>> FROM PAGE 2

percent, analysts said.

Industrial output posted steady growth in the first two months of this year, up 7.2 percent year-onyear, I percentage point higher than in December and 0.9 percentage point higher than a year ago, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on March 14.

Fixed-asset investment growth was 7.9 percent in January and February combined, 0.7 percentage point higher than the whole of 2017, but 1 percentage point lower than a year ago, NBS data showed.

Retail sales increased by 9.7 percent year-on-year in the same period, 0.3 percentage point higher than in December, and 0.2 percentage point higher than the same period of last year, the NBS

J-20 stealth fighter to see more improvements

China will continue to improve and upgrade its cutting-edge J-20 stealth fighter jet, giving it more capabilities than merely penetrating an enemy's air defense networks, according to its chief designer.

Yang Wei, a deputy director of science and technology at Aviation Industry Corp of China and an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, told China Daily in an exclusive interview that designers will develop variants of the radarevading J-20 and will open research on its successor — a sixth-generation fighter iet.

'We are not complacent about what we have achieved. We will develop the J-20 into a large family and keep strengthening its information-processing and intelligent capacities," Yang said.

Consumers make more demands on services

In the latest consumer trend, Chinese shoppers are complaining less about merchandise and more about services.

To mark World Consumer Rights Day on March 15, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce released a report based on five years of data analysis showing that complaints about tangible goods, while still rising, have been growing at a slower pace since



Students from Guanyun Experimental Primary School fly handmade airplanes, which they designed themselves, in Guanyun county, East China's Jiangsu province, on March 14. The school has applied for more than 200 patents from a list of more than 1,000 ideas generated by a course on innovation since 2002. WU CHENGUANG / FOR CHINA DAILY

As a share of the total, such complaints fell from 64.1 percent to 50.3 percent last year. By contrast, complaints about services have been accelerating, rising from 35.9 percent to 49.7 percent since 2013.

"This indicates that merchandise quality in the country has significantly improved, and consumers are demanding better services," said Zhou Shiping, the State regulator's director of consumer rights and interests protection.

Zhou said the total number of complaints logged since 2015 hit a high-water mark in 2017, reflecting growing consumer awareness

Key satellite system eyes global reach

Leading space contractor China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp (CASC) will start building the country's largest satellite constellation this year, with plans to offer communication services to users around the world.

Upon completion, the Hongyan constellation will consist of more than 320 satellites operating in low-Earth orbits, capable of providing phone call service and broadband Internet access to users anywhere on the globe, according to the Chi-

na Academy of Space Technology, part of CASC.

The major parts in the network 54 large communication satellites — will be launched before the end of 2023, and then 270 small satellites will be placed in orbits to supplement them.

Currently, China's largest satellite network is the Beidou Navigation Satellite System, which has nearly 30 active satellites and will have 35 by the end of 2020.

France 'returns' relics as digital resources

More than 5,300 pieces of ancient Chinese manuscripts have been "returned" from France in digital form and are available online, according to the National Library of China.

The online resources have been provided by France's national library, which holds more than 7,000 original copies of the Dunhuang manuscripts.

The documents, which date from the fifth to 11th centuries, were discovered in the Mogao Grottoes in Northwest China's Gansu province in the early 20th century.

There are more than 50,000 of them, including history, linguistics, art and religious documents. Most of the manuscripts are in Chinese, but some are in other languages such as Khotanese and Hebrew.

Around 16,000 Dunhuang manuscripts are stored at China's National Library, while the rest are scattered overseas in Russia, Britain, France and Japan.

Xinjiang reported free of terrorist attacks

There were no terrorist attacks in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region last year, the region's chairman said on March 13 as he discussed the regional government's determination to keep the social situation calm.

"Xinjiang will continue to enforce the comprehensive anti-terrorism measures to keep the region stable," said Shohrat Zakir, chairman of Xinjiang. He spoke during a plenary session of the Xinjiang delegation to the first session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), the top legislature.

A series of new anti-terrorism measures have been introduced since Chen Quanguo was appointed as Party secretary of Xinjiang in August 2016.

Significant results have been

achieved in maintaining social stability in Xinjiang, which has always been the front line of China's battle against terrorism, Chen said earlier in the annual NPC session.

Pace quickens for recall of defective vehicles

More than 47 million defective cars have been recalled on the Chinese mainland in the past five years, following the 2013 adoption of product safety regulations.

The number represents 83 percent of all cars recalled in the past 14 years, according to China's top quality supervision authority.

More than 56.7 million cars were recalled between 2004 - whenChina began implementing recalls and the end of last year, data from the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine show.

Last year, a record 20 million cars were recalled, a 77 percent increase over 2016.

The figure makes China second in the world, behind only the United States, in the number of cars recalled annually.

Of the cars recalled last year. those made domestically, including foreign brands, accounted for 91 percent.

More equity of SOEs will go to workers

China will conduct equity diversification at the group level in selected centrally administered Stateowned enterprises and advance mixed ownership reform for SOEs in sectors that are fully competitive this year, the head of a top regulator said.

The government will enhance corporate governance for SOEs under mixed ownership, and carry out explorations on systems of special right stock, Xiao Yaqing, head of the State-Owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, said at a news conference during the first session of the 13th National People's Congress.

Xiao said China will systematically summarize the experiences from programs to pilot the granting of equity stakes to employees in mixed-ownership, State-controlled enterprises, as well as expand the coverage of these pilots and set up long-term incentive and restraint procedures

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