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China's economy beats forecasts with 4.5% Q3 growth on export boom

Exports are carrying the economy while home demand stays weak.

By **Manasee Kurlekar** | October 19, 2026



China's GDP expanded 4.5% in July-September from a year earlier, up from 4.3% in Q2 and ahead of most forecasts. Exports are carrying the economy while home demand stays weak.

AI-driven tech exports have surged. Tech shipments have boomed on the back of AI, and China is on course to top last year's record \$1.2 trillion trade surplus, with \$938 billion already banked

through September.

China is on track to beat last year's record \$1.2 trillion trade surplus, with exports up 36% last month and a \$938 billion surplus already logged for January–September.

However, growth is held back by soft domestic demand and a sagging property market. That gap between strong exports and weak local demand is now the central question for Beijing and its trading partners. Retail sales rose just 1.1% in September.

Beijing's 2026 target is 4.5–5% growth, among the slowest in decades outside the pandemic.

Read online: <https://worldbusinesswatch.com/news/46/285/chinas-economy-beats-forecasts-with-4-5-q3-growth-on-export-boom.html>

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