Prospects for promoting China's internal demand: Some issues calling for clarification

Lu Gang Nov 17, 2009

Outline

Question 1: Will China's anti-crisis measures of boosting investment hamper it from expanding consumption?

Question 2: Will a rebalancing between the economies of the US and China be achieved in the near term?

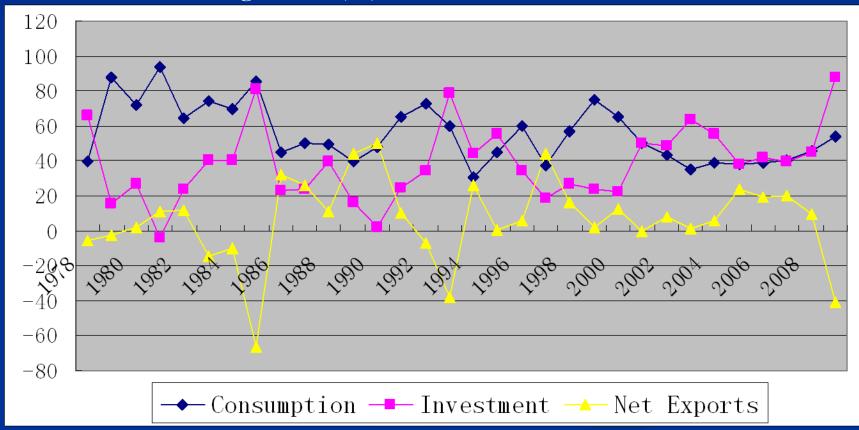
Question 3: Will China change its policy of promoting outward FDI due to the need to expand domestic demand?

Question 1:

Will China's anti-crisis measures of boosting investment hamper it from expanding domestic consumption?

1 To deal with the financial crisis, China is stimulating investments, but the abrupt increase in the contribution rate of investment to GDP growth is only temporary and does not mean a fundamental change of China's economic growth route in the long run.

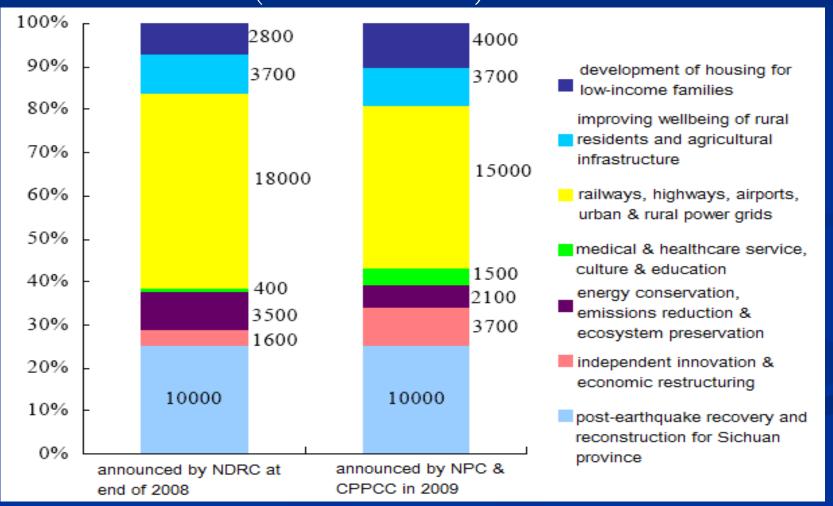
Contribution rate of consumption, investment and net exports to China's real GDP growth (%)



2 Transformation of economic development mode is a strategic decision made by the Chinese government based on the recognition of the unsustainability of China's current development mode. This decision does not and will not change due to the financial crisis.

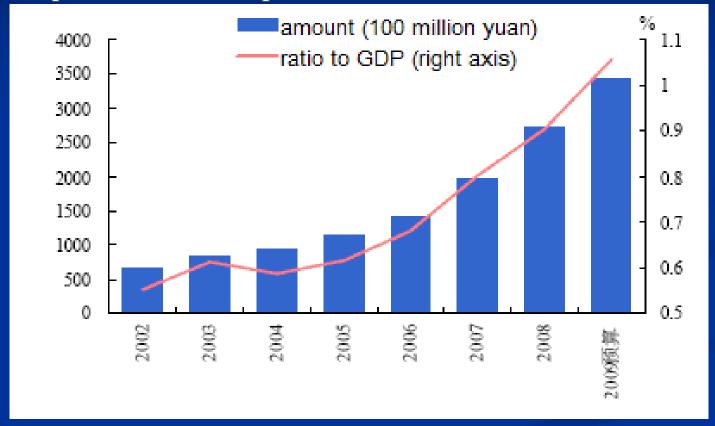
3 Judging from actions, expanding consumption demand is no less important than stimulating investment in China's counter-crisis measures.

Composition of the 4 trillion Yuan Economic Stimulus Package for 2009 and 2010 (RMB 100 million)



The financial crisis has actually promoted the reform in the key fields of medical and healthcare service system, culture and education system and social security, which will weaken the residents' motivation to make precautionary savings and promote consumption in the mid- and long- term.

National public finance expenditure on medical and healthcare service

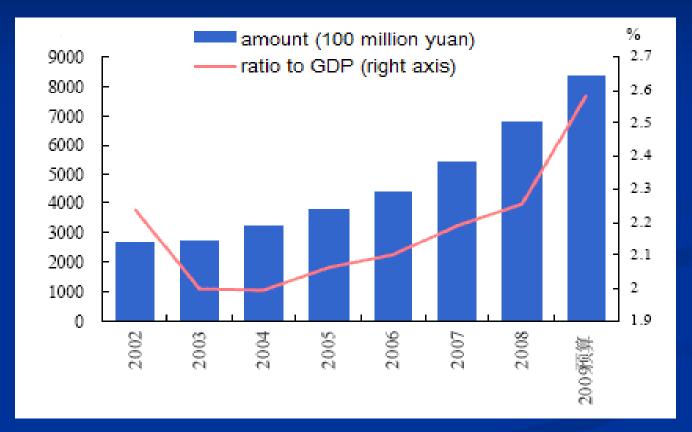


Question 1: Will China's anti-crisis measures of boosting investment hamper it from expanding domestic consumption?

National public finance expenditure on education



National public finance expenditure on social security and employment



Against the backdrop of the crisis, other reforms to expand domestic consumption are also being promoted.

Answer to Question 1

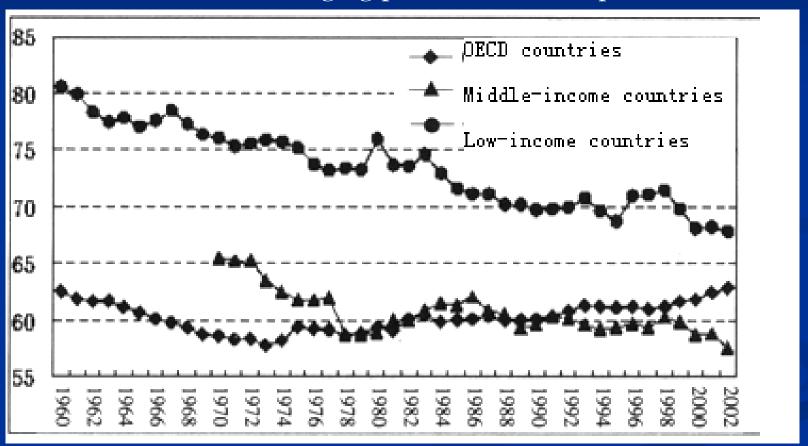
The financial crisis has not changed China's long-term policy target of expanding domestic consumption.

Question 2:

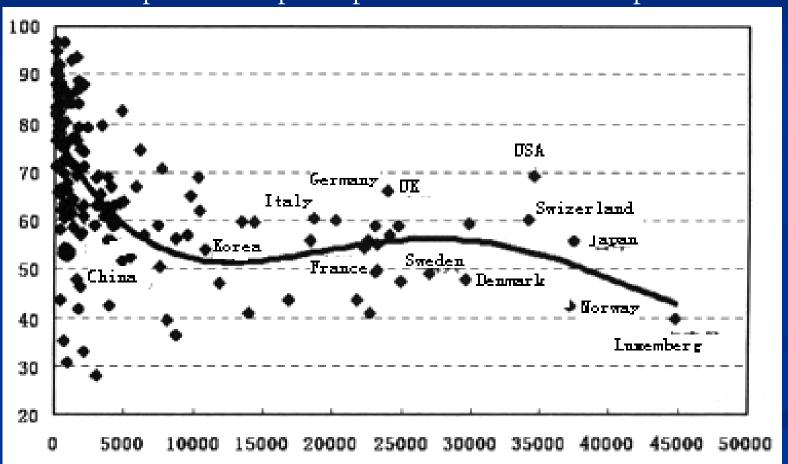
Will a rebalancing between the economies of the US and China be achieved in the near term?

1) Basically, consumption is decided by peoples' income level. China's per capita income is still low although it has increased a lot since 1978.

Characteristic of the changing patter of consumption rate

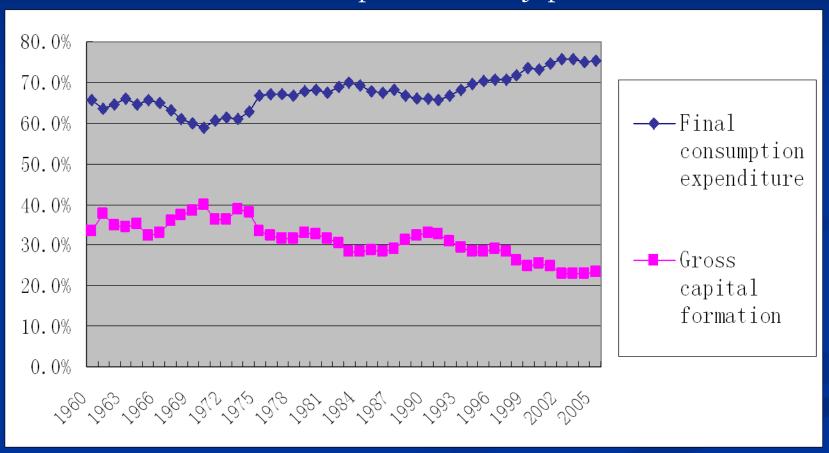


Relationship between per capita GDP and consumption rate

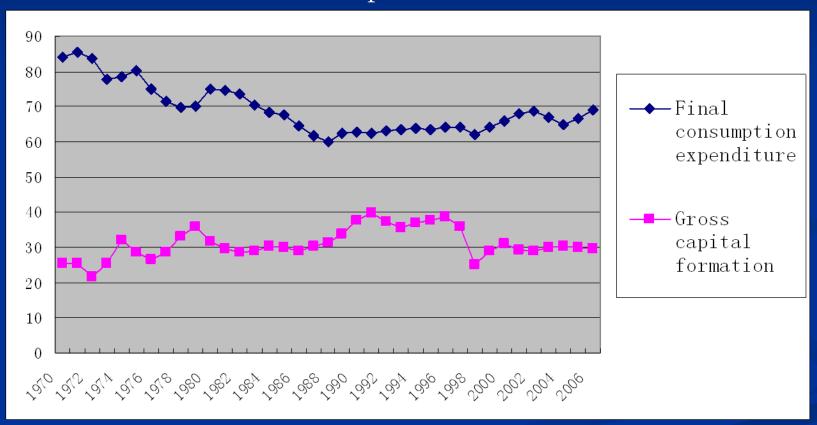


2 It is a common phenomenon that investment rate goes up and hence drags consumption rate down during the process of industrialization. The process of industrialization completed in China.

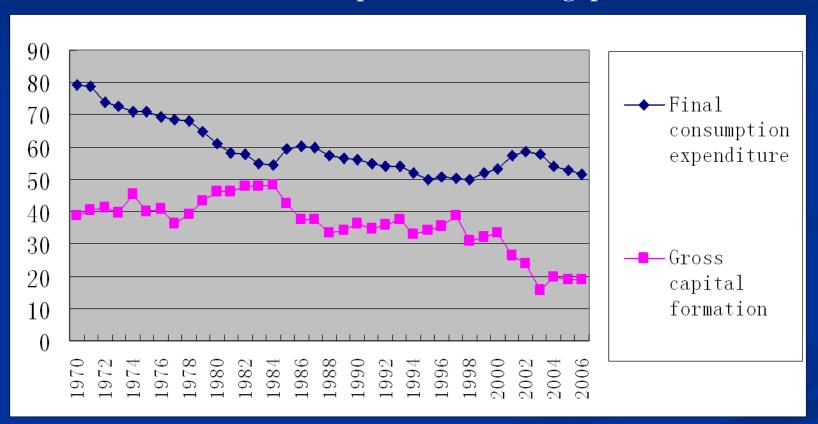
Investment rate and consumption rate of Japan



Investment rate and consumption rate of Korea



Investment rate and consumption rate of Singapore



Highest level of the share of industry in GDP

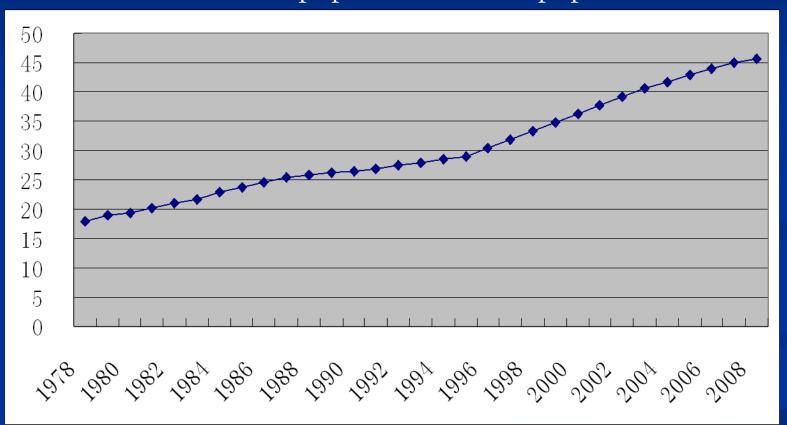
	Share (%)	Year		Share (%)	Year
ик	36.3	1970	Brazil	35.5	1984
Germany	39.1	1970	Israel	24.7	1984
Australia	30.1	1970	Taiwan Province of China	43.4	1986
Japan	38.8	1970	Mexico	31.4	1987
Sweden	30.9	1974	Korea	34.5	1987
Italy	32.0	1976	Singapore	32.2	1988
France	28.4	1978	Poland	43.4	1990
Canada	30.5	1979	Russia	39.7	1991
Switzerland	26.1	1980	India	22.7	1995
South Africa	45.2	1980	Malaysia	45.9	2006
United States	29.3	1981	Thailand	41.4	2006
Hungary	37.9	1982	China	43.5	2007
New Zealand	27.2	1982			

Comparison of China's export structure with developed countries (%)

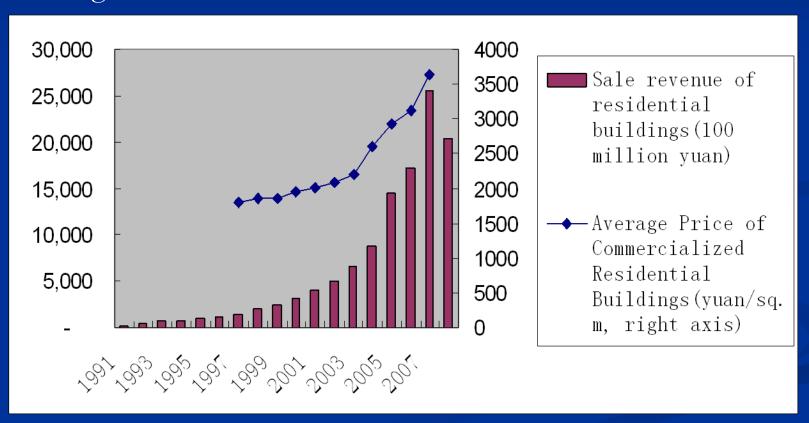
	China				Korea	Germany	Japan	US
			2005					
				Processing				
	1996	2001	Total	trade	2004	2004	2004	2004
Primary products	10	7	4	1	2	5	1	9
Resource-based products	11	9	8	3	10	12	7	14
Agro-based	5	4	3	1	3	6	2	6
Other	6	5	5	1	8	6	5	8
Low-tech manufactures	45	40	31	11	10	12	6	10
Textiles, garment & footwear	30	25	18	6	5	3	1	3
Other	15	15	13	5	4	8	5	7
Medium-tech manufactures	19	20	23	12	41	51	59	39
Automotive	1	2	2	1	13	18	22	9
Process	6	5	6	2	12	11	11	10
Engineering	11	13	14	9	17	22	27	20
High-tech manufactures	15	24	33	28	37	20	27	29
Electronic and electrical	13	22	31	27	35	12	22	16
Other	2	2	3	2	2	9	5	13

3 Due to the fact that China's urbanization process is far from complete, and the reform of China's housing allocation regime, Chinese people will have to save a large portion of their income in order to buy houses. Therefore, the savings rate of the country will remain at a high level in the coming years.

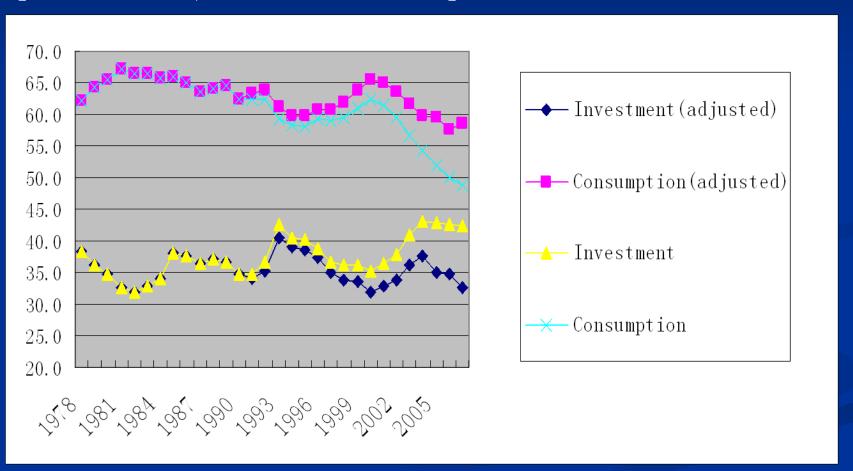
Ratio of China's urban population to total population



Sales revenue and average price of Commercialized Residential Buildings in China

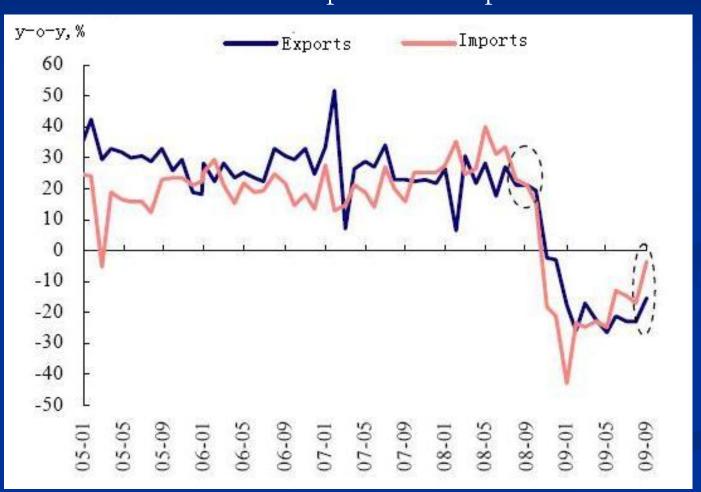


Experimental Adjustment of consumption and investment rate of China



A China will continue to promote the development of its export sector due to the heavy dependence of its employment on exports. This means net exports will continue to be a major contributor to GDP growth in the coming years, although its relative importance would be decreasing.

Growth rate of China's exports and imports



☐ Answer to Question 2

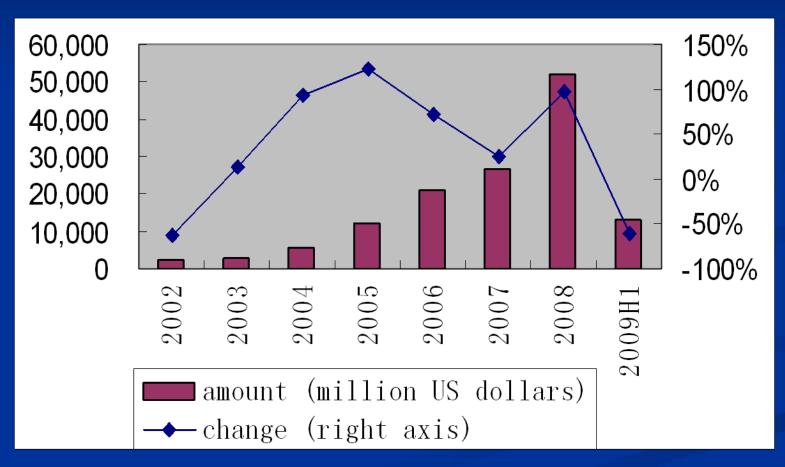
It is unrealistic to expect China to complete the mission of shifting its economic development mode in three or five years.

Question 3:

Will China change its policy of promoting outward FDI due to the need to expand domestic demand?

The abrupt drop of China's FDI outflows in the first half year of 2009 was mainly a result of the market factors. There is no change in Chinese government's policy to encourage enterprises to invest overseas.

China's FDI outflows



2 It is the objective requirement of economic development rules for Chinese enterprises to increase overseas investment.

(3) Accelerating China's outbound FDI is an important approach for China to switch its economic growth mode and an inevitable choice for China to realize sustainable development.

4 Supporting the enterprises to invest overseas and thus pulling up exports is also an important part of China's counter-crisis measures.

6 China's reform to promote overseas investment management mechanism has not stopped. On the contrary, it has picked up speed. Several key deregulation policies are promulgated in 2009.

☐ Answer to Question 3

The Chinese government will continue to actively promote its "go global" strategy.

Thank you!