# China Weekly Update

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February 14, 2010

# This week's topic

- Money
  - History and controversy of Chinese currency
- Ways to spend money
  - History and current status of Chinese fashion industry

# History of Chinese currency



貝(Shell)/Bei



青銅(Bronze)/Chin Ton 白銀(Silver)/Bai Yin 黄金(Gold)/Huan Gin

交子(Banknote)/ Giao zh



# Today's banknote: Ren Min Bi



# Values of 人民币 over the history

2005 8.11/ USD, peg lifted, allowed a 0.3% floating band

2008 RMB/ USD rose to 6.9920



1948 2.46/

USD





1994 8.62/

**USD** 









1970 1.5/ USD 1997-2005 8.67/USD 2007 band widened to 0.5%

# Today's RMB

- Issued by People's Bank of China
- Today's quote: 6.82940 USD/RMB
- Often criticized as being vastly undervalued
  - Who is to benefit from such undervaluation?
- Generally convertible on current account, but not on capital account
  - New regulations are loosening on this front
- Due to its special property and policy, the policy tool of Chinese Central Bank is quite different from that of Federal Reserve

# Undervaluation argument

Country	Big Mac Moto		Implied PPI	PToday's Exchange Rate	Over(+) / Under(-)
	in Local Currency	in US dollars		I USD =	Valuation against the USD, % ++
United States	\$ 3.57	3.5700		1.0000	
Britain	£ 2.29	3.5944	0.64	0.6371	0.4552
Canada	C\$ 3.89	3.7019	1.09	1.0508	3.7305
China	Yuan 12.5	1.8288	3.50	<u>6.8351</u>	-48.7937
Euro area	€ 3.31	4.5108	0.93	0.7338	26.7375
Hong Kong	HK\$ 13.3	1.7113	3.73	7.7717	-52.0054
Japan	¥ 320	3.5562	89.6	89.9832	-0.4259
South Korea	Won 3400	2.9471	952	1153.67	-17.4807
Taiwan	NT\$ 75.0	2.3296	21.0	32.1950	-34.7725

#### Federal Reserve

- Fed Funds Rate
- Discount Window
- Member bank deposit and interest
- Capital Ratio
- Liquidity Ratio
- Jawbone
- Consequences: smooth business cycles through interest rate control

#### People's Bank of China

- Reserve Requirement (Liquidity Ratio)
  - 16.5% for major banks
  - 14.5% for small banks
  - Compared to 10% in U.S.
- Why?
  - Change in interest rate may affect valuation of previous loans and interest payments
  - Raise interest rate increases pressure on currency valuation

# Comparison on how central banks control economy

# On-Trip Financial Advice

Don't spend all of your RMB! They WILL appreciate

## Now that You Have Made Money...

# It's time to hit the shops...and Trend can tell you what's HOT and what NOT!



Mei Li 美麗 Beautiful

"That's too expensive": Thai Kwui La

"How Cute":Thai Court (do not pronounce last t) Ai La



# History of Fashion in China

- During the Sui Dynasty, in the 500's AD, the emperor decided that all poor people had to wear blue or black clothes, and only the rich could wear color
- In the Sung Dynasty, about 1100 AD, the emperor ordered women to bind their feet as a symbol of fashion
- In the Tang Dynasty, the decoration of the belt determined rank and social status

### Fashion from the Streets...

### Li Ning

- A major supplier of sports and shoe goods;
   founded by an Olympic Gymnast
- Adidas and Nike are main competition
- Contracts with Baron Davis of the LA Clippers and Shaquille O'Neill of the

Cleveland Cavaliers



# to the Runways...

- According to the China Fashion Association, there are now more than 100,000 people working in China's fashion design industry.
- Since its debut in 1997, China Fashion Week has held more than 440 fashion shows, 54 design contests and 11 China Fashion Award Festivals.





## Fashion Do's...







- Omega, Luis Vuitton, Lancome, and Zara ranked among the most popular brands of the middle class (Newsweek)
- Young girls aged 18-30 typically wear clothing with brighter colors and inspired by Japanese and Taiwanese styles
- Suits are common for business professionals
- "Tanguan" worn by small business owners

### Fashion Don'ts...

- The general manager of Silk Street
  Market, one of Beijing's most popular
  clothing markets, has been arrested for
  allegedly selling counterfeit goods with
  registered trademarks including Louis
  Vuitton bags (valued at up to \$58,000)
- In 2008, there was work to reform the underground market and make a place to buy Chinese specialties

# Where To Shop?

### **Beijing:**

- Silk Market
- Jimsong Market (flea market)
- Shanghai Xu (custom made clothing in 24 hours)

### Shanghai

- Song Fong Maison de The (tea shop)
- Platane (funky Chinese gifts)
- Madame Mao's Dowry (everything Mao as well as porcelain)
- Shanghai Tang (Chinese inspired clothing)