



2025

China to Implement More Practical
Measures to Stabilize Foreign Trade

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Part 01



Action Plan to Stabilize Foreign Investment

Policy Background & Objects

01. Status & Challenges

According to data from the Ministry of Commerce, in 2024, China's actual utilization of foreign capital amounted to 826.25 billion yuan, with a year-on-year decrease of 27.1%. However, the number of newly established foreign-invested enterprises reached 59,080, with a year-on-year increase of 9.9%. This indicates that while the number of foreign-invested enterprises is increasing, the overall scale of investment has declined, reflecting the complex situation and challenges currently faced by foreign investment. Foreign-invested enterprises play a significant role in employment, export stabilization, and industrial upgrading, calling for more practical and effective measures to stabilize existing investments and expand new ones.

02. Policy Key Points

On February 10, the State Council executive meeting reviewed and approved the "2025 Action Plan to Stabilize Foreign Investment". The meeting proposed orderly expansion of independent opening-up, deepening pilot programs in related fields, fully lifting foreign investment restrictions in the manufacturing sector, optimizing the national comprehensive pilot demonstration for expanding opening-up in the service industry, and broadening the scope of industries encouraged for foreign investment. In 2025, the Ministry of Commerce will intensify efforts to attract and stabilize foreign investment, and continuously relax market access. The Ministry will steadily advance the opening-up of the service sector, promote pilot programs in telecommunications, healthcare, and education, and revise the "Catalogue of Industries Encouraged for Foreign Investment" to enhance the attractiveness of investment policies.

03. Estimated Policy Effects

It is noted that since 2024, China has introduced measures to expand independent opening-up in value-added telecommunications, healthcare, and other fields, fully lifting foreign investment restrictions in the manufacturing sector. The number of national foreign investment restrictions has been reduced from 31 to 29. These measures align with economic development trends and industrial evolution, and their implementation will promote high-quality foreign investment.

Improve Business Environment & Service Assurance

Build the “Invest in China” Brand

The meeting also proposed continuously building the “Invest in China” brand, increasing support for reinvestment by foreign enterprises in China, encouraging foreign investment in equity investments, and optimizing foreign merger and acquisition rules and procedures.

The Ministry plans to use landmark exhibitions, key events, and platforms to interpret and analyze China’s comprehensive economic advantages for foreign investors, introducing more high-quality foreign investment projects.

Optimize Operating Environment

The meeting required equal treatment for domestic and foreign enterprises in government procurement, broadening financing channels for foreign enterprises, and strengthening intellectual property protection. It also emphasized improving service guarantees for foreign investment projects, providing more convenience for foreign enterprise personnel in entry, exit, and residence.

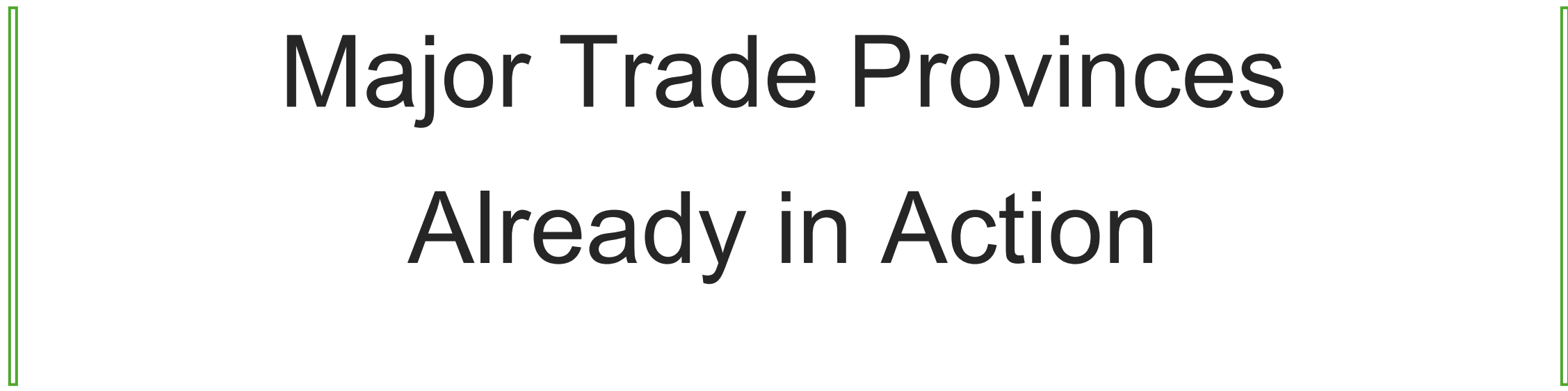
Positive Policy Influence

The meeting addressed areas of high concern to foreign investors, such as government procurement, intellectual property protection, and entry-exit procedures. These measures will help resolve difficulties and blockages in foreign investment in China, strengthen related service guarantees, further optimize the business environment, and provide reassurance for foreign enterprises operating in China.



Part 02

Major Trade Provinces
Already in Action



Major Trade Provinces to Stabilize Foreign Trade and Investment

Guangdong: Implement the “Top Leader” Project

Guangdong, a major trade province, proposed vigorously implementing the “top leader” project for investment attraction, coordinating domestic and foreign investment, enhancing the brand awareness of “Invest in Guangdong”, and deepening opening-up in telecommunications, education, elderly care, healthcare, and other fields.

Jiangsu: Promote Institutional Opening-up

Jiangsu proposed greater efforts to promote institutional opening-up, advance full industrial chain opening-up and innovation in fields like biopharmaceuticals, steadily expand service sector opening-up, promote digital trade cooperation, strengthen carbon footprint management, and green electricity and certificate services, creating a globally competitive open innovation environment.

Zhejiang: Introduce a New Portfolio of Policies

Zhejiang will introduce a new portfolio of policies to stabilize foreign trade, conduct more precise surveys of enterprise needs for targeted services and support. It will vigorously develop new business models such as cross-border e-commerce and overseas warehouses, helping traditional enterprises expand markets both online and offline.

Major Trade Provinces to Stabilize Foreign Trade and Investment

Shandong: Implement the Market Expansion Action

Shandong proposed implementing the market expansion action - “Ten Thousand Enterprises Go Global, Shandong Trade Worldwide”, organizing enterprises to participate in over 360 overseas exhibitions and 50 international precision procurement activities annually, consolidating and enhancing Shandong’s global market share.

Shanghai: Diversify Export Markets

Shanghai proposed expanding high-level opening-up in the service sector, increasing opening-up in healthcare, culture, and tourism. According to Shanghai municipal government, efforts should be made to expand incremental growth in foreign trade, focusing on improving the added value and competitiveness of export products, and encouraging enterprises to diversify export markets.