

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

- **External merchandise trade totalled MOP29.20 billion from January to May 2020**

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that total merchandise import fell by 39.1% year-on-year to MOP4.35 billion in May 2020, of which imports of Gold jewellery, Watches and Mobile phones declined by 87.8%, 82.8% and 55.1% respectively. Total merchandise export amounted to MOP687 million, down by 24.2% year-on-year. Value of re-exports (MOP566 million) went down by 27.9%, with that of Diamond & diamond jewellery falling by 76.5%. Value of domestic exports (MOP121 million) dropped by 0.6%, with that of Copper & articles thereof reducing by 18.0%. Merchandise trade deficit in May totalled MOP3.66 billion.

External merchandise trade totalled MOP29.20 billion from January to May 2020, down by 28.6% compared with MOP40.90 billion a year earlier.

- **The average occupancy rate of guest rooms was 30.4% in the first five months of 2020**

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that a total of 108 hotels & guesthouses were open for business in May 2020, and number of available guest rooms decreased by 12.4% 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 77.8 percentage points year-on-year to 12.3%. The rate of 5-star hotels (5.5%) reduced by 85.2 percentage points, while the rates of 2-star hotels (35.1%) and guesthouses (44.1%) dropped by 40.7 percentage points and 19.9 percentage points respectively.

In the first five months of 2020, the average occupancy rate of guest rooms was 30.4%, a drop of 61.0 percentage points year-on-year. Guests in hotels & guesthouses declined by 70.7% to 1,697,000, whereas their average length of stay went up by 0.2 night to 1.7 nights.

### **The general unemployment rate for March-May 2020 was 2.4%**

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that the unemployment rate continued to rise amid the epidemic of novel coronavirus pneumonia. The general unemployment rate for March-May 2020 was 2.4% and the unemployment rate of local residents was 3.4%, up by 0.2 and 0.3 percentage points respectively from the previous period (February-April 2020). Meanwhile, the underemployment rate increased by 0.5 percentage points to 2.6%.

Total labour force was 404,300 and the labour force participation rate was 70.5%. Total employment was 394,600 and number of employed residents totalled 280,100, up by 400 and 2,200 respectively from the previous period. Analysed by industry, employment in the Construction sector increased, while that in Retail Trade and Hotels & Similar Activities decreased.

### **Visitor arrivals totalled 3,246,344 in the first five months of 2020**

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that there were 16,133 visitor arrivals in May 2020, which represented a decline of 99.5% year-on-year and yet an increase of 46.1% month-to-month. Overnight visitors and same-day visitors totalled 9,115 and 7,018 respectively. The average length of stay of visitors extended by 4.1 days year-on-year to 5.3 days, as overnight visitors stayed longer for an average of 14.7 days (+12.4 days) on account of medical observation required for visitors upon arrival. Meanwhile, the duration for same-day visitors (0.2 day) remained unchanged.

In the first five months of 2020, number of visitor arrivals dropped by 81.1% year-on-year to 3,246,344. Same-day visitors (1,710,013) and overnight visitors (1,536,331) declined by 81.5% and 80.7% respectively. The average length of stay of visitors went up by 0.3 day year-on-year to 1.4 days, with that of overnight visitors (2.7 days) increasing by 0.5 day while that of same-day visitors (0.2 day) staying unchanged. Analysed by source market, visitors from mainland China (2,318,522), Hong Kong (651,380) and Taiwan (81,302) recorded decreases, and those from the United States (13,469), Australia (7,904) and Canada (6,175) also declined.

(Source: Statistics and Census Service Department)

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