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Article

# Research on the Impact of New Quality Productive Forces on the High-Quality Development of Foreign Trade

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**Abstract:** Against the backdrop of profound adjustments in the global trade landscape, the spread of protectionism, and the reality that China's foreign trade is "large but not strong", new quality productive forces have emerged as the core driving force for promoting high-quality development in foreign trade. Based on the intrinsic theoretical logic linking new quality productive forces and high-quality foreign trade development, this paper addresses China's current foreign trade challenges—including insufficient technological innovation, lagging industrial restructuring, and a deteriorating international environment—by This study systematically analyzes the mechanism through which new quality productive forces empower high-quality foreign trade development across three dimensions: digital factor-driven growth, green transition orientation, and dual-circulation alignment. It proposes targeted practical strategies to strengthen technological innovation, deepen green and low-carbon transformation, and expand the space for dual-circulation linkage. By implementing multidimensional and coordinated strategies, the foundation for cultivating new quality productive forces will be solidified, facilitating the transition of foreign trade from scale advantages to quality advantages.

**Keywords:** new quality productive forces; foreign trade; high-quality development

## 1. Introduction

Against the backdrop of accelerating global economic integration, foreign trade serves as a key engine for national economic growth. Its high-quality development is crucial for enhancing a nation's overall economic strength and international competitiveness. While navigating complex domestic and international economic landscapes and advancing China's modernization through high-quality economic development, the issue of high-quality growth in foreign trade has emerged as a critical concern. As early as April 2013, Xi Jinping emphasized during a symposium with Chinese and foreign business representatives attending the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference that year: "It is necessary to actively promote the establishment of a balanced, mutually beneficial and development-oriented multilateral economic and trade system" [1]. During the Fifth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, while elaborating that "open development focuses on resolving the issue of internal and external linkages in development", it proposed "improving the regional layout of opening up, the layout of foreign trade, and the layout of investment to form a new system of opening up and develop a higher-level open economy". This signifies that China will break down internal and external barriers to development through a more systematic layout and comprehensive linkage, forming an open trade pattern. In November 2021, the Ministry of Commerce issued the "High-Quality Development Plan for Foreign

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Trade during the 14th Five-Year Plan Period", emphasizing that foreign trade is a vital component of China's open economy and a key driver of national economic development, serving as a pivotal hub for facilitating the dual circulation of domestic and international markets [2]. In recent years, the global trade landscape has undergone significant adjustments, with unilateralism and protectionism continuing to gain momentum. Although China's foreign trade has achieved a massive scale, the current situation of being "large but not strong" still urgently needs to be changed [3]. As an advanced form of productive forces led by scientific and technological innovation and oriented towards high-quality development, new quality productive forces serve as a key means to address this dilemma, providing the core driving force for the transition of foreign trade from a "scale advantage" to a "quality advantage". In September 2023, during his inspection tour of Heilongjiang Province, General Secretary Xi Jinping first introduced the concept of "new quality productive forces". Xi Jinping emphasized the need to integrate scientific and technological innovation resources, lead the development of strategic emerging industries and future industries, and accelerate the formation of new quality productive forces. As an advanced productive force aligned with the new development philosophy, new-quality productive forces embody characteristics such as innovation, efficiency, and sustainability. By driving technological innovation, optimizing factor allocation, and promoting industrial upgrading, they inject fresh momentum into the high-quality development of China's foreign trade, helping the country secure a more advantageous position in global trade competition.

As an advanced form of productive forces characterized by revolutionary technological breakthroughs, innovative allocation of production factors, and profound industrial transformation and upgrading, new-quality productive forces share a profound intrinsic connection and theoretical logic with high-quality foreign trade development. Academic consensus holds that the enabling effects of new-quality productivity on high-quality foreign trade development are primarily realized through multiple mechanisms: First, Qiu Bin and Yu Wei (2024) propose that the disruptive innovation-driven mechanism creates new products and industries through technological innovation, enhancing the added value and core competitiveness of export goods via technology spillover effects [4]; Second, Wang Jian (2024) propose that the mechanism of optimized factor allocation injects new momentum into foreign trade development by expanding the scope of advanced factors, elevating factor quality levels, and strengthening data factor integration [5]; Third, Xue Wenxia and Song Donglin (2025) suggest that the industrial structure upgrading mechanism drives the transformation of traditional industries and the expansion of emerging and future industries, thereby optimizing the foreign trade industrial ecosystem [6]. Empirical research by Kong Lin, Liu Xinyu et al. (2024), based on provincial panel data, demonstrates that new quality productive forces significantly promote the development of high-quality foreign trade. This conclusion remains valid after robustness tests and endogeneity analysis [7]. Simultaneously, a bidirectional mutually reinforcing relationship exists between the two: high-quality foreign trade development also fosters the cultivation of new quality productive forces. Against the backdrop of China's regional economic development imbalances, the enabling effect of new quality productive forces on the high-quality foreign trade development exhibits pronounced regional heterogeneity. Gao Zhenjuan and Liu Lu, adopting a coupling coordination perspective, found that the coupling coordination degree between China's digital new quality productive forces and high-quality foreign trade development shows a slow upward trend. Throughout the sample period, it remained at a moderately coordinated stage, with a regional pattern of "eastern regions leading, central, western, and northeastern regions following" [8]. At the local level, distinct regional challenges emerge: Tongjiang City's high-quality foreign trade development is constrained by issues such as an irrational trade structure and insufficient circulation efficiency [9]. Hunan Province grapples with structural contradictions, including weak technological innovation, insufficient depth of digital-physical integration, lagging industrial chain coordination mechanisms, and shortages of high-caliber talent reserves [10]. While Liaoning's private foreign trade enterprises confront challenges such as small scale, inadequate innovation capacity, and lagging outward-oriented economic development [11]. Eastern Guangdong possesses multiple advantages, including geographical location and policy environment, yet still requires leveraging new quality productive forces to overcome development bottlenecks [12]. Guangzhou's China-Europe freight trains, impacted by external factors like the "Red Sea crisis", urgently need new quality productive forces to provide technological support

and risk response capabilities [13].

Academic research has explored the impact of new quality productive forces on foreign trade development from various perspectives. This paper will examine the intrinsic logic linking new quality productive forces to high-quality foreign trade development. Considering the practical challenges in China's foreign trade, it analyzes the core pathways and mechanisms through which new quality productive forces empower high-quality foreign trade development from three dimensions: digital factor-driven growth, green transition orientation, and dual-circulation alignment. systematically dissect the core pathways and operational mechanisms through which new-quality productive forces empower high-quality foreign trade development. It will propose targeted practical strategies to strengthen technological innovation, deepen green transformation, and expand the synergistic space of the dual circulation, providing theoretical reference and practical guidance for resolving China's foreign trade dilemma of being "large but not strong" and advancing its open economy to higher levels.

## 2. Current Status and Challenges in China's Foreign Trade Development

China's foreign trade has maintained steady growth momentum, with trade volume repeatedly hitting new highs, trade structure continuously optimized and upgraded, trade partners distributed more evenly, and its global trade standing significantly enhanced. In 2024, China's total import and export value of goods reached 43.85 trillion yuan, marking a 5% year-on-year increase [14], maintaining its position as the world's largest goods trading nation for consecutive years. Alongside this expansion in scale, trade quality has shown positive trends, with the proportion of high-value-added product exports steadily increasing. A pattern of coordinated development between services trade and goods trade has begun to take shape. China's foreign trade development is transitioning from a phase of high-speed growth to one of high-quality development, creating favorable conditions for the deep integration of new productive forces with the trade system.

### *2.1. Deteriorating International Trade Environment*

Despite significant achievements in China's foreign trade development, deep-seated structural contradictions and external constraints persist. According to data released by the General Administration of Customs, Figure 1 shows the year-on-year growth percentage of China's import and export commodities from 2015 to 2024. In 2022, the growth rates of the three major indicators—imports, exports, and total trade—declined significantly compared to 2021. Total trade grew by 7.6%, exports increased by 10.3%, and imports rose by 4.2%, representing decreases of 12.6, 9.2, and 16.9 percentage points respectively from the previous year. Amid a slowing global economic recovery, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported that global inflationary pressures surged to a decade-high in 2022. Energy prices experienced sharp volatility due to geopolitical conflicts, while major economies like the US and Europe implemented aggressive interest rate hikes to curb inflation. These measures directly suppressed consumption and investment demand, weakening the momentum of global trade growth. In 2023, China's foreign trade growth faced further pressure, with imports and exports rising only marginally by 0.21%. Exports grew by 0.6%, while imports declined by 0.3% year-on-year, entering a "low growth, near-stagnation" phase. Internationally, rising trade protectionism combined with geopolitical conflicts disrupting global industrial and supply chains led to a significant contraction in demand for Chinese exports. Domestically, economic restructuring and transformation entered a critical phase. Traditional labor-intensive industries faced dual pressures from overcapacity and intensified international competition. While emerging sectors like new energy and high-end manufacturing grew rapidly, they had yet to generate sufficient trade growth momentum in the short term. Simultaneously, shifts in domestic demand structure led to divergent import patterns. Demand for high-end technologies and critical components continued to grow, while imports of bulk commodities and mid-to-low-end consumer goods declined, ultimately dragging overall imports into negative growth. Green trade barriers and carbon border adjustment mechanisms implemented by some countries [15] pose challenges to the export competitiveness of China's traditional energy-intensive products.

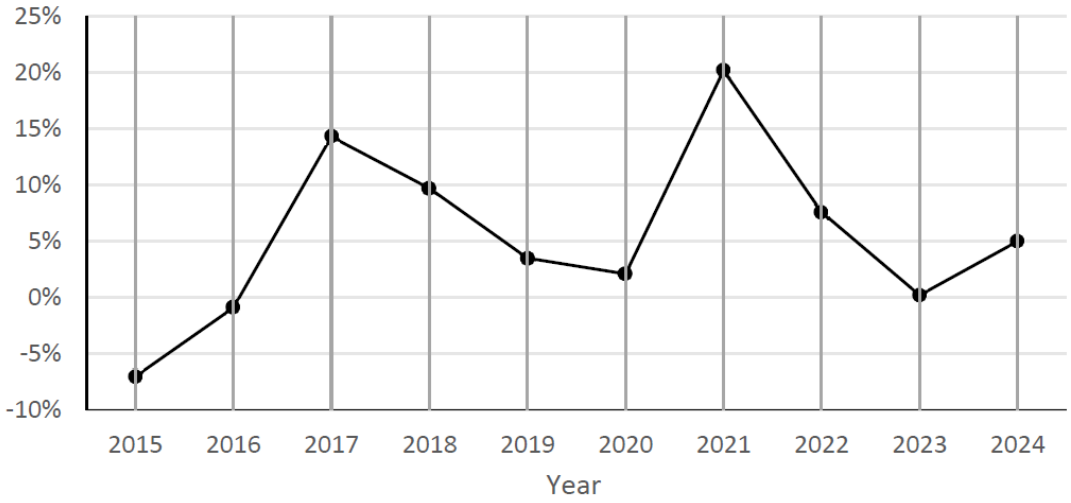


**Figure 1.** Year-on-Year Percentage Growth of China's Import and Export Commodities, 2015–2024.

*2.2. Insufficient Technological Innovation Capabilities*

China's exports of high-tech products still face critical bottlenecks in key technological segments. Data indicates that processing trade continues to account for over 35% of total exports [16], while technology-intensive products remain reliant on imported core technologies. This dependency has kept export profit margins persistently low, directly limiting the potential for enhancing the value-added of exported goods. Insufficient core technological innovation capacity directly weakens China's bargaining power within the global value chain. Most enterprises remain confined to contract manufacturing stages, struggling to capture profits from high-value-added segments like R&D design and brand marketing. Lagging development of independent brands hinders the expansion of international market share. This technology-dependent development model not only erodes the international competitiveness of export products but also exposes deep-seated structural contradictions within China's industrial technology system.

*2.3. Challenges in Industrial Structure Transformation*

The coexistence of lagging transformation in traditional industries and insufficient cultivation of emerging industries has resulted in a pronounced "dual high" characteristic in the export product structure: an excessively high proportion of traditional industries and an overly large share of low-value-added exports. As shown in the table of major export commodities from 2021 to 2025 (Table 1), traditional low-value-added goods exhibit a persistent "path dependency" that is difficult to overcome. Traditional low-value-added goods maintained relatively high export values from 2021 to 2024, though their year-on-year growth rates fluctuated significantly. For instance, textile yarns, fabrics, and related products saw a 12.2% year-on-year decline in 2021 but grew by 7.0% in 2024, while apparel and clothing accessories experienced a 2.8% year-on-year decrease in 2023. Although the share of such goods has been declining annually, they remain crucial pillars for employment and economic activity in certain regions. Relying on mature supporting industrial chains, they are difficult to fully replace by emerging industries in the short term, creating a "difficult exit" situation. Simultaneously, traditional export industries face developmental lag issues. For example, traditional spinning involves lengthy processes, high time consumption, high energy consumption per unit, poor product consistency, and significant difficulties in raw material and product recycling hindering industrial transformation [17]. For high-value-added goods, electromechanical product exports lead in value and demonstrate stable growth, reaching 1,512,456,809 million yuan in 2024. Exports from January to September 2025 already reached 490,396,718 million yuan, an 8% year-on-year increase. Although electromechanical products account for a larger share, they remain dominated by mid-to-low-end components internally. Self-sufficiency rates for core components like high-end chips and precision molds remain insufficient, and exports of products such as integrated circuits still focus primarily on mid-to-low-end segments, with significant constraints in high-end fields due to technological blockades. Electric

passenger vehicles have experienced rapid growth, with year-on-year growth rates of 213.2%, 133.2%, and 80.2% from 2021 to 2023. Despite this swift expansion, such emerging categories still account for a relatively small share of the overall market and struggle to fill the gap left by the optimization of traditional goods. Furthermore, the escalating anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigations and technical barriers imposed by Europe and the United States on new energy vehicles, photovoltaic products, and other goods impose substantial certification costs on enterprises. Insufficient coverage of green certifications constrains the expansion into high-end markets.

**Table 1.** Value of Major Chinese Export Commodities, 2021–2025.

| | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 (January–September Cumulative) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Product Name** | **Amount** | **Cumulative Year-on-Year Change ±%** | **Amount** | **Cumulative Year-on-Year Change ±%** | **Amount** | **Cumulative Year-on-Year Change ±%** | **Amount** | **Cumulative Year-on-Year Change ±%** | **Amount** | **Cumulative Change from Same Period Last Year ±%** |
| Agricultural Products | 54,499,831 | 3.4 | 65,596,049 | 20.4 | 69,586,095 | 6.3 | 73,297,460 | 5.3 | 53450153 | 2.3 |
| Refined Oil Products | 20,992,687 | 18.0 | 32,370,911 | 53.9 | 34,000,866 | 5.4 | 29,797,596 | −12.4 | 20212592 | −13.9 |
| Medicinal Materials and Pharmaceuticals | 32,055,382 | 101.2 | 16,779,906 | −47.7 | 16,373,878 | −31.1 | 17,956,242 | 9.8 | 14709475 | 11.7 |
| Textile Raw Materials | 1,920,082 | 23.3 | 2,598,077 | 35.3 | 2,639,250 | 1.3 | 2,724,706 | 3.3 | 1914957 | 9.7 |
| Textile yarn, fabrics, and related products | 93,842,513 | −12.2 | 98,358,454 | 4.9 | 94,540,911 | −3.1 | 101,018,119 | 7.0 | 76,414,643 | 3.0 |
| Apparel and clothing accessories | 109,999,809 | 15.6 | 117,127,900 | 6.7 | 112,062,133 | −2.8 | 113,258,418 | 1.4 | 826849 33 | −1.6 |
| Steel | 52,889,836 | 67.9 | 64,266,332 | 22.3 | 59,291,326 | −3.4 | 59,501,294 | 0.4 | 12074707 75 | 9.6 |
| Electromechanical Products | 1,282,861,377 | 20.4 | 1,369,731,096 | 7.0 | 1,391,958,950 | 2.9 | 1,512,456,809 | 8.7 | 490396718 | 8.0 |
| High-tech products | 632,660,004 | 17.9 | 633,911,997 | 0.3 | 592,789,130 | −5.8 | 627,922,015 | 6.0 | 33,968,879 | 33.1 |
| Electric passenger vehicles | 7,015,752 | 213.2 | 16,355,548 | 133.2 | 29,464,912 | 80.2 | 33,300,230 | 13.0 | 43,975,635 | −0.3 |
| Cultural Products | 89,958,506 | 33.9 | 109,493,071 | 11.4 | 101,958,352 | −3.7 | 96,153,774 | −5.5 | 711,976,630 | −0.7 |

## 3. Impact of New Quality Productive Forces on the High-Quality Development of China's Foreign Trade

### *3.1. Digital Factor-Driven*

General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out: "In the digital economy era, data has become a new factor of production and an important productive force [18]. With the development of new productive forces, data has emerged as a key driver in restructuring the foreign trade production system. As a new type of production factor, data enables precise matching of supply and demand through cross-border data flow and intelligent analysis. The deep application of digital technology is reshaping the underlying logic and operational models of international trade, significantly enhancing the operational efficiency of foreign trade. In terms of synergistic optimization between the production and market ends, digital technology builds precise market perception networks, driving foreign trade enterprises to transition from traditional experience-based decision-making to data-driven approaches. Cross-border settlement processes are cumbersome, involving multiple stages and institutions, resulting in prolonged settlement times, high costs, and vulnerability to exchange rate fluctuations. Simultaneously, slow customer service response times fail to meet client needs promptly, negatively impacting customer experience. The application of digital technology presents new opportunities for reshaping the trade service chain. Blockchain technology, with its decentralized, immutable, and traceable characteristics, offers safer and more efficient solutions for cross-border settlements. Through blockchain technology, letter of credit processing time has been drastically reduced from the traditional 72 h to just 2 h, significantly enhancing settlement efficiency and lowering transaction costs. Take China's "Single Window" system as an example: by integrating data resources from 16 departments including customs, taxation, and foreign exchange, it has shortened export clearance time to 1.2 h and compressed import clearance to under 2 h [19], offering a Chinese paradigm for digital solutions in global trade governance. Digital technology is reshaping the underlying operational rules of international trade through an efficiency revolution, injecting sustained momentum into the high-quality development of foreign trade.

### *3.2. Green Transition Orientation*

Against the backdrop of accelerating global environmental governance, the green trade rules system is gradually maturing, exerting profound influence on the international trade landscape. As the world's largest goods trading nation, China faces a profound industrial transformation driven by green trade rules, compelling foreign trade enterprises to adopt green transformation as a core strategy. This necessitates building sustainable development models compliant with international standards across production, distribution, and trade. Xi Jinping emphasized that "new quality productive forces are inherently green productive forces". This signifies that new quality productive forces can enhance the sustainability of high-quality development and common prosperity through the promotion and application of green technologies, the green transformation of development models, and the vigorous development of green energy, green services, and low-carbon industries [20]. Green production practices have become a key pathway for enterprises to respond to policy directives. By implementing clean production technologies, utilizing renewable energy, and promoting circular economy models, enterprises can significantly reduce energy consumption per unit of product and pollutant emission intensity. This synergy between economic and environmental benefits drives more enterprises to proactively advance green technological upgrades, forming a virtuous cycle of "environmental investment – quality enhancement–market expansion".

Green supply chain transformation represents a systematic endeavor for achieving compliance upgrades in foreign trade. Building green supply chains requires enterprises to establish comprehensive environmental management systems spanning the entire chain from raw material procurement to end-consumer use. Standardized practices in supplier admission criteria, logistics carbon footprint tracking, and waste recycling enable holistic environmental risk control throughout the process. In practice, leading foreign trade enterprises have pioneered supplier environmental performance evaluation mechanisms, incorporating metrics like carbon intensity and waste recycling rates into cooperation agreements to drive green transformation across the industrial chain. By exporting standards, these companies enhance their bargaining power within international

supply chains, laying an institutional foundation for high-quality foreign trade development.

### *3.3. Adapting to the Dual Circulation Framework*

The dual-circulation framework provides systematic institutional support for China's foreign trade development. By reinforcing the central role of the domestic circulation and establishing a mutually reinforcing mechanism between domestic and international circulations, it significantly expands the strategic depth of foreign trade development. On the demand side, the dual-circulation strategy generates technological spillover effects for export industries by expanding domestic demand scale and optimizing consumption structure. The super-large market advantage formed under the dual circulation framework enhances China's capacity to attract foreign investment and allocate global resources. It builds a stable industrial and supply chain system for foreign trade enterprises, effectively reducing exposure to risks caused by external environment fluctuations.

On the supply side, new productive forces drive coordinated development of domestic and international markets through technological innovation and industrial transformation. The deep application of digital technology, artificial intelligence, and other new productive forces propels traditional manufacturing toward smart manufacturing. This not only meets domestic consumers' demand for high-quality goods but also enhances the innovation content of export products through technological spillovers. Industries like smart home appliances and new energy vehicles, while meeting domestic consumption upgrades, rapidly penetrate international markets through technological leadership, forming a virtuous cycle between domestic and international demand. This synergy extends beyond products to service trade, where the flourishing of new formats like digital services and cross-border finance effectively connects domestic service supply with global demand, driving continuous optimization of trade structure.

## 4. Strategies for New Quality Productive Forces to Promote High-Quality Development of China's Foreign Trade

### *4.1. Promoting Science and Technology Innovation as a Driving Force to Strengthen the Foundational Elements of New Quality Productive Forces*

Advancing high-quality development in foreign trade through technological innovation requires policy support and international cooperation. Governments should establish mechanisms linking basic research with industrial applications, utilizing policy tools such as government-guided funds and tax incentives to encourage enterprises to transform research outcomes into implementable technical solutions, thereby deepening the integration of industry, academia, research, and application. Leveraging industry-leading enterprises to establish technology conversion centers facilitates the rapid industrialization of technological achievements from universities and research institutions, thereby enhancing China's participation and influence in the mid-to-high-end segments of the global value chain. International cooperation and exchange serve as vital supports for broadening technological horizons and accelerating innovation processes. China's engagement in open innovation activities—such as participating in international technical standard-setting and multinational joint R&D—enables collaborative breakthroughs in key technologies through the establishment of bilateral or multilateral technology transfer platforms. Throughout this process, emphasis should be placed on introducing, digesting, absorbing, and re-innovating—combining foreign advanced technologies with domestic industrial practices to generate innovative outcomes with independent intellectual property rights. Simultaneously, Meanwhile, cooperation with international organizations in fields such as technology transfer and talent cultivation should be deepened. By leveraging mechanisms like the Belt and Road Initiative, the orderly flow of innovation factors on a global scale should be promoted. This open innovation model not only enhances China's technological capabilities but also promotes efficiency gains across global industrial chains through knowledge spillover effects, creating a win-win landscape for high-quality foreign trade development.

### *4.2. Deepening Green and Low-Carbon Transformation to Build a Sustainable Trade System*

To achieve the green transformation and sustainable development of foreign trade, governments and market

entities must collaboratively advance green reforms. Governments should define green product standards based on international norms and domestic industrial characteristics, establishing a quantitative indicator system covering resource consumption, carbon emissions, and pollution control. By issuing green trade guidelines and implementing green product certification systems, enterprises can be guided to optimize production processes and product structures. Simultaneously, governments should encourage enterprises to adopt green production technologies. To reduce corporate technological transformation costs, establish dedicated funds for green technology R&D and implement tiered tax reduction policies. Prioritize support for technological innovation in clean production, low-carbon processes, and circular economy sectors to drive traditional manufacturing toward green manufacturing systems. For building green supply chains, enterprises must restructure supply chain systems based on full life-cycle management principles, establishing environmental impact assessment mechanisms across all stages from raw material procurement and production processing to logistics and transportation. Enhance supply chain transparency through digital technologies to ensure compliance with environmental requirements at every stage. Promote collaborative governance across the supply chain by establishing green access standards for suppliers and implementing tiered supplier management based on environmental performance. Governments can establish green supply chain certification systems, offering trade facilitation incentives to compliant enterprises. This fosters network effects in green supply chains, ultimately achieving comprehensive green restructuring of foreign trade—from production to distribution.

### *4.3. Expanding Synergies Between Dual Circulation to Reshape the Global Value Chain Landscape*

Against the backdrop of profound global economic adjustments and the ongoing advancement of domestic supply-side structural reforms, the dual-circulation framework provides a new strategic fulcrum for China's high-quality foreign trade development. As the core driver of economic system upgrading, the role of new-quality productive forces requires synergistic effects with trade structure optimization. In this process, expanding the domestic market, enhancing the value-added of export products, and deepening international cooperation form a three-pronged implementation pathway, collectively propelling the trade system toward higher-level evolution.

Fully unleashing domestic demand and enhancing the self-reliance and controllability of the industrial system are key to reducing dependence on external markets. Implementing strategies to expand domestic demand and cultivating new growth points in emerging fields like the digital economy and green economy can effectively activate consumption potential and investment vitality. At the policy level, efforts should focus on improving the market environment. Measures such as tax and fee reductions and optimizing the business environment should stimulate the innovative vitality of market entities, while regional coordinated development should narrow the consumption gap between urban and rural areas. At the industrial level, accelerating breakthroughs in key core technologies and promoting the digital and intelligent transformation of strategic emerging industries and traditional sectors are essential to form internationally competitive industrial clusters. A thriving domestic market will drive improvements in the quality of the supply system, providing technological reserves and production capacity support for expanding external markets, thereby achieving a virtuous cycle where "domestic circulation attracts global resources and factors". Deepening international trade cooperation should prioritize institutional opening-up and rule alignment. By actively participating in the formulation of international economic and trade rules, advancing the negotiation and implementation of free trade agreements, and reducing institutional transaction costs, China can strengthen its role in shaping the global economic landscape. At the regional cooperation level, platforms such as cross-border economic cooperation zones and border trade pilot zones can be leveraged to explore innovative models for deepening industrial chain integration and facilitating the cross-border flow of factors. Actively participating in the restructuring of global supply chains and the design of digital trade rules will enhance China's initiative in the global value chain division of labor. This multi-tiered, broad-based cooperation network not only expands trade development space but also creates favorable conditions for the cross-border flow and collaborative innovation of new productive forces.

## 5. Conclusions and Outlook

This paper examines the impact of new-quality productive forces on China's high-quality foreign trade development. By analyzing their intrinsic theoretical logic, it reveals that new-quality productive forces—centered on technological breakthroughs, optimized factor allocation, and industrial upgrading—form a mutually reinforcing relationship with high-quality foreign trade through three mechanisms: disruptive innovation, factor allocation, and industrial upgrading. Considering the realities of China's foreign trade development, this study identifies insufficient technological innovation, difficulties in industrial restructuring, and a deteriorating international trade environment as the primary bottlenecks. It analyzes the enabling pathways of new-quality productive forces from three dimensions: the efficiency revolution driven by digital factors, compliance upgrades guided by green transformation, and the expansion of space through dual-circulation adaptation. Ultimately, it proposes practical strategies to strengthen scientific and technological innovation, deepen green transformation, and expand the linkage between the dual circulation, providing theoretical and practical support for addressing the challenge of China's foreign trade being "large but not strong".

Through systematic advancement in cultivating domestic demand, upgrading export structures, and deepening international cooperation, establishing an effective new pattern where domestic and international dual circulation mutually reinforce each other requires not only top-level policy design and institutional safeguards but also proactive engagement by market entities in seizing dual opportunities from technological transformation and market shifts. This approach provides more precise support for high-quality foreign trade development.

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Not applicable.

## Data Availability Statement

Not applicable.

## Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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