

- Up-to-date Information on Economy and Trade

**Number of MICE events held in the first quarter of 2019 increased by 49 year-on-year to 377**

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that number of MICE events held in the first quarter of 2019 increased by 49 year-on-year to 377 (including 362 meetings & conferences, 10 exhibitions and 5 incentives). Total number of participants and attendees rose by 19.9% to 333,000.

Number of meetings & conferences held in the first quarter increased by 48 year-on-year, and number of participants grew by 18.1% to 84,000. Among the meetings & conferences, those with a duration of 4 hours or more totalled 263, with 74,000 participants, up by 13.3%. The average duration of the meetings & conferences remained unchanged year-on-year at 1.5 days, whereas total floor area used declined by 52.4% to 280,000 m<sup>2</sup>.

**Value of retail sales for the first quarter of 2019 decreased by 1.9% year-on-year to MOP20.38 billion**

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that value of retail sales for the first quarter of 2019 decreased by 1.9% year-on-year to MOP20.38 billion; yet, an increase of 2.6% was observed as compared with the revised figure (MOP19.87 billion) in the fourth quarter of 2018. In the first quarter, Watches, Clocks & Jewellery accounted for 20.9% of the total retail sales, followed by Goods in Department Stores (17.6%), Leather Goods (13.6%) and Adults' Clothing (12.4%).

Among the major retail activities, sales values of Communication Equipment (-19.9%), Motor Vehicles (-16.7%) and Adults' Clothing (-12.9%) saw notable year-on-year decrease in the first quarter. On the other hand, sales values of Goods in Department Stores and Goods in Supermarkets both recorded a growth of 8.6%.

### **Visitor arrivals in April 2019 was up by 15.9% year-on-year**

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that visitor arrivals totalled 3,432,187 in April 2019, up by 15.9% year-on-year. Overnight visitors (1,624,285) grew by 5.4% whereas same-day visitors (1,807,902) surged by 27.4%. The average length of stay of visitors dropped by 0.1 day year-on-year to 1.1 days as the proportion of same-day visitors (52.7%) rose by 4.7 percentage points. Overnight visitors stayed an average of 2.2 days, an increase of 0.1 day; meanwhile, the average length of stay of same-day visitors held stable at 0.2 day.

Visitors from Mainland China increased by 13.5% year-on-year to 2,339,868, with those travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme (975,951) rising by 1.4%. Mainland visitors came primarily from Guangdong Province (868,313), Hunan Province (119,264) and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (103,502). Visitors from the Republic of Korea (61,573) and Hong Kong (696,902) increased by 0.8% and 30.0% respectively year-on-year, whereas those from Taiwan (91,829) dropped by 2.9%. Meanwhile, visitors from the cities in the Greater Bay Area grew by 17.6% year-on-year to 1,449,185, and 48.1% of them were from Hong Kong; those coming from Zhuhai surged by 40.6% to 227,651 (15.7% of the total) whereas those from Guangzhou decreased by 6.0% to 140,945 (9.7%).

### **Total spending of visitors in the first quarter of 2019 increased by 3.1% year-on-year**

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that attributable to a growth of 21.2% in visitor arrivals (10,359,758), total spending (excluding gaming expenses) of visitors in the first quarter of 2019 increased by 3.1% year-on-year to MOP16.93 billion, with that of overnight visitors (MOP12.92 billion) and same-day visitors (MOP4.01 billion) rising by 1.9% and 7.2% respectively.

Per-capita spending of visitors continued to record year-on-year decrease, down by 14.9% to MOP1,634 in the first quarter. Per-capita spending of visitors from Mainland China dropped by 17.2% to MOP1,849; spending of those from Guangdong Province (MOP1,789) and Fujian Province (MOP1,140) fell by 9.0% and 14.1% respectively. Mainland visitors travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme (IVS) spent an average of

MOP2,317, representing a drop of 9.4% year-on-year. Per-capita spending of visitors from Singapore (MOP1,682) and Taiwan (MOP1,460) registered decline, whereas spending of those from Japan (MOP1,612) and the Republic of Korea (MOP1,429) rose by 5.5% and 2.9% respectively. On the other hand, per-capita spending of long-haul visitors from the United States (MOP1,369) and the United Kingdom (MOP1,051) saw year-on-year growth, while spending of those from Australia (MOP1,376) decreased.

(Source: Statistics and Census Service Department)

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