

Northeast China

Introduction

In Northeast China, during 2023, Jilin province demonstrated preeminence in GDP expansion, while Liaoning province achieved a growth rate surpassing the national average growth rate for the first time in a decade. According to data disclosed by the State Statistics Bureau, Liaoning's GDP attained RMB 3,020.9 billion during the period, registering a y-o-y growth of 5.3%. Similarly, Heilongjiang province's GDP reached RMB 1,588.4 billion, with a growth rate of 2.6%, whereas Jilin province recorded a GDP of RMB 1,353.1 billion, reflecting a growth rate of 6.3%.

Liaoning Province

Liaoning province exhibited notable advancements in both fixed asset investment and total retail sales of consumer goods during the initial three quarters, surpassing the national average benchmarks. State-owned enterprises registered a y-o-y increase of 2.4%, whereas foreign-invested and enterprises from Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan recorded a robust growth of 7.6%. Shareholding enterprises witnessed a 3.7% surge, and private enterprises experienced a substantial growth rate of 5.8%. In 2023, the primary industry saw an added value of RMB 265.1 billion, marking a 4.7% increase. The secondary industry recorded an added value of RMB 1,173.5 billion, reflecting a 5.0% increase. Furthermore, the tertiary industry experienced an added value of RMB 1,582.4 billion, indicating a 5.5% increase.

Jilin Province

During 2023, Jilin Province exhibited a consistent trajectory of recovery, stability with concurrent progress and enhancement in quality. Concerning the three industries, the added value of the primary industry amounted to RMB 164.5 billion, reflecting a y-o-y increase of 5.0%. The secondary industry's added value reached RMB 458.5 billion, showing a 5.9% increase. Additionally, the tertiary industry's added value totaled RMB 730.1 billion, indicating a 6.9% increase. Several major projects started production and generated growth before the year-end, promoting private investment and policies for the private economy.

Heilongjiang Province

In 2023, the GDP of Heilongjiang Province represents a 2.6% increase compared to the previous year at constant prices, with the growth rate remaining consistent with the previous year. Specifically, the added value of the primary industry reached RMB 351.8 billion, showing a 2.6% increase. The added value of the secondary industry was RMB 429.1 billion, indicating a decrease of 2.3%. Furthermore, the added value of the tertiary industry amounted to RMB 807.4 billion, reflecting a 5.0% increase.

General and Sector-Specific Issues

With the following issues and recommendations, AmCham China hopes to rebuild trust between companies from both sides this year. Despite many foreign firms leaving China, those remaining believe in China's economy, seeking to create a mutually beneficial ecosystem. Enhanced communication between expatriates and China's leadership holds promise for fostering long-term prosperity.

The overarching concern revolves around foreign firms expressing apprehensions regarding transparency, market access, intellectual property rights, and investment limitations. Specific issues encompass deficiencies in essential services such as education and healthcare, as well as a decline in trust within the business environment. The following are the specific issues encountered by our members.

- Unwritten demands by SOEs for subcontractors and bidders to localize their production to win and/or be considered for contracts. At times, the SOE will tell the firm that they would prefer the foreign-made solution or product but indicate they are receiving pressure from higher authorities to choose a local substitute.
- Failed payment issues affect all foreign firms' willingness to do business in China. Although nonpayment issues pertain to both products and services, services rendered with partial or no payment ahead of time are sometimes not later paid, resulting in longstanding commercial disputes.
- IP theft remains a major concern for US and foreign businesses looking to sell into the China market,

中国东北

引言

2023年，东北地区中吉林省GDP增速突出，辽宁省增速十年来首次超过全国平均水平。根据国家统计局公布的数据，辽宁省国内生产总值为30209.4亿元，同比增长5.3%。黑龙江省国内生产总值为15883.9亿元，同比增长2.6%；吉林省国内生产总值为13531.19亿元，同比增长6.3%。

辽宁省

2023年，辽宁省固定资产投资和社会消费品零售总额增长明显，超过全国平均水平。国有企业同比增长2.4%，外商投资和港澳台企业实现7.6%的强劲增长。股份制企业增长3.7%，民营企业大幅增长5.8%。2023年，辽宁省第一产业现增加值2651亿元，增长4.7%。第二产业实现增加值11734.5亿元，增长5.0%。第三产业实现增加值15823.9亿元，增长5.5%。

吉林省

2023年，吉林省经济总体呈现出稳中有进、提质并举的态势。就三个产业而言，第一产业增加值达到1644.8亿元人民币，同比增长5.0%。第二产业增加值4585.03亿元人民币，同比增长5.9%。此外，第三产业增加值总计7301.4亿元人民币，同比增长6.9%。若干重大项目在2023年底前启动，推动了私人投资和私营经济政策的增长和进步。

黑龙江省

2023年，黑龙江省国内生产总值15883.9亿元，按不变价格计算，较上年增长2.6%，增速与上年持平。其中，第一产业增加值为3518.3亿元，增长2.6%；第二产业增加值为4291.3亿元，下降2.3%；第三产业增加值为8074.3亿元，增长5.0%。

整体及行业具体问题

今年，中国美国商会（以下简称商会）提出以下问题和建议，希望借此重建双边企业之间的信任。尽管许多外资企业离开中国，但仍然在华开展业务的外资企业对中国经济充满信心，并寻求创建一个互利共赢的生态系统。商会期望加强外籍人士与中国政府领导层之间的沟通，希望进一步加强交流，实现互利共赢。

商会主要关注的问题主要集中在外资企业对透明度、市场准入、知识产权和投资限制等方面的担忧。具体问题包括教育和医疗等基本服务的不足，以及商业环境信任度的下降。以下是商会会员所遇到的具体问题：

- 国有企业对分包商和投标人有不成文的要求，要求其将生产本地化以获得投标资格。虽然部分国有企业表示更倾向外资企业的解决方案或产品，但暗示其受制于上级主管单位的压力而不得不选择国产替代品。
- 拖欠货款问题影响着外资企业在华开展业务的意愿。虽然付款进度与产品交付和服务质量有直接关系，但部分项目最终没有获得全部付款（包括未能提前获得全部或部分款项）导致了长期的商业纠纷。
- 对于寻求进入中国市场（包括东北地区）的美国和外国企业来说，知识产权侵权仍然是一个主要问题。由于权利人对商标侵权行为不了解以及追究侵权行为所能获得的赔偿金额较低，商标侵权行为往往不会被权利人强制追究。
- 外资企业在促进贸易往来和进出口管制方面遇到困难。
- 酒店、交通、道路标识、博物馆、旅游景点等都缺乏面向外籍游客的英文服务。酒店在招聘双语员工方面存在困难。部分城市的出租车卫生状况较差，部分司机试图从游客身上牟取不当利益。

including Northeast China. Trademark infringement is often not enforced by right holders due to ignorance of the infringement and the low amount of compensation that can be gained by pursuing the infringement.

- Foreign firms have difficulty with trade promotion and import and export controls.
- Hotels, transportation, road signs, museums, and tourist sites lack the resources to communicate with foreign tourists in English. Hotels have difficulty hiring bilingual staff. Taxi hygiene in some cities is low and drivers attempt to take advantage of tourists.
- Financial institutions, telecom companies, car insurance platforms, and hospitals have different capacities to do business efficiently with foreigners. Some databases do not accept inputs from the Latin alphabet and international clients are unable to communicate in Chinese. Some institutions don't have a designated staff member for doing business with foreign customers or lack training.
- International schools and the economy are in a negative downward cycle. International families have decreased enrollment at international schools due to decreased foreign direct investment, leading to fewer resources to attract higher-quality teachers. This further discourages foreign investment due to a lack of proper education resources for foreign talent to relocate their families to the Northeast.
- International and bilingual schools need to adjust learning programs to accommodate returning host country nationals whose children are not able to immediately integrate back into national education schools. Families are further stressed when future employment prospects are believed to be impacted.
- Quality international medical care resources are lacking. This further dissuades international families, qualified teacher talent, and foreign experts from investing and relocating to the northeast region. Falling birthrates continue to impact the economy and enrolment in school programs.

Recommendations

For the Provincial Governments of Heilongjiang, Jilin, and Liaoning:

The overarching recommendation entails augmenting opportunities for transparent dialogue between AmCham China members and the Chinese government. Collaboration on constructing a foundation supportive of an open and dynamic investment climate represents a mutual endeavor.

- We suggest government departments responsible for encouraging foreign direct investments should provide increased assistance to foreign firms.

Related government departments can provide greater transparency into contract bidding processes prior to foreign firm's increased engagement. Local departments should work with foreign firms looking to invest in China long term on solutions.

- Failed payment issues affect both domestic and foreign firms doing business in China. We encourage the government to promote SOEs to set an example for the whole country in having moral business etiquette by honoring contracts and resolving commercial payment disputes. Promoting a greater global economy for all countries relies on trust built over a sequence of successful transactions between firms across all industries.
- Strengthening the enforcement of IP and trademark rights from municipal, provincial, and national levels could set a foundation of trust for businesses on both sides to rebuild relations, trade, and investments.
- China can provide greater outreach for foreign firms to work with China-based partner companies to address localized issues.
- Work with the local foreign community on improving tourism sites and public transportation experience for international visitors. Increase oversight of tourism transportation security. Encourage bi-lingual education resources for working professionals.
- Integrate and enforce bilingual standards into all service systems from banks, telecom, and insurance to hospitals. Company systems and phone app platforms should accept passport identification numbers with the same ease as Chinese national I.D. numbers.
- Government authorities need to increase incentives for current and future prospective international enterprises that contribute positively to the Chinese commercial ecosystem. Create more intercultural engagement opportunities for international families to learn about Chinese culture, ethics, and moral principles.
- Education authorities need to support the development of a global and diversified curriculum. Encourage innovative mindset for problem-solving skills in an inclusive environment. Schools can provide learning experiences for the development of marketable skills towards future technology and market needs. Provide an academic bridge between foreign enterprises and universities to enhance economics and business programs.
- Government authorities need to proactively attract and bring international medical hospitals and services to the northeast and other regions outside of Beijing and Shanghai. International health services will provide a significant advantage in attracting more international talent and their families to invest long-term in China and increase the population.

- 金融机构、电信公司、汽车保险平台和医院与外籍人士开展业务的水平参差不齐。一部分数据库不支持输入拉丁字母且许多国际客户无法用中文交流。一些机构没有指定的工作人员与外籍客户开展商务往来，或是缺乏涉外沟通相关培训。
- 国际学校和经济均同时处于负面的下行周期。由于外国直接投资的减少，国际家庭数量减少导致国际学校的入学人数减少，从而导致吸引高质量教师的资源减少。同样由于缺乏合适的教育资源，外籍人才无法举家迁往东北，进一步阻碍了外国投资。
- 国际学校和双语学校需要调整学习计划以适应那些返回原籍国的外籍家庭子女无法立即融入本国教育系统的情况。当这些外籍家庭认为未来就业前景受到这方面的影响时，他们会感到进一步的压力。
- 优质国际医疗资源的缺乏进一步阻碍了国际家庭、优质教师人才和外国专家投资和迁居东北地区。不断下降的出生率继续影响着经济以及学校项目的招生状况。

建 议

对黑龙江、吉林和辽宁省政府：

商会建议增加商会会员与中国政府之间进行开放对话的机会。双方共同的努力是建设一个开放和充满活力的投资环境的基础。

- 建议负责吸引外商直接投资的政府部门增加对外资企业的支持。相关政府部门可为外资企业参与招投标提供更高的透明度。地方政府部门应积极与有意长期在中国投资的外资企业合作，共同探讨解决方案。
- 货款拖欠问题影响着在华经营的国内外企业。商会鼓励政府推动国有企业通过履行合同和解决商业经济纠纷，树立商业道德典范。促进全球经济的增长依赖于各行业企业之间一系列成功交易所建立的信任。
- 建议从国家到省、市层面加强知识产权和商标法的执法力度。这将为双方企业重建关系、重新开展贸易和投资奠定信任基础。

- 建议政府与当地外籍社群合作，为国际游客改善旅游景点和公共交通体验。加强旅游运输安全监管，鼓励为在职专业人士提供双语教学资源。
- 建议在银行、电信、保险及医院的所有服务系统中整合并执行双语标准。护照号码应当在企业系统和手机应用程序中与中国身份证号码具用同等效力。
- 建议政府加大对未来营商环境具有潜在积极贡献的国际企业的激励力度。创造更多的跨文化交流机会，让国际家庭了解中华文化及社会伦理道德。
- 教育主管单位需要支持全球化和多样化课程的发展。在包容的环境中鼓励解决问题的创新思维。学校可以提供学习经验，发展有市场竞争力的技能，以满足未来科技发展和市场需求。为外资企业和高校之间搭建学术桥梁，助力推动商业项目的开展和经济发展。
- 积极引进国际医疗机构及有关服务到东北地区及北京、上海以外的其他地区。引入国际医疗服务将吸引更多国际人才及其家属长期来华投资，同时也为增加人口提供显著优势。