# China: Macroeconomic Analysis and Outlook

華而誠 首席經濟學家

中國建設銀行



#### **Outline**

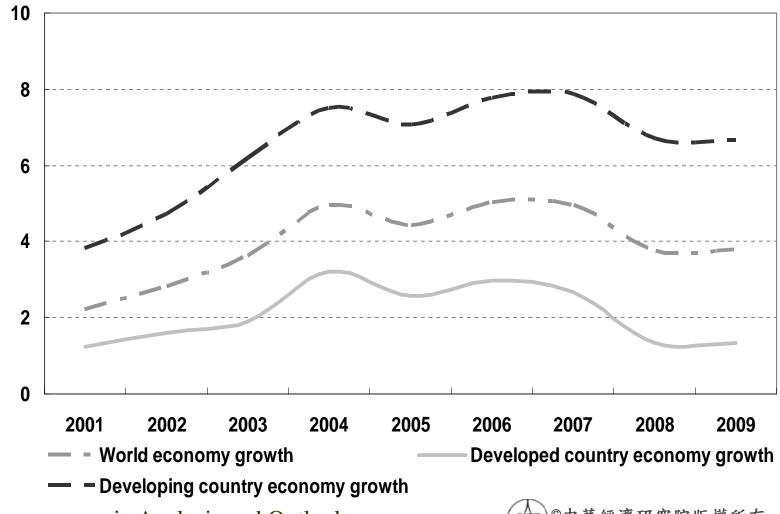
Economic excesses led to asset price bubbles and surging inflation in 2007, triggering credit tightening

China's macroeconomic policy has shifted from controlling inflation to safeguard growth

China economic outlook: subdued but more balanced and sustainable growth

### Global growth peaked in 2007

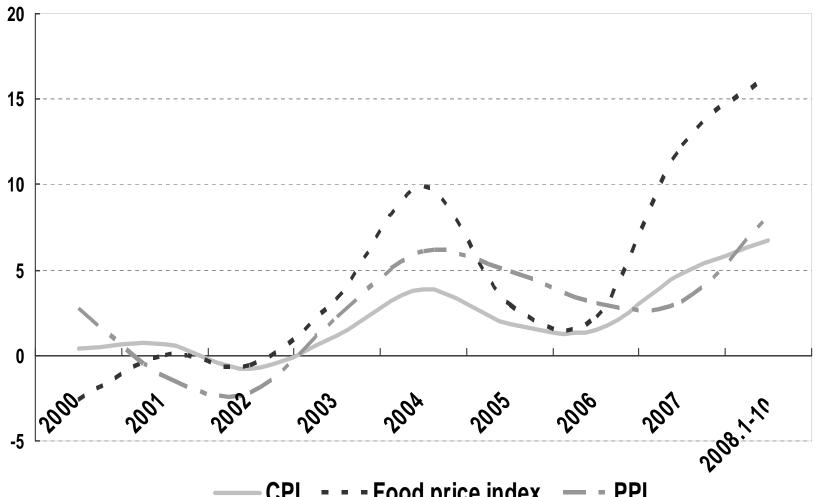
(2001-2009, %)



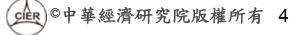
### Macroeconomic excesses emerged in 2007

- **Excess demand led to rising inflation in 2007**, manifested through surging food and commodities prices
- Excessive reliance on foreign trade to fuel growth contributed to both macroeconomic imbalance and inflationary pressure
- The government tightened credits and accelerated the pace of RMB appreciation toward the last quarter in 2007 to rein inflation

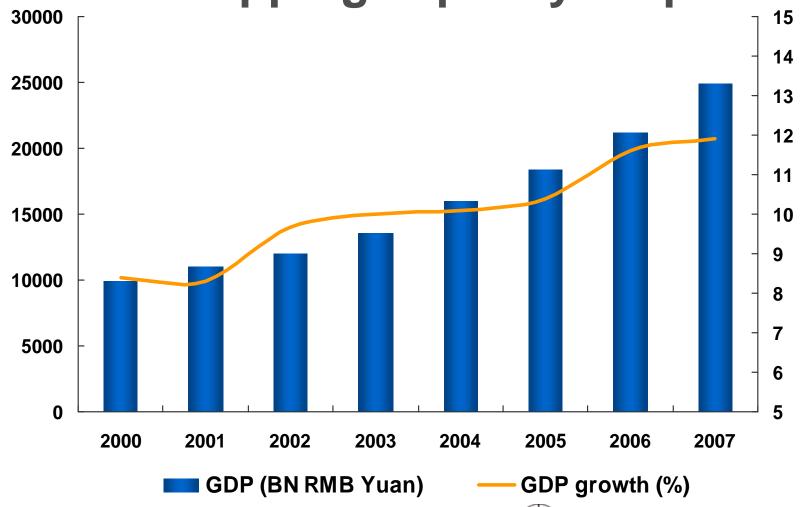
#### Inflation accelerated in 2007 (%)



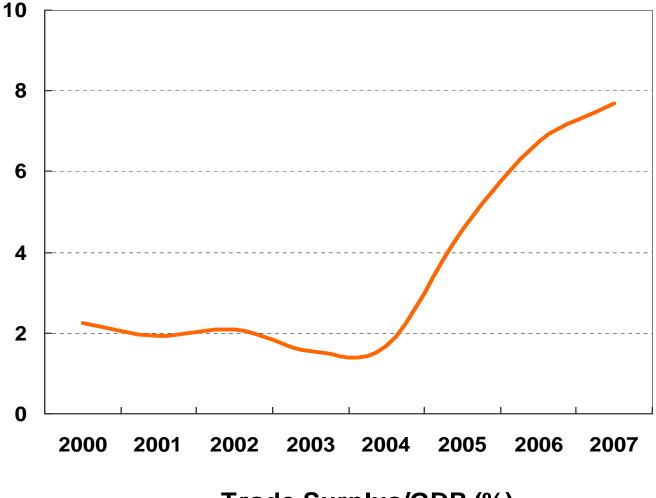
- - - Food price index



Cause: rapid growth led to demand outstripping capacity output

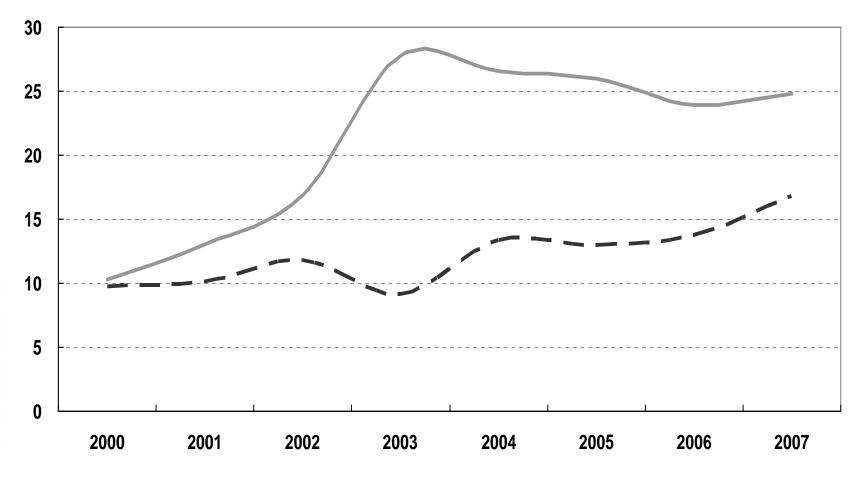


### **Booming external trade**



**Trade Surplus/GDP (%)** 

#### Domestic demand, equally strong



Retail sales for social consumer goods growth (%)

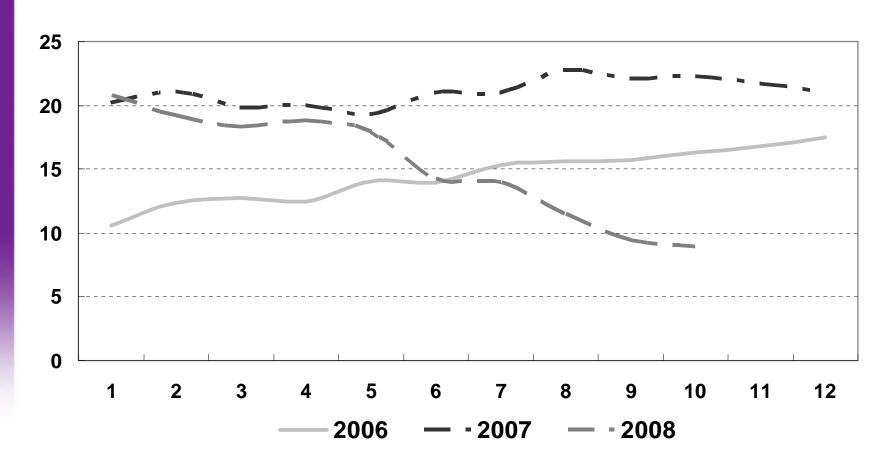
— Social investment growth in fixed assets (%)

China: Macroeconomic Analysis and Outlook

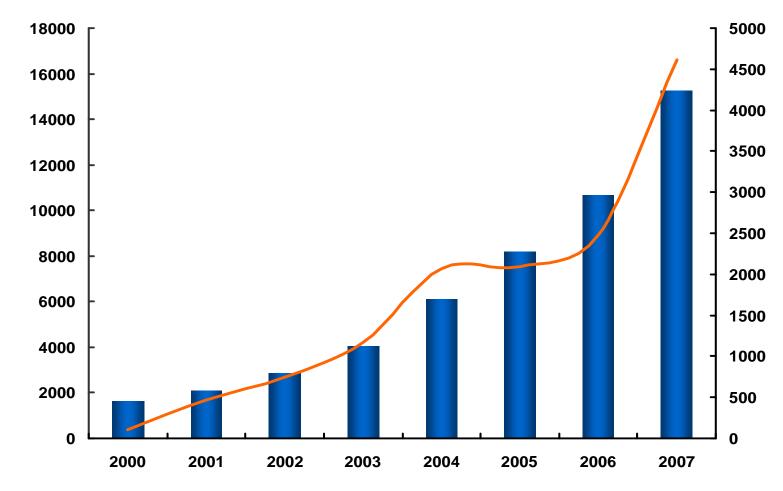
cle)©中華經濟研究院版權所有

#### Monetary growth accelerated in 2007

(M1, %)



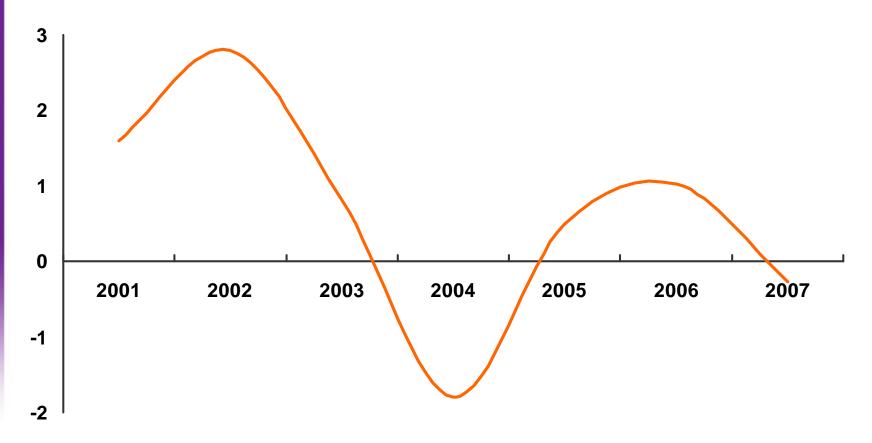
## Cause: monetizing foreign exchange reserves (100 million USD)



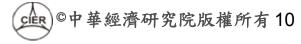
China: Macroeconomic Analysis and Outlook

Growth ©中華經濟研究院版權所有

### Excess liquidity led to low real interest rates (one-year real deposit rate, %)

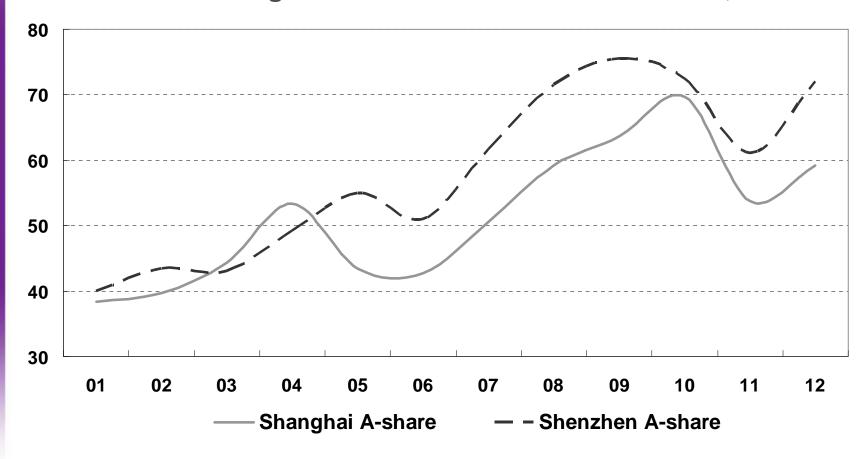


— Real interest rates (%)



#### Result: bubbles in the equity market

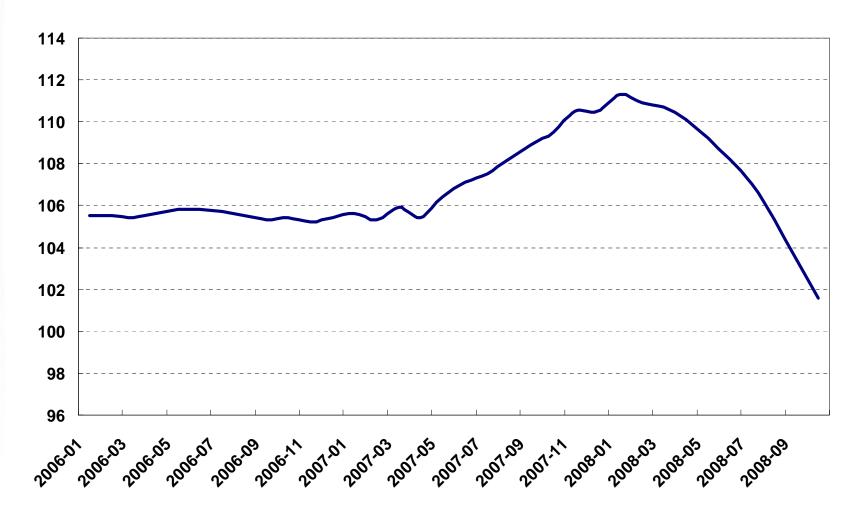
(P/Es in Shanghai and Shenzhen A share markets, 2007)



# 2009 展望 會

#### **Bubbles** in the real estate market

(real estate price index, the previous year=100)

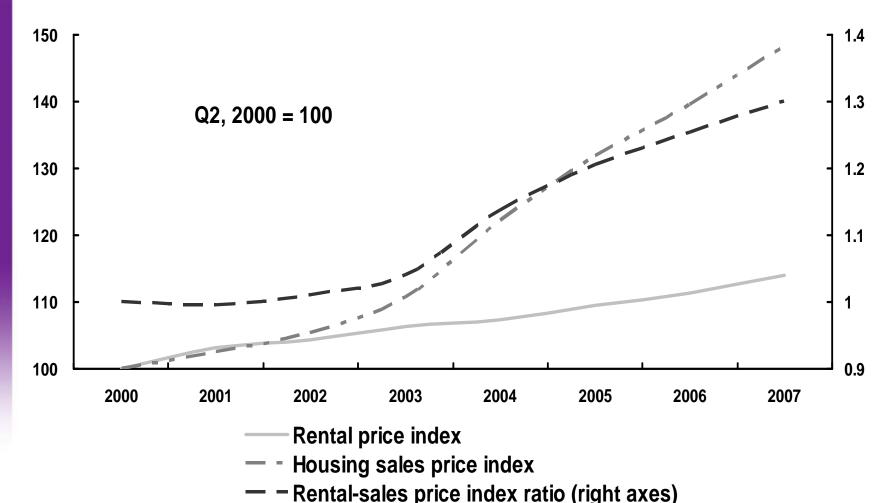


— Real estate price index

China: Macroeconomic Analysis and Outlook

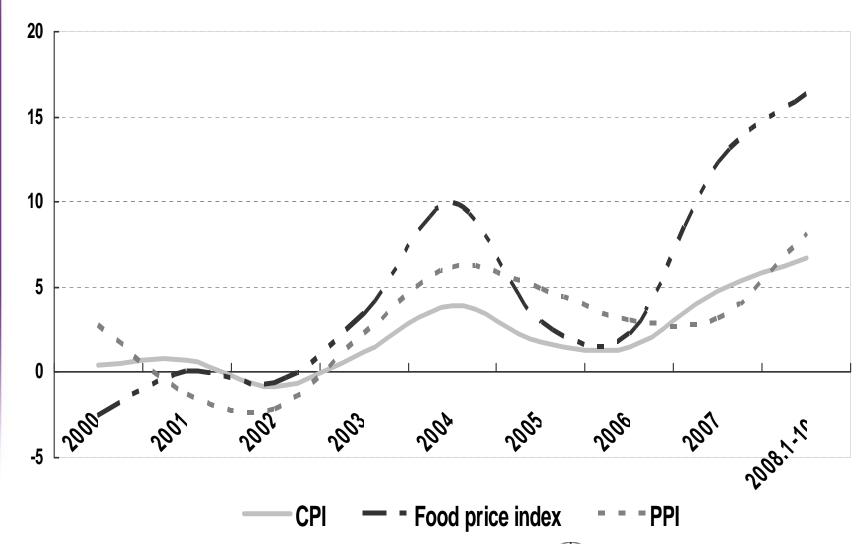
cler)©中華經濟研究院版權所有 12

### National rental, home price, and price-rental ratio indexes (2nd qtr. 2000 =100)



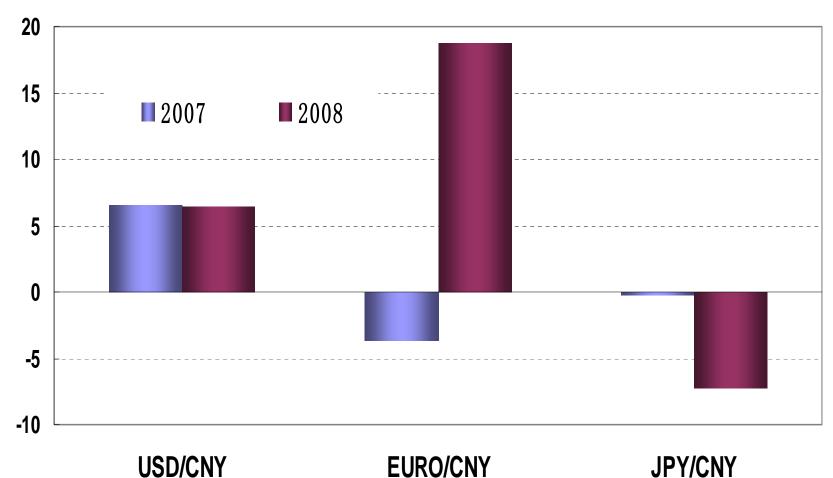


#### Result: Inflation surged in 2007 (%)



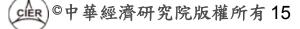


### Policy response: RMB appreciation accelerated (%)



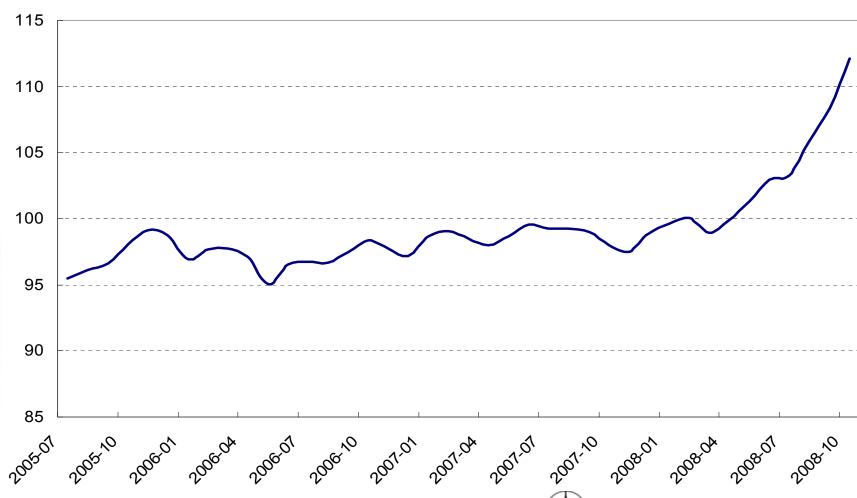
China: Macroeconomic Analysis and Outlook

JPY/CNY



### RMB appreciation accelerated

(nom eff. exchange rate, Y2000=100)

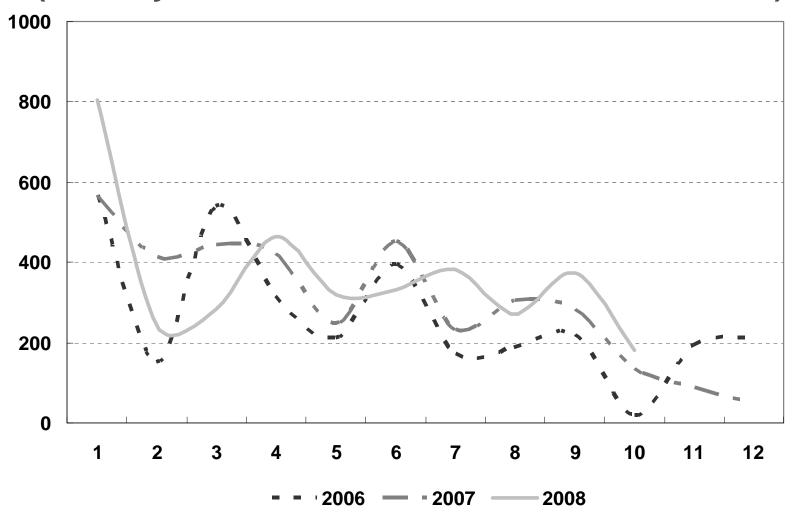


China: Macroeconomic Analysis and Outlook

cler)©中華經濟研究院版權所有 16

#### Policy response: Credit tightened

(monthly increment in bank credits, billion RMB)



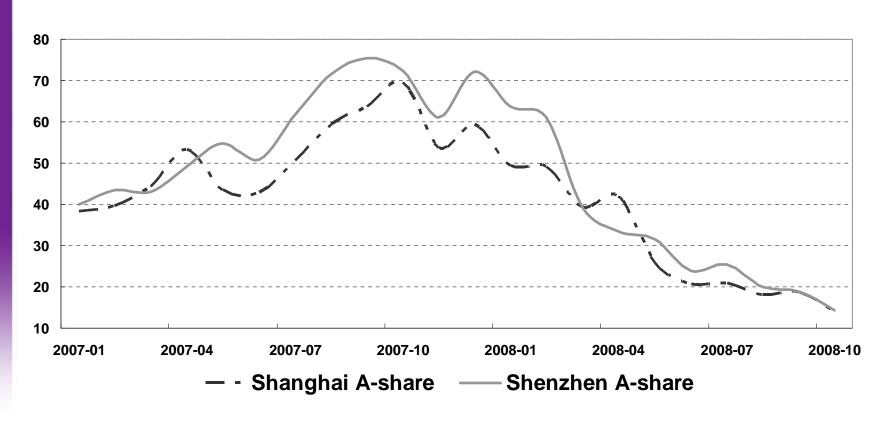
China: Macroeconomic Analysis and Outlook

CLER ©中華經濟研究院版權所有 17

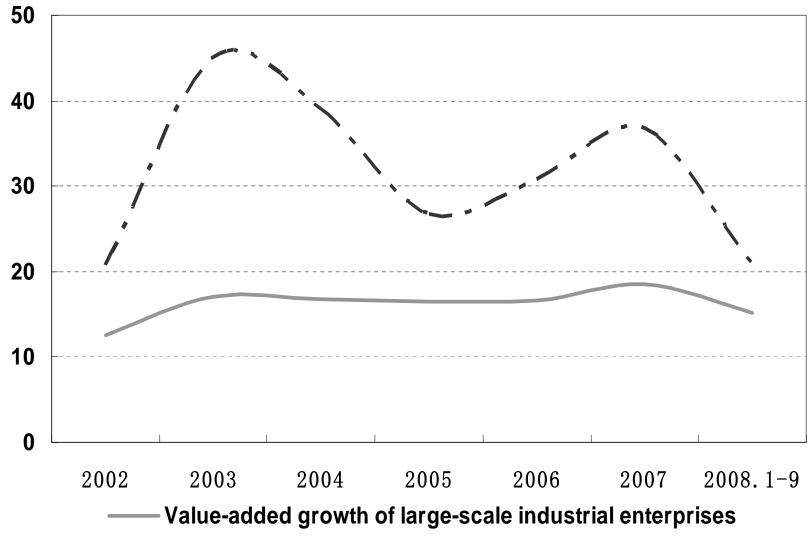
## Near-term macro outlook: rebalancing toward sustainable growth

- Global slowdown, currency appreciation, credittightening, rising labor costs and raw material prices changed macroeconomic landscape drastically in 2008: profits fell, bubbles burst in the equity and real estate markets
- Rapidly deteriorating foreign trade sharply restrained growth to 9.0% in the third quarter and 9.9% for the first three quarters in 2008, compared with nearly 12% in 2007.
- Inflation also fell consecutively to 4% in October and no longer viewed as a threat
- The government unveiled a 4 trillion (US\$586 billion) fiscal stimulus package to safeguard growth

#### Bursting the stock market bubble (P/Es)



#### Profit growth decelerated (%)

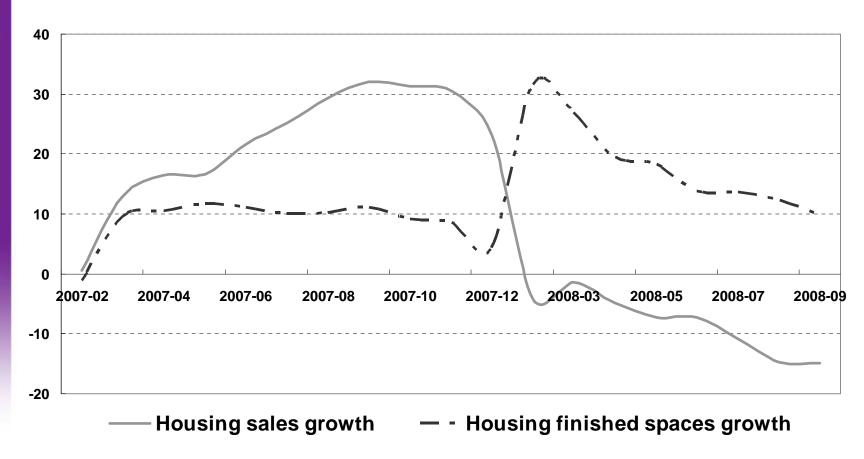


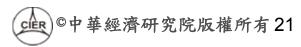
— - Profit growth

China: Macroeconomic Analysis and Outlook

₾R ©中華經濟研究院版權所有 20

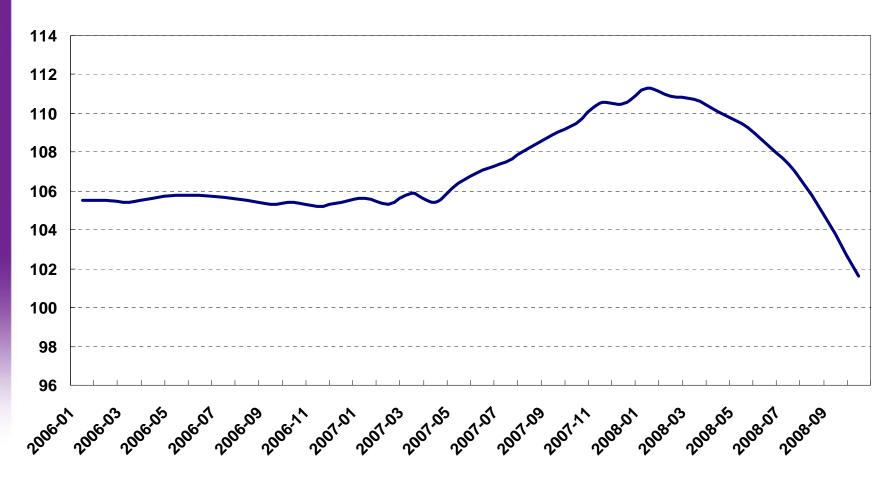
## The housing market cools off (growth in sales, finished spaces,%)



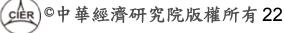


#### House price inflation slows

(housing price index, previous year =100)

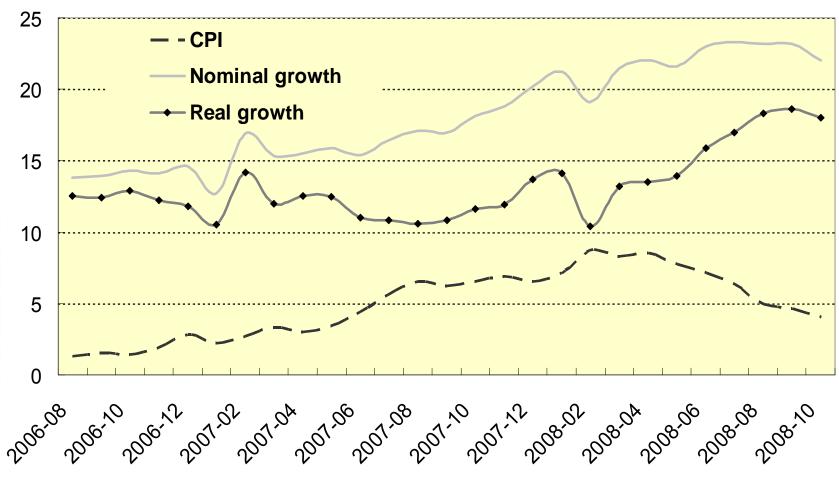


— Housing price index



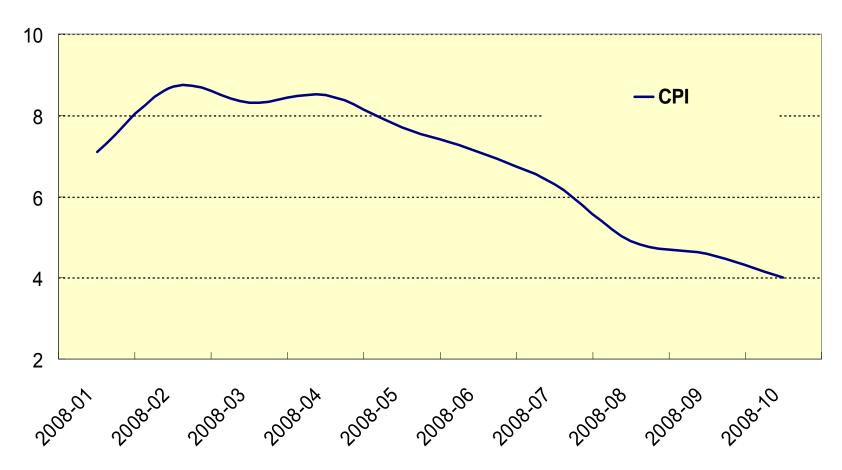
### Consumption growth rose as inflation slowed

(growth in nom. and real retail sales, %)

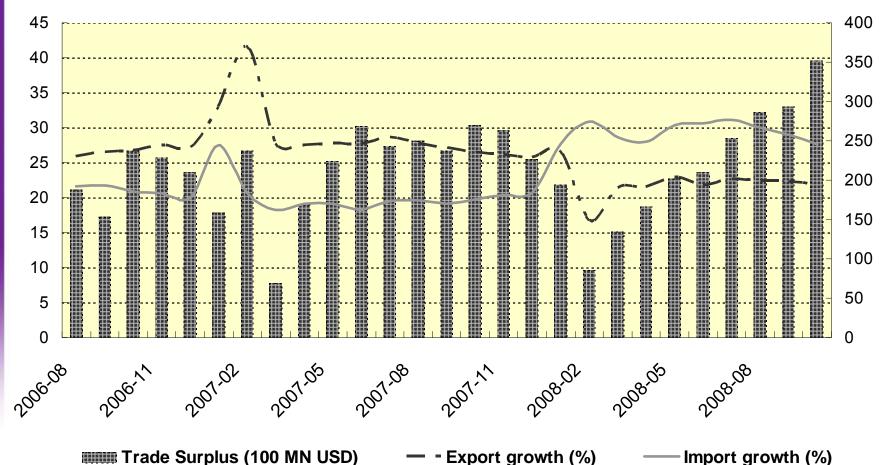




### Inflation declined steadily since last May (previous year = 100)



# Export growth slowed while imports accelerated





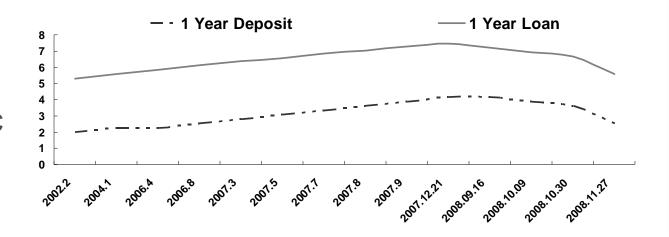
### Policy responses to manage the downside risks

- Money and credit policy: Credit quotas were removed; policy rates were lowered including the last cut of 1.08 basis points in one scoop
- Exchange and trade policy: RMB appreciation against the US dollar has slowed and may even reverse course; some exports rebate rates are restored, though not yet fully
- A fiscal stimulus package of 4 trillion (USD 586 billion), about 12% of GDP, was unveiled in November

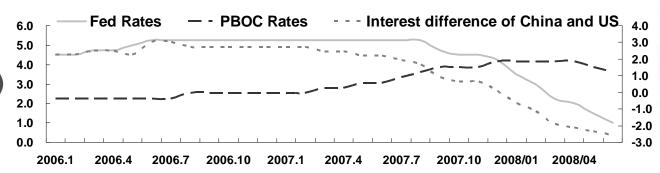
©中華經濟研究院版權所有2

# Policy response: policy rates lowered sharply

Basic Interest rates of PBOC

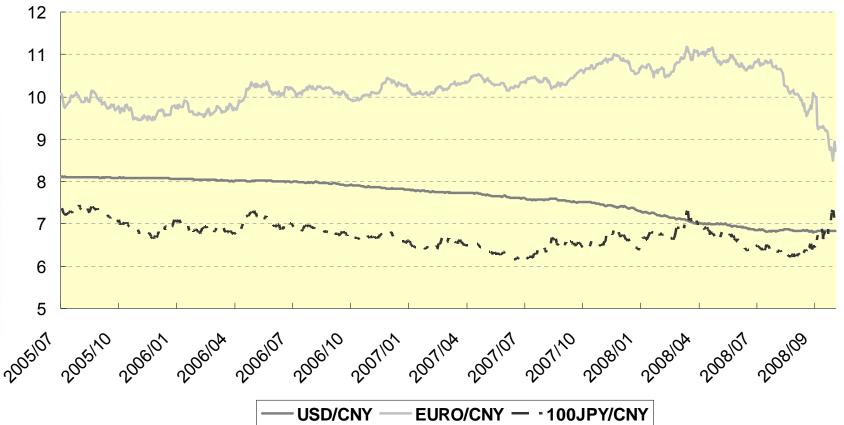


US & China interest rates (1 year deposit)



## Policy response: RMB appreciation against the dollar slowed

(trends in RMB against USD, Euro and Japanese yen since the exchange rate reform, direct quotes)



China: Macroeconomic Analysis and Outlook

(cler)©中華經濟研究院版權所有28

# The 4 trillion stimulus package to stimulate domestic demand and growth

- The fiscal stimulus package includes ten measures and costs a total of 4 trillion up to the end of 2010 with 100 billion outlay from the central government reserved for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter in 2008
- 1. Accelerate low-income housing construction 280 billion
- 2. Accelerate rural infrastructure construction 370 billion
- ■3. Accelerate railway, highway, airport, electric grids and other key infrastructure 1800 billion

#### Ten fiscal stimulus measures...

- 4.Accelerate health and education development 40 billion
- 5.Strengthen environment 350 billion
- 6.Accelerate indigenous innovation and structural change 160 billion
- 7. Accelerate earthquake reconstruction 1 trillion
- ■8.Raise rural and urban household incomes
- 9.Implement VAT reform to encourage innovation and reduce taxes by 120 billion
- 10.Enlarge the support of finance to promote growth

©中華經濟研究院版權所有30

# Financing the fiscal stimulus package and impact

- The central government will arrange 1.18 trillion with the rest financed from local governments, the financial sector, and private sources
- The government may issue 500 billion long-term bonds each year during 2009-2010 to finance expenditure
- NRDC estimates the fiscal stimulus package will raise growth by 1 percentage points each year

# Concluding remarks: macroeconomic assessment

- With easing inflation and faltering external trade, and a relatively low government debt level (22% of GDP in 2007), the government enjoys the flexibility to use fiscal stimulus to stimulate domestic demand while rebalancing the economy and correcting price distortions, all for achieving sustainable growth
- However, near term uncertainties are rising as the global economy slips deeper into recession. The impact of the large stimulus package in the near term is uncertain while growth weakens rapidly
- Nevertheless, after the crisis is over and the distortions and imbalances are corrected, the longer-term forces such as urbanization will start to reassert resulting in more robust and sustainable growth

華經濟研究院版權所有32

- ■How fast will China grow in 2009?
  - IMF: 8.5% (November 2008)
  - The World Bank: 7.5% (November 2008)
  - OECD: 8.0% and 9.2% in 2009 (November 2008)
  - Focus Economics consensus forecast: 8.5%(November 2008)