

## Civil drone standards to bolster industry

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In a bid to further promote the healthy and orderly development of the drone industry, China's top market regulator has intensified efforts to advance the registration, activation and operational identification management of civil unmanned aerial vehicles.

The State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) recently approved and released two compulsory national standards: one for the real-name registration and activation of civil UAVs and the other for the operational identification of relevant systems, both of which will take effect from May 1, 2026.

"The introduction of these two new standards will provide technical solutions to the key questions of 'who is allowed to fly' and 'who is currently flying,'" an official from SAMR's standards technical management department said.

According to the document, the real-name registration and activation standard clarifies requirements for registrants, registration management, information inquiry, de-registration, data exchange interfaces and graded protection. It has also made clear that drones must not be capable of flight before activation or after deactivation.

The operational identification standard, on the other hand, requires drones to automatically transmit their identity, location, speed and status information to regulators upon startup and throughout the entire flight process, enabling real-time management of flight activities.

The new standards were formulated in response to the country's rapidly expanding drone usage, the SAMR official said.

Data from the China Air Transport Association showed that by the end of 2024, a total of 2.213 million drones had been registered under real names nationwide, up 74.7 percent year-on-year, with that number having already reached 2.726 million by the end of June this year. In addition, civil drones also logged a cumulative 24.47 million flight hours from January to June, a year-on-year growth of 149 percent.

"The two standards will also help further support the effective implementation of the current Interim Regulations for Managing UAV Flight, providing an important safeguard for the safe and orderly development of the drone industry," the official added.

The interim regulations, which took effect on Jan 1, 2024, are China's first administrative rules dedicated to unmanned aircraft management. By establishing a full-chain governance system covering production and manufacturing, sales and operations, operator qualifications, airspace use, flight activities, supervision and emergency response, they are believed to have filled a long-standing regulatory gap in China's drone sector.



Shoppers buy vegetables at a supermarket in Fuyang, Anhui province. LU QIJIAN / FOR CHINA DAILY

## November CPI highest in almost two years

### Statistics reinforcing signs of a gradual recovery in domestic demand

By OUYANG SHIJIA  
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China's consumer inflation accelerated to its highest level in nearly two years in November, official data showed on Wednesday, reinforcing signs of a gradual recovery in domestic demand as policy support continued to filter through the broader economy.

The country's consumer price index, the main gauge of inflation, rose 0.7 percent year-on-year in November, following a 0.2 percent rise in October, marking the highest level since February last year, said the National Bureau of Statistics.

Feng Lin, executive director of the research and development department at Golden Credit Rating International, said November's pickup in headline CPI was basically in line with market expectations, driven mainly by higher food prices and stronger industrial consumer goods prices.

"Vegetable prices continued to rise sharply beyond seasonal norms in November after rainy weather in October affected supply, pushing food CPI from a decline to growth and becoming the main reason for the CPI expansion," Feng said. "Meanwhile, international gold prices surged, accelerating price growth for industrial consumer goods, which also explains the growth in the core CPI."

The core CPI, which excludes volatile food and energy prices and is deemed a better gauge of supply-demand conditions, rose by 1.2 percent year-on-year in November,

unchanged from October, NBS data showed.

Feng noted the current price level has "basically bottomed out", but room for further increases remains limited. "That leaves ample space for further growth-stabilizing policies, including a possible rate cut by the central bank."

Looking ahead, Feng expects last year's low base to push vegetable inflation higher again in December, though the impact of gold prices is likely to ease and consumption-stimulus policies may provide weaker support for auto and home appliance prices.

"December's CPI growth is likely to remain around 0.7 percent," she added. "The probability of a significant price surge is very small, suggesting low inflation will persist and policymakers do not need to worry prematurely about demand-stimulus policies triggering high inflation."

Wen Bin, chief economist at China Minsheng Bank, said price levels "further stabilized" in November as both existing and new incremental measures to boost demand took effect and authorities advanced efforts to curb "involution-style" competition.

"On the one hand, the year-on-year increase in CPI hit the highest level in nearly two years, and core CPI has remained above 1 percent for three consecutive months. On the other hand, the PPI (producer price index) rose month-on-month for the second straight month, with some sectors showing positive price changes," he said.

On a month-on-month basis, China's PPI — which measures factory-

gate prices — increased by 0.1 percent in November, the same figure in October. Year-on-year, the PPI fell 2.2 percent in November, widening from a 2.1 percent drop in October, according to the NBS.

"The PPI rose month-on-month in November mainly due to improved supply-demand structure in some domestic industries and international bulk commodity prices, while the deeper year-on-year decline was mainly related to a higher comparison base in the same period last year," Wen said.

Looking ahead to 2026, Wen expects prices to rise mildly from a low level as policies aimed at boosting domestic demand gradually take effect, the modern industrial system develops more rapidly and key industries continue to reduce excess capacity.

"CPI growth will likely approach around 0.8 percent in 2026 with core CPI edging up steadily, supported by improvements in the supply-demand structure and stronger service consumption in sectors such as dining, hospitality, home services, eldercare and childcare services, culture and tourism, and healthcare," he added.

"The PPI may fall about 0.5 percent in 2026, with the decline narrowing as 'anti-Involution' measures curb disorderly low-price competition, excess capacity is addressed in key sectors and emerging industries expand," Wen said.

Feng from Golden Credit Rating International noted that until the property market achieves a trend-level stabilization and household consumption confidence recovers, PPI will remain under downward pressure, and "anti-Involution" measures alone are "unlikely to fundamentally reverse the trend".

## Boosting domestic demand key priority

By REN QI  
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China will prioritize demand to build a strong domestic market next year while pressing ahead with reforms to bolster momentum and vitality for high-quality development and continued opening-up to promote win-win cooperation across multiple sectors, it was stated at a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee on Monday.

The meeting, aimed at analyzing and studying economic work for 2026, was held ahead of the Central Economic Work Conference, underscoring the importance of developing new quality productive forces, and called for innovation-driven growth, accelerating the cultivation and expansion of new drivers.

Djasur Djumaev, founder and CEO of Uzbekistan's leading digital platform Uzum, said it is positive that China is prioritizing stronger domestic demand because robust internal demand makes the economy more resilient and less dependent on external markets, supports growth driven by real consumer spending, stimulates the development of services and innovation, creates new jobs and ensures a more balanced, stable and long-term model of economic development.

"We are highly optimistic about China's economic outlook," Djumaev told China Daily.

In August, Chinese tech giant Tencent, together with London-based VR Capital, invested nearly \$70 million in Uzum. The cooperation between the Central Asian company and its Chinese partner demonstrates that China offers significant investment potential, and the global community sees major opportunities for further expanding cooperation with Chinese investors.

"More than 20 million people — half of Uzbekistan's population — use the Uzum platform every month. The platform provides Chinese businesses with direct access to a rapidly growing market, while giving Uzbek consumers greater choice, better prices and convenient digital services," he said.

As China remains Uzbekistan's leading trading partner, Djumaev said Chinese goods are represented across nearly all key categories on the Uzum Market platform — from electronics and household products to tools and hardware — and demand for these items continues to grow.

Boosting domestic demand in China will support stable economic growth, thereby expanding cooperation between China and Central Asia and creating additional opportunities for businesses in the region, Djumaev said.

Foreign investment is a key component of high-standard opening-up. The Central Economic Work Conference in 2024 called for expanding high-standard opening-up, while the 2025 Government Work Report further stated that, regardless of changes in the external environment, China will unswervingly pursue the policy, steadily expand institutional opening and broaden autonomous and unilateral opening in an orderly fashion, using the policy to

drive reform and development.

The Ministry of Commerce said China's consumer market remains the world's second-largest, with retail sales of consumer goods growing 5.5 percent annually on the average over the past four years.

The China Foreign Investment Statistical Bulletin 2025 reported that 59,000 foreign-invested enterprises were newly established in 2024, up 9.9 percent year-on-year. Actual use of foreign capital reached \$116.24 billion last year, keeping China as the largest recipient of foreign investment among developing economies.

Binnopharm Group, one of Russia's largest medicine manufacturers, strengthened coordination with Chinese partners in 2023 and obtained a license for logistics operations.

The company's subsidiary in Shanghai has also integrated into China's financial system through instruments such as bank acceptance bills and recently obtained its first corporate loan worth 3 million yuan at an interest rate of 5 percent.

Under China's investor-friendly policies encouraging foreign investment, Binnopharm will continue to expand its business and launch logistics services in China starting in late December 2025, said Rustem Muratov, CEO of Binnopharm Group. Muratov hailed the recent steps by the Chinese government — such as encouraging foreign investment and the visa-free policy for Russians — as part of its push for high-standard opening-up.

"The visa-free policy streamlined the logistics of business travel, which is especially important considering the significant number of contacts and projects requiring continuous in-person presence," Muratov said, adding that regular visits enable business partners not only to conduct negotiations, but also to establish trust-based relationships and take part in key industry events.

Foreign experts noted that the potential of China's market for foreign companies is enormous, and the country has been a global leader in artificial intelligence and electric vehicles, with ambitious plans for the future.

Sergey Suverov, chief investment strategist at Moscow-based Aricapital Asset Management, said the capacity of a country with a 1.4 billion population and a growing middle-income group is vast, and China has built an excellent logistical and industrial base, while the market itself is expanding rapidly.

"If people once said 'made in China', now they say 'created in China'," Suverov said, adding that the world is watching China, which is actively developing its creative industries, including through partnerships with foreign firms.

For Irina Kokushkina, a scholar at the department of world economy at Saint Petersburg State University, innovation-driven growth and green development are the areas she watches most closely when looking at China's outlook over the next five years. Innovation has become China's primary engine for sustained growth, with its ranking in the Global Innovation Index rising from 34th in 2012 to 10th in 2025.

### Briefly

#### New energy vehicle sales grow steadily

China's new energy passenger vehicle market continued to see stable growth in November, with retail sales reaching nearly 1.32 million units, industry association data showed. The figure marked a 4.2 percent year-on-year increase, according to the China Passenger Car Association.

#### Operators hail railway guardians in cold wave

Faced with cold waves, Chinese railway operators are paying close attention to any likely damage to rail lines in order to ensure safe rail transport. Staff members of Qinhuangdao West Track Maintenance Section have strengthened line equipment inspection and have been rectifying defects to ensure safe transportation on the

Datong-Qinhuangdao Railway, which transports some 350 million metric tons of coal a year. At Xizhangzhuang line workshop, team leader Sun Zhiqiang had to bend down and stoop over 100 times, and lie down more than 40 times during a single inspection to examine the cold rail lines. Such employees have been hailed as rail guardians on the busy line.

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## Tax data illustrate resilience of Chinese economy

Newly released tax data for the first 11 months of 2025 have pointed to steady growth momentum in China's economy, featuring a rise in consumption, resilient exports, advances in sci-tech innovation, greener development and further progress in the creation of a unified national market.

Thanks to the steady improvement of the economy, total tax and fee revenues collected by tax authorities from January to November exceeded 29 trillion yuan (\$4.1 trillion), according to Cai Zili, deputy head of the State Taxation Administration.

The Chinese government has unveiled a raft of measures to boost

consumption, including an expanded consumer goods trade-in program, increased consumer finance offerings and strengthened employment support. These efforts are yielding results and adding vitality to domestic demand.

The consumer goods trade-in program has spurred sales of a wide range of commodities, including telecommunication products and household appliances, with retail revenues from the two categories rising 20.3 percent and 26.5 percent, respectively, year-on-year in the first 11 months.

Over the same period, the amount of export tax rebates handled by tax

authorities nationwide increased 6.8 percent year-on-year, underscoring the strong resilience of exports among Chinese enterprises.

Supporting sci-tech innovation has long been a priority in China's preferential tax and fee policies. In the first 10 months, major existing policies to support sci-tech innovation and manufacturing delivered a total of 2.37 trillion yuan in tax-and-fee reductions and rebates, Cai said.

Tax invoice data show that in the first 11 months, sales revenues in high-tech industries nationwide increased 14.7 percent year-on-year, and corporate purchases of digital technologies

grew 10.2 percent. Traditional industries accelerated their digital upgrades, with spending on digital and automation equipment rising 7.6 percent and 9.3 percent year-on-year.

Over the same period, sales revenue from wind and solar power generation rose 16.8 percent and 35.7 percent year-on-year, while revenue from thermal power generation fell 7.2 percent and its share of overall power industry sales dropped 4.7 percentage points — a pattern that points to the accelerating green transformation of China's energy structure.

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### High standard



Employees from State Grid Hefei in Anhui province carry out low-voltage treatment work in Suwan town in Chaohu, providing a solid guarantee for rural electricity supply in the winter.

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