

billion yuan, up by 12.8 percent, or 1.1 and 2.0 percentage points higher over the province respectively. The GDP of Western Region of Hunan was 65.87 billion yuan, increased by 10.8 percent, or 1.4 percentage points higher over the previous year. The vitality of economy of county region was strengthened. The investment of cities and towns of the all eighty counties increased by 44.1 percent, or 8.1 percentage points higher over the province.

Eight practical tasks have been successfully fulfilled. By evaluation, check and acceptance, the eight practical tasks for people by the governments in Hunan province have met the prescribed standard, and 46 targets for performance check have been reached. Among them, 26 targets, such as the target of adding new employees in the towns, the target of making methane tanks in the countryside, the target of reconstructing gerocomium in villages and towns, etc, have been overfulfilled; 6 targets such as the establishment of control mechanism of disease prevention and construction of bridges across Dongting Lake for smooth traffic, etc, have been fully fulfilled; 14 targets such as growth rate of minimum wage guarantee in fiscal budget and qualified rate of quality evaluation of same sorts of medicine have met the prescribed standard.

The work on employment was strengthened. At the end of year, the employed people was 37.47 million, increased 0.52 million. Of which, the newly-added employed people in urban areas was 0.57 million, and the re-employed people of laid-off workers was 0.40 million. The urban unemployment ratio through unemployment registration was 4.4 percent.

The general prices level increased. The general level of consumer prices in Hunan of the year was up by 5.1 percent over the previous year, or 2.7 percentage points higher over the previous year. The general retail price of commodities was up by 3.9 percent. The producers' price index for farm products was up by 27.3 percent. The ex-factory price index for industrial product was up by 8.0 percent. The purchasing price index for raw materials, fuels and power was increased by 14.4 percent. The price index for investment in fixed assets was up by 5.5 percent. The price index for real estate was up by 5.1 percent.

The economic environment was further improved. After carrying out the activities of "safety HUNAN", strengthening the comprehensive administration of public security and strikeing seriously all kinds of criminal offense and economic criminals, the situation of public security of the province was kept steady. The supervision to the quality of foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals and the safety work acquired outcomes. The policy of reform for countryside taxes and administrative fees was implemented further, and the burden on the peasants was lightened further. In 2004, the per-capita expenditure of taxes and administrative fees of peasantry was 59.02 yuan, decreased 22.66 yuan over the previous year, down by 27.8 percent.

The main questions in economic social development are as follows: Economic growth speed and economic benefit need further improvement; There is no long-acting mechanism for development in agriculture and increase in peasants' income; Bottleneck restriction of resources as coal, electricity and oil is prominent.

II. Agriculture

The grain yield regained growth. In 2004, The total output of grain amounted to 28.10 million tones, increased 3.68 million tons over the previous year, up by 15.0 percent, reverseing the situation of the grain yield having decreased successively for four years. The production of major farm crops increased by a wide margin, including grain, cotton, oil-bearing crops. The output of flue-cured tobacco and vegetables continued to grow.