

of 2003. The aged population at 65 and over was 5.69 million, accounted for 8.50 percent of the total population or 0.14percent-points higher than that of 2003.

The living standard of people improved continually. In 2004, the annual per capita disposable incomes of urban households was 8,617.48 yuan, having an increase of 943.3 yuan over the previous year, a real increase of 8.8 percent. Of which, the annual per capita net income from wage and stipend was 6,285.96yuan, having an increase of 732.1 yuan over the previous year; the annual per capita net income from household business operation was 493.97 yuan, having an increased of 137.8 yuan; the transfer income was 1,744.65 yuan, having an increased of 81.13 yuan. In 2004, the annual per capita net income of rural households was 2,838 yuan, increased 305 yuan, a real increase of 8.0 percent. Of which, the annual per capita net income from wage and stipend was 1081.23 yuan, increased 92.88 yuan; the annual per capita net income from household business operation was 1614.57 yuan, increased 187.36 yuan; the transfer and property income was 141.95 yuan, increased 24.64 yuan.

The structure of residents consumption of urban households have been changed greatly and the residents consumption of rural households had an new change. In 2004, the annual per capita expenditure for consumption of urban households was 6,884.61 yuan, up by 13.2 percent. Of which, the expenditure of urban households for transportation & telecommunication was 881.89 yuan, increased 201.68 yuan; the expenditure of urban households for tourism was 182.88 yuan, increased 94.84 yuan; the expenditure of urban households for purchaseing and constructing house was 575.28 yuan, increased 88.68 yuan. The Engel coefficient of urban households was 36 percent. Averagely, every hundred urban families own 0.56 domestic automobiles and 27.7 computers. Per capita municipal residents' housing area reached 24.1 square meters more 0.8 square meters than last year. The per capita consumption expenditures of rural households were 2,472.29 yuan, increased by 15.6percent. The Engel coefficients for rural households were 51.9 percent. Averagely, every hundred rural families numbered 57.3 color TV sets, 48.1 telephones, and 24.9 mobile telephones. The rural resident's per capital housing areas reached 36.55 square meters more 1.46 square meter than last year.

Social security system was further consolidated. By the end of 2004, 6.93 million staff and workers in urban areas participated in the basic pension programs, increased by 8.9 percent. Of which, including 1.45 million retirees, an increase of 11.3 percent; 3.80 million people participated in unemployment insurance programs, having an increase of 9.4 percent; the basic health programs involved 4.75 million people, a growth of 12.2 percent. The number of people who received the minimum income relief from governments stood at 1.36 million, 0.923 billion yuan were paid to lay-off workers from the state-owned enterprises for maintaining basic life during this year. The urban residents received 0.105 billion yuan of the minimum income relief from governments.

**Note:**

1.All figures in the Communique are preliminary statistics.

2.Figures in value terms on Gross Domestic Product and Value-added of various sectors quoted in the Communique are at current prices, whereas growth rates are calculated at comparable prices.