

AN OVERVIEW OF THE 2019 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF SUZHOU MUNICIPALITY

In 2019 the whole city followed the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, earnestly implemented the guiding principles of the Party's 19th National Congress and the second, third and fourth plenary sessions of its 19th Central Committee, continued to follow the general principle of pursuing progress while ensuring stability, applied the new development philosophy, highlighted the work of "ensuring stability on six fronts", and solidly promoted high-quality development. The city's economic and social development was generally stable and the quality improved in the stability, economic quality and efficiency were continually optimized, the release of innovation momentum was accelerating, the ecological environment was steadily improved, the well-being of the people was continuously improved, and new steps had been taken and new progress made in high-quality development.

1. General survey

The economic operation was stable. The city achieved a regional GDP of 1,923.58 billion yuan, an increase of 5.6% over the previous year in terms of comparable prices. Of it, the added value of the primary industry was 19.67 billion yuan, a decrease of 6.6%; that of the secondary industry was 913.02 billion yuan, an increase of 5.1%; that of the tertiary industry was 990.89 billion yuan, an increase of 6.3%. Calculated by the permanent population, the regional GDP per capita was 179,200 yuan (equivalent to 26,000 US dollars), an increase of 5.2% over the previous year. The year's general public budget revenue reached 222.18 billion yuan, an increase of 4.8% over the previous year. Of it, the tax revenue was 199.1 billion yuan, an increase of 3.2% and accounting for 89.6% of the general public budget revenue. The year's general public budget expenditure was 214.15 billion yuan, an increase of 9.7% over the previous year. Of it, the urban and rural public service expenditure was 168.62 billion yuan, accounting for 78.7% of the general public budget expenditure.

The reform was solidly advanced. Reforms to streamline administration and delegate power, improve regulation, and upgrade services were steadily advanced, the reform of "separating permits from the business license" fully implemented, and the non-in-person approval of 95% of the application-related government services implemented. The "three mechanisms" to support the development of private enterprises were implemented. In the year there were 432,000 new market entities, reaching 1.88 million entities at the end of the year, an increase of 51.5% and 20.6% respectively over the previous year. The pilot of the integrated development of the manufacturing industries and the Internet was deepened, 9 provincial-level industrial Internet platforms and 2 characteristic bases newly built, and the construction of a national-level industrial Internet platform application innovation experience center started. Financial reforms and innovations continued to be promoted, and the smooth financing project for finance serving real economy was implemented. The Suzhou Integrated Financial Services Platform had accumulatively financed 667.8 billion yuan for 14,538 enterprises, and the establishment of the nation's first "small and micro enterprise digital credit investigation zone" was approved. The balance of loans for inclusive small and micro enterprises and private enterprises of corporate banks increased by 26.3% and 15.2% respectively over the beginning of the year. The corporate bond work innovation and risk prevention had achieved remarkable results, and were encouraged and commended by the supervision of the State Council. The supply-side structural reform had been carried forward steadily, and in the year 1,819 low-end backward and overcapacity enterprises (workshops) were shut down, and an investment of 36.37 billion yuan in the "filling the short board"

projects completed. The policies to reduce taxes and fees and the measures to reduce fees to benefit enterprises were fully implemented, and 62 billion yuan of the enterprises' cost burden reduced in the year.

2. Agriculture and rural construction

The agricultural production was generally stable. In the year the total output value of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery was 35.66 billion yuan, down 5.7% from the previous year in terms of comparable prices. The total output of the summer grain was 216,100 tons, down 9.4% from the previous year; the total output of the autumn grain was 655,700 tons, an increase of 2.3% over the previous year; the per mu yield of the summer grain and that of the autumn grain increased by 1.9% and 2.2% respectively over the previous year. In the year the output of pork, beef, lamb and poultry was 21,500 tons, down 44.1% from the previous year; the output of eggs was 6,500 tons, down 29.7% from the previous year; the output of aquatic products was 165,300 tons, down 15.5% from the previous year.

The construction of modern agriculture was accelerating. In the year there were 6,000 hectares of newly-built high-standard farmland, 2,800 hectares of newly-built modern agricultural parks, and 1,573 hectares of newly-reconstructed standardized pond area. Suzhou was selected as one of the first batch of demonstration cities that basically realized the full mechanization of major crop production throughout the country, and at the end of the year the city's agricultural mechanization level reached 90.1%. The new-type agricultural business entities were supported, and in the year 3,073 new-type professional farmers were cultivated, 18 leading agricultural industrialization enterprises at or above the municipal level added, 28 agricultural industrialization complexes formed, and 14 shared farms added. In the year the sales revenue achieved by the leading agricultural enterprises at or above the county level was 147 billion yuan of, an increase of 5.8% over the previous year. At the end of the year there were 2,243 farmer professional cooperatives of various types and 432 family farms, and the total rural collective assets (after asset verification) were 318 billion yuan and the average annual disposable income of the villages was 9.36 million yuan.

3. Industries and the construction industry

The industrial production was stable and its quality improved. In the year the total output value of the industrial enterprises above designated size was 3,352.05 billion yuan, an increase of 1.4% over the previous year, of which the top six dominant industries achieved an output value of 2,122.0 billion yuan, accounting for 63.3% of the total output value of the industries above designated size. From the perspective of economic type, the output value of the private industrial enterprises reached 1,268.15 billion yuan, an increase of 4.1% over the previous year, and the output value of the private industrial enterprises accounted for 37.8% of the total output value of the industrial enterprises above designated size, an increase of 1.8 percentage points over the previous year. 26 enterprises were shortlisted for "China's Top 500 Private Enterprises in Manufacturing in 2019", and the number of the finalists ranked first in the country. The output value of the foreign companies and Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan industrial enterprises reached 1,998.7 billion yuan, down 0.3% from the previous year, and accounted for 59.6% of the total output value of the industrial enterprises above designated size.

The advanced manufacturing industries were growing stronger. In the year the output value of the emerging manufacturing industries reached 1,800.01 billion yuan, accounting for 53.6% of the total output value of the industrial enterprises above designated size and an increase of 1.2 percentage points over the previous year. The output value of the four leading industries of new-generation information technology, biomedicine, nanotechnology and artificial intelligence accounted for 21.8% of the total output value of the industries above designated size, an increase of 6.1 percentage points over the previous year. The biopharmaceutical industrial cluster was selected into the national strategic emerging industrial cluster development project, and in the year the output value of the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry increased by 24.9% over the previous year. The output of high-tech products increased rapidly, and the output of new energy vehicles increased by 17.5% over the previous year, that of optical instruments increased by 55%, that of solar cells increased by 13.9%, and that of special equipment for environmental pollution prevention increased by 30.8%. In the year there were 5 new provincial-level smart factories and 182 new provincial-

level smart workshops, with a total of 8 and 444 respectively.

The construction industry was developing well. In the year the total output value of the construction industry was 267.96 billion yuan, an increase of 11.1% over the previous year, of which the output value of the construction and installation projects was 266.28 billion yuan, an increase of 11.3% over the previous year. The output value of the completed projects was 182.15 billion yuan, an increase of 6.7% over the previous year, and the completion rate was 68%. In the year the construction area of the qualified construction enterprises was 123.04 million square meters, an increase of 18.1% over the previous year, of which the new construction area was 42.806 million square meters, an increase of 5.1% over the previous year. At the end of the year there were 1,308 construction companies with general contracting and professional contracting qualifications, with profits and taxes of 17.2 billion yuan, an increase of 5.8% over the previous year. The labor productivity of all employees in the construction industry was 410,000 yuan / person, an increase of 4.6% over the previous year. The output value of the construction projects completed by the city's construction enterprises in other provinces reached 77.94 billion yuan, an increase of 5.3% over the previous year.

4. Fixed asset investment and real estate development

The investment in fixed assets was increased and its quality improved. In the year the investment in fixed assets was 493.31 billion yuan, an increase of 8.3% over the previous year. Of it the investment in the industries was 119.92 billion yuan, an increase of 8.8%; the investment in the service industries was 373.11 billion yuan, an increase of 8.1%. The private investment reached 288.73 billion yuan, accounting for 58.5% of the fixed asset investment. The “technological transformation and upgrading of a thousand enterprises” action was launched, and in the year 87.94 billion yuan was invested in industrial technology transformation and 49.9 billion yuan in high-tech industry, an increase of 2.9% and 11.9% respectively over the previous year and accounting for 73.3% and 41.6% of the industrial investment respectively. The investment in the emerging industries was 98.55 billion yuan, an increase of 7.5% and accounting for 20% of the fixed asset investment.

The real estate market remained stable. In the year the investment in the real estate development was 268.65 billion yuan, an increase of 5% over the previous year, of which the residential investment increased by 4.6%. The area of houses newly started was 27.612 million square meters, down 1.4% from the previous year; the area of houses under construction was 121.48 million square meters, an increase of 4.2% over the previous year; the area of completed houses was 12.837 million square meters, down 14.8% from the previous year; the sales area of commodity houses was 21.782 million square meters, an increase of 9.2% over the previous year, of which the sales area of residential houses was 19.836 million square meters, an increase of 10.9% over the previous year.

5. Domestic Trade

Market consumption growth was stable. In the year the total retail sales of consumer goods reached 781.34 billion yuan, an increase of 6% over the previous year. According to the statistics of the consumer industries, the retail sales of the wholesale and retail trades were 715.05 billion yuan, an increase of 5.9%; the retail sales of the accommodation and catering industries were 66.29 billion yuan, an increase of 7%. According to the statistics of the places of operation, the retail sales of consumer goods in the urban areas were 727.41 billion yuan, up 6%; the retail sales of consumer goods in the rural areas were 53.93 billion yuan, up 5.9%. Of the merchandise retail sales of the wholesale and retail trades above designated size, those of daily necessities and knitwear and textiles such as clothing, shoes and hats increased by 7.3% and 8.8% respectively over the previous year. Online consumption was growing faster. In the year the e-commerce online retail transaction volume was 262.51 billion yuan, an increase of 27% over the previous year. The wholesale and retail businesses above designated size achieved 55.34 billion yuan in commodity retail sales through public networks, an increase of 6.5% over the previous year.

6. Foreign economy

Foreign trade moved forward in overcoming difficulties. In the year the total imports and exports were 319.09 billion US dollars, down 9.9% from the previous year, of which the exports were 192.04 billion US dollars, down 7.2%, and the imports were

127.05 billion US dollars, down 13.7%. In terms of registration types, the imports and exports realized by the foreign-invested enterprises were 229.75 billion US dollars, accounting for 72% of the total imports and exports; the imports and exports realized by the private enterprises were 72.49 billion US dollars, accounting for 22.7% of the total imports and exports. From the perspective of export markets, the exports to the US were 47.36 billion US dollars, down 18.1% from the previous year; those to the EU 39.66 billion US dollars, down 3.6%; those to ASEAN 21.26 billion US dollars, up 8.0%; those to the countries and regions along the “Belt and Road” 43.06 billion US dollars, up 1.1%. The foreign trade structure was continuously optimized. In the year the general trade exports were 68.15 billion US dollars, accounting for 35.5% of the city’s exports and an increase of 2.2 percentage points over the previous year. The imports and exports of the service trade were 21.899 billion US dollars, and the imports and exports of the cross-border e-commerce were 1.368 billion US dollars. In the year the service outsourcing contract value was 12.277 billion US dollars, and the service outsourcing offshore execution value 5.025 billion US dollars, an increase of 4.1% over the previous year.

The two-way opening up was enlarging and speeding up. The Suzhou area of China (Jiangsu) Pilot Free Trade Zone was successfully approved and its construction efficiently promoted. In terms of “introducing into”, in the year 994 foreign-invested projects were newly established, with a newly-registered foreign investment of 11.34 billion US dollars, an increase of 5.3% over the previous year. The foreign capital actually used was 4.62 billion US dollars, an increase of 2.0% over the previous year, and of it the foreign capital actually used in the strategic emerging industries accounted for 59.4%, an increase of 15.2 percentage points over the previous year; the foreign capital actually used in the service industries accounted for 44.2%, an increase of 0.5 percentage points over the previous year. 30 foreign-funded enterprises with regional headquarters characteristics or shared functions were newly established, with a total of more than 320. In terms of “going out”, in the year the agreed investment of the Chinese party from Suzhou in the overseas investment projects was 3.015 billion US dollars, an increase of 12.4% over the previous year. The overseas high-tech M & A funds reached 710 million US dollars, accounting for 23.5% of Suzhou’s overseas investment. 11 overseas R & D centers were newly established, reaching 93 by the end of the year. In the year 79 investment projects were newly added in countries and regions along the “Belt and Road”, and the agreed investment of the Chinese party from Suzhou was 996 million US dollars.

7. Finance and credit

The scale of credit reached a new high. At the end of the year there were 875 financial institutions in total. At the end of the year the balance of the RMB deposits in the financial institutions was 3,165.21 billion yuan, an increase of 308.58 billion yuan over the beginning of the year and an increase of 10.8% over the beginning of the year; the balance of the RMB loans in the financial institutions was 3,011.67 billion yuan, an increase of 351.24 billion yuan over the beginning of the year and an increase of 13.2% over the beginning of the year. The RMB loans of the financial institutions exceeded 3 trillion yuan for the first time, and Suzhou became the first prefecture-level city in the country with a RMB loan exceeding 3 trillion yuan.

The insurance business was growing steadily. At the end of the year there were 86 main insurance companies and 863 branches of insurance companies. In the year the premium income was 71.05 billion yuan, an increase of 12.8% over the previous year; the insurance compensation expenditure was 18.65 billion yuan, an increase of 2.9% over the previous year.

The capital market continued to grow. In the year there were 21 newly-listed companies, with a total of 153, including 120 domestic A-share listed companies, with accumulated funds of 303.1 billion yuan raised. There were 6 listed companies on the science and technology board, and the number ranks third in the country. At the end of the year the total market value of custody of the securities institutions was 647.9 billion yuan, the transaction value of various securities 5.3 trillion yuan, and the transaction value of the futures market 4.1 trillion yuan.

8. Transportation and logistics

The transportation service capacity was optimized and improved. At the end of the year the total length of the urban rail

transit lines (including trams) was 210.1 kilometers, the total mileage of the year 18.17 million train-kilometers, and the total number of line passengers 366.44 million. At the end of the year the total mileage of the highways in the city was 12,000 kilometers, including 608 kilometers of expressways and 274.7 kilometers of public transport special roads. In the city there were 178 bus lines newly established or optimized and adjusted, including 7 inter-provincial bus lines. At the end of the year there were 5,995 buses operating in the urban areas, with a total of 465 bus lines and a total passenger volume of 532 million passengers. In the year the railway passenger traffic was 97.6367 million passengers and the passenger turnover 20.7 billion person-kilometers, up 3.5% and 4.9% respectively over the previous year. The railway freight volume was 1,892,300 tons, and the freight turnover volume 1.19 billion ton-kilometers, up 7.6% and 6.8% respectively over the previous year. The passenger traffic on roads and waterways was 296 million passengers, and the passenger turnover 12.024 billion person-kilometers, down 0.5% and 0.8% respectively from the previous year. The road and waterway freight volume was 172 million tons, and the freight turnover 28.45 billion ton-kilometers, up 6.7% and 6.2% respectively over the previous year. The cargo throughput and container throughput of Suzhou Port were 523 million tons and 6.267 million TEUs respectively, down 1.8% and 1.4% respectively from the previous year.

Car ownership increased steadily. At the end of the year the city's car ownership exceeded 4 million, reaching 4,177,400, including 3,481,800 private cars, up 6.8% and 6.2% respectively over the previous year.

Postal logistics was growing rapidly. In the year the postal business revenue was 25.26 billion yuan, an increase of 39.1% over the previous year. 1.73 billion mailed items were sent by express delivery, an increase of 38.6%; the revenue of express delivery business was 21.685 billion yuan, an increase of 38.8%.

9. Science, technology and education

Scientific and technological innovations were abundant. In the year the research and experimental development (R & D) expenditures accounted for 3.64% of the regional GDP. The fiscal investment in science and technology was 18.16 billion yuan, an increase of 19.4% over the previous year and accounting for 8.5% of the general public budget expenditure. In the year the output value of the high-tech industries reached 1,659.96 billion yuan, accounting for 49.4% of the total output value of the industrial enterprises above designated size and an increase of 1.7 percentage points over the previous year. In the year 3,160 national high-tech enterprises were identified, with a total of 7,052, and 361 gazelle enterprises identified. 5 enterprises were identified in the first batch of state-level specialized new enterprises, ranking first in the province. The National Advanced Functional Fiber Innovation Center was successfully established, becoming the first national manufacturing innovation center in our province and the only one established and built by a private enterprise in the country.

The construction of science and technology carriers was accelerated. In the year there were 16 newly-built engineering research centers (engineering centers and laboratories) at or above the provincial level, with a total of 107; 163 newly-built enterprise technology centers at or above the provincial level, with a total of 632; 131 newly-built engineering technology research centers at or above the provincial level, with a total of 852; at the end of the year there were 31 science and technology public technology service platforms at or above the provincial level, including 2 at the national level. A batch of R & D institutions including Suzhou Research Institute of Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Suzhou Branch of CCID Research Institute, and Yangtze River Delta Advanced Materials Research Institute had been established successively. 16 of the professional research institutes in the new layout construction of Jiangsu Industrial Technology Research Institute had been settled in Suzhou, ranking first in the province. At the end of the year there were 118 technology enterprise incubators at or above the provincial level, with an incubation area of 3,979,200 square meters. There were 34 newly-built provincial-level creative spaces, and there were 264 creative spaces at or above the provincial level at the end of the year. There were more than 4,000 innovation teams incubated in various creative spaces.

The patent work had achieved remarkable results. China (Suzhou) Intellectual Property Protection Center was approved for

operation, and it was approved to be the first nationwide pilot to build a technical support system for the inspection and identification of intellectual property infringement disputes. In the year there were 18 new national intellectual property rights demonstration enterprises, with a total of 44 at the end of the year. In the year there were 162,984 patent applications, including 43,371 invention patent applications; 81,145 patent grants, including 8,339 invention patent grants. At the end of the year there were 63,000 effective invention patents in the city, an increase of 11% over the previous year, and the number of effective invention patents per 10,000 people reached 58.66, an increase of 5.66 over the previous year. In the 21st China Patent Awards, the city won 32 items, ranking first in the province.

The introduction and cultivation of talents were intensified. At the end of the year the total number of all kinds of talents in the city was 2,934,400, including 269,800 high-level talents and 648,000 high-skilled talents. There were 112 new “innovative and entrepreneurial talents” in the province, with a total of 985. At the end of the year there were 11 international maker incubation centers and 4 domestic maker incubation centers in the city. A new model of recruiting talents -- “Projects incubated in other cities will be introduced to Suzhou after they are mature.” -- was built. The Yangtze River Delta Base for Postdoctoral Innovation and Entrepreneurship of Xi'an Jiaotong University was established. The 11th Suzhou International Elite Entrepreneurship Week, and the Transnational Technology Transfer and International Talent Matchmaking Conference were held.

The supply of educational resources continued to expand. In the year 80 elementary and secondary schools and kindergartens were built and put into operation, with 73,000 new student places. At the end of the year there were 815 schools at all levels, including 26 colleges and universities; there were 1,545,200 students in school, including 249,000 college students; there were 313,000 graduates, including 67,400 graduates from colleges and universities; there were 99,100 full-time teachers. The online education center project achieved city-wide coverage. Suzhou was included in the list of the cultivation and construction of the national smart education demonstration zones. The integrated development strategy of famous cities and famous universities was deeply implemented, and Nanjing University and Northwestern Polytechnical University built new campuses in Suzhou, and the construction of the Future Campus of Suzhou University, the Taicang Campus of Xijiao Liverpool University, and the second phase of Duke Kunshan University started.

10. Culture and tourism

Cultural construction was vivid and colorful. In the year the income from the main business of the cultural industry reached 606 billion yuan, an increase of 5.9% over the previous year. The “Cultural Suzhou Cloud” platform was officially launched online, the Second Suzhou Library opened, and 36 library branches, 33 24-hour self-service libraries and 13 online lending community delivery service points newly built. At the end of the year there were 11 municipal or district-level public libraries, and 11 municipal or district-level cultural centers in the city. “Suzhou General History” and “Suzhou Simplified History” were published. In the year there were 2 new national key cultural relics protection units and 18 new Jiangsu Province cultural relics protection units. The Huangsipu site in Zhangjiagang was awarded one of the “Top Ten National Archaeological New Discoveries in 2018”, the Taohuawu Tang Yin Cultural Area was basically completed, and the Keyuan Restoration Project won the UNESCO Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage Protection Award. The Su Opera “Soul of the National Tripod” won the 16th Wenhua Grand Prize. The First Chinese Suzhou Jiangnan Culture and Art · International Tourism Festival, and the Eighth China Suzhou Innovation Expo were successfully held, and the Fourth Sino-French Cultural Forum “Suzhou Day” guest city events and Suzhou Cultural Tourism (Paris) Promotion Conference successfully organized.

The tourism industry was prosperous and orderly. In the year the total tourism revenue was 275.1 billion yuan, an increase of 5.8% over the previous year. In the year 136.09 million domestic and foreign tourists were received, an increase of 4% over the previous year. At the end of the year there were 6 5A scenic areas (11 spots), 34 4A scenic areas, 25 five-star hotels and 27 four-star hotels in the city. The Suzhou Museum, the Humble Administrator's Garden and the Lion Forest Garden were scheduled for time-sharing. Wujiang Tongli National Wetland Park was selected as one of the National Quality Natural Education Bases.

11. Health and sports

The medical and health services were upgraded. At the end of the year there were 3,720 medical and health institutions of various kinds in the city, including 221 hospitals, 94 health centers. 20 grassroots medical and health institutions were newly built, renovated or expanded. There were 71,700 beds in the health institutions, including 60,600 beds in the hospitals and 8,600 in the health centers; there were 91,000 health technicians, including 35,500 licensed physicians and assistant physicians and 40,400 registered nurses. 12 high-level clinical medical expert teams were introduced into Suzhou, reaching 65 by the end of the year. In the year the medical institutions completed a total of 103 million diagnosis and treatment services. The Ninth Municipal People's Hospital was completed and put into operation. The direct settlement of outpatient fees for cross-provincial (city) medical treatment with Shanghai and Zhejiang was realized. Wujiang Medical Insurance was fully integrated into Suzhou.

The sports cause was booming. In the year 270 kilometers of fitness trails were newly built, and 25 multi-purpose sports fields, cage football fields and cage basketball fields newly built. In the city 65 sports parks of various types had been built. The city's Canal Sports Park and Suzhou Sports Museum were completed and opened to the public. There was 1 new world champion, and Suzhou athletes won the first gold medal in the National Winter Games. Suzhou athletes participated in the first Jiangsu Province Intellectual Games, and both the gold medals and the total score ranked first. The Chinese Football Association Super Cup, the Golden Rooster Lake International Half Marathon, the Taihu Marathon and other boutique events were hosted, the right to host the 2021 "Sudirman Cup" World Badminton Mixed Team Championship was successfully applied for and obtained, and Suzhou became one of the cities to host the 2023 AFC Asian Cup. In the year the sales of sports lottery tickets amounted to 4.328 billion yuan, continuing to remain the first in the province.

12. People's livelihood and social security

The residents' income was increasing steadily. According to a sample survey, the per capita disposable income of the city's permanent residents was 60,109 yuan, an increase of 8.4% over the previous year, of which the per capita disposable income of the urban permanent residents was 68,629 yuan, an increase of 8.1%; that of the rural permanent residents was 35,152 yuan, an increase of 8.4%. The per capita consumption expenditure of the residents was 35,414 yuan, an increase of 6.3% over the previous year, of which the per capita consumption expenditure of the urban residents was 39,648 yuan, an increase of 6%; that of the rural residents was 23,012 yuan, an increase of 6.6%.

The price level was basically stable. The overall consumer price level of the urban residents rose by 3% over the previous year. Of it, the price of food, tobacco and alcohol increased by 6.4%; that of clothing increased by 4.3%; that of housing increased by 2.9%; that of household goods and services increased by 2.5%; that of transportation and communication fell by 1.0%; that of education, culture and entertainment increased by 0.7%; that of medical and health care rose by 0.7%; that of other supplies and services rose by 5.1%.

Social security continued to advance. The city's minimum wage standard was 2,020 yuan / month, the basic pension standard for urban and rural residents had been increased to 520 yuan and 380 yuan per person per month, the urban and rural minimum living security standard had been raised to 995 yuan per person per month, and the minimum standard for unemployment insurance had been raised to 1,493 yuan per person per month. In the city there were 12,700 households with a total of 18,800 people enjoying subsistence allowances, and in the year 195 million yuan of subsistence allowances were issued. At the end of the year the number of people paying for basic pension insurance in the city was 5,548,700, an increase of 120,000 people over the previous year; the number of urban employees covered by basic medical insurance was 7,608,900, an increase of 238,100 people over the previous year; the number of people covered by unemployment insurance, work injury insurance and maternity insurance was 5,182,000, 6,061,100 and 5,435,700 respectively. In the year there were 105 new day care centers, and 79 newly-built breastfeeding rooms in public places. At the end of the year there were 2,209 social service agencies of various types in the city, including 175 old-age service agencies and 8 child service agencies. The world's first Red Cross International Academy was

established.

The supply of affordable housing was increasing. During the year the rebuilding of dilapidated houses and the building of 17,979 units of resettlement housing started. 3,625 households were granted housing security rental subsidies. In the year there were 781,200 new employees depositing provident fund, and at the end of the year the number of employees who actually paid the housing provident fund was 3,829,100 and in the year 37.808 billion yuan of provident fund was withdrawn by employees.

Employment and entrepreneurship were actively expanded. In the year 173,200 new jobs were created, 8,953 public welfare posts were developed, and 35,200 people with employment difficulties in the urban areas achieved employment. 185,000 jobs were provided for graduates from colleges and universities, and the employment rate of fresh college graduates from Suzhou reached 98.71%. In the year 20,100 people were supported to become successful entrepreneurs, among whom 2,257 college students were led to start businesses and 2,906 people of the rural labor force were supported to be self-employed. 44,400 urban and rural workers received vocational skills training.

The population size was growing steadily. At the end of the year the city's permanent population was 10.75 million people, an increase of 0.3% over the previous year. Among them, the urban population was 8.277 million people and the urbanization rate reached 77%, an increase of 0.9 percentage points over the previous year. At the end of the year the registered population was 7.226 million people, the birth rate of the registered population 8.68‰, and the natural growth rate of the registered population 2.37‰.

13. Urban construction and public utilities

Urban construction was solidly advanced. In the year the investment in infrastructure was 59.78 billion yuan, an increase of 22.4% over the previous year. The main span of the Hutong Railway Yangtze River Bridge was smoothly closed, and the construction of the second phase of the Hutong Railway and the special line of railway that transports goods to or from Taicang Port started. The construction of the inter-city railway along the Yangtze River south of Jiangsu had been carried out in an all-round way, the reconstruction of making Sutongli and Nanhu Roads faster, and the construction of projects such as the fourth phase of Taicang Port Container Terminal, the Dushu Lake second passage and the north extension of Tongjing Road was progressing smoothly, and the Taicang section of the Taicang Yuelu Road docking Shanghai Chengbei Road project was completed and opened to traffic. Rail Transit Line 3 was opened for trial operation, at the end of the year there were 4 rail transit lines in operation, the construction of the main structure was completed on all Line 5 stations, the construction of Line 6 and Line S1 was accelerated, and the construction of Line 7 and Line 8 started smoothly. The construction of 5G pilot was accelerated, 5,461 5G base stations had been built, and 110 application projects had been launched. 1.3 million square meters of air defense facilities were newly built. The building of a demonstration zone for the integration of green and ecological development in the Yangtze River Delta started. The "combining multiple rules into one" spatial planning information platform project won the 2019 China Geographic Information Industry Outstanding Project Gold Award. The compilation of the special plan for the protection of the historical and cultural city (2035) was completed, ancient city protection projects such as the Pingjiang District Demonstration Project continued to be implemented, the annual task of renovating the overhead lines of the central urban areas was completed on schedule, and Suzhou was selected as one of the 8 pilot cities for the renovation of old urban communities in the country and the annual renovation of the 27 old communities completed.

The service capacity of the public utilities was continuously improved. In the year the electricity consumption of the whole society was 154.45 billion kWh, of which the electricity consumption of the industries was 119.98 billion kWh and that of the urban and rural residents 13.67 billion kWh. There were 21 regional water supply plants in the city with a total water supply capacity of 7.325 million tons / day, of which the tap water supply capacity in the urban areas was 3.45 million tons / day. The total pipeline natural gas supply in the urban areas was 1.101 billion cubic meters and there were 1,099,800 household natural gas users. There were 162,400 household liquefied gas users.

The strategy of building a strong city in quality was further advanced. The nation's first strategic emerging industry standardization demonstration zone -- Suzhou Industrial Park National Nanotechnology Industrialization Standardization Demonstration Zone passed the national acceptance. In the year there were 8 new international standards and 457 new national or industry standards. At the end of the year there were 16 national quality inspection (measurement) centers and key laboratories, and 17 provincial quality inspection (measurement) centers in the city, ranking first in the province. In the year a total of 80,200 batches of various types of food were randomly sampled, with a sampling rate of 7.48 batches per 1,000 people, and the dynamic pass rate was 98.36%.

14. Environmental protection and energy saving and reducing energy consumption

Environmental protection efforts were further increased. In the year the investment in environmental protection was 68.4 billion yuan, an increase of 3% over the previous year. 711 gas control projects were promoted and annual tasks such as coal-fired boiler remediation, yard dust control, and volatile organic compounds comprehensive control completed. A total of 5.138 million tons of coal to be consumed by non-electricity industry were reduced, and the target tasks assigned by the provincial government completed. 6,709 "scattered, chaotic and polluting" enterprises were rectified, and 72 chemical production enterprises closed and eliminated. 268 illegal docks were cleared and banned. There were 2,002 new waste classification communities and 236 new waste classification administrative villages. 4 hazardous waste incineration and disposal projects were completed, and the annual new incineration and disposal capacity of hazardous waste was 103,100 tons. The city's domestic sewage treatment capacity reached 3.62 million tons / day, and the urban domestic sewage treatment rate was 95.9%, an increase of 1.8 percentage points over the previous year. In the year the area for forest tending was 3,893.3 hectares, and the city's land forest coverage rate reached 30% at the end of the year. 507.8 hectares of ecological landscape protection forest belt of the Yangtze River were built, 1,466.7 hectares of protected wetlands newly built, and 3.5 million square meters of green space newly built or renovated in the urban areas.

The environmental protection effect further manifested. In the year the average concentration of PM2.5 in the urban areas was 39 micrograms / cubic meter, and the proportion of days with excellent or good air quality in the urban areas 77.8%. 3,000 hectares of fishing net fence in the Taihu Lake were cleaned and removed and the first phase of the Yangcheng Lake ecological restoration project completed, in the year the proportion of water quality III in the national and provincial examination sections was 87.5% and 86%, up 18.8 and 10 percentage points respectively over the previous year, and the proportion of water quality III in the tributaries into the Yangtze River reached 100%. The work of the system of people responsible for managing rivers and lakes was selected as a case of overcoming difficulties in the national theme education.

In 2019 in the face of the complex situation in which risks and challenges at home and abroad had increased significantly, the people of the city cheered up their own spirit, connected their hearts and brought their strength together, and overcame difficulties and moved forward bravely, and the economic and social development of the city achieved hard-won results. But at the same time, it should be noted that the economic and social development was still facing more difficulties and challenges, the downward pressure on the economy was still large, the industrial optimization and transformation was still in the tough stage, the task of innovation and development was still arduous, and the tasks of energy conservation, emission reduction, environmental protection and remediation, and safe production were still heavy. The year 2020 is the final year when a well-off society will be fully built and the "13th Five-Year Plan" will be carried out, the beginning year for implementing the guiding principles of the fourth plenary session of the Party's 19th Central Committee, and the first year for starting the practice of building Suzhou into a city with "strong economy, rich people, beautiful environment and high degree of civilization of society" again. The whole city should follow the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, continue to follow the general principle of pursuing progress while ensuring stability, and apply the new development philosophy. The whole city should continue to treat the supply-side structural reform as the main line, firmly grasp the major historical opportunities brought to the

city by the implementation of multiple national strategies such as the “Belt and Road”, the Yangtze River Economic Belt, the integration of the Yangtze River Delta and the construction of free trade pilot zones, turn pressure into power, and turn challenges into opportunities. Focusing on the vision of building a “modern international metropolis and beautiful and happy new paradise”, the whole city should highlight the work of “ensuring stability on six fronts”, plan as a whole to promote stabilizing growth, promoting reform, adjusting structure, benefiting people’s livelihood and preventing risks, and promote emancipating the mind again, starting again in the opening up, and reaching a higher goal, create a fiery era of passion and entrepreneurship again, and strive to be at the forefront of high-level opening up and high-quality development.