

Summary of Industrial Production in March 2018

Industrial production in March 2018 grew, whereby the MPI increased by 2.6 percent compared to the same period last year. This resulted from the growth in key manufacturing industries such as sugar, petrochemicals and plastic and upstream synthetic rubber production. Capacity Utilization Rate in March 2018 was 76.1 percent.

The Manufacturing Production Index in Major Industries

The MPI in March 2018 grew by 2.6 percent compared to the same month last year. Key manufacturing industries such as sugar, petrochemistry, plastic and synthetic rubber were the growing sectors.



The MPI of the sugar production industry grew by 25.6 percent compared to the same month last year. This was an increase in raw sugar from sugarcane as there was increased supply of sugarcane to factories. As a result, sugar factories continued to operate and accelerated production before the rainy season.

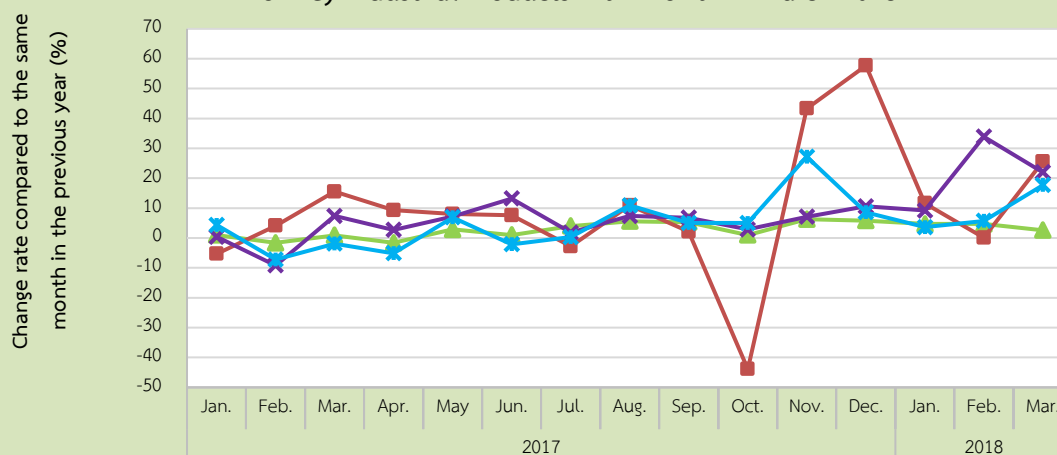


The MPI of the petrochemicals industry increased by 22.0 percent compared to the same month last year. This was from an increase in Gasohol 91 and 95 and diesel fuel as domestic consumption grew.



The MPI of the plastic and the upstream synthetic rubber industry rose by 17.7 percent compared to the same month last year. This was a result of increased production of polyethylene and polypropylene type plastics as some factories expanded production and exports to trading partners increased, including Japan, India and Hong Kong

MPI of Key Industrial Products with Growth in March 2018



MPI	1.0	-1.6	0.9	-1.6	2.9	1.0	4.0	5.6	5.3	1.0	6.3	5.8	4.7	4.7	2.6
Sugar	-5.3	4.1	15.5	9.3	8	7.6	-2.8	10.9	2.1	-43.9	43.3	57.7	11.6	0.1	25.6
Petroleum	0.4	-9.2	7.4	2.7	7.2	13.2	1.8	7.4	6.8	2.9	7.1	10.6	9.2	33.9	22.0
Plastic and synthetic rubber	4.4	-7.2	-1.9	-5.1	6.9	-2.1	0.3	10.9	5.0	5.0	27.2	8.6	3.6	5.7	17.7

Key manufacturing industries such as gems and jewelry, furniture, and textiles were the sectors that declined



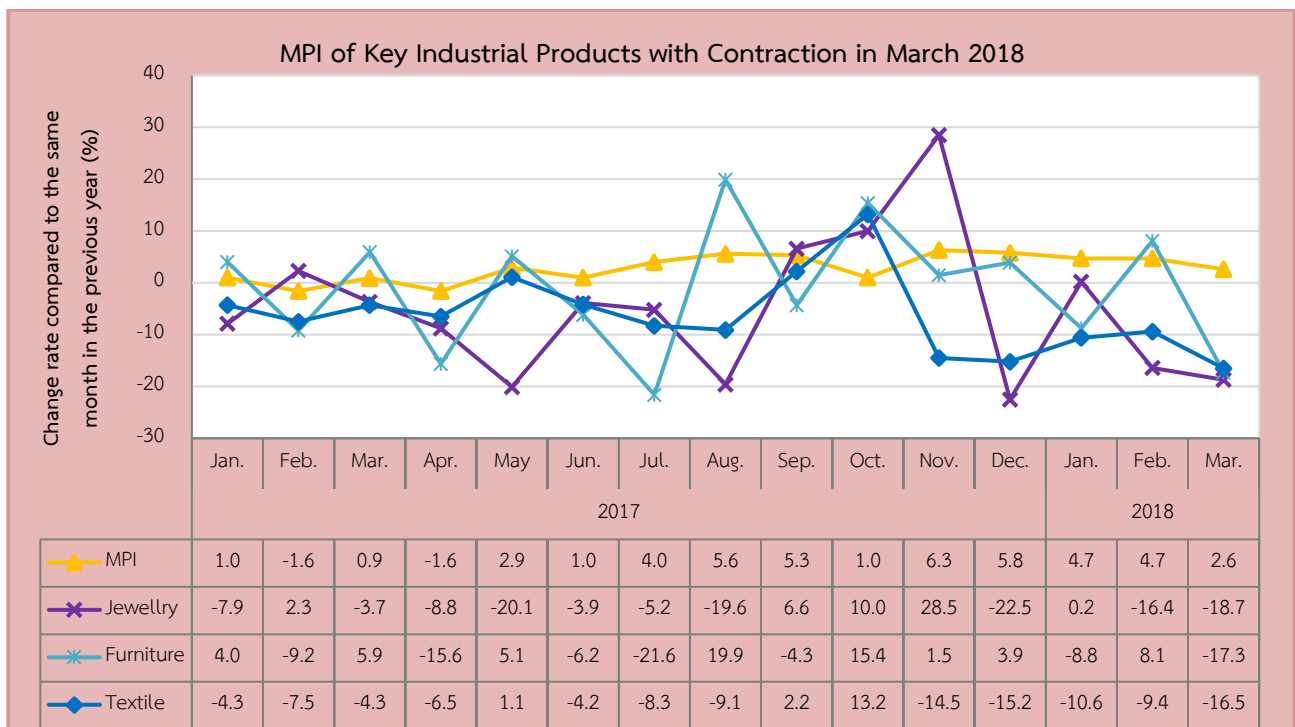
The MPI of the gems and jewelry production industry shrank by 18.7 percent compared to the same month last year, from a decrease ring and pendant product categories as demand dropped in both domestic and international markets.



The MPI of the furniture production industry shrank by 17.3 percent compared to the same month last year from a drop in wooden household items and a slowdown of demand in both domestic and international markets.



The MPI of the textile production industry shrank by 16.5 percent compared to the same month last year, mainly from a decrease in yarn products, resulting from less demand from trade partners. Furthermore, Thailand imported more products from abroad for domestic sale.



Capacity Utilization Rate in March 2018

was at 76.1 percent.

