

社会热点英语题

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一席谈

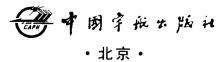
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前言

Foreword

说一口地道、流利的英语,已成为很多中国人的学习目标之一。"熟读唐诗三百首,不会作诗也会吟"。其实语言的学习是相通的,学习英语也是一样。虽然我们不能每个人都在欧美国家真真切切地融于英语语境中,但我们可以在"纯英语语境中"聆听和感受英语的的魅力。听得多、读得多、看得多,自然就能出口成章,在各种场合应付自如。随着中国的崛起和国际文化交流日益频繁,英语学习也越来越重要。在国际交流场合,用流利的英语谈论社会热点中的一些话题,无疑是营造融洽气氛和促进彼此沟通的手段,也是展示个性魅力的最佳时机。我们以此为基础,适时地推出《社会热点英语话题一席谈》这本书,以满足读者的需要。

本书选材上从宏观到微观,涵盖社会及其日常生活的方方面面;从显性的语料表达彰显社会热点问题背后的文化张力。正是这种文化主线贯穿了作者整个的编写过程,试图使读者达到"汝果欲读诗,功夫在诗外"之感,使读者更好地体会英语学习所带来的巨大魅力。

本书主题分为中国改革、热点追踪、世界动向、新型社会现象、享受生活、体育一览与忧心忡忡七个部分,一共74个主题,涵盖了人们享受生活过程中的点点滴滴。每个部分的内容包括词汇宝典、经典佳句和原汁阅读。词汇的选择具有典型性,可以提炼出重要的表达法,亦有举一反三之效;例句分为起步、提速和冲刺三个有机环节,循序渐进;阅读部分信息丰富、观点独特、激发兴趣,注重表现熟悉话题的新亮点。本书采用英汉对照的方式,将社会热点

与外语学习有机地融为一体,为广大读者提供了一个既实用、又有效的学习契机。

本书所选话题,突出趣味性和时效性。精选的话题均来自于近几年各类媒体中曝光度极高的热点。语言鲜活,充分彰显个性,表达富有张力,更具文采,题材新颖广泛,贴近人们实际,充满时代气息,可诵可读,可仿可鉴。本书着重从话题解读和思路点拨等方面人手,使读者能快速掌握内容及语料,做到事半功倍。

通过本书及附赠的MP3录音,你可以进行听力、语音、听写、口笔译、词汇、背诵、朗读等各种练习。无论用于课堂教学还是自学,本书都具有相当大的延展度和灵活性。

本书的编译参考了国内外相关媒体资料,资料引用不代表作者和出版者的观点,只是出于语言学习的目的。由于编者的水平有限,加之时间仓促,不足之处在所难免,欢迎专家和学者提出宝贵的批评意见。

编者

2009年1月于北京公寓

目录

Contents

Changes in China 中国改革

01	The rise of China 中国崛起····· 2
02	Inflation 物价上涨 ····· 6
03	Transportation construction 交通建设 ······10
04	Countryside 农村 ····· 14
05	Medical care 医疗体制 ······18
06	Education 教育 ·······22
07	Rich-poor gap 贫富差距
80	New holiday system 新休假制度 ····· 30
09	China's economy 中国经济 ····· 34
10	Appreciation of RMB 人民币升值 ······ 38
11	Spacewalk 太空行走
	Care on charity关注慈善
12	Care on charity 大社慈善 46
12	Care on charty大社慈普····································
12	Hot topics 热点追踪
	Hot topics 热点追踪
13	Hot topics 热点追踪 Vulnerable groups 弱势群体 50
13 14	Hot topics 热点追踪 Vulnerable groups 弱势群体 50 Housing 住房 54
13 14	Hot topics 热点追踪 Vulnerable groups 弱势群体 50 Housing 住房 54 Income 收入 58
13 14	Hot topics 热点追踪 Vulnerable groups 弱势群体 50 Housing 住房 54 Income 收入 58 Stocks 炒股 62
13 14 15	Hot topics 热点追踪 Vulnerable groups 弱势群体 50 Housing 住房 54 Income 收入 58 Stocks 炒股 62 Safety of food 食品安全 66
13 14 15 16 17	Hot topics 热点追踪 Vulnerable groups 弱势群体 50 Housing 住房 54 Income 收入 58 Stocks 炒股 62 Safety of food 食品安全 66 Rural migrant workers 农民工 70
13 14 15 16 17	Hot topics 热点追踪 Vulnerable groups 弱势群体 50 Housing 住房 54 Income 收入 58 Stocks 炒股 62 Safety of food 食品安全 66 Rural migrant workers 农民工 70 Left-behind children 留守儿童 74
13 14 15 16 17 18	Hot topics 热点追踪 Vulnerable groups 弱势群体 50 Housing 住房 54 Income 收入 58 Stocks 炒股 62 Safety of food 食品安全 66 Rural migrant workers 农民工 70 Left-behind children 留守儿童 74 Property rights 知识产权 78
13 14 15 16 17	Hot topics 热点追踪 Vulnerable groups 弱势群体 50 Housing 住房 54 Income 收入 58 Stocks 炒股 62 Safety of food 食品安全 66 Rural migrant workers 农民工 70 Left-behind children 留守儿童 74 Property rights 知识产权 78 Made in China 中国制造 82
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Hot topics 热点追踪 Vulnerable groups 弱势群体 50 Housing 住房 54 Income 收入 58 Stocks 炒股 62 Safety of food 食品安全 66 Rural migrant workers 农民工 70 Left-behind children 留守儿童 74 Property rights 知识产权 78 Made in China 中国制造 82 Traffic control 车辆限行 86
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Hot topics 热点追踪 Vulnerable groups 弱势群体 50 Housing 住房 54 Income 收入 58 Stocks 炒股 62 Safety of food 食品安全 66 Rural migrant workers 农民工 70 Left-behind children 留守儿童 74 Property rights 知识产权 78 Made in China 中国制造 82

World trend 世界动向

25	Globalization 全球化 ·····	· 98	
26	Green contains Transfel	102	
27	CTOMMERCION AND TO	106	
28	American presidential election 美国总统大选 ·····	110	
29	Tamori and the second of the s	114	
30	International aid 国际社会援助 ·····	118	
31	6 11 , 21	122	
32	Pollution 污染 ·····	126	
33	(KK/OV)	130	
34	2	134	
35	Soaring fuel price 油价飙升 ······	138	
36	Natural disaster 自然灾害 ·····	142	
37	Local uncertainty 局部不稳定 ·····	146	
	34.331 A -= 4		
	New social phenomenon 新兴社会现象		
38	Post-80's generation 80后 ····	150	
39	Talent Show 选秀节目 ·····	154	
40	Cyber love 网恋 ····	158	
41	Single life 单身 ····	162	
	Credit card 刷卡 ····	166	
	On-line shopping 在线购物·····	170	
44	Fast food 快餐·····	174	
45	Study abroad 出国留学 ·····	178	
46	Overseas Returnees 海归·····	182	
47	• ****	186	
48	Job-hopping 跳槽 ·····	190	
Enjoying life 享受生活			
49	Tourism 旅游 ·····	194	
50	Entertainment 娱乐 ·····	198	
51	Fashion 时尚 ·····	202	
52		206	
	Music 音乐 ·····	210	
54	Pet 宠物 ·····	214	
	T-4	218	

56	Online communities 在线社交 ······	222		
57	Blog 博客······	226		
58	TV drama 电视剧 ······	230		
59	Movie 电影 ·····	234		
	Sports 体育一览			
60	The Olympics 奥运会 ·····	238		
61	Basketball 篮球 ·····	242		
62	Soccer 足球 ·····	246		
63	Sports brand 体育品牌 ·····	250		
64	Fitness 健身·····	254		
65	Yao Ming 姚明·····	258		
66	Liu Xiang 刘翔 ·····	262		
Worries 忧心忡忡				
67	Working pressure 工作压力 ·····	266		
68	Lack of Sleep 睡眠不足 ······	270		
69	Sub-health 亚健康 ·····	274		
70	Divorce 离婚 ·····	278		
71	Clone 克隆 ·····	282		
72	Abortion 堕胎 ·····	286		
73	Euthanasia 安乐死 ·····	290		
74	AIDS 艾滋病	294		





The rise of China

中国崛起

请一口气将基本句式读完并牢记

■ Initial Step - - - - -

- 1. China's rise is no longer a prediction. It is a fact.
- 2. The development of China has amazed the world with its growth.
- 3. Now the world is reverting to its normal state a powerful Asia.
- 4. Asians, according to the survey, were quite comfortable with the rise of China.
- 5. China has risen to be one of the strongest economic powers in the Asian-Pacific region.
- 6. A sharp slowdown in China now would have much nastier global consequences than in the past.

Speed Up -----

- 1. China is on track to displace the United States as the winner of the most Olympic gold medals this year.
- 2. As the world's most robust economic region China has attracted worldwide attention with its remarkable achievement over the past two decades.
- 3. America now faces a mounting risk of recession. The good news, however, is that the world has found some powerful new engines in China and other emerging economies.
- 4. China skeptics worrying about China's economy see its inexpensive goods export and their companies relocating to China as a threat
- 5. Whether or not China overtakes the United States economically, which looks like a distant prospect; it is the powerful new force on the global scene.
- 6. One third of Europeans and Americans see China's rapid economic growth to be an opportunity, while nearly 60 percent remain wary of China's rising economic power.

Spurt For ******

- 1. For several years, emerging Asian economies have accounted for more of global GDP growth than America has. This year China alone will for the first time accomplish the same feat all on its own
- China's rise was the rise of the big market with 1.3 billion to 1.5 billion people. Such a large market that was increasing constantly and opening day by day was new opportunities for both Asia and the world.
- 3. At the height of the Industrial Revolution, Britain was called "the workshop of the world." That title surely belongs to China today. It manufactures two thirds of the world's copiers, microwave ovens, DVD players and shoes.
- 4. China's growth has obvious and amazing benefits for the world, and in particular for America. A Morgan Stanley report shows that cheap imports from China have saved American consumers more than \$600 billion in the past decade.
- 5. China opened itself to foreign investment and trade. The result is that much of the world now relies on the China market. From the United States to Germany to Japan, exports to China are among the crucial factors propelling growth. For developing markets, China is the indispensable trading partner.

❖ 起步

- 1. 中国的崛起已经不是一个预言, 而是一个现实。
- 2. 中国发展的速度让世界为之震惊。
- 3. 现在,世界正逐步恢复到正常状态:一个强大的亚洲。
- 4. 调查显示,亚洲人对于中国的崛起并不感到担忧。
- 5. 中国迅速崛起为亚太地区最具实力的经济强国之一。
- 6. 现在中国经济发展一旦放缓,世界经济遭受的打击将 比以往大得多。

❖ 提速

- 今年,中国正逐步取代美国成为奥运金牌数量最多的 贏家。
- 2. 中国作为世界上最有活力的经济区域在过去20年里以 其显著的成就引起了全球的广泛注意。
- 3. 近几年来美国经济面临不景气的危机,但以中国为代表的一批新兴经济体的崛起,为世界经济带来了新的希望。
- 4. 中国怀疑论者认为中国大量廉价商品的出口以及外国 公司进驻中国是一种潜在威胁。
- 5. 不管中国在经济上是否追赶美国,在不远的将来,它将是国际舞台上一个新的充满力量的国家。
- 6. 1/3的欧美人将中国经济的迅速发展视为一种机遇,而 近60%的人则对此保持着警惕。

❖ 冲刺

- 1. 几年前开始,亚洲新兴经济体对世界经济增长的贡献就超过了美国。今年,仅中国一国就完成了同样的任务。
- 中国和平崛起从一个很重要的方面来看,就是13亿至 15亿人口的市场大国的兴起。这样一个不断增大和日 益开放的大市场,对亚洲和世界都是新的机遇。
- 3. 由于工业革命,英国曾经被称为是世界工厂,这个头 衔如今应该属于中国。它制造了世界上2/3的复印机、 微波炉、DVD播放机和鞋子。
- 4. 中国的发展给世界带来了明显和巨大的利益,特别是对于美国。摩根士丹利报告显示在过去的10年中因为从中国进口便宜的商品,美国的消费者为此已经节约了大约6000亿美元。
- 5. 中国的市场向外资开放。现在的结果是世界上大部分的 国家都依赖中国市场,从美国到德国到日本,向中国出 口是拉动本国经济的最主要的劲头。就一个发展中的市 场而言,中国绝对是一个不可或缺的贸易伙伴。

词汇宝典

prediction 预言 slowdown 放缓 indispensable 不可或缺的 undisputed 毋庸置疑的 international influence 国际影响力 trading partner 贸易伙伴 the rise of modern China 现代中国的崛起 China skeptics 中国怀疑论者 emerging economies 新兴经济体 sustained rapid growth 经济的持续快速增长 global manufacturing base 全球制造基地 international influence 国际影响力 nationalism 民族主义 opportunities 机遇 challenge 挑战 wary 警惕 the global scene 国际舞台 dominance 主导地位 indispensable 不可或缺的

请跟随外教朗读并体会



1. International influence of China

Asians see the United States losing its undisputed international influence in 50 years to possibly China amid waning trust in Washington to act responsibly in the world, a poll showed. The study is carried out by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs (CCGA), an independent US think tank.

In the immediate term, US power in the eyes of Asians remains secure.

In half a century, however, a majority in all countries covered by the poll — China, India, South Korea and the United States — believed "another nation" will become as powerful or surpass the United States in power.

"There is a clear agreement across the board that over the next half century Asians see the United States no more the sole superpower that it is or considered to be today," CCGA president Marshall Bouton told a news conference in Washington. The survey did not specify in its questions which nation people believe will match or overtake the United States. "We can only infer what nation people had in mind when they answered that question," Bouton said. When asked whether it was China, he said "I guess so."

China has become a global manufacturing power and is already displacing the United States as the primary trading partner for many nations. China has also amassed the world's largest trade surplus and world's largest foreign exchange reserves.

Asians, according to the survey, were quite comfortable with the rise of China.

Trust in the United States to act responsibly in the world is "low," according to the poll.

2. One third see China as opportunity

One third of Europeans and Americans see China's rapid economic growth to be an opportunity, while nearly 60 percent remain wary of China's rising economic power, an opinion poll the German Marshall Fund, a transatlantic think tank, showed on Monday.

China skeptics worrying about China's economy see its inexpensive goods export and their companies relocating to China as a threat, according to the poll which covered France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Britain and the United States.

Of the six European countries covered, 70 percent of people in France and only slightly fewer in Poland, Italy and Slovakia expressed jitters over China's emerging economy.

Traditionally free-trading Britain had more people who saw China as an opportunity than a threat, the survey found.

With European manufacturing coming under pressure from Asia, the European Commission has imposed anti-dumping duties on a range of Chinese exports, including leather shoes.

EU and Chinese negotiators are due to begin talks next month on a broad new bilateral agreement, including economic issues. And, US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson is leading a high-level Washington delegation to China later this month.

The poll also showed 52 percent of respondents favored globalization in general, up from 46 percent in 2005.

Possibly behind that was a fall in dissatisfaction about the local economy — 41 percent of Americans and 27 percent of Europeans were satisfied with their own economy, up from 30 and 20 percent respectively in 2005, the survey found.

1. 中国国际影响力

一项民意调查显示,随着亚洲人对美国政府逐渐丧失信任,他们认为,在未来50年内, 美国无可匹敌的国际影响力可能将受到中国的挑战。这项调查是由美国独立智囊机构芝加哥 全球事务委员会开展的。

但从目前来看,美国在亚洲人心目中的地位仍然不可取代。

然而,这项在中国、印度、韩国和美国进行的调查表明,大多数人认为,在未来半个世纪内,"另一个国家"将会变得很强大,或是会超过美国。

芝加哥全球事务委员会主任马歇尔·鲍顿在华盛顿召开的新闻发布会上说: "有一点可以肯定,亚洲人认为,在半个世纪后,美国将不再是世界上唯一的超级强国。" 但调查中并没有涉及人们认为具体哪个国家将能与美国相媲美或能超过美国等问题。鲍顿说: "我们只能从人们的回答中进行推断。"当被问及这个国家是不是中国时,鲍顿说: "我认为是。"

中国已成为全球制造业大国,并且取代美国成为很多国家的最大贸易伙伴。此外,中国拥有世界上最大的贸易顺差和外汇储备。

调查显示,亚洲人对于中国的崛起并不感到担忧。

另外, 人们对美国政府的信任感降低。

2. 1/3 欧美人视中国经济增长为机遇

本周一公布的一项民意调查显示,1/3的欧美人将中国经济的迅速发展视为一种机遇,而 近60%的人则对此保持着警惕。

这项调查共在法国、德国、意大利、波兰、斯洛伐克、英国和美国等七国开展。调查表明,中国怀疑论者认为中国大量廉价商品的出口以及外国公司进驻中国是一种潜在威胁。

调查显示,70%的法国人以及近70%的波兰人、意大利人和斯洛伐克人对中国经济的快速发展感到不安。

历来倡导自由贸易的英国人大多认为中国的崛起对于全世界来说是机遇而不是威胁。

由于亚洲的商品出口对欧洲制造业造成压力,所以欧盟对中国包括皮鞋在内的一系列出口商品征收了反倾销税。

欧盟和中国将于下月就一项最新全面双边协议进行磋商,其中涉及到一些经济问题。美国财政部部长亨利·鲍尔森将于本月末率高层代表团访问中国。

调查显示,52%的调查对象对全球化表示支持,而2005年这一数字为46%。

这可能源于人们对本国经济状况满意度的提高。调查表明,41%的美国人和27%的欧洲人对本国的经济状况较为满意,2005年这一比例分别为30%和20%。



Inflation 物价上涨

请一口气将基本句式读完并牢记

■ Initial Step -----

- 1. They made prediction about possible price increase.
- 2. Price increases hit everyone's pocket.
- 3. Thousands demonstrated against the price increases.
- 4. Rising pork prices could push up China's inflation rate
- 5. In the 1970s, inflation was let loose at huge cost to growth.
- 6. The 10% price rise is well within the limits set by the government.
- 7. A 50% rise in the average nationwide price in 2006 is causing squeals of alarm.
- 8. In emerging economies, above all, bad inflationary surprises have become the norm.

■ Speed Up

- 1. The current price hikes and increasing inflationary pressures are the biggest concern of the people.
- 2. The elimination of inflation would ensure that the amount of money used in repaying a loan would have the same value as the amount of money borrowed.
- 3. The central bank raised interest rates yesterday for the fourth time this year to control money supply and rising prices.
- 4. China faces the potential risk of drastic economic fluctuation, while tackling the biggest challenges of soaring prices and mounting inflationary pressure,
- 5. In his government work report to the NPC session, Wen said the country was facing "increasing inflationary pressures" and the task of holding down inflation was "difficult".
- 6. The close correlation of commodity price index, monetary supply, bank deposit and interest rate leads the trend of interest rates.
- 7. The annual change in consumer prices rose from around 4% in 2002 to just under 6% in 2004 in US.

■ Spurt For ■■■■■■■■■

- 1. Like the disco era it dominated, stagflation has a distinctive beat: slow growth, rising inflation, high oil prices and weak labor markets.
- 2. The 1970s stagflation resulted, in large part, from extended periods of loose monetary policy pursued to accommodate the demand-crippling effect of oil shocks by printing money.
- 3. A long-term balance is noted among the Chinese bond prices and fixed-asset investment, net export, commodity price index, monetary supply, bank loans and foreign exchange reserves.
- 4. The government has set "two prevents" when mapping out this year's economic policies: to prevent the fast-growing economy from being overheated, and keep structural price rises from turning into significant inflation.

❖ 起步

- 1. 他们对物价上涨的可能性进行预测。
- 2. 物价上涨冲击了每个人的钱袋。
- 3. 数以千计的人举行示威, 抗议物价上涨。
- 4. 上涨的猪肉价格会推动中国通胀率的上升。
- 5. 在1970年代,为了追求经济增长,付出了通货膨胀的 昂贵代价。
- 6. 10%的物价上涨远未超过政府限定的范围
- 7. 2006年一年全国平均肉价50%的增长引起了恐慌。
- 8. 特别是在新兴经济体,出乎意料的恶性通胀如今已成为常态。

❖ 提速

- 1. 当前物价上涨和通货膨胀的压力是老百姓最关心的问题。
- 2. 消除通货膨胀应确保还贷的钱应与所贷款的价值相 同。
- 3. 昨日,央行年内第四次上调利率,以控制货币供给量和物价上涨。
- 4. 中国面临经济波动的潜在风险,面临着物价过快上涨和通货膨胀的压力。
- 5. 在人大会议的政府工作报告中,温总理说国家正面临 物价过快上涨的压力,抑制通货膨胀"很困难"。
- 6. 物价指数、货币供应量、金融机构存款的变化情况与 货币市场利率具有较强关联性,并引导货币市场利率的 走势。
- 7. 美国的物价从2002年的4%上涨到2004年的接近6%。

❖ 冲刺

- 1. 就像迪斯科流行的年代一样,经济"滞胀"也有独特的鼓点:经济缓慢增长,通货膨胀加剧,油价走高以及就业市场低迷。
- 2. 70年代的滯胀很大程度上是为顾及因石油冲击而受到 严重损害的需求效应,采取的印钞措施和长期宽松的 货币政策而造成的。
- 3. 我国债券市场价格与固定资产投资、净出口、物价指数、货币供应量、金融机构存贷款和外汇储备存在长期均衡关系。
- 4. 政府在确定今年的经济政策时还提出了"两个防止":防止经济增长由偏快转向过热,防止物价由结构性上涨转向通货膨胀。

词汇宝典

living cost 生活费
living standard 生活标准
per capita disposable income
人均可支配收入
price hikes 物价上涨
inflation 通货膨胀
inflation 有ctor 通货膨胀因素
inflation rate 通货膨胀率
inflationary pressure
通货膨胀压力
galloping inflation
恶性通货膨胀
stagflation 经济"滞胀"
cost-of living index 生活费用指数

消费品价格指数 raise interest rates 上调利率 economic fluctuation 经济波动 structural price rise 结构性上涨 monetary policies 货币政策 commodity price 物价 commodity price index 物价指数 monetary supply 货币供应量 bank deposit 金融机构存款 interest rate 货币市场利率 general(price)increase

index number of consumer price

一般涨价 fixed price 固定价格 price fluctuation 价格波动 commodity prices are rocketing (soaring) 物价暴涨 stabilize prices 稳定物价 prevent price hikes 防止物价上涨 devaluation 货币贬值 demand-pull 需求拉动型 price monitoring 物价监测 deteriorate 恶化

请跟随外教朗读并体会



1. The price of pork

While many China-watchers fret about the consequences of a collapse of China's stock market, Wen Jiabao, the prime minister, seems more worried about the risk of social unrest as a result of the rocketing price of pork. A 50% rise in the average nationwide price over the past year is causing squeals of alarm. Last week Mr. Wen went so far as to visit a farm to show he is taking the issue seriously.

Mr. Wen promised that the government would act to ensure adequate supplies of pork; if necessary, to stabilize prices it can release stocks from its strategic reserves of both frozen pork and live pigs. Pork is China's staple meat. The average person eats more pork than in any country other than Germany. But it accounts for almost 4% of China's consumer-price basket, against less than 1% in Germany. Rising pork prices could therefore push up China's inflation rate over coming months. Jiming Ha, chief economist at China International Capital Corporation, estimates that inflation will rise to 3.4% in May, from 3% in April.

2. Inflation

China faces the potential risk of drastic economic fluctuation, while tackling the biggest challenges of soaring prices and mounting inflationary pressure, Premier Wen Jiabao said on Tuesday. "We need to blaze a trail in between," he said at a press conference after the closing meeting of the First Session of the 11th National People's Congress. Wen, who was reappointed premier on Sunday, said his government will ensure rapid yet stable economic development and at the same time to effectively hold down inflation and address problems of "unstable, uncoordinated and unsustainable" development. Secondly, he said the Chinese government needs the courage and determination to further free people's mind in order to make new breakthroughs in the reforms of the economic and political systems. Thirdly, he said it's important for his government to strengthen social justice and equity, which means to respect everyone, protect the lawful rights and interests of all, and ensure everyone enjoys equal opportunities for development. "If the development of economy and improvement of the people's livelihood are the bounding duties of the government, then the promotion of social justice and equity is the conscience of the government." The premier also stressed cultural advancement and higher ethical standards in China, including higher credibility, integrity, tolerance, fraternity and morality. "To ensure this country will become stronger and more prosperous, to build a society of equity and justice, to ensure the people live a happy life, our children can go to school and our nation is duly respected in the international community, I'm willing to dedicate myself wholeheartedly to this cause," he said. In his government work report to the NPC session, Wen said the country was facing "increasing inflationary pressures" and the task of holding down inflation was "difficult" "The current price hikes and increasing inflationary pressures are the biggest concern of the people," he said. Last year, China's consumer price index (CPI), a barometer of inflation, rose by 4.8 percent year-on-year, the highest since 1997 and well above the government target of 3 percent. A week after Wen announced the country's goals to keep inflation at around 4.8 percent, the National Bureau of Statistics said last week inflation climbed to a nearly 12-year high of 8.7 percent in February, driven by a 23.3 percent jump in food prices.

1. 猪肉价格

正当众多中国观察家为中国股市崩盘的后果不堪设想而忧心忡忡之时,温家宝总理却似乎更担心暴涨的猪肉价格可能会造成社会不稳定。过去一年全国平均肉价50%的增长引起了恐慌。上周,温总理甚至视察了一家农场,以此表明他对这一问题非常重视。

温总理承诺,政府会采取行动,确保猪肉的足量供应;如果必要,政府还可动用冻猪肉和生猪的战略储备来稳定肉价。猪肉是中国的主要肉食品,一般人的猪肉消费量比除德国外的任何一个国家都要多。但与德国不到1%相比,猪肉在中国占菜篮子总价近4%。因此,未来几个月里,上涨的猪肉价格会推动中国通胀率的上升。中国国际金融有限公司的首席经济学家哈继铭估计,通货膨胀将从4月份的3%升至5月份的3.4%。

2. 物价上涨

温家宝总理周四说,中国面临经济波动的潜在风险,面临着物价过快上涨和通货膨胀的 压力。在十一届人大一次会议闭幕后的记者招待会上,温总理说"我们必须在这两者之间走 出一条光明的道路。"周日连任总理的温家宝说,这一届政府将确保经济发展的快速和稳 定,同时抑制物价上涨,解决经济发展中的不稳定、不协调、不可持续的问题。第二点,他 说中国政府需要鼓足勇气下定决心解放思想,来取得经济和政治体系改革的新突破。第三, 对这届政府来说加强社会的公平和正义也是很重要的。公平和正义意味着尊重每一个人,维 护每一个人的合法权益,确保每一个人享有平等的发展机会。"如果说发展经济、改善民生 是政府的天职,那么推动社会的公平和正义就是政府的良心。"总理还强调了精神文明建设 和中国高度的民族标准,包括高度的诚信、正直、包容、博爱和道德。他说,"为了让我们 的国家的富强,为了一个公平正义的社会,为了让人们幸福快乐地过上幸福生活,为了让孩 子们上好学,为了使我们的民族在世界上赢得应有的尊严,我愿意献出我的全部心血和精 力。"在人大会议的政府工作报告中,温总理说国家正面临物价过快上涨的压力,抑制通货 膨胀"很困难"。他说,"当前物价上涨和通货膨胀的压力是老百姓最关心的问题。"去 年,中国的CPI指数比上年同期上涨了4.8%,这是自1997年以来最高的,高于政府设定的3% 的目标。在温总理宣布政府的目标是把物价上涨控制在4.8%左右时,国家统计局宣布上周物 价攀升至12年来的最高点,2月上涨8.7%,食品类价格涨幅达23.3%。