

## WAGES OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AND PRICES OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER/2010

No. 2

### I. Wages of Construction Workers

The average daily wage of construction workers was MOP507 in the second quarter of 2010, down by 4.2% quarter-to-quarter. The average daily wage of *skilled & semi-skilled workers* dropped by 5.1% to MOP537 while that of *unskilled workers* rose by 8.6% to MOP340.

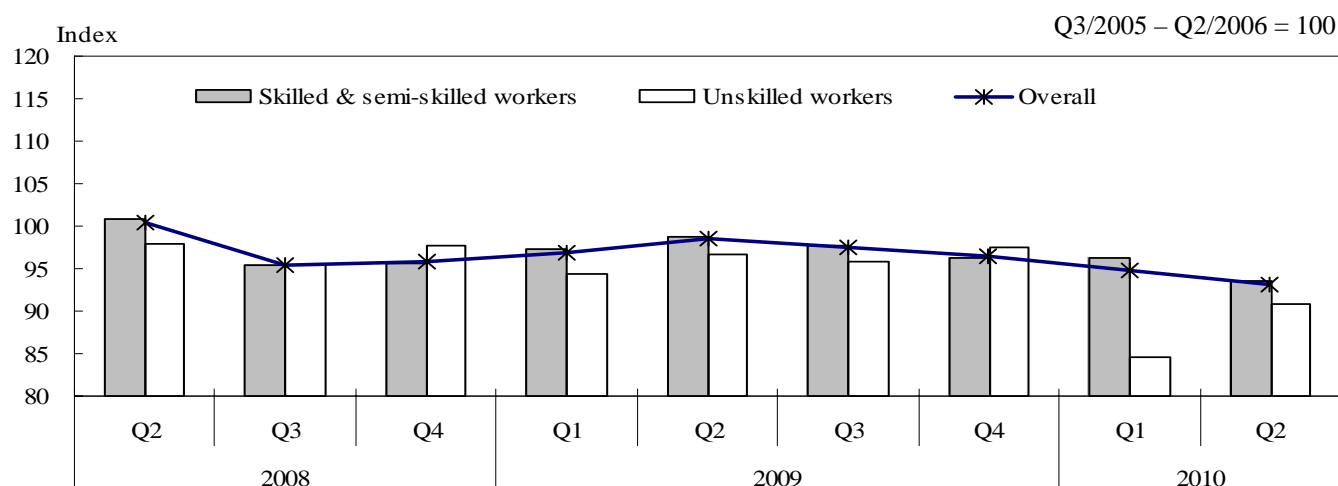
Among the *skilled & semi-skilled workers*, *plant operators* had the highest average daily wage of MOP667, up by 4.5% quarter-to-quarter, which was followed by *scaffolders, concreters & drain layers* and *levellers*, with MOP643, MOP640 and MOP637 respectively.

Table 1. Average daily wages of construction workers

Occupation	MOP			Quarter-to-quarter (%)	Year-on-year (%)
	2009 Q2	2010 Q1	2010 Q2		
Overall average	547	529	507	-4.2	-7.3
Skilled & semi-skilled workers	580	566	537	-5.1	-7.4
<i>Of which:</i>					
Plant operators	565	638	667	4.5	18.1
Scaffolders	665	679	643	-5.3	-3.3
Concreters & drain layers	581	629	640	1.7	10.2
Levellers	587	556	637	14.6	8.5
Structural iron erectors	588	590	624	5.8	6.1
Unskilled workers	353	313	340	8.6	-3.7

After discounting the effect of inflation, the wage index of construction workers for the second quarter of 2010 was 93.2 in real terms, down by 1.6% quarter-to-quarter, with that of *skilled & semi-skilled workers* decreasing by 2.8% to 93.5 but that of *unskilled workers* rising by 7.3% to 90.8.

Graph 1. Real wage indices of construction workers



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Among the *skilled & semi-skilled workers*, the real wage indices of *carpenters* and *electricians and electrical workers* declined by 18.8% and 10.4% respectively over the previous quarter, but those of *structural iron erectors* and *concrete formwork carpenters* registered increases of 4.5% and 4.3% respectively.

Table 2. Real wage indices of construction workers

Occupation	Weight	Q3/2005 – Q2/2006 = 100				
		2009	2010		Quarter-to-quarter (%)	Year-on-year (%)
		Q2	Q1	Q2		
Overall index	100.0	98.5	94.7	93.2	-1.6	-5.4
Skilled and semi-skilled workers	87.5	98.8	96.2	93.5	-2.8	-5.4
<i>Of which:</i>						
Concrete formwork carpenters	10.8	87.7	83.2	86.8	4.3	-1.0
Bricklayers and plasterers	10.6	100.0	96.9	90.9	-6.2	-9.1
Structural iron erectors	9.5	83.9	83.1	86.8	4.5	3.5
Electricians and electrical workers	7.8	104.8	104.8	93.9	-10.4	-10.4
Air-conditioning mechanics	6.2	100.8	102.1	98.8	-3.2	-2.0
Carpenters	4.7	99.7	97.0	78.8	-18.8	-21.0
Unskilled workers	12.5	96.7	84.6	90.8	7.3	-6.1

## II. Prices of Construction Materials

In the second quarter of 2010, the average price of *spiral and round reinforcing steel bars* increased by 15.5% quarter-to-quarter to MOP4,882 per tonne, and that of *Portland cement (ordinary)* rose by 4.5% to MOP653 per tonne; however, the average price of *concrete* and *sand* fell by 2.2% and 0.4% respectively.

Table 3. Prices of selected construction materials

Construction material	Unit	MOP				
		2009	2010		Quarter-to-quarter (%)	Year-on-year (%)
		Q2	Q1	Q2		
Spiral and round reinforcing steel bars (length: 12m, diameter: $\geq 10$ mm)	ton	4,122	4,226	4,882	15.5	18.4
Clamping plate (plywood) (size: 19mm x 0.9m-1.2m x 1.8m-2.4m)	m <sup>2</sup>	59	58	58	0.5	-1.5
Emulsion paint	litre	24	24	25	1.6	1.2
Sand	m <sup>3</sup>	78	80	80	-0.4	2.2
PVC (grey) water supply pipes (thick) (size: 32mm $\phi$ x 4m)	unit	23	25	25	-	7.4
Concrete	m <sup>3</sup>	322	315	308	-2.2	-4.3
Portland cement (ordinary)	ton	650	625	653	4.5	0.5

- Absolute value equals zero

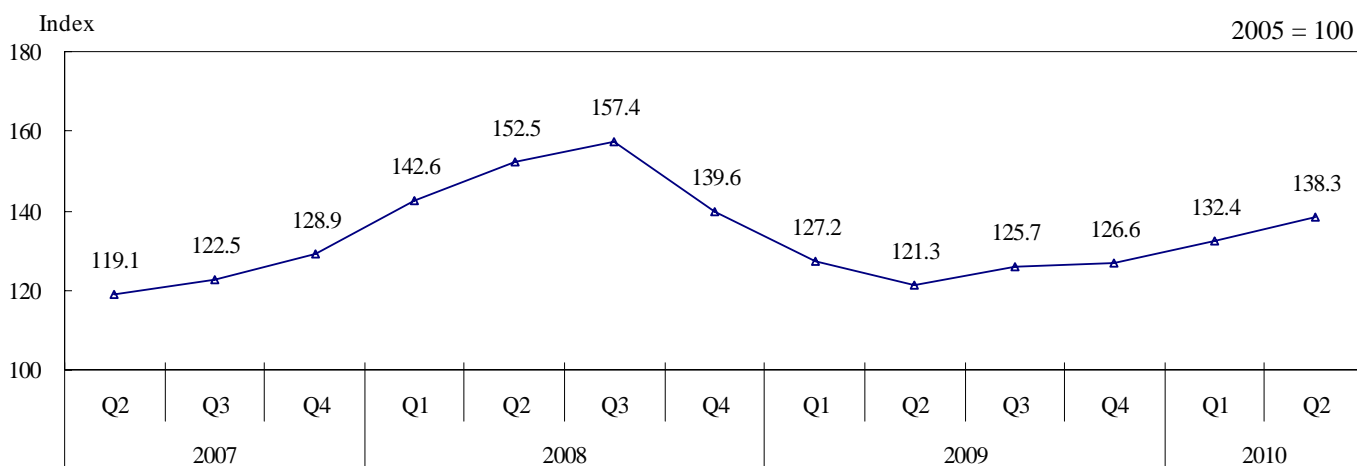
The price index of construction materials for residential buildings for the second quarter of 2010 rose by 4.5% quarter-to-quarter to 138.3; in particular, the price indices of *steel* and *timber* increased by 14.9% and 1.9% respectively, while the price indices of *aluminium* and *concrete* went down by 2.4% and 1.9%. Compared with the same quarter of 2009, the price index of construction materials for residential buildings registered an increase of 14.0%.

Table 4. Price indices of construction materials for residential buildings

Group of construction materials	Weight	2009	2010		Quarter-to-quarter (%)	Year-on-year (%)
		Q2	Q1	Q2		
Overall index	100.0	121.3	132.4	138.3	4.5	14.0
<i>Of which:</i>						
Steel	27.7	111.9	114.8	131.9	14.9	17.9
Concrete	15.3	99.2	97.5	95.6	-1.9	-3.6
Timber	14.1	122.5	124.1	126.4	1.9	3.2
Electric wires	9.4	172.0	234.0	233.9	0 <sup>#</sup>	36.0
Pipes	8.4	135.3	152.5	151.7	-0.5	12.1
Concrete pipe piles	7.1	131.1	121.5	123.0	1.2	-6.2
Aluminium	5.9	99.6	114.5	111.7	-2.4	12.1

0<sup>#</sup> Magnitude less than half of the unit employed

Graph 2. Price index of construction materials for residential buildings



**The following statistical tables are available for download from our website**

1. Number of construction projects surveyed and workers engaged in public and private sectors
2. Number of construction projects surveyed and workers engaged by number of workers
3. Average daily wages of construction workers by occupation
4. Nominal wage indices of construction workers by occupation
5. Real wage indices of construction workers by occupation
6. Average prices of major construction materials
7. Price indices of construction materials for residential buildings

Further statistical information can be obtained from the Documentation and Information  
Centre of the Statistics and Census Service:

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