

### Industrial Production Status

Indicators	2021	2022	2021	2022											
%YoY	Year	Year	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
MPI	5.9	0.6	6.7	2.0	2.5	0.4	-0.03	-2.0	-0.2	6.4	14.9	3.3	-3.9	-5.1	-8.2

In December 2022, the Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) contracted by 8.2 percent from the same period last year, with the main factor being the contraction in the export sector due to the impact of the global economic slowdown. However, some domestic industries, such as tourism and many industries, such as palm oil, petroleum refinery, shoes, bag, and beverage, continued to expand.

Considering the MPI data for the past three months in terms of the same month last year (%YoY), the MPI in September increased by 3.3 percent, but decreased by 3.9 and 5.1 percent in October and November, respectively.

Indicators	2021	2022											
%MoM	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
MPI	1.5	2.1	-2.6	8.1	-17.0	7.6	-0.3	-2.2	4.1	-1.7	-4.3	2.1	-1.8

The Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) for the past three months (September, October and November 2022) in terms of the previous month (%MoM) decreased by 1.7 percent and 4.3 percent in September and October respectively, but increased by 2.1 percent in November.

**Key industries that contributed to the MPI contraction in December 2022** compared to the same period last year were:

- The Hard Disk Drives Industry contracted by 39.36 percent due to the gradual cancellation of production of products with decreased demand in the world market and the global economic slowdown affecting investment and purchasing power.
- Plastic pellets contracted by 24.59 percent due to decreased demand for products, especially those used to produce medical devices. In addition, some manufacturers stopped production temporarily for maintenance.
- Furniture contracted by 46.01 percent, mainly from furniture made of wood and metal. Wooden furniture contracted primarily due to a decrease in foreign orders. The decrease was back to normal volumes before the outbreak of COVID-19 in China, during which China could not produce and export products to foreign countries. China is the world's number one producer and seller of wooden and metal furniture. Production returned to normal levels after the previous year received special orders.

**Key industries that remained growing in December 2022** compared to the same month last year were:

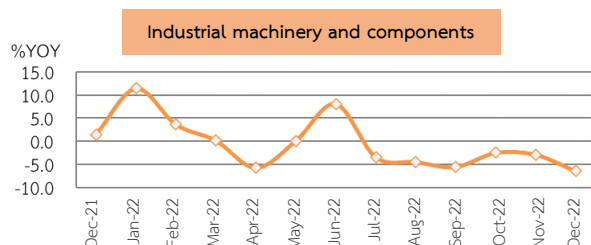
- Palm oil grew by 33.44 percent due to higher demand in various industries, such as the biodiesel industry and the food industry, following the economic recovery. Additionally, oil palm production this year was high, coupled with the increasing global market demand, especially in India, to which Thailand exported more during this period.
- Automobiles grew by 2.06 percent due to the expansion of the export market. This growth was attributed to alleviating the shortage of car parking spaces in wheeled cargo ships, which allowed for increased export capacity. Additionally, manufacturers were able to acquire more semiconductor components, which made it possible to increase production for export.



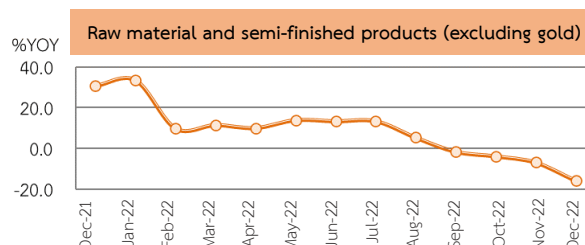
## Other Industrial Economic Indicators in December 2022

## Other Industrial Economic Indicators in December 2022

### ■ Imports of Thailand Industrial Sector



Source: Ministry of Commerce

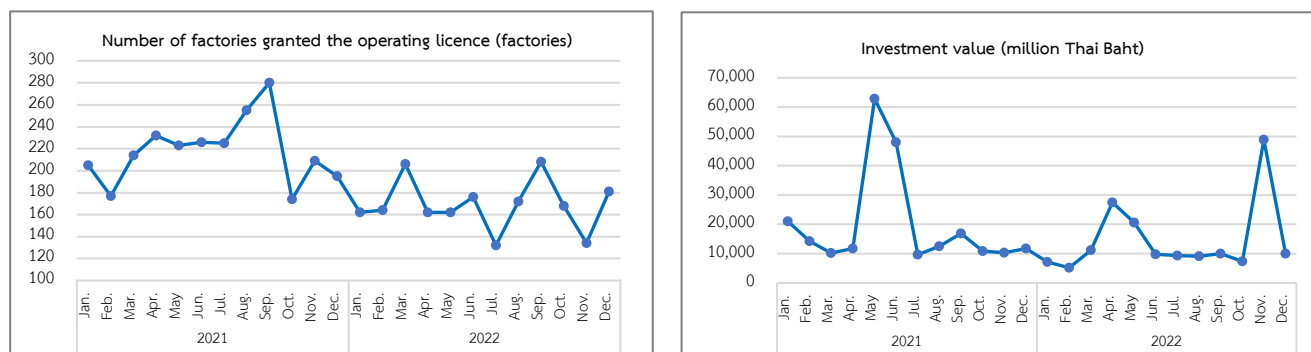


Source: Ministry of Commerce

❖ **Imports of industrial machinery and components** in December 2022 were valued at 1,490.1 million USD, a contraction of 6.4 percent compared to the same month last year. The decline was mainly due to decreasing imports of construction machinery and parts, gas turbines and parts, rubber or plastic processing machinery and equipment, air pumps, fluid pumps, textile machinery, for example.

❖ **Imports of raw and semi-finished goods (excluding gold)** in December 2022 were valued at 7,839.2 million USD, a contraction of 15.8 percent compared to the same month last year. Imports declined among inorganic chemicals, iron and steel, and semi-finished products of iron or stainless steel.

## Industrial Operation Status



Source: Department of Industrial Works



The total number of factories licensed for operation in December 2022 was 181 factories, increasing by 35.07 percent (%MoM) from November 2022 but decreasing by 7.18 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

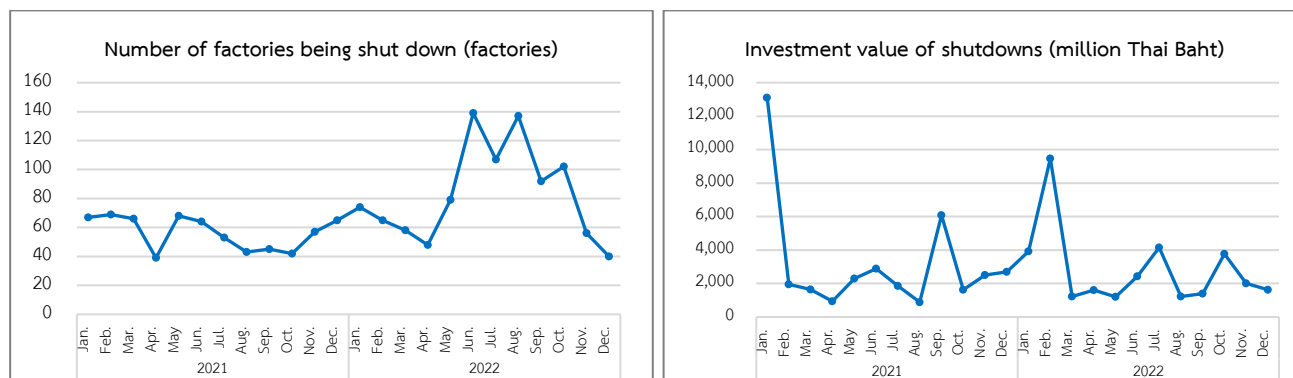


The total investment from factories licensed for operating in December 2022 decreasing by 79.54 percent (%MoM) from November 2022 to 10,000 million Thai Baht and decreasing by 14.49 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

*"The industry with the highest number of newly licensed factories to operate in December 2022 was the excavation or dredging industry of gravel, sand, or soil (17 factories), followed by the manufacture of concrete, ready-mixed concrete articles, and gypsum products (15 factories)."*

*"The industry with the highest investment value in December 2022 was the manufacturing, assembling, or repairing industry of water pumps, air compressors, air conditioners, refrigerators, and washing machines, (1,188 million Thai Baht), followed by the power generation industry from solar energy (944 million Thai Baht)."*

## Industrial Operation Status (cont.)



Source: Department of Industrial Works

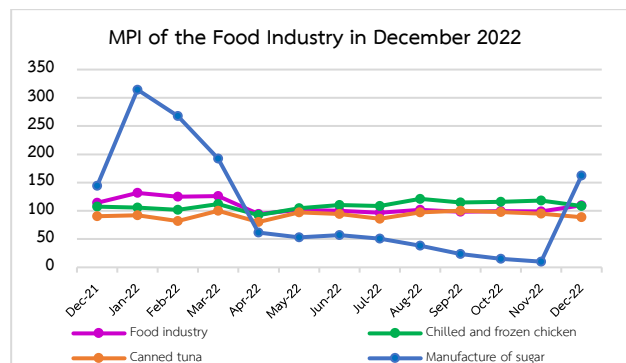
- A total of 40 factories were shut down in December 2022, decreasing by 28.57 percent (%MoM) from November 2022 and decreasing by 38.46 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.
- The lost investment value on shutdown in December 2022 totaled 1,620 million Thai Baht, decreasing by 19.03 percent (%MoM) from November 2022 and decreasing by 39.92 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

*“The industry with the highest number of factory shutdowns in December 2022 was the excavation or dredging industry of gravel, sand, or soil had the highest number of factory shutdowns (7 factories), followed by the production of ice or ice cutting or crushing industry (3 factories).”*

*“The manufacturing industry with the highest investment value to shut down in December 2022 was the cold storage industry, with an investment value of 1,252 million Thai Baht, followed by the smelting, melting, casting, rolling, and drawing industry of iron and steel with an investment value of 54 million Thai Baht.”*

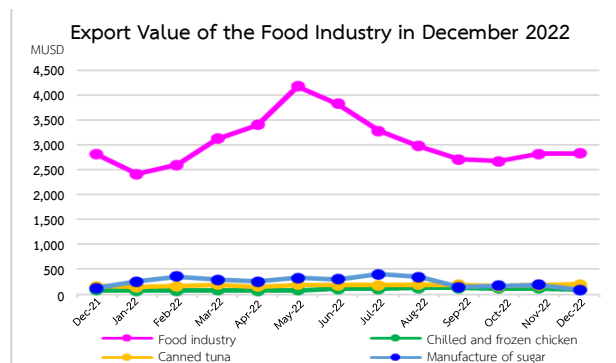
## Industrial Economic Status by Industrial Sectors in December 2022

### 1. Food Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

➖ The MPI of the food industry in December 2022 contracted by 4.4 percent compared to the same period last year (%YoY). Food products that decreased in MPI included 1) cassava (-26.1%) contracted from key products, namely cassava starch (-27.1%), due to less quantity of cassava tubers entering the market, as rainfall continued in many areas, affecting harvest areas and damage to some parts of cassava production; 2) processed fruits and vegetables (-21.6%) contracted from key products, such as canned pineapple (-13.9%) due to a reduction of pineapple plantation this year from higher costs; 3) fisheries (-11.9%) contracted from key products such as frozen shrimp (-18.3%). This decrease was primarily due to the rising costs of shrimp feed, leading to increased aquaculture costs and selling prices, ultimately resulting in decreased domestic consumption demand. Additionally, the industry faced an epidemic in shrimp, further contributing to the decrease in production. However, some food products continued to grow, including 1) Palm oil (33.4%) grew mainly from crude palm oil (87.0%) and refined palm oil (1.2%). The main factor contributing to this growth was the higher demand in various industries, such as the biodiesel and food industries, which benefited from the economic recovery. Additionally, there was a large amount of oil palm production this year, which contributed to the growth in demand. Furthermore, the increasing demand in the world market, particularly in India, where Thailand increased its exports during this period, also played a role in the industry's growth. 2) Sugar (3.7%) grew mainly from white sugar (31.6%) as domestic and export demand increased following the gradual recovery of the economy, especially the food and beverage industries. 3) Livestock (2.2%) increased mainly from chilled and frozen chicken (5.1%) from the relaxation of various measures, resulting in higher demand for the products in both domestic and international markets, as well as Thailand's expansion into new export markets.



Source: Ministry of Commerce

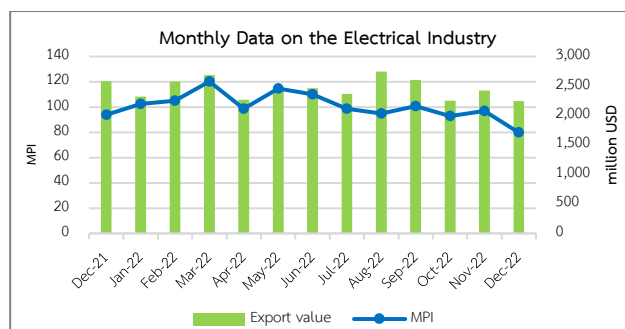
➖ **Domestic sales:** In December 2022, the production volume for domestic food products experienced a decrease of 13.7 percent (%YoY) from key products, including 1) tapioca starch (-36.8%), 2) canned pineapples (-34.6%), 3) frozen shrimps (-21.0%), and 4) table seasoning (-20.8%).

➕ **Export markets:** In December 2022, the export of food products saw a 0.7% increase compared to the same period in the previous year. The growth was mainly driven by the export of 1) livestock, specifically chilled and frozen chicken, which was the primary product that experienced significant export growth in key markets such as China and Japan; 2) rice and cereal, particularly rice, increased in exports to countries such as Iraq, the US, and China; and 3) vegetable and animal oils and fats also increased in exports, mainly driven by palm oil. India remains a major export market.

**Outlook for January 2023,** the industry is expected to contract compared to last year's period due to a global economic and financial slowdown, including the high base of the previous year, which benefited from better economic conditions following the relief of the COVID-19. However, the domestic tourism sector is expected to grow as it continues to attract tourists. On the other hand, the value of exports is expected to contract slightly due to lower demand caused by the economic recession in major trading partners like the US and European countries.

## 2. Electrical and Electronics Industry

### ■ Electrical Industry



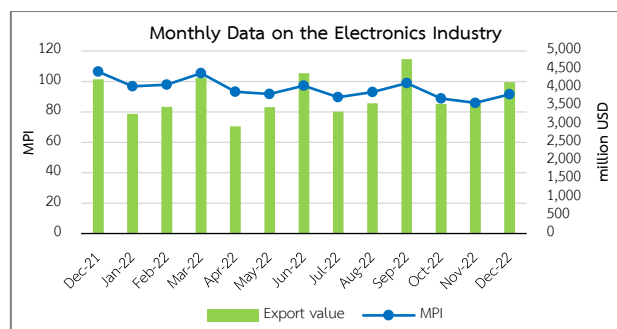
Source: The Office of Industrial Economics, Electrical and Electronics Institute, and Ministry of Commerce

❖ **Production of electrical appliances**, the MPI declined by 15.0 percent compared to the same month last year, as measured by the Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) at 79.8 points. Products that experienced a decrease in production included refrigerators (-36.9%), household fans (-29.5%), and washing machines (-17.3%) due to a reduction in both domestic demand and overseas orders. However, some products experienced an increase in production, such as electric thermo pots (44.7%), electric cables (7.9%), and transformers (1.1%) as a result of growing overseas orders.

❖ **Exports of electrical appliances** were valued at 2,244.0 million USD, a decrease of 13.0 percent compared to the same month last year. Products that experienced a decline in orders were 1) refrigerators, freezers, and parts, which decreased by 37.8 percent in Australia, Japan, and the US markets; 2) electrical wires and cables, which decreased by 35.40 percent in the Japan, Singapore, and Vietnam markets; 3) motors and power generators, which decreased by 21.1 percent in Japan, the US and Germany markets; 4) washing and dry washing machines, and parts, which decreased by 20.4 percent in Vietnam and Australia markets; 5) circuit breakers and circuit protectors, a decrease of 13.0 percent in China, the US, and South Korea markets; 6) air conditioners and parts, which decreased by 10.9 percent in Taiwan, Australia, and Vietnam markets; 7) switchboard and switchgear, which decreased by 4.5 percent in Singapore, Vietnam and China markets. On the other hand, products that experienced an increase in orders were 1) transformers and parts, which increased by 86.0 percent in the EU and the US markets; 2) fans which increased by 18.9 percent in Germany, the US, and China markets.

*"The production forecast for January 2023, the electronic appliances industry is expected to decrease slightly by 2.0-4.0 percent compared to the same month of the previous year. The contraction is due to the economic slowdown of major countries such as Europe, the US, and China and the high inflation rate, which increased the price of raw materials."*

### ■ Electronics Industry



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

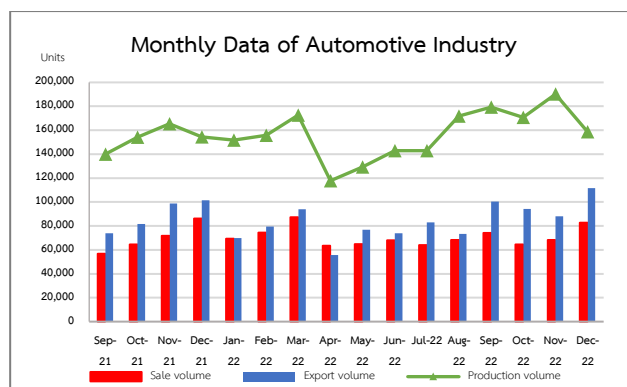
❖ **The manufacturing of electronic products** reached an MPI of 91.5 percent, a decrease of 14.0 percent compared to the same month last year. Products that contracted were HDDs and PWBs by 40.8 percent and 40.1 percent, respectively, due to a decrease in domestic sales and foreign orders. Meanwhile, the products that increased were PCBA and integrated circuits (IC), with an increase of 35.2 percent and 5.8 percent due to the increasing demand for products in domestic and foreign markets

❖ **Electronic exports** totaled 4,143.3 million USD, a decrease of 1.9 percent compared to the same month last year. Among the products that increased in orders were 1) HDDs, which decreased by 34.1 percent to 984.5 million USD in the Netherlands, China and the US markets; 2) printed circuit boards, which decreased by 19.6 percent to 113.6 million USD in Japan, Vietnam, and the US markets; 3) circuit boards, which decreased by 2.6 percent to 747.1 million USD in ASEAN markets. Meanwhile, products that increased in orders included semiconductors, transistors, and diodes, valued at 457.1 million USD, representing a growth of 83.7 percent in the EU, Vietnam, and the US markets.

*"The production forecast for January 2023, the electronic industry is expected to decrease slightly by 3.0-5.0 percent compared to the same month of the previous year due to the reduction of work-from-home policies, resulting in less use of electronic devices. In addition, a decreasing trend and shortage of raw materials in production will increase costs."*

### 3. Automotive Industry

#### ■ Automotive Manufacturing Industry



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

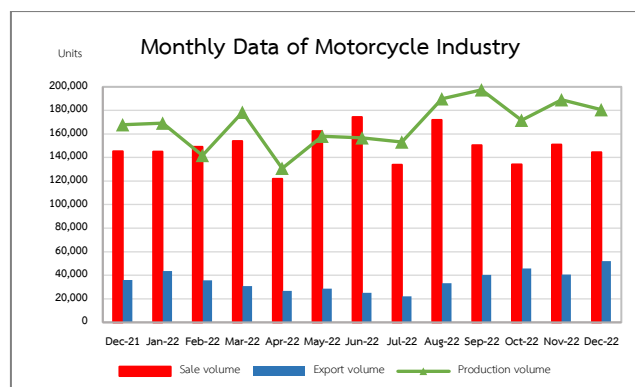
**+** **Production of automobiles** in December 2022 reached 158,606 units, a decrease of 16.59 percent from November 2022 (%MoM) but an increase of 2.75 percent from the same month last year (%YoY). The growth was driven by an increase in semiconductor components in some models of passenger cars. The growth was an increased production of passenger cars and 1-ton pick-up trucks and derivatives.

**+** **Domestic automobile sales** in December 2022 reached 82,799 units, an increase of 21.26 percent from November 2022 (%MoM) but a decrease of 9.02 percent compared to the same month last year (%YoY). The decrease was driven by lower sales of passenger cars, 1-ton pickup trucks, and derivatives, and commercial vehicles.

**+** **Automobile exports** in December 2022 totaled 111,605 units, an increase of 26.85 percent from November 2022 (%MoM) and an increase of 10.17 percent compared to the same month last year (%YoY). Export markets increased in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Central and South America.

*"The outlook for the automobile manufacturing industry in January 2023 is expected to increase compared to January 2022. This growth can be attributed to the expansion of export markets and the relief of the COVID-19 outbreak."*

#### ■ Motorcycle Manufacturing Industry



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

**+** **Production of motorcycles** in December 2022 reached 180,474 units, a decrease of 4.53 percent from November 2022 (%MoM) but an increase of 7.54 percent from the same month last year (%YoY). The growth was driven by increased production of multipurpose and sport motorcycles.

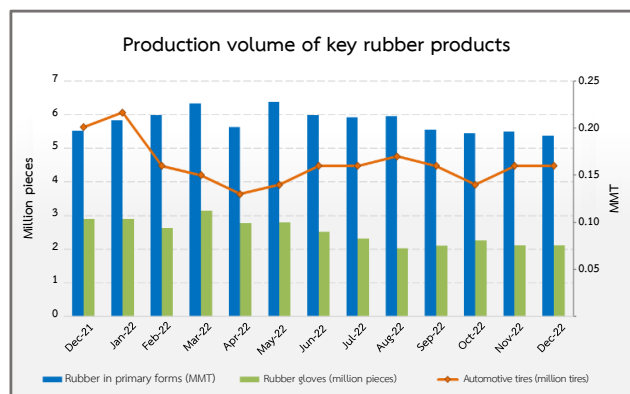
**-** **Domestic motorcycle sales** in December 2022 reached 144,445 units, decreasing from November 2022 by 4.33 percent (%MoM) and slightly decreased from the same month last year by 0.62 percent (%YoY) due to a decrease in sales of motorcycles size 51-110 cc and 251-399 cc.

**+** **Automobile motorcycle exports** in December 2022 reached 52,060 units, an increase of 27.92 percent from November 2022 (%MoM) and an increase of 44.30 percent from the same month last year (%YoY), with export markets increasing in Belgium, Japan, and the UK markets.

*"The outlook for the motorcycle manufacturing industry in January 2023 is expected to increase compared to January 2022. This growth can be attributed to the expansion of export markets and the relief of the COVID-19 outbreak."*



## 4. Rubber and Rubber Product Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

### Production

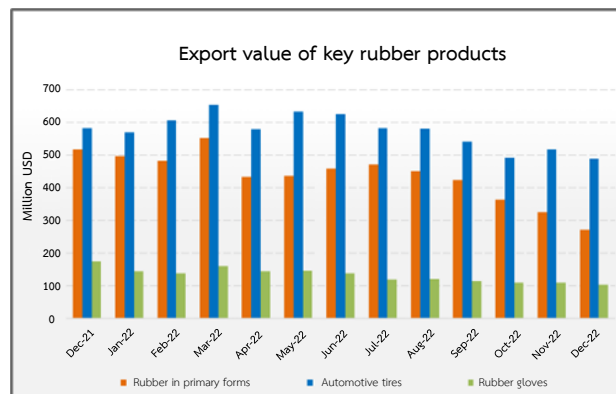
- ➔ Primary processed rubber (rubber sheets, block rubber, and concentrated latex) decreased by 18.59 percent due to the production slowdown of rubber sheets, block rubber, and concentrated latex.
- ➔ Automotive tires decreased by 2.72 percent due to decreased output for passenger cars, trucks, and buses.
- ➔ Rubber gloves decreased by 26.69 percent, in line with the ongoing decline in international demand for rubber gloves.

### Domestic Sales

- ➔ Primary processed rubber (rubber sheets, block rubber, and concentrated latex) decreased by 6.58 percent due to the decline in demand for rubber sheets, block rubber, and concentrated latex in downstream industries.
- ➔ Automotive tires decreased by 12.30 percent, in line with the slowdown of the Replacement Equipment Manufacturer (REM) market.
- ➕ Rubber gloves increased by 14.65 percent, driven by high demand for rubber gloves in the country for disease prevention.

### Exports

- ➔ Primary processed rubber (rubber sheets, block rubber, and concentrated latex) decreased by 47.64 percent due to a reduction in exports of rubber sheets and block rubber to China, as well as exports of concentrated latex to Malaysia.
- ➔ Automotive tires decreased by 16.04 percent, primarily as a result of a slowdown in exports to the US and Australia market.
- ➔ Rubber gloves decreased by 41.06 percent due to the demand for rubber gloves in the world market and the price that has declined from the past.



Source: Ministry of Commerce

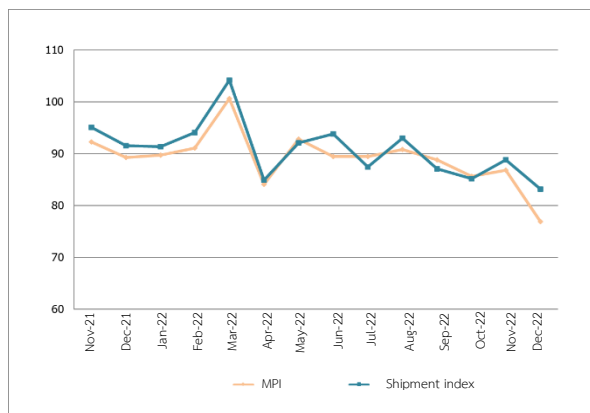
### Industry outlook for January 2023

The production and domestic sales of processed rubber in primary forms are likely to experience a slowdown from the decrease in demand for rubber sheets, block rubber, and concentrated latex in domestic and international markets. On the other hand, the production and domestic sales of tires are expected to increase due to the continued growth of the domestic automotive industry and the anticipated recovery of the demand for tires in the REM market, which is expected to recover from the economic stimulus policy (Shop Dee Mee Kuen (Shop and Payback)) scheme. The production of rubber gloves is forecasted to decline, mainly due to a decrease in global demand for these products. However, domestic sales of rubber gloves are expected to grow as demand for disease prevention remains high.

Exports of processed rubber in primary forms are predicted to decrease continuously in value due to China, a major export market for rubber sheets, blocks, and concentrated latex, has slowed its purchases of these products from Thailand. On the other hand, automotive tire exports are predicted to increase as the US market recovers. However, exports of rubber gloves are expected to continue to decrease in value due to the demand for rubber gloves in the world market and the declining prices.

## 5. Plastics Industry

### MPI and Shipment Index



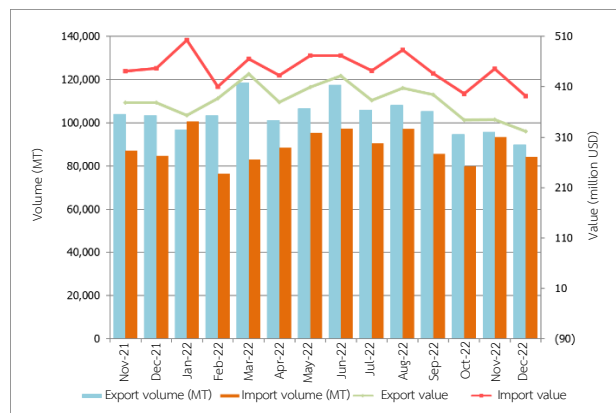
Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

**❌ The Manufacturing Production Index (MPI)** in December 2022 contracted by 13.79 percent compared to the same period the previous year. The MPI experienced a decline in many products, such as plastic films (-42.23%), plastic sacks (-26.69%), and other plastic packaging (-17.26%) compared to the same period last year.

**❌ The shipment index** in December 2022 contracted by 9.10 percent. Products that experienced the contraction were plastic sacks (-32.01%), plastic films (-22.55%), and other plastic packaging (-20.83%) compared to the same period last year.

**❌ Exports** in December 2022 were valued at 322.19 million USD, a decrease of 14.91 percent compared to the same period last year. Products contributing to the decline in exports included tube or pipe products (HS 3917) (-32.11%); self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics (HS 3920) (-19.53%); and plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of cellular plastic (HS 3921) (-17.64%) compared to the same period last year.

### Volume and Value of Exports and Imports



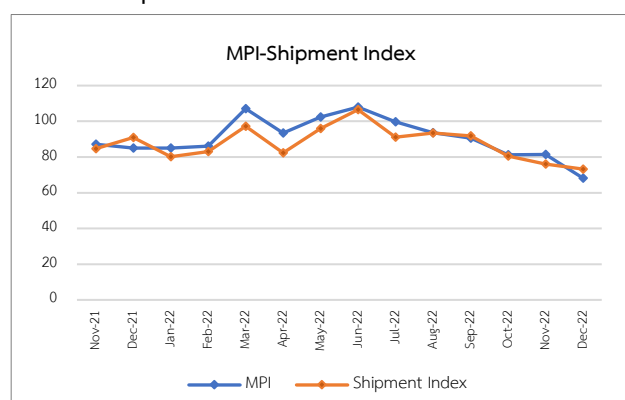
Source: Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

**❌ Imports** in December 2022 were valued at 392.01 million USD, a decrease of 12.24 percent compared to the same period last year. Key products contributing to the decline in imports were floor coverings of plastics, (HS 3918) (-38.45%); monofilament (HS 3916) (-32.73%), and self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, and strip of plastics (HS 3919) (-30.04%) compared to the same period last year.

*The outlook for the plastics industry* in January 2023 is expected to contract due to a decrease in domestic demand. Most buyers are expected to have sufficient inventory, leading to lower demand for new products. Additionally, exports may also shrink due to slower trading activity in China, a key market, during the holiday season.

## 6. Chemical products Industry

### MPI and Shipment Index

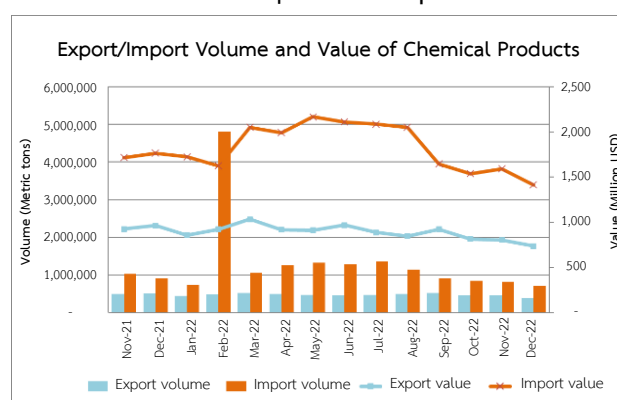


Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

❖ The Manufacturing production index in December 2022 decreased by 16.80 percent compared to the same period last year. The basic chemical segment experienced a decrease of 6.53 percent, with products such as ethanol (-20.81%), hydrochloric acid (-12.18%), and caustic soda (-1.75%), experiencing a decline in production compared to the same period last year. The downstream chemical product segment also decreased by 20.88 percent, with products such as fertilizers (-51.00%), hair shampoo (-29.91%), and fabric softener (-29.46%) experiencing a decrease in production compared to the same period last year.

❖ The shipment index in December 2022 was at 73.24 points, a contraction of 18.40 percent compared to the same period last year. The basic chemical product segment decreased by 9.67 percent, with products such as caustic soda (-11.44%), hydrochloric acid (-9.36%), and chlorine (-0.56%) experiencing a decline in shipments. The downstream chemical product segment also decreased by 21.04 percent, with products like oil paints (-41.27%), hair shampoo (-40.65%), and fertilizers (-30.09%) experiencing a decline in shipments compared to the same period the last year.

### Volume and Value of Exports and Imports



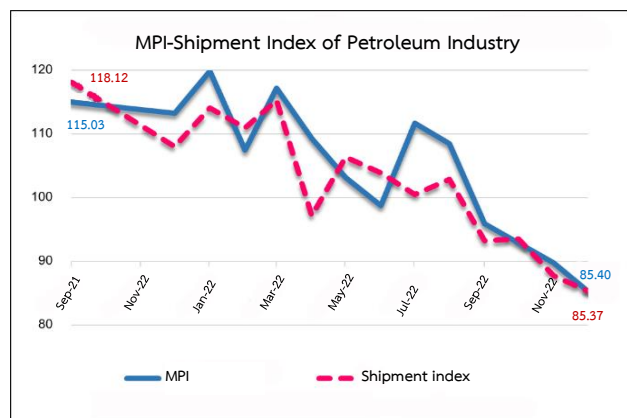
Source: Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

❖ Exports in December 2022 decreased in value by 23.57 percent to 736.80 million USD compared to the same period last year. The basic chemical product segment decreased by 32.81 percent, with an export value of 406.36 million USD. The downstream chemical product segment also decreased 8.00 percent with an export value of 330.44 million USD. The decrease in export value was driven by the contraction of products such as organic chemicals (-44.16%), miscellaneous chemicals (-25.30%), and surfactants (-15.65%), compared to the same period last year.

❖ Imports in December 2022 decreased in value by 19.80 percent to a total value of 1,414 million USD compared to the same period last year. The basic chemical product segment decreased by 19.80 percent, with imports valued at 978.74 million USD. However, the downstream chemical product segment experienced an increase of 2.77 percent, with imports valued at 435.62 million USD compared to the same period last year.

*Chemical Industry Outlook:* In January 2023, crude oil prices are expected to rise, which will likely increase production costs for the chemicals industry. This, in turn, may cause a slowdown in the production and exports of oil-related products, including plastic pellet and chemicals. Business operators are expected to slow down the production to monitor the cost of raw materials and manufacture the products according to orders only.

## 7. Petrochemical Industry

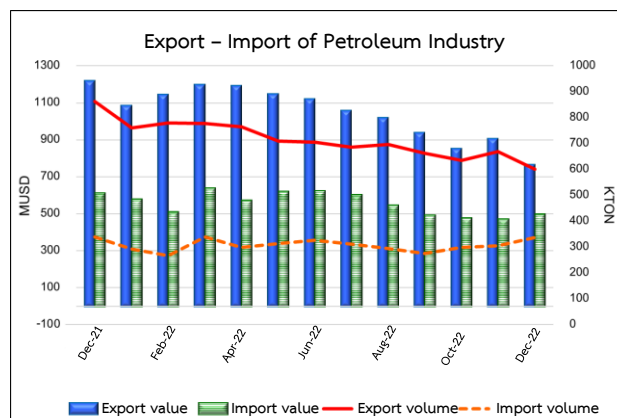


Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

❖ **The Manufacturing Production Index** in December 2022 stood at 85.40 points, a decreased of 24.61 percent compared to the same period last year and a decrease of 4.58 percent from last month. Basic petrochemicals such as Propylene and Ethylene decreased in the MPI by 34.85 percent and 25.49 percent, respectively, compared to the same month last year. Similarly, downstream petrochemicals such as PP and PS resins also declined by 37.41 percent and 18.76 percent, respectively, compared to the same month last year. The decrease resulted from gas separation plant maintenance shutdowns and a slowdown in demand.

❖ **The shipment index** in December 2022 stood at 85.37 points, a decreased of 21.00 percent compared to the same month last year and a decreased of 2.92 percent compared to the previous month. Among the basic petrochemicals, Toluene declined by 42.66 percent compared to the same month last year. Similarly, downstream petrochemicals, such as PS and PE resins, decreased by 33.29 percent and 17.97 percent, respectively, compared to the same month last year.

❖ **Exports** in December 2022 amounted to 767.85 million USD, a decline of 37.13 percent compared to the previous year and a decrease of 15.40 percent from last month. This contraction was particularly noticeable in the downstream petrochemicals, including PE resin and PP resin, as well as in the basic petrochemicals like Benzene. The slowdown was attributed to volatile market conditions and a cautious approach by traders waiting for prices to stabilize. The decline in demand for downstream production further exacerbated the situation. Additionally, the US shifted its focus to exporting to Asian markets, particularly Thailand's target markets, due to reduced demand from the EU.

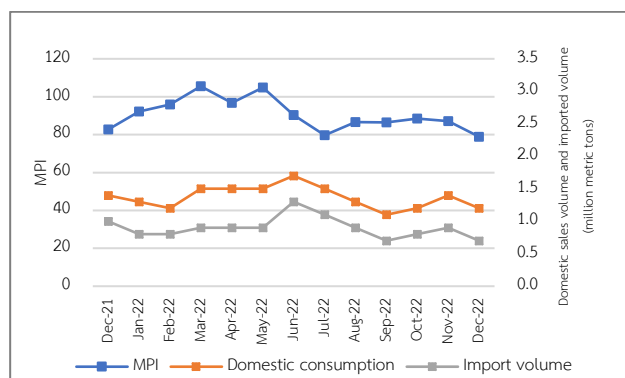


Source: Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

❖ **Imports** in December 2022 were valued at 499.51 million USD, a decrease of 18.72 percent to compared to the same month last year. The decline was primarily seen in the imports of basic products such as Toluene and downstream products like PP resin.

Outlook for January 2023, the industry is expected to slow down compared to the same period last year due to the shutdown of petroleum refineries and primary petrochemical plants. Additionally, there is a decrease in demand for plastic from a slowdown in exports, particularly basic petrochemicals such as Ethylene and Propylene, due to rising prices in line with crude oil prices. These rising prices are caused by production shutdowns in many countries due to the prolonged Ukrainian-Russian conflict.

## 8. Iron and Steel Industry



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

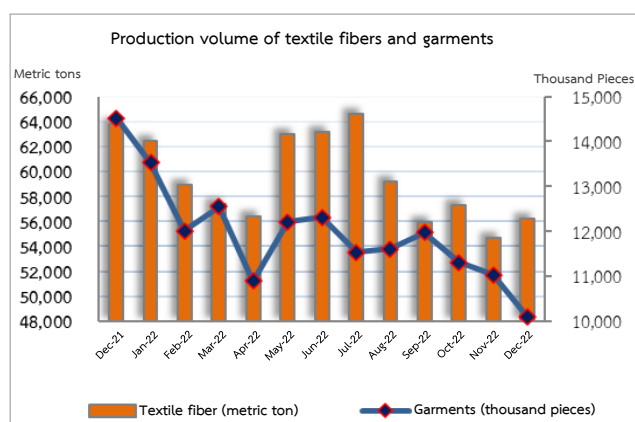
**❌ The Manufacturing Production Index (MPI)** in December 2022 was 78.9 points, contracting by 4.7 percent compared to the same period last year. This was due to the slowdown in downstream industries, including construction, electrical appliance manufacturing, and canned packaging. Considering key products, the Manufacturing Production Index contracted in both long and flat products. For long products, the MPI stood at 70.4 points, a decrease of 15.1 percent. The largest reduction in production was seen in round bars (-41.2%), followed by wire rods (-26.5%), wires (-19.5%), and deformed bars (-13.0%). For the flat product sector, the MPI stood at 84.4 points, a contraction of 2.7 percent. Cold-rolled sheet production saw the biggest decline (-30.7%), followed by tinplates (-26.4%) and galvanized sheets (-1.1%).

**❌ Domestic consumption** in December 2022 reached 1.2 million metric tons, decreasing by 13.7 percent from the same period last year. Consumption of long products decreased by 12.2 percent to 0.5 million metric tons from the decline in consumption of wire rods (-38.1%). As for flat products, the consumption reached 0.7 million metric tons, a decrease of 14.7 percent from the decline in the consumption of tinplate (-29.6%), followed by cold-rolled sheets (-16.4%), hot-rolled sheets (-16.2%), and galvanized sheets (-12.4%).

**➕ Imports** in December 2022 reached 0.7 million metric tons, a decrease of 23.0 percent compared to the same period in the previous year, driven by the decrease in import volume of both long and flat product. Import volume for long products experienced a decrease of 29.6 percent to 0.1 million metric tons. Long products that decreased in imports included stainless steel wire rods (key countries from which Thailand decreased imports were China, South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan); carbon steel wire rods (key countries from which Thailand decreased imports were Vietnam, China, Germany, and South Korea); carbon steel rebars (key countries from which Thailand decreased imports were India, China, Taiwan, and Japan). As for the flat product sector, import volume decreased by 21.0 percent to 0.6 million metric tons. Flat products with decreased import volume included electro galvanized (EG) sheets (-60.4%) (key countries from which Thailand decreased imports were China, Japan, and South Korea); tinplates (-42.7%) (key countries from which Thailand decreased imports were Germany, Taiwan, and China); cold-rolled carbon steel sheets (-36.7%) (key countries from which Thailand decreased imports were Sweden, Italy, Vietnam, and Taiwan).

*In January 2023, the iron and steel industry is expected to see a decline in production compared to the same period last year. This can be attributed to a slowdown in the downstream industry, increased inflation, and a rising trend of energy prices, leading to consumers delaying purchases and waiting for price direction. Key monitoring factors include the global economic and trade situation and China's steel industry policy. China is the world's largest steel producer, consumer, and exporter, and its actions can significantly impact the production volume of steel products in Thailand.*

## 9. Textile and Wearing Apparel Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

### Production

Production contracted throughout the supply chain. Textile fibers contracted by 11.83 percent, fabrics by 19.19 percent, and garments by 30.53 percent due to increasing costs from rising wages and continuously rising electricity prices. In addition, export orders decreased from major trading partners such as China, Japan, Indonesia, and the US. However, compared to the previous month (%MoM), textile fibers grew by 2.02 percent.

### Domestic sales

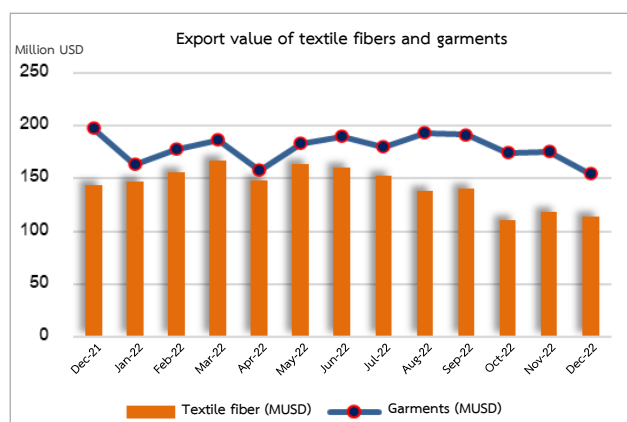
Textile fibers contracted by 5.55 percent, while fabrics shrank by 23.77 percent. However, compared to the previous month (%MoM), textile fibers grew by 0.44 percent.

Garments continued to grow for the sixth month, with an increase of 11.71 percent. The growth was supported by improving domestic demand, the domestic economy, and the tourism sector, which returned to normal. As a result, people had more spending and increased domestic consumption.

### Imports

Yarns and fibers contracted by 8.05 percent in key markets such as China, Vietnam, and Indonesia. Fabrics contracted by 16.46 percent in key markets, including China, Taiwan, and Vietnam.

Garments grew by 40.27 percent in key markets, including China, Italy, and Vietnam. There was a large import volume of cheap to moderately priced goods from China among online merchants and imports of world-famous clothing brands to support the festive season and to give as a New Year's gift.



Source: Ministry of Commerce

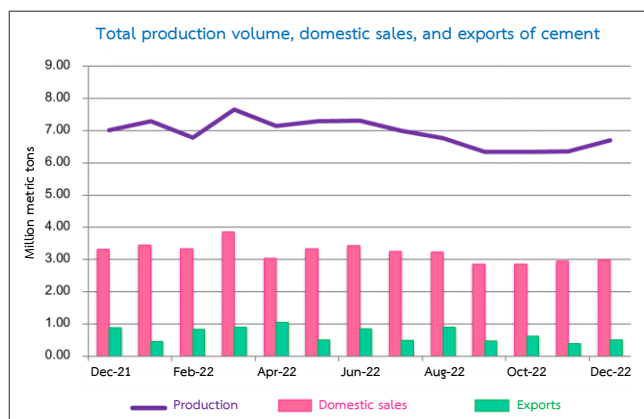
### Exports

Exports contracted throughout the supply chain. Textile fibers and fabrics decreased by 20.55 percent and 15.05 percent, respectively, from key markets such as China, Japan, Indonesia, and Vietnam. Garments contracted by 21.85 percent from key markets such as the US, Belgium, and Hong Kong, due to fewer orders from key trading partners and the global economy that continued to slow down from the use of monetary policy to control inflation in many countries which affected the purchasing power and economic activity of consumers.

### Industry outlook for January 2023

The recovery of domestic demand following the improved COVID-19 situation, government stimulus measures such as "Shop Dee Mee Kuen," the "Thai Travel Together Project (Phase 5)", and the announcement of China's reopening is a good signal for exports to the Chinese market. However, production is expected to contract slightly from inflation in many countries worldwide due to the global economic slowdown.

## 10. Cement Industry



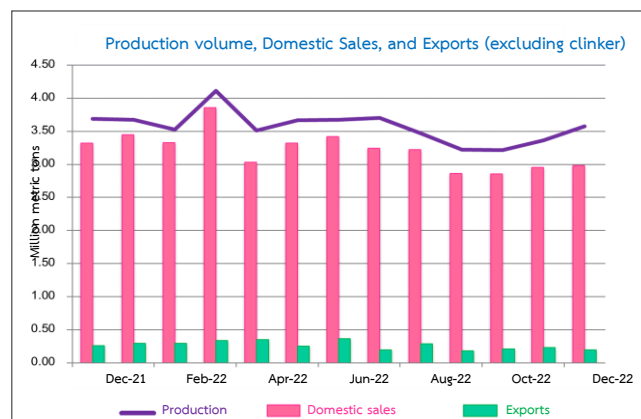
Source: 1. Domestic production and sales volume: Division of Information and Industrial Economic Indices, The Office of Industrial Economics  
2. Export volume: Information and Communication Technology Center, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

**+** *Total production of cement* in December 2022 reached 6.69 million metric tons, a slight increase of 5.38 percent (%MoM) from November 2022 but a decrease of 4.52 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

**+** *Total domestic sales of cement* in December 2022 reached 2.98 metric million tons, increasing from November 2022 by 1.03 percent (%MoM). However, compared to the same month last year, domestic sales decreased by 10.1 percent (%YoY) due to a slight recovery in the real estate sector.

**+** *Total cement exports* in December 2022 was at 0.51 million metric tons, increasing from November 2022 by 29.55 percent (%MoM) but decreasing from the same month last year by 41.86 percent (%YoY). The contraction was mainly due to decreased orders from Vietnam (-100%), Bangladesh (-41.18%), Lao PDR (-24.74%), and Cambodia (-20.77%).

Cement industry outlook for January 2023, the overall production is projected to grow from the previous month, but the growth will be slower following the global economic slowdown.



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 December 2022 reached 3.57 million metric tons, increasing from November 2022 by 6.28 percent (%MoM) but decreasing from the same month last year by 3.20 percent (%YoY).

**+** *Domestic cement sales (excluding clinker)* in December 2022 reached a volume of 2.98 million metric tons, increasing from November 2022 by 1.03 percent (%MoM), driven by government construction projects and the acceleration of the private real estate market. Despite, sales decreased by 10.01 percent (%YoY) compared to the same month last year.

**-** *Exports of cement (excluding clinker)* in December 2022 reached 0.20 million metric tons, decreasing from November 2022 by 15.26 percent (%MoM) but decreasing from the same month last year by 23.88 percent (%YoY). The contraction was mainly decreased orders from Vietnam (-100%), Lao PDR (-24.73%), and Cambodia (-16.30%).

Outlook for January 2023, the cement industry (excluding clinker) is expected to expand as demand for housing begins to recover. However, it will be at a slower rate according to the global economic slowdown.