	16.3	15.3

Jilin	403.1	113.4	12.7	14.2
Heilongjiang	793.4	207.2	15.1	14.3
Shanghai	1326.6	365	15.5	15.3
Jiangsu	3010	810.2	22.5	21.7
Zhejiang	1617.4	465.2	18.6	17.6
Anhui	509.4	143.5	17.9	20.6
Fujian	760.3	205.5	19.1	16.9
Jiangxi	303.6	88.1	21.5	23.7
Shandong	3184.1	910.7	25.3	25.7
Henan	1145.3	324.1	22.4	23.6
Hubei	698.7	193.5	20.1	21.6
Hunan	565.2	158.9	19.9	18.7
Guangdong	3035.5	841.1	17.6	19
Guangxi	335.4	79	20.8	23
Hainan	51.4	13.1	18.8	8.9
Chongqing	245.3	68.8	20.5	20.4
Sichuan	779.9	209.8	23.4	21.7
Guizhou	200.2	55.6	16.6	15.9
Yunnan	373.8	100.3	9.6	12.5
Tibet	3.6	1.4	16.6	22.3
Shaanxi	484.8	134.2	15	20.1
Gansu	217.5	62.4	16.1	15.6
Qinghai	67	21	20	19.8
Ningxia	72.2	19.7	10.1	12.1
Xinjiang	315.6	86.1	20.1	14.5

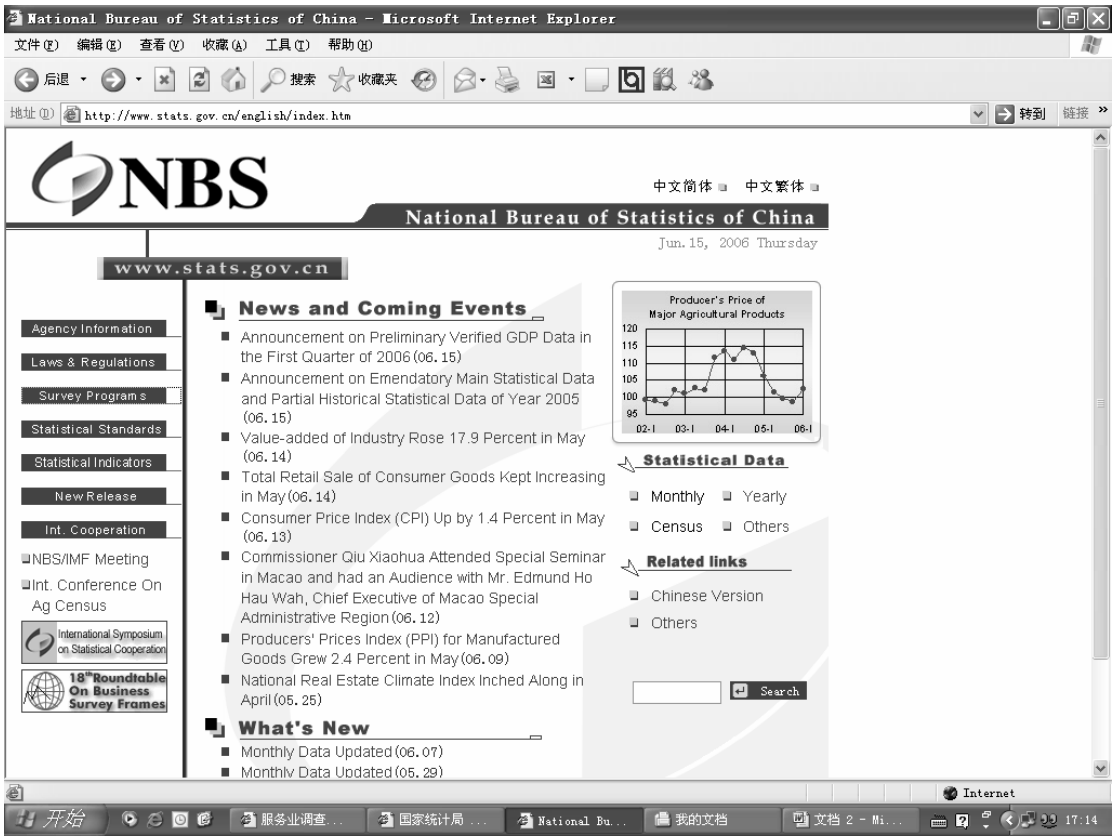
Table 3: Added Value of Industry by Sector (2006.04)

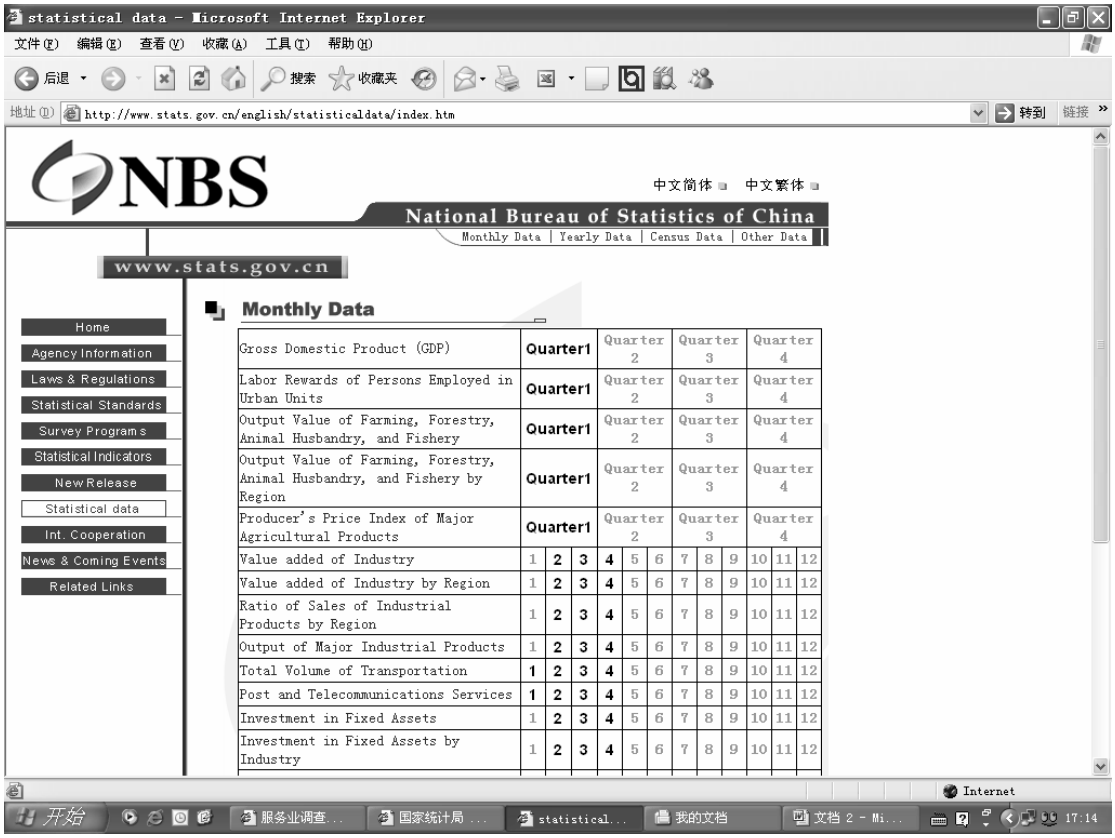
Sectors (2-digit level)	Value added of Industry (100 million yuan)		Increase rate over the same period of last year (%)	
	Accum-ulated	This month	Accum-ulated	This month
National Total	**24611.1**	**6819.8**	**16.7**	**16.6**
Mining and Washing of Coal	843.9	244.3	10.6	16.6
Extraction of Petroleum and Natural Gas	1720.0	454.3	2.7	2.6
Mining and Processing of Ferrous Metal Ores	132.5	39.1	25.0	25.2
Mining and Processing of Non-Ferrous Metal Ores	140.9	43.4	26.1	25.7
Mining and Processing of Nonmetal Ores	89.4	28.9	32.0	36.0
Mining of Other Ores	0.5	0.1	35.6	16.8
Processing of Food from Agricultural Products	933.8	245.8	22.6	24.2
Manufacture of Foods	398.6	105.4	20.1	19.0
Manufacture of Beverages	403.8	106.2	17.6	16.4
Manufacture of Tobacco	788.1	185.0	6.2	3.6
Manufacture of Textile	1027.0	287.1	15.9	13.1
Manufacture of Textile Wearing Apparel, Footware, and Caps	467.1	129.8	17.6	17.8
Manufacture of Leather, Fur, Feather and Related Products	292.0	82.2	19.6	17.0
Processing of Timber, Manufacture of Wood, Bamboo, Rattan, Palm, and Straw Products	164.0	48.4	22.5	19.2
Manufacture of Furniture	141.2	39.3	21.0	20.5
Manufacture of Paper and Paper Products	393.0	109.2	21.4	20.1
Printing, Reproduction of Recording Media	155.8	42.6	13.2	15.5
Manufacture of Articles For Culture, Education and Sport Activity	118.8	34.3	13.5	11.5
Processing of Petroleum, Coking, Processing of Nuclear Fuel	658.6	178.3	7.9	8.6
Manufacture of Raw Chemical Materials and Chemical Products	1602.0	441.4	18.0	16.9
Manufacture of Medicines	498.6	136.1	15.3	13.9
Manufacture of Chemical Fibers	155.0	40.7	16.4	15.0

Manufacture of Rubber	207.2	59.3	17.9	14.1
Manufacture of Plastics	435.2	125.0	17.3	16.8
Manufacture of Non-metallic Mineral Products	902.2	270.6	22.0	20.7
Smelting and Pressing of Ferrous Metals	1793.2	502.0	11.2	14.7
Smelting and Pressing of Non-ferrous Metals	784.7	230.8	26.4	25.4
Manufacture of Metal Products	575.5	166.6	17.9	16.4
Manufacture of General Purpose Machinery	1030.0	304.4	20.2	20.6
Manufacture of Special Purpose Machinery	592.8	171.6	24.1	21.4
Manufacture of Transport Equipment	1419.6	410.2	23.8	23.8
Manufacture of Electrical Machinery and Equipment	1188.9	344.5	16.4	14.9
Manufacture of Communication Equipment, Computers and Other Electronic Equipment	1950.3	527.5	26.1	26.8
Manufacture of Measuring Instruments and Machinery for Cultural Activity and Office Work	237.1	68.9	18.9	19.9
Manufacture of Artwork and Other Manufacturing	229.4	64.6	18.0	15.4
Recycling and Disposal of Waste	21.3	5.7	21.4	7.6
Production and Distribution of Electric Power and Heat Power	1975.9	509.0	13.2	11.9
Production and Distribution of Gas	52.7	13.3	13.8	11.5
Production and Distribution of Water	90.5	23.8	9.1	8.1

You can get the related information on industrial growth rate by internet as following:

- ✓ http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/statisticaldata/index.htm
- ✓ China monthly economic indicators
- ✓ Chinese Statistics Yearbook

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Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Quarter1 Quarter 2 Quarter 3 Quarter 4
Labor Rewards of Persons Employed in Urban Units Quarter1 Quarter 2 Quarter 3 Quarter 4
Output Value of Farming, Forestry, Animal Husbandry, and Fishery Quarter1 Quarter 2 Quarter 3 Quarter 4
Output Value of Farming, Forestry, Animal Husbandry, and Fishery by Region Quarter1 Quarter 2 Quarter 3 Quarter 4
Producer's Price Index of Major Agricultural Products Quarter1 Quarter 2 Quarter 3 Quarter 4
Value added of Industry 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Value added of Industry by Region 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Ratio of Sales of Industrial Products by Region 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Output of Major Industrial Products 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Total Volume of Transportation 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Post and Telecommunications Services 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Investment in Fixed Assets 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Investment in Fixed Assets by Industry 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
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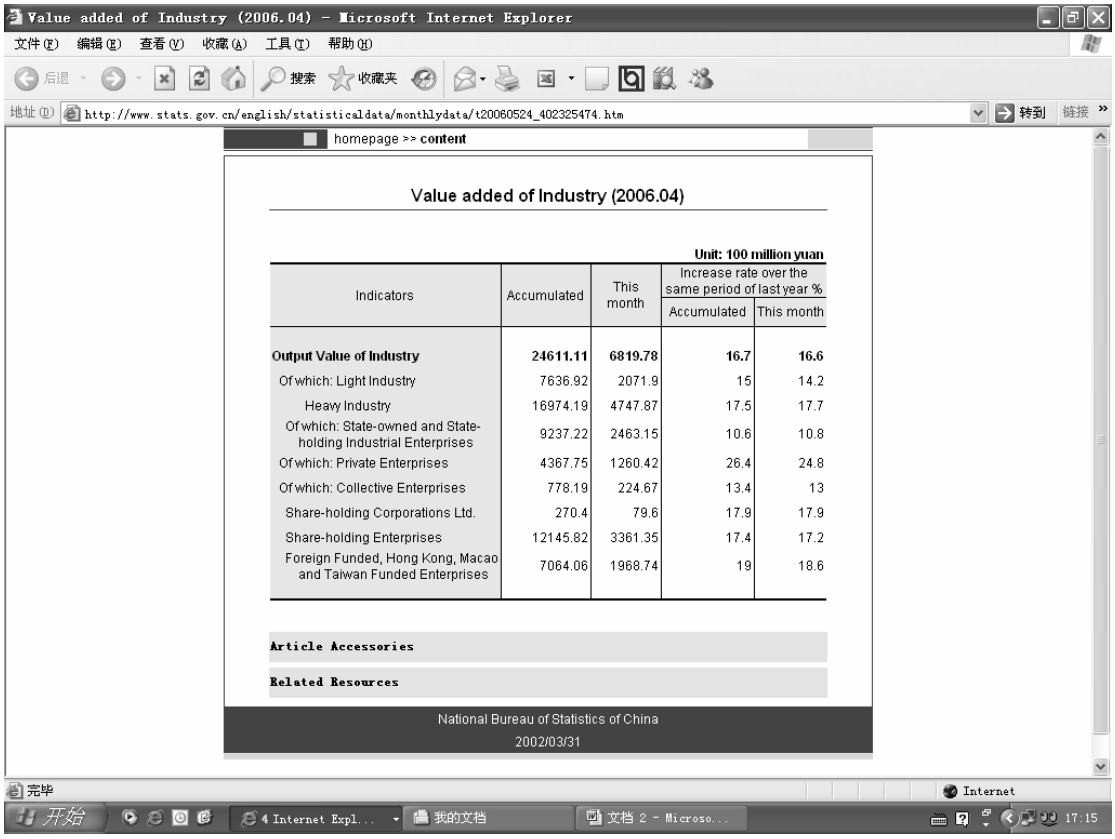
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homepage >> content
Value added of Industry (2006.04)
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Indicators | Accumulated | This month | Increase rate over the same period of last year % | Accumulated | This month
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Foreign Funded, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Funded Enterprises 7064.06 1968.74 19 18.6
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5. Other short-term economic indicators

In addition to releasing the industrial growth rate, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of China also releases the other short-term economic indicators every month, such as Total Volume of Transportation, Post and Telecommunications Services, Investment in Fixed Assets, Total Retail Sales of Consumer Goods, etc. All these statistics data can be available by the Website of NBS (http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/index.htm). I will give a brief introduce some of them.

1) Volume of Transportation

The statistical data of Volume of Transportation can be available on the 6th of each month from the other ministries, such as Ministry of Railway, Ministry of Communication, Civil Aviation Administration of China, etc. Normally, monthly Volume of Transportation can be compiled about the 10th of each month. The report on volume of transportation will be released after 15th of each month. There are two major indicators as following:

a) Freight (Passenger) Traffic refers to the volume of freight (passenger) transported with various means. Freight transport is calculated in tons and passenger traffic is calculated in the number of persons. Despite the type of freight and traveling distance, the freight transport is calculated in the actual weight of the goods; and despite the traveling distance and ticket price, the passenger traffic is calculated by the principle that one person can be counted only once in one travel. The passengers who travel with a half price ticket or a child ticket is also calculated as one person.

The freight (passenger) traffic provides a quantitative measure to show how the transport industry serves the national economy and people, and is also an important indicator for planning the transport industry and for studying the development scale and speed of the transport industry.

b) **Freight Ton-kilometers (Passenger-kilometers)** refer to the sum of the products of the volume of transported cargo (passengers) multiplying by the transport distance. It is an important indicator to reflect the achievement of transportation industry. Normally, the shortest distance between the departure station and the destination station (i.e., the payable distance) is the basis to calculate the freight ton-kilometers.

This is an important indicator to show the total results of the transport industry, to prepare and examine the transport plan and to measure the efficiency, the labour productivity and the unit cost of transport.

The formula is as follows:

Freight ton-kilometers (passenger-kilometers) =∑{freight (passenger) traffic x distance of transportation}

Table 4: Total Volume of Transportation (2006.04)

Indicators	Unit	Absolute Value		Increase Rate over the Same Period Last Year (%)	
		Accumulated	This Month	Accumulated	This Month
Total Freight Traffic	100 million tons	60.63	15.95	7.9	8.9
Railways	100 million tons	9.09	2.36	5.1	8
Highways	100 million tons	44.56	11.66	7.7	8
Waterways	100 million tons	6.97	1.93	13.3	16
Civil Aviation	10 000 tons	104.1	29.21	11.6	9.4
Total Freight Ton-kilometers	100 million ton-km	26081.35	6906.97	8.8	9.9
Railways	100 million ton-km	6922.87	1824.54	3.9	6.9
Highways	100 million ton-km	2969.2	768.3	11.1	9.4
Waterways	100 million ton-km	16162.65	4306.81	10.6	11.3
Civil Aviation	100 million ton-km	26.64	7.32	11.3	8.2
Total Passenger Traffic	100 million persons	66.2	15.86	8.1	9.6
Railways	100 million persons	4.14	0.99	7	6.2
Highways	100 million persons	60.89	14.57	8.1	9.8
Waterways	100 million persons	0.68	0.16	9.7	9.7
Civil Aviation	100 million persons	0.49	0.14	20.1	20.4
Total Passenger Kilometers	100 million persons-km	6504.65	1500.47	9	9.1
Railways	100 million persons-km	2355.55	510.72	7.8	8.7
Highways	100 million persons-km	3407.49	786.28	7.8	6.9
Waterways	100 million persons-km	22.66	5.64	8.8	11.4
Civil Aviation	100 million persons-km	718.95	197.83	19.3	20.3
Total Volume of Major harbors	100 million tons	10.66	2.82	17.2	16
Of which: Foreign Trade Goods	100 million tons	4.57	1.19	14.4	14.9

2) Post and Telecommunications Services

The statistical data of Post and Telecommunications Services can be available on the 20th of each month from the other ministries, such as from Ministry of Information Industry and National Postal Office, etc. Normally, monthly statistical data can be compiled about the 25th of each month. The report on short-term tendency of Post and Telecommunications Services will be released after 30th of each month. The major indicator is Business Volume of Post and Telecommunications.

Business Volume of Post and Telecommunications refers to the total amount of post and telecommunication services, expressed in value terms, provided by the post and telecommunications departments for the society.

Post and telecommunication services can be classified as letters, parcels, remittance, issue of newspapers and magazines, fast mail service, express mail service, savings deposits, stamps for collection, public and individual telegraph service, facsimiles, long-distance telephone service, leasing of telephone lines, urban paging service, mobile telephone service, data transfer and transmission, etc.

The accounting approach is to multiply the service products of all types with their average unit price (constant price) to get sum of business value, plus income from other services such as leasing of telephone lines and equipment, maintenance of telephone switchboards and lines on behalf of customers.

This indicator reflects the overall results of post and telecommunications service during a given period, and is important to study the composition of business service and the development of post and telecommunications service.

The formula is as follows:

Business volume of post and telecommunications

= ∑(Transaction of post and telecommunication service x constant price) + Income from leasing, maintenance and other services

Table 5: Post and Telecommunications Services (2006.04)

	Unit	Accumulated	This Month	Increase Rate over the Same Period Last Year (%)	
				Accumulated	This Month
Total Business Volume of Post and Telecommunications	**100 million yuan**	**4677.1**	**1239.9**	**24.6**	**24**
Business Volume of Post	100 million yuan	232.5	60.4	17.2	17.5
Business Volume of Telecommunications	100 million yuan	4444.6	1179.5	25	24.3
Total Number of Letters	10 000 pieces	230433	64416.8	-4.2	0.1
Parcels	10 000 pieces	3019.6	774.8	-5.3	-1.8
Express mail	10 000 pieces	7935.8	2236.2	19.4	17.5
Bills of Exchange	10 000 pieces	5284.7	1432.8	2.6	15
Accumulated Number of News Papers Sold	10 000 pieces	502507	128027.3	1.2	1.1
Accumulated Number of Magazines Sold	10 000 pieces	33563.4	8730.1	-2.8	0.4
Stamp Collection	10 000 pieces	47990.7	8378.9	0.9	6.4
Post Deposit Balance	100 million yuan	14901.5	14901.5	25.1	25.1
Length of Time for Long-distance Calls	10 000 minutes	3109090.7	821532.5	13.6	8.4
Number of Fixed Phone Users	10 000 households	36094.1	36094.1	9.6	9.6
Number of Urban Households	10 000 households	24689.7	24689.7	10.2	10.2
Number of Resident Phone Users	10 000 households	17674.5	17674.5	8.4	8.4
Number of Rural Households	10 000 households	11404.4	11404.4	8.3	8.3
Number of Resident Phone Users	10 000 households	10375.7	10375.7	8.3	8.3
Number of Mobile Phone Users	10 000 households	41664.4	41664.4	17.8	17.8

Note: Ministry of Information Industry of China has cancelled the statistical indicator of wireless paging users since Year 2006.