

03.17-Luxury goods

Luxury goods

Million dollar **mastiffs**

Xi Jinping's **crackdown** on **corruption** is hitting Chinese luxury-**peddlers** harder than foreign ones

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Vocab

1. **mastiff** n. 獒, 大犷犬(一种体大强壮的短毛犬) A **mastiff** is a large, powerful, short-haired dog.

2. **crackdown** n. 严惩; 严厉打击; 镇压 A **crackdown** is strong official action that is taken to punish people who break laws.

e.g. **.anti-government unrest that ended with the violent army crackdown**. 最终被军队严厉镇压的反政府动乱

3. **corruption** n. dishonest or illegal behaviour, especially of people in authority 腐败; 贪污; 贿赂; 受贿

e.g. allegations of **bribery and corruption** 对贿赂与贪污的指控

4. **peddler** n. 流动小贩; 货郎 A **peddler** is someone who goes from place to place in order to sell something.

CHEN BINQI grows and sells **abalone**, a delicious kind of **mollusc**, in Dongshan, a seaside resort in the southern province of Fujian. He says that from 2010 to 2012 the price never dropped below 50 yuan (\$7.7) for 500 grams on **tomb-sweeping day**, a public holiday and one of the busiest days for tourists. In 2013 it fell to 40 yuan, which meant most **breeders** were selling below **cost**. "Now it's down to 30-something, which is **unbearable**."

Vocab

1. **abalone** n. a **SHELLFISH** that can be eaten and whose shell contains **MOTHER-OF-PEARL** 鲍鱼

2. **mollusc** n. 软体动物 A **mollusc** is an animal such as a snail, clam, or octopus which has a soft body. Many types of mollusc have hard shells to protect them.

3. **tomb-sweeping day** n. 清明节

4. **breeder** n. a person who breeds animals 饲养员

5. **cost** n. the total amount of money that needs to be spent by a business 成本

e.g. to **cut/ reduce costs** 降低成本

6. **unbearable** adj. **=intolerable** too painful, annoying or unpleasant to deal with or accept 难耐的; 无法接受的; 难以处理的

e.g. The heat was becoming unbearable. 炎热开始变得难以忍受。

7. **grow** v. 栽种; 种植 If you **grow** a particular type of plant, you put seeds or young plants in the ground and look after them as they develop.

Sentence

CHEN BINQI grows and sells abalone, a delicious kind of mollusc, in Dongshan, a seaside resort in the southern province of Fujian.

主干: CHEN BINQI grows and sells abalone
a delicious kind of mollusc 这是 abalone 的同位语
in Dongshan, 地点状语
a seaside resort in the southern province of Fujian. 地点状语

In the neighbouring province of Guangdong, Lin Gongxi has been **carving jade** for 50 years in Jieyang, China's jade capital. When business was good, he told Southern Metropolis Daily, he used to go to bed at 2am and get up at 6am. Now he often has no work for eight days out of ten. Half the shops at Jieyang's jade-trading centre are empty. Rents have fallen by three-quarters.

Vocab

1. **carve** v. to make objects, patterns, etc. by cutting away material from wood or stone 雕刻
2. **jade** n. 玉; 碧玉; 翡翠 **Jade** is a hard stone, usually green in colour, that is used for making jewellery and ornaments.

Sentence

eight days out of ten 这里 out of 表示 ~ **of sth from a particular number or set** 从 (某个数目或集) 中

e.g. You scored six **out of** ten. 总分十分你得了六分。

e.g. Two **out of** three people think the President should resign. 有三分之二的人认为总统应当辞职。

In Beijing's Panjiayuan market, Wang Lin sells copies of Ming and Qing dynasty carved furniture. Same story. Businesspeople used to order ten-piece suites of office furniture; he sold them **as fast as** his **carpenters** could make them, sometimes faster (there was a waiting list). Now, prices have halved and he "can shift maybe a couple of chairs out of ten".

Vocab

1. **as fast as** 和...一样快
2. **carpenter** n. 木工; 木匠 A **carpenter** is a person whose job is making and repairing wooden things.

China is the world's biggest market for luxury goods, accounting (by some measures) for half of all luxury spending. The slowdown in the growth of China's economy and household incomes is usually seen as bad for rich-country **purveyors** of luxuries such as **perfumes**, golf clubs, art and the like. Which it is: LVMH, a producer of **champagne** and handbags, recently closed three shops in China, while Christie's annual auction of Asian 20th-century and **contemporary** art in Hong Kong earned only HK\$508m (\$66m) in November, down from HK\$935m in 2013.

Vocab

1. **purveyor** n. 供应者; 提供者; 供应公司 A **purveyor of** goods or services is a person or company that provides them.
2. **perfume** n. a liquid, often made from flowers, that you put on your skin to make yourself smell nice 香水
e.g. a bottle of expensive perfume 一瓶昂贵的香水

3. champagne n. a French **sparkling** white wine (= one with bubbles) that is drunk on special occasions 香槟酒

4. contemporary adj. belonging to the present time 当代的；现代的

Sentence

Which it is: LVMH, a producer of champagne and handbags, recently closed three shops in China, while Christie's annual auction of Asian 20th-century and contemporary art in Hong Kong earned only HK\$508m (\$66m) in November, down from HK\$935m in 2013.

主干: it is

其中冒号后面的主干: LVMH recently closed three shops

while转折后的主干: Christie's....Hong Kong earned only HK\$508m

定语从句 down from HK\$935m in 2013. 的先行词是 HK\$508m, 还原可以看成 which down from...

But the **woes** of Western vanitymongers are **trifling** compared with those of their Chinese **counterparts**. Prices of jade and Tibetan mastiffs, for example, have dropped by half or more. Hundreds of businesses have **gone bust**. This owes **as much** to politics **as** economics.

Vocab

1. woe n. the troubles and problems that sb has 麻烦；问题；困难

e.g. Thanks for listening to my woes. 谢谢您听我诉说不幸的遭遇。

2. trifling adj. 不重要的；微不足道的 A **trifling** matter is small and unimportant.

e.g. Outside California these difficulties may seem fairly trifling. 在别处，加利福尼亚的这些困难可能看起来相当微不足道。

3. counterpart 原意为 职能(或地位)相当的人；对应的事物 这里理解为同行

4. goes bust **PHRASE** 破产；倒闭 If a company **goes bust**, it loses so much money that it is forced to close down.

5. as much as 也，同样

Sentence

Prices of jade and Tibetan mastiffs, for example, have dropped by half or more.

这种句型很常见，应该记住，即主语+插入语+谓语

That doggy in the window

Take Tibetan mastiffs, a breed of enormous sheep-guarding dog (one is pictured above, on sale). These were the must-have status symbol for China's new billionaires in the late 2000s. Three years ago ordinary Tibetan mastiffs could fetch around \$20,000. Now they sell for a tenth of that. Earlier this year an animal-welfare group rescued 20 abandoned mastiffs from the back of a lorry, which was taking them to a slaughterhouse to be sold for leather and meat—for a mere \$5 each.

Vocab

1. slaughterhouse n. 屠宰场 A **slaughterhouse** is a place where animals are killed for their meat.

Sentence

Now they sell for a tenth of that. 这里的 **for** 意思为 **considering what can be expected from sb/ sth 就...而言**

Earlier this year an animal-welfare group rescued 20 abandoned mastiffs from the back of a lorry, which was taking them to a slaughterhouse to be sold for leather and meat—for a mere \$5 each.

主干: an animal-welfare group rescued 20 abandoned mastiffs
which was taking them... 非限定性定语从句, 先行词是 a lorry
—for a mere \$5 each. 解释 them 的价格

Tibetan mastiffs were a **fad** for **plutocrats**, usually bought as status-enhancing guard dogs. But demand for most other Chinese luxuries depends on a culture of gift-giving. Every **transaction** must be marked by a present: jade, tea, a meal. One billionaire, Hong Weihua, even paid for a **delegation** of officials from his hometown to visit America (quite legally).

Vocab

1. **fad** 一时的风尚;风靡一时之物 You use **fad** to refer to an activity or topic of interest that is very popular for a short time, but which people become bored with very quickly.

e.g. **Hamnett does not believe environmental concern is a passing fad.** 哈姆内特不相信对环境的关注是昙花一现。

2. **plutocrat** n. a person who is powerful because of their wealth 有钱有势的人; 财阀

3. **transaction** n. (一笔)交易;业务 A **transaction** is a piece of business, for example an act of buying or selling something.

4. **delegation** a group of people who represent the views of an organization, a country, etc. 代表团

e.g. a delegation of teachers 教师代表团

Since 2013 the anti-corruption campaign of Xi Jinping, China's president, has made **conspicuous consumption** politically suspect and **reined** in the practice of **lavishing** gifts on officials. Tea used to be a favourite present, especially Pu'er, a **fermented** and aged variety from the south-western province of Yunnan. The price of top-of-the-line Golden tea from the Tae tea company, the world's largest Pu'er maker, fell from 917 yuan per 357 grams in March 2014 to 512 yuan, before **rallying** a bit (see chart). The president of the Yunnan Tea Association told the Kunming Daily that, after a boom and bust, the tea business was entering "a new normal" (a term **popularised** by Mr Xi, who uses it to describe slower growth of the economy as a whole). This means lower prices and more modest sales.

Vocab

1. **conspicuous** adj. easy to see or notice; likely to attract attention 易见的; 明显的; 惹人注意的

e.g. I felt very conspicuous in my new car. 坐在我的新车里, 我感到十分惹人注目。

2. **conspicuous consumption** n. 炫耀性消费 **Conspicuous consumption** means spending your money in such a way that other people can see how wealthy you are.

e.g. **It was an age of conspicuous consumption — those who had money liked to display it.** 那是一个炫耀性消费的年代——有钱人都喜欢炫富。

3. **rein** v. to start to control sb/ sth more strictly 严格控制; 加强管理

4. **lavish** v. 滥花; 浪费; 非常 (或过分) 慷慨地给予 If you **lavish** money, affection, or praise **on** someone or something, you spend a lot of money on them or give them a lot of affection or praise.

5. **ferment** v. (使)发酵 这里做形容词 adj. 发酵的

6. **rally** v. =**recover** to increase in value after falling in value 价格回升; 跌后回升

e.g. The company's shares had rallied slightly by the close of trading. 这家公司的股票价

格在收盘前略有回升。

7. **popularize** v. to make a difficult subject easier to understand for ordinary people 使通俗化；使普及

Sentence

The president of the Yunnan Tea Association told the Kunming Daily that, after a boom and bust, the tea business was entering “a new normal”.

这种常见的结构，主干：president told the Kunming Daily

宾语从句：that the tea business was entering “a new normal”

after a boom and bust 自然是作插入语成分了

The abalone business shows that it is Mr Xi’s rule against “extravagant eating and drinking”, rather than a lack of cash, that lies behind the luxury squeeze. Mr Chen, the seafood-dealer in Fujian, says abalone is not especially pricey, but because it is seen as a luxury “sales took a big hit”. Of the breeders he knows, 40% quit during 2013 and 2014.

Vocab

1. **extravagant** adj. spending a lot more money or using a lot more of sth than you can afford or than is necessary 奢侈的；挥霍的；铺张浪费的

e.g. I felt very extravagant spending £ 100 on a dress. 我觉得花 100 英镑买一条连衣裙太奢侈了。

2. **squeeze** v. to strictly limit or reduce the amount of money that sb/ sth has or can use 严格限制，削减，紧缩（资金）

Sentence

The abalone business shows that it is Mr Xi’s rule against “extravagant eating and drinking”, rather than a lack of cash, that lies behind the luxury squeeze.

同上文类似结构，主干：The abalone business shows

that it is Mr Xi’s rule against “extravagant eating and drinking”, 定语从句

, rather than a lack of cash, 插入语，用来标明原因，而不是因为缺乏资金

that lies behind the luxury squeeze. 非限定性定语从句

At the top end of the mastiff business, it is not so **bleak**. In 2011 a coal **baron** is said to have paid 10m yuan (\$1.5m) for Big Splash, a Tibetan mastiff **puppy**. In 2014 a property developer paid 12m yuan for a dog, making it the world’s most expensive **canine**. Han Lianming, a mastiff breeder near Beijing, says the market for such finest-quality dogs still looks good. “Someone offered me 20m yuan for that one. It was crazy,” he says **contentedly**, pointing to a vast ball of **russet** fur and teeth that is **lumbering** around the courtyard (the deal did not **come off**). A select few millionaires appear **immune** to the anti-corruption campaign and **unfazed** by dog-breeders’ efforts during the boom years to boost supply by **crossbreeding**. This diminished the rarity-value of mastiffs, but it also produced some highly **sought-after** specimens.

Vocab

1. **bleak** adj. (of a situation 状况) not encouraging or giving any reason to have hope 不乐观的；无望的；暗淡的

e.g. a **bleak outlook/ prospect** 暗淡的前景/前途

e.g. **The future looks bleak** for the fishing industry. 渔业前景暗淡。

2. **baron** n. 巨头; 大王; 大亨 You can use **baron** to refer to someone who controls a large amount of a particular industry or activity and who is therefore extremely powerful.
3. **puppy** n. a young dog 小狗; 幼犬
4. **canine** adj. 犬(科)的; 狗的 **Canine** means relating to dogs.
5. **contentedly** adv. 满足地; 安心地
6. **russet** adj. reddish-brown in colour 赤褐色的
7. **lumbering** adj. moving in a slow, heavy and awkward way 缓慢吃力的; 步态笨拙的
8. **come off** PHRASAL VERB 短语动词 成功; 达到效果 If something **comes off**, it is successful or effective.
e.g. It was a good try but it didn't quite **come off**...这是一次不错的尝试, 但效果欠佳
9. **immune** adj. ~ (to sth) not affected by sth 不受影响
10. **unfazed** adj. unexpected that happens 处变不惊的; 泰然自若的
11. **crossbreed** v. to make an animal or a plant breed with a different breed; to breed with an animal or a plant of a different breed 使杂交; 杂交繁育
12. **sought-after** adj. wanted by many people, because it is of very good quality or difficult to get or to find 争相获得的; 吃香的; 广受欢迎的
13. **specimen** n. a small amount of sth that shows what the rest of it is like 样品; 样本; 标本
e.g. Astronauts have brought back specimens of rock from the moon. 宇航员从月球带回了岩石标本。

The jade market, however, has little good news to report. Yu Ming, the director of the jade committee of the China Traditional Culture Promotion Council, a state-run body, says that though sales at big auction houses are holding up, the retail business is plummeting. In big cities such as Beijing they have fallen by 10-20%. In second- and third-tier cities (such as provincial capitals), he says, sales are down by 40-50%. In 2013 there was a **spike in the price** of raw jade from neighbouring Myanmar, when political violence **briefly** disrupted supplies. Mr Yu says many thought the conflict would lead to higher prices in China. But to everyone's surprise the retail price actually fell. "There just isn't that big a market any more," he **laments**.

Vocab

1. **state-run** adj. 国营的
2. **auction house** n. a company that sells things in **auctions** 拍卖行
3. **hold up** PHRASAL VERB 维持; 保持良好 If something such as a type of business **holds up** in difficult conditions, it stays in a reasonably good state.
4. **plummet** v. to fall suddenly and quickly from a high level or position 暴跌; 速降
e.g. Share prices plummeted to an all-time low. 股票价格暴跌到历史最低点。
5. **spike** n. (价格、数量的)突然上升, 剧增 If there is a **spike in the price**, volume, or amount of something, the price, volume, or amount of it suddenly increases.
6. **briefly** adv. for a short time 短暂地; 暂时地
e.g. He had spoken to Emma **only briefly**. 他和埃玛只讲了短短的几句话。
7. **lament** v. 为...悲痛; 哀叹; 痛惜 If you **lament** something, you express your sadness, regret, or disappointment about it.

Sentence

Yu Ming, the director of the jade committee of the China Traditional Culture Promotion Council, a state-run body, says that though sales at big auction houses are holding up, the retail business is plummeting.

主干: Yu Ming says that... 主干很清楚

the director of the jade committee of the China Traditional Culture Promotion Council, 这里是对 Yu Ming 的身份解释, 插入成分

a state-run body 这是对 the jade committee 的解释, 同样插入成分, 这种成分会扰乱对主干的理解, 在理解句子时, 可以先不处理

that though sales at big auction houses are holding up, the retail business is plummeting. 这里的成分就很清楚了, 这个定语从句主语是 sales 谓语 are, 逗号后面的是转折成分

From the print edition: China

Luxury goods Million dollar mastiffs 奢侈品: 价值百万的藏獒

Xi Jinping's crackdown on corruption is hitting Chinese luxury-peddlers harder than foreign ones.

习近平的反贪行动对国内奢侈品商的影响远超外国厂商。

CHEN BINQI grows and sells abalone, a delicious kind of mollusc, in Dongshan, a seaside resort in the southern province of Fujian. He says that from 2010 to 2012 the price never dropped below 50 yuan (\$7.7) for 500 grams on tomb-sweeping day, a public holiday and one of the busiest days for tourists. In 2013 it fell to 40 yuan, which meant most breeders were selling below cost.

鲍鱼是一种美味的软体动物。陈斌奇是一家养殖厂的老板, 负责鲍鱼的养殖和出售, 生活在中国南部省份福建的海边胜地东山。他表示从2010年到2012年, 清明节期间鲍鱼的价格从未低过50元每斤(7.7美元), 而作为公众假期的清明节小长假, 是旅游业最繁忙的时节之一。但到了2013年, 鲍鱼的价格下降到了40元一斤, 很多养殖户都以低于成本的价格在销售。

"Now it's down to 30-something, which is unbearable."

“现在价格只有三十多块, 这个价格低得不能忍。”

In the neighboring province of Guangdong, Lin Gongxi has been carving jade for 50 years in Jieyang, China's jade capital. When business was good, he told Southern Metropolis Daily, he used to go to bed at 2am and get up at 6am. Now he often has no work for eight days out of ten. Half the shops at Jieyang's jade-trading centre are empty. Rents have fallen by three-quarters.

在邻省广东素有“中国玉石之都”之称的揭阳市, 林恭喜已经从事玉石雕刻工作长达50年。他告诉《南方都市报》报的记者, 当行业景气时, 他每天深夜两点睡觉, 早上六点就要起床。现在, 十天中有八天他都无事可做。揭阳玉石交易中心近半数的商铺已经人去楼空, 店铺的租金下降了四分之三。

In Beijing's Panjiayuan market, Wang Lin sells copies of Ming and Qing dynasty carved furniture. Same story. Businesspeople used to order ten-piece suites of office furniture; he sold them as fast as his carpenters could make them, sometimes faster (there was a waiting list). Now, prices have halved and he "can shift maybe a couple of chairs out of ten", he says.

北京的王林在潘家园市场销售仿明清雕花家具, 而他的命运也和上面几位差不多。以前, 经

商人群对十件套办公家具情有独钟：木匠产出一套，他就能销售一套，甚至有时候会出现供不应求的现象（还有等待发货的买家名单）。虽然现在这些家具的价格已经折半，但他有十把椅子也只能卖出其中的两三把。

China is the world's biggest market for luxury goods, accounting (by some measures) for half of all luxury spending. The slowdown in the growth of China's economy and household incomes is usually seen as bad for rich-country purveyors of luxuries such as perfumes, golf clubs, art and the like.

中国是全球最大的奢侈品市场。某些数据显示，奢侈品在中国的销量占据了全球奢侈品销售总额的一半。中国经济增长的放缓和家庭收入增长的停滞，对于富裕国家的奢侈品厂商来说不是什么好事，其中就包括香水、高尔夫球杆制造商，以及艺术一类的产业。

Which it is: LVMH, a producer of champagne and handbags, recently closed three shops in China, while Christie's annual auction of Asian 20th-century and contemporary art in Hong Kong earned only HK\$508m (\$66m) in November, down from HK\$935m in 2013. But the woes of Western vanity mongers are trifling compared with those of their Chinese counterparts. Prices of jade and Tibetan mastiffs, for example, have dropped by half or more. Hundreds of businesses have gone bust.

举几个例子：路易威登是生产香槟和手提包的奢侈品厂商，而最近路易威登关了三家中国境内的门店。佳士得拍卖行11月在香港拍卖20世纪亚洲以及当代艺术品的收入仅为5.08亿港币（约合6600万美元），而在2013年该数字为9.35亿港币。但是相比他们的中国同行，这些外国虚荣贩子的苦恼就显得太轻微了。比如，玉石和藏獒的价格已经下跌了一半以上，上百家相关企业倒闭。

This owes as much to politics as economics. Take Tibetan mastiffs, a breed of enormous sheep-guarding dog. These were the must-have status symbol for China's new billionaires in the late 2000s. Three years ago ordinary Tibetan mastiffs could fetch around \$20,000. Earlier this year an animal-welfare group rescued 20 abandoned mastiffs from the back of a lorry, which was taking them to a slaughterhouse to be sold for leather and meat—for a mere \$5 each. Now they sell for a tenth of that.

除了经济因素，政治因素也在其中发挥着同样重要的作用。藏獒是一种体型庞大的牧羊犬。在2005年至2010年期间，藏獒对于中国新晋的亿万富豪们来说，是必须拥有的身份象征。3年前，一只普通的藏獒价格能够高达两万美元，而现在的价格仅为当时的十分之一。今年早些时候，一个动物关爱组织在通往屠宰场的路上，从货车车厢中救下了20只被遗弃的藏獒，原本等待他们的是被宰杀后分解为毛皮和狗肉出售的命运，而售价仅为每只5美元。

Tibetan mastiffs were a fad for plutocrats, usually bought as status-enhancing guard dogs. But demand for most other Chinese luxuries depends on a culture of gift-giving. Every transaction must be marked by a present: jade, tea, a meal. One billionaire, Hong Weihua, even paid for a delegation of officials from his hometown to visit America (quite legally)

作为提升身份地位的看门犬，藏獒是富豪兴起时的玩物。但对于其他大多数中国人来说，对于奢侈品的需求源于中国特有的送礼文化。每项交易都以送礼为特征，包括玉石、茶叶或者饭局。亿万富翁洪维华甚至出资资助家乡的官员代表团到美国考察（但这是合法行为）。

Since 2013 the anti-corruption campaign of Xi Jinping, China's president, has made conspicuous consumption politically suspect and reined in the practice of lavishing gifts on officials. Tea used to be a favourite present, especially Pu' er, a fermented and aged

variety from the south-western province of Yunnan. The price of top-of-the-line Golden tea from the Tae tea company, the world's largest Pu' er maker, fell from 917 yuan per 357 grams in March 2014 to 512 yuan, before rallying a bit. The president of the Yunnan Tea Association told the Kunming Daily that, after a boom and bust, the tea business was entering "a new normal" (a term popularised by Mr Xi, who uses it to describe slower growth of the economy as a whole) .This means lower prices and more modest sales.

自2013年，国家主席习近平的反腐运动让大手脚的消费成为政治上的黑点，也同时禁止了官员之间送礼的行为。茶叶曾经是最受人喜爱的礼物，特别是西南省份云南产出的年份悠久的熟茶。全球最大的普洱厂商云南大益茶叶集团生产的顶级金针白莲普洱，价格从2014年3月时的每357克917元，下降到512元，后来略有上升。云南茶业协会主席告诉昆明日报记者，在经历快速发展和逐渐衰落后，茶业正在进入“一个行业新常态”（这个术语因习近平而广为人知，他用词来形容经济增长总体放慢）。这意味着行业更低的价格和销量。

The abalone business shows that it is Mr Xi's rule against "extravagant eating and drinking", rather than a lack of cash, that lies behind the luxury squeeze. Mr Chen, the seafood-dealer in Fujian, says abalone is not especially pricey, but because it is seen as a luxury "sales took a big hit".Of the breeders he knows, 40% quit during 2013 and 2014.

鲍鱼养殖的遭遇很好地说明了奢侈品产业的衰落背后，不是现金的缺少，而是习近平反贪行动中对于“挥霍吃喝”的管制。福建海鲜商贩陈先生表示，鲍鱼的价格其实不是特别高，但因为人们都认为鲍鱼是奢侈品，因此鲍鱼的销售额遭受冲击。他表示他知道的同行中，有40%在2013年和2014年退出了鲍鱼养殖。

At the top end of the mastiff business, it is not so bleak. In 2011 a coal baron is said to have paid 10m yuan (\$1.5m) for Big Splash, a Tibetan mastiff puppy. In 2014 a property developer paid 12m yuan for a dog, making it the world's most expensive canine. Han Lianming, a mastiff breeder near Beijing, says the market for such finest-quality dogs still looks good. "Someone offered me 20m yuan for that one. It was crazy," he says contentedly, pointing to a vast ball of russet fur and teeth that is lumbering around the courtyard (the deal did not come off) .

高端的藏獒买卖则没有像其他产业那么惨淡。据说在2011年，一个煤矿大亨豪掷1000万人民币，购买了一只藏獒亚种大飞溅。2014年，一个地产商以1200万人民币的价格购买了一只宠物狗，创造了全球最贵宠物狗记录。韩连明是北京附近的藏獒养殖户，他表示优质藏獒的市场前景依然很好。他开心地指着一只身形巨大、毛发蓬松，在院子里慵懒缓慢挪动的藏獒说：“有人出2000万要来买那只藏獒，简直是疯了。”（这项交易最后没有达成）。

A select few millionaires appear immune to the anti-corruption campaign and unfazed by dog-breeders' efforts during the boom years to boost supply by crossbreeding. This diminished the rarity-value of mastiffs, but it also produced some highly sought-after specimens.

有少数百万富翁对于激烈的反贪行动无动于衷，也对藏獒养殖户在全民养獒时交叉配种以提高产量的做法不置可否。这样的做法让藏獒的珍稀性不再，但同时也产生了一些广受欢迎的新品种。

The jade market, however, has little good news to [report](#).Yu Ming, the director of the jade committee of the China Traditional Culture Promotion Council, a state-run body, says that though sales at big auction houses are holding up, the retail business is [plummeting](#).In big cities such as Beijing they have fallen by 10-20%. In second- and third-tier cities (such as provincial capitals) , he says, sales are down by 40-50%. In 2013 there was a spike in the

price of raw jade from neighbouring Myanmar, when political violence briefly disrupted [supplies](#). Mr Yu says many thought the conflict would lead to higher prices in China. But to everyone's surprise the retail price actually fell.

然而玉石市场却没能传出好消息。政府出资建立的中国传统文化促进会玉文化委员会的主席于明表示，尽管大型拍卖会中玉石的价格持续上升，但玉石零售业却不断地走向低谷。在北京一类的大城市中，玉石销售量下降了10%-20%。他表示，在一些二、三线省会城市中，销售量甚至下降了四成至五成。2013年，因为邻国缅甸政治动乱暂时干扰了玉石的供应，从缅甸进口的玉石原料价格有过一段时间的增长。于先生说，有很多人认为这次的动乱会导致中国玉石价格的上升。但出乎所有人意料的是，玉石价格还是下跌了。

"There just isn't that big a market any more," he laments.

他惋惜地说：“这个市场只是不再像从前一样大了而已。”