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HURRICANE HARVEY DISTORTS HOUSTON HOUSING ANALYSIS

Inside C2

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Hurricane Florence shifts south as Georgia and Carolinas hunker down

WILMINGTON, N.C. (Reuters) - Fears about Hurricane Florence spread south on Wednesday, with Georgia declaring a state of emergency after officials in the Carolinas urged people to evacuate the coast ahead of the storm's expected pounding winds and rain-driven floods.

Florence weakened slightly to a Category 3 storm on a five-step scale but had maximum sustained winds of 125 miles per hour (201 km per hour) as of 2 p.m. EDT (1800 GMT), down from 130 mph earlier in the day. Its trajectory showed its center most likely to strike the southern coast of North Carolina by late Thursday or early Friday, the National Hurricane Center said.

Updated NHC forecasts showed the storm lingering near the coast of the Carolinas, carrying days of heavy rains that could bring intense inland flooding from South Carolina to Virginia. Parts of North Carolina could get 40 inches (1 meter) of rain.

Jeff Byard of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) invoked a former boxing champion to warn residents that Florence would bring "a Mike Tyson punch to the Carolina coast."

"Heed the warnings," said Byard, adding there was "well over $20 billion" in FEMA's disaster relief fund.

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper predicted tens of thousands of homes and businesses would be flooded in his state.

Georgia Governor Nathan Deal, concerned the storm would bring its devastation south, issued an emergency declaration for all 159 counties in his state.

More than 1 million people have been ordered to evacuate the coastlines of the Carolinas and Virginia while schools and factories were being shuttered.

The NHC said the first tropical storm-force winds of at least 39 mph (63 kph) would hit the region early on Thursday with the storm's center reaching the coast Friday.

U.S. Marine recruits at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island prepare to evacuate ahead of Hurricane Florence

Apple unveils larger iPhones, health-oriented watches

Schiller Senior Vice President, Worldwide Marketing of Apple, speaks about the new Apple iPhone XR at an Apple Inc product launch in Cupertino

(Reuters) - Apple Inc unveiled larger iPhones and watches based on the design of current models on Wednesday, confirming expectations that the company is making only minor changes to its lineup.

Philip W. Schiller, Senior Vice President, Worldwide Marketing of Apple, speaks about the the new Apple iPhone XS and XS Max at an Apple Inc product launch event at the Steve Jobs Theater in Cupertino, California, U.S., September 12, 2018. REUTERS/Stephen Lam

Apple wants users to upgrade to newer, more expensive devices as a way to boost revenue as global demand for smartphones levels off. The strategy has helped Apple become the first publicly-traded U.S. company to hit a market value of more than $1 trillion earlier this year.

Fitbit falls, Garmin shed gains on new Apple watch

Fitbit falls, Garmin shed gains on new Apple watch

Apple shares were down 0.9 percent on Nasdaq.

The new phones, based on last year's iPhone X, are named XS and XS Max, based on last year's iPhone X. The new iPhone XS has a 5.8-inch screen size, while iPhone XS Max is 6.5 inch in size, in line with Wall Street expectations.

Apple uses the 'S' suffix when it upgrades components but leaves the exterior of a phone the same. Last year's iPhone X - pronounced "ten" - represented a major redesign.

Former NBA player Steve Nash and Todd Howard, Game Director, speaks on stage at an Apple Inc product launch event at the Steve Jobs Theater in Cupertino, California, U.S., September 12, 2018. REUTERS/Stephen Lam

Apple opened its event by saying its new Apple Watch Series 4 range will have edge-to-edge displays, like its latest phones, which are more than 30 percent bigger than displays on current models. The new watch, positioned as a more comprehensive health device, will be able to detect an irregular heartbeat and start an emergency call automatically if it detects a user falling down, potentially appealing to older customers.

Shares of fitness device rival Fitbit Inc fell about 3.7 percent after the Series 4 introduction. Shares of Garmin Ltd lost some earlier gains and were flat in midday New York trade.

Shares of optical components makers Lumentum Holdings Inc and Finisar Corp, suppliers that power iPhone X's Face ID feature and the TrueDepth camera technology, were down 1.6 percent and 0.4 percent in afternoon trading.

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

LOCAL BUSINESS

HURRICANE HARVEY DISTORTS HOUSTON HOUSING ANALYSIS

Current market conditions are healthy, but storm's effects distort traditional measurements

HOUSTON — (September 12, 2018) — Thousands of people are still haunted by Hurricane Harvey's devastating effects as they continue to rebuild their homes and lives. Even now, the storm is affecting the way housing numbers compare August 2018 to August 2017. The traditional year-over-year measurements that the Houston Association of Realtors® (HAR) uses to track market trends have been thrown out of whack because Harvey halted most real estate activity across the greater Houston market during the final week of August 2017 and beyond. Therefore, this HAR report presents the actual numbers of our August 2018 - August 2017 comparison while offering additional analysis to help provide more accurate and statistically relevant assessment of market conditions by removing the "Harvey effect."

According to the traditional, full-month numbers, Houston single-family home sales rose 37.2 percent year-over-year, with 8,358 homes sold in August versus 6,090 one year earlier when Harvey struck the region. HAR isolated single-family home sales for the period of August 1 - 24 since Harvey's effects began to take a toll on the market on August 25, 2017. That analysis showed sales up 7.6 percent in August 2018, with 5,844 homes sold through August 24 of this year compared to 5,433 during the same time frame last year.

HAR also compared August 2018 home sales to August 2016 – the last August for which a complete month of data were available. A total of 8,016 single-family homes sold back then, accounting for a 4.3 percent increase two years later. On a year-to-date basis, home sales are currently 7.2 percent ahead of 2017's record volume.

The single-family home median price (the figure at which half of the homes sold for more and half sold for less) rose 3.0 percent to $236,870, and the average price increased 1.9 percent to $300,670. Both represent the highest figures ever for an August.

"We all know how catastrophic Harvey was and how incredibly resilient our community has been, so HAR has taken great care to gauge Houston's August housing market performance as accurately as possible given the data distortions caused by the disaster," explained HAR Chair Kenya Burrell-VanWormer with JPMorgan Chase. "We will likely see similar distortions in the September numbers, as Harvey's effects lingered, however current market conditions are healthy, with single-family home sales and rentals up despite constrained inventory."

Not adjusted to account for Harvey, August sales of all property types totaled 9,978, up 36.8-percent versus the same month last year. Total dollar volume shot up 40.1 percent, reaching $2.86 billion.

Lease Property Update

There was mixed consumer interest on the property lease front in August, with single-family up and townhome/condominium down, regardless of how HAR analyzed that year-over-year data. Not adjusted to account for the "Harvey effect," single-family home rentals climbed 13.9 percent while leases of townhomes and condominiums were down 1.2 percent. For the period of August 1 - 24, not affected by Harvey, single-family rentals were up 7.6 percent while townhome/condominium rentals fell 8.3 percent.

The average rent for single-family homes rose 3.4 percent to $1,926 and the average rent for townhomes and condominiums increased 5.5 percent to $1,639.

August Monthly Market Comparison

The Houston real estate market generated positive activity in August, with single-family home sales, total property sales, pricing and total dollar volume all up compared to August 2017. Without accounting for the effects of Hurricane Harvey – which halted most sales activity from August 25-31, 2017 – month-end pending sales for single-family homes totaled 8,084, a 43.9 percent increase over last year. Total active listings, or the total number of available properties, were up 0.3 percent to 41,991. Single-family homes inventory remains constrained, reaching a 4.1-months supply in August, which is down fractionally from the 4.3-months supply a year earlier. For perspective, housing inventory across the U.S. stands at a 4.3-months supply, according to the latest report from the National Association of Realtors® (NAR).

This first set does not factor out the "Harvey effect":

$1 - $99,999: increased 33.5 percent
$100,000 - $149,999: increased 8.0 percent
$150,000 - $249,999: increased 46.0 percent
$250,000 - $499,999: increased 46.0 percent
$500,000 - $749,999: increased 53.9 percent
$750,000 and above: increased 34.6 percent

This data set reflects the pre-Harvey (August 1 - 24) comparison:

$1 - $99,999: decreased 2.4 percent
$100,000 - $149,999: decreased 12.4 percent
$150,000 - $249,999: increased 7.3 percent
$250,000 - $499,999: increased 13.7 percent
$500,000 - $749,999: increased 16.7 percent
$750,000 and above: increased 15.4 percent

HAR also breaks out the sales figures for existing single-family homes. Existing home sales totaled 7,116 in August, an increase of 36.3 percent versus the same month last year when not removing the distortions caused by Hurricane Harvey. The average sales price increased 3.7 percent to $291,723 while the median sales price rose 2.7 percent to $225,000.

Townhouse/Condominium Update

Sales of townhomes and condominiums rose in August, with or without the "Harvey effect." The traditional full-month comparison shows that 665 units sold versus 465 a year earlier, accounting for a 43.0 percent increase.

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice

A man puts plywood up on the windows of his store before Hurricane Florence comes ashore in Wrightsville Beach

U.S. Marine recruits at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island prepare to evacuate ahead of Hurricane Florence

Dennis Kernodle talks on the phone during storm preparations of his oceanfront home ahead of the arrival of Hurricane Florence in Ocean Isle Beach

Workers are seen as they work to secure plywood ahead of the arrival of Hurricane Florence

U.S. Air Force personnel arrive during an evacuation ahead of Hurricane Florence

U.S. Navy hospital ship USNS Comfort departs from Naval Station Norfolk ahead of Hurricane Florence

A bar at Ocean Boulevard is pictured boarded up after mandatory evacuations were declared for South Carolina coastal areas ahead of the arrival of Hurricane Florence in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Dameek Deaver and Anastasiia Lugova, both of Myrtle Beach, relax on a large beach chair before they leave the coast ahead of the arrival of Hurricane Florence in Myrtle Beach

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

COMMUNITY

NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT

CITGO Innovation Scholars Program–Deadline is Sept. 28

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

APPLY TO THE CITGO INNOVATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM!

CITGO STEM TALENT PIPELINE

CITGO Petroleum Corporation has established a scholarship program to assist students who plan to continue their education in college.

The application opens on August 15, 2018 and will close at noon on Friday, September 28.

Up to twenty (20) $2,000 scholarship awards for undergraduate study will be granted. Awards may be renewed for up to three additional years or until a bachelor's degree is earned, whichever occurs first. Renewal is contingent upon satisfactory academic performance in a full-time course of study, in an eligible field of study, enrollment at an eligible school and continuation of the program by CITGO Petroleum Corporation.

For complete guidelines and application, please visit https://www.scholarsapply.org/citgo/

This program is administered by Scholarship America®, the nation's largest designer and manager of scholarship, tuition assistance and other education support programs for corporations, foundations, associations, and individuals. Awards are granted without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender, disability, or national origin.

Eligibility Information:

Applicants to the CITGO Innovation Scholars Program must meet all of the following four criteria:

1) Be a graduate from a high school in one of the following districts:

- Alief ISD (Texas)
- Calcasieu Parish School Board (Louisiana)
- Corpus Christi ISD (Texas)
- Houston ISD (Texas)
- Lemont High School District 210 (Illinois)
- Lockport Township High School District 205 (Illinois)
- Romeoville High School (Illinois)
- Spring Branch ISD (Texas)

2) Be current post secondary undergraduates, enrolled in full-time study at one of the following 2-year or 4-year colleges or universities for the entire 2018-19 academic year.

- Baylor University (Waco, TX)
- Del Mar College (Corpus Christi, TX)
- Houston Community College (Greater Katy, Houston, Missouri City, Stafford campuses in Texas)
- Joliet Junior College (Joliet, IL)
- Lamar University (Beaumont, TX)
- Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, LA)
- Louisiana Tech University (Ruston, LA)
- McNeese State University (Lake Charles, LA)
- Prairie View A&M University (Prairie View, TX)
- Purdue University (West Lafayette, IN)
- SOWELA (Lake Charles, LA)
- Texas A&M University (College Station, Corpus Christi, Kingsville campuses in Texas)
- Texas Southern University (Houston, TX)
- University of Houston (Houston, TX)
- University of Houston Downtown (Houston, TX)
- University of Illinois (Chicago, Springfield, Urbana–Champaign campuses in Illinois)
- University of Louisiana – Lafayette (Lafayette, LA)
- University of New Mexico (Albuquerque, NM)
- University of Wisconsin (Madison, WI)

3) Be majoring in one of the following areas of study:

- Accounting and Finance
- Chemical, Electrical, or Mechanical Engineering
- Computer Science
- Instrumentation
- Management Information Systems (MIS)
- Process Technology
- Supply Chain Management

4) Considering a career in the energy industry.

Selection of Recipients

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of academic record, demonstrated leadership and participation in school and community activities, work experience, an essay, unusual personal or family circumstances, and an outside appraisal. Financial need is not considered. First-generation college students will be prioritized in the selection of recipients. Selection of recipients is made by Scholarship America. In no instance does any officer or employee of CITGO Petroleum Corporation play a part in the selection.

All applicants agree to accept the decision as final.

Related

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

BUSINESS

China's Trade Surplus With U.S. Soars In First Quarter While March Exports Falter

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

BEIJING (Reuters) - China's trade surplus with the United States surged nearly 20 percent in the first quarter, with some analysts speculating exporters were rushing out shipments to get ahead of threatened tariffs that are spurring fears of a full-blown trade war.

The latest readings on the health of China's trade sector are unlikely to ease tensions following weeks of tit-for-tat tariff threats by Washington and Beijing, though they suggest China's economy is still in relatively solid shape.

Even as China's trade surplus narrowed overall in the first three months of the year, its surplus with the U.S. surged 19.4 percent to $58.25 billion from a year earlier, customs data showed on Friday.

While China was busy selling more to the U.S., it was buying more from other countries, and ran a $9.86 billion deficit with the rest of the world in the quarter.

China's overall exports and imports both grew at a strong double-digit clip early in the year, and while exports unexpectedly fell in March — resulting in a rare trade deficit — most analysts chalked it up to seasonal factors and said it was too early to call a trend.

Still, while no hard timeline has been set by either Washington or Beijing for the actual imposition of tariffs, analysts said China's exporters may already be adapting their strategies as punitive trade measures loom.

Workers transport bags of soybean meal in a dockyard in Nantong in east China's Jiangsu province.

China's first-quarter exports to the U.S. rose 14.8 percent from a year earlier, despite a 5.6 percent drop in March. Its imports from the U.S. rose 8.9 percent in the quarter and 3.2 percent in March.

That helped narrow its surplus with the U.S. in March alone to $15.43 billion from $20.96 billion in February, but that was still nearly 18 percent higher than March 2017.

Shipping containers are seen piled up at a port in Qingdao, Shandong province, China April 13, 2018. (Photo/China Daily via REUTERS)

"The sharp decline in March export growth after very solid performance in January and February suggests some exporters may have front-loaded exports (early) this year due to concern over the possibility of a Sino-U.S. trade war after the U.S. hiked tariffs on global imports on solar panels and washing machines," said Lisheng Wang, an economist at Nomura in Hong Kong.

President Trump said Friday the administration is ready to announce tariffs on another $267 billion in Chinese goods, on top of levies on $200 billion of Chinese products it has been preparing.

Asian stocks mixed on fears of more US tariffs on China.

Tariffs on $50 billion of imports from China have already taken effect, which Beijing has matched dollar for dollar.

If enacted, the third round of tariffs would bring the total amount of goods subject to levies to more than the $505 billion of products the U.S. imported from China in 2017, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

China's Commerce Ministry on Saturday didn't immediately respond to requests for comment about the proposed U.S. tariffs.

> ***'In the short term, it is difficult for the trade gap to narrow because American buyers cannot easily find alternatives to Chinese products.'***
>
> —Economist Liu Xuezhi

Vice Commerce Minister Wang Shouwen said at a forum Saturday that rising trade protectionism is threatening global economic growth, according to state media.

Mr. Wang led midlevel talks with U.S. officials in Washington last month, but discussions between the two countries failed to produce any visible sign of progress.

Globally, China reported a trade surplus of $27.91 billion in August, narrowing from a surplus of $28.05 billion a month earlier. Economists polled by the Journal had expected a $30.6 billion surplus.

Exports rose 9.8% from a year earlier, compared with July's 12.2% increase, customs data showed. Economists had forecast an 11% growth in overseas shipments. Imports were up 20% in August from a year earlier, slowing from a 27.3% increase the previous month and matching economists' median forecast.

Government measures such as stimulating infrastructure investment and injecting more funds into the financial market have boosted business confidence, Mr. Liu of Bank of Communications said. (Courtesy https://www.wsj.com/)

Related

Trump Says He's Preparing Tariffs on Further $267 Billion in Chinese Imports

President Trump said Friday that tariffs on another $267 billion in Chinese goods are ready to go and could be rolled out on short notice, reinforcing earlier threats and signaling no end in sight for the growing trade dispute.

Speaking aboard Air Force One en route to Fargo, N.D., Mr. Trump said the tariffs would be in addition to the tariffs on $200 billion in Chinese goods the administration has been preparing, which he said will "take place very soon, depending on what happens."

"I hate to say this, but behind that there is another $267 billion ready to go on short notice if I want," he added. "That changes the equation."

The White House has been gearing up to hit China with tariffs of 25% on as much as $200 billion in Chinese goods, on top of the $50 billion of Chinese exports already facing 25% levies.

Mr. Trump's latest threats echo comments he made in June, when he said the U.S. would impose a third round of tariffs on another $200 billion in Chinese goods should Beijing retaliate to the tariffs imposed so far.

Speaking aboard Air Force One en route to Fargo, N.D., President Trump said Friday that tariffs on another $267 billion in Chinese goods are ready to go and could be rolled out on short notice. Mr. Trump said the tariffs would be in addition to the tariffs on $200 billion in Chinese goods the administration has been preparing, which he said will "take place very soon, depending on what happens."

The Chinese have matched them dollar for dollar, and trade talks between Washington and Beijing have failed to produce any visible sign of progress.

If enacted, a third round of tariffs that covered an additional $267 billion of imports from China would bring the total amount of goods subject to tariffs to more than the $505 billion the U.S. imported from China in 2017, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The public comment period on the second, $200 billion round of tariffs ended Thursday, the last step before a decision. Trade associations, which oppose tariffs, were gearing up for an announcement as early as Friday.

A senior administration official told The Wall Street Journal on Friday that China tariffs "are coming," but said that the timing remains unclear.

Mr. Trump later signaled that the timing of the $200 billion is not finalized, saying that it "could take place very soon depending on them--to a certain extent it depends on China." (Courtesy Morningstar.com)

美正研拟有关“公众负担”移民法案 移民纷纷弃补助

由于担心享有美国联邦补助，特朗普政府可能拒绝给予绿卡，因此有愈来愈多合法移民，放弃为稚龄子女购买婴儿奶粉和健康食物的政府补助。

据华盛顿政治新闻网站Politico报道，白宫官员正研拟的一项有关“公众负担”(public charge)的移民方案，主要影响已经在美正申请绿卡的合法移民，以及正申请合法入境美国者，白宫希望在期中选举前提出此案，以提振共和党选民的热情。然而此方案也会影响到希望未来申请永久居留的无证移民，因为此政策改变，将扩大“公众负担”的定义。

地方卫生机构表示，在新闻披露白宫可能打算拒绝给予享用政府福利的移民合法身份后，已接获许多合法和无证移民惊惶失措的电话，要求放弃加入“妇女及婴幼儿营养计划”(WIC)。至少18州的相关机构发现，登记参加该计划的人数骤减20%，他们分析此改变主要源于对移民政策改变的恐惧。

这些机构指出，特朗普政府尚未正式实施上述政策，却已吓得移民家庭不敢再使用这些服务。

维权人士说，此政策改变可能使得更多美国出生的新生儿，出现体重过轻和其他健康问题，除了不利于公共卫生，而且可能使医疗支出增加，浪费纳税人的钱。WIC造福约半数美国出生婴儿，提供怀孕妇女和家有幼儿的家庭折价券(又称奶票)或福利卡，让他们得以购买食物和婴儿奶粉。

由于WIC的受益者是婴儿，他们绝大多数为在美出生的公民，是政治争议性最少的社会福利，也被认为是特朗普政府最不可能删砍的计划。

全国WIC协会总监葛勒威说：“最令WIC相关机构忧心的是，该计划原本为的是婴幼儿的健康成长，却因法规变更、政治氛围影响，令符合享用该计划的民众却步，势将对这些婴儿及其家庭造成严重后果。”

依照实施超过一个世纪的联邦移民法，若潜在移民或外籍访客可能成为政府重大负担，官员可拒绝其入境美国。不过至目前为止，相关官员通常把焦点放在需要现金救济或长期医护照顾的人。但特朗普政府的移民政策鹰派鼓吹将对象扩大及于有意使身份合法化的移民，及其享有的更广泛范围的政府福利，其中包括粮食券、启蒙教育(Head Start)、医疗补助计划(Medicaid)和WIC等补助。

无证移民不符合多数政府补助的资格，但上述构成公众负担的对象扩大，适用范围可能及于移民家庭所有成员。例如过去一名母亲申请绿卡时，她本人享用政府福利可能受到调查，而根据新提案，她的子女若享有医疗补助计划或启蒙教育补助，也将成为她接受绿卡审查的负面因素，即使她的子女为美国公民。

特朗普政府官员辩称，他们只是为了厘清和执行现有的移民法律。联邦移民及公民服务局((USCIS)局长西斯纳本月初表示：“此目标不是为了减少移民，或残酷无情地拒之于门外，或杜绝依亲移民。”他说，政府正研拟的法规合情合理，并将经过完整适当的法规制定程序。

即使特朗普政府还在研拟移民法规的变更，已有官员开始采行新限制。今年1月，国务院指示各使馆和领事馆，在核发签证时，须检视申请人是否可能享用美国政府的营养和医疗补助。移民律师目前正密切注意，国务院的新指导方针是否致使更多因公众负担因素签证遭拒的案例。

半年发3000黄金签证 希腊投资移民后来居上

欧洲不少国家都有“黄金签证”项目，葡萄牙、西班牙、匈牙利和塞浦路斯等国都愿意用绿卡吸引那些颇有经济实力的投资者。万万没想到的是，后来者希腊成了最大赢家。

从2013年设立黄金签证以来，希腊成为欧洲吸引投资移民最多的国家。更为夸张的是，仅在今年上半年，希腊就发放了近3000张黄金签证，数字相当于葡萄牙在过去两年里发放的黄金签证总额。

希腊企业投资贸易部门在7月底发布了一项总结数据称，他们的黄金签证计划从设立之初到现在，已经吸收8367位全球投资人，以及12089位家属，因该计划获得居留许可的人数总量达到20456人，比葡萄牙黄金签证计划多出约6000人。

从今年上半年的数据来看，中国投资人仍然是申请希腊黄金签证的主力军，申请人数达到1395人，约占总数的一半。俄罗斯和土耳其人对该项目的兴趣也很大，俄罗斯申请者的比例接近15%，土耳其人超过总数的十分之一。

尽管这三个国家虽然都是“流量担当”，但他们并不是最爱拖家带口的申请人，伊拉克人反倒表现得更突出，平均每份申请都包括四位家庭成员。相比之下，伊朗申请人只会带上配偶一人而已。

在各国数据中，伊朗人对黄金签证的兴趣度自3月以来翻了一番，而土耳其由于政治和经济紧张局势加剧，也导致申请人数大幅上涨。在过去四个月中，持有黄金签证的土耳其人从222人增加到308人，增长了39%。

除了雅典之外，这些投资人最喜爱的投资地包括比雷埃夫斯(Piraeus)、帕里尼(Pallini)和波利伊洛斯(Polygyros)等地。这些主要地区的房地产市场因为黄金签证持有人而变得好转。

中国投资人直到2016年才开始入场。“对于中国人来说，25万欧元只能在北京或上海买个停车位。”一位在希腊生活近50年的华人老板认为，希腊房产价格低廉是最大的吸引点。在雅典当地还催生出不少旅行社，他们直接与希腊房地产经纪公司合作，安排投资者的看房游行程。

这些投资人的热情给希腊带来实实在在的好处。根据希腊银行的数据，2018年1月，外国资本流动飙升超过205%。这是过去几年里，涨幅最大的一次。其中，约有1至2亿欧元的外国资金在关注希腊的房产市场。

得到好处的希腊希望能将趋势持续下去。在今年7月时，希腊政府表示将要拓宽黄金签证的框架范围，以吸引更多投资者。据希腊媒体报道，希腊移民政策部正在考虑将在希腊投资股票或债券的投资人纳入到黄金签证的计划之中。

日本将迎“移民时代” 为你盘点赴日签证种类

为了借助外国优秀人才的力量提升日本的技术创业能力、强化日本的产业国际竞争力，近年来，日本不断放宽外国留学生、外国人的居留资格限制，并且立法为定居日本的外国人提供优待，努力打造一个尊重多文化的有活力的共生社会。

7月24日，日本政府首次召开了“关于接纳外国人才、共生的相关阁僚会议”，讨论了创设新居留资格、扩大引进外籍劳动者的法律与政策问题。在日本人口连续九年负增长、劳动力出现严重短缺、2020年东京奥运会筹备工作紧锣密鼓的背景下，日本政府开始着手立法，把公开引进外国劳动力正式提上了议事日程。

过去数年来，无论是广泛吸引外国人访日旅游，还是大胆开放引进外国劳动力，都是日本的成长战略不可缺少的重要部分。在OECD国家中，日本每年接受滞留一年以上外国移民人数达40万，仅次于德国、美国、英国，位列发达国家第四。随着日本政府开放门户进一步扩大引进外国劳动力，日本已从一个隐性的移民国家逐渐转变为更具国际化色彩的显形的移民国家。

继观光厅之后，日本拟增设入国管理厅

此前，日本政府为了实现“观光立国”的国策，于2008年10月设立了观光厅。2008年访日外国游客总数为835.1万人，至2017年访日外国游客总数达2869万人，是此前的3.4倍。今年上半年访日外国游客高达1589.89万人，维持整年人数将超过3000万人的态势。

现在，日本政府为了扩大外国人劳动者的接收规模，正在商讨创设新在留资格，并在7月24日就此内容召开内阁会议，决定把农业、建筑等就业领域向外籍劳动者开放，提出拟将现有入国管理局升级为“入国管理厅”，以此加强该部门应对管理能力。

当日参会人员除首相安倍、内阁官房长官菅义伟外，还有法务大臣上川阳子、经济产业相世耕弘成、厚生劳动相加藤胜信。会上提出了外籍劳动者滞留资格、接收办法及生活设施建设等综合政策方案。

从骨太方针概要看，在扩大引进外劳的新制度实施后，截至2030年，日本将引进50万以上外国劳动力，建筑业最多，在2025年前会接纳30万人。出于老龄化社会的客观需求，介护行业将成为引进外劳重点。日前，日本和越南达成协议，将在2020年夏天之前引进1万名劳工用于老人护理；今年5月，2名中国女性作为首批外国介护人员来到日本，成为日本在“对人服务”行业中首次引入的外国技能实习生。

在劳动力严重短缺的背景下，日本政府通过创设新的在留资格，事实上将开辟外国人在单纯劳动领域的就业之路。今后将讨论加强旨在防止对象行业种类和制度被不当利用的在留管理体制，计划在秋季的临时国会上提交《出入境管理及难民认定法》修正案。

在日本工作、学习，你的在留最长可达几年？有的朋友说是2年，也有的朋友说是5年。现在，最长可以达到10年了。2018年最新的在留制度似乎随着日本奥运会的脚步，向着积极的方向改变，下面就帮助大家解读一下最新的在留制度。

1、留学签证 留学是年轻人赴日的最主要手段之一。从2015年1月1日起，留学签证不再局限于高中、大学等高年龄留学生，包括小学、中学在内的适龄青少年一样可以申请留学签证赴日。留学签证实际上是“就劳不可”(不能从事正式工作)的签证类型。留学生可以申请“资格外活动许可”，每天进行4个小时以内的“资格外活动”(比如打工)。

2、技术·人文知识·国际业务 获得该签证资格则代表着留学生涯的结束，和日本人一样开始进入日本社会和日本职场，并且获得和日本人完全相同的薪资待遇以及工作环境等。

3、技能签证 技能签证获批的原因是你拥有某些“技能”，比如厨师、雕刻师、木匠等等可以完成普通人无法完成的工作的人群。到日本后马上即可工作并获得收入。需要有正规企业对你进行雇佣才能赴日。

4、研修、技能实习签证 通过在日本本土企业的实习、培训等手段，习得特定的工作技巧和工作方法。虽然可以通过工作现场实习获得报酬，但实习毕竟是实习，薪资水平是远低于正常水平的。

5、经营管理签证 外国人在日本开办公司就可以申请经营管理签证。在日本设立一家公司，进行相关经营活动，即可申请，获批成功率较高；在取得经营管理签证以后，即可取得日本的居留资格，进而实现永住或入籍日本的目标。还可以加入日本的社会保险体系，在医疗、生育、养老等方面享受到同等的国民待遇。获批后，通过实现一定金额的营业收入及税赋，即可获得续签，达到一定年限后即可申请永住或入籍。

6、高级人才签证 该签证类型是2015年创立的新种类签证，简单的说，高级人才签证就是等级更高的工作签证。该签证类型将过去的研究、教育、教授、高级人才等等高学历者赴日签证进行整合优化后的签证类型。

取得签证以后，即可取得日本的居留资格，进而实现移民日本的目标。还可加入日本的社会保险体系，在医疗、生育、养老等方面享受到同等的国民待遇。并且，最短在一年以内就可以取得日本永住签证。

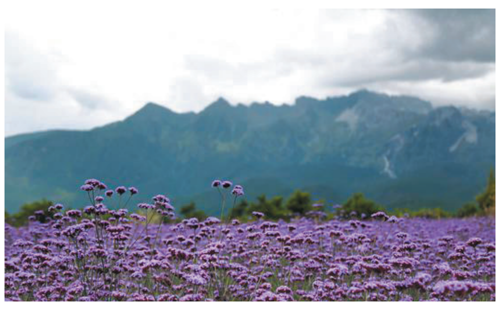
7、日本人配偶者签证 该签证指的是和日本国籍持有者结婚后可以申请的签证类型。没有职业种类限制，没有工作时间限制。权利方面，除了选举权和被选举权之外，拥有和日本人完全相同的社会权利。

8、永住者配偶签证 和日本人配偶者签证类似，需要和日本“永住者”结婚才能获得该签证。就职及权利方面，与日本人配偶者签证相同。

9、家族滞在签证 持有合法居留日本签证者的子女、配偶可申请此签证。既能和家人团聚，又可以申请“资格外活动许可”打一些零工贴补家用。和留学签证一样，只能进行规定时间内的打工(每天4小时以内)。

10、定住者签证 “定住签证”持有者多见于日本在华残留孤儿的中国籍亲属，以及和日本人再婚后，与前夫/前妻所生的子女等。就职及权利方面，与日本人配偶者签证相同。每3年需要到入国管理局更新一次签证期限，而且定住者签证持有者的依附人一旦丧失居留资格，定住者也将一同丧失居留资格。

11、永住者签证 上述所说的几种签证办理之后的最终目的，就是它啦。除去选举权和被选举权之外，拥有和日本人完全相同的社会权利和国民级待遇。



探究世界记忆遗产--东巴秘境风景文化

不知从什么时候起，丽江成为了人们向往的热门旅游目的地，而此时也披上了“艳遇之都”的面纱，面纱下是邂逅的一见钟情、善良人情、雪域风情。正如艳遇所写“艳遇是一场暴饮暴食的盛宴，在丽江，这场盛宴永不散场。”追溯到第一次来丽江还是大学时代，我想很多人都是在大学时代把丽江作为第一目的地的，即便这么多年过去了，对于丽江这座古城我仍旧保持着一颗初心。

你知道丽江很美，知道玉龙雪山很冷，但在山脚下，你知道隐藏着一个鲜为人知、美若仙境的大峡谷吗？这就是“裸美乐”，谷内自然景观壮丽秀美，植被丰富，冬暖夏凉的峡谷气候，加上优质的空气，裸美乐成为了离丽江市区最近的天然“洗肺氧吧”。远离喧嚣、清怡恬静的东巴秘境就在这片仙境中孕育而生。

东巴秘境位于丽江市玉龙县白沙镇裸美乐大峡谷，占地面积达800多亩，主要分为高原牧场、秘境花谷、森林沐歌和纳西传统村落木村村集四个功能区，是集自然景色观光、民族风情体验、户外娱乐和康养休闲为一体的丽江新旅游综合体。

天地人和，天人合一，是藏传佛教和道教的完美结合，走进东巴秘境的大门，看到的大门间悬挂的玛尼石是藏传佛教的神物，悬挂于天地之间，意为上顺天意，下接地气。天地人和是道家的思想，而天人合一也是纳西族推崇“和”文化象征的体现。

纳西族是我国西南一个具有悠久历史和灿烂文化的民族，人口有三十多万，主要居住在我们丽江市，拥有自己的语言和文字（东巴象形文字），还有自己的宗教信仰（东巴教）。纳西族素以能歌善舞著称，有话不说歌来代，舞蹈是纳西族生活的重要组成部分，虽然我听不懂其中的语言，却能感受到他们在歌舞中的欢快之情。

广场左右两边分布着两个螺旋形的山包叫螺旋山，海螺在藏传佛教中是吉祥八宝之一，举行法会的时候常吹鸣海螺，被视为名声远扬之象征，在纳西族的东巴教中，每逢举行祭祀等重大活动时也要吹海螺，是表示召唤神灵的意思。

来丽江听到最多的就是“东巴”，之前并不懂东巴之意，其实“东巴”是纳西族东巴教的宗教祭司，也是纳西族东巴文化和东巴象形文字的传承者，纳西族中最有地位和最受人们尊敬的人。东巴人称“智者”，他们上通天文下知地理，在30多万人口的纳西族里能称上“东巴”的却只有300多人。而在这里我们有幸看到纳西族的东巴进行祭祀祈福。

从闷热的北京到湿润的丽江，5小时的飞行，时空转换间在山涧溪畔寻找到那抹纯净的空气，几日的阴雨让丽江看似被洗礼般透彻，随着走入秘境深处，阳光开始温暖起来，八月中的裸美乐大峡谷满眼青翠，山间的各色花朵齐相争放，犹如身处高原的花圃之中，紫色的诗微草，在蓝天与雪山下，淡然而清雅。

云南十八怪“东巴文化名在外”，东巴象形文字创始于唐代至今有一千多年的历史，是目前世界上唯一活着的象形文字，是人类文字史上的“活化石”，东巴象形文字在2003年8月30日被列入了“世界记忆遗产”名录。这是玉龙雪山的象形文字，你们看出来了么？

“裸美乐”是纳西话“好大一个谷”的意思，峡谷全长7.5公里，宽的地方有几十米，窄的只有几米，这是一百万年前第四季冰川时期地球造山运动时塌陷的深谷，玻璃吊桥便就在这悬崖峭壁间悬架而起。净长137米、桥面宽4米，最大谷底落差97米的裸美乐峡谷玻璃吊桥，通体红色的桥身，犹如一道绚丽的霓虹，牵住了谷的两头，将之连接在峡谷之中。

在轻微摇摆中漫步桥上，玻璃桥面下的古道、飞瀑清晰可见，让人有种临空的交错之感。雨后的桥面虽湿滑，却干净的透彻，倒影中是这蓝天白云下映衬的红色大桥，拂面而来的是谷中湿润柔软的微风，惬意悠然。

随着人们对玻璃栈桥的欢迎度提升，现在很多景区都有属于自己的栈桥风景线，作为云南西北海拔最高的裸美乐峡谷玻璃吊桥，横跨海拔2880米的东巴大峡谷，更能承载16吨的卡车通行，这条看着就让人腿软的玻璃栈道给人带来的刺激震撼感可与举世闻名的美国大峡谷玻璃走廊“天空之路”媲美，穿行其中谷中美景尽收眼底。

桥上风景别致，谷底景色动人，茶马古道遗迹踏寻可见，裸美乐大峡谷的茶马古道，再现了千百年前纳西马帮的生活状态，千百年来，在这崎岖的茶马古道上每天都上演着马帮们风餐露宿的艰难行程，清悠的铃声和奔波的马蹄声打破了千百年山林深谷的宁静。

马铃声代表着马帮出门和回家，马锅头常年在外，马锅头的夫人则在家，听到马铃声仿佛听到了马锅头回家的消息，马锅头回到家后会将代表祈求平安、幸福归来的马铃挂在马铃架上，代表着此次平安归来，当二次出门也会挂个马铃在上面祈求平安。东巴许愿风铃书写着世界上唯一存在的东巴图画、象形文字，它的文字给人们带来吉祥，铃声则给我们带来了平安。

此时一阵清凉迎面而来，伴着水声来到从崖岭间奔腾而出的龙潭瀑布，泉水清莹，瀑布圣洁。

神秘的东巴文化与瑰丽的自然风光相结合，形成了独具特色和神秘氛围的东巴图腾林，图腾是原始人群体的亲属、祖先、保护神的标志和象征，是人类历史上最早的一种文化现象。

峡谷密林中可以看到上百尊的东巴图腾柱，根据纳西族先民朴素的人与自然的哲学理念，对人生和世界的精彩想象，严格按照先民天地神灵观念中阴阳相应、有黑就有白、有神就有鬼而列阵布的。是以弘扬和展现纳西族古老神奇的东巴文化，与大自然融为一体，再现人与自然和谐发展为主题的人文、自然旅游景观。

花开四季的山谷、横跨峡谷的栈桥、岩边马帮的客栈，幽静林中的院落，神秘稀有的文化，加之东巴秘境中湿润且清新的空气，让人对此无限的留恋。

带上手机去故宫感受样式雷

北京故宫是中国明清两代的皇家宫殿，旧称为紫禁城，位于北京中轴线的中心，是中国古代宫廷建筑之精华。7月的最后一个周末有幸参加一个样式雷古建筑主题的研学之旅去了故宫，听了特别棒的古建筑专家的讲解，在看这些古老的建筑感觉超棒！

样式雷家族是皇上的御用工匠，是古代顶级建筑师，可以说大半个北京城都是样式雷家族设计建造的，他们被认为是有思想和智慧的匠人，用精湛的技艺赢得了皇室乃至全社会的尊重。样式雷作为中国最后的哲匠世家，读懂他们，便解码了一部中国古代建筑史。

午门是故宫的正门。俗称五凤楼。东西北三面以12米高的城台相连，环抱一个方形广场。有1组建筑。正中有重楼，是9间面宽的大殿，重檐庑殿顶，在左右伸出两阙城墙上，建有联檐通脊的楼阁四座，明廊相连，两翼各有13间的殿屋向南伸出，四隅各有高大的角亭，辅翼着正殿。这组城上的建筑，是故宫宫殿群中第一高峰。午门是皇帝下诏书、下令出征的地方。它当中的正门平时只有皇帝才可以出入；皇帝大婚时皇后进一次；殿试考中状元、榜眼、探花的三人可以从此门走出一次。文武大臣进出东侧门，宗室王公出入西侧门。

在故宫的角楼有样式雷的展览，让我们能更深刻体会古代工匠的哲匠精神。哲与匠，代表了人类最重要的两种生命品质。哲代表思想，思想者务要致广大；匠代表劳作，劳作者务要尽精微。哲匠是对手艺人的最高礼赞。回望故宫这一片黄色琉璃瓦的屋顶，以及太和殿的巍峨，对旧时工匠的崇敬之心溢于言表。

在展厅里看到这个榫卯结构的模型，对于我们过去的这些哲匠们的崇拜之心也有如滔滔之江水 。。。。。。

“样式雷”最有特点的工艺是--烫样。 在施工前，作为建筑设计师的“样式雷”需要先进行平面设计，画出建筑草图——图样，图样上有亭台楼阁、庭院山石的样貌，也有桥梁、水流的布局走向。图样经皇帝认可后，为了让皇族更直观地看到建筑建成后的样子，样式雷家族成员按照实物比例缩小、用草纸板、秫秸、油蜡和木料等材料加工制作出建筑模型，因制作工艺中有一道熨烫工序，故称烫样，类似于现在的沙盘。

烫样的房顶结构能自由拆卸下来的，虽然烫样只是小样，但它像一个立体的微缩景观，极为精致，各种构件可以灵活拆卸使用。内部的彩画、家具样式、梁架结构也都按照精确地比例进行复制，使建筑布局和空间形象一目了然。这些部件既可以组合，又可以随意拆分，各个建筑细部有所联系又不失独立。

提到故宫，我想大家首先想到的二个词就是，红墙，黄瓦，是的，每每徜徉在故宫宽敞的广场，看着周边这些红的墙，黄的瓦，总是在想曾经这里发生的怎样的故事？

北京故宫的外廷以三大殿为主。太和殿，中和殿、保和殿都建在汉白玉砌成的8米高的工字形基台上，太和殿在最前，

太和殿，俗称“金銮殿”，明永乐十八年（1420年）建成，称奉天殿。嘉靖四十一年（1562年）改称皇极殿。清顺治二年（1645年）改今名。是皇帝举行大典的地方。自建成后屡遭焚毁，又多次重建，今天所见为清代康熙三十四年（1695年）重建后的形制。太和殿面阔11间，进深5间，建筑面积2377平方米，高26.92米，连同台基通高35.05米，为紫禁城内规模最大的殿宇，檐角安放10个走兽。明清两朝24个皇帝都在太和殿举行盛大典礼，如皇帝登极即位、皇帝大婚、册立皇后、命将出征，此外每年万寿节、元旦、冬至三大节，皇帝在此接受文武官员的朝贺，并向王公大臣赐宴。

交泰殿是单檐四角攒尖顶，铜镀金宝顶，黄琉璃瓦，双昂五踩斗栱，梁枋饰龙凤和玺彩画。

清朝，交泰殿是贮清二十五宝玺，每方玉玺都有专门的用途。每年正月，由钦天监选择吉日吉时，设案开封陈宝，皇帝来此拈香行礼。清世祖鉴于明代宦官专权的教训，规定宦官不得干预朝政，所立“内宫不许干预政事”的铁牌曾立于此殿。皇帝大婚时，皇后的册立、宝安设殿内左右案上。交泰殿每年春季祀先蚕，皇后先一日在此查阅采桑的用具。

在交泰殿内西次间一侧，设有一座自鸣钟，这是嘉庆三年制造的。皇宫里的时间都以此为准。自鸣钟高约6米，是中国现存最大的古代座钟。

千秋亭是由一座方亭各面出抱厦形成。四面抱厦前各出白玉石台阶，周围白玉石栏板，绿色琉璃槛墙饰黄色龟背锦花纹，槛窗和隔扇门的槅心都是三交六椀菱花，梁枋施龙锦彩画。重檐攒尖顶，下层檐施单昂三踩斗栱，下层檐以上改成圆形，施单昂五踩斗栱。圆攒尖顶，明称“一把伞”式，黄琉璃竹节瓦。宝顶是由彩色琉璃宝瓶承托鎏金华盖组合成的。上圆下方的屋顶取仿“天圆地方”的古明堂形制。亭内天花板绘双凤，藻井内置贴金雕盘龙，口衔宝珠。两亭色彩绚丽，造型精美，可称是宫中亭子之最。

还在故宫看到一些有意思的，比如这个像烟囱一样的，好像和故宫的整体就不太一样，听说它的作用类似于沈阳故宫的那些烟囱，原来是皇宫里采暖用的。

欢迎山东荷泽市优秀企业家代表团来莱斯大学培训

美南山东同乡会设欢迎宴款待家乡嘉宾

本报记者秦鸿钧摄

「美南山东同乡会」前会长马欣（左二）至各桌敬酒。

「美南山东同乡会」副会长宋天儒（左一）前来各桌敬酒。（左二）为「美南山东商会」会长修宗明。

「美南山东同乡会」会长房文清（中）与前来敬酒的代表团成员合影。

代表团团员们各自起立作自我介绍。

「美南山东同乡会」副会长徐洪滨（左一）至各桌敬酒。

「美南山东同乡会」会长房文清（左）与山东「孔子酒业」董事长马俊（右）合影。

「美南山东同乡会」会长房文清（右）与访问团团员「荷泽天鸿果蔬股份有限公司」总经理陈春雷（左）合影。

位于「锦江酒家」的欢迎宴现场。