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# Global Policy Network

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**GPN global labor market database:  
Hong Kong, 2000 fourth quarter**

Submitted by:

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**Table 1: Unemployment rates**

**Unemployment rate (%) in Hong Kong, 1990-2000**

Year	1990	1993	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2000Q1	2000Q2	2000Q3	2000Q4
<b>Male</b> <sup>1</sup>	1.3	2.0	3.1	2.3	5.2	7.2	-	6.2	5.7	5.5	5.3
<b>Female</b> <sup>1</sup>	1.3	1.9	2.3	2.0	4.0	4.9	-	4.6	4.2	4.2	3.2
<b>Overall</b> <sup>2</sup>	1.3	2.0	2.8	2.2	4.7	6.3	5.0	5.6	5.0	4.8	4.4

Notes:

1. For both male and female, seasonally adjusted quarterly figures are not officially published.

The average unemployment rates for both sex groups for 2000 are also not yet available

2. The quarterly figures for overall unemployment rate are seasonally adjusted figures.

Sources: HKSAR Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong Annual Digest of Statistics 2000 edition;  
and Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics, various issues.

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**Table 2: Underemployment and Long-Term Unemployment**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Underemployment rate (%)*</b>	<b>Long-term unemployment rate (%)**</b>
<b>1996</b>	1.7	-
<b>1997</b>	1.2	-
<b>1998</b>	2.5	-
<b>1999</b>	3.0	-
<b>1999Q2</b>	2.9	30.0
<b>1999Q3</b>	3.1	26.7
<b>1999Q4</b>	2.8	32.3
<b>2000</b>	2.8	-
<b>2000Q1</b>	2.8	28.4
<b>2000Q2</b>	3.2	23.6
<b>2000Q3</b>	2.6	20.5
<b>2000Q4</b>	2.7	23.5

Notes:

\*The underemployed population comprises those employed persons who have involuntarily worked less than 35 hours during the 7 days before enumeration and have sought additional work during the 30 days before enumeration, or have not sought additional work but have been available for additional work during the 7 days before enumeration. The underemployment rate refers to the proportion of underemployed persons in the labour force.

\*\*This is defined as the proportion of persons unemployed for six months or more. Annual figures are not officially published.

Sources: HKSAR Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong Annual Digest of Statistics 2000 edition; and Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics, various issues.

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**Table 3: Real wage index for Craftsmen and Operatives (Sept 1992=100) by Industry Sector**

<b>Year</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2000 Dec</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	100.9	101.1	95.3	97.5	96.9	94.6	98.4	103.3	103.6
<b>Transport Services</b>	***	104.8	98.4	99.2	105.1	107.1	111.0	107	106.4
<b>Financing, insurance, real estate and business services</b>	-	101.6	97.6	99.1	100.7	99.5	100.9	108.3	110.5
<b>Personal services</b>	91.2	103.3	100.5	102.6	101.2	99.4	107.0	111.3	107.4
<b>All selected Industries</b>	100.4	101.7	96.2	98.1	99.5	98.7	102.5	104.1	104.0
<b>Consumer Price Indices (A) (Oct 1994-Sept 1995=100)#</b>	65.4	86.7	101.8	107.9	114.1	117.0	113.2	110.1	109.7

Notes:

Figures refer to September of the year.

\*\*\* Data are not released in order to safeguard confidentiality of information provided by individual firms

#The CPI(A) is compiled based on the expenditure patterns of households in the relatively low expenditure range.

Sources: HKSAR Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong Annual Digest of Statistics 2000 edition;

and Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics, various issues.

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**Table 4: Output and population growth**

Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2000Q1	2000Q2	2000Q3	2000Q4
<b>GDP % change</b>	4.5	5.0	-5.3	3.1	10.5(*1)	14.1 (5.1) (*2)	10.8 (-0.7) (*2)	10.8 (2.1) (*2)	6.8 (-0.1) (*2)
<b>Population growth rate</b>	-( <sup>*</sup> 3)	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	-	1.1(*4)	-	1.5(*5)
<b>Per Capita GDP</b>	-0.8	3.7	-6.5	1.9	9.2(*6)	-	-	-	-

Notes:

Quarterly figures are not available for per capita GDP.

(\*1). Preliminary figures.

(\*2). Year-on-year rate of change. Figures in brackets are % change over the preceding quarter, seasonally adjusted figures, and are subject to revisions later on.

(\*3). Since August 2000, new approach for compiling population estimates has been adopted, and revised population figures backdated only to 1996 have been compiled.

(\*4). Compared with Mid-1999.

(\*5). Compared with End-1999.

(\*6). Preliminary figures.

Source: HKSAR Census and Statistics Department, 2000 Gross Domestic Product; Hong Kong Annual Digest of Statistics, various issues; and Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics, April 2001.

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**Table 5: Poverty rates**

	<b>Poverty rate (%)*</b>
<b>1996</b>	17.9
<b>1997</b>	18.2
<b>1998</b>	18.2
<b>1999</b>	18.4

\* Poverty rate is defined as the proportion of population with income below the half of median per capita household income  
Source: HKSAR Census and Statistics Department; Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions.

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**Table 6: Income distribution**

**The ratio of average per capita household income between the highest and the lowest decile groups**

	<b>1990</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>
<b>highest/lowest</b>	10.8	11.2	11.2	12.8	12.8	15.0	14.4	14.8	17.7	19.2

**Percentage Share of the Total Household Incomes of the 1st and the 10th Decile Group  
in the Income Distribution of Persons in Domestic Households**

	<b>1990</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>
<b>1st</b>	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.0	1.9
<b>10th</b>	30.9	30.8	30.5	32.7	33.1	34.6	34.5	34.2	35.0	35.9

Source: HKSAR Census and Statistics Department; Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions.

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**Table 7: Trade Union Participation Rate**

	<b>Participation Rate (%)*</b>
<b>1995</b>	22.8
<b>1996</b>	22.6
<b>1997</b>	22.6
<b>1998</b>	23.3
<b>1999</b>	24.1

\* this is defined as : (declared membership of employee unions/ number of salaried employees and wage earners)

Source: Calculated from the Report of the Commissioner for Labour, 1999 and HKSAR Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong Annual Digest of Statistics 2000 edition.

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**Table 8: Median hours of work per week and proportion of the employed population working for 50 hours or more per week**

	Median hours of work per week for all employed persons (hours)	Proportion of employed persons working for:	
		50-59 hours per week (%)	60 hours or more per week (%)
1999Q1	45	12	16
1999Q2	45	13	17
1999Q3	48	13	17
1999Q4	48	14	18
2000Q1	46	13	18
2000Q2	48	14	18
2000Q3	48	16	18
2000Q4	48	15	19

Source: General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department, Various issues.

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**Table 9: Proportion of employed persons with monthly employment earnings below the half of median**

(a)

Year *	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
%	7.8	7.1	6.6	8.2	9.6	9.7	9.8	9.9	11.1

\* for Q3 of the year

Source: General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department, Various issues.

(b)

Year	1999Q4	2000Q4
Male (%)	4.2%	3.7%
Female (%)	22.8%	23.0%
Overall (%)	12.1%	12.0%

Notes: New method for compiling population figures has been adopted by the government since August 2000. Therefore, the statistics between table (a) and table (b) may not be strictly comparable.