

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

**The total value of retail sales for the whole year surging by 63.5% year-on-year to MOP73.96 billion for the whole year of 2021**

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that value of retail sales for the fourth quarter of 2021 totalled MOP18.50 billion, up by 1.7% year-on-year. After removing the effect of price changes, the sales volume index grew by 4.6% year-on-year.

Retail trade business improved in 2021, with the total value of retail sales for the whole year surging by 63.5% year-on-year to MOP73.96 billion; besides, the figure represented a mere drop of 4.2% from 2019 (MOP77.19 billion). The year-on-year increment in retail sales value was mainly driven by an uplift in the sales values of Communication Equipment (+128.7%), Watches, Clocks & Jewellery (+126.6%), Leather Goods (+111.0%) and Department Stores (+81.8%). By contrast, the sales value of Supermarkets went down by 2.0%. In 2021, the sales volume index jumped by 69.9% year-on-year; the sales volume indices of Communication Equipment (+142.4%), Watches, Clocks & Jewellery (+128.7%) and Leather Goods (+118.5%) recorded noticeable growth, whereas the index of Supermarkets (-2.1%) dropped.

**Visitor arrivals increased by 24.7% year-on-year in January 2022**

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that visitor arrivals increased by 24.7% year-on-year to 694,430 in January 2022; however, the figure represented a decrease

of 15.4% month-on-month, ascribable to the tightening of border-control measures between Zhuhai and Macao in January in response to the pandemic situation in the neighbouring regions. Same-day visitors (450,428) surged by 56.5% year-on-year, whereas overnight visitors (244,002) dropped by 9.3%. Meanwhile, the average length of stay of visitors shortened by 0.3 day year-on-year to 1.3 days, as the proportion of same-day visitors (64.9%) grew by 13.2 percentage points; the duration for same-day visitors remained at 0.1 day while that for overnight visitors went up by 0.4 day to 3.4 days.

As regards source of visitors, number of visitors from mainland China expanded by 29.4% year-on-year to 642,016, with 167,771 of them travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme. Visitors from the nine Pearl River Delta cities in the Greater Bay Area totalled 412,174, of whom 67.1% came from Zhuhai. Besides, there were 44,380 visitors from Hong Kong and 7,896 from Taiwan.

### **A total of 449 MICE events were held, an increase of 68 year-on-year for the whole year of 2021**

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that a total of 163 MICE events were held in Macao in the fourth quarter of 2021, an increase of 92 quarter-to-quarter; number of participants & attendees soared by 218.1% to 719,000. In comparison with the same quarter last year, MICE events rose by 13 and the number of participants & attendees swelled by 39.5%.

For the whole year of 2021, a total of 449 MICE events were held, an increase of 68 year-on-year; total number of participants & attendees grew by 53.2% to 1,401,000. Meetings & conferences (386), exhibitions (55) and incentives (8) went up by 41, 21 and 6 year-on-year respectively, with the respective number of participants (43,000), attendees (1,356,000) and participants(2,468) rising by 9.0%, 55.0% and 308.6%.

**The general unemployment rate was 3.2% for November 2021 to January 2022**

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that both the general unemployment rate (3.2%) and the unemployment rate of local residents (4.2%) for November 2021-January 2022 increased by 0.1 percentage point from the previous period (October-December 2021). Meanwhile, the underemployment rate dropped by 0.8 percentage points to 3.2%.

The labour force living in Macao totalled 391,400 and the labour force participation rate was 69.9%. Total employment went up by 1,900 from the previous period to 379,000 and the number of employed residents rose by 2,000 to 284,500, attributable to an increase in the demand for local manpower in connection with a number of events held before the Lunar New Year. Analysed by industry, employment in Real Estate & Business Activities increased, while that in Gaming & Junket Activities decreased.

(Source: Statistics and Census Service)

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