

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

- The economy declined by 56.3% in real terms for the whole year of 2020**

The pandemic of novel coronavirus pneumonia had significant impact on global economic activity in 2020. The economy of Macao, which was mainly driven by exports of services, was inevitably affected, with a substantial drop in total demand. For the whole year of 2020, the economy declined by 56.3% in real terms. Domestic demand shrank by 10.3% year-on-year; gross fixed capital formation fell by 15.1% resulting from a decline in private construction investment. Private consumption decreased by 16.3% year-on-year as residents went out less and made fewer trips abroad amid the pandemic and economic outlook remained uncertain. In response to the pandemic, the SAR government scaled up the procurement of protective gear and medical supplies, rented hotels to be used as quarantine facilities and introduced economic relief measures, which drove up government final consumption expenditure by 11.4%; compensation of employees and net purchases of goods and services went up by 2.4% and 22.5% respectively. With respect to external demand, visitor arrivals to Macao dropped by 85.0% due to travel restrictions imposed in different places; hence, exports of services slid by 74.9% year-on-year, with exports of gaming services and other tourism services falling by 80.4% and 73.4% respectively. On the other hand, exports of goods soared by 128.9%.

In 2020, GDP amounted to MOP194.4 billion and per-capita GDP was MOP285,314 (approximately USD35,714). Besides, the implicit deflator of GDP, which measures overall changes in prices, remained steady year-on-year in 2020 and dropped by 2.0% in the fourth quarter.

### **Number of MICE events held for the whole year of 2020 decreased by 1,174 year-on-year to 362**

As affected by the pandemic, number of MICE events held in 2020 decreased by 1,174 year-on-year to 362; total number of participants & attendees dropped by 54.6% to 914,000. Meetings & conferences plunged by 1,133 year-on-year to 326, with number of participants declining by 86.7% to 39,000. Meetings & conferences with a duration of less than 4 hours totalled 170, with 14,000 participants. The average duration of the meetings & conferences shortened by 0.5 day year-on-year to 1.0 day. A total of 34 exhibitions were held in 2020, a fall of 24 year-on-year, and number of attendees (875,000) slid by 48.5%. Number of incentives decreased by 17 year-on-year to 2, and number of participants (604) tumbled by 97.3%.

### **The general unemployment rate was 2.7% for November 2020-January 2021**

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that the general unemployment rate for November 2020-January 2021 held steady over the previous period (October-December 2020), at 2.7%; the unemployment rate of local residents was 3.7%, down by 0.1 percentage point. Besides, the underemployment rate dropped by 0.6 percentage points to 4.4%.

The labour force living in Macao totalled 400,100 and the labour force participation rate was 70.5%. Total employment was 389,200 and the number of employed residents totalled 284,100, up by 400 and 2,600 respectively from the previous period. Analysed by industry, employment in Wholesale & Retail Trade and Education increased, while that in the Construction sector decreased.

**Total value of retail sales decreased by 41.5% year-on-year to MOP45.19 billion for the whole year of 2020**

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that retail trade continued to see an upturn in the fourth quarter of 2020, with the value of retail sales surging by 102.5% quarter-to-quarter to MOP18.16 billion. After removing the effect of price changes, the sales volume index leapt by 109.8% quarter-to-quarter. As compared with the same quarter of 2019, the value of retail sales in the fourth quarter dropped by 12.5%, a smaller year-on-year decline than in the third quarter (-50.4%); meanwhile, the sales volume index decreased by 8.6%.

For the whole year of 2020, total value of retail sales decreased by 41.5% year-on-year to MOP45.19 billion. Among the major retail trade activities, sales values of Watches, Clocks & Jewellery (MOP7.27 billion), Adults' Clothing (MOP4.16 billion) and Cosmetics & Sanitary Articles (MOP1.69 billion) declined by 54.1%, 53.3% and 52.5% year-on-year respectively, whereas sales value of Supermarkets (MOP5.15 billion) grew by 4.1%. In 2020, the sales volume index fell by 40.2% year-on-year, with the indices of Watches, Clocks & Jewellery (-58.0%), Cosmetics & Sanitary Articles (-50.9%) and Adults' Clothing (-48.3%) showing a marked drop; on the other hand, the sales volume index of Supermarkets (+3.1%) increased.

(Source: Statistics and Census Service)

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