

TOP NEWS

Nation’s job market grows in 1st quarter

Vice-minister: Government prepared to tackle challenges and uncertainties

By CHENG SI
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Senior officials and industry experts have expressed confidence in China’s job market growth, as the central government has prepared for uncertainties and will continue releasing supportive policies in finance, skills training and entrepreneurship to maintain the stability of domestic employment.

The domestic job market delivered some eye-catching results in the first quarter of this year, with the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security announcing on Monday that about 3.08 million new jobs were created in urban areas in the first quarter, an increase of around 50,000 jobs compared with the same period last year.

The surveyed unemployment rate in the first quarter stayed at around 5.3 percent, a slight rise of 0.1 percentage point year-on-year but still within the target range of 5.5 percent set for this year in the 2025 Government Work Report.

Yu Jiadong, vice-minister of human resources and social security, said at a news conference in Beijing on Monday that the central government has fully analyzed the domestic employment landscape and is prepared to tackle challenges and uncertainties.

“We’ve noted international challenges and hefty tariffs imposed by the United States, which have made some Chinese foreign trade companies face business difficulties and, thus, see a hit to employees. But we will spare no effort to make sure the domestic job market grows steadily,” he said.

Yu also said the government will continue to develop new growth points for employment and encourage employers, especially small and medium-sized companies and those involved in key industries like modern services and manufacturing, to create more job opportunities with financial incentives.

“It’s important to fully implement the current policies (such as low-interest loans and hiring subsidies). The loan limit to small and medium-sized companies has been raised to 50 million yuan (\$6.85 million) at most, and for individuals 10 million

yuan at most,” he said. The loans are specifically to be used to stabilize job positions or for job creation.

The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security and the Ministry of Finance have recently granted a subsidy totaling 66.7 billion yuan for employment promotion, Yu said, adding that stronger financial support and subsidies will be given to companies and individuals, especially those bearing greater losses or influence related to high US tariffs.

He said at the conference that the central government will continue to prioritize the employment of key groups such as college graduates and migrant workers, while preferential policies on loans, taxes and skills training will be available to people who face difficulties in landing jobs because of disability or family financial conditions.

He stressed the importance of skills training and said that companies hit by the hefty US tariffs are encouraged to keep their employees by organizing on-the-job skills training programs or training employees for new positions.

“We have a sufficient policy tool kit, which can support the companies in keeping their staff members or hiring new people, and can also improve people’s working skills or ability to run their own businesses. We have confidence in stabilizing the domestic job market,” Yu said.

Li Qiang, vice-president of recruitment portal Zhaopin, said he is confident about China’s economy and employment resilience and potential, citing the economic performance in the first quarter and growing domestic hiring demand.

“The GDP in the first quarter marked 5.4 percent year-on-year growth, and we’ve noticed that hiring demand from employers in modern services, manufacturing and real estate have all registered growth during this period of time, showing China’s optimized economic structure,” Li said.

“With the progress of the establishment of China’s modern industrial system, the job market will continue to play a key role in turning the economic development results into benefits for people’s livelihood,” he added.

Cultural interaction



Audience members dance with a performer on Sunday during an African music and dance arts event at Tsinghua University in Beijing. The event, which was held to mark the 114th anniversary of the university’s founding, aimed to bridge Chinese and African cultures and arts through interactive segments including face painting, African drum dancing and costume fashion shows. YI HAIFEI / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

Festive performance



Performers in traditional Miao ethnic costumes celebrate Huashan Festival on Monday in Chiyou Jiuli Town, a national 4A-level scenic spot — the second-highest level in China’s tourist attraction rating system — in the Pengshui Miao and Tujia autonomous county of Chongqing. The festival, with a history of more than 2,000 years, is a traditional cultural celebration of the Miao ethnic group in China, and it has been recognized as a national intangible cultural heritage since 2014. QIN WEIJIE / FOR CHINA DAILY

China tops global ranking of overall nuclear power capacity, report says

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China is set to become a global leader in operational nuclear power capacity by 2030, as it is steadily expanding its nuclear energy industry, said experts and company executives.

As of the end of 2024, the country had 102 nuclear reactors in operation, under construction, or approved for construction, with a combined installed capacity of 113 million kilowatts, according to the “China Nuclear Energy Development Report 2025”, which was released on Sunday in Beijing at the Spring International Forum on Sustainable Nuclear Energy Development.

This is the first time that China’s overall nuclear power capacity has topped global rankings, the report said.

“China’s nuclear energy development is entering a new period of strategic opportunities,” Yang Changli, rotating chairman of the China Nuclear Energy Association, said at the forum.

“By 2030, the installed capacity of operational nuclear power is expected to reach 110 million kW. Nuclear power will play a vital role as a key substitute for high-carbon energy sources and a mainstay for the stability of the new power system,” Yang said.

On Sunday, the State Council, China’s Cabinet, approved the construction of 10 new reactors, including Phase III of the Sanmen Nuclear Power Plant in East China’s Zhejiang province, with a combined investment exceeding 200 billion yuan (\$27.4 billion).

This is the fourth year in a row that China has approved at least 10 new reactors, which further demonstrates the key role that nuclear power plays in the country’s clean energy transition.

According to the CNEA, China currently has 28 nuclear reactors under construction, with a total installed capacity of 33.65 million kW. It also has 58 operational commercial nuclear reactors, with a combined installed capacity of 60.96 million kW.

“China’s nuclear power sector has entered a peak period of large-scale construction,” said Dong Baotong, vice-minister of ecology and environment. “With more units expected to be approved in the future, China’s

Co, a manufacturer of wheel loaders and excavators based in Linyi, Shandong province. The value of the company’s exports to economies participating in the Belt and Road Initiative exceeded 600 million yuan (\$82.2 million) in the first quarter of 2025, accounting for more than 70 percent of its total export value, according to Qingdao Customs data.

“Nuclear power will play a vital role as a key substitute for high-carbon energy sources and a mainstay for the stability of the new power system.”

Yang Changli, rotating chairman of the China Nuclear Energy Association

scale of units under construction is higher than the combined total of units under construction in countries worldwide.”

According to the report, investment in nuclear power engineering construction in 2024 reached a record high of 146.9 billion yuan, about 52 billion yuan more than the previous year.

CITIC Securities estimated that with the accelerated approval of nuclear power projects, investment in new nuclear power plants in China is expected to reach 231 billion yuan by 2025, which will further stimulate the country’s related industry chain and help the country achieve its carbon emission reduction targets sooner than planned.

Safety prioritized

The State Council meeting on Sunday emphasized absolute safety in nuclear power development, calling for efforts to ensure that nuclear power units are built and operated in accordance with the highest global safety standards.

According to the latest World Association of Nuclear Operators’ index on global nuclear power unit performance, China’s nuclear power operation safety performance has continued to rank among the best in the world.

Hou Yingdong, an official with the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, said at a news conference on Wednesday that China’s nuclear power units have been operating with good safety standards for years.

Nuclear power units on the Chinese mainland have been operating safely for over 600 reactor years, he said. A reactor year refers to an operating year of one nuclear reactor.

“To mitigate risks arising from protectionism in recent years, we have been actively expanding our sales network in emerging markets and establishing partnerships in regions and countries such as Central Asia, Latin America, South Africa and Indonesia,” said Zhang Chengwei, head of Shandong Lingong’s excavator unit. Meanwhile, Ningbo Careline Elec-

Hou noted that China’s nuclear power plants are all located far from earthquake-prone areas, and the impact of natural disasters such as heavy rain, floods and tsunamis has been fully considered. “The safety of the nuclear power plants is guaranteed in the face of extreme natural disasters,” he said.

China has also established the world’s largest monitoring network for radiation environment quality, and the radiation environment level around nuclear facilities has remained good for years, according to the news conference.

Tech independence

The China Nuclear Energy Association said that by 2024, China had achieved 100 percent domestic origin for key main equipment for nuclear power and ensured the independent control of key component technologies. It added that the country’s independent research and development in the sector continues to achieve new breakthroughs.

The National Energy Administration said earlier that China has been making steady progress on under-construction nuclear power projects, and future power supply growth is likely to come mostly from nonfossil energy sources amid the country’s green transition.

According to China General Nuclear Power Corp, which will operate four of the 10 newly approved reactors, the four reactors will use China’s domestically designed Hualong One technology.

Hualong One is China’s third-generation nuclear power technology with full intellectual property rights. It is also one of the most widely accepted series of third-generation nuclear power reactors in the world.

Hualong One is the most-used third-generation nuclear power technology in terms of units in operation or under construction worldwide, showing China’s leading role in nuclear power technology and its overall competitiveness in the sector, according to CGN.

After the approval of the 10 new units, the total number of Hualong One nuclear power units in operation or under construction, both domestically and internationally, has reached 41, it said.

Xinhua contributed to this story.

Visit: More opportunities expected to be unlocked

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Ruto’s itinerary included a trip to Ningde, Fujian province, where he visited the company premises of Chinese battery giant Contemporary Amperex Technology, or CATL, and a poverty alleviation exhibition hall.

Ningde is where Xi spearheaded wide-ranging efforts to fight poverty during his tenure as the city’s top official between 1988 and 1990.

The Kenyan leader lauded the foresight and persistence of Ningde’s present and past leaders for “pulling the hilly metropolis from abject poverty within one generation”.

“We endeavor to apply some of these valuable lessons from Ningde, and China in general, to the plan on poverty eradication efforts in Kenya,” Ruto said.

According to a joint statement signed by the two heads of state on creating an inspiring example in the all-weather China-Africa community with a shared future for the new era, China will support its enterprises in collaborating with Kenya to develop local healthcare industries, thereby contributing to the better health and well-being of the Kenyan people.

Analysts said that Ruto’s China visit offered a crucial opportunity for the East African country to not only reinforce its economic agenda, but also play a more prominent role in South-South cooperation.

Gordon Kachola, a Kenyan foreign policy analyst, said that Ruto’s visit to China was instrumental, because it reaffirmed the two countries’ commitment to drive cooperation under the BRI.

“There is no doubt that Kenya is a key BRI partner in Africa, having already benefited from major Chinese investments on roads, railways and energy,” Kachola said, noting that the visit served as an opportunity for Ruto to propose ways in which Kenya can implement the outcomes of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Summit held in Beijing last year.

“With the expanded cooperation between the two nations, Kenyans expect Ruto to use the country’s strategic position to unlock opportunities in digital trade, agriculture, the blue economy, health, environmental conservation, education, and the creative economy, especially for youth and women,” he added.

Aly Khan Satchu, a leading investment banker in Kenya, said that Ruto’s visit served as a framework to boost bilateral projects, particularly under the BRI. The visit also came amid shifting global geopolitical dynamics and signals a renewed push to reshape the tenets of Kenya-China cooperation, he said.

The Kenyan president’s visit was an indication that China and Africa can work together to formulate trade arrangements, which in turn can help them minimize the effects of global trade uncertainties such as the United States’ tariff hikes, Satchu said.

Rutto, the surveyor, said that China is like a big brother and a mentor to Kenya.

“From infrastructure to imports, the list of things that China has helped and is still helping Kenya achieve is endless. I and many other Kenyans are hoping that the partnership will continue as long as possible,” he added.

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Survey: Companies shift strategies to mitigate risks

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For instance, the second phase of the 137th Canton Fair, which concluded on Sunday, attracted more than 224,000 buyers from 219 countries and regions, the highest number recorded for the same phase in the fair’s history.

Wang Li, a researcher specializing in foreign trade at the Beijing-

based Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, said that Chinese companies, faced with mounting external pressures, are eager to reduce reliance on a single market and build more adaptable, risk-resistant business models to maintain steady growth in the long run.

One such company is Shandong Lingong Construction Machinery