

Summary of social and economic development of Macao

DECEMBER / 2006

No. 12

OVERALL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION

In December 2006, the number of visitor arrivals marked a new monthly record of over two million and gross gaming receipts surged. In terms of external trade, imports of goods continued to rise and exports of goods fell sharply, bringing about a slight drop in trade deficit over the previous month. In regard to employment, under the rapid development of the gaming and tourism sector, the employed population continued to grow and unemployment rate dropped to 3.5%. On the other hand, the number of transactions in the property market in December registered a marginal decrease over the previous month, but rose over 50% when compared with the same month of last year. The Composite Consumer Price Index (CPI) in December recorded increases over the previous month and year-on-year.

As regards overall social and economic situation in 2006, apart from the decrease in the number of property transactions, the slight increase in the exports of goods and the relatively high rise in the Consumer Price Index, other areas showed outstanding performances, particularly in gross gaming receipts, visitor arrivals, investment in construction, public revenue and employed population where high increases were recorded; moreover, unemployment rate declined sharply.

GAMING AND TOURISM

Gross gaming receipts surged by 55.4% to MOP 5.95 billion in December 2006. In annual terms, total gross gaming receipts reached MOP 55.88 billion, up 22.0%.

The total number of visitor arrivals in December 2006 climbed up 29.7% to 2,162,917. Visitors from Hong Kong SAR and Mainland China registered increases of 36.8% and 23.5% respectively, while visitors from Taiwan region rose 15.3%. In 2006, total number of visitor arrivals reached 21,998,122, up 17.6%. Visitors from Hong Kong SAR and Mainland China increased 23.6% and 14.6% respectively, but visitors from Taiwan region decreased slightly by 3.0%.

CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE

At the end of November 2006, the cumulative number of building units started was 3,850 and the respective gross floor area totalled 982,346 m², down 20.6% and 53.5% respectively. Meanwhile, the cumulative number of building units completed was 3,016 with their gross floor area at 1,245,954 m², which increased by 2.3 times and 4.3 times respectively. Regarding the property market, 2,959 units were transacted in December 2006, 2,134 units less than the preceding month but up 54.7% year-on-year. In 2006, the total number of units transacted went down 21.5% to 26,400.

EXTERNAL TRADE

The value of total exports in December 2006 amounted to MOP 1.59 billion, down 25.7%, but the value of total imports went up 10.8% to MOP 3.39 billion, resulting in a trade deficit of MOP 1.79 billion. In 2006, the value of **Non-textile & garment** exports rose 29.2%, which surpassed the 4.4% decrease in the value of **Textile & garment** exports that accounted for 71.6% of the total exports value. Consequently, the annual export value went up 3.2% to MOP 20.46 billion. Moreover, the annual import value escalated 16.6% to MOP 36.53 billion, mainly due to increases in **Fuel & lubricants** (+31.5%), **Consumer goods** (+18.5%), **Raw materials & semi-manufactures** (+13.9%) and **Capital goods** (+9.4%). Trade deficit for the whole year reached MOP 16.07 billion.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Composite CPI for December 2006 was 110.61, a year-on-year increase of 4.59%, or up by 0.61% over the previous month. The indices of Clothing & footwear, Recreation & Culture, and Housing & fuels recorded notable increases of 1.57%, 1.12% and 0.92% respectively, which were attributable to the rising prices of men's and women's clothing and women's footwear, higher charges for outbound package tours during Christmas holiday, as well as higher rentals for housing. Moreover, dearer prices of air tickets, rising charges for meals bought away from home and medical services raised the indices of Transport, Health, and Food & non-alcoholic beverages by 0.75%, 0.63% and 0.59% respectively. On the other hand, the index of Communication fell slightly by 0.02%, on account of lower prices of mobile phones. In 2006, the annual average Composite CPI was 108.42, implying an annual inflation rate of 5.15%.

EMPLOYMENT

The employed population was 276 thousand for the period from October to December 2006, up 11.0%. The unemployment rate was 3.5%, down by 0.1 percentage point over the previous period (September to November 2006), or down 0.5 percentage point year-on-year. At the end of December 2006, the number of non-resident workers was 64,673, which corresponds to an increase of 2,628 over the previous month, or an increment of 25,262 (+64.1%) when compared with the figure at the end of December 2005.

MONEY

At the end of November 2006, narrow money supply (M1) and broad money supply (M2) amounted to MOP 16.65 billion and MOP 163.73 billion respectively. Besides, domestic loans and advances to the private sector increased 14.7% to MOP 48.24 billion. Foreign exchange reserves rose 36.0% to MOP 70.73 billion.

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

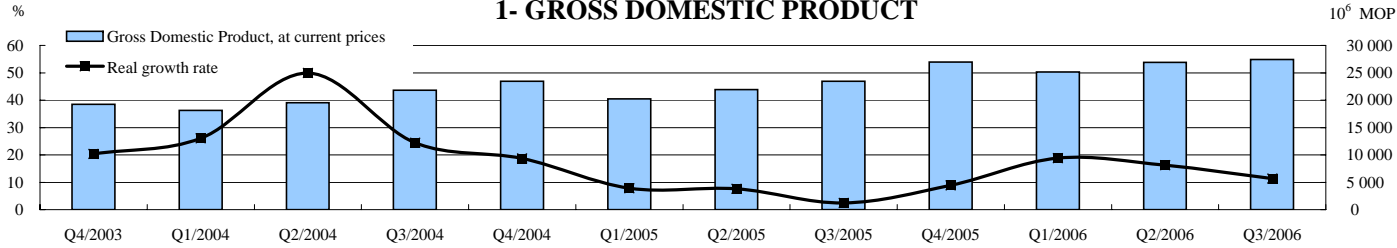
Principal statistical indicators of Macao	Unit	Latest period	Latest period		Cumulative	
			Value	Year-on-year % change	Value	Year-on-year % change
I - GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT						
Current prices	10 ⁶ MOP	Q3/2006	27 453.68	17.1	79 437.80	21.2
Real growth rate	%	Q3/2006	11.4	..	15.4	..
II - GAMING AND TOURISM						
Gross gaming receipts	10 ⁶ MOP	Dec/2006	5 951.06	55.4	55 884.08	22.0
Visitor arrivals	no.	Dec/2006	2 162 917	29.7	21 998 122	17.6
Mainland China	no.	Dec/2006	1 142 575	23.5	11 985 617	14.6
Hong Kong SAR	no.	Dec/2006	706 309	36.8	6 940 656	23.6
Taiwan region	no.	Dec/2006	118 234	15.3	1 437 824	-3.0
III - CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
Gross floor area of buildings started	m ²	Nov/2006	47 876	-66.1	982 346	-53.5
Units of buildings started	no.	Nov/2006	285	-54.6	3 850	-20.6
Gross floor area of buildings completed	m ²	Nov/2006	70 236	64.3	1 245 954	432.7
Units of buildings completed	no.	Nov/2006	100	669.2	3 016	229.6
Building units transacted	no.	Dec/2006	2 959	54.7	26 400	-21.5
IV - EXTERNAL TRADE						
Exports	10 ⁶ MOP	Dec/2006	1 593.52	-25.7	20 461.27	3.2
Imports	10 ⁶ MOP	Dec/2006	3 386.05	10.8	36 527.30	16.6
Trade balance	10 ⁶ MOP	Dec/2006	- 1 792.53	..	- 16 066.04	..
V - CONSUMER PRICE INDEX						
(7/2004 to 6/2005 = 100)		Dec/2006	110.61	4.6	..	5.2 ^a
VI - PUBLIC ACCOUNTS						
Revenue excluding Autonomous Agencies	10 ⁶ MOP	Nov/2006	3 137.43	5.2	24 855.95	18.4
Revenue from gaming tax	10 ⁶ MOP	Nov/2006	2 239.79	44.4	18 858.18	18.6
Expenditure excluding Autonomous Agencies	10 ⁶ MOP	Nov/2006	1 590.45	16.3	12 598.33	11.4
Balance	10 ⁶ MOP	Nov/2006	1 546.99	..	12 257.62	..
			Latest period		Previous period	
			Value	Year-on-year % change	Value	Year-on-year % change
VII - EMPLOYMENT						
Employed population	10 ³	Oct/2006 - Dec/2006	276.0	11.0	275.0	12.7
Unemployment rate	%	Oct/2006 - Dec/2006	3.5	-0.5 ^b	3.6	-0.4 ^b
Non-resident workers in Macao	no.	Dec/2006	64 673	64.1	62 045	66.9
VIII - MONEY						
Narrow money supply (M1)	10 ⁶ MOP	Nov/2006	16 654.2	32.8	17 141.4	26.3
Broad money supply (M2)	10 ⁶ MOP	Nov/2006	163 730.7	23.1	162 451.2	22.5
Domestic loans and advances to the private sector	10 ⁶ MOP	Nov/2006	48 238.3	14.7	47 321.0	14.4
Foreign exchange reserves	10 ⁶ MOP	Nov/2006	70 727.0	36.0	68 620.6	36.4

a Annual rate of change ended December 2006.

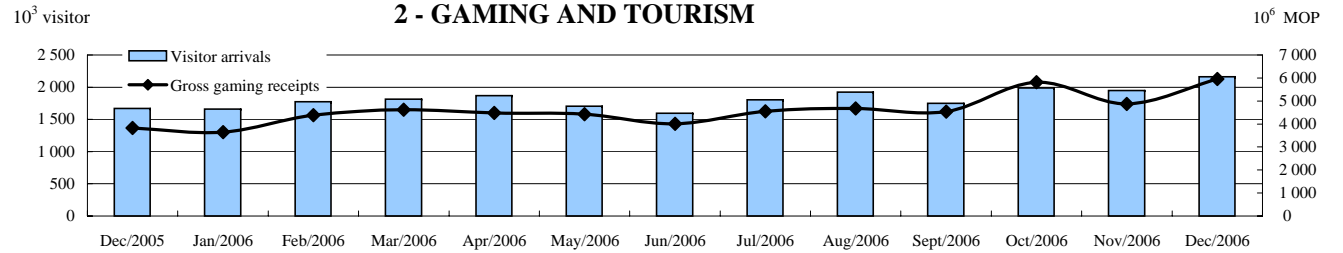
b Percentage difference from the same period of last year - positive value corresponds with increase and negative value corresponds with decrease.

.. Not applicable

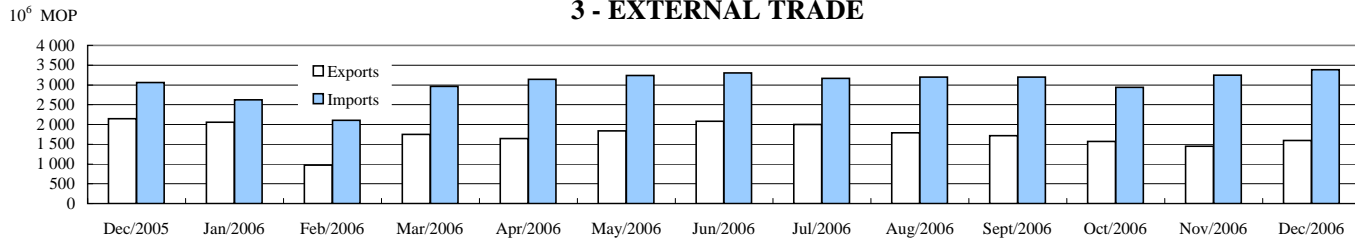
1- GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT



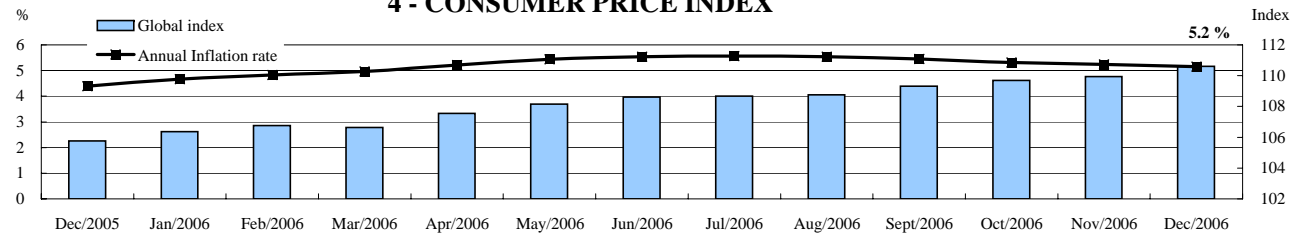
2 - GAMING AND TOURISM



3 - EXTERNAL TRADE



4 - CONSUMER PRICE INDEX



5 - UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

