

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

- **Visitor arrivals totalled 3,219,170 in the first quarter of 2020**

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that, as affected by the ongoing epidemic of novel coronavirus pneumonia, number of visitor arrivals in March 2020 tumbled by 93.7% year-on-year to 212,311; yet, the number represented an increase of 35.8% from February (156,394), with Hong Kong visitors arriving via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge soaring by 131.3%. Overnight visitors (125,896) and same-day visitors (86,415) declined by 92.0% and 95.2% respectively. The average length of stay of visitors went up by 1.8 days year-on-year to 3.0 days; overnight visitors prolonged their stay by 2.5 days to 4.7 days, whereas the duration for same-day visitors remained unchanged at 0.2 day.

In the first quarter of 2020, visitor arrivals totalled 3,219,170, a drop of 68.9% year-on-year. Same-day visitors (1,698,337) and overnight visitors (1,520,833) decreased by 69.8% and 67.9% respectively. The average length of stay of visitors extended by 0.3 day year-on-year to 1.4 days, with that of overnight visitors rising by 0.5 day to 2.7 days while that of same-day visitors staying unchanged at 0.2 day. Analysed by visitor source market, visitors from mainland China (2,293,229), Hong Kong (649,868) and Taiwan (80,940) fell by 69.2%, 63.8% and 69.1% respectively, and those from the United States (13,469), Australia (7,904) and Canada (6,175) recorded year-on-year decline.

- **The inflation rate was 2.59% in the first quarter of 2020**

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that the Composite CPI (103.30) for March 2020 increased by 2.47% year-on-year, up by 0.14 percentage points from the

growth in February (+2.33%). The increment was attributable to higher prices of fresh pork and Liquefied Petroleum Gas, dearer charges for eating out and rising rentals for dwellings.

The average Composite CPI for the first quarter of 2020 (103.46) grew by 2.59% year-on-year. The average CPI-A and CPI-B rose by 2.66% and 2.54% respectively.

External merchandise trade totalled MOP19.64 billion in the first quarter of 2020

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that total merchandise import fell by 40.1% year-on-year to MOP4.22 billion in March 2020, of which imports of Mobile phones, Gold jewellery and Watches declined by 78.0%, 76.6% and 61.3% respectively. On the other hand, imports of other textile made-up articles, which comprised mostly face masks, surged by 365.2%. Total merchandise export amounted to MOP1.08 billion, down by 9.0% year-on-year. Value of re-exports (MOP941 million) went down by 12.2%, with that of Machines, apparatus & parts reducing by 46.2%. Meanwhile, value of domestic exports (MOP139 million) rose by 20.6%, with that of Garments jumping by 1,015.5%. Merchandise trade deficit in March totalled MOP3.14 billion.

External merchandise trade totalled MOP19.64 billion from January to March 2020, down by 21.6% compared with MOP25.05 billion a year earlier.

The average occupancy rate of guest rooms stood at 41.4% in the first quarter of 2020

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated a total of 112 hotels & guesthouses were open for business in March (two other establishments were designated for medical observation for the whole month), and number of available guest rooms decreased by 13.2% year-on-year to 34,000. Data on hotels & guesthouses used for medical observation were excluded in the

compilation of the following statistics. The average occupancy rate of guest rooms fell by 67.6 percentage points year-on-year to 23.2%, yet representing an increase of 8.0 percentage points compared to February (15.2%). The rate of 5-star hotels (16.9%) tumbled by 74.9 percentage points, while the rates of 2-star hotels (47.9%) and guesthouses (46.1%) dropped merely by 27.1 percentage points and 19.6 percentage points respectively.

In the first quarter of 2020, the average occupancy rate of guest rooms stood at 41.4%, representing a decline of 50.5 percentage points year-on-year. Guests of hotels & guesthouses fell by 57.6% to 1,477,000, while their average length of stay went up by 0.1 night to 1.6 nights.

(Source: Statistics and Census Service Department)

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