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August employment and payroll figures

HONGKONG manufacturers had about 4.3 months' orders on hand in August this year, with the textiles and garment industries reporting increases, but the fabricated metal products industry reporting a slight decline compared with July.

The orders-on-hand position in August was generally stable, according to the Census and Statistics Department's survey report on the subject covering the 200 largest manufacturers and 50 largest construction and services companies.

Other statistics showed that employment in the manufacturing sector fell, particularly in the fabricated metal products industry, because

summer workers were beginning to leave the factories.

Both textiles and fabricated metal products industries reported decreases in payroll and per capita earnings because there was less overtime work in August, the report said.

It added that employment and payroll in the electrical and electronic industry fell because some firms reduced their production volume.

Employment in the construction sector also fell slightly because some of the projects had been completed, but the per capita earnings in this sector remained unchanged, the report continued.

The services sector reported no

change in its employment position, but a decline in per capita earnings because, in the previous month, some firms reviewed salaries and paid bonuses and there was less overtime work in August.

The 250 companies were selected for the survey since March 1983 with reference to their employment.

The Census and Statistics Department cautioned that because the sample was not drawn on a random basis, the results might not reflect the experience of Hongkong's economy as a whole.

But they should be a useful indication in the short term, it said.

ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRY	(% change over the preceding month)		Orders-On-Hand (in terms of months) for	
	JUNE 1985	JULY 1985	AUG. 1985	August 1985
Wearing Apparel, except Footwear	-1	2	1	4.49
Textiles, except Wearing Apparel	*	4	2	2.20
Plastic products	-1	*	*	4.27
Fabricated Metal products	-4	-2	-1	3.43
Electrical and Electronic products	1	-3	*	5.10
Others	1	*	*	4.42
All Above Industries	*	*	*	4.31