

Summary of social and economic development of Macao

JANUARY / 2006

No. 1

OVERALL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION

As a consequence of Chinese New Year that took place in January, number of visitor arrivals recorded a considerable growth but gross gaming receipts decreased. In terms of external trade, exports of goods rebounded sharply while imports of goods continued to increase, thus trade deficit narrowed down. The Government's fiscal situation continued to be favourable and hence surplus was recorded. Moreover, under the rapid development of the gaming and tourism sector, unemployment rate dropped to 3.9%. Meanwhile, the employed population grew strongly. Although the social and economic situation of Macao performed favourable in January, the property market was still experiencing adjustment, the number of transactions situated at a low level and the consumer price index continued to rise.

GAMING AND TOURISM

In January 2006, gross gaming receipts dropped 6.0% to MOP 3.58 billion.

Number of visitor arrivals grew 18.5% to 1,661,393. Visitors from Mainland China and Hong Kong SAR increased 12.4% and 40.3% respectively, while visitors from Taiwan region decreased 10.8%.

CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE

In 2005, the cumulative number of units and gross floor area of buildings started were 4,947 and 2,133,019 m², up 79.4% and 198.2% respectively. Moreover, the cumulative number of units and gross floor area of buildings completed were 1,277 and 391,487 m², up 15.3% and 82.0% respectively. Regarding the property market, 1,604 units were transacted in January 2006, less 309 units compared with December 2005.

EXTERNAL TRADE

In January 2006, total export value amounted to MOP 2.06 billion, up 39.5%, because the value of **Textile & garment** exports, which accounted for 82.5% of the total exports, increased 48.0%. Total import value reached MOP 2.64 billion, up 17.6%, mainly due to the increases registered in **Fuel & lubricants** (60.5%), **Capital goods** (27.9%) and **Consumer goods** (18.7%). A trade deficit of MOP 0.57 billion was recorded in January.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Effective from January 2006, the base year of Consumer Price Index (CPI) is revised to July 2004 - June 2005. Under the new base year, the Composite CPI for January 2006 was 106.37, with year-on-year increase of 5.9%, or up by 0.58% over the previous month. The increment was attributable to the 1.4% increase in the index of **Miscellaneous goods & services**, 1.7% increase in **Recreation & culture** and 0.8% increase both in **Food & non-alcoholic beverages** and **Transport** upon rising charges in hairdressing services before the Chinese New Year, price increases in outbound package tours, fish and seafood, fruit and meals bought away from home during the Chinese New Year holidays, as well as the further increase in gasoline prices. For the 12 months ended January 2006, the average Composite CPI rose by 4.7% over the previous period.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

In January 2006, total public revenue, excluding Autonomous Agencies, increased 7.0% to MOP 1.90 billion, among which gaming tax revenue accounted for 82.9% of the total, up 12.9% to MOP 1.58 billion. On the other hand, total public expenditure, excluding Autonomous Agencies, reached MOP 1.23 billion, up 11.7%. At the end of January, the fiscal surplus of the current year amounted to MOP 0.68 billion.

EMPLOYMENT

The employed population was 250,000 in November 2005 to January 2006, up 9.5%. The unemployment rate was 3.9%, down by 0.1 percentage point over the previous period (October to December 2005) and down 0.3 percentage point year-on-year. At the end of January, the number of non-resident workers increased 54.2% to 42,496.

MONEY

At the end of December 2005, narrow money supply M1 and broad money supply M2 reached MOP 12.79 billion and MOP 135.66 billion respectively. Meanwhile, domestic loans and advances to the private sector increased 19.8% to MOP 42.51 billion. Foreign exchange reserves rose 22.7% to MOP 53.43 billion.

* Growth rates mentioned in this analysis are comparisons with the same period of the previous year, unless stated otherwise.

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	Q3/2005	23 563.01	7.7	66 043.72	10.7
Real growth rate	%	Q3/2005	2.8	..	6.2	..
II - GAMING AND TOURISM						
Gross gaming receipts	10 ⁶ MOP	Jan/2006	3 583.98	-6.0	3 583.98	-6.0
Visitor arrivals	no.	Jan/2006	1 661 393	18.5	1 661 393	18.5
Mainland China	no.	Jan/2006	927 727	12.4	927 727	12.4
Hong Kong SAR	no.	Jan/2006	528 975	40.3	528 975	40.3
Taiwan region	no.	Jan/2006	93 254	-10.8	93 254	-10.8
III - CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
Gross floor area of buildings started	m ²	Dec/2005	18 307	-16.2	2 133 019	198.2
Units of buildings started	no.	Dec/2005	98	-	4 947	79.4
Gross floor area of buildings completed	m ²	Dec/2005	157 595	138.7	391 487	82.0
Units of buildings completed	no.	Dec/2005	362	-8.6	1 277	15.3
Building units transacted	no.	Jan/2006	1 604	-48.2	1 604	-48.2
IV - EXTERNAL TRADE						
Exports	10 ⁶ MOP	Jan/2006	2 064.28	39.5	2 064.28	39.5
Imports	10 ⁶ MOP	Jan/2006	2 639.20	17.6	2 639.20	17.6
Trade balance	10 ⁶ MOP	Jan/2006	-574.92	..	-574.92	..
V - CONSUMER PRICE INDEX						
(7/2004 to 6/2005 = 100)		Jan/2006	106.37	5.9	..	4.7 ^a
VI - PUBLIC ACCOUNTS						
Revenue excluding Autonomous Agencies	10 ⁶ MOP	Jan/2006	1 903.78	7.0	1 903.78	7.0
Revenue from gaming tax	10 ⁶ MOP	Jan/2006	1 577.49	12.9	1 577.49	12.9
Expenditure excluding Autonomous Agencies	10 ⁶ MOP	Jan/2006	1 225.30	11.7	1 225.30	11.7
Balance	10 ⁶ MOP	Jan/2006	678.48	..	678.48	..
			Latest period		Previous period	
			Value	Year-on-year % change	Value	Year-on-year % change
VII - EMPLOYMENT						
Employed population	10 ³	Nov/2005-Jan/2006	250	9.5	249	9.0
Unemployment rate	%	Nov/2005-Jan/2006	3.9	-0.3 ^b	4.0	-0.1 ^b
Non-resident workers in Macao	no.	Jan/2006	42 496	54.2	39 411	42.1
VIII - MONEY						
Narrow money supply (M1)	10 ⁶ MOP	Dec/2005	12 788.9	-4.8	12 545.4	-0.1
Broad money supply (M2)	10 ⁶ MOP	Dec/2005	135 659.8	12.2	133 005.2	12.2
Domestic loans and advances to the private sector	10 ⁶ MOP	Dec/2005	42 509.5	19.8	42 059.2	20.5
Foreign exchange reserves	10 ⁶ MOP	Dec/2005	53 429.2	22.7	52 001.6	22.7

a Annual rate of change ended January 2006.

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

.. Not applicable

- Absolute value equals zero

