

- **Up-to-date Information on Economy and Trade**

The average occupancy rate of guest rooms was 50.3% in the first two months of 2020

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that a total of 115 hotels & guesthouses were operating in February and number of available guest rooms dropped by 3.8% year-on-year to 37,000. With a substantial decline in number of visitor arrivals amid the ongoing epidemic of novel coronavirus pneumonia, the average occupancy rate of guest rooms plunged by 76.9 percentage points year-on-year to merely 15.0% in February. The rate of 5-star hotels tumbled by 84.0 percentage points to 10.0%, while the decline in the rates of 2-star hotels (36.9%) and guesthouses (43.3%) was relatively small, with respective decreases of 33.8 percentage points and 22.3 percentage points, as some of their guest rooms were provided to non-resident workers for accommodation.

In the first two months of 2020, the average occupancy rate of guest rooms was 50.3%, representing a drop of 42.1 percentage points year-on-year. Guests of hotels & guesthouses reduced by 46.4% to 1,236,000, while their average length of stay increased by 0.1 night to 1.6 nights.

External merchandise trade totalled MOP14.38 billion from January to February 2020

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that the demand for imported goods dropped owing to a decline in economic activity in Macao in February 2020 amid the epidemic of novel coronavirus pneumonia. Therefore, total merchandise import fell by 30.3% year-on-year to MOP3.87 billion in February, the lowest single-month figure since March 2011.

Imports of Gold jewellery, Mobile phones and Watches plunged by 73.9%, 68.3% and 57.9% respectively; meanwhile, imports of Other textile made-up articles, which comprised mostly face masks, jumped by 854.6% and imports of Pharmaceutical products increased by 57.6%. Total merchandise export amounted to MOP911 million, down by 1.4% year-on-year. Value of re-exports (MOP841 million) went down by 0.8%, with that of Diamond & diamond jewellery reducing by 48.0%. Value of domestic exports (MOP70 million) fell by 8.0%, with that of Tobacco dropping by 41.9%. Merchandise trade deficit in February totalled MOP2.96 billion.

External merchandise trade totalled MOP14.38 billion from January to February 2020, down by 14.4% compared with MOP16.81 billion a year earlier.

The general unemployment rate was 2.1% in the first quarter of 2020

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that the general unemployment rate for January-March 2020 increased by 0.2 percentage points to 2.1% from the previous period (December 2019-February 2020), climbing above 2.0% for the first time since April-June 2012; the unemployment rate of local residents was 2.9%, up by 0.3 percentage points. Meanwhile, the underemployment rate held steady from the previous period at 0.8%.

Total labour force was 405,800 and the labour force participation rate was 70.5%. Total employment rose by 6,500 from the previous period to 397,400, on account of an increased number of non-resident workers living in Macao as some of those initially living outside Macao moved back to the city before the latest entry restrictions took effect on 20 February. Number of employed residents totalled 280,200, down by 3,200.

Visitor arrivals decreased by 56.9% year-on-year in the first two months of 2020

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that affected by the ongoing epidemic of the novel coronavirus pneumonia, visitor arrivals in February 2020 plunged by 95.6% year-on-year to 156,394. Same-day visitors (81,090) and overnight visitors (75,304) tumbled by 96.0% and 95.0% respectively. Meanwhile, the average length of stay of visitors went up by 1.8 days to 2.8 days, attributable to a longer stay of Mainland visitors that took up the majority of total visitor arrivals. Another contributing factor was the growth in the proportion of overnight visitors (54.9%) among the Mainland visitors. The average duration for overnight visitors surged from 2.1 days in February last year to 5.4 days while that for same-day visitors dropped from 0.2 day to 0.1 day.

In the first two months of 2020, visitor arrivals totalled 3,006,859, a drop of 56.9% year-on-year. Same-day visitors (1,611,922) and overnight visitors (1,394,937) decreased by 57.8% and 55.7% respectively. The average length of stay of visitors increased by 0.2 day year-on-year to 1.3 days, with that of overnight visitors (2.5 days) rising by 0.4 day while that of same-day visitors (0.2 day) staying unchanged. Analysed by country/place, visitors from mainland China (2,204,339), Hong Kong (538,521) and Taiwan (76,349) fell by 56.5%, 54.8% and 54.9% respectively, and those from the United States (12,885), Australia (7,637) and Canada (5,805) recorded year-on-year decline.

(Source: Statistics and Census Service Department)

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