
Employment, Wages and Material Prices in the Construction Industry

December 1980

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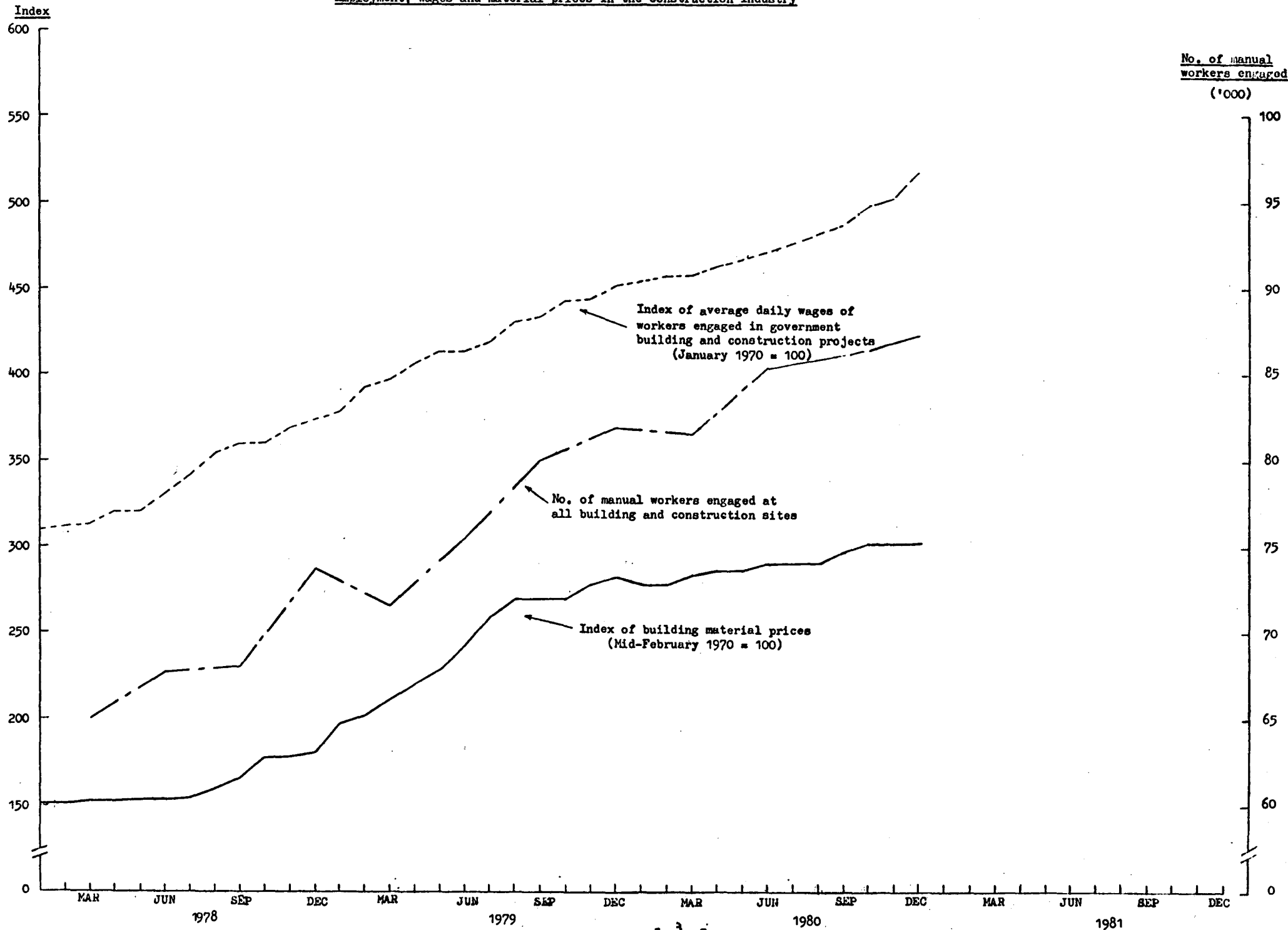
Employment, Wages and Material Prices in the Construction Industry, December 1980

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. Tables 1 to 6 present results of a quarterly survey of employment at building and construction sites, analysed respectively by contracting party, by Census district, by type of project undertaken, and by employment size. A building/construction site refers to a demarcated locality where one or more stages or processes of building/construction work such as demolition, site formation, piling and general superstructure erection; or civil engineering work such as railways, roads, highways and bridges, airport, port works, waterworks, drainage, reclamation and excavation works, are being carried on. Statistics for work sites under the charge of Public Works Department, Housing Department and the Mass Transit Railway Corporation are compiled from their returns forwarded regularly to the Census and Statistics Department. As regards the private sector, the number of manual workers are obtained from a survey of all private building and construction sites recorded by the Building Ordinance Office, Public Works Department. Construction projects for private village-type houses in the New Territories are not included. Also excluded are minor alterations and additions, repair, maintenance, partitioning and interior decoration work on existing buildings.
2. Manual workers at the site are either directly employed by the main contractors or associated contractors, or being called upon by sub-contractors or gang leaders to work on a casual basis. They include foremen, technicians, as well as all manual workers of the craftsman, semi-skilled and skilled levels engaged in construction activity, but exclude professional and administrative personnel such as architects, engineers, surveyors, contract managers, site agents, clerks of works and general clerical staff. However, workers engaged as foremen and foremen's assistants in the public sector are not included.
3. Table 7 presents the overall wage index, as well as average daily wage rates of workers engaged in Government building and construction projects (except projects of the Housing Authority). These are compiled on the basis of monthly wage returns prepared by site staff of the Public Works Department. In computing the overall wage index, the average daily wage rates by job categories in the standard occupation list of the Public Works Department are weighted by the number of man-days worked by workers of each job category at the sites during the year 1970. The index starts with January 1970 taken as 100.
4. Table 8 presents the building material price index, as well as average prices of selected building materials. The average prices of building materials are compiled on the basis of data collected by the Census and Statistics Department. Where available prices collected by the Building Contractors Association and data published in the Daily Commodity Quotations are also used for calculating the average price for some of the items. The building material price index is compiled by the Architectural Office of the Public Works Department largely on the same information. In computing the price index, percentage changes in prices of building materials are weighted by the relative importance of each type of material against the overall building cost. The index is based on Mid-February 1970 taken as 100.

Employment, wages and material prices in the Construction Industry



Summary Table

Number of manual workers engaged at building and construction sites by contracting party

Contracting Party	Number of sites in operation			Number of manual workers engaged ⁽¹⁾								
	14th Dec. 1979	30th Sept. 1980	30th Dec. 1980	14th Dec. 1979			30th Sept. 1980			30th Dec. 1980		
				Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Public Works Department	232	229	278	15 668	744	16 412	13 857	592	14 449	15 875	577	16 452
Housing Department	78	77	87	17 042	1 168	18 210	14 983	933	15 916	15 124	871	15 995
Mass Transit Railway ⁽²⁾	26	12	12	5 348	32	5 380	4 421	11	4 432	3 833	11	3 844
Private Sector	861	882	849	39 247	2 630	41 877	48 831	2 558	51 389	48 797	2 186	50 983
Total	1 197	1 200	1 226	77 305	4 574	81 879	82 092	4 094	86 186	83 629	3 645	87 274

Notes : (1) Workers engaged as foremen or foremen's assistants at building and construction sites of the Public Works Department and Housing Department are not included.

(2) Construction sites under the Mass Transit Railway refer to M.T.R. contracts for which work was in progress during the survey month.

Table 1

Number of manual workers engaged at building and construction sites of the
Public Works Department and Housing Department analysed by Census district as at 30th December 1980

Census District	Number of sites in operation	Number of manual workers engaged		
		Male	Female	Total
Hong Kong Island				
Central	4	106	10	116
Sheung Wan	4	537	13	550
West including Kennedy Town	5	215	2	217
Mid-levels and Pok Fu Lam	2	50	4	54
Peak	1	169	14	183
Wan Chai	2	77	6	83
Tai Hang including Causeway Bay and Happy Valley	1	11	-	11
North Point including Quarry Bay	3	170	3	173
Shau Kei Wan including Chai Wan	5	793	47	840
Aberdeen	13	1 458	61	1 519
South	7	284	21	305
Sub-total	47	3 870	181	4 051
Kowloon				
Tsim Sha Tsui	7	351	11	362
Yau Ma Tei	8	323	42	365
Mongkok including Tai Kok Tsui	1	130	1	131
Hung Hom including To Kwa Wan	3	57	-	57
Ho Man Tin including Ma Tau Wai	5	163	9	172
Sub-total	24	1 024	63	1 087
New Kowloon				
Cheung Sha Wan including Sham Shui Po and Lai Chi Kok	12	1 512	76	1 588
Shek Kip Mei	4	337	19	356
Kwloon Tong	8	271	4	275
Kai Tak including Kowloon City, San Po Kong, Wong Tai Sin, Choi Hung and Tsz Wan Shan	23	2 074	83	2 157
Ngau Tau Kok including Kwun Tong	9	611	22	633
Lei Yue Mun including Yau Tong	11	1 062	68	1 130
Sub-total	67	5 867	272	6 139
Tsuen Wan				
Tsuen Wan New Town	30	3 577	94	3 671
Tsuen Wan Other Areas	2	191	2	193
Tsing Yi	5	89	5	94
Sub-total	37	3 857	101	3 958

Table 1 (Cont'd)

Census District	Number of sites in operation	Number of manual workers engaged		
		Male	Female	Total
YUEN LONG				
Tuen Mun New Town	47	4 226	246	4 472
Tuen Mun Other Areas	2	79	2	81
Yuen Long New Town	12	815	49	864
Ping Shan	2	343	35	378
Shap Pat Heung	1	42	2	44
Pat Heung	9	127	10	137
Sub-total	73	5 632	344	5 976
TAI PO				
Sheung Shui Township	11	1 140	67	1 207
Fanling Township	2	11	2	13
Fanling Other Areas	2	55	3	58
Tai Po Township	16	1 077	45	1 122
Tai Po Other Areas	7	830	33	863
Sha Tin New Town	49	6 384	279	6 663
Sha Tin Other Areas	6	333	14	347
Ta Kwa Ling	3	90	2	92
Sub-total	96	9 920	445	10 365
SAI KUNG				
Sai Kung South	2	53	1	54
Hang Hau Including Rennis Mills	5	184	6	190
Sub-total	7	237	7	244
OUTLYING ISLANDS				
Tai O	5	111	14	125
Mui Wo	4	211	7	218
South Lantau	2	192	11	203
Peng Chau	1	8	1	9
Cheung Chau	2	70	2	72
Sub-total	14	592	35	627
GRAND TOTAL	365	30 999	1 448	32 447

Note : Workers engaged as foremen and foremen's assistants are not included.

Table 2

Number of manual workers engaged at building and construction sites of
the Public Works Department and Housing Department
analysed by type of project undertaken as at 30th December, 1980

Type of project	Number of sites in operation	Number of manual workers engaged		
		Male	Female	Total
Building				
demolition work	8	518	6	524
residential buildings	90	15 006	857	15 863
administrative buildings	4	284	12	296
educational institutions	19	898	26	924
hospitals and clinics	10	1 494	64	1 558
police and fire stations	4	151	7	158
prisons and detention centres	1	32	7	39
recreational buildings	4	250	10	260
rest gardens and open spaces	11	138	-	138
other urban services facilities	16	484	22	506
workshops, stores and plant	3	41	-	41
other buildings	19	745	86	831
Sub-total	189	20 041	1 097	21 138
Civil Engineering				
railways	12	784	59	843
roads, highways and bridges	78	5 042	143	5 185
airport	1	11	1	12
port works	6	203	8	211
waterworks	33	1 151	31	1 182
drainage	21	1 927	43	1 970
reclamation and excavation work	25	1 840	66	1 906
Sub-total	176	10 958	351	11 309
GRAND TOTAL	365	30 999	1 448	32 447

Note : Workers engaged as foremen and foremen's assistants are not included.

Table 3

Number of manual workers engaged at building and construction sites of
the Public Works Department and Housing Department analysed
by employment size as at 30th December, 1980

Employment (Number of persons engaged)	Number of sites in operation	Number of manual workers engaged		
		Male	Female	Total
1 - 4	22	50	3	53
5 - 9	27	183	6	189
10 - 19	43	561	26	587
20 - 49	113	3 426	184	3 610
50 - 99	65	4 279	208	4 487
100 - 199	53	6 805	343	7 148
200 - 499	32	9 234	406	9 640
500 - 999	10	6 461	272	6 733
Total	365	30 999	1 448	32 447

Note : Workers engaged as foremen and foremen's assistants are not included.

Table 4

Number of manual workers engaged at building and construction sites of the private sector analysed by Census district on at 30 December, 1980

Census District	Number of sites in operation	Number of manual workers engaged		
		Male	Female	Total
Hong Kong Island				
Central	19	975	61	1 036
Sheung Wan	37	638	66	704
West	35	964	84	1 048
Mid-levels and Pok Fu Lam	33	2 427	78	2 505
Peak	12	583	15	598
Wan Chai	51	1 324	65	1 389
Tai Hang including Causeway Bay and Happy Valley	35	1 625	71	1 696
North Point including Quarry Bay	32	4 333	141	4 474
Shau Kei Wan including Chai Wan	18	584	38	622
Aberdeen	28	2 198	103	2 301
South	22	615	29	644
Sub-total	322	16 266	751	17 017
Kowloon				
Tsim Sha Tsui	56	5 243	200	5 443
Yau Ma Tei	27	546	50	596
Mong Kok including Tai Kok Tsui	26	528	21	549
Hung Hom including To Kwa Wan	23	1 207	43	1 250
Ho Man Tin including Ma Tau Wai	5	146	4	150
Sub-total	137	7 670	318	7 988
New Kowloon				
Cheung Sha Wan including Sham Shui Po and Lai Chi Kok	31	675	91	766
Shek Kip Mei	4	119	2	121
Kowloon Tong	11	864	40	904
Kai Tak including Kowloon City, San Po Kong, Wong Tai Sin, Choi Hung and Tsz Wan Shan	21	689	14	703
Ngau Tau Kok including Kwun Tong	19	1 092	66	1 158
Lei Yue Mun including Yau Tong	6	134	9	143
Sub-total	92	3 573	222	3 795
Tsuen Wan				
Tsuen Wan New Town	61	4 227	203	4 430
Tsuen Wan Other Areas	3	148	5	153
Tsing Yi	15	640	28	668
Sub-total	79	5 015	236	5 251

Table 4 (Cont'd)

Census District	Number of sites in operation	Number of manual workers engaged		
		Male	Female	Total
Yuen Long				
Tuen Mun New Town	38	2 188	113	2 301
Tuen Mun Other Areas	7	2 676	86	2 762
Yuen Long New Town	13	269	26	295
Ping Shan	1	31	1	32
Shap Pat Heung	1	37	4	41
San Tin	9	951	55	1 006
Sub-total	69	6 152	285	6 437
Tai Po				
Sheung Shui Township	11	142	12	154
Sheung Shui Other Areas	2	10	2	12
Fanling Township	5	49	5	54
Fanling Other Areas	1	6	-	6
Tai Po Township	14	259	25	284
Tai Po Other Areas	23	1 536	93	1 629
Shatin New Town	39	3 943	139	4 082
Shatin Other Areas	7	234	6	240
Sub-total	102	6 179	282	6 461
Sai Kung				
Sai Kung South	7	196	10	206
Hang Hau including Rennis Mills	20	1 075	50	1 125
Sub-total	27	1 271	60	1 331
Outlying Islands				
Tai O	1	13	-	13
Tung Chung	1	11	-	11
South Lantau	4	131	7	138
Peng Chau	6	788	8	796
Cheung Chau	2	52	3	55
North Lamma	2	422	3	425
South Lamma	5	1 100	11	1 111
Sub-total	21	2 517	32	2 549
Plus number of watchmen at inactive work sites		154	-	154
GRAND TOTAL	849	48 797	2 186	50 983

Table 5

Number of manual workers engaged at building and construction sites
of the private sector analysed by broad stage of construction and end use
of building or structure as at 30th December, 1980

Broad stage of construction/ end use of building or structure	Number of sites in operation	Number of manual workers engaged		
		Male	Female	Total
Demolition and site formation	77	3 106	75	3 181
Piling and related foundation work				
residential buildings	57	1 227	54	1 281
commercial buildings	44	1 064	62	1 126
commercial/residential buildings	34	758	88	846
industrial buildings	38	1 111	84	1 195
educational, religious, medical and welfare institutions	11	195	9	204
service stations and plant	7	1 418	13	1 431
other purposes	6	98	1	99
Sub-total	197	5 871	311	6 182
Erection of superstructure				
residential buildings	193	17 117	716	17 833
commercial buildings	84	5 153	251	5 404
commercial/residential buildings	140	7 850	427	8 277
industrial buildings	89	4 496	253	4 749
educational, religious, medical and welfare institutions	29	1 230	79	1 309
service stations and plant	15	1 416	23	1 439
other purposes	25	2 404	51	2 455
Sub-total	575	39 666	1 800	41 466
<u>Plus number of watchmen at inactive work sites</u>		154	-	154
GRAND TOTAL	849	48 797	2 186	50 983

Table 6

Number of manual workers engaged at building and construction sites
of the private sector analysed by employment size as at 30th December, 1980

Employment size (Number of persons engaged)	Number of sites in operation	Number of manual workers engaged		
		Male	Female	Total
1 - 4	54	166	7	173
5 - 9	111	716	35	751
10 - 19	208	2 771	149	2 920
20 - 49	253	7 355	492	7 847
50 - 99	126	7 980	516	8 496
100 - 199	48	6 645	293	6 938
200 - 499	35	10 955	453	11 408
500 - 999	12	8 624	162	8 786
1000 - 1999	1	995	57	1 052
2000 & over	1	2 436	22	2 458
Sub-total	849	48 643	2 186	50 829
<u>Plus</u> number of watchmen at inactive work sites		154	-	154
GRAND TOTAL	849	48 797	2 186	50 983

Table 7

Wage index and average daily wage rates of workers engaged
in Government Building and construction projects as in Dec., 1980

Occupation	Sex	Average daily wage rate	Occupation	Sex	Average daily wage rate
		HK\$			HK\$
Unskilled labourer	male	90.90	Blacksmith	male	138.40
	female	74.70	Carpenter and joiner	"	154.50
Excavator	male	112.40	Plumber	"	117.70
	female	86.50	Fitter	"	113.00
Concretor's labourer	male	107.20	Plasterer	"	147.80
	female	115.20	Terrazzo and granolithic worker	"	145.20
Bricklayer's labourer	male	140.70	Glazier	"	146.60
	female	116.70	Painter	"	129.20
Plasterer's labourer	male	127.80	Electrician (Wireman)	"	104.80
	female	114.90	Plant operator	"	112.50
Concretor	male	145.60	Truck driver	"	99.70
Bricklayer	"	154.00	Heavy load coolie	"	133.90
Drainlayer	"	135.60	Pneumatic driller	"	133.90
Rubber mason	"	148.00	Bamboo worker and scaffolder	"	203.50
Splitting mason	"	145.90	Structural steel erector	"	124.60
Ashlar mason	"	190.60	Diver	"	215.90
Steel bender	"	182.20	Diver's linesman	"	80.00

Dec. 1979

Sept. 1980

Dec. 1980

Index of average daily wages of workers
engaged in Government building and
construction projects (Jan. 1970 = 100)

450.30

488.80

517.40

Table 8

Price index and average prices of selected building materials as in December 1980

Material item	Unit	Average price	Material item	Unit	Average price
		HK\$			HK\$
Mild steel round bars (6 mm - 40 mm)	tonne	1 718.09	Hardwood timber plywood (19 mm thick)	sq. m.	34.23
Mild steel round bars (20 mm & above)	tonne	1 655.82	Hardwood timber planks (25 mm thick)	cu. m.	598.59
Mild steel round bars (16 mm & below)	tonne	1 768.86	Hardwood timber columns (50 x 75 mm)	cu. m.	612.37
High tensile steel bars (10 mm - 40 mm)	tonne	1 712.08	Sand	cu. m.	56.50
Portland cement (Ordinary)	tonne	342.00	Aggregates	cu. m.	44.62
Hydrated lime	tonne	448.00	Mild steel plate (9.5 mm thick)	tonne	1 972.52
Red bricks (1st Grade)	10 000 bricks	3 048.34	Mild steel beams (150 x 75 mm)	tonne	2 194.36
Diesel oil for industrial use (Light)	200 litre-drum	320.32	Mild steel columns (150 x 75 mm)	tonne	2 194.36
Diesel oil for road use	litre	2.11	Mild steel channels (150 x 75 mm)	tonne	1 964.92
Lubricating oil for diesel engines (SAE 30)	200 litre-drum	1 031.07	Mild steel angles (63 x 63 x 6.5 mm)	tonne	1 889.87
Straight-run Bitumen (in bulk)	tonne	1 653.54	Mild steel tees (75 x 75 x 9 mm)	tonne	3 061.19
			Structural steel (H. Piles)	tonne	2 104.41
			Structural steel (I. Beams)	tonne	2 027.29

	<u>Dec. 1979</u>	<u>Sept. 1980</u>	<u>Dec. 1980</u>
Index of building material prices compiled by the Architectural Office of Public Works Department (Mid-Feb. 1970 = 100)	281.89	297.58	303.36