

# Report on the Industrial Economics Status

**AUGUST 2024**





**Industrial Production Status**

Indicators	2022	2023	2023					2024							
	Year	Year	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.
MPI	1.3	-3.8	-5.9	-5.9	-2.5	-1.5	-4.7	-2.9	-2.8	-4.9	2.7	-1.5	-1.6	1.6	-1.9

In August 2024, the industrial economic status, when considered from the **Manufacturing Production Index (MPI)**, reached **95.08**, a contraction of **1.9 percent** from last year. The main factors were the decrease in automobile production, mainly from the domestic market, due to the high level of household debt and the strictness of financial institutions in granting loans.

When comparing the MPI data for the past three months to the same months in the previous year (%YoY), the MPI decreased by 1.5 percent and 1.6 percent in May and June respectively, but increased by 1.6 percent in July.

Indicators	2023					2024							
	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.
MPI	2.0	-1.2	-1.6	2.8	-4.9	7.6	0.2	5.0	-14.0	9.7	-2.3	0.4	-1.6

For the past three months (May, June, and July 2024), the Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) compared to the previous month (%MoM), has shown the following rate of changes: an increase of 9.7 percent in May, but a decrease of 2.3 percent in June, and an increase of 0.4 percent in July 2024.

**Key industries that contracted in August 2024 compared to the same month last year included:**

- **Automotive:** The industry contracted by 18.44 percent, primarily due to decreases in the production of pickup trucks and compact cars. This decline aligned with a contraction in the domestic market, driven by a sluggish economic recovery, high household debt levels, and stricter loan approval processes by financial institutions.
- **Electronic components and boards:** The industry contracted by 11.84 percent, mainly driven by Integrated Circuits (IC), reflecting the global demand for electronic components, which has been recovering more slowly compared to other semiconductor products.
- **Concrete, cement, and plaster products:** The industry contracted by 13.54 percent, primarily due to declines in concrete piles and prefabricated concrete flooring. This was attributed to the slowdown in the real estate sector, strict loans approvals by financial institutions, delays in public construction projects, and the impact of flooding in some areas.

**Key industries contributing to the increase of the MPI in August 2024, compared to the same month last year, included:**

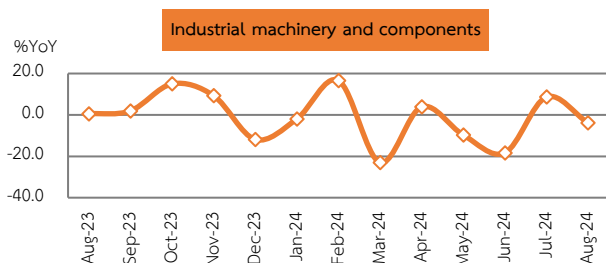
- **Canned seafood:** The industry grew by 41.61 percent, mainly from canned tuna, following a decrease in raw tuna price. The export market grew following purchase orders from the USA, Japan, and Australia to stock up as a result of geopolitical issues that may affect transportation.
- **Prepared animal feed:** The industry grew by 9.40 percent, mainly from prepared pet food, following increased purchase orders from the USA, Switzerland, and Canada. Prepared chicken feed grew from increased chicken farming.
- **Computers and peripherals:** The industry grew by 18.84 percent, mainly driven by Hard Disk Drives. This growth was attributed to increased demand following a prior slowdown, as well as the need for replacement products due to expired warranties and end-of-life cycles.



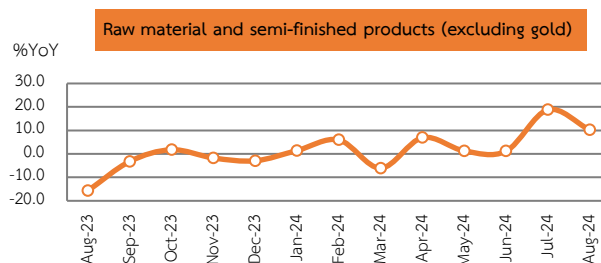
# Other Industrial Economic Indicators in August 2024

## Other Industrial Economic Indicators in August 2024

### Imports of Thailand Industrial Sector



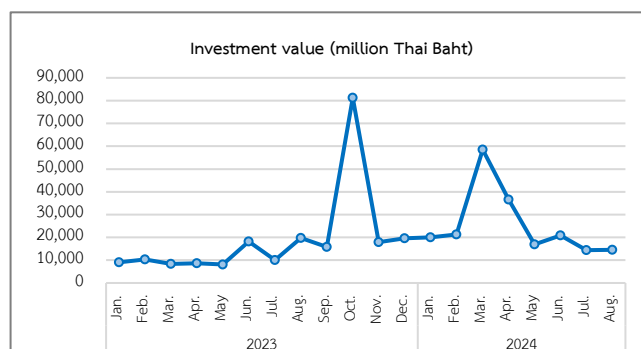
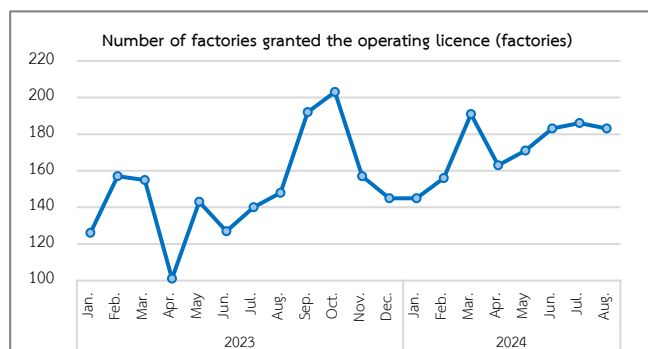
Source: Ministry of Commerce



Source: Ministry of Commerce

- **Imports of industrial machinery and parts** in August 2024 were valued at 1,560.35 million USD, a decrease of 3.87 percent compared to the same month last year. This decline was primarily due to increased imports of turbo-jets and parts.
  
- + **Imports of raw and semi-finished goods (excluding gold)** in August 2024 were valued at 9,611.66 million USD, an increase of 10.22 percent compared to the same month last year. This growth in imports was driven by products such as electrical and electronic components, chemical products, iron, steel, and products thereof.

## Industrial Operation Status



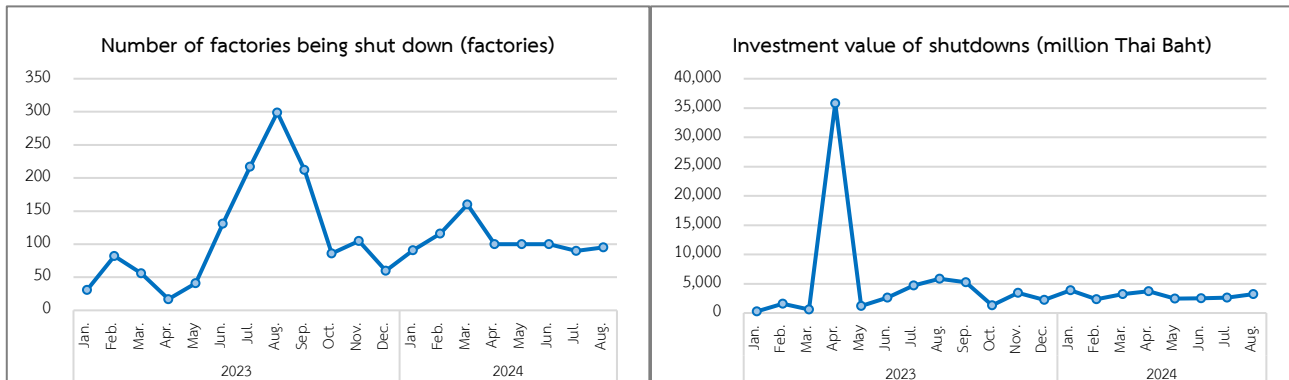
Source: Department of Industrial Works

- + The total number of factories licensed for operation in August 2024 was 183 factories, increasing by 23.65 percent from the same month last year (%YoY) but a decrease of 1.61 percent from July 2024 (%MoM).
- The total investment from factories licensed for operation in August 2024 were valued at 14,552 million Thai Baht, decreasing from the same month last year by 26.28 percent (%YoY) but increasing from July 2024 by 1.20 percent (%MoM).

*“The industry with the highest number of newly licensed factories to operate in August 2024 was the manufacture of concrete, ready-mixed concrete articles, gypsum, and plaster products (18 factories) and the excavation or dredging industry of gravel, sand, or soil (18 factories). Following this was turning, drilling, boring, milling, eroding, planing, grinding, or welding of metalwork pieces (13 factories.)”*

*“In August 2024, the industry with the highest investment value was the cold storage facilities, with an investment of 4,280 million Thai Baht. Following this was the general packaging industry, with an investment amount of 990 million Thai Baht.”*

■ Industrial Operation Status (cont.)



Source: Department of Industrial Works

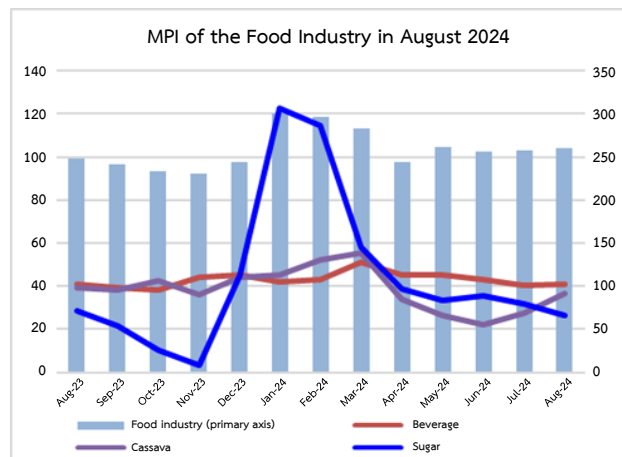
- ⊖ A total of 95 factories were shut down in August 2024, decreasing from the same month last year by 68.23 percent (%YoY) but increasing from July 2024 by 5.56 percent (%MoM).
- ⊖ The total investment value lost due to business shutdowns in August 2024 was 3,213 million Thai Baht, decreasing from the same month last year by 44.82 percent (%YoY) but increasing from July 2024 by 22.44 percent (%MoM).

*“In August 2024, the industry with the highest number of factory shutdowns was the excavation or dredging industry of gravel, sand, or soil (8 factories), followed by the manufacture of concrete, ready-mixed concrete articles, and gypsum products (6 factories).”*

*“In August 2024, the industry with the highest business investment cessation was the manufacturing, assembly, modification, or repair of machinery, specifically those using electricity, with an investment value of 707 million Thai Baht, followed by fermenting, carbonizing, combing, carding, spinning, drying, or dyeing fibers, with an investment value of 556 million Thai Baht.”*

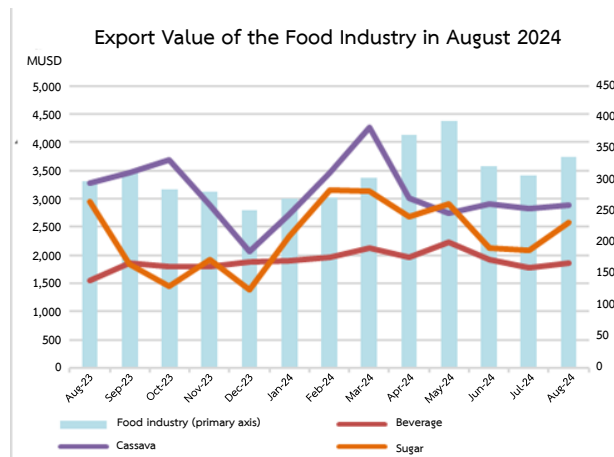
## Industrial Economic Status by Industrial Sectors in August 2024

### 1. Food Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

**+** **MPI of the food industry:** In August 2024, the index increased by 4.8 percent compared to the same period last year. Key contributors to this growth included: **1) Palm oil**, which expanded by 10.1 percent, driven by crude palm oil (8.3%) and refined palm oil (13.5%) due to higher domestic and international demand, particularly from a key market like India. **2) Prepared animal feed**, which grew by 9.4 percent, with significant contributions from prepared pet food (16.3%) in response to rising demand in both domestic and international markets, including the USA, Italy, and Australia. **3) Livestock**, which expanded by 2.4 percent, led by chilled and frozen pork (4.8%) and frozen and chilled chicken (0.3%), supported by increased domestic consumption linked to the recovering tourism sector. **4) Fisheries**, which surged by 15.8 percent, led by canned tuna (47.2%) due to growing domestic and international consumption. **5) Processed vegetables and fruits**, which grew by 0.2 percent, supported by canned pineapple (12.3%) due to increased domestic demand. However, certain products showed a decline in MPI: **1) Cassava**, which contracted by 6.8 percent primarily from cassava starch production (-5.4%). The decrease was due to the end of the harvest season, resulting in fewer cassava tubers available in the market. Also, demand from markets such as China, Japan, the Philippines, Laos, and Australia has dropped. **2) Sugar**, which decreased by 7.8 percent, primarily due to a decline in white sugar production (-25.2%). This was attributed to a decrease in the production of white sugar and refined white sugar, coupled with reduced import demand from major trading partners, including the Philippines and Indonesia.



Source: Ministry of Commerce

**-** **Beverage sector's MPI:** The index contracted by 2.4 percent overall. Key products such as rice whisky, blended spirits, purified water, and fruit-flavored beverages experienced a decline due to decreased demand in both domestic and international markets.

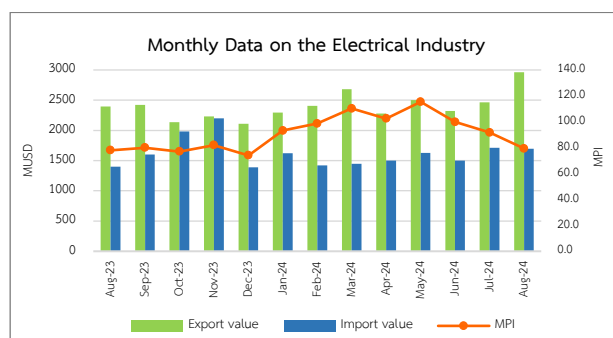
**+** **Domestic markets:** The production volume for sale in August 2024 grew by 13.7 percent (%YoY), with significant increases across various categories: 1) frozen and chilled pork by 2.66 percent, 2) frozen and chilled chicken by 0.5 percent, 3) frozen shrimp by 5.2 percent, 4) canned tuna by 47.2 percent, 5) refined palm oil by 5.4 percent, 6) cassava starch by 4.6 percent, 7) prepared pet food by 13.47 percent, and 8) pure drinking water by 1.31 percent.

**+** **International markets:** In August 2024, food exports grew by 3.3 percent (%YoY), driven by rising demand for various products, including canned and processed seafood saw increased demand from major markets such as the USA and Australia, while fresh chicken exports rose due to higher demand in Japan and the UK. Exports of rice and grains grew, fueled by demand from Iraq and the USA, and vegetable and animal oils and fats increased due to demand from India and Malaysia. Additionally, animal feed exports expanded due to higher demand from the USA and Italy. The beverage export value increased by 22.6 percent compared to the same period last year, supported by growing demand from key trading partners.

*“Food Industry outlook for September 2024: The overall food industry in September 2024 expects that the overall MPI will grow compared to the same period of last year as the demand for Thai agricultural products will increase in line with the food security policies of trading partners and the volatile weather conditions globally that affect the production volume in many countries. However, flooding in the country may affect the production volume of Thai agricultural products in the next period.”*

## 2. Electrical and Electronics Industry

### ■ Electrical Industry



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

➤ **The Manufacturing Production Index (MPI)** for electrical appliances stood at 79.3, an increase of 2.3 percent compared to the same month last year. Products that saw growth included electric motors, transformers, compressors, household fans, and air conditioners, which increased by 32.8 percent, 19.6 percent, 12.6 percent, and 5.3 percent, respectively, driven by rising global demand and higher domestic sales. Conversely, products with declining production included thermopots, microwave ovens, and washing machines, which decreased by 14.3 percent, 13.1 percent, and 4.4 percent, respectively, due to lower domestic demand.

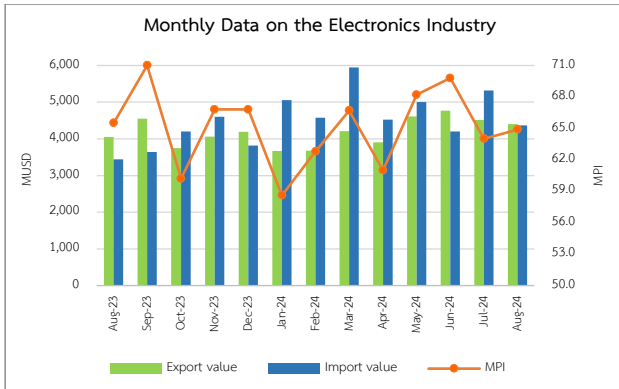
➤ **Exports of electrical appliances:** In August 2024, exports of electrical appliances were valued at 2,963.6 million USD, an increase of 23.7 percent compared to the same month last year. Products with increased orders included fans, with exports valued at 51.8 million USD, increased by 16.1% percent in the USA and China markets. Switchboards and electrical control panels, with exports valued at 288.5 million USD, increased by 16.0 percent in the USA, ASEAN, and Japan markets. Air conditioners and components, with exports valued at 487.1 million USD, increased by 15.3 percent in the Australia, USA, and India markets. Motors and generators, with exports valued at 84.8 million USD, increased by 12.5 percent in ASEAN and Europe markets. Electric wires and cables, with exports valued at 108.0 million USD, increased by 12.1 percent in the USA and ASEAN markets; and transformers and components, with exports valued at 481.3 million USD, increased by 1.8 percent in the UK, Taiwan, and ASEAN markets. On the other hand, export products that declined included circuit breakers and protectors, with exports valued at 146.7 million USD, decreased by 15.3 percent in Japan, China, and India markets. Microwave ovens, with exports valued at 14.0 million USD, decreased by 8.8 percent in Japan, Canada, and the UK markets; and washing machines, dry cleaners, and parts, with exports valued at 115.7 million USD, decreased by 2.3 percent in the USA, South Korea, and Japan markets.

➤ **Imports of electrical appliance:** In August 2024, imports of electrical appliances were valued at 1,694.6 million USD, an increase of 20.7 percent compared to the same month last year. Products with increased imports included washing machines, with imports valued at 9.9 million USD, increased by 100.8 percent from ASEAN, China and Europe markets. Fans, with imports valued at 8.24 million USD, increased by 72.8 percent from Japan, China, and the USA markets. Electric motors, with imports valued at 116.81 million USD, increased by 36.4 percent from the USA, China, and Europe markets; and air conditioners, with imports valued at 23.4 million USD, increased by 4.8 percent from the USA and Europe markets. However, products with decreased imports included transformers, with imports valued at 14.73 million USD, decreased by 26.3 percent from Europe, ASEAN, and China markets.

*“Production Outlook for September 2024: The electrical appliances industry is expected to remain stable compared to the same month last year due to the uncertainty of the global economic situation.”*



## ■ Electronics Industry



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

➔ **The Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) of electronic products** stood at 64.4, a slight decline of 0.9 percent compared to the same month last year. Products that decreased in MPI were IC and PCBA, which decreased by 24.6 percent and 2.9 percent, respectively, due to a slowdown in domestic demand. Conversely, products with increased production included printers, PWBs, HDDs, and semiconductor devices such as transistors, which grew by 35.7 percent, 19.1 percent, 16.6 percent, and 7.7 percent, respectively. The growth in HDD production was driven by rising demand for advanced and large-scale data storage technology.

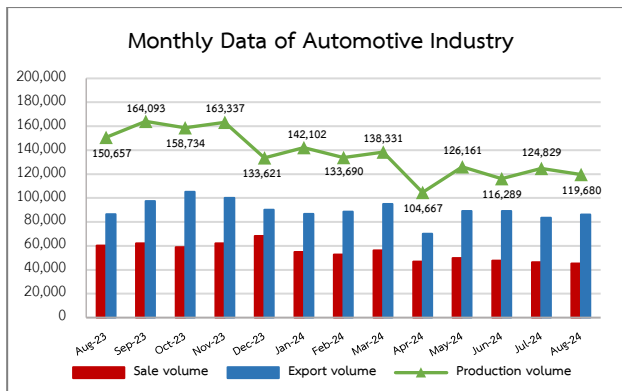
➕ **Exports of electronic products:** In August 2024, exports of electrical appliances were valued at 4,398.8 million USD, an increase of 8.6 percent compared to the same month last year, driven by global market demand and a recovery in the electronic components sector. Products with increased exports included HDD, with exports valued at 925.7 million USD, increased by 112.2 percent in the USA, China, and Europe markets, and printed circuits, with exports valued at 121.4 million USD, increased by 8.7 percent in China, Japan, and the USA markets. However, products with decreased exports included semiconductors, transistors, and diodes, with exports valued at 255.6 million USD, decreased by 40.2 percent in the USA, China, and India markets, and circuit boards, with exports valued at 746.6 million USD, decreased by 33.2 percent in ASEAN, Japan, and China markets.

➕ **Imports of electronic products:** In August 2024, imports of electrical appliances were valued at 4,363.5 million USD, an increase of 27.4 percent compared to the same month last year. Products with increased imports included Printed circuit board, with imports valued at 266.2 million USD, increased by 71.4 percent from China, ASEAN and the USA markets. Integrated circuits, with imports valued at 1,747.2 million USD, increased by 26.9 percent from China, ASEAN and the USA markets. However, products with decreased imports included HDDs, with imports valued at 4.8 million USD, decreased by 79.1 percent from China and ASEAN markets. Semiconductors (excluding integrated circuits), with imports valued at 203.7 million USD, decreased by 9.4 percent from the USA and Japan markets

*“Production Outlook for September 2024: The electronics industry is expected to decelerate compared to the same period last year due to a slowdown in production volumes for certain products, such as computer components and integrated circuits.”*

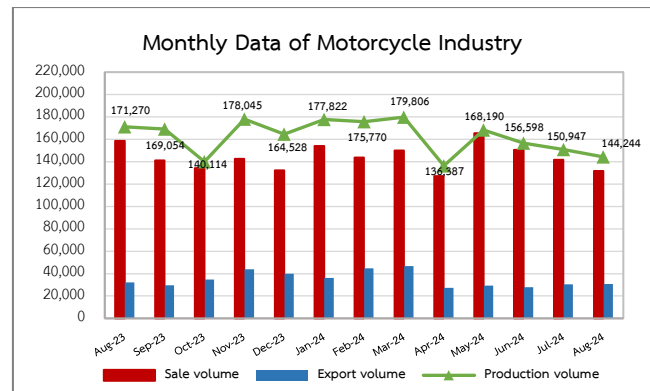
### 3. Automotive Industry

#### ■ Automotive Manufacturing Industry



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

#### ■ Motorcycle Manufacturing Industry



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

🚫 **Automobile production:** In August 2024, automobile production totaled 119,680 units, representing a decrease of 20.56 (%YoY) compared to the same month last year. This drop was primarily due to reduced production of pickup trucks, and the financial institutions have tightened their lending processes in response to high household debt and a slowing economy. Furthermore, compared to July 2024, automobile production decreased by 4.12 percent (%MoM).

🚫 **Domestic automobile sales** reached 45,190 units, a decline of 24.98 percent compared to the same month last year (%YoY). This decrease was driven by lower sales of passenger cars, 1-ton pickup trucks, and pickup derivatives (PPVs), primarily due to high levels of household debt, which led financial institutions to tighten their lending processes. Additionally, automobile sales dropped by 2.60 percent compared to July 2024 (%MoM).

🚫 **Automobile exports** in August 2024 reached 86,066 units, a decrease of 1.70 percent from the same month last year (%YoY). This decline was attributed to insufficient cargo space on ships, delays caused by the Israel-Hamas conflict, and issues of cleanliness found on pickup trucks prepared to be loaded onto ships last month, requiring cleaning before shipment. However, vehicle exports increased by 3.04 percent compared to July 2024 (%MoM).

*“Automobile industry Outlook for September 2024: The industry is expected to decline compared to September 2023 due to a slowdown in the domestic market.”*

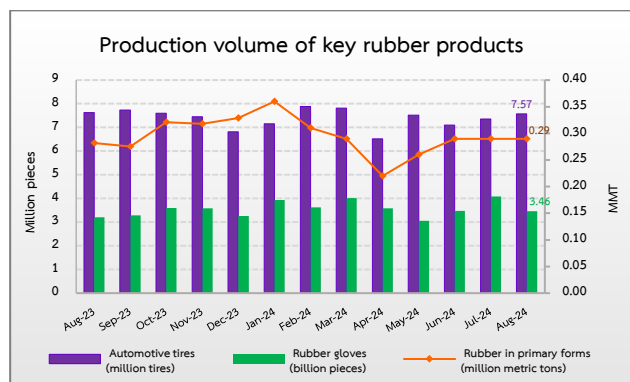
🚫 **Production of motorcycles** in August 2024 reached 144,244 units, a decrease of 15.78 percent from the same month last year (%YoY). This decline was driven by reduced production of multi-purpose and sport motorcycles. Furthermore, compared to July 2024, the production decreased by 4.44 percent (%MoM).

🚫 **Motorcycle sales** in August 2024 totaled 131,736 units, a decline of 17.73 percent compared to the same month last year (%YoY). This decrease was due to reduced sales across various engine sizes, including 51-110 cc, 126-250 cc, 251-399 cc, and 400 cc or more. Additionally, motorcycle sales dropped by 6.94 percent compared to July 2024 (%MoM).

🚫 **Exports of Complete Built-Up (CBU) motorcycle** in August 2024 reached 30,648 units, a decrease of 7.40 percent from the same month last year (%YoY). However, exports remained relatively stable compared to July 2024, showing a slight increase of 0.39 percent (%MoM).

*“Motorcycle industry Outlook for September 2024: The industry is expected to decline compared to September 2023 due to a slowdown of domestic market.”*

## 4. Rubber and Rubber Product Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

### Production

➕ Processed rubber in primary forms (rubber sheet, rubber block, and concentrated latex) increased by 2.16 percent due to the increase of rubber block production.

➖ Automotive tires decreased by 1.09 percent from the decreased production of tires for passenger cars, trucks and buses, and tractors.

➕ Rubber gloves increased by 9.01 percent to meet demand in both domestic and overseas markets.

### Domestic Sales

➖ Sales of processed rubber in primary forms (rubber sheet, rubber block, and concentrated latex) decreased by 8.95 percent due to continuously decreased demand for rubber blocks and concentrated latex in downstream industries.

➕ Sales of automotive tires increased by 4.03 percent, primarily due to increased demand for automotive tires in the REM (Replacement Equipment Manufacturer) market.

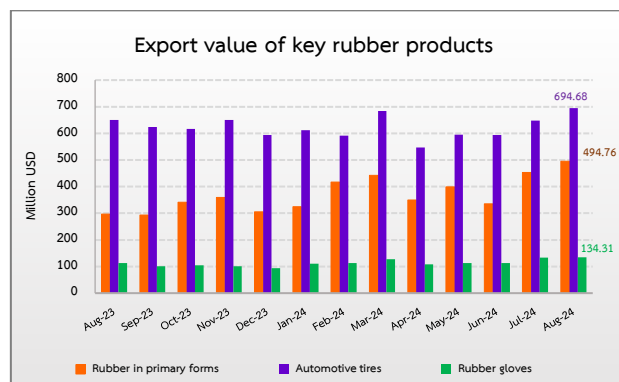
➕ Sales of rubber gloves increased by 0.11 percent due to high domestic demand for medical gloves.

### Exports

➕ Processed rubber in primary forms (rubber sheet, rubber block, and concentrated latex) increased in export value by 65.04 percent. This growth was attributed to higher exports of rubber sheets to India, rubber blocks to China and concentrated latex to Malaysia.

➕ Automotive tires increased in export value by 6.63 percent, driven by the exports of automotive tires to South Korea and Malaysia.

➕ Rubber gloves increased in export value by 21.55 percent, primarily due to rising demand in global market, such as the USA and the Netherlands.



Source: Ministry of Commerce

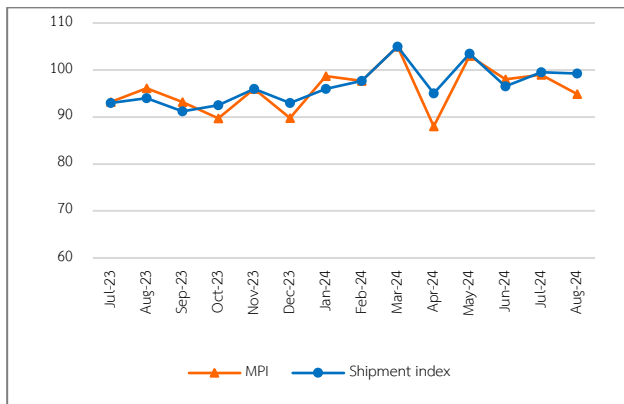
### Rubber and Rubber Product Industry Outlook for September 2024

The production of processed rubber in primary forms (rubber sheets, rubber blocks, and concentrated latex) is anticipated to continue growing, driven by demand from downstream industries both domestically and internationally. The production of automobile tires is projected to return to growth, supported by a steady increase in domestic demand since late 2023. Similarly, the production of rubber gloves is expected to rise, driven by strong demand in both domestic and international markets. In particular, domestic sales of rubber gloves are forecasted to grow significantly, fueled by high demand for medical-grade gloves.

The export value of processed rubber in primary forms (rubber sheet, rubber block, and concentrated latex) is expected to increase as major export markets such as China, India, and Malaysia tend to purchase more of these products from Thailand. This couple with higher prices than in the past. However, the export of automobile tires is projected to decline due to decreasing demand in the USA, which is a major export market. On the other hand, the value of rubber glove exports is expected to continue increasing due to the rising demand for rubber gloves in the world market, especially in the USA and European countries.

## 5. Plastics Industry

### MPI and Shipment Index



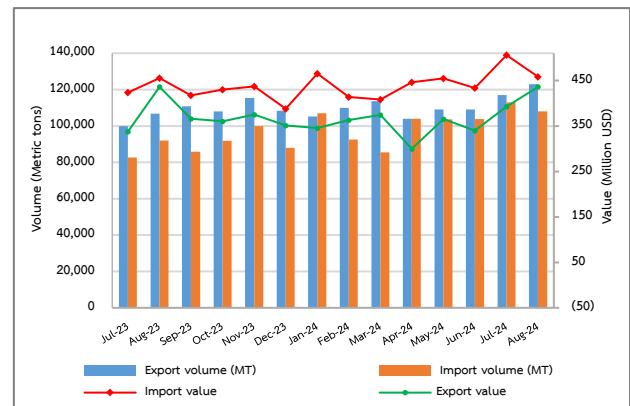
Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

**-** The Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) in August 2024 decreased by 1.23 percent compared to the same period last year. Products decreased in MPI, such as plastic pipes and fittings (-10.19%), other plastic packaging (-3.78%), and plastic films (-2.09%) compared to the same period last year.

**+** The shipment index in August 2024 increased by 5.59 percent. Products increased in shipment index, such as plastic films (14.38%), plastic bags (13.73%), and plastic sacks (10.09%) compared to the same period last year.

**+** Exports in August 2024 reached a total value of 440.56 million USD, an increase of 0.51 percent compared to the same period last year. Products contributing to the increase in exports included floor coverings of plastics (HS 3918) (62.65%), tubes or pipes (HS 3917) (13.76%), self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes (HS 3919) (11.45%), compared to the same period last year.

### Volume and Value of Exports and Imports

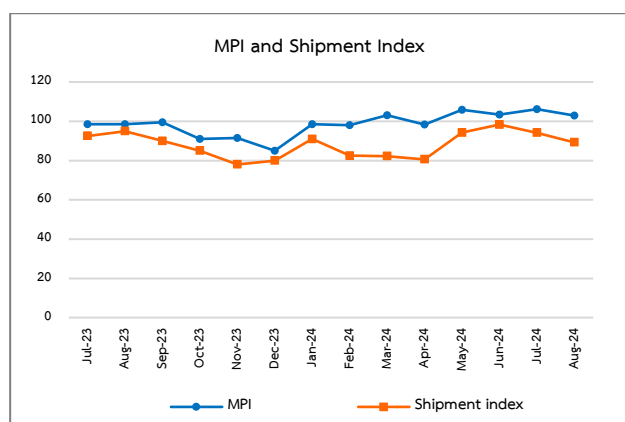


Source: Information and Communication Technology Center, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, in cooperation with the Customs Department

**+** Imports in August 2024 reached a total value of 460.11 million USD, an increase of 0.58 percent compared to the same period last year. Products contributing to the increase in imports included builders' ware of plastics (HS 3925) (14.68%), tubes or pipes (HS 3917) (13.77%), and other plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, non-cellular (HS 3920) (12.57%) compared to the same period last year.

*“Plastic Industry Outlook for September 2024: The production is expected to slow down from slower end-use demand as consumers only purchase on necessity. However, exports are forecasted to expand in line with major markets such as the USA, Japan, and China.”*

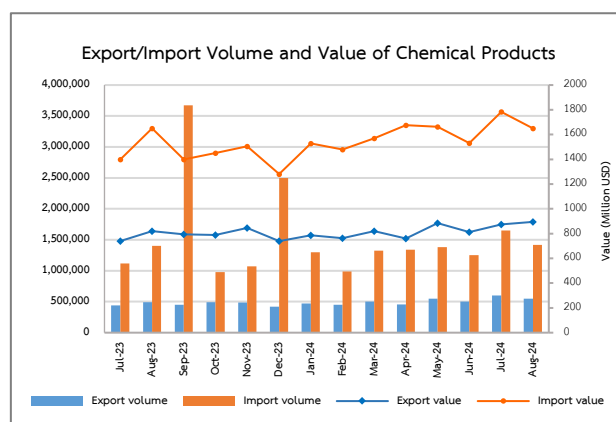
## 6. Chemical products Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

**+** **Manufacturing Production Index (MPI):** In August 2024, the index increased by 4.51 percent compared to the same month last year. The downstream chemicals sector saw a growth of 6.69 percent, with notable increases in specific products: talcum powder (25.06%), cleaning solutions (22.77%), and oil-based paint (11.43%) compared to the same period last year. In contrast, the basic chemicals sector experienced a decline of 0.25 percent. This decline included significant reductions in the production of methyl ester (biofuel) (-18.01%), ethanol (-9.77%), and hydrogen gas (-9.13%) compared to the same period last year.

**-** **Shipment Index:** The shipment index in August 2024 contracted by 6.04 percent compared to the same period last year, where the shipment of downstream chemical products contracted by 9.67 percent, with declines in the production of plastic emulsion paint (-5.19%), chemical fertilizers (-4.92%), and dishwashing liquid (-3.17%) compared to the same period last year. Conversely, the shipment of basic chemical products expanded by 1.19 percent, driven by growth in methyl ester (biodiesel) production (12.45%), hydrochloric acid (11.67%), and hydrogen gas (10.87%) compared to the same period last year.



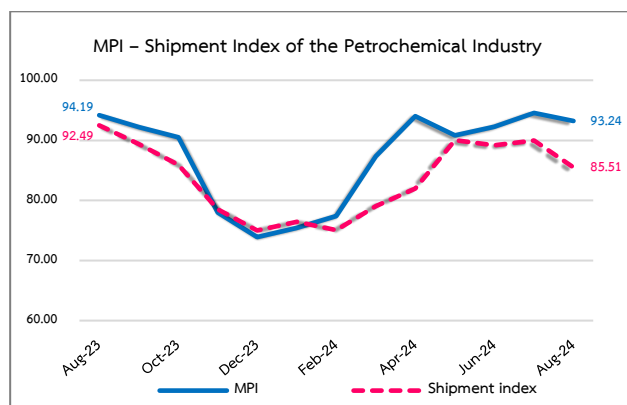
Source: Information and Communication Technology Center, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, in cooperation with the Customs Department

**+** **Exports of chemical products:** In August 2024, export value totaled 894.70 million USD, a growth of 9.12 percent compared to the same period last year. Exports of basic chemical products amounted to 498.35 million USD, an increase of 8.15 percent. As for downstream chemical products, exports were valued at 396.34 million USD, growing by 10.36 percent compared to the same period last year. Key products contributing to this growth included inorganic chemicals (24.04%), cosmetics (14.62%), and surfactants (8.73%).

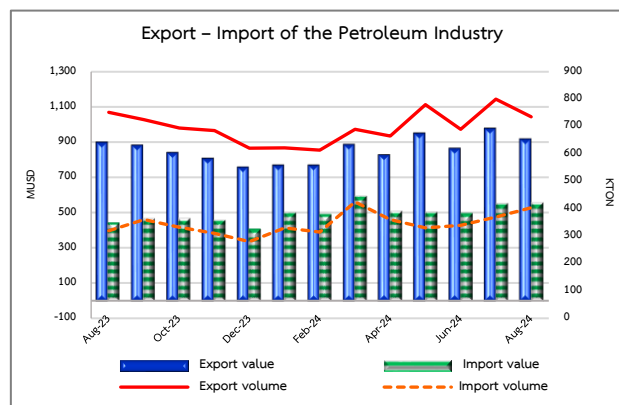
**-** **Imports:** In August 2024, import value totaled 1,649.14 million USD, a decrease of 0.09 percent compared to the same period last year. Imports of downstream chemical products reached 633.94 million USD, a decrease of 2.44 percent compared to the same period last year. As for basic chemical products, import value reached 1,015.20 million USD, expanding by 1.44 percent compared to the same period last year. Products contributing to the decrease in imports were miscellaneous chemical products and fertilizers, which decreased by 14.53 percent and 13.89 percent, respectively.

*“The chemical industry outlook for September 2024: The industry is forecasted to experience growth in production due to increased domestic consumer demand for certain chemical products compared to the same period last year. In terms of the export situation, there is an improvement in key markets, including India, China, and Japan.”*

## 7. Petrochemical Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics



Source: Information and Communication Technology Center, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, in cooperation with the Customs Department

**➔ The Manufacturing Production Index** in August 2024 stood at 93.24, a decline of 1.01 percent compared to the same month last year and a 1.35 percent decrease from the previous month. The MPI for downstream petrochemicals, such as PE and PS resins, dropped by 8.57 percent and 12.02 percent, respectively. The MPI for upstream petrochemicals, including Ethylene, also fell by 13.83 percent compared to the same period last year. However, the production of polylactic acid (PLA) pellets increased from the previous year, driven by the resumption of raw material production.

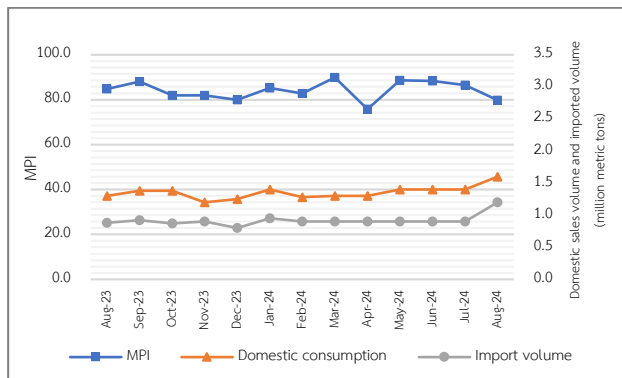
**➔ The shipment index** in August 2024 was 85.51, a decrease of 7.55 percent increase from the same period last year and a decline of 6.17 percent from last month. The shipment of upstream petrochemicals, such as Propylene decreased by 18.83 percent compared to the same period last year; downstream petrochemicals, namely PE resin decrease by 13.73 percent compared to the previous year.

**➕ Exports** in August 2024 were valued at 916.29 million USD, an increase of 1.21 percent compared to the same period last year but a decline of 6.23 percent compared to last month. This rise was mainly driven by exports of upstream petrochemical sector, such as PP resin (15.95%), and the downstream petrochemical sector, such as Ethylene Glycol (100.0%), due to higher demand in international markets for downstream industries following factory maintenance shutdowns in several countries.

**➕ Imports** in August 2024 were valued at 552.67 million USD, an increase of 23.07 percent compared to the same period last year and an increase of 0.46 percent from the previous month. This growth was driven by the downstream petrochemical sector, such as PE resin (32.11%), and a rise of 55.79 percent in the upstream petrochemical sector, such as styrene.

**“Petrochemical Industry Outlook for September 2024:** The industry is expected to decline in production compared to the same period last year, as production has resumed following maintenance from late last year to early this year. Additionally, foreign demand will increase to compensate for domestic petrochemical plants, which are beginning to undergo maintenance after a continuous slowdown in production.”

## 8. Iron and Steel Industry



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

**Manufacturing Production Index (MPI):** In August 2024, the index stood at 79.8, expanding by 6.0 percent compared to the same period of the previous year. When considering the key products, both long products and flat products decreased in MPI. Whereby the production of long products contracted by 2.8 percent. The product with the most contraction was round bars (-12.9%), followed by cold-rolled structural steel (-12.7%), hot-rolled structural steel (-11.8%), and deformed bars (-4.8%). The production of flat products contracted by 14.4 percent. The product with the most contraction was hot-rolled coils (-28.0%), followed by galvanized sheets (-18.2%) and cold-rolled sheets (-3.8%). Meanwhile, the production of steel pipes expanded by 0.01 percent.

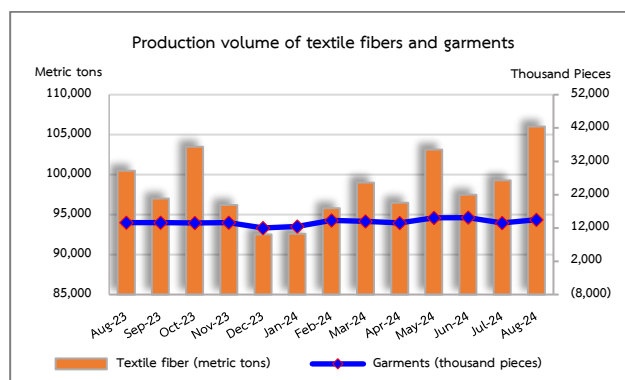
**Domestic consumption:** In August 2024, the consumption reached 1.6 million metric tons, expanding by 25.4 percent compared to the same period last year from the consumption of both long products and flat products. Consumption of long products reached 0.6 million metric tons, an increase of 32.2 percent compared to the same period last year, driven by increased consumption of steel bar, hot-rolled structural steel, and wire rods. Consumption of flat products reached 1.0 million metric tons, an increase of 21.5 percent compared to the same period last year, driven by increased consumption of hot-rolled sheets, hot-rolled plates, cold-rolled sheets, galvanized sheets, chrome-plated sheets, and other types of coated sheets, except for tinplates, where consumption decreased.

**Imports:** In August 2024, import volume was 1.2 million tons, an expansion of 37.1 percent compared to the same period of the previous year, drive by the import of long products and flat products. Where the import of long products reached 0.3 million metric tons, an expansion of 55.2 percent. Products with increased imports included hot-rolled structural carbon steel (the main countries from which Thailand imported decreased were Japan and South Korea), alloy steel rebars (the main countries from which Thailand imported increased were China and India), and carbon steel wire rods (the main country from which Thailand imported increased was China). In addition, imports of flat products increased by 31.7 percent, reaching 0.9 million metric tons. Products that saw an increase in imports included hot-rolled carbon steel plates (the main countries from which Thailand imported increased were Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, and China); hot-rolled carbon steel sheets (the main countries from which Thailand imported increased were Japan and China); hot-dip galvanized (HDG) sheets (the main country from which Thailand imported increased was China and Japan).

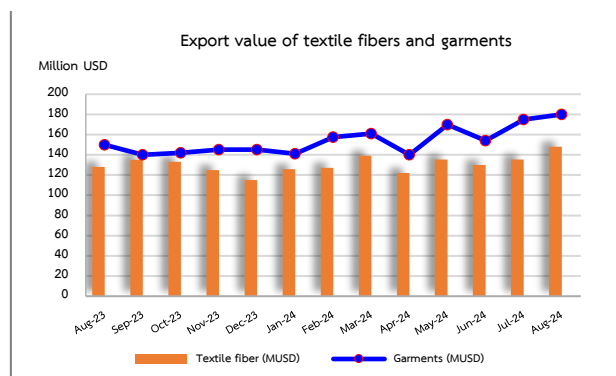
*“Iron Industry Outlook for September 2024: The production is expected to contract compared to the same period last year, with key factors to monitor, including foreign steel prices and the implementation of economic and trade policies of foreign countries, such as 1) the USA decision to increase import tariffs on Chinese steel products, which is anticipated to prompt China to boost its steel exports to other countries to offset the loss of the USA market; 2) China’s recent announcement to suspend steel plant licenses aims to control steel production that exceeds consumption demand. While this move may not drastically impact China’s overall steel production volume, as previously licensed plants will continue production into 2024, in the long term, more Chinese steel producers are likely to relocate their operations overseas.”*



## 9. Textile and Wearing Apparel Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics



Source: Ministry of Commerce

### Production

➕ Textile fiber production expanded by 5.54 percent (%YoY) in categories such as man-made fibers, cotton yarn, and man-made fiber yarn, including polyester and rayon fiber products. This growth resulted from heightened orders, both domestically and internationally, as these fibers were used as raw materials in manufacturing various products such as sportswear, household textiles, and automobile parts.

➖ Fabric production decreased by 10.22 percent (%YoY) with a drop in woven fabrics, especially those made from cotton and synthetic fibers.

➕ Garment production increased by 14.68 percent (%YoY) in the woven apparel category, which included both men’s and women’s outerwear and underwear. This decrease was primarily driven by increased demand in export markets.

### Domestic sales

➕ Textile fiber sales have increased for the twelfth consecutive month by 0.61 percent (%YoY). This growth was primarily in the categories of man-made fiber yarns and cotton yarns, driven by increased domestic use of raw materials by textile industry manufacturers.

➕ Fabric sales expanded by 3.77 percent, driven by increased sales of small towels.

➖ Garment sales shrank by 5.27 percent (%YoY), primarily due to a decline in knitted apparel sales, as consumers chose more affordable imported alternatives.

### Imports

➖ Yarn and fiber imports contracted by 0.15 percent (%YoY), particularly in fibers used in weaving.

➕ Fabric imports grew by 1.22 percent (%YoY), mainly driven by imports from China and Vietnam to be used as raw materials for midstream and downstream products.

➖ Garments imports by 2.21 percent (%YoY), which was in line with consumer behavior adjustments to the slowing economic conditions.

### Exports

➕ Exports of textile fibers grew by 14.91 percent (%YoY), driven by exports of man-made fibers to China, the USA, and Vietnam.

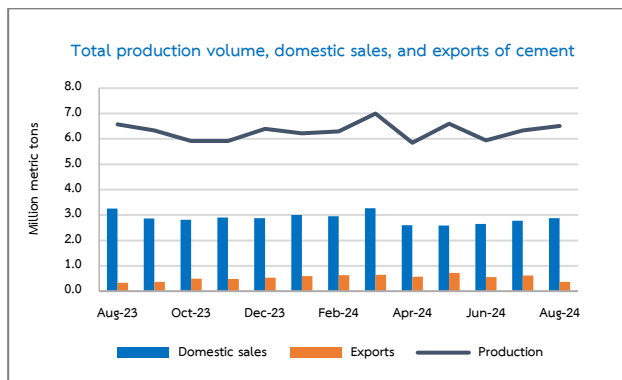
➖ Fabric exports decreased by 7.67 percent (%YoY), with key markets being Vietnam, Cambodia, and Bangladesh.

➕ Garment exports increased by 19.68 percent (%YoY), particularly for garments made from cotton and man-made fibers, with major export destinations including the USA, Japan, and Germany. This growth is attributed to the recovery in global economic and trade conditions.

*“The outlook for the textile and apparel industry in September 2024: The production is expected to continue expanding due to the improving export sector. However, the flooding in the northern and northeastern regions may affect the domestic economy, including the import of cheap, substandard products from abroad, which will put pressure on the competitiveness of Thai manufacturers.”*



## 10. Cement Industry



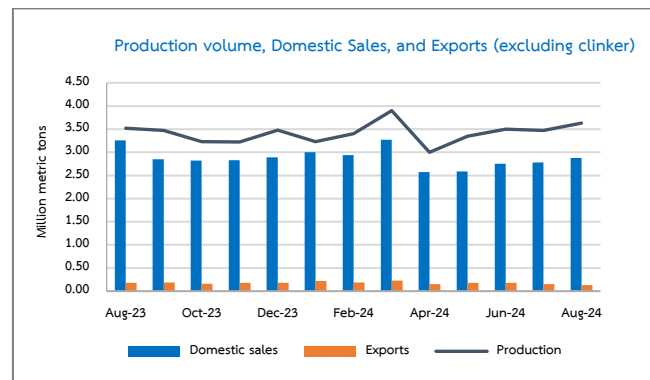
Source: 1. Domestic production and sales volume: Division of Information and Industrial Economic Indices, The Office of Industrial Economics  
 2. Export volume: Information and Communication Technology Center, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

➖ **Total cement production** in August 2024 reached a volume of 6.51 million metric tons, a decrease of 1.39 percent (%YoY). This decline was attributed to reduced orders from the domestic market.

➖ **Total domestic cement sales** in August 2024 reached 2.88 million metric tons, a decline of 12.30 percent (%YoY). This decline was primarily due to reduced demand for cement and clinker, driven by the slowdown in the domestic economy, particularly in government construction projects and real estate, where existing stocks, such as residential houses and condominiums, has not yet been sold.

➕ **Total cement exports** totaled 0.37 million metric tons, an increase of 3.83 percent (%YoY) compared to the same period last year. The increase was primarily attributed to the increased orders by 36.31 percent from Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

*“The outlook for the cement production industry in September 2024 is expected to show growth due to the acceleration of government construction projects and market stimulation measures in the real estate sector, including housing estates and condominiums. Additionally, the flooding in the northern region is anticipated to increase the use of cement for home repairs.”*



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 in cooperation with the Customs Department

➕ **Cement production (excluding clinker)** in August 2024 reached 3.63 million metric tons, an increase of 4.10 percent (%YoY) compared to the same period last year. This was driven by increased demand from export markets.

➖ **Domestic cement sales (excluding clinker)** in August 2024 totaled 2.88 million metric tons, a decrease of 11.86 percent (%YoY). This reduction was attributed to the slowdown in large government construction projects and the real estate sector, including housing developments and condominiums.

➖ **Exports of cement (excluding clinker)** in August 2024 amounted to 0.13 million metric tons, a contraction of 28.46 percent (%YoY). This decline was mainly due to a reduction in orders from Myanmar, Australia, Cambodia, and Lao PDR, as demand for large-scale construction and infrastructure projects decreased.

*“The outlook for the cement production industry (excluding clinker) in September 2024 is expected to increase, driven by accelerated construction activities in the real estate sector, including housing developments, commercial buildings, and condominiums. This growth is anticipated in response to increased orders and various government stimulus measures as well as the flooding in the northern region is anticipated to increase the use of cement for house repairs.”*



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