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Headline: Fiona Yung speaks with South China Morning Post on the employment market in Hong Kong

According to statistics, Hong Kong's jobless rate rose to 5 per cent last month, from 3.3 per cent for the same period last year. While massive layoffs were not anticipated this quarter, as had happened in previous months, companies would continue to implement cost-cutting measures, such as restructuring, freezing headcount and asking staff to take leave without pay, said Fiona Yung, executive director of Tricor Executive Resources.

"Companies remain very cautious about hiring and are taking a longer time to search for the right candidate," Ms Yung said. "With a larger supply of candidates, employers are in general more critical about candidates' skill sets and relevant experience, and would expect a perfect fit." She said that other than technical competencies, attributes such as exceptional English communication skills, interpersonal skills, a mature personality, a positive work attitude and job loyalty were pivotal factors that would influence the employers' hiring decisions.

Ms. Fiona Yung,  
Executive Director of Tricor Executive  
Resources Limited, quotes on the  
employment market in Hong Kong