

SME Bulletin

<u>Up-to-date Information on Economy and Trade</u>

Visitor arrivals in the first quarter of 2019 increased by 21.2% year-on-year

In the first quarter of 2019, visitor arrivals reached 10,359,758, up by 21.2% year-on-year. Overnight visitors (4,735,026) and same-day visitors (5,624,732) rose by 9.3% and 33.4% respectively. The average length of stay of visitors shortened by 0.1 day year-on-year to 1.1 days, with that of overnight visitors (2.2 days) and same-day visitors (0.2 day) remaining unchanged. Analysed by country/place, visitors from Mainland China (7,448,291) and Hong Kong (1,793,114) recorded respective growth of 23.5% and 21.3% year-on-year, and those from the Republic of Korea (262,051) and Taiwan (261,853) went up by 9.2% and 3.3% respectively. Visitors from the United States (50,206), Australia (23,965), Canada (20,830) and the United Kingdom (13,860) showed year-on-year increases.

The inflation rate was 2.89% in the first quarter of 2019

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that the Composite CPI (114.85) for March 2019 increased by 2.84% year-on-year, slightly higher than the growth in February (+2.79%) by 0.05 percentage points. The increment in March was attributable to dearer charges for eating out and higher rentals for dwellings, as well as rising prices of motor cars, gasoline, vegetables and fruits.

The average Composite CPI for the first quarter of 2019 (114.89) increased by 2.89% year-on-year. The average CPI-A and CPI-B went up by 2.86% and 3.17% respectively.

<u>The Tourist Price Index (TPI) for the first quarter of 2019 went up</u> <u>by 0.72% year-on-year</u>

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that the Tourist Price Index (TPI) for the first quarter of 2019 went up by 0.72% year-on-year to 137.92. The increase was attributable to dearer prices of local food products and higher charges for hotel accommodation and restaurant services; yet, falling prices of clothing and handbags tapered off part of the increase. Among the various sections of goods and services, price index of Entertainment & Cultural Activities grew by 3.93% year-on-year due to rising prices of the Lunar New Year-related leisure goods (e.g. fireworks and firecrackers). Price indices of Accommodation and Food, Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco rose by 3.73% and 3.28% respectively. Meanwhile, price indices of Clothing & Footwear (-6.94%) and Miscellaneous Goods (-2.50%) saw decreases.

<u>A total of 1,613 new companies were incorporated in the first quarter</u> of 2019, an increase of 160 year-on-year

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that a total of 1,613 new companies were incorporated in the first quarter of 2019, an increase of 160 year-on-year. The newly incorporated companies engaged mainly in Wholesale & Retail Trade (539), Business Services (470) and the Construction sector (169); total value of registered capital soared by 428.7% to MOP1.2 billion, of which MOP1.1 billion came from Financial Services. Besides, value of registered capital in the Transport, Storage & Communications sector rose by 23.8% year-on-year to MOP65 million, attributable to the incorporation of a number of passenger transport companies with larger capital during the quarter. Companies in dissolution totalled 210 in the first quarter, and the value of registered capital of companies in dissolution amounted to MOP81 million.

At the end of the first quarter of 2019, number of registered companies in Macao totalled 67,590, an increase of 5,353 from a year earlier.

(Source: Statistics and Census Service Department) --The End—