

Summary of social and economic development of Macao

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No. 9

OVERALL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION

In September 2006, the number of visitor arrivals increased sharply. Gross gaming receipts dropped from the previous month but maintained a considerable year-on-year growth. In terms of external trade, imports of goods grew continuously but exports of goods fell, resulting in an increase of trade deficit. Fiscal surplus kept growing in the Public accounts. Benefited from the rapid development of the gaming and tourism sector, the employed population rose constantly. However, the number of transactions in the property market registered decreases in September over the previous month and the same month of last year. Moreover, the Composite Consumer Price Index (CPI) recorded increases year-on-year and over the previous month.

GAMING AND TOURISM

In September 2006, gross gaming receipts rose 35.8% to MOP 4.54 billion. For the first nine months of the year, total gross gaming receipts increased 14.8% to MOP 39.25 billion.

The number of visitor arrivals in September rose 20.3% to 1,748,823. Visitors from Hong Kong SAR and Mainland China registered increases of 29.4% and 15.1% respectively, while those from Taiwan region rebounded 1.4% after the decline of ten consecutive months. For the first nine months of 2006, total number of visitor arrivals reached 15,895,794, up 15.4%.

CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE

At the end of August 2006, the cumulative number of building units started were 1,708, up 39.8%, with total gross floor area of 445,156 m², down 62.7%. The cumulative number of building units completed and their gross floor area were 2,766 units and 1,041,338 m², increased by 5.3 times and 7.1 times respectively. Regarding the property market, 1,844 units were transacted in September 2006, 399 units less than the previous month and down 3.7% year-on-year. For the first nine months of 2006, the total number of units transacted was 16,421, down 38.2%.

EXTERNAL TRADE

The value of total exports in September 2006 amounted to MOP 1.72 billion, down 17.1%, while the value of total imports reached MOP 3.22 billion, up 9.1%, with trade deficit widening to MOP 1.50 billion. For the first nine months of 2006, the cumulative export value amounted to MOP 15.86 billion, up 18.7%, owing to a 13.9% increase in value of **Textile & garment** exports, which accounted for 73.5% of the total export value. Moreover, the cumulative import value reached MOP 27.00 billion, up 21.5%, mainly due to the increases in **Fuel & lubricants** (+43.8%), **Consumer goods** (+24.3%), **Raw materials & semi-manufactures** (+18.5%) and **Capital goods** (+9.9%). Trade deficit at the end of September 2006 grew to MOP 11.14 billion.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Composite CPI for September 2006 was 109.32, a year-on-year increase of 4.24%, up by 0.53% over the previous month. The indices of Education, Miscellaneous goods & services, and Housing & fuels increased by 6.06%, 1.89% and 0.53% respectively, which were fuelled by upward adjustment

of school tuition fees, sundry fees and expenses of extension class in the new academic year, as well as higher rentals for housing. On the other hand, lower gasoline prices, reduced air ticket fares and outbound package tour fees after the Summer peak season pushed down the price indices of Transport (-1.98%) and Recreation & culture (-1.29%). Attributable to seasonal sale of women's clothing and lower vegetable prices, indices of Clothing & footwear and Food & non-alcoholic beverages recorded decreases of 1.29% and 0.56% respectively. For the 12 months ended September 2006, the average Composite CPI increased by 5.45% over the previous period.

* Unless otherwise specified, growth rates mentioned in this analysis are comparisons with the same period of the previous year.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

In September 2006, total public revenue, excluding Autonomous Agencies, increased 14.5% to MOP 2.57 billion, among which gaming tax revenue, which accounted for 69.9% of the total, rose 7.0% to MOP 1.79 billion. Total public expenditure, excluding Autonomous Agencies, reached MOP 1.38 billion, down 8.8%. At the end of September 2006, the fiscal surplus of the current year amounted to MOP 9.77 billion.

EMPLOYMENT

The employed population was 271 thousand for the period from July to September 2006, up 12.6%. The unemployment rate was 3.8%, down by 0.1 percentage point over the previous period (June to August 2006) and down 0.3 percentage point year-on-year. At the end of September 2006, the number of non-resident workers was 56,553, an increase of 3,210 over the previous month.

MONEY

At the end of August 2006, narrow money supply M1 and broad money supply M2 recorded MOP 13.53 billion and MOP 156.44 billion respectively. Besides, domestic loans and advances to the private sector increased 18.0% to MOP 47.38 billion. Foreign exchange reserves rose 33.2% to MOP 64.64 billion.

Principal statistical indicators of Macao	Unit	Latest period	Latest period		Cumulative	
			Value	Year-on-year % change	Value	Year-on-year % change
I - GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT						
Current prices	10 ⁶ MOP	Q2/2006	26 885.97	22.6	52 043.20	23.4
Real growth rate	%	Q2/2006	16.3	..	17.7	..
II - GAMING AND TOURISM						
Gross gaming receipts	10 ⁶ MOP	Sept/2006	4 538.35	35.8	39 252.18	14.8
Visitor arrivals	no.	Sept/2006	1 748 823	20.3	15 895 794	15.4
Mainland China	no.	Sept/2006	917 383	15.1	8 712 131	14.0
Hong Kong SAR	no.	Sept/2006	578 931	29.4	4 996 776	19.4
Taiwan region	no.	Sept/2006	121 916	1.4	1 073 263	-6.0
III - CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
Gross floor area of buildings started	m ²	Aug/2006	27 718	-63.1	445 156	-62.7
Units of buildings started	no.	Aug/2006	161	-21.1	1 708	39.8
Gross floor area of buildings completed	m ²	Aug/2006	71 387	90.0	1 041 338	712.7
Units of buildings completed	no.	Aug/2006	286	-21.6	2 766	527.2
Building units transacted	no.	Sept/2006	1 844	-3.7	16 421	-38.2
IV - EXTERNAL TRADE						
Exports	10 ⁶ MOP	Sept/2006	1 721.13	-17.1	15 864.39	18.7
Imports	10 ⁶ MOP	Sept/2006	3 223.30	9.1	27 002.92	21.5
Trade balance	10 ⁶ MOP	Sept/2006	- 1 502.17	..	- 11 138.53	..
V - CONSUMER PRICE INDEX						
(7/2004 to 6/2005 = 100)		Sept/2006	109.32	4.2	..	5.4 ^a
VI - PUBLIC ACCOUNTS						
Revenue excluding Autonomous Agencies	10 ⁶ MOP	Sept/2006	2 565.95	14.5	19 514.68	18.5
Revenue from gaming tax	10 ⁶ MOP	Sept/2006	1 794.64	7.0	14 858.24	13.7
Expenditure excluding Autonomous Agencies	10 ⁶ MOP	Sept/2006	1 379.19	-8.8	9 744.97	10.4
Balance	10 ⁶ MOP	Sept/2006	1 186.77	..	9 769.72	..
			Latest period		Previous period	
			Value	Year-on-year % change	Value	Year-on-year % change
VII - EMPLOYMENT						
Employed population	10 ³	Jul/2006-Sept/2006	271.0	12.6	270.0	12.9
Unemployment rate	%	Jul/2006-Sept/2006	3.8	-0.3 ^b	3.9	-0.2 ^b
Non-resident workers in Macao	no.	Sept/2006	56 553	62.9	53 343	59.0
VIII - MONEY						
Narrow money supply (M1)	10 ⁶ MOP	Aug/2006	13 526.2	1.4	14 340.8	11.2
Broad money supply (M2)	10 ⁶ MOP	Aug/2006	156 440.0	18.3	155 119.7	19.0
Domestic loans and advances to the private sector	10 ⁶ MOP	Aug/2006	47 382.1	18.0	46 917.3	18.6
Foreign exchange reserves	10 ⁶ MOP	Aug/2006	64 643.3	33.2	63 539.3	34.8

a Annual rate of change ended September 2006.

b Percentage difference from the same period of last year - positive value corresponds with increase and negative value corresponds with decrease.

.. Not applicable

