

Summary of social and economic development of Macao

APRIL / 2007

No. 4

OVERALL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION

Owing to the Ching Ming festival and Easter holidays occurred back-to-back this year, the number of visitor arrivals registered a significant increase and gross gaming receipts surged in April 2007. In terms of external trade, imports of goods sustained its growth whereas exports of goods fell only moderately, narrowing the trade deficit over the previous month. In regard to Public accounts, fiscal surplus rose constantly upon the surge in revenue. Benefited from the rapid development of the gaming and tourism sector, the employed population continued to expand and the unemployment rate remained at 3.2%. On the other hand, the number of transactions in the property market in April dropped over the preceding month, but recorded a rise of over 70% year-on-year. The Composite Consumer Price Index (CPI) in April recorded increases over the previous month and year-on-year.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

In the first quarter of 2007, Macao's economy grew by 25.6% in real terms that was attributable to the outstanding performance of the gaming and tourism sector and several large-scale construction projects in progress. GDP at current prices reached MOP 33.25 billion.

GAMING AND TOURISM

Gross gaming receipts in April 2007 rose by 39.2% to MOP 6.23 billion. For the first four months of 2007, the cumulative gross gaming receipts surged by 42.4% to MOP 24.30 billion.

Total number of visitor arrivals grew by 19.1% to 2,226,968 in April 2007. Visitors from Hong Kong SAR; Mainland China; and Taiwan region registered increases of 22.1%, 15.3% and 4.9% respectively. For the first four months of 2007, total visitor arrivals reached 8,596,632, up by 20.8%.

CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE

In the first quarter of 2007, the cumulative number of building units started was 3,020 and the respective gross floor area totalled 840,526 m², up by 120.1% and 193.4% respectively. The cumulative number of building units completed was 489, up by 38.1%, while their gross floor area decreased by 7.8% to 166,603 m². Regarding the property market, 2,755 units were transacted in April 2007, a decrease of 644 units over the preceding month, but up by 73.3% year-on-year. For the first four months of 2007, the total number of units transacted jumped by 104.6% to 13,079.

EXTERNAL TRADE

Value of total exports dropped by 2.8% to MOP 1.60 billion in April 2007, while total imports grew by 14.9% to MOP 3.61 billion, resulting in a trade deficit of MOP 2.01 billion. For the first four months of 2007, the cumulative value of exports went down by 7.9% to MOP 5.92 billion that was caused by a 24.3% decrease in the exports of **Textile & garment**, which accounted for 61.8% of the value of total exports. The cumulative value of imports reached MOP 12.76 billion, up by 17.8%, on account of the increases registered in **Capital goods** (+45.2%), **Fuel & lubricants** (+15.8%), **Consumer goods** (+14.6%) and **Raw materials & semi-manufactures** (+6.6%). The cumulative trade deficit ended April was MOP 6.85 billion.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Composite CPI for April 2007 was 112.58, a year-on-year increase of 4.67% and up by 0.59% over the previous month. The indices of Clothing & footwear; Recreation & culture; and Housing & fuels recorded notable increases of 1.67%, 1.45% and 1.11% respectively, on account of dearer prices in new arrivals of Summer clothing, higher charges for outbound package tours in the Easter holidays, as well as higher rentals for housing. In addition, rising prices of gasoline and higher charges for meals bought away from home drove the indices of Transport and Food & non-alcoholic beverages up by 0.69% and 0.38% respectively. On the other hand, the price index of Household goods and furnishings, the only section that recorded decrease in April, dropped by 0.02% as a result of lower prices of glassware and household utensils. For the 12 months ended April 2007, the average Composite CPI rose by 4.79% over the previous period.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

In April 2007, total government revenue increased by 22.5% to MOP 2.86 billion, among which gaming tax revenue accounted for 84.3% of the total, up by 36.6% to MOP 2.41 billion. Total government expenditure rose by 10.7% to MOP 883 million. At the end of April 2007, the fiscal surplus amounted to MOP 9.04 billion.

EMPLOYMENT

The employed population expanded by 13.0% to 287,000 for February to April 2007. The unemployment rate stood at 3.2%, same as that in the preceding period (January to March 2007), but down by 0.7 percentage point year-on-year. At the end of April 2007, the number of non-resident workers was 72,548, corresponding to an increase of 1,366 workers over the end of March 2007.

MONEY

At the end of March 2007, narrow money supply (M1) and broad money supply (M2) amounted to MOP 17.17 billion and MOP 168.86 billion respectively. Moreover, domestic loans and advances to the private sector increased by 14.6% to MOP 50.44 billion. Foreign exchange reserves rose by 45.5% to MOP 82.10 billion.

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

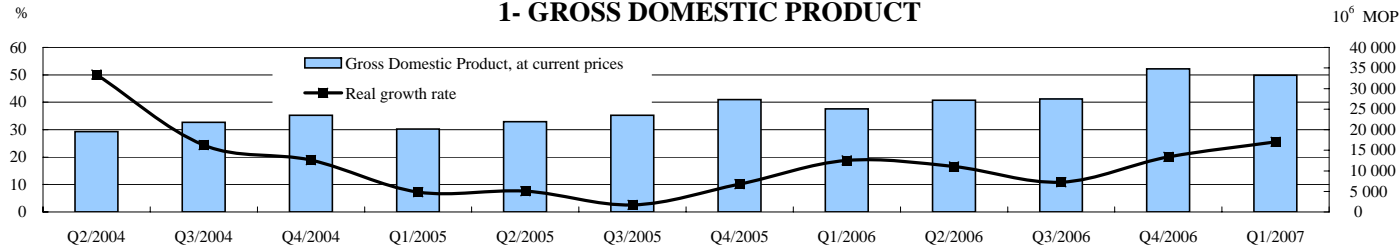
Principal statistical indicators of Macao	Unit	Latest period	Latest period		Cumulative	
			Value	Year-on-year % change	Value	Year-on-year % change
I - GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT						
Current prices	10 ⁶ MOP	Q1/2007	33 247.54	32.9	33 247.54	32.9
Real growth rate	%	Q1/2007	25.6	..	25.6	..
II - GAMING AND TOURISM						
Gross gaming receipts	10 ⁶ MOP	Apr/2007	6 228.62	39.2	24 295.56	42.4
Visitor arrivals	no.	Apr/2007	2 226 968	19.1	8 596 632	20.8
Mainland China	no.	Apr/2007	1 141 987	15.3	4 719 106	18.9
Hong Kong SAR	no.	Apr/2007	761 185	22.1	2 711 252	22.2
Taiwan region	no.	Apr/2007	132 715	4.9	466 630	2.4
III - CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
Gross floor area of buildings started	m ²	Mar/2007	490 320	134.7	840 526	193.4
Units of buildings started	no.	Mar/2007	2 192	86.7	3 020	120.1
Gross floor area of buildings completed	m ²	Mar/2007	51 330	409.6	166 603	-7.8
Units of buildings completed	no.	Mar/2007	206	524.2	489	38.1
Building units transacted	no.	Apr/2007	2 755	73.3	13 079	104.6
IV - EXTERNAL TRADE						
Exports	10 ⁶ MOP	Apr/2007	1 600.77	-2.8	5 915.68	-7.9
Imports	10 ⁶ MOP	Apr/2007	3 611.51	14.9	12 761.91	17.8
Trade balance	10 ⁶ MOP	Apr/2007	- 2 010.74	..	- 6 846.24	..
V - CONSUMER PRICE INDEX						
(7/2004 to 6/2005 = 100)		Apr/2007	112.58	4.7	..	4.8 ^a
VI - PUBLIC ACCOUNTS						
Total revenue	10 ⁶ MOP	Apr/2007	2 856.34	22.5	12 122.60	49.9
Revenue from gaming tax	10 ⁶ MOP	Apr/2007	2 409.06	36.6	9 431.73	47.9
Total expenditure	10 ⁶ MOP	Apr/2007	882.56	10.7	3 082.61	-11.7
Balance	10 ⁶ MOP	Apr/2007	1 973.78	..	9 039.99	..
			Latest period		Previous period	
			Value	Year-on-year % change	Value	Year-on-year % change
VII - EMPLOYMENT						
Employed population	10 ³	Feb/2006 - Apr/2007	287.0	13.0	284.0	12.2
Unemployment rate	%	Feb/2006 - Apr/2007	3.2	-0.7 ^b	3.2	-0.8 ^b
Non-resident workers in Macao	no.	Apr/2007	72 548	48.7	71 182	48.7
VIII - MONEY						
Narrow money supply (M1)	10 ⁶ MOP	Mar/2007	17 170.4	33.4	17 353.1	36.2
Broad money supply (M2)	10 ⁶ MOP	Mar/2007	168 855.6	15.5	167 475.1	16.0
Domestic loans and advances to the private sector	10 ⁶ MOP	Mar/2007	50 439.2	14.6	49 401.8	13.0
Foreign exchange reserves	10 ⁶ MOP	Mar/2007	82 096.1	45.5	78 995.1	45.1

a Annual rate of change ended April 2007.

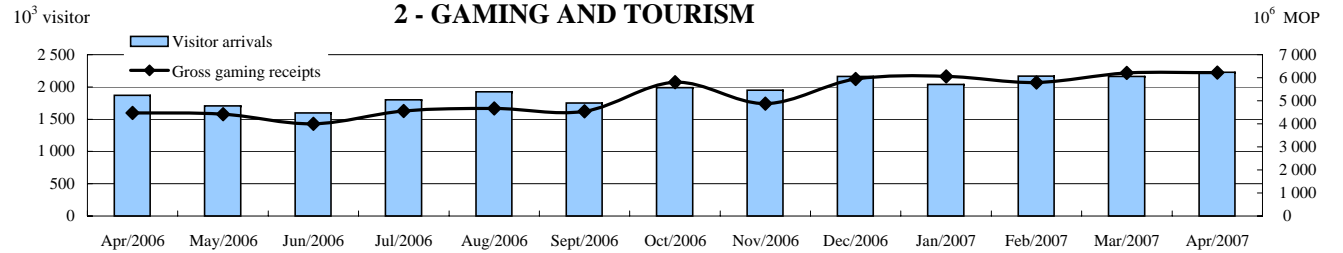
b Percentage difference from the same period of last year - positive value corresponds with increase and negative value corresponds with decrease.

.. Not applicable

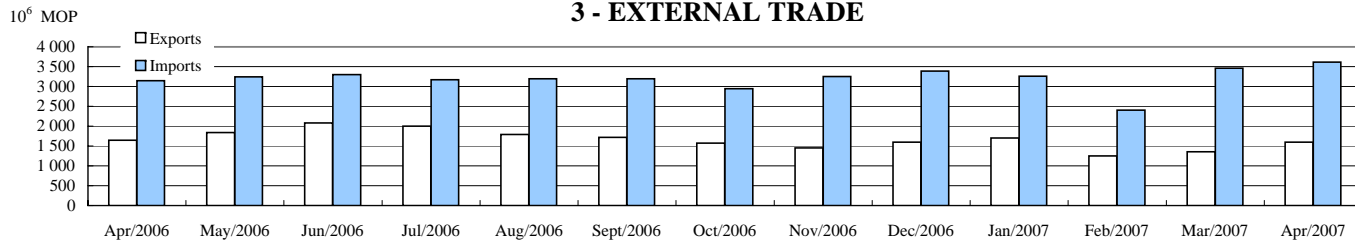
1- GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT



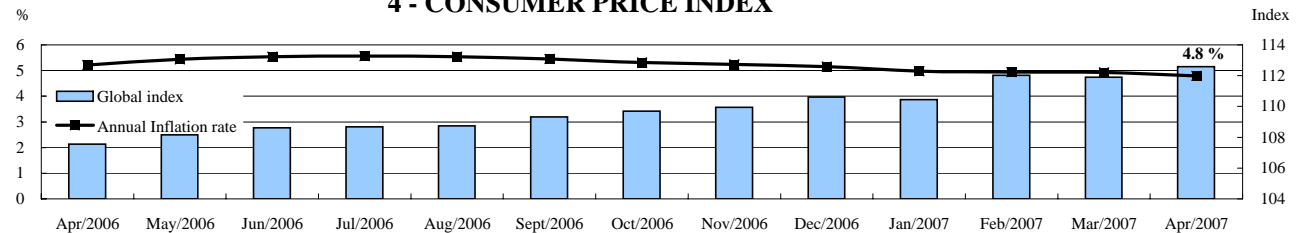
2 - GAMING AND TOURISM



3 - EXTERNAL TRADE



4 - CONSUMER PRICE INDEX



5 - UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

