

For discussion
on 25 June 2021

**Legislative Council Panel on Manpower
Subcommittee to Study the Setting Up of
an Unemployment Assistance System in Hong Kong**

**Latest Employment Situation in Hong Kong and
Assistance Measures Targeted at Employees from Industries that
Suffered from the Epidemic**

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the Hong Kong's latest employment situation and specific measures targeted at employees from industries that suffered from the epidemic.

Latest employment situation

2. The labour market improved lately amid the economic recovery and receding local epidemic (see *Table 1 in Annex* for major labour market statistics).

3. The labour force increased by 0.4% year-on-year to 3 863 700 in March – May 2021 (the latest period). Meanwhile, the labour force participation rate went up by 0.5 percentage point over a year earlier to 59.6%, with increases seen across most age groups, suggesting that some people who had left the labour force earlier on have already re-entered the labour market.

4. Total employment increased by 0.3% over the low base of comparison a year earlier to 3 630 400 in March – May 2021. Compared with the pre-recession level (i.e. the second quarter of 2019), total employment was still sizably lower by 5.9% (about 229 600), reflecting that overall labour demand was yet to see a visible increase. Analysed by sector, employment in the consumption- and tourism-related

sectors (viz. retail, accommodation and food services sectors) combined rose by 3.3% year-on-year, to a large extent due to a low base of comparison; compared with the pre-recession level, employment in these sectors combined was still down by 18.4% (see *Tables 2a and 2b in Annex* for employment by sector and their percentage changes respectively). Employment in most other sectors was still below the pre-recession level, including arts, entertainment and recreation, and transportation, etc. On the other hand, employment in some sectors exceeded the pre-recession level, such as postal and courier activities, public administration, and human health and social work activities.

5. After rising to a 17-year high of 7.2% in December 2020 – February 2021, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined to 6.0% in March – May 2021. The number of unemployed persons also fell from a high of 261 600 to 233 300. The unemployment rates of all major sectors went down lately, though they were still far above their respective pre-recession levels. Specifically, the unemployment rate of the retail, accommodation and food services sectors combined fell to 9.4% in March – May 2021 (see *Table 3 in Annex* for unemployment rates by sector). Meanwhile, other sectors with relatively higher unemployment rates included arts, entertainment and recreation (12.2%), construction (10.3%), warehousing and support activities for transportation (7.2%), and transportation (6.8%).

Specific assistance measures targeted at employees from industries that suffered from the epidemic

6. With a view to helping hard-hit business sectors and individuals tide over the difficult times amidst the economic downturn and the COVID-19 epidemic, the Government has introduced a series of relief measures amounting to over \$300 billion since early 2020 through the 2020-21 Budget and the four rounds of injections into the Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF)¹. These relief measures address society's needs while at the same time take into account the Government's overall fiscal position.

¹ Please refer to Papers of LegCo Finance Committee Nos. FCR(2019-20)46, FCR(2020-21)2, FCR(2020-21)71 and FCR(2020-21)77.

Among others, examples of support measures for individual sectors are provided below.

7. The COVID-19 epidemic has dealt a heavy blow to the tourism industry. In the year from April 2020 to March 2021, there were only about 260 visitor arrivals per day on average, much lower than the level in 2019 which had 150 000 visitor arrivals per day. In order to assist the travel trade in tiding over this challenging time, the Government has disbursed four rounds of subsidies under AEF and increased the funding commitments of the Travel Agents Incentive Scheme and the Green Lifestyle Local Tour Incentive Scheme, to assist over 1 700 travel agents, around 21 000 practitioners, including travel agent staff, tourist guides, tour escorts, and drivers of tour service coaches, as well as 2 100 guesthouses, hotels, and the cruise industry. The cumulative commitment for the relevant supporting measures accounts for about \$2.6 billion in total. In addition, the Government has also provided over 1 700 short term jobs for practitioners in the travel trade to assist at the community vaccination centres. Travel trade practitioners could also enroll courses under the Love Upgrading Special Scheme launched by the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) to upgrade their skills and receive special allowance for the training concerned.

8. With the stabilisation of the epidemic, the Government will continue its efforts to explore room for the tourism trade to operate, while striking a balance between fighting the epidemic and resuming economic activities. Measures include allowing the resumption of organisation of local group tours with conditions at end April 2021, and the resumption of “cruise-to-nowhere” itineraries at end-July the earliest. The Governments of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Singapore will also, in early July, review the target date of inaugural flights under the bilateral Air Travel Bubble, and make an announcement on the way forward accordingly.

9. For the aviation sector, the Government and the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) have been working to help the aviation sector in responding to the challenges brought about by the epidemic. The Government provided one-off subsidies to local airlines, aviation support services and cargo facilities operators through AEF, as well as waiver of

various fees and charges. Targeting different segment of the airport community, AAHK launched rounds of relief measures that included rental concessions, reduction or waiver of fees. As for airport workers, AAHK provided training allowance to staff who are on no-pay leave, with a view to encouraging staff to enhance competencies and skills. The above-mentioned relief measures accounted for about \$9.5 billion. At the same time, the Government has assisted the employers in the aviation sector to pay salaries of staff through two tranches of Employment Support Scheme (ESS) (see paragraph 11 below).

10. To prevent the spread of the COVID-19, the government implemented a series of social distancing measures in late March 2020. Catering outlets selling or supplying food for consumption on their premises have been hard hit by the epidemic. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) rolled out a Catering Business (Social Distancing) Subsidy Scheme in May 2020 to provide financial relief to the eligible holders of restaurant licences or factory canteen licences issued by FEHD. The subsidy is primarily in support of payment of employees' salaries during a six-month period following approval of such application.

11. As mentioned above, the Government launched ESS under AEF to provide time-limited financial support to employers by assisting them to pay salaries of staff. The wage subsidies were disbursed in two tranches, covering the period of June to August 2020 and September to November 2020 respectively.

12. The aforesaid sector-specific support measures, which have stabilized the operation and employment situation of these sectors and retained employees who may otherwise be made redundant, benefited the employers and employees concerned.

Assistance measures for the unemployed and underemployed

13. The Government had a discussion on unemployment assistance system in Hong Kong, and its strategy and related measures in response to the expanded unemployed population with Members at the meeting of

the Subcommittee on 13 April 2021 as detailed at LegCo Paper No. CB(2)954/20-21(01). The Government will, depending on circumstances, continue enhancing the existing assistance measures for persons affected by the epidemic who are most in need.

14. The Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme has all along been serving its function as a safety net effectively to help those who cannot support themselves financially to meet their basic needs. In the past year or so, the number of CSSA unemployment cases increased significantly. As at end-May 2021, there were 19 673 CSSA unemployment cases (increased by 60 per cent from early 2020). Having regard to the impact of the epidemic, the Government has disregarded the cash value of insurance policies of able-bodied applicants as assets on a time-limited basis under the CSSA Scheme. Specifically, for able-bodied applicants submitting their applications within the six months from 1 April to 30 September 2021, all insurance policies owned by them, irrespective of the cash value, will be disregarded as asset during the one-year grace period.

15. The objective of the Working Family Allowance (WFA) Scheme is to support lower-income working households which are not on CSSA and have longer working hours (e.g. engaging in full-time employment) by providing different levels of allowance according to the principle of rewarding hard work. Having regard to the impact of the pandemic, the Government reduces the WFA working hour requirements for non-single-parent households from the claim months of June 2021 to May 2022, which include substantially reducing the working hour requirement for Basic Allowance from 144 to 72 hours per month, as well as reducing the working hour requirement for Medium Allowance from 168 to 132 hours per month, so that more households will be eligible for WFA and some existing beneficiaries may receive higher rate of allowance.

16. The Finance Committee (FC) has approved funding for the Government to relax the asset limits of the Short-term Food Assistance Service Projects for 12 months starting from 1 June 2021. The measure is expected to benefit about 120 000 additional service users, involving an additional expenditure of about \$430 million. For illustration, the asset

limit of a four-person household will be relaxed from \$264,000 to \$548,000.

17. ERB currently provides around 700 training courses covering 28 industry categories and various generic skills training for the unemployed and eligible serving employees to upgrade their employment-related skills. ERB launched three tranches of the Love Upgrading Special Scheme from October 2019 with a total quota for 40 000 trainees. The fourth tranche will be launched in July 2021 to benefit 20 000 additional trainees. Amongst others, the placement-tied courses aim to equip unemployed trainees with skills required by the market and help them join the employment market as soon as possible. The trainees involved usually opt for cross-industry training. Trainees who have completed placement-tied training courses would receive follow-up placement services for three to six months. The statutory cap of training allowance for trainees has also been increased from \$4,000 to \$5,800 per month starting from May 2020.

18. The Labour Department (LD) provides comprehensive and free employment services for job seekers (including employees from industries affected by the epidemic) through its job centres, three industry-based recruitment centres set up respectively for the catering, retail and construction industries, on-line platforms, etc. LD strives to help job seekers secure employment by strengthening its liaison with employers with recruitment needs, stepping up its efforts in canvassing vacancies for job seekers, and organising various kinds of job fairs to expedite the dissemination of employment information.

19. LD also implements and introduces timely enhancements to its employment programmes so as to raise the employability of job seekers who have special employment needs, and to encourage employers to hire them. In light of the deteriorating employment situation, LD raised the ceiling of the on-the-job training (OJT) allowance payable to employers (including those affected by the epidemic) under the Employment Programme for the Elderly and Middle-aged, the Youth Employment and Training Programme and the Work Orientation and Placement Scheme in September 2020, with a view to further encouraging employers to hire the elderly and middle-aged, young people and persons with disabilities and

provide them with OJT. LD also launched a pilot scheme in the same month to encourage eligible employees (including employees from industries affected by the epidemic) to undergo and complete OJT under these employment programmes through the provision of a retention allowance, thereby stabilising employment. Subject to the length of OJT period, a full-time employee may receive up to \$12,000 retention allowance.

20. LD will continue to monitor its employment services in the light of the local economic and labour market conditions. Adjustments or enhancements will be initiated in a timely manner so as to better serve the changing needs of both job seekers and employers.

21. The Government has, through the Job Creation Scheme under AEF, created around 30 000 time-limited jobs in the public and private sectors in two years' time for people of different skill sets and academic qualifications to relieve the worsening unemployment due to the epidemic. As at end May 2021, around 31 000 jobs have been created, with half of the jobs being created in the Government and the other half in the non-governmental sector. Among the jobs already created, around 24 000 jobs have been filled. In light of the difficulties encountered by young people in finding jobs in the prevailing job market due to their lack of working experience, around 10 000 jobs are created specifically for fresh graduates and young people under the Job Creation Scheme. The Scheme also caters for the need of the grassroots. Over 40% of the jobs are relatively junior with a view to relieving the underemployment situation of the grassroots.

22. Moreover, the 2021-22 Budget announced the allocation of an additional \$6.6 billion to create around 30 000 more time-limited jobs. Regarding the 30 000 time-limited jobs created under the new round of the Job Creation Scheme, we will broadly adopt the mode of the previous round of the Job Creation Scheme, with a view to creating jobs to benefit people of different skill sets and qualifications. Apart from the time-limited jobs created in the Government, relevant government departments are also liaising with the non-governmental organisations or relevant associations under their purview to formulate detailed proposals of creating additional jobs in the non-governmental sector. We

understand that people from certain industries have been particularly affected by the epidemic and are facing the situation of underemployment or even unemployment. Relevant departments will particularly take into account the situation of those industries when formulating detailed proposals of creating time-limited jobs. For instance, more than 1 700 short-term jobs for practitioners in the travel trade to be responsible for the operation and administrative work at 24 community vaccination centres are those jobs created especially having regard to the underemployment situation of the travel trade and the proposal put forth by the travel trade.

23. In addition, FC approved on 26 March 2021 the provisions for setting up a time-limited 100% Personal Loan Guarantee Scheme with a total commitment of HK\$15 billion with a view to supporting the unemployed affected by the epidemic to tide over the interim difficulty. HKMC Insurance Limited has started receiving applications from April 28 with an application period of six months.

Conclusion

24. Looking ahead, the pressure on the labour market should gradually ease as the economy continues to recover, particularly so if the local epidemic remains well contained. Yet, the evolving global pandemic situation remains a key source of uncertainty. As the pace of economic recovery is uneven across sectors, the unemployment rates in some sectors may take a longer time to return to the pre-recession levels. As the Government stated at different occasions, a wider vaccination coverage in the community would help stabilise the epidemic situation, such that we would be better placed to continue to relax social distancing measures and other restrictions on social and economic activities on the basis of “vaccine bubble” in a gradual and orderly manner. This would create favourable conditions for a full-fledged revival in the economy. The Government will also put in extra efforts to contain the epidemic, revive the economy and put in place appropriate measures to assist those in need as affected by the epidemic.

Advice Sought

25. Members are invited to note the contents of this paper.

Labour and Welfare Bureau
Office of the Government Economist
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau
Transport and Housing Bureau
Civil Service Bureau
Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau
Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office
Census and Statistics Department
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Labour Department
Employees Retraining Board

June 2021

Table 1 : Labour force ⁽¹⁾, labour force participation rate ⁽²⁾, total employment ⁽³⁾ and seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ⁽⁴⁾, Q2 2019 and Q1 2020 – Mar-May 2021

	Q2 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Mar-May 2021 [^]
Labour force (year-on-year change)	3 974 100 (+0.1%)	3 882 200 (-2.1%)	3 861 100 (-2.8%)	3 884 600 (-2.1%)	3 893 400 (-1.4%)	3 873 900 (-0.2%)	3 863 700 (+0.4%)
Labour force participation rate	60.6%	59.5%	59.4%	59.6%	59.6%	59.6%	59.6%
Total employment (year-on-year change)	3 860 000 (+0.1%)	3 720 000 (-3.6%)	3 620 400 (-6.2%)	3 624 800 (-5.8%)	3 647 700 (-4.6%)	3 614 100 (-2.8%)	3 630 400 (+0.3%)
Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate	2.8%	4.2%	6.2%	6.4%	6.6%	6.8%	6.0%

Notes : Labour force and total employment figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.

[^] Provisional figures.

- (1) The labour force refers to the land-based non-institutional population aged 15 and over who satisfy the criteria for inclusion in the employed population or the unemployed population. It does not cover inmates of institutions and persons living on board vessels.
- (2) The labour force participation rate refers to the proportion of labour force in the land-based non-institutional population aged 15 and over.
- (3) Employed persons refer to those persons aged 15 and over who have been at work for pay or profit during the 7 days before enumeration or have had formal job attachment. Unpaid family workers and persons who were on leave/holiday during the seven days before enumeration are included.
- (4) Unemployment rate refers to the proportion of unemployed persons in the labour force.

Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

**Table 2a : Number of employed persons ⁽¹⁾ by detailed industry ⁽²⁾ of main employment,
Q2 2019 and Q1 2020 – Mar-May 2021**

	Number						
	Q2 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Mar-May 2021 [^]
Manufacturing	107 200	102 200	108 500	106 200	101 300	98 400	95 700
Construction	337 100	309 300	302 100	303 700	316 000	311 900	318 800
<i>Foundation and superstructure</i>	262 600	241 300	235 000	233 800	242 400	243 800	247 500
<i>Decoration, repair and maintenance for buildings</i>	74 400	68 000	67 200	69 800	73 600	68 100	71 300
Import/export trade and wholesale	388 900	349 800	321 400	318 900	312 300	306 500	311 500
<i>Import and export trade</i>	358 100	326 100	302 900	298 900	295 200	289 700	293 700
<i>Wholesale</i>	30 800	23 800	18 400	20 100	17 100	16 800	17 800
Retail, accommodation ⁽³⁾ and food services	625 300	529 300	507 300	499 600	509 700	508 500	510 200
<i>Retail</i>	323 800	278 200	270 300	269 800	270 300	269 700	266 500
<i>Accommodation ⁽³⁾ and food services</i>	301 500	251 100	237 000	229 800	239 400	238 800	243 700
Transportation, storage, postal and courier services, information and communications	445 300	441 500	426 000	428 800	429 900	429 400	429 900
<i>Transportation</i>	217 900	212 800	195 800	201 900	197 700	197 600	198 200
<i>Air transport ⁽⁴⁾</i>	28 400	27 600	27 100	26 400	20 300	#	#
<i>Warehousing and support activities for transportation ⁽⁵⁾</i>	76 300	74 500	73 200	73 200	74 900	76 100	75 700
<i>Postal and courier activities</i>	17 800	18 400	19 500	19 300	22 700	22 400	22 900
<i>Information and communications</i>	133 200	135 800	137 600	134 400	134 600	133 200	133 100
Financing, insurance, real estate, professional and business services	822 600	850 400	836 000	847 100	855 700	851 700	854 200
<i>Financing</i>	205 500	219 300	214 300	218 800	218 900	217 300	218 700
<i>Insurance</i>	72 100	74 000	69 500	70 100	69 400	69 500	68 500
<i>Real estate</i>	160 400	155 500	156 700	153 500	157 600	156 600	159 300
<i>Professional and business services</i>	384 600	401 600	395 500	404 700	409 700	408 200	407 600
Public administration, social and personal services	1 106 600	1 114 500	1 096 500	1 097 200	1 099 900	1 085 100	1 086 600
<i>Public administration</i>	120 200	121 700	122 500	124 800	126 200	127 200	129 400
<i>Education</i>	236 400	232 100	228 400	223 100	218 800	220 800	223 200
<i>Human health and social work activities</i>	218 900	232 900	232 000	235 500	236 500	236 000	233 300
<i>Arts, entertainment and recreation</i>	59 400	55 900	50 100	52 000	53 400	51 300	50 300
<i>Other service activities</i>	471 800	471 900	463 600	461 800	465 000	449 900	450 400
Other industries	26 800	22 900	22 600	23 300	23 000	22 700	23 500
Overall	3 860 000	3 720 000	3 620 400	3 624 800	3 647 700	3 614 100	3 630 400

Notes : Employment figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.

[^] Provisional figures.

Figure for Q1 2021 will be available in the Quarterly Report of Employment and Vacancies Statistics (First Quarter 2021) to be published by C&SD on 22 June 2021. Only quarterly figures are available from the Quarterly Survey of Employment and Vacancies.

(1) Employed persons refer to those persons aged 15 and over who have been at work for pay or profit during the seven days before enumeration or have had formal job attachment. Unpaid family workers and persons who were on leave/holiday during the seven days before enumeration are included.

(2) Industry refers to the activity of the establishment in which the respondent worked during the 7 days before enumeration. The General Household Survey are compiled following the Hong Kong Standard Industrial Classification V2.0.

- (3) Accommodation services cover hotels, guesthouses, boarding houses and other establishments providing short term accommodation.
- (4) Figures for this detailed industry are not available from the General Household Survey owing to sample size limitation. The above figures refer to number of persons engaged from the Quarterly Survey of Employment and Vacancies, which include working proprietors/partners/directors, unpaid family workers and employees of establishments who have worked for at least 1 hour on the survey reference date.
- (5) Previously known as Storage.

Sources : General Household Survey and Quarterly Survey of Employment and Vacancies, Census and Statistics Department.

Table 2b : Year-on-year percentage changes of employed persons ⁽¹⁾ by detailed industry ⁽²⁾ of main employment, Q1 2020 – Mar-May 2021

	Year-on-year percentage change (%)						Cumulative percentage change of Mar-May 2021 compared with Q2 2019 (%)
	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Mar-May 2021 [^]	
Manufacturing	-3.1	+1.1	+7.2	+0.1	-3.7	-9.7	-10.8
Construction	-7.8	-10.4	-11.1	-5.0	+0.8	+3.8	-5.4
<i>Foundation and superstructure</i>	-7.4	-10.5	-12.2	-7.1	+1.0	+3.6	-5.8
<i>Decoration, repair and maintenance for buildings</i>	-9.5	-9.8	-7.1	+2.6	+0.1	+4.5	-4.2
Import/export trade and wholesale	-12.6	-17.4	-16.0	-16.2	-12.4	-5.1	-19.9
<i>Import and export trade</i>	-10.7	-15.4	-15.4	-14.8	-11.2	-4.5	-18.0
<i>Wholesale</i>	-32.8	-40.2	-24.2	-34.2	-29.3	-13.5	-42.2
Retail, accommodation ⁽³⁾ and food services	-15.9	-18.9	-15.3	-10.1	-3.9	+3.3	-18.4
<i>Retail</i>	-14.7	-16.5	-12.5	-7.9	-3.1	-1.3	-17.7
<i>Accommodation ⁽³⁾ and food services</i>	-17.2	-21.4	-18.3	-12.5	-4.9	+8.8	-19.2
Transportation, storage, postal and courier services, information and communications	-1.9	-4.3	-5.5	-5.3	-2.7	+0.4	-3.5
<i>Transportation</i>	-3.0	-10.2	-7.8	-10.6	-7.2	+0.2	-9.1
<i>Air transport ⁽⁴⁾</i>	-4.3	-4.7	-7.9	-29.5	#	#	-28.6 (Comparing Q4 2020 with Q2 2019)
<i>Warehousing and support activities for transportation ⁽⁵⁾</i>	-4.9	-4.2	-6.6	-3.4	+2.2	+0.9	-0.9
<i>Postal and courier activities</i>	+1.2	+9.1	-2.8	+18.3	+21.9	+14.1	+28.6
<i>Information and communications</i>	+1.2	+3.3	-1.5	-1.0	-1.9	-1.8	@
Financing, insurance, real estate, professional and business services	+3.9	+1.6	+0.4	+0.7	+0.2	+1.3	+3.8
<i>Financing</i>	+8.3	+4.2	+4.6	+1.3	-0.9	+0.9	+6.4
<i>Insurance</i>	+5.1	-3.6	-5.1	-5.6	-6.0	-4.3	-5.0
<i>Real estate</i>	-3.3	-2.3	-5.4	-1.7	+0.8	+2.7	-0.7
<i>Professional and business services</i>	+4.4	+2.8	+1.5	+2.5	+1.6	+1.9	+6.0
Public administration, social and personal services	+2.1	-0.9	-1.7	-2.1	-2.6	-0.3	-1.8
<i>Public administration</i>	+3.3	+1.9	+1.6	+4.6	+4.5	+5.3	+7.7
<i>Education</i>	-0.8	-3.4	-3.6	-7.0	-4.9	+0.1	-5.6
<i>Human health and social work activities</i>	+6.4	+6.0	+4.4	+3.2	+1.4	+1.7	+6.6
<i>Arts, entertainment and recreation</i>	-3.7	-15.7	-13.3	-8.5	-8.3	-0.4	-15.4
<i>Other service activities</i>	+2.0	-1.7	-3.1	-3.1	-4.7	-3.0	-4.5
Other industries	-12.3	-15.9	-6.9	-7.0	-1.0	+7.3	-12.3
Overall	-3.6	-6.2	-5.8	-4.6	-2.8	+0.3	-5.9

Notes : ^ Provisional figures.

@ Less than 0.05%.

Figure for Q1 2021 will be available in the Quarterly Report of Employment and Vacancies Statistics (First Quarter 2021) to be published by C&SD on 22 June 2021. Only quarterly figures are available from the Quarterly Survey of Employment and Vacancies.

(1) Employed persons refer to those persons aged 15 and over who have been at work for pay or profit during the seven days before enumeration or have had formal job attachment. Unpaid family workers and persons who were on leave/holiday during the seven days before enumeration are included.

- (2) Industry refers to the activity of the establishment in which the respondent worked during the 7 days before enumeration.
- (3) Accommodation services cover hotels, guesthouses, boarding houses and other establishments providing short term accommodation.
- (4) Figures for this detailed industry are not available from the General Household Survey owing to sample size limitation. The above figures refer to year-on-year percentage changes of number of persons engaged from the Quarterly Survey of Employment and Vacancies, which include working proprietors/partners/directors, unpaid family workers and employees of establishments who have worked for at least 1 hour on the survey reference date.
- (5) Previously known as Storage.

Sources : General Household Survey and Quarterly Survey of Employment and Vacancies, Census and Statistics Department.

**Table 3 : Unemployment rate ⁽¹⁾ (not seasonally adjusted) by detailed previous industry ⁽²⁾,
Q2 2019 and Q1 2020 – Mar-May 2021**

	Q2 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Mar-May 2021 [^]
	(%)						
Manufacturing	3.0	5.8	6.3	6.5	6.0	6.5	6.4
Construction	5.0	8.5	11.2	10.9	10.7	11.5	10.3
<i>Foundation and superstructure</i>	4.9	7.7	9.6	9.5	9.4	10.0	9.0
<i>Decoration, repair and maintenance for buildings</i>	5.5	11.5	16.2	15.4	14.6	16.2	14.3
Import/export trade and wholesale	2.6	3.6	5.2	5.2	5.3	6.2	5.6
<i>Import and export trade</i>	2.7	3.5	5.3	5.3	5.4	6.2	5.7
<i>Wholesale</i>	1.4	4.0	3.9	3.6	4.3	6.5	5.2
Retail, accommodation ⁽³⁾ and food services	3.9	6.8	10.7	11.7	10.6	10.7	9.4
<i>Retail</i>	3.9	5.6	7.7	9.3	8.3	8.8	8.1
<i>Accommodation ⁽³⁾ and food services</i>	3.9	8.1	14.0	14.4	13.1	12.8	10.7
Transportation, storage, postal and courier services, information and communications	2.7	3.3	6.0	5.9	6.3	6.8	6.3
<i>Transportation</i>	2.0	3.1	5.5	5.6	6.7	7.0	6.8
<i>Air transport ⁽⁴⁾</i>	Not available						
<i>Warehousing and support activities for transportation ⁽⁵⁾</i>	3.0	4.2	7.9	7.7	7.5	8.0	7.2
<i>Postal and courier activities</i>	4.2	2.4	4.2	5.5	4.9	6.9	6.2
<i>Information and communications</i>	3.5	3.5	5.8	5.5	5.4	5.8	5.0
Financing, insurance, real estate, professional and business services	2.2	2.8	4.1	4.0	4.4	4.8	4.5
<i>Financing</i>	1.9	2.5	3.1	2.8	3.2	3.7	3.2
<i>Insurance</i>	2.0	2.3	2.7	2.6	3.0	3.9	3.3
<i>Real estate</i>	1.9	2.4	3.2	4.0	3.8	4.2	3.5
<i>Professional and business services</i>	2.6	3.3	5.2	4.9	5.5	5.7	5.8
Public administration, social and personal services	1.1	2.0	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.6	2.9
<i>Public administration</i>	0.4	0.7	1.1	0.9	1.4	1.7	1.2
<i>Education</i>	1.4	3.1	5.2	4.4	4.2	5.2	4.4
<i>Human health and social work activities</i>	1.7	1.8	2.6	2.9	2.5	2.1	1.9
<i>Arts, entertainment and recreation</i>	2.4	4.7	10.8	11.4	9.0	13.1	12.2
<i>Other service activities</i>	0.7	1.4	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.9	2.0
Other industries	2.4	3.9	4.4	3.8	3.2	2.2	2.1
Overall	2.9	4.2	6.2	6.7	6.3	6.7	6.0

Notes : [^] Provisional figures.

- (1) Unemployment rate refers to the proportion of unemployed persons in the labour force.
- (2) Industry refers to the activity of the establishment in which the respondent worked previously. The General Household Survey are compiled following the Hong Kong Standard Industrial Classification V2.0.
- (3) Accommodation services cover hotels, guesthouses, boarding houses and other establishments providing short term accommodation.
- (4) Figures for this detailed industry are not available from the General Household Survey owing to sample size limitation.
- (5) Previously known as Storage.

Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.