

Employment and vacancies statistics for March 2019

According to the figures released today (June 21) by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD), total employment in the private sector surveyed increased by 0.2% or 6 900 persons in March 2019 compared with a year earlier. The total number of vacancies was 79 580, representing an increase of 4% or 2 700 over the preceding year.

Employment statistics

In March 2019, the selected industries as a whole employed 2 874 300 persons. The import and export trade engaged 460 100 persons, followed by the professional and business services (excluding cleaning and similar services) engaging 307 100 persons, the retail trade 272 600 persons, and the food and beverage services 251 800 persons.

Employment increased in many surveyed industries compared with a year earlier. Increases in employment were mainly recorded in the industries of accommodation services (covering hotels, guesthouses, boarding houses and other establishments providing short term accommodation) (6.6% or 2 600 persons), human health services (4.3% or 5 600 persons), information and communications (3.4% or 3 700 persons), and financing and insurance (3.2% or 7 200 persons). On the other hand, employment decreased mainly in the industries of construction sites (manual workers only) (-11.0% or -13 300 persons), and import and export trade (-3.7% or -17 900 persons). Employment figures for selected major industries are shown in Table 1.

Vacancies statistics

Among the 79 580 private sector vacancies, 12 280 were from the industry of food and beverage services, 8 350 from retail trade, 8 160 from professional and business services (excluding cleaning and similar services), 6 470 from financing and insurance, and 5 570 from import and export trade.

Vacancies increased in many selected industries in March 2019 over a year earlier. Increases were mainly observed in the industries of transportation, storage, postal and courier services (740 or 18%); education (710 or 17%); residential care and social work services (630 or 17%); and professional and business services (excluding cleaning and similar services) (490 or 6%). On the other hand, vacancies decreased mainly in the industries of import and export trade (-720 or -11%), real estate (-190 or -5%), and information and communications (-170 or -5%). Job vacancies figures for selected major industries are shown in Table 2.

Analysed by major occupation category, private sector vacancies were observed mainly in the categories of service and sales workers (24 530 vacancies), associate professionals (15 180 vacancies), elementary

occupations (14 930 vacancies), and clerical support workers (9 490 vacancies). Job vacancies figures by major occupation category are shown in Table 3.

Seasonally adjusted statistics

For discerning the latest trend in employment and vacancies in the private sector, it is useful to look at changes over a three-month period in the respective seasonally adjusted figures. Compared with December 2018, the seasonally adjusted total employment and total vacancies in the surveyed industries decreased by 0.1% and 0.8% respectively in March 2019. The changes over three-month periods in the seasonally adjusted series of employment and vacancies are shown in Table 4.

Other information

The above employment and vacancies statistics were obtained from the Quarterly Survey of Employment and Vacancies and the Quarterly Employment Survey of Construction Sites conducted by the C&SD. In the former survey, some economic activities (e.g. those dominated by self-employment, including taxi operators and hawkers) are not covered. Therefore, the respective employment and vacancies figures relate only to those selected industries included in the survey. In the latter survey on construction sites, employment and vacancies figures relate to manual workers only.

A detailed breakdown of the above statistics is published in the following reports:

"Quarterly Report of Employment and Vacancies Statistics, March 2019"
(www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp452.jsp?productCode=B1050003)

"Quarterly Report of Employment and Vacancies at Construction Sites, March 2019"
(www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp452.jsp?productCode=B1050004)

Users can download these publications free of charge at the website of the C&SD.

Enquiries on more detailed employment and vacancies statistics can be directed to the Employment Statistics and Central Register of Establishments Section, C&SD (Tel: 2582 5076; fax: 2827 2296; email: employment@censtatd.gov.hk).