

# Cross-border E-commerce Newsletter

## Issue No.9 (2020)

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# 1. <u>CHINA BUSINESS</u>

#### China extends tariff exclusions for US imports by an additional year

China extended tariff exclusions for US imports that are subject to China's counter measures against the US Section 301 action by an additional year from Wednesday, the due date, to September 16, 2021.

According to a Tuesday statement from the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council, China's cabinet, 16 products from the US including lubricants and fish meal for feed are under the extended tariffs exemption.

Imports from the US previously faced additional tariffs in retaliation for the US' Section 301 investigation covering Chinese imports.

(Source: Global Times)

## US extends tariff relief on some Chinese goods

The United States Trade Representative's office said on Aug. 30 that it has extended tariff exclusions on a wide range of Chinese goods, including smart watches, medical masks and some medical equipment, till the end of this year.

The original one-year exclusions of such Chinese imports from the Section 301 tariffs imposed by the US government were set to expire on Tuesday. The USTR has extended the exclusion by four months this time.

The products on the list include a number of Bluetooth and wearable data-transmitting devices, such as those imported from China by Apple, FitBit, Sonos and other technology companies.

Other exclusions were for some face masks, respirators, stethoscope covers, cotton gauze sponges, blood pressure cuff sleeves and other medical devices. Products such as upright pianos, liquid crystal display modules and stainless steel watch cases were also exempted from tariffs until the end of this year.

(Source: China Daily)

## China initiates anti-subsidy probe on glycol ethers from U.S.

The Ministry of Commerce (MOC) on Monday launched an anti-subsidy probe into imports from the United States of certain monoalkyl ethers of ethylene glycol and propylene glycol, or glycol ethers.

The probe is scheduled to be completed by Sept. 14, 2021, but may extend to March 14, 2022, under special circumstances, the MOC said.

(Source: Xinhua)

## China starts anti-subsidy probe on wine imports from Australia

China's Ministry of Commerce on Aug. 31 announced its decision to launch anti-subsidy probe on wine imports from Australia.

The probe on wines in containers holding two liters or less is expected to end before Aug. 31, 2021, but may extend to Feb. 28, 2022 in certain circumstances, according to a statement on the ministry's website.

(Source: Xinhua)

# China suspends barley imports from Australian company

China has suspended barley imports from Australian firm CBH Grain PTY Ltd, said China's General Administration of Customs on Aug. 29.

Pests were found in barley exports from the company multiple times, so China has decided to suspend the imports, said the country's customs authority.

In order to protect China's agricultural production and ecological safety, the customs authority has notified relevant Australian authorities to improve its export phytosanitary supervision system, strengthen export quarantine, and ensure that the barley meets China's phytosanitary requirements, according to the notice.

(Source: CGTN)

# China suspends beef imports from Australian firm

China has suspended beef imports from the Australian firm John Dee Warwick after it detected a banned substance in beef loin from the company, the country's General Administration of Customs said in a statement on August 26.

The products were not allowed to enter China after the detection of chloramphenicol, a substance banned in both China and Australia, the statement added.

The customs administration has requested a full investigation of the company and required that the Australian side provide feedback information within 45 days.

(Source: Xinhua)

# China tightens export controls for 23 of its best technologies

China added 23 cutting-edge technologies to a list of restricted exports items, according to a government circular posted on Aug. 28 night.

Technologies now face tighter export controls, in areas such as vegetation breeding, metal 3D printing and advanced drilling tools and software used in oil and gas extraction, according to a new catalogue issued by China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) and the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Technology exports refer to China's transfer of technologies including the transfer of patent rights and technology secrets to overseas markets though trade, investment or economic and technological cooperation.

Also announced on the same day were nine items that were previously banned or restricted and that will now have loosened export controls.

(Source: Global Times)

## China revising industry catalogue to encourage foreign investment

China will significantly increase items on the industry catalogue that encourage foreign investment and help foreign-funded firms to receive benefits from preferential policies, Vice Commerce Minister Wang Shouwen said on Sep. 8.

The Ministry of Commerce (MOC) will continue to implement the negative list for foreign investment and expand the scope of businesses encouraging foreign investment, sharing the market and opportunities in China with foreign investors, Wang said at the launching ceremony of an online international fair for investment and trade.

During the January-July period, actual use of foreign direct investment (FDI) on the Chinese mainland rose 0.5 percent year on year to 535.65 billion yuan (about 78.3 billion U.S. dollars), MOC data showed.

In July, FDI expanded 15.8 percent year on year to 63.47 billion yuan, marking the fourth consecutive month for the country to witness positive FDI growth.

(Source: Xinhua)

## China' s retail sales return to growth in August

China's retail sales returned to growth in August for the first time this year, and a slew of August economic data released on Tuesday indicated potential for stronger growth for the nation in the fourth quarter, shoring up the world's second largest economy to head for an annual expansion despite a global economic recession due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Retail sales rose 0.5 percent to about 3.36 trillion yuan (\$490 billion) in August year-on-year, according to data released Tuesday by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), showing domestic demand has accelerated the recovery. Retail sales fell 1.1 percent in July year-on-year.

Liu Xuezhi, a macroeconomics expert at the Bank of Communications gave credit to improving auto sales and the reopening of the entertainment industry in August.

Maoyan, a Chinese movie-ticketing platform, told the Global Times on Monday that more than 95.5 million moviegoers contributed to China's August box office, which hit 3.4 billion yuan (\$500 million) – about 43 percent of the year-earlier level.

(Source: Global Times)

## China imports more major commodities amid

# improving economic activity

China's imports of major commodities including crude oil, iron ore and soybean climbed in the first eight months of the year, as the country's economic activity gradually recovered from the COVID-19 hit, according to customs data.

Imports of crude oil surged 12.1 percent to 368 million tonnes during the January-August period, while refined oil imports rose 1.3 percent to 20.77 million tonnes, data from the General Administration of Customs showed.

The country's soybean imports surged 15 percent from one year earlier to 64.74 million tonnes in the first eight months. About 65.07 million tonnes of natural gas were imported, up 3.3 percent from the same period last year.

Iron ore imports climbed 11 percent year-on-year to 760 million tonnes during the period.

The country's total imports of goods fell 2.3 percent to 9 trillion yuan (about 131.58 billion U.S. dollars) from January-August, compared to a decline of 2.6 percent in the first seven months. The trade surplus expanded 17.2 percent year-on-year to 2.05 trillion yuan.

(Source: Xinhua)

## Taiwan's exports to mainland hit new high

Taiwan's exports to the mainland and Hong Kong reached 93.88 billion U.S. dollars in the first eight months of this year, a new high for the same period, the

island's finance department said Sep. 5 .The figure meant a 12-percent increase year on year, the department said in a press release.

In August alone, the island's exports to the mainland and Hong Kong reached 14.46 billion dollars, up 22.9 percent year on year, the statement said.The exports to the mainland and Hong Kong accounted for 46.4 percent of Taiwan's total exports in August. At the same time, the island's imports from the mainland and Hong Kong increased by 22.3 percent year on year to 5.67 billion dollars.

The department attributed the increase of exports to expanding demand in the mainland market and the prime season for consumer electronics.

(Source: Xinhua)

## China becomes EU's top trading partner in first 7 months: Eurostat

In the first seven months of 2020, China became the top trading partner of the European Union (EU), a position previously held by the United States, said Eurostat on Sep.16.

EU's imports from China increased by 4.9 percent in the January-July period, compared to the same period last year, whereas its imports from the U.S. dropped by 11.7 percent.

The bloc's exports to China recorded a slight drop of 1.8 percent, while those to the U.S. fell by 9.9 percent, according to the EU's statistical office.

China and U.S. were followed by the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and Russia on EU's main trading partner list in the first seven months.

In July, EU exports out of the bloc stood at 168.5 billion euros, down by 11.3 percent compared to July 2019, and its imports from the rest of the world reached 142.6 billion euros, down by 16 percent year-on-year, according to Eurostat estimates.

(Source: Xinhua)

#### China market to open further to most competitive U.S. companies:

#### **Chinese ambassador**

China's market will continue to open further for U.S. companies in areas where the United States is most competitive such as energy, agriculture and finance, Chinese Ambassador to the United States Cui Tiankai has said.

"We're still making our best efforts to have further reform and opening-up. We will not give up. For American companies and other foreign companies operating - 6 -

in China, there will be better access, better opportunities and certainly greater predictability," said Cui.

For instance, he said, the new Foreign Investment Law took effect on Jan. 1 this year. "There is certainly better predictability for foreign investors, who will have better confidence in China. China still attracts a lot of foreign investment," Cui said.

What's more, the ambassador said that China announced the 2020 version of the negative list for the access of foreign investment and the negative list for pilot free trade zones, and the negative lists are getting shorter and shorter.

(Source: Xinhua)

# China advances digital trade to fuel economic growth

China has set its sights on the rapidly developing digital economy and digital trade to fuel economic development and seek higher-level opening-up.

At the ongoing China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) in Beijing, products and services in the telemedicine, online education, digital entertainment and other industries have attracted significant attention from visitors.

Themed "Global Services, Shared Prosperity," the CIFTIS runs from Sept. 4 to 9 and has attracted about 100,000 attendees, with 18,000 enterprises and institutions from 148 countries and regions taking part.

For China, digital trade will surely help advance its opening-up to a higher level, said vice commerce minister Wang Bingnan while addressing a forum at the CIFTIS.

(Source: Xinhua)

# China sees rise in knowledge-intensive services trade

China saw increased trade in knowledge-intensive services during the first seven months of this year, although its total services trade declined amid the COVID-19 epidemic, the Ministry of Commerce said on Tuesday.

China's total trade in services amounted to 2.62 trillion yuan (about 382.4 billion U.S. dollars) from January to July, down by 15.2 percent year on year.

Service exports outperformed imports, with exports totaling 1.09 trillion yuan, down by 1.4 percent, and imports hitting 1.53 trillion yuan, down by 22.8 percent.

China's trade of knowledge-intensive services reached 1.15 trillion yuan from January to July, up by 8.9 percent year on year, accounting for 44 percent of the total services trade in January-July, and the ratio is up 9.7 percentage points from the same period last year.

The imports of knowledge-intensive services totaled 541.04 billion yuan in the first seven months, up by 8 percent year on year, accounting for 35.3 percent of total services imports, up 10.1 percentage points year on year.

(Source: Xinhua)

#### China's top 500 private firms show stronger innovation capability

China's top 500 private enterprises saw steady growth in their ability to innovate during 2019, according to a report released by the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce (ACFIC).

Within the leading 500 firms, the key technologies of 402 companies were mainly developed independently, accounting for 80.4 percent of the total, says the 2020 survey and analysis report on China's top 500, which is based on 2019 data.

Among the leading 500 firms, 403 engaged in fighting pollution, 355 in targeted poverty relief, 291 in rural vitalization and 191 in the Belt and Road construction, according to the report.

(Source: Xinhua)

## China to become biggest electric vehicle market again by year-end

China is on its way to become the biggest market for electric vehicles (EVs) again by the end of the year, according to a market assessment published by the German Center for Automotive Research (CAR) on Sep. 5.

Sales of electrified cars in the first half of the year were slightly higher in Europe but the "(Elon) Musk factor" would support the development of the Chinese market which would not give up its leading position in the electric car market for the next 50 years, according to the CAR forecasts.

In total, almost 400,000 fully electric cars and plug-in hybrids were sold in Europe in the first half of the year. In China, only 7,200 fewer electrified vehicles were sold in the same period, according to CAR.

China made a "great leap" in all-electric vehicles with Tesla. According to CAR, the Tesla Shanghai gigafactory contributed the sales of almost 50,000 fully electric cars in China in the first half of the year.

In terms of sales of all-electric vehicles in the first half of the year, China was already a market leader while more plug-in hybrid cars were sold in Europe, according to the CAR.

(Source: Xinhua)

#### Chinese companies show interest to sell electric buses to Nepal

A number of Chinese companies have shown interest as the Nepali government has decided to procure 300 electric buses for public transport.

The Nepali government plans to use fully electric battery operated buses for the public transport in the capital Kathmandu Valley and other major cities. It sought technical specifications from the manufacturers and suppliers in June about the electric buses they could supply.

According to Nepal's Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport which is responsible for purchasing the electrical buses, over 80 percent of those who submitted the details were either Chinese manufacturers or their suppliers in Nepal.

(Source: Xinhua)

# Chinese brands make up bigger presence in global wearables

#### market

The global wearables market saw Chinese brands increase their presence in the second quarter (Q2) of the year as shipments of Chinese-made wearable devices posted rapid growth, an industrial report showed.

U.S. tech firm Apple, Chinese tech firm Huawei and Xiaomi led the global wearable devices market in Q2, according to a report from the global market research firm International Data Corporation (IDC).

Wearables shipments of Huawei logged the highest year-on-year growth among other brands, surging 58 percent to 10.9 million, while that of Xiaomi expanded 13.5 percent to 10.1 million.

Wearable products mainly include earwear, wristbands and smartwatches. Earwear accounted for 60 percent of the total wearables market.

(Source: Xinhua)

# China-produced 5G smartphone tops sale list in Finland

The Oneplus Nord 5G smartphone produced by Chinese smartphone manufacturer OnePlus Technology topped the sale list in Finland in August, reported Helsingin Sanomat (HS), the largest subscription newspaper in Finland, on Sep. 15.

Oneplus Nord 5G became the most purchased phone in both Elisa and Telia, two of the three mobile network operators in Finland, in August 2020. The phone is also the second best seller in the overall statistics of DNA, the third mobile network operator in the country.

According to the report, all the above mentioned three operators believe sales of Oneplus Nord 5G have continued at a rapid pace in September.

The newspaper, therefore, described the phone as "the first really popular smartphone operating on the 5G network on the market in Finland." It also said that it is one of the first cheaper smartphones to operate on the 5G network than the flagship models in the country.

(Source: Xinhua)

# 2. <u>CHINA'S E-COMMERCE INDUSTRY</u>

### China formalizes 15 national e-commerce demonstration bases

China has formalized 15 new national e-commerce demonstration bases in efforts to foster the development of the sector.

Vice Minister of Commerce Qian Keming on Saturday granted licenses to the new bases on an e-commerce session of the 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services at the China National Convention Center in Beijing.

The national e-commerce demonstration bases, with an aim to take the leading part in promoting the fast development of the sector, are clusters of local e-commerce companies and entrepreneurship and innovation platforms for the e-commerce industry.

The new ones bring the total number of official e-commerce demonstration bases to 127.

(Source: Xinhua)

#### New customs practice boosts B2B e-commerce export

Two months after 10 Chinese customs began an experimental supervision mode to boost B2B e-commerce export, 12 more customs were added to the pilot program on Sep.1 by China's General Administration of Customs.

B2B e-commerce export refers to either direct export of goods from domestic businesses to overseas businesses by cross-border logistics based on their mutual deals over a cross-border e-commerce platform, or the export of goods by a domestic company to its overseas warehouse, from which the goods will be delivered to overseas buyers based on their deals over a cross-border e-commerce platform.

Compared with traditional export, e-commerce B2B exporters, starting from Tuesday, will be given support in various forms, including one-off registration, streamlined declarations, expedited clearance at lower costs, as well as prior inspection and customs transit at the 12 newly-added customs nationwide, including Chongqing, Chengdu, Changsha, and Shanghai.

(Source: Xinhua)

# Beijing to test digital currency

Beijing will test digital currency under scenarios of the 2022 Winter Olympics and strive to achieve leading breakthroughs, Yin Yong, a vice mayor of Beijing, said Sunday at the 2020 China International Finance Annual Forum.

China will begin a pilot run of its Digital Currency Electronic Payment project in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, and Yangtze River Delta region, the country's Ministry of Commerce announced in mid-August.

The central bank-backed digital currency is currently under trial in four cities: Xiongan New Area, in north China's Hebei Province; Shenzhen, in south China's Guangdong Province; Suzhou, in east China's Jiangsu Province; and Chengdu, in southwest China's Sichuan Province.

(Source: CGTN)

## China's digital trade with B&R countries robust

China's digital trade with countries along the Belt and Road has maintained strong momentum in recent years, as the sector continues to hold huge potential, according to a report released Tuesday.

The report, jointly issued by the Publishing House of Electronics Industry, China Academy of Industrial Internet and the Chinese Institute of Electronics, reviews China's digital trade with over 30 countries along the Belt and Road.

It takes into account six indices, namely digital trade ties, potential, foundation, environment, risks and levels, to evaluate the development and potential of trade with these countries.

Seven of the top 10 countries in terms of the comprehensive index are from Asia, with five of them being ASEAN countries.

The indices for India, Israel, Iran and Serbia have maintained an upward trend for five consecutive years, while that for Singapore and Turkey registered an annual growth of 19 percent and 11 percent respectively in 2018.

(Source: Xinhua)

# China's digital economy has 3 comparative advantages

China has a huge amount of logistics, information flow and data stream, which are the most valuable foundations for the development of the digital economy, and give it comparative advantages in global digital economy development, a former senior official said on Sep. 6.

"China has the fastest transportation infrastructure in the world due to years of national economic development under the reform and opening-up policy, which has produced a huge amount of logistics," said Zhu Guangyao, China's former vice finance minister, at the FIN-TALK forum on the sideline of the China International Fair for Trade in Services.

Zhu mentioned that China has the highest coverage of telecommunication base stations in comparison with other countries in the world, resulting in a huge amount of information flow. He added the country has the world's most widely used electronic payment system, generating a huge data stream.

(Source: CGTN)

# China's live-streaming industry boom goes on

Northeastern China, the former heavy industry base of China, is now going lighter thanks to live-streaming industry and e-commerce that are going robust across the vast land rich in agricultural products and talented performers.

According to data from short video giant Douyin, all three provinces – Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning – all made it to the top five of the ranking list for video views, while the three provinces also occupied the top three seats on a live-stream host report issued by Momo, a social media platform.

Home to many famous comedians in China, the three provinces are naturally bestowed with talented performers to develop internet celebrity economy and live-streaming industry, which require active engagement and interaction with users to attract more viewers and hence more profits. On the other hand, the region is China's breadbasket. In 2018, the three provinces combined harvested 133.3 billion kilograms of grain, up 15 billion kilograms from 2017, providing some 20.3% of the total grain production of the nation.

(Source: People's Daily)

#### China's e-commerce logistics activities expand in August

China's e-commerce logistics sector reported robust growth in August, propelled by strong demand, according to an industrial survey conducted by the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing and e-commerce giant JD.com.

The index tracking e-commerce logistics activities rose to 109.2 points last month, up from 108 points in July, showed the survey.

The total demand for e-commerce logistics rose steadily in the period, with the sub-index tracking the total business volume coming in at 124.7 points, up 4.4 points from the previous month, and central regions of China posted strong performances with month-on-month growth of over 10 points.

The survey attributed the demand increase to easing pressure from floods in the country's southern regions and a favorable COVID-19 epidemic containment trend, as well as the reopening of schools in September.

Demand for e-commerce in rural areas maintained its growth momentum, with the sub-index tracking e-commerce logistics in these regions standing at 120.2 points, up 3.5 points from July.

(Source: Xinhua)

## E-commerce as mitigating measure to deal with COVID-19 blow

Major industry players in China reviewed how e-commerce helped battle the setbacks of the COVID-19 pandemic at the China E-commerce Convention 2020 on Monday.

During the outbreak, the e-commerce industry has explored some new models such as contact-less distribution, unmanned retail stores, and live-streaming sales, which have played an important role in ensuring supply, supporting resumption of work and production, and stimulating consumer replenishment.

JD Supermarket, an online store of China's e-commerce giant JD.com, for example, during the Spring Festival this year, recorded an increase of 556 percent year on year in its turnover of edible oil; the turnover of rice, noodles and grains has

exceeded 20 times year on year; the turnover of instant food has also increased by more than 10 times.

(Source: CGTN)

## Alibaba unveils new digital manufacturing factory

China's tech giant Alibaba Group revealed its new manufacturing model on Sep.16 -- the Xunxi Digital Factory.

Xunxi is a cloud intelligence-powered manufacturing levels playing field for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), enabling access to small-batch customization and agility in production, according to a press release of the company.

Powered by Alibaba's cloud computing infrastructure and Internet of Things, the Hangzhou-based factory offers SMEs a digitalized end-to-end manufacturing supply chain that allows for fully-customized, demand-driven production.

With new technologies, such as real-time resourcing, process and cost planning, automated in-house logistics, and Xunxi's manufacturing operating system, the factory can produce small-batch orders at reasonable costs and with shorter delivery time, consequently increasing manufacturing efficiency from 25 percent to an average of 55 percent.

(Source: Xinhua)

# 3. **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

# **CHINA IMPORT | Solar Panels**

A Chinese company has a long-term purchasing planning of second-hand solar panels, and the company is responsible for testing whether the products are qualified.

## **CHINA IMPORT | chicken by-products**

A Chinese company import large quantities of chicken feet, chicken wings and other chicken by-products.

# **CHINA EXPORT | Substation, Switchgear, Power Transformer**

#### Product catalogue

- KYN28A-12kV Sheathed Move-Off Style AC Metal Clad Switchgear
- Dis Sub-A-12 Compact Fixed Air Insulated Switchgear
- Dis Sub-E-12 Environmentally-Friendly Gas Switchgear
- GCS AC Low Voltage Pull-out Switchgear
- GGD AC Low Voltage Switchgear Assembly
- MNS Ac Low Voltage Switchgear Assembly
- YBM-12 Pre-installed Substation
- S11-M Series Low-loss Fully Sealed Power Transformer of 10 KV
- The SC(B)9, SC(B)10, SC(B)11 series epoxy Resin casting dry type transformer
- Remote Environmental Monitoring of Distribution

#### Certification

all the production processes can meet the requirements of ISO900-2008 international quality assurance system. The products have passed CCC national compulsory product certification and CCC voluntary product certification successively.

# **CHINA INVEST | Smart Manufacturing**

A Chinese company is looking for M&A targets in the field of smart manufacturing, and the price of the target is required to be around US\$1-15 million.

For the contacts of the above or more business opportunities, please send the following information to <u>tradeinvest@ccpit.org</u>:

- (1) Company name, main business, product catalogue, etc.
- (2) Scanned copy of business license
- (3) Contact person and contact information
- (4) Interested products and business projects

**THE CROSS-BORDER E-COMMERCE NEWSLETTER,** initiated by the Department of Trade and Investment Promotion of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and compiled by CCPIT IT Center,

provides information regarding Chinese trade policy watch, industry update and business opportunities in China. It caters to the needs of international e-commerce companies, import & export trade dealers, foreign embassies, chambers of commerce and industry of all countries who are seeking biz updates and trade opportunities.

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# **Newly Released!**

#### FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS IN CHINA 2020

China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) has recently released the Chinese and English bilingual edition of **FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS IN CHINA 2020.** 



Since 1995, CCPIT has compiled and printed the Chinese and English bilingual annual report of Fairs and Exhibitions in China every year, and published information about major economic and trade exhibitions to be held in China that year, providing a significant reference for enterprises to participate in the exhibitions or expos held in China and have been welcomed by embassies, consulates, trade associations and enterprises in China throughout the years. **FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS IN CHINA 2020** is coordinated by the Department of Trade and Investment Promotion of CCPIT and compiled by CCPIT IT Center.

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