



Industrial Production Status

| Indicators | 2021 | 2022 | 2022 | | | | | | | | | | 2023 | | |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | Year | Year | Mar. | Apr. | May | Jun. | Jul. | Aug. | Sep. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. |
| MPI | 5.8 | 0.4 | 0.2 | -0.4 | -2.3 | -0.5 | 6.0 | 14.6 | 3.0 | -4.3 | -5.3 | -8.5 | -4.8 | -2.4 | -4.6 |

In March 2023, the Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) contracted by 4.6 percent from the same period last year. The main factor contributing to this decline was the contraction in exports due to the impact of the global economic slowdown. However, the domestic economy has been gradually recovering, supported by the tourism sector's rebound from the expansion of international tourists and the government's measures to promote domestic tourism. As a result, the demand for related industrial products has increased, such as oil refining, footwear, bags, pharmaceuticals, and processed food products.

When considering the MPI data for the past three months compared to the previous year (%YoY), the MPI in December 2022, January 2023, and February 2023 contracted by 8.5 percent, 4.8 percent, and 2.4 percent, respectively.

| Indicators | 2022 | | | | | | | | | | 2023 | | |
|------------|------|-------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | Mar. | Apr. | May | Jun. | Jul. | Aug. | Sep. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. |
| MPI | 7.9 | -17.1 | 7.7 | -0.2 | -2.3 | 4.2 | -1.8 | -4.2 | 2.1 | -1.8 | 6.1 | -0.1 | 5.5 |

For the past three months (December 2022, January, and February 2023) the Manufacturing Production Index (MPI), compared to the previous month (%MoM), has shown the following rate of changes: a decrease of 1.8 percent in December 2022, an increase of 6.1 percent in January 2023, and a slight decline of 0.1 percent in February 2023.

Key industries that contributed to the MPI contraction in March 2023 compared to the same period last year were:

- Hard Disk Drive (HDD): The industry decreased by 30.83% due to advancements in storage capacity technology, leading to reduced production volume. Consequently, there has been an increase in the unit price driven by the higher storage capacity, while the demand for HDD has decreased. On the other hand, Solid State Drive (SSD) has gained significant market share, gradually replacing HDD in various devices. It's worth noting that Thailand currently lacks a manufacturing base for SSD.
- Furniture: The industry decreased by 39.11 percent, primarily due to a decrease in demand for wooden and metal household furniture. However, metal furniture production returned to normal after receiving special orders from the previous year.
- Plastic pellets: The industry decreased by 11.72 percent as a result of reduced exports, manufacturers adjusting their production to align with market trends, and ongoing maintenance shutdowns in some factories.

Key industries that remained growing in March 2023 compared to the same month last year were:

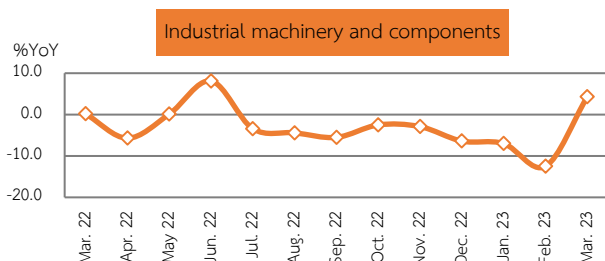
- Automobile: The industry grew by 8.18 percent due to increased orders from the export markets in Asia, Africa, Europe, and America, while the domestic market has remained sluggish.
- Petroleum refining: The industry grew by 6.15 percent in response to increased air and land transportation after the country fully reopened to international tourists. This growth is also attributed to the measures promoting domestic tourism.



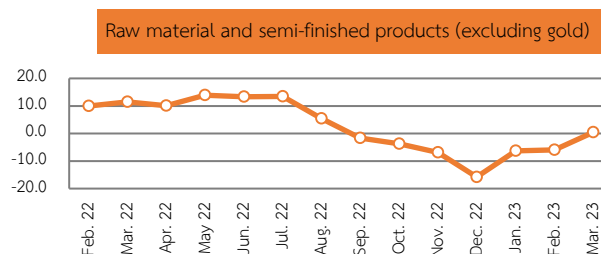
Other Industrial Economic Indicators in March 2023

Other Industrial Economic Indicators in March 2023

■ Imports of Thailand Industrial Sector



Source: Ministry of Commerce

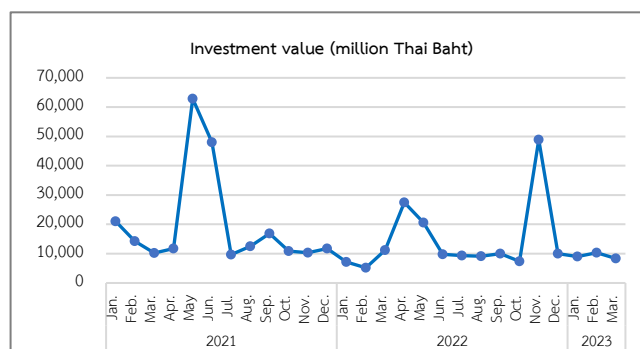
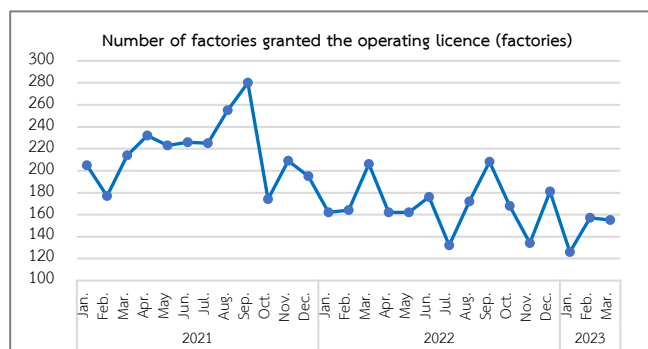


Source: Ministry of Commerce

⊖ **Imports of industrial machinery and components** in March 2023 were valued at 1,670.00 million USD, an increase of 4.29 percent compared to the same month last year. The decline was mainly due to decreasing imports of jet turbines and parts, machinery for other industries and parts, and textile machinery, for example.

⊖ **Imports of raw and semi-finished goods (excluding gold)** in March 2023 were valued at 10,129.10 million USD, a contraction of 0.38 percent compared to the same month last year. Imports declined among chemical products, aluminium and product thereof, and rubber products, for example.

Industrial Operation Status



Source: Department of Industrial Works

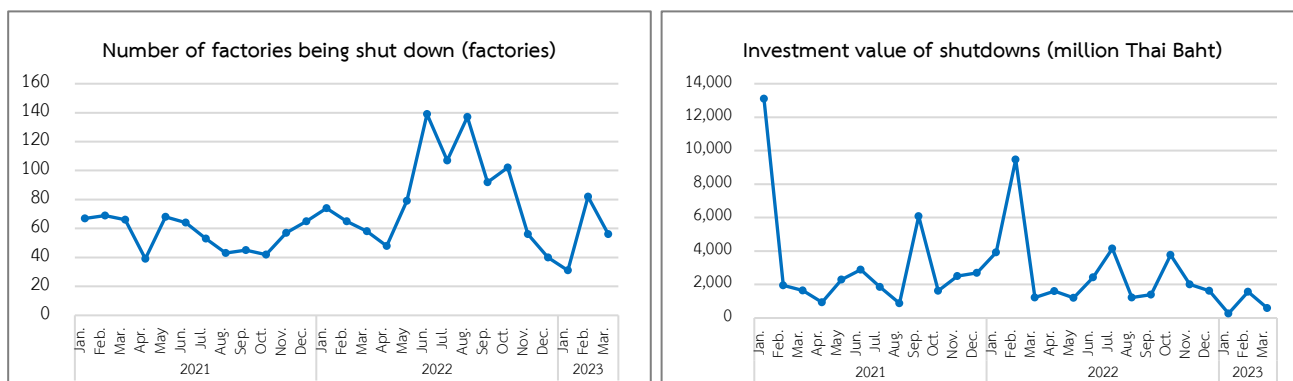
❌ The total number of factories licensed for operation in March 2023 was 155 factories, decreasing by 1.27 percent (%MoM) from February 2023 but decreasing by 24.76 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

❌ The total investment from factories licensed for operating in March 2023 decreased by 19.09 percent (%MoM) from February 2023 to 8,313 million Thai Baht and decreased by 25.50 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

"The industry with the highest number of newly licensed factories to operate in March 2023 was the manufacture of concrete, ready-mixed concrete articles, and gypsum products (19 factories), followed by the excavation or dredging industry of gravel, sand, or soil (17 factories)."

"The industry with the highest investment value in March 2023 was the automotive industry, including manufacturing, assembly, modification, or transformation of motor vehicles (1,416 million Thai Baht), followed by the cold storage factory industry (970 million Thai Baht)."

■ Industrial Operation Status (cont.)



Source: Department of Industrial Works

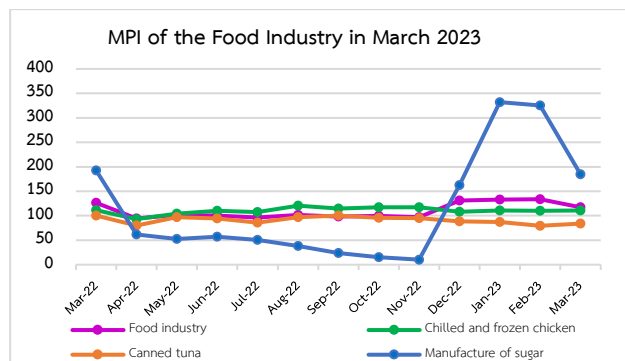
- ⊕ A total of 56 factories were shut down in March 2023, decreasing by 31.71 percent (%MoM) from February 2023 and decreasing by 3.45 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.
- ⊕ The lost investment value on shutdown in March 2023 totaled 595 million Thai Baht, decreasing by 61.94 percent (%MoM) from February 2023 and decreasing by 51.14 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

“The industry with the highest number of factory shutdowns in March 2023 was the excavation or dredging industry of gravel, sand, or soil (11 factories), followed by the manufacture of concrete, ready-mixed concrete articles, and gypsum products (4 factories).”

The industry with the highest investment value for business cessation in March 2023 was the machinery manufacturing, assembly, modification, or repair industry specifically using electricity, with an investment value of 101 million baht, followed by the excavation or dredging industry of gravel, sand, or soil, with an investment value of 65 million baht.

Industrial Economic Status by Industrial Sectors in March 2023

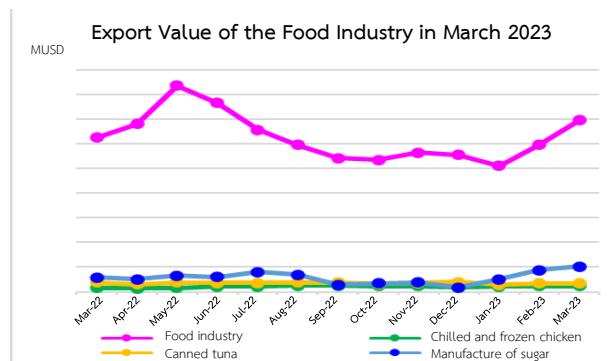
1. Food Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

➖ The MPI of food industry in March 2023 decreased by 5.6 percent (%YoY) compared to the same period of the previous year. Food product categories with a decrease in MPI were as follows

- 1) Cassava contracted by 30.2 percent, with a significant decrease in tapioca starch production by 31.2 percent. This was primarily due to a decline in tapioca production, as well as instances of rotten tubers in various areas caused by the infestation of red mites during hot weather, resulting in lower market availability;
- 2) Processed vegetables and fruits contracted by 18.6 percent, with canned pineapples experiencing a significant contraction of 39.9 percent. This decline was attributed to reduced consumer demand both domestically and internationally;
- 3) Fisheries contracted by 10.8 percent, with canned tuna experiencing a contraction of 15.8 percent in production;
- 4) Beverages contracted by 7.0 percent from with rice whiskey, beer, purified drinking water, and energy drinks;
- 5) The sugar industry decrease by 1.6 percent slowdown, mainly because of a contraction in raw sugar production by 16.8 percent. This decline was primarily caused by the high costs associated with fertilizer production, discouraging farmers from adequately nourishing their sugarcane crops. Consequently, the quantity of sugarcane delivered to factories during the 2022/23 season fell below expectations. Furthermore, using sugarcane harvesters resulted in more significant crop damage than manual labor methods. However, some food commodities have expanded as follows: 1) Palm oil, an increase of 11.6% from key products such as crude palm oil (10.8%) and refined palm oil (12.5%) driven by increased demand in various industries such as biodiesel and food production, including the substantial production of palm oil. Additionally, India has significantly increased its imports from Thailand.; 2) Livestock products, an increase of 2.2% from key products such as frozen and chilled chicken meat. This growth is primarily driven by continuous market demand, both domestically and internationally, with major export markets including China and Japan.



Source: Ministry of Commerce

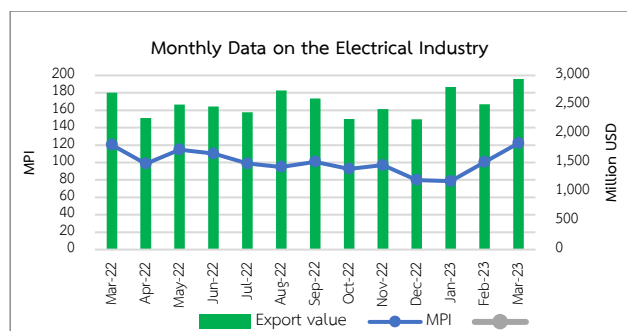
➖ **Domestic sales:** In March 2023, the production volume for domestic sales of food products decreased by 7.8 percent (%YoY) from key products, including 1) raw sugar with a decrease of 62.7 percent, 2) canned pineapple with a decrease of 61.6 percent, 3) rice whiskey with a decrease of 23.4 percent, and 4) beer with a decrease of 12.7 percent.

➕ **Export markets:** In March 2023, overall food exports increased by 11.2 percent compared to the same period last year (%YoY) from the following products: 1) Rice and grains, which increased from rice exported to Indonesia, Bangladesh, and the US markets; 2) Livestock, which increased from fresh and frozen chicken, exported to China and Malaysia markets; 3) Sugar and molasses, which increased from sugar exported to Indonesia, the Philippines, and South Korea markets; and 4) Plant and animal fats and oils, which increased mainly from palm oil exported to India market.

Industry Outlook: In April 2023, the overall food industry is projected to expand compared to the same period last year due to the recovery of the domestic tourism sector—the number of foreign tourists who gradually visit Thailand continuously. The value of exports is expected to expand due to the demand for food products from trading partner countries and the expansion of exports to new markets. Nevertheless, it is important to monitor the ongoing slowdown in the global economy, financial conditions, and persistently high energy costs.

2. Electrical and Electronics Industry

■ Electrical Industry



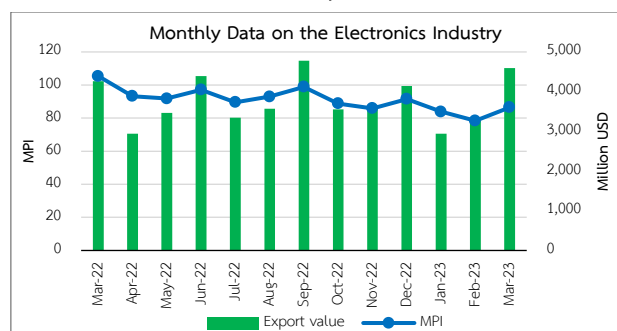
Source: The Office of Industrial Economics, Electrical and Electronics Institute, and Ministry of Commerce

+ **Production of electrical appliances** reached an MPI of 122.2 points, an increase of 1.6 percent compared to the same month last year. Products that increased in production included transformers (37.0%), air conditioners (21.9%), and washing machines (6.5%) due to growing domestic demand and overseas orders. However, products that decreased in production were electric motors (-31.9%), refrigerators (-22.9%), and microwave ovens (-11.5%) due to a decrease of domestic sales.

+ **Exports of electrical appliances** Exports of electrical appliances reached a value of 2,938.4 million USD, an increase of 4.8 percent compared to the same period last year. Among products that increased in orders were electrical transformers and parts, an increase of 55.9 percent to 380.1 million USD; air conditioners and parts, an increase of 16.7 percent to 849.6 million USD; fans an increase of 13.1 percent to 56.4 million USD, circuit breakers and protection devices an increase of 10.9 percent to 181.7 million USD, and electrical switchboards and panels an increase of 4.3 percent to 258.4 million USD; However, products that declined in orders were refrigerators, freezers, and parts, of which exports valued at 187.9 million USD, a decrease of 19.8 percent. Motors and generators decreased by 12.6 percent to 82.3 million USD. Electrical wires and cables decreased by 11.8 percent to 93.7 million USD. Microwave ovens decreased by 4.2 percent to 19.6 million USD. Washing machines, dry cleaners, and parts decreased by 3.4 percent to 121.8 million USD.

"The production forecast for April 2023 in the electrical appliances industry suggests an expected increase compared to the same month of the previous year. This growth can be attributed to hotter weather conditions resulting from global warming, which causes higher demand for air conditioning units among the people in Thailand."

■ Electronics Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics, Electrical and Electronics Institute, and Ministry of Commerce

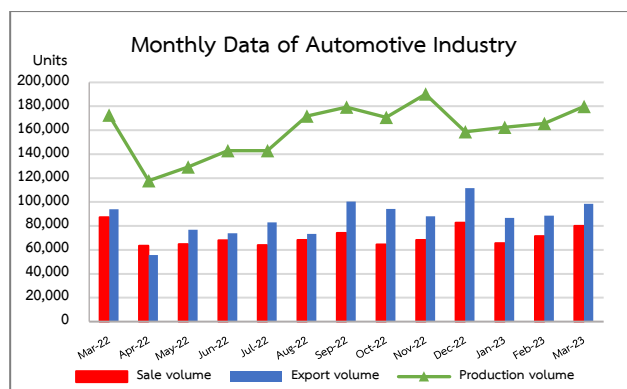
- **Production of electronic products** reached an MPI of 86.5 points, a decrease of 17.9 percent compared to the same month last year. Products that contracted in production were HDDs (-31.9%), printers (-25.8%), PWBs (-19.1%), and PCBAs (-10.8%) due to declining domestic sales and foreign purchase orders.

+ **Exports of electronic products** reached a value of 4,592.6 million USD, an increase of 4.9 percent compared to the same month last year. The products that increased in orders were semiconductor and diode components, with a value of 466.2 million USD, an increase of 66.5 percent in the ASEAN and the US markets. On the other hand, there was a decline in orders for HDDs with an export value of 1,410.9 million USD, a decrease of 13.8 percent in the US, Hong Kong, and China markets. The export value of printed circuit boards was 124.4 million USD, a decrease of 9.5 percent in China, Japan, and the US markets. Additionally, exports of electrical panels were valued at 810.5 million USD, a decrease of 1.3 percent in Hong Kong, Singapore, and China markets.

"The electronics industry's production forecast for April 2023 is expected to continue declining compared to the same month last year. This is due to the upward trend in production costs and the changing market share with neighboring countries such as Malaysia, Vietnam, and India."

3. Automotive Industry

■ Automotive Manufacturing Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics who obtained data from Automotive Division, Federation of Thai Industries.

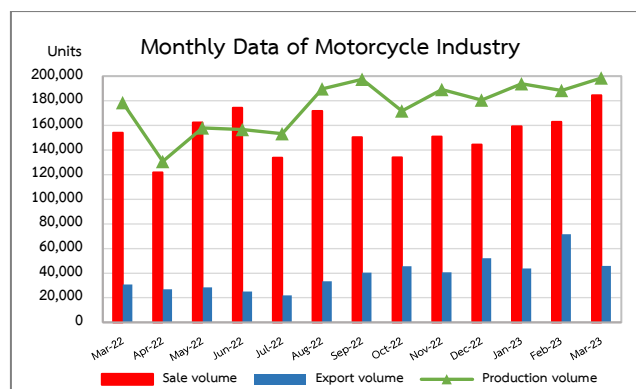
➕ **Production of automobiles** in March 2023 reached 179,848 units, an increase of 8.60 percent from February 2023 (%MoM) and an increase of 4.16 percent from the same month last year (%YoY). The growth was attributed to the availability of semiconductor components (chips). The majority of the production growth was observed in the passenger car segment.

➕ **Domestic automobile sales** in March 2023 reached 79,943 units, an increase of 9.11 percent from February 2023 (%MoM) but a decrease of 8.37 percent compared to the same month last year (%YoY). The decline was primarily driven by decreased sales of passenger cars, 1-ton pickup trucks, and commercial vehicles.

➕ **Automobile exports** in March 2023 reached 98,381 units, an increase of 11.13 percent from February 2023 (%MoM) and an increase of 4.48 percent compared to the same month last year (%YoY). Exports of automobile increased in Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, and Central and South America.

"The automobile industry Outlook for April 2023 is expected to grow compared to April 2022 as export markets are projected to expand and the easing of the semiconductor shortage situation."

■ Motorcycle Manufacturing Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics who obtained data from Automotive Division, Federation of Thai Industries.

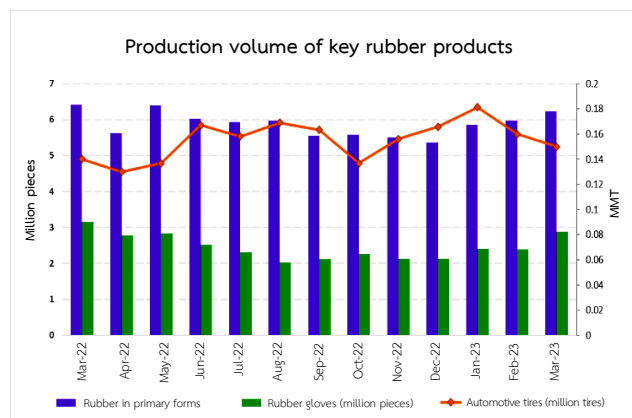
➕ **Production of motorcycles** in March 2023 reached 198,496 units, an increase of 5.43 percent from February 2023 (%MoM) and an increase of 11.22 percent from the same month last year (%YoY). The growth was driven by increased production of multipurpose and sport motorcycles.

➕ **Motorcycle sales** in March 2023 reached 184,462 units, an increase of 13.27 percent (%MoM) from February 2023 and an increase of 19.84 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year. The growth was driven by the sales of motorcycles sized between 51-110 cc, 126-250 cc, 251-399 cc, and ≥400 cc.

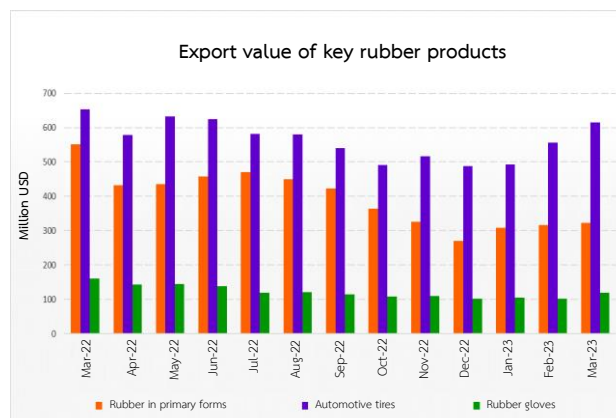
➕ **Exports of CBU motorcycle** in March 2023 reached 45,851 units, a slight decrease of 0.92 percent compared to February 2023 (%MoM) but an increase of 48.67 percent from the same month last year (%YoY). The growth was driven by exports to China, Japan, and the Netherlands.

"The motorcycle industry Outlook for April 2023 is expected to grow compared to April 2022 due to the domestic market and the export market tends to expand."

4. Rubber and Rubber Product Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics



Source: Ministry of Commerce

Production

➕ *Processed rubber in primary forms (sheet rubber, block rubber, and concentrated latex)* increased by 8.05 percent from the production growth of block rubber.

➖ *Automotive tires* decreased by 2.96 percent due to a decrease in tire production for passenger cars, pickups, trucks and bus, and tractors.

➖ *Rubber gloves* decreased by 8.39 percent due to the continued decline in demand for rubber gloves in the global market.

Domestic Sales

➕ *Processed rubber in primary forms (rubber sheets, block rubber, and concentrated latex)* increased by 12.42 percent due to an increase in demand for concentrated latex in downstream industries.

➖ *Automotive tires* decreased by 7.08 percent due to the slowdown of the Replacement Equipment Manufacturer (REM) market.

➕ *Rubber gloves* increased by 8.88 percent as a result of the strong local demand for rubber gloves in disease prevention.

Exports

➖ *Processed rubber in primary forms (rubber sheets, block rubber, and concentrated latex)* decreased by 40.27 percent in export value. This decrease can be attributed to reduced exports of sheet rubber and block rubber to Japan and the US, along with decreased exports of concentrated latex to China and Malaysia.

➖ *Automotive tires* decreased by 6.00 percent in export value, mainly due to the slowdown in exports to the US market.

➖ *Rubber gloves* decreased by 25.83 percent as demand for rubber gloves in the global market has dropped.

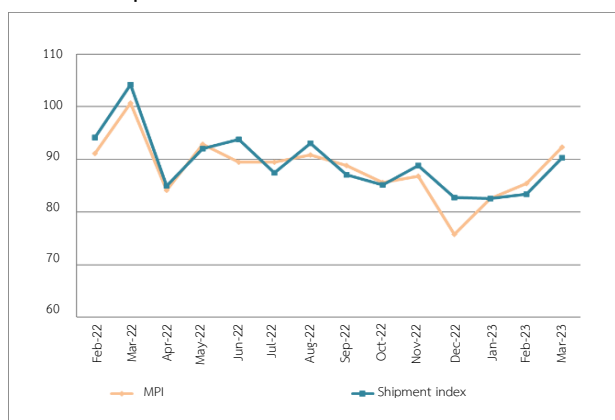
Industry Outlook for April 2023

The production of processed rubber (rubber sheets, block rubber, and concentrated latex) is expected to expand again to meet the continuous demand from the domestic industry. The production and domestic distribution of automotive tires are expected to rebound in line with the continuous growth of the automotive industry and the demand for automotive tires in the REM market, which is likely to increase in early April before the long holiday. As for the production of rubber gloves, it is expected to remain sluggish due to the reduced demand for rubber gloves in the global market. However, in the domestic market, the sales of rubber gloves are expected to expand due to the strong demand for rubber gloves in diseases prevention.

Export values of processed rubber in primary forms (rubber sheets, block rubber, and concentrated latex) are expected to decrease due to a decline in orders from key export markets such as China, Japan, and Malaysia. Regarding automotive tires, export value is expected to rebound due to the recovering demand for automotive tires in the US and the continuous expansion of demand in the South Korea. However, the export value of rubber gloves is expected to decline continuously due to global demand for rubber gloves, and prices have dropped.

5. Plastics Industry

MPI and Shipment Index



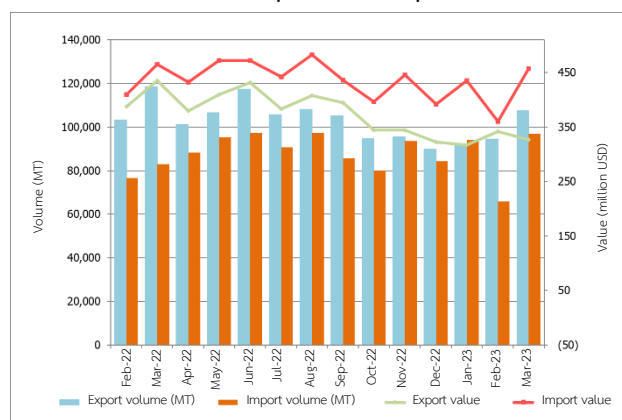
Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

➔ The Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) in March 2023 contracted by 8.28 percent compared to the same period the previous year. Many plastic products experienced a decline in MPI, such as plastic sheets (-23.83%), plastic bags (-15.70%), and other plastic packaging (-13.44%) compared to the same period last year.

➔ The shipment index in March 2023 contracted by 13.30 percent. Many plastic products experienced the contraction in shipment index, such as plastic sheets (-26.30%), other plastic packaging (-20.15%), plastic bags (-17.68%) compared to the same period last year.

➔ Exports in March 2023 were valued at 327.33 million USD, a decrease of 24.78 percent compared to the same period last year. Products contributing to the decline in exports included plastic sanitary ware (HS3922) (-40.10%), plates, sheets, film, foil and strip of non-cellular plastics (HS3920) (-20.15%), self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics (HS 3920) (-20.15%); and other articles of plastics (HS 3926) (-13.98%) compared to the same period last year.

Volume and Value of Exports and Imports



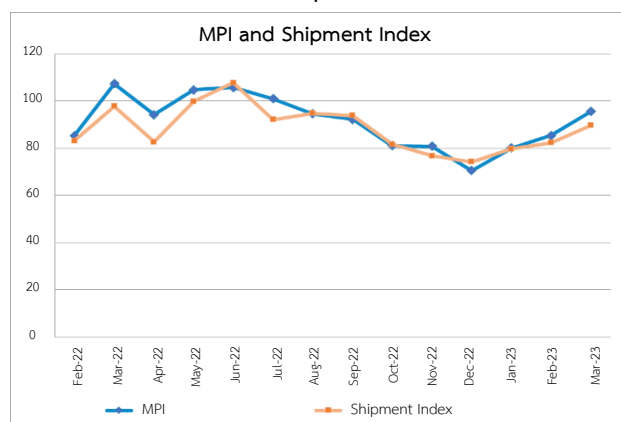
Source: Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

➔ Imports in March 2023 were valued at 457.80 million USD, a decrease of 1.58 percent compared to the same period last year. Key products contributing to the decline in imports were articles for the conveyance or packing of goods of plastics (HS 3923) (-15.58%); tubes and pipes (HS 3917) (-7.96%), and self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastics, (HS 3919) (-6.93%) compared to the same period last year.

The plastics industry outlook for April 2023 predicts a deceleration in production due to fluctuating oil prices, thin trading activities, and reduced demand from sectors that are slow to recover. Additionally, the industry is facing challenges stemming from the banking sector issues in the US and Europe, leading to a decline in economic sentiment. Exports to major markets such as Japan, the US, and Vietnam will likely decrease.

6. Chemical products Industry

MPI and Shipment Index



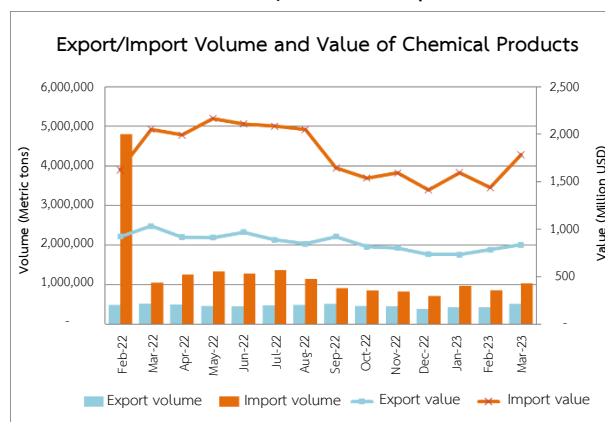
Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

➔ **The Manufacturing production index** in March 2023 declined by 11.05 percent compared to the same period last year. MPI of basic chemical products decreased by 4.30 percent. Among these basic chemical products, chlorine and caustic soda contracted by 9.00 percent and 5.08 percent, respectively, compared to last year. The downstream chemical products contracted by 13.16 percent, with chemical fertilizers, industrial paints, and talcum powder experiencing a contraction of 38.31 percent, 15.69 percent, and 8.20 percent, respectively, compared to the same period of the previous year.

➔ **The shipment index** in March 2023 decreased by 8.19 percent compared to the same period last year. The basic chemical product segment decreased by 8.17 percent, with products such as hydrochloric acid (-15.44%), chlorine (-12.76%), and Ethanol (-7.63%) experiencing a decline in shipments. Downstream chemical product segment also decreased by 8.20 percent, with products like chemical fertilizer (-33.83%), talcum powder (-14.08%), and industrial paints (-12.54%) experiencing a decrease in shipments compared to the same period the last year.

➔ **Exports** in March 2023 decreased in value by 19.13 percent to 835.71 million USD compared to the same period last year. Exports of basic chemical products decreased by 22.58 percent to 482.26 million USD. Exports of downstream chemical products also decreased by 13.91 percent with an export value of 353.45 million USD compared to the same period last year. The decrease in export value was driven by the contraction of products such as organic chemicals (-35.18%), chemical fertilizer (-30.13%), and paints (-18.49%) compared to the same period last year.

Volume and Value of Exports and Imports

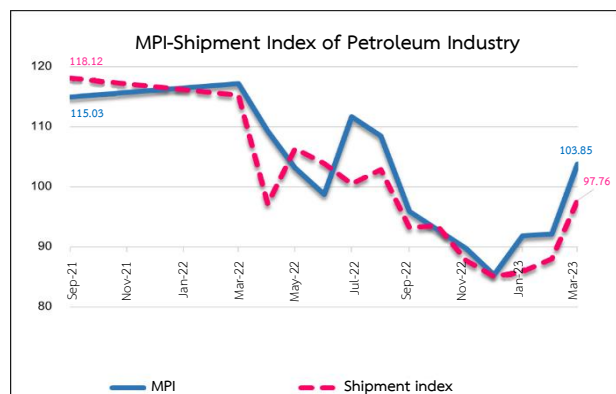


Source: Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

➔ **Imports** in March 2023 decreased in value by 13.01 percent to a total value of 1,784.16 million USD compared to the same period last year. The basic chemical product segment decreased by 16.26 percent, with imports valued of 1,162.52 million USD. Imports of the downstream chemical product segment also decreased by 6.22 percent, with imports valued of 621.64 million USD compared to the same period last year.

Chemical Industry Outlook for April 2023. The production is projected to slow down due to the volatile crude oil prices and a rise in the cost of raw materials used in manufacturing. As for exports of petroleum-related products such as plastic pellets and chemical products are anticipated to decrease in major markets, including China, India, and Vietnam.

7. Petrochemical Industry

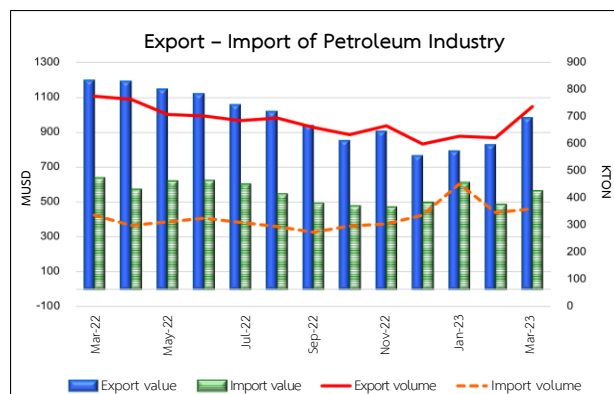


Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

➔ **The Manufacturing Production Index** stood at 103.85 points, a decrease of 11.55 percent compared to the same period last year. This contraction primarily affected the basic petrochemicals, specifically Propylene, which contracted by 20.43 percent compared to the same period of the last year. The downstream petrochemicals, including ABS resin and PS resin, also contracted by 43.60 percent and 15.59 percent, respectively, compared to the same period last year. These contractions resulted from maintenance shutdowns at gas separation plants and a production slowdown in response to decreased demand.

➔ **The shipment index** in March 2023 stood at 97.76 points, a decrease of 14.72 percent compared to the same period last year. Among the basic petrochemicals, Propylene declined by 26.70 percent compared to the same period last year. Similarly, downstream petrochemicals, such as PP resins decreased by 14.46 percent compared to the same period last year.

➔ **Exports** in March 2023 were valued at 984.32 million USD, a decrease of 17.89 percent compared to the same period last year. The decline was particularly noticeable in downstream petrochemicals, such as PP resin, and basic petrochemicals, such as Propylene. This decline can be attributed to the current speculative market situation, where prices are expected to decrease, as well as a decreased demand for downstream production. Additionally, the US has shifted the focus to exporting to the Asian market, which is belonged to Thailand, as a replacement for the slowdown in demand from the EU.

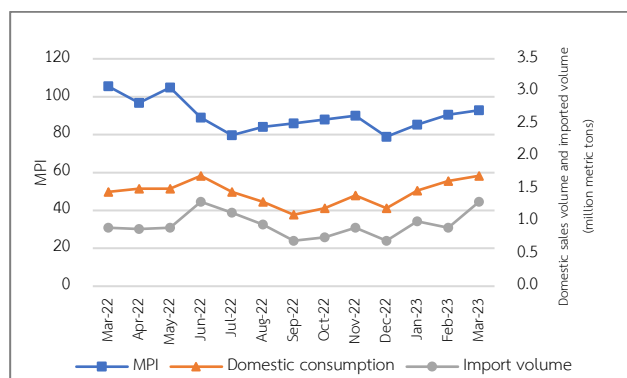


Source: Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

➔ **Imports** in March 2023 were valued at 564.30 million USD, a decrease of 12.00 percent compared to the same period last year. The decrease was primarily seen in the imports of basic petrochemical, such as Toluene and downstream products like PE resin.

Outlook for April 2023. The overall industry is projected to slow down compared to the same period of the previous year. This can be attributed to factory maintenance shutdowns in the production of basic petrochemicals, particularly Ethylene and Propylene, due to a declined demand for plastics. Additionally, there is a delay in exports, specifically for basic petrochemicals, such as Ethylene and Propylene, which are impacted by the fluctuating prices of crude oil and the effects of production halt in several countries resulting from the prolonged conflict between Ukraine and Russia.

8. Iron and Steel Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics / Iron and Steel Institute of Thailand

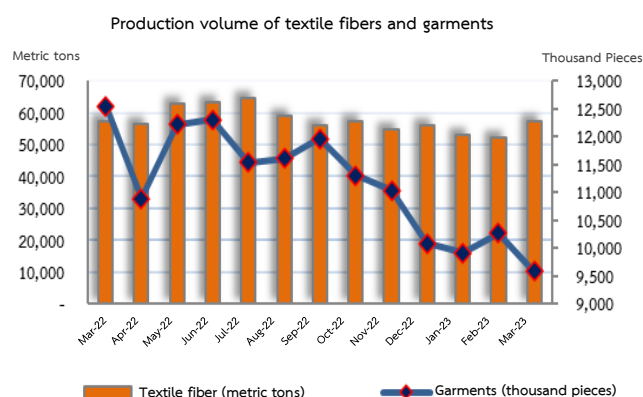
- The Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) in March 2023, the industrial production index stood at 92.5 points, contracting by 12.1 percent compared to the same period last year. This decline was primarily due to the prolonged slowdown in downstream industries, such as construction, electrical appliance manufacturing and canned packaging production. When examining the major product categories, the MPI for long and flat products experienced a contraction. The industrial production index for long products stood at 89.5 points, declining by 14.7 percent. The product with the highest contraction was wire rods (-38.3%), followed by round bars (-33.4%), hot-rolled structural steel sections (-29.1%), cold-rolled structural steel sections (-17.1%), and wires (-16.7%). Regarding flat products, the MPI was 88.6 points, contracting by 19.5 percent. The product with the highest contraction was tinplates (-34.3%), followed by hot-rolled coils (-26.3%), cold-rolled sheets (-20.2%), and galvanized sheets (-13.0%).

+ Domestic consumption in March 2023 reached the volume of 1.7 million metric tons, expanding by 15.4 percent compared to the same period last year. Long product consumption amounted to 0.6 million metric tons, decreasing by 3.9 percent from the consumption of seamless pipes. Meanwhile, flat product consumption amounted to 1.1 million metric tons, increasing by 27.5 percent from the consumption of galvanized sheets, tinplate, and hot-rolled plates/coils/sheets.

+ Imports in March 2023 reached the volume of 1.3 million metric tons, expanding by 40.5 percent compared to the same period last year. The import volume expanded for both long and flat products. For long products, the import volume reached 0.2 million metric tons, increasing by 33.1 percent. Long products that increased in imports included structural alloy steel sections (the main markets that Thailand imported from was China); wire rods (the main markets that Thailand imported from were China, Vietnam, and South Korea). As for flat products, the import volume reached 1.04 million metric tons, expanding by 42.2 percent. Flat products that increased in imports included hot-rolled alloy steel plates (the main markets that Thailand imported from were the US, China, and Germany); and hot-rolled alloy steel (the main markets that Thailand imported from were South Korea, the US, and China).

"Iron and steel industry outlook for April 2023. The industry is expected to contract compared to the same period last year. The contraction was due to the inflation, and the fluctuation of energy prices. This will cause consumers to delay their purchasing decisions to observe price trends. However, the construction sector will likely benefit from opening the county to tourists. Nevertheless, there are important issues to monitor, including the global economic and trade situation, foreign steel prices, and China's steel industry policies as a major producer and exporter globally. In addition, the cessation of anti-dumping and countervailing (AD) measures for hot-rolled steel products from Brazil, Iran, and Türkiye and cold-rolled aluminum-alloy sheets (GL) from Vietnam may affect the production volume of steel products in Thailand."

9. Textile and Wearing Apparel Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

Production

➕ Textile fibers, fabrics, and garments contracted by 0.60 percent, 28.31 percent, and 24.05 percent (%YoY), respectively. However, when compared to the previous month (%MoM), textile fibers and fabrics grew by 9.24 and 8.09 percent. This growth can be attributed to increased orders from key trading partners and the positive impact of the pre-election atmosphere and preparations in May 2023. Additionally, there is a rising demand for raw materials from the manufacturing sector to produce printed media materials like advertising banners, as well as clothing for election campaigns and preparing to manufacture products to meet the demand during the Songkran Festival (Water festival) in April 2023, especially the floral-pattern shirts that symbolize the Songkran Festival.

Domestic sales

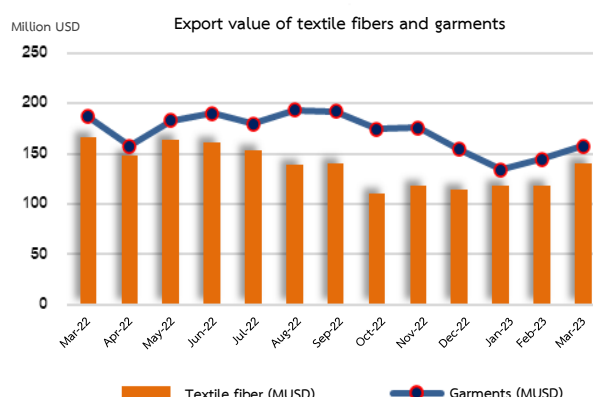
➖ Textile fibers and fabrics sales contracted by 3.67 percent and 27.73 percent (%YoY).

➕ Garment sales increased by 19.57 percent (%YoY) for the tenth consecutive month, benefiting from the positive impact of the pre-election atmosphere and preparations in May 2023, as well as the Songkran Festival in April 2023.

Imports

➖ Yarns and fiber imports contracted by 11.32 percent from key markets such as China, the US, and Japan. Fabric imports also contracted by 13.05 percent from major markets such as China, Vietnam, and Taiwan.

➕ Garment imports increased by 30.81 percent from key markets such as China, Italy, and Vietnam to support people's spending from the domestic economic recovery.



Source: Ministry of Commerce

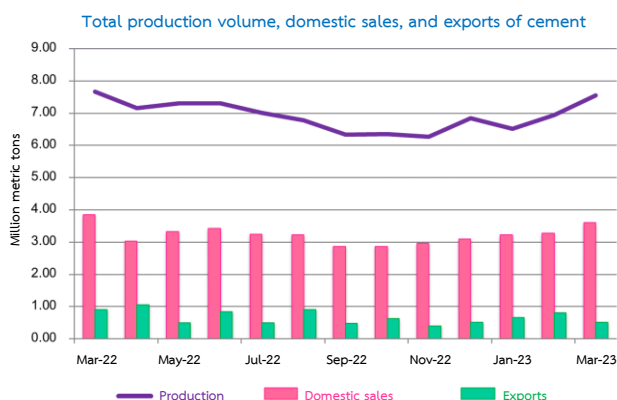
Exports

➖ Exports of textile fibers contracted by 16.21 percent (%YoY) to key markets such as Japan, China, and Bangladesh. Fabric exports also decreased by 20.66 percent (%YoY) to key markets, including Vietnam, Cambodia, and Bangladesh. Garment exports contracted by 15.53 percent (%YoY) due to decreased orders from key trading partners such as the US, Japan, and Belgium.

Industry Outlook for April 2023

The textile and garment manufacturing industry is expected to expand in line with the continued recovery of the domestic economy. However, it is necessary to monitor issues, such as global inflation, rising interest rates, ongoing political conflicts, exchange rate fluctuations impacting exports, and energy shortages in Europe, which could be strain factors causing the economy of trading partner countries to slow down.

10. Cement Industry



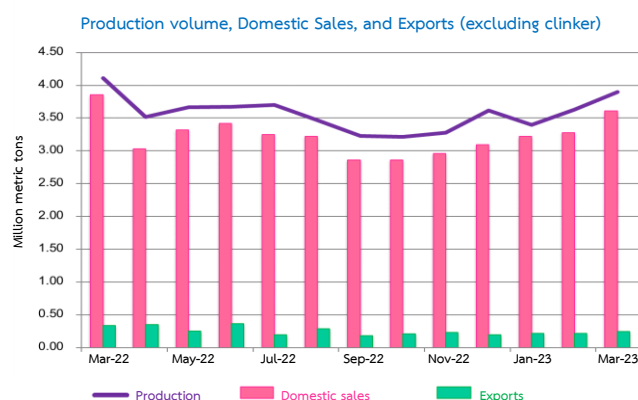
Source: 1. Domestic production and sales volume: Division of Information and Industrial Economic Indices, The Office of Industrial Economics
2. Export volume: Information and Communication Technology Center, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

➔ **Total production of cement** in March 2023 reached 7.55 million metric tons, a decrease of 1.47 percent from the same month last year (%YoY).

➔ **Total domestic sales of cement** in March 2023 reached 3.61 million metric tons, a decrease of 6.32 percent compared to the same month last year (%YoY). Despite the market's gradual recovery this month, it has not fully recovered to the level before being affected by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

➔ **Total cement exports** in March 2023 were at 0.52 million metric tons, decreasing from the same month last year by 42.52 percent (%YoY). This decrease was primarily attributed to a lack of orders from Sri Lanka, and there was a reduction in orders from key export markets, including Bangladesh, the Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, and Cambodia.

The cement industry outlook for April 2023 is projected to stabilize as the global market demand is affected by the slow global economy, which is experiencing a prolonged slowdown and ongoing impacts from the financial crisis in the US and Europe.



Source: 1. Domestic production and sales volume: Division of Information and Industrial Economic Indices, The Office of Industrial Economics
2. Export volume: Information and Communication Technology Center, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

➔ **Cement production (excluding clinker)** in March 2023 reached 3.90 million metric tons, a decrease 5.28 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

➔ **Domestic cement sales (excluding clinker)** in March 2023 reached 3.61 million metric tons, a decrease of 6.32 percent (%YoY) compared to the same period last year. Despite the market's gradual recovery this month, it has not fully recovered to the level before being affected by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

➔ **Exports of cement (excluding clinker)** in March 2023 reached 0.24 million metric tons, a decrease of 27.84 percent (%YoY) compared to the same month last year. This decrease was primarily attributed to a lack of orders from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka markets. Additionally, there was a reduction in orders from key export markets, including the Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, and Cambodia.

The cement industry (excluding clinker) outlook for April 2023 is expected to stabilize due to weak global demand. However, there is a positive factor resulting from the expansion of large public utility projects and the recovery of demand in the real estate sector following the country's reopening.