

Key statistics on business performance and operating characteristics of the building, construction and real estate sectors in 2023

According to the results of the 2023 Annual Survey of Economic Activities – Building, Construction and Real Estate Sectors released today (November 28) by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD), the construction sector's total receipts (comprising gross value of construction works performed and other business receipts) amounted to \$450.9 billion in 2023, representing an increase of 9.7% over 2022; on a per establishment basis, total receipts was \$16.6 million in 2023, increased by 7.1% over 2022.

Operating expenses and compensation of employees of the construction sector altogether amounted to \$415.2 billion in 2023, representing an increase of 10.3% over 2022; on a per establishment basis, they were \$15.3 million in 2023, increased by 7.7% over 2022.

Gross surplus of the construction sector, which is equal to total receipts less operating expenses and compensation of employees, increased by 3.0% over 2022 to \$35.7 billion in 2023; on a per establishment basis, gross surplus increased by 0.5% over 2022, to \$1.3 million in 2023. Gross surplus accounted for 7.9% of total receipts in 2023, down by 0.5 percentage point compared with 2022.

Industry value added of the construction sector, which is a measure of its contribution to Hong Kong's Gross Domestic Product, increased by 9.2% over 2022 to \$133.0 billion in 2023; on a per establishment basis, the industry value added was \$4.9 million in 2023, representing an increase of 6.6% over 2022.

In 2023, there were some 27 200 establishments in the construction sector, which directly engaged about 195 800 persons, or an average of 7.2 persons per establishment.

The survey did not cover labour-only sub-contractors that mainly supplied labour to work on a job-to-job basis, owing to practical consideration in data collection. The employment figures above mainly covered direct employees of the construction establishments and did not reflect the labour input through the sub-contracting activities of labour-only sub-contractors.

Apart from the construction sector, the survey also enumerated establishments engaged in real estate activities; and architectural, surveying and engineering services.

Total receipts (comprising gross margin of real estate development

projects, service and rental income and other business receipts) of establishments engaged in the real estate activities (including real estate development, real estate leasing, real estate brokerage and agency, and real estate maintenance management) amounted to \$180.4 billion in 2023, representing an increase of 3.5% over 2022. Operating expenses and compensation of employees altogether amounted to \$96.3 billion in 2023, representing an increase of 6.2% over 2022. Gross surplus decreased by 5.7% compared with 2022 to \$71.1 billion in 2023. Gross surplus accounted for 39.4% of total receipts in 2023, down by 3.8 percentage points compared with 2022. Industry value added increased by 2.6% over 2022 to \$114.2 billion in 2023.

In 2023, the real estate activities comprised some 11 500 establishments and engaged about 124 500 persons, or an average of 10.9 persons per establishment.

The total number of private real estate projects ever operated in 2023 was 307. As at end-2023, 233 projects, which were expected to provide a total 7.4 million square metres of gross floor area of buildings when completed, were still under construction. Among them, 16% were on Hong Kong Island, 39% in Kowloon and 45% in the New Territories and outlying islands.

The survey excluded establishments which developed real estate projects for their own use as well as those which owned land but had not developed it during the reference year. Real estate leasing and other related activities undertaken by individuals or firms which engaged less than two persons (except for subsidiaries of real estate enterprises) were also not covered in the survey.

Total receipts (comprising service income and other business receipts) of establishments engaged in the architectural, surveying and engineering services amounted to \$27.7 billion in 2023, representing an increase of 3.9% over 2022. Operating expenses and compensation of employees altogether amounted to \$24.0 billion in 2023, representing an increase of 4.8% over 2022. Gross surplus decreased by 1.6% compared with 2022 to \$3.7 billion in 2023. Gross surplus accounted for 13.4% of total receipts in 2023, down by 0.7 percentage point compared with 2022. Industry value added increased by 1.0% over 2022 to \$18.9 billion in 2023.

In 2023, the architectural, surveying and engineering services comprised some 2 400 establishments and engaged about 27 800 persons, or an average of 11.5 persons per establishment.

Selected statistics for the building, construction and real estate sectors, with breakdowns by industry grouping, are shown in the attached table.

More detailed survey results on the building, construction and real estate sectors will be given in the report "Key Statistics on Business Performance and Operating Characteristics of the Building, Construction and Real Estate Sectors in 2023". Users can browse and download this report at the website of C&SD

(www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1080011&scode=330) as from end-December 2024.

For enquiries about the key statistics on business performance and operating characteristics of the building, construction and real estate sectors, please contact the Construction and Miscellaneous Services Statistics Section of the C&SD (Tel: 3903 6964; email: building@censtatd.gov.hk).

Key Statistics on Business Performance and Operating Characteristics of the Transportation, Storage and Courier Services Sector in 2023

According to the results of the 2023 Annual Survey of Economic Activities – Transportation, Storage and Courier Services Sector released today (November 28) by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD), total receipts (comprising business receipts and other income) of the transportation, storage and courier services sector amounted to \$671.5 billion in 2023, representing a decrease of 12.0% compared with 2022; on a per establishment basis, total receipts decreased by 13.8% compared with 2022 to \$24.2 million in 2023.

Operating expenses and compensation of employees of this sector altogether amounted to \$561.5 billion in 2023, representing a decrease of 7.3% compared with 2022; on a per establishment basis, they decreased by 9.2% compared with 2022 to \$20.3 million in 2023.

Gross surplus of the sector, which is equal to total receipts less operating expenses and compensation of employees, decreased by 30.2% compared with 2022 to \$110.0 billion in 2023; on a per establishment basis, gross surplus decreased from \$5.8 million in 2022 to \$4.0 million in 2023. Gross surplus accounted for 16.4% of total receipts of this sector in 2023, down by 4.3 percentage points compared with 2022.

Industry value added of the sector, which is a measure of its contribution to Hong Kong's Gross Domestic Product, decreased by 16.5% compared with 2022 to \$176.3 billion in 2023; on a per establishment basis, industry value added was \$6.4 million in 2023, which decreased by 18.3% compared with 2022.

According to the survey results, it was estimated that the sector comprised about 27 700 establishments and engaged about 206 100 persons, or

an average of 7.4 persons per establishment, in 2023.

Within the transportation, storage and courier services sector, the five largest industry groupings in terms of industry value added in 2023 were (1) air transport and service activities incidental to air transportation, (2) cross-border water transport, (3) land passenger transport, (4) other transportation support activities, and (5) land freight transport. They together accounted for 85.3% of the industry value added of the sector.

In the air transport and service activities incidental to air transportation industry, total receipts amounted to \$150.4 billion while operating expenses and compensation of employees totalled \$115.3 billion in 2023. Gross surplus increased sharply from \$14.0 billion in 2022 to \$35.1 billion in 2023, accounting for 23.3% of total receipts in 2023. Industry value added also increased sharply by 87.1% compared with 2022 to \$59.7 billion.

In the cross-border water transport industry, total receipts amounted to \$136.9 billion while operating expenses and compensation of employees totalled \$110.4 billion in 2023. Gross surplus decreased notably from \$92.6 billion in 2022 to \$26.5 billion in 2023, accounting for 19.4% of total receipts in 2023. Industry value added also decreased notably by 68.8% compared with 2022 to \$29.3 billion.

In the land passenger transport industry, total receipts amounted to \$55.7 billion while operating expenses and compensation of employees totalled \$44.4 billion in 2023. Gross surplus increased considerably from \$5.8 billion in 2022 to \$11.3 billion in 2023, accounting for 20.3% of total receipts in 2023. Industry value added also increased considerably by 43.0% compared with 2022 to \$28.9 billion.

In the other transportation support activities industry which comprised mainly cargo forwarders and shipbrokers, total receipts amounted to \$228.0 billion while operating expenses and compensation of employees totalled \$205.8 billion in 2023. Gross surplus decreased from \$29.3 billion in 2022 to \$22.2 billion in 2023, accounting for 9.7% of total receipts in 2023. Industry value added decreased by 19.1% compared with 2022 to \$23.2 billion.

In the land freight transport industry, total receipts amounted to \$22.9 billion while operating expenses and compensation of employees totalled \$21.0 billion in 2023. Gross surplus decreased from \$2.3 billion in 2022 to \$1.9 billion in 2023, accounting for 8.3% of total receipts in 2023. Industry value added decreased slightly by 0.9% compared with 2022 to \$9.3 billion.

Selected statistics for the transportation, storage and courier services sector are shown in the attached table.

More detailed survey results on the transportation, storage and courier services sector will be given in the report "Key Statistics on Business Performance and Operating Characteristics of the Transportation, Storage and Courier Services Sector in 2023". Users can browse and download this report

at the website of C&SD
(www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1080010&scode=340) as
from end-December 2024.

For enquiries about the key statistics on business performance and operating characteristics of the transportation, storage and courier services sector, please contact the Logistics and Producer Prices Statistics Section of the C&SD (Tel: 3903 7256; email: transport@censtatd.gov.hk).

Tender of 5-year HKD HKSAR Institutional Government Bonds to be held on December 4

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), as representative of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSAR Government), announced today (November 28) that a tender of 5-year HKD Institutional Government Bonds (Bonds) under the Infrastructure Bond Programme will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, for settlement on Thursday, December 5, 2024.

A total of HK\$3.0 billion 5-year HKD Bonds will be tendered. The Bonds will mature on December 5, 2029 and will carry interest at the rate of 3.23 per cent per annum payable semi-annually in arrear.

Tender is open only to Primary Dealers appointed under the Infrastructure Bond Programme. Anyone wishing to apply for the Bonds on offer can do so through any of the Primary Dealers on the latest published list, which can be obtained from the Hong Kong Government Bonds website at www.hkgb.gov.hk. Each tender must be for an amount of HK\$50,000 or integral multiples thereof.

Tender results will be published on the HKMA's website, the Hong Kong Government Bonds website, Bloomberg (GBHK <GO>) and Refinitiv (IBPGSBINDEX). The publication time is expected to be no later than 3pm on the tender day.

HKSAR Institutional Government Bonds Tender Information

Tender information of 5-year HKD HKSAR Institutional Government Bonds:

Issue Number : 05GB2912001
Stock Code : 4284 (HKGB 3.23 2912)

Tender Date and Time : Wednesday, December 4, 2024
9.30am to 10.30am

Issue and Settlement Date : Thursday, December 5, 2024

Amount on Offer : HK\$3.0 billion

Maturity : 5 years

Maturity Date : Wednesday, December 5, 2029

Interest Rate : 3.23 per cent p.a. payable semi-annually in arrear

Interest Payment Dates : June 5 and December 5 in each year, commencing on the Issue Date up to and including the Maturity Date, subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms of the Institutional Issuances Information Memorandum of the Infrastructure Bond Programme and Government Sustainable Bond Programme (Information Memorandum) published on the Hong Kong Government Bonds website.

Method of Tender : Competitive tender

Tender Amount : Each competitive tender must be for an amount of HK\$50,000 or integral multiples thereof. Any tender applications for the Bonds must be submitted through a Primary Dealer on the latest published list.

Other Details : Please see the Information Memorandum available on the Hong Kong Government Bonds website or approach Primary Dealers.

Expected commencement date of dealing on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited : Friday, December 6, 2024

Use of Proceeds : The Bonds will be issued under the institutional part of the Infrastructure Bond Programme. Proceeds will be invested in infrastructure projects in accordance with the Infrastructure Bond Framework published on the Hong Kong Government Bonds website.

[Task Group on New Medical School announces invitation for proposals](#)

from universities to establish third medical school (with photo)

The Task Group on New Medical School, co-chaired by the Secretary for Health and the Secretary for Education, convened its second meeting today (November 28), setting out 10 key parameters for consideration of proposals on the establishment of a third medical school. The Task Group decided to issue a letter of invitation on December 2 to all universities funded by the University Grants Committee (UGC) to invite universities interested in establishing a new medical school to submit proposals by March 17 next year.

The Secretary for Health, Professor Lo Chung-mau, said, "Hong Kong is facing challenges posed by an ageing population and a growing demand for healthcare services. The establishment of the third medical school is crucial to the future development of healthcare services in the city. Thanks to the advice from various expert advisors, the Task Group has already formulated the strategic direction and targeted position for establishing a new medical school over the past month or so since its formation. The Task Group considered that the new medical school should shoulder the mission of nurturing more talented doctors for practice in Hong Kong, thereby supporting the local healthcare system with a view to enhancing both the quality and quantity of healthcare services. Furthermore, the Task Group envisioned that the new medical school will adopt an innovative strategic positioning in pursuit of complementary development with the two existing medical schools to promote the excellence of medical education and research in Hong Kong, and to attract more local, Mainland and overseas medical talent to engage in teaching and research work, dovetailing with the city's development into an international medical training, research and innovation hub."

The Acting Secretary for Education, Dr Sze Chun-fai, said "The establishment of the new medical school can nurture more medical talent and enhance the academic and research excellence of the medical sector, which is conducive to developing Hong Kong into an international post-secondary education hub. The Education Bureau expects the new medical school to contribute to the overall development of the relevant university, with detailed planning on interdisciplinary or intersectoral collaborations, teaching resources, quality assurance, research strategy, sources of staff and students, and institutional governance etc. The new medical school should also interface with the applicable frameworks of the UGC. Moreover, as part of the Northern Metropolis University Town, the new medical school can introduce more research collaborations and exchange projects with neighbouring post-secondary institutions or industries in a flexible and innovative manner, which will help enhance the overall synergy."

The Task Group considered that UGC-funded universities are in a better position to establish a new medical school. To achieve the aforementioned objectives, the following 10 key parameters for consideration were set out by the Task Group for the universities' submission of proposals regarding the

establishment of the third medical school:

1. Innovative strategic positioning: Complement the development of the two existing medical schools in Hong Kong to promote diversification and internationalisation;
2. Staffing: Recruit high-calibre international and local teaching professionals to establish a professional medical teaching and research team;
3. Campus and teaching facilities: Plan a modernised campus equipped with state-of-the-art teaching facilities to support innovative medical learning models;
4. Clinical exposure and learning resources: Illustrate the plan for a teaching hospital, and collaborate with healthcare institutions in Hong Kong and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to provide diverse clinical training opportunities;
5. Curriculum structure and assessment methodologies: Adopt an accredited medical curriculum framework, incorporating competency-based assessments and innovative teaching methods, such as provision of early clinical exposure;
6. Student admission arrangements: Offer a graduate-entry programme to attract both local and non-local students, achieving diversification and internationalisation of the medical curriculum;
7. Funding arrangements: Develop a diversified funding plan, combined with viable financial management, to ensure the long-term and sustainable development of the medical school;
8. Implementation plan: Formulate a comprehensive roadmap for the medical school's implementation, with phased progression in infrastructure construction, curriculum design, and faculty recruitment;
9. Teaching and learning quality: Ensure that the quality of medical curriculum meets international high standards, and leverage on innovative teaching and assessment methods to nurture high-quality medical professionals and enrich whole-person development; and
10. Research excellence: Promote medical innovation and scientific research development, and foster global partnerships to position the school as a leader in regional and international medical research.

The Task Group will issue invitations for proposals to all UGC-funded universities on December 2. The Government will hold a briefing session on December 10 to introduce to interested universities the arrangements for the submission of proposals on the establishment of a new medical school. The Secretariat of the Task Group will send out invitations for attendance to university representatives in due course. Universities interested in establishing a new medical school are required to submit their proposals by March 17 next year. At the next step, the Task Group will formulate concrete criteria for assessing proposals to ensure that a qualified and eligible university will be selected in a transparent and fair manner for the establishment of the new medical school. It is anticipated that the Task Group will complete its assessments and make recommendations to the Government within next year.

[The Task Group on New Medical School was established in October this year](#) to take up the responsibilities of devising the direction and parameters

for establishing the new medical school, endeavouring to nurture more local medical talent and enhance Hong Kong's healthcare system, as well as promoting various measures for Hong Kong to become an international medical training, research and innovation hub. The Task Group comprises seasoned local, Mainland and overseas academics for medical teaching and university management, professionals, the Chairman of the Medical Council of Hong Kong, the President of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, as well as representatives from relevant government bureaux and departments.



[Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected crack cocaine worth about \\$1.9 million \(with photo\)](#)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (November 27) seized about 1.8 kilograms of suspected crack cocaine with a total estimated market value of about \$1.9 million in Tsing Yi. A 41-year-old man was arrested.

During an anti-narcotics operation conducted in Tsing Yi last night, Customs officers intercepted a suspicious man and seized about 400 grams of suspected crack cocaine in a plastic bag found in his possession. The man was subsequently arrested. Customs officers later escorted him to a residential premises nearby for a search and further seized about 1.4kg of suspected crack cocaine and a batch of suspected drug manufacturing and packaging paraphernalia.

The arrestee has been charged with two counts of trafficking in a dangerous drug and will appear at the West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (November 29).

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Members of the public may report any suspected drug trafficking activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 182 8080 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk) or online form (eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002).

