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Crews still searching for bodies a week after fire destroys California town

PARADISE, Calif. (Reuters) - Firefighting crews made progress against the deadliest wildfire in California history on Thursday amid concerns that the death toll of 56 would rise as search teams work their way through the burned-out town of Paradise in the state's north.

An anthropologist (R) examines the remains of a dog found in a bathtub in a home destroyed by the Camp Fire in Paradise, California, U.S., November 14, 2018. REUTERS/Terray Sylvester

A week after the Camp Fire roared through Paradise, more than 9,000 personnel from many U.S. states are fighting the blaze, as well as the Woolsey Fire hundreds of miles to the south.

Authorities attributed the high number of casualties to the staggering speed with which the wind-driven flames incinerated Paradise. Nearly 8,700 homes were destroyed and 15,500 buildings threatened, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) said on Thursday.

Cal Fire said that 40 percent of the Camp Fire had been contained, up from 35 percent, even as the blaze grew 2,000 acres to 140,000 acres (57,000 hectares).

U.S. National Guard troops are in Paradise, a town of about 27,000 in the Sierra foothills about 175 miles (280 km) north of San Francisco, looking for remains of victims. One hundred thirty people, most over the age of 65, were still listed as missing.

Authorities fear that in the crush to flee the fast-approaching flames, some elderly residents may have been left behind. At least 22 cadaver dogs are part of the search.

Those who survived the flames but lost their homes were adapting to a refugee lifestyle, with many finding a haven at a still-open Walmart in Paradise. A section of the store's parking lot was roped off for use as a distribution center for clothes, food and coffee, while people who fled their homes set up dozens of tents in an adjacent field or slept in their cars in the parking lot. Portable toilets were brought in.

Evacuees milling in the parking lot faced morning temperatures that dropped into the mid-30s and many wore breathing masks for protection from lingering smoke.



An anthropologist examines the remains of a dog found in a bathtub in a home destroyed by the Camp Fire in Paradise,

Nicole and Eric Montague, along with their 16-year-old daughter, went to the Walmart parking lot for free food but have been living with extended family in Chico, about 12 miles away, in a one-bedroom apartment filled with 15 people and nine dogs.

"WE DIDN'T HAVE TIME"

They said they were aware a fire was coming toward Paradise last week but were stunned by how quickly it arrived.

"We didn't have any time to react," Eric said. "The news didn't even know the fire was coming. It just happened so quick." Nicole said she decided to flee once her home's mailbox caught fire and neighbors' propane tanks began exploding. With approaching flames and immovable traffic, her evacuation with her daughter was so harrowing that she called Eric to say they were going to die.

FDA to ban flavored e-cigarettes at U.S. convenience stores

(Reuters) - The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Thursday announced sweeping new restrictions on flavored tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes popular among teenagers in an effort to prevent a new generation of nicotine addicts.

The much-anticipated announcement will mean that only tobacco, mint and menthol e-cigarette flavors can be sold at most traditional retail outlets such as convenience stores. Other fruity- or sweet-flavored varieties can now only be sold at age-restricted stores or through online merchants that use age-verification checks.

The FDA also plans to seek a ban on menthol cigarettes, a longtime goal of public health advocates, as well as flavored cigars.

FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said the moves are meant to prevent young people from continuing to use e-cigarettes, potentially leading to traditional cigarette smoking.

"I will not allow a generation of children to become addicted to nicotine through e-cigarettes," Gottlieb said.

The agency has faced mounting pressure to act on e-cigarettes amid their surging popularity among U.S. teenagers in recent years. One of the most popular devices, made by San Francisco-based Juul Labs Inc, has become a phenom-

non at U.S. high schools, where "Juuling" has become synonymous with vaping.

E-cigarettes vaporize a liquid containing nicotine, the addictive stimulant that gives smokers a rush. They are widely believed to be less harmful than combustible cigarettes, but the long-term health consequences of using the devices are unknown.

Data released Thursday by the FDA and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed a 78 percent increase in high school students who reported using e-cigarettes in the last 30 days, compared with the prior year.

More than 3 million high school students, or more than 20 percent of all U.S. high school students, used the products, along with 570,000 middle school students, according to the survey.

FIERCE RESISTANCE

Juul and tobacco giant Altria Group Inc had announced measures to pull flavored e-cigarette products from retail outlets, after the FDA threatened in September to ban Juul and other leading e-cigarette products unless their makers took steps to prevent use by minors.

Juul, Logic, a unit of Japan Tobacco Inc, Altria, which makes e-cigarettes under the MarkTen brand, and



Imperial Brands Plc, the maker of blu e-cigarettes, all said they supported efforts to reduce youth access. Altria said it believes the devices have the potential to be "less harmful products that can deliver nicotine to adults who want them." Imperial said it was developing a technology that can lock the devices if an

underage person tries to use it. E-cigarettes have been a divisive topic in the public health community. Some focus on the potential benefit of shifting lifelong smokers to less harmful nicotine products, while others fear it will create a new generation addicted to nicotine.

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Szechuan House has Arrived to Bring Authentic Szechuan-Style Chinese Cuisine to Houston

Dishing out all the heat you can handle, the newly renovated and completely re-vamped Szechuan House is now open for business in Houston's Chinatown. While the name "Szechuan House" may ring a bell, that's about all that remains of the former restaurant, which features new management and a brand new menu, plus an updated Instagram-worthy interior.

Shuai Shao, the owner of Szechuan House, recently moved from New York City with the grand vision of fulfilling his lifelong dream of bringing mouth-watering food to the people of Houston. Shuai and his brother AO Zeng "chose Houston to open [the] restaurant because [he loves] the diversity here."

Here are four reasons why Szechuan House should be at the top of your foodie bucket list:

Bold flavors in every dish.

If you've never had Szechuan food before, you're in for a real treat. The Szechuan peppercorn is different from your average spice as it leaves a tingly, slightly numbing sensation on your tongue, also known as "ma la". Fun fact: it was illegal to import these peppercorns for almost 40 years until 2005—a sad period for Szechuan food in the United States.

Although Szechuan food has a reputation for being spicy, there is so much more to the cuisine. Szechuan peppercorns make up only part of the flavors in the dishes—Szechuan food is cooked with all sorts of aromatics, from garlic to chili peppers, giving dishes from the region a unique flavor.

Afraid you won't be able to handle the spice? There's no cause for alarm. The level of spice can be moderated to your liking.

An inviting and authentic experience.

Shuai's goal is to bring an authentic Szechuan experience to Houston, and he's succeeded in doing so through all parts of his restaurant. The interiors were carefully crafted by Shuai himself, featuring spices, tea, plates, and decor transported from China.

All of this makes for an experience that will transport you to a land 8,000 miles away.

Kung Pao Shrimp

Something for everyone. It would be hard not to be enticed by the flavors and dishes at Szechuan House. Fan favorites include a spin on the classic Kung Pao Shrimp (Szechuan House mixes theirs up with added fried bread sticks) and their Dan Dan Noodles. Warm up with a dry pot, a winter favorite, which has the same



spicy flavors as the hot pot but without the boiling broth.

Szechuan House also brings some unique Szechuan dishes you might not have come across before, such as their signature duck dish, Cold Noodles with Mala Sauce, Fish Slice with Green Pepper, and their Chinese Meatballs, a dish that features pork and lotus root meatballs wrapped in rice

Experience true Szechuan cuisine that's hard to come by outside of China.

In keeping with the tune of wanting an authentic, family-oriented business, the head chef is Shuai Shao's uncle, who studied Szechuan cooking during the last 35 years of his career in restaurants in China. He moved to the US only last year to help start up Szechuan House.

Shuai and his family have a mission to serve the best and most authentic representation of Szechuan cuisine to Houston residents, meaning Szechuan House uses only the highest-quality ingredients.

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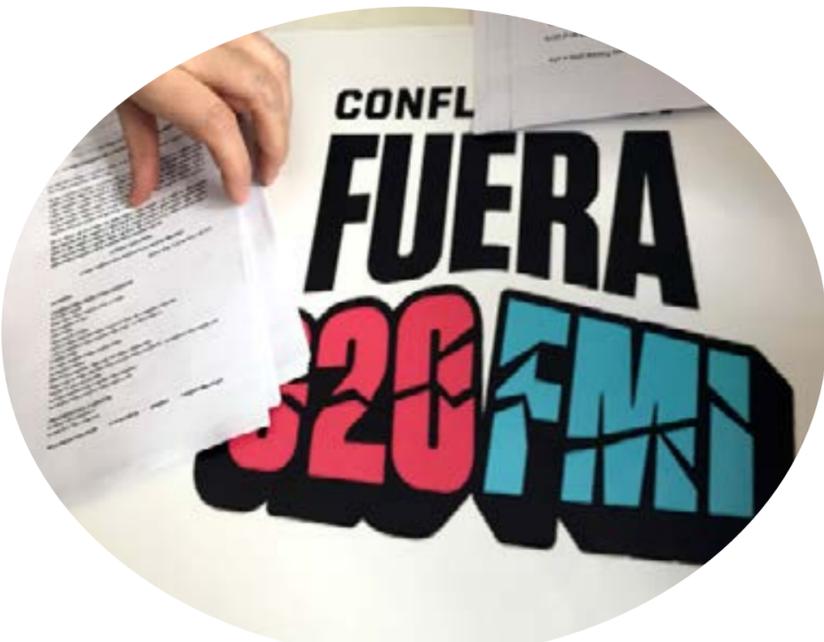
Editor's Choice



Members of Argentina's security forces stand next to the armored vehicles at the presentation of security equipment to be used at the G20 Summit



Minister of Security Bullrich attends the presentation of security equipment to be used at the G20 Summit, in Buenos Aires



A woman grabs papers during a news conference by organisations opposed the G20 Summit, in Buenos Aires



FILE PHOTO: German Chancellor Angela Merkel reacts next to U.S. President Donald Trump during the G20 leaders summit in Hamburg, Germany July 7, 2017. REUTERS/Philippe Wojazer/File Photo



German Chancellor Merkel pose for a family photo with participants of the 'G20 Compact with Africa' summit at the Chancellery in Berlin



Relatives of the 44 crew members of the missing at sea ARA San Juan submarine attend a demonstration outside the Argentine Naval Base where the submarine sailed from, in Mar del Plata



A Harvard University student cheers during the 135th playing of "The Game" against Yale University, at Fenway Park in Boston



Relatives of the 44 crew members of the missing at sea ARA San Juan submarine attend a demonstration outside the Argentine Naval Base where the submarine sailed from, in Mar del Plata



Each year, roughly 40 million Americans, or about 14% of the U.S. population, move at least once. Much of that movement includes younger people relocating within cities, but it is trends of

Americans moving to warmer climates, more affordable areas, and better job opportunities that have largely determined migration patterns in recent decades. Because of those long-term patterns, as well as the recent period of economic recovery, cities in some parts of the country have lost tens of thousands of residents. To highlight the U.S. metropolitan areas that have had the largest net decline in population as a result of migration between 2010 and 2017, the Wall Street Journal reviewed population figures from the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program.

The cities where the most people are moving away from can primarily be found in the Northeast, Midwest, and West Coast, particularly in states like Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and New York. Among the cities where people are leaving in droves are places such as Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, New York, and Los Angeles.



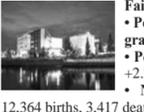
In some U.S. cities, everyday comfort and happiness is much harder to attain than in others.

William Frey, demographer at the Brookings Institution, a nonprofit public policy research group, explained that these cities that have been losing thousands of residents due to migration are part of the long-term trend of movement from the Northeast and the Midwest to warmer climates, a trend that has increased in recent years.

"The story of the broader migration pattern in the U.S. is from Snow Belt to Sun Belt," Frey said. "That migration has slowed a little bit in the early part of the decade, when we were still dealing with the aftermath of the recession, but it's coming back."

Detailed findings
Not all the cities with the largest net declines in population from migration since 2010 are necessarily the fastest shrinking cities. However, among the U.S. metropolitan areas with the highest net population declines due to migration, the vast majority have had the largest overall decreases in population.

Two notable exceptions are New York and Los Angeles. While tens of thousands more people moved out of each city than moved in, both cities have still had among the highest net increases in population. This is because of natural population growth — hundreds of thousands more people in these cities have been born than died. Notably, Los Angeles had a net migration loss of 93,959, but the overall population increased by over three-quarters of a million people because of births.



Fairbanks, Alaska
• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -7,011
• Population change, 2010-2017: +2.2% (97,585 to 99,703)
• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 12,364 births, 3,417 deaths

• Median home value: \$226,900

Johnstown, Pennsylvania

• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -7,070

• Population change, 2010-2017: -7.4% (143,674 to 133,054)

• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 9,624 births, 13,203 deaths

• Median home value: \$93,400

Hinesville, Georgia

• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -7,171

• Population change, 2010-2017: +3.2% (77,919 to 80,400)

• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 12,218 births, 3,030 deaths

• Median home value: \$133,600

El Centro, California

• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017:

Every Year, Almost 40 Million Americans Pick Up And Move Creating An Economic Impact On Many Of The Country's Largest Cities

Population Migration Patterns: Here Are Some Of The U.S. Cities Americans Are Abandoning

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

-7,219

• Population change, 2010-2017: +4.8% (174,528 to 182,830)

• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 22,531 births, 7,106 deaths

• Median home value: \$170,900

Frey explained that movement from New York and Los Angeles to many of the cities with the largest net migration increases is due to residents of these cities getting pushed out because of rising populations and prices, the latter of which is a product of the economic recovery.

"Now that things are picking up again, people are moving out of cities. As the housing market is coming back, people are being sucked out of pricey areas to where it is more affordable again."

Frey gave the example of one common migration pattern: Los Angeles to Las Vegas, the latter of which had the 15th highest net population increase due to migration. Los Angeles has always lost residents to Las Vegas, but when the recession hit and housing prices fell, that movement slowed significantly.

Bakersfield, California

• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -7,314

• Population change, 2010-2017: +6.4% (839,621 to 893,119)

• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 102,106 births, 41,099 deaths

• Median home value: \$204,200

Norwich-New London, Connecticut

• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -7,365

• Population change, 2010-2017: -1.8% (274,059 to 269,033)

• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 19,518 births, 17,252 deaths

• Median home value: \$242,000

Now that housing prices have recovered in Los Angeles and have become too expensive for many residents, people are once again moving out of the city in droves.

As of 2016, Los Angeles had the seventh highest median home value of any metropolitan area, at \$578,200. Las Vegas' median home value is just slightly more than half that, at \$233,700.

"The same sort of thing is true for a place like New York," Frey added. "There has always been huge movement going from New York to Florida, but during the Great Recession period that slowed up quite a bit, and now it is picking up again."

Frey added that the reasons behind the decline in population in cities like Los Angeles and New York — overcrowding and high prices — are very different than the reasons for decreases in other cities on this list, notably Rust Belt cities like Flint, Michigan; Toledo, Ohio; and Rockford, Illinois; and even larger cities like St. Louis, Cleveland, and Milwaukee. These cities have been losing domestic migrants for decades due to stagnating economic conditions stemming from the decline of American manufacturing.

Methodology
To identify America's Fastest Declining Cities, 24/

Wall Street reviewed the annual estimates of resident population and the estimates of the components of residential population change from April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017, provided by the American Community Survey. Population, and home value data also came from the 2016 American Community Survey. (Courtesy USA Today)

Here Are Some Of The Other Cities That People Are Leaving According To The Study

Fresno, California

• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -7,571

• Population change, 2010-2017: +6.3% (930,495 to 989,255)

• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 113,926 births, 47,252 deaths

• Median home value: \$238,100

Macon-Bibb County, Georgia

• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -7,877

• Population change, 2010-2017: -1.5% (232,286 to 228,914)

• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 21,752 births, 17,233 deaths

• Median home value: \$122,000

Anchorage, Alaska

• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -8,464

• Population change, 2010-2017: +5.3% (380,821 to 400,888)

• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 43,973 births, 15,756 deaths

• Median home value: \$299,700

Vineland-Bridgeton, New Jersey

• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -8,476

• Population change, 2010-2017: -2.6% (156,628 to 152,538)

• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 14,926 births, 10,604 deaths

• Median home value: \$165,900

Erie, Pennsylvania

• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -8,511

• Population change, 2010-2017: -2.1% (280,564 to 274,541)

• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 22,920 births, 20,396 deaths

• Median home value: \$125,700

Mobile, Alabama

• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -8,517

• Population change, 2010-2017: +0.2% (413,143 to 413,955)

• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 40,422 births, 30,886 deaths

• Median home value: \$126,800

Atlantic City-Hammonton, New Jersey

• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -8,550

• Population change, 2010-2017: -1.7% (274,540 to 269,918)

• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 22,801 births, 18,976 deaths

• Median home value: \$215,100

Fayetteville, North Carolina

• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -8,741

• Population change, 2010-2017: +5.6% (366,322 to 386,662)

• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 47,548 births, 19,638 deaths

• Median home value: \$134,600

Jacksonville, North Carolina

• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -8,791

• Population change, 2010-2017: +9.1% (177,799 to 193,893)

• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 30,768 births, 7,184 deaths

• Median home value: \$151,500

Yakima, Washington

• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -8,916

• Population change, 2010-2017: +2.9% (243,237 to 250,193)

• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 29,681 births, 13,811 deaths

• Median home value: \$166,300

• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -9,470

• Population change, 2010-2017: -3.8% (251,737 to 242,217)

• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 18,295 births, 18,409 deaths

• Median home value: \$121,000

Sierra Vista-Douglas, Arizona

• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -9,495

• Population change, 2010-2017: -5.0% (131,356 to 124,756)

• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 11,814 births, 9,110 deaths

• Median home value: \$130,100

Farmington, New Mexico

• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -9,633

• Population change, 2010-2017: -2.4% (130,045 to 126,926)

• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 13,381 births, 6,949 deaths

• Median home value: \$153,100

Lawton, Oklahoma

• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -9,641

• Population change, 2010-2017: -2.3% (130,291 to 127,349)

• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 14,355 births, 7,848

deaths
• Median home value: \$124,900
Charleston, West Virginia
• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -9,772
• Population change, 2010-2017: -5.6% (227,061 to 214,406)
• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 18,078 births, 20,856 deaths
• Median home value: \$111,300

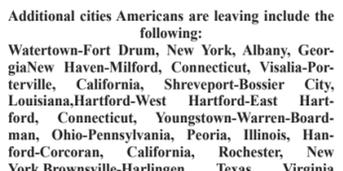


Saginaw, Michigan
• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -9,783
• Population change, 2010-2017: -4.1% (200,169 to 191,934)
• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 16,380 births, 14,912 deaths

• Median home value: \$96,200
Pine Bluff, Arkansas
• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -10,001
• Population change, 2010-2017: -9.3% (100,278 to 90,963)
• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 8,244 births, 7,701 deaths

• Median home value: \$84,700
Montgomery, Alabama
• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -10,317
• Population change, 2010-2017: -0.2% (374,541 to 373,903)
• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 35,032 births, 25,380 deaths

• Median home value: \$135,700
Wichita, Kansas
• Population decrease due to migration, 2010-2017: -10,335
• Population change, 2010-2017: +2.3% (630,924 to 645,628)
• Natural growth, 2010-2017: 65,873 births, 40,647 deaths



• Median home value: \$132,400

Additional cities Americans are leaving include the following:
Watertown-Fort Drum, New York, Albany, Georgia, New Haven-Milford, Connecticut, Visalia-Porterville, California, Shreveport-Bossier City, Louisiana, Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, Connecticut, Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, Ohio-Pennsylvania, Peoria, Illinois, Hanford-Corcoran, California, Rochester, New York, Brownsville-Harlingen, Texas, Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia, North Carolina, Syracuse, New York, Toledo, Ohio, Rockford, Illinois, New York-Newark-Jersey City, New York-New Jersey, Pennsylvania, El Paso, Texas, Flint, Michigan, Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, Wisconsin, Memphis, Tennessee, Mississippi-Arkansas, Cleveland-Elyria, Ohio, St. Louis, Missouri, Illinois, Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, Michigan, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, California, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, Illinois, Indiana-Wisconsin.

For additional information, go here: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/economy/2018/06/13/50-worst-cities-to-live-in/35909271/>

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-Beth Yip, M.D., co-managing physician, Pearland Clinic

Dr. Yip is a board-certified pediatrician who completed her medical degree, internship and residency at Baylor College of Medicine. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and member of the American Medical Association, Texas Medical Association, Harris County Medical Society and Texas Pediatric Society.

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Overview

Rising property prices in China can help the country fend off some of the negative aspects of the trade war with the United States, according to CLSA property analyst Nicole Wong.

More expensive property would encourage buyers to make purchases to beat further anticipated rises, increase construction jobs and boost local government coffers, she says.

China has been seeking ways to blunt the negative effects of U.S. tariffs as the trade conflict drags on.

A booming property sector would also increase new jobs centered on the construction industry, and developers' increased demand for land would mean local governments can rake in more revenues from land sales to invest in infrastructure.

"So the new economy of China is great, but then it really is the old economy that's going to be a very predictable macro tool for China in times of urgency," she said, referring to the distinction between headline-grabbing tech firms like Alibaba and long-standing sectors such as construction.



Land and housing have seen immense changes in the 40 years since the Communist Party began opening up China's economy to free market forces.

One of those reforms was allowing citizens to own property. As China's economy has grown into the world's second largest, many have seen their homes become a key source of personal wealth.

Wong said that potential buyers are in a good position because prices are currently affordable and there is plenty of room to take on mortgages.

"Overall, the China property market is just not leveraged," she said, stressing that household cash savings outnumber outstanding mortgages three to one.

China May Use Its Property Markets To Defend Against Trump's Trade War Offensive

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



A poster featuring Xi Jinping, China's president, hangs on a wall as residential and commercial buildings stand in the background in China's Hebei province. (Photo/Bloomberg/Getty Images)

"So this is an industry that's still got a lot of leeway to leverage up, which we believe would happen," she said.

China has a potentially useful defense in its ongoing trade war with the United States: its vast property market.



The same sector that has long been a source of anxiety about China's economic fate could also prove to be its temporary savior in the face of tariff pressure from the U.S., according to Nicole Wong, managing director for property research at

CLSA.

Authorities are likely to encourage property prices, which are already rising, to increase further to help boost the economy, Wong told reporters Tuesday at the annual CLSA Investors' Forum in Hong Kong.

"With this trade war going on, we think that the China property market policy would reverse because with a trade war there is this risk of losses of jobs in the unskilled category," Wong said.

"And the property sector is a very good sort of replacement," she added.

U.S. President Donald Trump is targeting tariffs on potentially hundreds of billions of dollars in Chinese goods in a bid to both to rebalance trade between the countries and also pressure Beijing to fundamentally change industrial and commercial policies.

China has responded with tariffs of its own, but it imports far less from the U.S.

than it exports to the world's largest economy, so it has had to evaluate other responses. Those have included potentially stimulating the Chinese economy by letting its currency, the yuan, move lower against the dollar and encourage banks to lend more money.



'Leeway to leverage up'

Wong said that rising property prices can help stimulate the economy in several ways, such as by encouraging buyers to accelerate purchases before the cost goes up, thus bringing forward future demand.

Another positive result of costlier housing, she said, is that savings will move out of banks and into the real economy.

A booming property sector would also increase new jobs centered on the construction industry, and developers' increased demand for land would mean local governments can rake in more revenues from land sales to invest in infrastructure.

"So the new economy of China is great, but then it really is the old economy that's going to be a very predictable macro tool for China in times of urgency," she said, referring to the distinction between headline-grabbing tech firms like Alibaba and long-standing sectors such as construction.



Land and housing have seen immense changes in the 40 years since the Communist Party began opening up China's economy to free market forces.

One of those reforms was allowing citizens to own property. As China's economy has grown into the world's second largest, many have seen their homes become a key source of personal wealth.

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