

Striving Towards a Modern Coastal Metropolis

Ningbo's Foreign Trade Gets Off to A Good Start

By Dong Na

In the first quarter of this year, Ningbo's total foreign trade imports and exports increased by 17% compared with the same period last year, reaching 304.44 billion yuan and composing of an export of 195.63 billion yuan, up by 20.4%, and an import of 108.81 billion yuan, which grew by 11.4%.

It is worth noting that, as the main driver for foreign trade, private enterprises completed 214 billion yuan of imports and exports, an increase of 18%, accounting for 70.3% of the city's total during the same period.

Positive Growth in Several Areas

The EU, United States, and ASEAN are Ningbo's top three trading partners. In the first quarter, Ningbo's imports and exports total to the EU, United States, and ASEAN was 56.55 billion yuan, 53.55 billion yuan and 32.41 billion yuan, an increase of 25.1%, 21.8% and 15% respectively, while the three together accounted for 46.8% of the city's aggregate foreign trade in the same period.

In addition, statistics from the same period also showed that, Ningbo's import and export to countries along the "Belt and Road" was 85.81 billion yuan, an increase of 21.1%, accounting for 28.2% of the overall volume in Ningbo; import and export to other RCEP member countries was 75.72 billion yuan, an increase of 4.7%, accounting for 24.9% of the total.

Electrical and mechanical products were the main export commodities from Ningbo in the first quarter, with a total of 112.62 billion yuan of exports, an increase of 20.8%, accounting for 57.6% of the city's total exports. During the same period, exports of high-tech products were 15.23 billion yuan, an increase of 26.9%; and exports of textiles and clothing 23.17 billion yuan, an increase of 11.8%.

As for imports, Ningbo received 3.96 billion yuan of



Inside a workshop, workers rush to fill production orders.

[Photo by Xu Neng]

refined oil in the first quarter, an increase of 254.1%, and 1.89 billion yuan of natural gas, an increase of 128.2%.

Trade with CEE Hit A Record

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the China-CEE Countries Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration Zone in Ningbo. In the first quarter of 2022, Ningbo's import and export volume with the CEE countries reached 10.7 billion yuan, up 25.85% year-on-year, a new quarterly high.

"We have many trading partners from the CEE countries, and just recently we imported a batch of electrolytic copper from Poland," said the staff of Ningbo Tiyi Import and Export Trade.

The CEE countries are home to a variety of rich metal deposits, and they top the world's record of the reserves of quite a couple of metal ore

categories. These resource endowments are complementary to China's development needs. With help from the China-CEE Countries Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration Zone, several companies in Ningbo have become big customers in the copper market of CEE countries.

Unwrought copper and copper material has been the main product imported by Ningbo from the CEE countries. In the first quarter of this year, Ningbo's imports under that category from the CEE countries amounted to 580 million yuan, a significant increase of 143.08% year-on-year.

That is only one example of the trade partnership. Some foreign trade enterprises in Ningbo have become long-term partners of many large super-market chains abroad. "Since last year, we have seen a significant increase in business volume, especially in Central and Eastern Europe, where

business orders have been scheduled for two years," the head of a company said.

New Breakthrough in Port Throughput

In the first quarter of this year, Ningbo Zhoushan Port completed 303 million tons of cargo throughput, up 3.4% year-on-year; completed container throughput of 7.91 million TEUs, up 2.9% year-on-year.

Since the beginning of the year, Ningbo Zhoushan Port has opened many new ocean-going trunk routes to Europe and South America. Currently, the port operates a total of 296 container routes, which is a new record high.

In the meantime, Ningbo Zhoushan Port continues to develop key regions and customers, effectively improve the shipping capacity of inland sites, ensure the stable operation of key trains, and open new sea-rail intermodal transport. In the

first quarter, the business volume of sea-rail intermodal transport was 357,800 TEU, an increase of 33.9% year-on-year.

Port infrastructure construction is being accelerated. Since this year, a number of berths in Chuanshan port area, Meishan port area, and Beilun port area have been opened to the public. At present, the maximum container terminal in Ningbo Zhoushan Port can arrange 140 road personnel to operate at the same time, and the maximum daily loading and unloading capacity exceeds 100,000 TEUs.

In response to the epidemic impacts, the Ningbo Zhoushan Port has also established a risk research and assessment mechanism for foreign vessels, promoted an intelligent epidemic prevention system, constructed a container truck reservation system, and put into use an automatic face recognition system to help enhance safe operation in the port.



双语汇 Different Tongues

金峨山：杜鹃花开，漫山如霞

By Gou Wen

On the Jin'e Mountain, Ningbo, more than 130,000 square meters of wild azaleas are entering their peak blossoming. In crimson, light red, rose red, purple, white, and yellow, those picturesque flowers join hands in creating a long corridor of azalea.

在金峨山上，两三百亩地的野生杜鹃花进入盛花期。深红、淡红、玫瑰红、紫色、白色和黄色等多种色彩的杜鹃花，构成了一座五彩缤纷的杜鹃花海长廊。

The azalea blossoming at the Jin'e is a popular attraction among tourists. Together with other scenic spots, such as an-

cient houses in nearby water towns and the Bijia Mountain, as well as local farmhouses and leisure farms, they are turned into a main tourism hub that many tourists come to visit every year.

以杜鹃花为媒，附近的水乡古镇、笔架山等景点与当地农家乐、休闲农场串点成链，每年都吸引无数游客前来打卡。

The Jin'e Mountain boasts two name cards: azalea and camellia. Covered with green plants, the mountain looks tall and straight. Moreover, there are many rocks of different shapes. In 2018, Jin'e Mountain was designated as one of Zhejiang's provincial forest parks. Besides



Flower sea on the mountain. / 山上的花海。

[Photo by Tang Yan] 唐严 摄

azalea and camellia, it is equally rich in animal and plant resources. For example, the ancient trees, the famous pine on

the south slope, the spectacular sunrise, and other natural landscapes.

金峨山以杜鹃花海、茶花苗木

为主要特色，山势挺拔，峰峦叠翠，多奇岩怪石。2018年，金峨山入选浙江省级森林公园。森林公园里动植物资源较为丰富，除了杜鹃花，还有古树群、南坡松涛、峨岭霞光等自然景观。

SPOTLIGHT

Ningbo Bridge Team Will Play in the Asian Games

By Xu Zhuowei

After seven days of competition in the 19th Asian Games National Mixed Bridge Team Trials, the championship was decided on the evening of April 14. The Ningbo Bridge Team stood out from 10 teams, won the first place, and obtained the qualification to represent China in the mixed bridge event of the 19th Asian Games this year.

The team formed by Ningbo players will represent China to play in the games, which can be regarded as a milestone in the history of Ningbo sports, since it's the first time a Ningbo sports team will collectively represent China in the international competitions.

The Ningbo team participating this time is mainly composed of national first prize winners and World Youth Championship champions. The six players are Wang Jian, Hu Junjie, Fu Bo, Chen Yichao, Wang Yanhong, and Dong Lidang.

"Among the 10 teams in this trail, the Ningbo team is the youngest, with an average age of about 35." Xu Jianguo, Vice Chairman of the China Bridge Association and Zhejiang Bridge Association, and Chairman of the Ningbo Bridge Association, said when invited to comment, "We formed this team, and hope to build a platform for young players to have an opportunity to participate in the selection and competition of the national mixed bridge team. In the end, everyone lived up to expectations and qualified for the Asian Games."

"Every time the national bridge team's training and selection in Ningbo have yielded good results. For example, before the 43rd World Bridge Team Championships in 2017, the national team was gathered at Ningbo before departing to France, where the Chinese women's team earned the gold medal. That was a victory won after eight years." Xu Jianguo said that Ningbo has been deeply involved in the field of bridge for 12 years. As early as 2015, Jiangbei District was awarded the title of "National Bridge Competition Training Base" by the Chess and Card Center of the General Administration of Sport of China.



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