

# Report on the Industrial Economics Status

December 2024





### Industrial Production Status

Indicators	2023	2024	2023	2024											
	Year	Year	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec
MPI	-3.8	-1.8	-4.7	-2.9	-2.8	-4.9	2.7	-1.5	-1.6	1.6	-1.8	-3.2	-0.6	-3.4	-2.1

In December 2024, the industrial economic status, when considered from the Manufacturing Production Index (MPI), reached 90.18, a contraction of 2.11 percent from the same month last year. The primary factor of this contraction was a decline in automobile production in the domestic market due to high household debts and financial institutions still being strict in granting loans.

When comparing the MPI data for the past three months to the same period last year (%YoY), the MPI contracted by 0.6 percent, 3.4 percent, and 2.1 percent in October, November, and December, respectively.

Indicators	2023	2024													
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.		
MPI	-4.9	7.6	0.2	5.0	-14.0	9.7	-2.3	0.4	-1.4	-2.6	1.0	-0.1	-3.6		

For the past three months (October, November, December 2024), the Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) compared to the previous month (%MoM), has shown the following rate of changes: an increase of 1.0 percent in October, a decrease of 1.4 percent and 3.6 percent in November and December, respectively.

Key industries contributing to the decrease of MPI in December 2024 compared to the same month last year included:

- Automobile production contracted by 22.8 percent, mainly due to declines in pickup trucks, full-size cars, and compact cars. This was driven by a contraction in both domestic and export markets resulting from an economic slowdown, high household debt, and financial institutions being strict in granting loans.
- Electronic components and circuit boards production contracted by 13.5 percent, primarily due to a decline in integrated circuits (ICs), as a result of reduced purchase orders from customers and overseas parent companies due to the global market slowdown.
- Palm oil production contracted by 32.5 percent, primarily due to declines in crude and refined palm oil output. The reduced supply of palm fruit, driven by drought and flooding in the southern region, prompted some manufacturers to temporarily suspend production due to raw material shortages. Moreover, machinery failures among certain producers further constrained production capacity.

Key industries that increased in December 2024 compared to the same month last year, included:

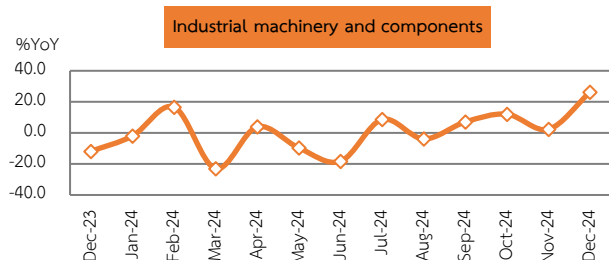
- Plastic pellet production expanded by 18.4 percent, primarily driven by increases in polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), and ethylene output. This growth reflects a rebound from the low production base in the previous year, when some producers temporarily halted operations for scheduled maintenance.
- Sugar production expanded by 22.2 percent, primarily driven by increases in refined white sugar, raw sugar, and white sugar output. This growth was supported by a higher volume of crushed sugarcane, enabled by sufficient water availability in planting areas following increased rainfall. Additionally, relatively high sugarcane prices during the 2023/24 production season incentivized farmers to expand their planting areas.
- Air conditioner production expanded by 17.0 percent, driven by rising global temperatures and the successful export of certified products, resolving issues from the previous year. Additionally, increased purchase orders from customers in the US and neighboring countries, in anticipation of summer demand.



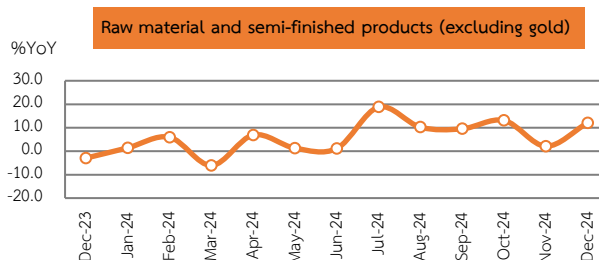
# Other Industrial Economic Indicators in December 2024

## Other Industrial Economic Indicators in December 2024

### Imports of Thailand Industrial Sector



Source: Ministry of Commerce

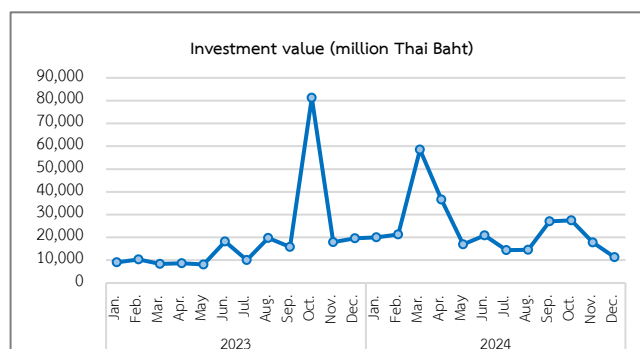
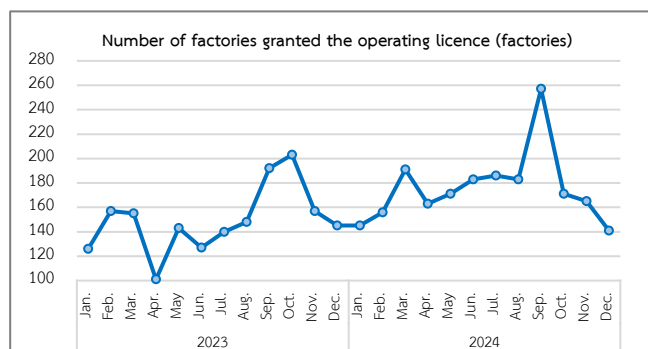


Source: Ministry of Commerce

➕ **Imports of industrial machinery and parts** in December 2024 were valued at 1,658.0 million USD, expanding by 26.2 percent compared to the same month last year. The growth was primarily driven by imports of machinery for wood processing and parts thereof and construction machinery and parts.

➕ **Imports of raw materials and semi-finished goods (excluding gold)** in December 2024 were valued at 8,535.2 million USD, expanding by 12.1 percent compared to the same month last year. This growth was driven by increased imports of electrical appliances and electronic components, as well as jewelry and gemstones.

## Industrial Operation Status



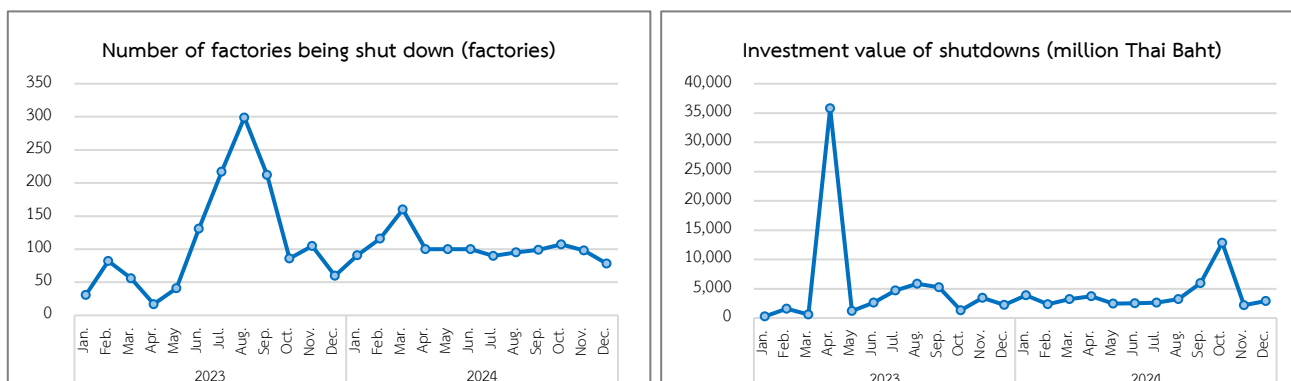
Source: Department of Industrial Works

- ➔ The total number of factories licensed for operation in December 2024 was 141 factories, decreasing by 2.8 percent from the same month last year (%YoY) and decreasing by 14.6 percent from November 2024 (%MoM).
- ➔ The total investment from factories licensed for operation in December 2024 were valued at 11,327 million Thai Baht, decreasing by 42.4 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year and decreasing by 36.1 percent compared to November 2024 (%MoM).

*“The industry with the highest number of factories commencing operations in December 2024 was articles of concrete, mixed concrete and gypsum products, or plaster products, with 15 factories, followed by waste sorting and landfill facilities for disposal of unused materials, with 8 factories.”*

*“The industry with the highest investment value in December 2024 was solar power generation plants (excluding rooftop installations), with an investment value of 1,974 million Thai Baht, followed by factories thermal power generation plants, with an investment of 1,150 million Thai Baht.”*

■ Industrial Operation Status (cont.)



Source: Department of Industrial Works

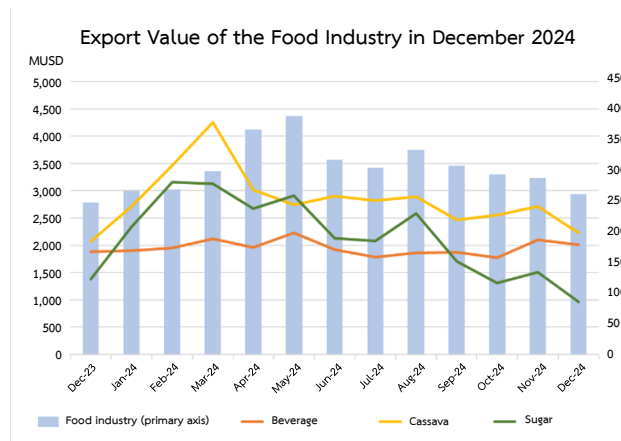
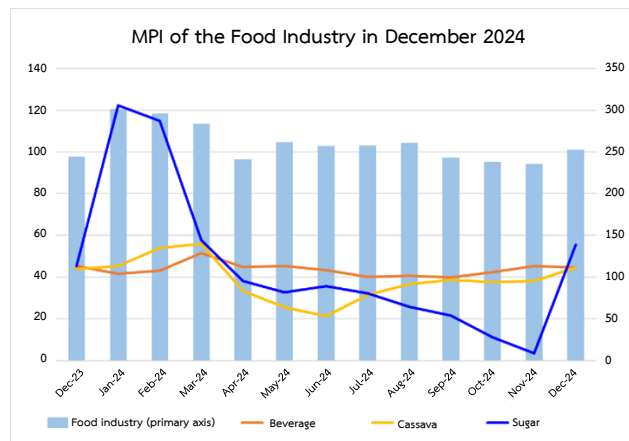
- + The number of factories that ceased operations in December 2024 totaled 78 factories, an increase of 30.0 percent compared to the same month last year (%YoY) and a decrease of 20.4 percent from November 2024 (%MoM).
  
- + The total investment value of factory closures in December 2024 amounted to 2,915 million Thai Baht, an increase of 30.6 percent (%YoY) compared to the same month last year and an increase of 33.0 percent (%MoM) from November 2024.

*“The industry with the highest number of factory closures in December 2024 was the manufacture of concrete, mixed concrete, and gypsum products, with 7 factories. This was followed by the gravel, sand, or soil excavation and dredging, with 5 factories.”*

*“The industry with the highest investment value among closed factories in December 2024 was textile weaving or warp yarn preparation for weaving, with an investment value of 768 million Thai baht. The second highest was special parts or equipment manufacturing for automobiles or trailers, with an investment value of 290 million Thai baht.”*

## Industrial Economic Status by Industrial Sectors in December 2024

### 1. Food Industry



**+** **MPI of the food industry:** The Food Industry Production Index (MPI) for December 2024 stood at 102.2, a growth of 3.5 percent compared to the same period last year, driven by increasing production of key products. **1) Sugar** expanded by 22.2 percent, with refined white sugar increasing by 62.8 percent. This growth was supported by strong demand driven by increased economic activities and tourism, which bolstered downstream industries, especially food and beverages in the domestic market. Additionally, the sugarcane crushing season began 4 days earlier than in the previous year (the 2023/24 season commenced on December 10, while the 2024/25 season started on December 6). **2) Fisheries** expanded by 13.4 percent, driven by an increase of 33.6 percent in canned tuna production, supported by higher demand from the US, Japan, and Australia, which was further boosted by an earlier rise in imports of raw tuna materials. **3) Processed vegetables and fruits** expanded by 12.2 percent, with key products such as canned pineapple growing by 56.8 percent due to increased demand from the US market. Other canned fruits expanded by 11.4 percent. However, the food production index that contracted was palm oil production, which contracted by 32.6 percent. This decline was primarily driven by a decrease of 43.2 percent in crude palm oil production and a decrease of 16.3 percent in refined palm oil production, due to low palm fruit yield entering the market. The total palm oil stock in the system at the end of December 2024 stood at 267,053 metric tons (compared to 369,371 metric tons at the end of December 2023). However, beginning in January, palm production will start entering the market, with yields expected to increase further by March 2025.

**-** **Manufacturing production index (MPI) of the beverage sector:** The MPI contracted by 1.8 percent. This decrease was primarily due to a significant drop in the production of key products. Specifically, the production of Thai Rice Spirit (Lao Khao) fell by 23.9 percent due to the rising popularity of other alcoholic beverages. Meanwhile, energy drink production, including alternative energy drinks and vitamin-infused options, and specialty liquor production contracted by 36.2 percent, following stockpiling in the previous period.

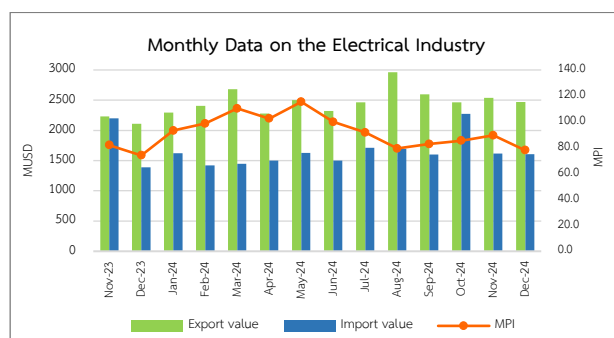
**+** **Domestic market:** Food production for domestic distribution in December 2024 expanded by 13.7 percent (%YoY), driven by key products such as 1) sugar (+38.8%), 2) seasoned chicken meat (+8.0%), 3) instant noodles (+5.5%), and 4) soft drinks (+2.7%).

**+** **International market:** The overall export of food products in December 2024 grew by 5.2 percent (%YoY), driven by increasing demand for key products. Canned tuna exports expanded by 18.0 percent, mainly to the US, Japan, and Australia. Pet food exports grew by 9.7 percent, supported by shipments to the US and Japan. Meanwhile, processed chicken exports increased by 7.3 percent, with key markets including the US, China, and Japan.

*“Food Industry outlook for January 2025: The industry is expected to expand compared to the same period last year, driven by growing demand for agricultural and food products, in line with increasing consumption and continued economic activity expansion.”*

## 2. Electrical and Electronics Industry

### ■ Electrical Industry



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

**+** **Electrical Appliance Production:** The Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) for electrical appliances reached 78.0, marking an increase of 5.8 percent compared to the same month last year. This growth can be attributed to heightened demand in the global market and reduced inventory levels from the previous month. Products that saw increased production included compressors (+59.2%), thermo pots (+37.1%), electric motors (+13.8%), and air conditioners (+10.5%). Conversely, Products that saw decline production included cables (-44.9%), electric wires (-42.5%), rice cookers (-13.3%), and microwave ovens (-8.7%).

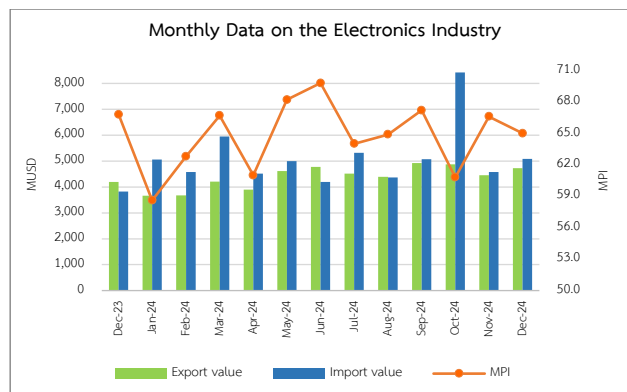
**+** **Electrical appliance exports:** The export value of electrical appliances in December 2024 reached 2,471.6 million USD, an increase of 17.3 percent compared to the same month last year. Products with increased exports included **1) power transformers**, valued at 10.4 million USD, an increase of 131.0 percent mainly to the US, China, and Japan; **2) air conditioners**, valued at 500.6 million USD, an increase of 12.9 percent in the US, ASEAN, and European markets; and **3) electric motors**, valued at 78.6 million USD, an increase of 0.5 percent in the US and European markets. Meanwhile, products with declined exports included **1) washing machines**, valued at 91.9 million USD, a decrease of 15.4 percent in Japan, ASEAN, and the US; and **2) microwave ovens**, valued at 14.4 million USD, a decrease of 10.4 percent in Japan and the US.

**+** **Electrical Appliance Imports:** The import value of electrical appliances in December 2024 reached 1,605.9 million USD, an increase of 16.8 percent compared to the same month last year. Products with increased imports included **1) washing machines**, valued at 11.9 million USD, an increase of 46.3% from Japan, China, and Europe; **2) refrigerators**, valued at 7.8 million USD, an increase of 31.8% from ASEAN, China, and Europe markets; and **3) air conditioners**, valued at 28.1 million USD, an increase of 15.8 percent from the US and China. Meanwhile, imports of electric water heaters, valued at 2.4 million USD, decreased by 8.9 percent, mainly from Europe and ASEAN.

*“Electrical Appliance Industry Outlook for January 2025*  
*The electrical appliance industry is expected to expand compared to the same month of the previous year. This growth is driven by rising global demand for new innovative products, particularly Smart Appliances and Internet of Things (IoT)-connected devices that enhance convenience and energy efficiency, including the economic recovery in many countries.”*



### ■ Electronics Industry



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

➖ **Electronics Production:** In December 2024, the electronics production index stood at 65.0, a decrease of 2.0 percent compared to the same month last year. The products that decreased were integrated circuits (ICs) and printed circuit board assemblies (PCBAs), which fell by 22.3 percent and 5.9 percent, respectively. This downturn is attributed to the uncertainty regarding the economic policies of Thailand's main trading partners. On the other hand, there were increases in the production of printers, hard disk drives (HDDs), and semiconductors, which rose by 31.4 percent, 15.8 percent, and 15.6 percent, respectively.

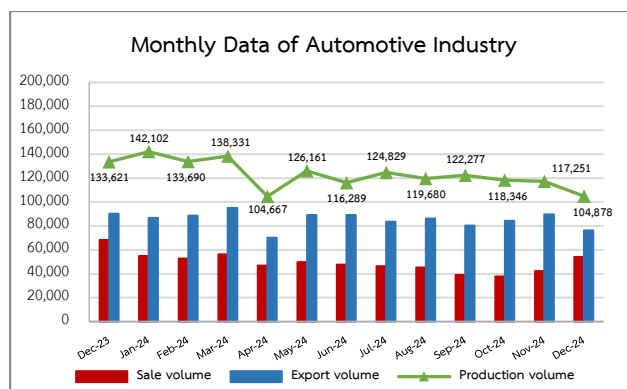
➕ **Electronics Exports:** In December 2024, electronics exports were valued at 4,729.1 million USD, an increase of 12.7 percent compared to the same month of the previous year, driven by global market demand and a recovery in electronic components. The products with increased exports included **1) Hard Disk Drives (HDDs)**, valued at 761.1 million USD, an increase of 32.6 percent in the Chinese, Japanese, and European markets; **2) computer accessories and components**, valued at 1,635.6 million USD, an increase of 23.5 percent in the US, Chinese, and European markets. Conversely, the products with decreased exports were **1) printed circuits**, valued at 109.1 million USD, a decrease of 1.4 percent in the European and Chinese markets; and **2) integrated circuits**, valued at 756.1 million USD, a decrease of 0.8 percent in the ASEAN and Japanese markets.

➕ **Electronics Imports:** The imports were valued at 5,083.3 million USD, an increase of 32.9 percent compared to the same month last year. Products with decreased imports included: **1) computer components and accessories**, valued at 1,031.7 million USD (an increase of 90.7 percent from the Chinese, US, and European markets); **2) printed circuits**, valued at 201.8 million USD (an increase of 30.4 percent from the Chinese, ASEAN, and Japanese markets); and **3) integrated circuits**, valued at 1,981.4 million USD (an increase of 21.3 percent from the Chinese, ASEAN, and Japanese markets). Meanwhile, some products saw a decline in imports were **1) Hard Disk Drives (HDDs)**, valued at 4.7 million USD, decreasing by 20.0 percent from the Chinese market, and **2) semiconductor devices (excluding integrated circuits)**, valued at 200.3 million USD, decreasing by 7.4 percent from the US and Japanese markets.

*“Production Outlook for January 2025: The electronics industry is expected to expand compared to the same month last year. This expansion was driven by global market demand for new innovative products such as Smart Appliances or Internet of Things (IoT) devices, which focus on enhancing convenience and energy efficiency, including economic recovery in many countries.”*

### 3. Automotive Industry

#### ■ Automotive Manufacturing Industry



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

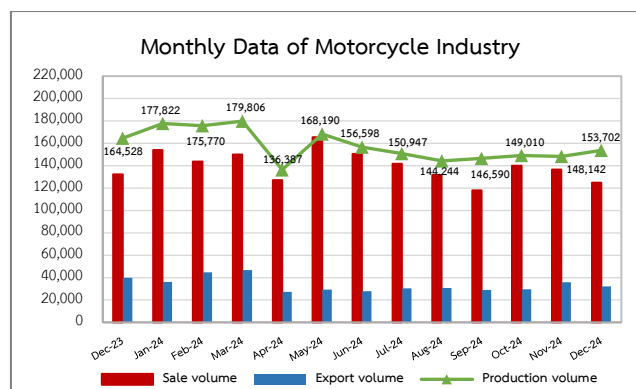
🔴 **Automobile production:** In December 2024, automobile production totaled 104,878 units, a decrease of 21.5 percent (%YoY) compared to the same month last year. This decline was primarily due to reduced production of passenger cars and 1-ton pickup trucks, as financial institutions were strict in granting loans due to high household debt and a sluggish economy. In addition, compared to November 2024, automobile production decreased by 10.6 percent (%MoM).

🔴 **Domestic automobile sales:** In December 2024, domestic sales decreased by 20.94 percent to 54,016 units compared to the same month last year (%YoY). This decline was driven by reduced sales of passenger cars, 1-ton pickup trucks, PPVs, and SUVs, as well as commercial vehicles (buses and trucks) due to high household debt, resulting in financial institutions still being strict in granting loans. Additionally, domestic economic growth has been stagnant. However, automobile sales expanded by 27.7 percent (%MoM) from November 2024.

🔴 **Automobile exports:** In December 2024, automobile exports reached a total 76,346 units, a decline of 15.5 percent (%YoY) due to cautious consumer spending amid global economic uncertainties and international conflicts. Additionally, increased competition from China in exporting both electric and gasoline-powered vehicles, along with limited shipping space and a reduced number of ship voyages, contributed to the decline. Compared to November 2024, automobile exports dropped by 14.9 percent (%MoM).

*“Automobile Industry Outlook for January 2025: The industry is expected to decline compared to January 2024 due to a slowdown in the domestic market.”*

#### ■ Motorcycle Manufacturing Industry



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

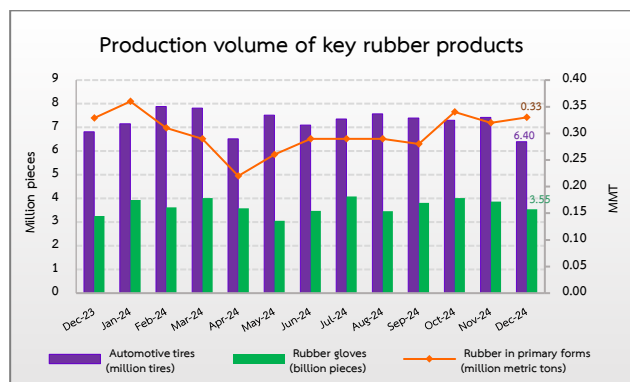
🔴 **Production of motorcycles:** In December 2024, the production reached 153,702 units, a decrease of 6.6 percent from the same month last year (%YoY). This decline was primarily driven by reduced production of multi-purpose and sport motorcycles. However, motorcycle production increased from November 2024 by 3.8 percent (%MoM).

🔴 **Motorcycle sales:** In December 2024, sales totaled 124,793 units, a decline of 5.7 percent (%YoY) compared to the same month in the previous year, driven by lower sales in the 51-110 cc, 126-250 cc, 251-399 cc, and 400 cc and above categories. Additionally, sales decreased by 8.7 percent (%MoM) from November 2024.

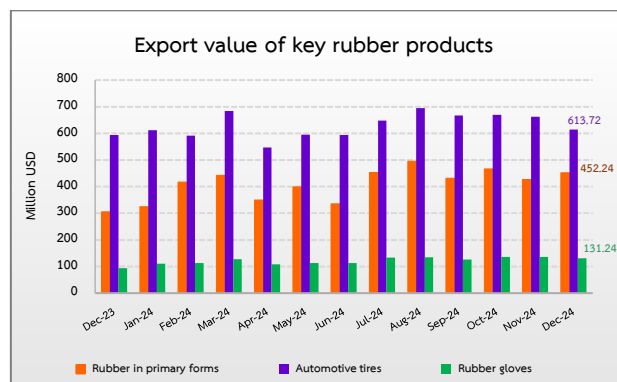
🔴 **Exports of Complete Built-Up (CBU) motorcycle:** In December 2024, exports reached 32,263 units, a decrease of 19.3 percent from the same month last year (%YoY) and a decrease of 10.0 percent from November 2024 (%MoM).

*“Motorcycle industry Outlook for January 2025: The industry is expected to decline compared to January 2024 due to a slowdown in the domestic market.”*

## 4. Rubber and Rubber Product Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics



Source: Ministry of Commerce

### Production

➕ Processed rubber in primary forms (rubber sheet, rubber block, and concentrated latex) production increased by 0.1 percent driven by the increased production of concentrated latex.

➖ Automotive tire production decreased by 5.0 percent due to the slowdown in production of passenger car tires, pickup truck tires, truck and bus tires, and tractor tires.

➕ Rubber glove production increased by 8.6 percent, primarily to meet demand in international markets.

### Domestic Sales

➕ Sales of processed rubber in primary forms (rubber sheet, rubber block, and concentrated latex) increased by 0.9 percent, driven by increased demand for rubber sheets and concentrated latex in downstream industries.

➖ Sales of automotive tires decreased by 5.0 percent, driven by declined demand in the Replacement Equipment Manufacturer (REM) market.

➖ Sales of rubber gloves decreased by 19.9 percent, primarily due to lower demand for medical gloves.

### Exports

➕ Processed rubber in primary forms (rubber sheet, rubber block, and concentrated latex) increased in export value by 4.8.3 percent. This growth was driven by higher exports of rubber sheets and rubber blocks to China, and concentrated latex to Malaysia.

➕ Automotive tires increased in export value by 3.6 percent, driven by increased exports to key markets such as the US, South Korea, and Japan

➕ Rubber gloves increased in export value by 40.0 percent, driven by rising demand in the global market, including the US, Japan, and Brazil.

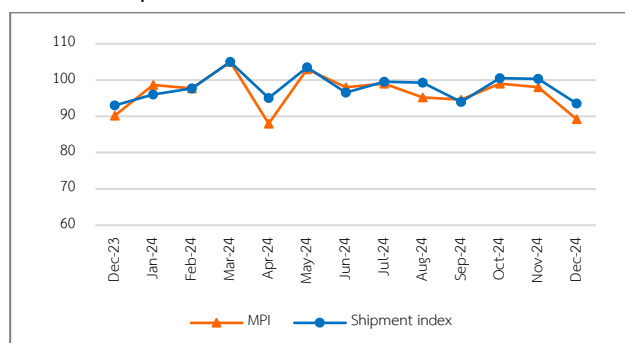
### Rubber and Rubber Product Industry Outlook for January 2025

The production of processed rubber in primary forms (rubber sheet, rubber block, and concentrated latex) is expected to expand slightly from production to meet domestic demand. The production of automotive tires is expected to remain stable as a result of domestic automobile orders that have not yet recovered. As for rubber gloves, production is expected to continue to stable, driven by production to meet the demand from the international markets. In contrast, the domestic distribution of rubber gloves is expected to increase slightly from the increasing demand for medical rubber gloves.

The export value of processed rubber in primary forms (rubber sheet, rubber block, and concentrated latex) is expected to rise, supported by increased purchases from key export markets such as China, Japan, and Malaysia. Moreover, the export value of automotive tires is expected to grow due to increased demand in major export markets, such as the US, South Korea, and Australia. As for rubber gloves, export value is expected to continue growing due to the rising demand for rubber gloves in the global market, particularly in the US and European countries.

## 5. Plastics Industry

### MPI and Shipment Index



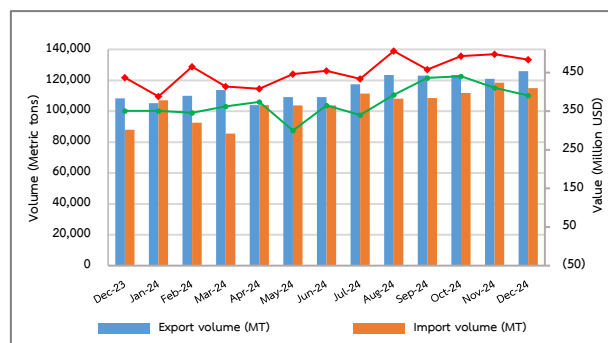
Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

**- Manufacturing Production Index (MPI):** In December 2024, the MPI for the plastics industry decreased by 2.2 percent compared to the same period last year. Key products contributing to this growth included plastic packaging (-6.9%), plastic sacks (-3.3%), and plastic pipes and pipe fittings (-3.1%).

**+ Shipment index:** In December 2024, the shipment index increased by 0.6 percent compared to the same period last year. Key products contributing to this growth included plastic bags (+5.7%), plastic pipes and pipe fittings (+5.6%), and tableware, kitchenware and toilet articles (+4.3%).

**+ Exports:** In December 2024, exports were valued at 382.4 million USD, an increase of 9.0 percent from the same period last year. Key products contributing to this growth included floor covering of plastics (+97.1%), builders' ware of plastics (+64.5%), and bathtubs (+54.4%).

### Volume and Value of Exports and Imports



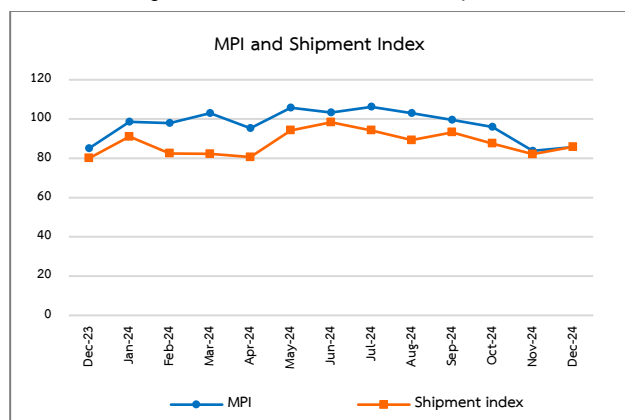
Source: Information and Communication Technology Center, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, in cooperation with the Customs Department

**+ Imports:** In December 2024, imports were valued at 451.8 million USD, an increase of 16.6 percent compared to the same period last year. Major products with production expansion included builders' ware of plastics (+37.7%), plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics (+33.1%), and tubes, pipes, and hoses (+26.3%).

*“Plastics Industry Outlook for January 2025: The plastic industry is expected to contract in January 2025 due to several factors. One significant factor is the ban on importing plastic scraps, which is scheduled to take effect in January 2025 to address pollution issues. This measure may negatively impact industries that rely on plastic scraps as raw materials, leading to increased production costs. Additionally, a global economic slowdown has reduced demand for industrial products, particularly from major markets like China, the US, and Europe. Stricter environmental regulations, such as the European Union’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and various countries’ bans on single-use plastics, are further contributing to decreased demand for certain types of plastics. At the same time, increased production costs from volatile energy prices and higher electricity prices domestically have caused entrepreneurs to adjust their production strategies to reduce costs. However, the demand for environmentally friendly plastics and plastics for food and consumer product packaging remains stable due to stable domestic demand.”*

## 6. Chemical products Industry

### Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) – Shipment Index

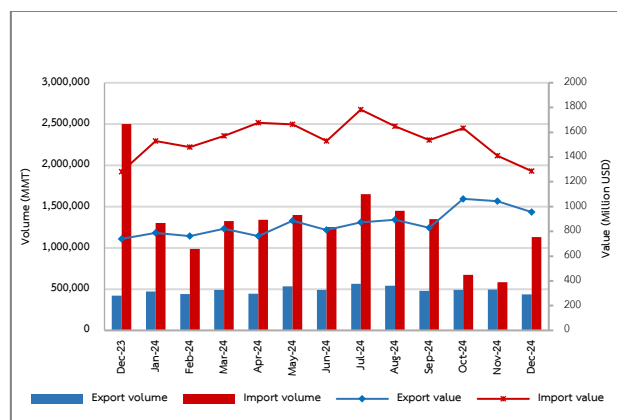


Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

**⊖ Manufacturing Production Index (MPI):** In December 2024, the chemical industry production index contracted by 2.5 percent (%YoY). Basic chemicals declined by 9.4 percent, with notable contractions in the production of methyl ester (biodiesel) by 43.8 percent, ethanol by 12.3 percent, and oxygen gas by 13.7 percent compared to the same period last year. On the other hand, downstream chemicals expanded by 1.5 percent, with increases in the production of detergent powder by 7.7 percent, water-based plastic paint by 6.3 percent, and talcum powder by 5.6 percent (%YoY).

**⊕ Shipment Index:** The chemical industry shipment index expanded by 8.3 percent (%YoY). The downstream chemicals segment grew by 5.8 percent, with key contributors including talcum powder (+14.7%), detergent powder (+9.3%), and oil-based paint (+6.7%). In contrast, the basic chemicals segment contracted by 1.2 percent, driven by declines in oxygen gas (-46.4%), methyl ester (biodiesel) (-78.1%), and ethanol (-10.2%).

**⊕ Exports:** In December 2024, exports were valued at 956.53 million USD, an increase of 29.35 percent compared to the same period last year. Exports of basic chemicals reached 617.80 million USD, a growth of 63.7 percent, while downstream chemicals exports totaled 338.7 million USD, a decrease of 6.5 percent. Key products contributing to overall export growth included paints (+16.2%) and surfactants (+9.1%).

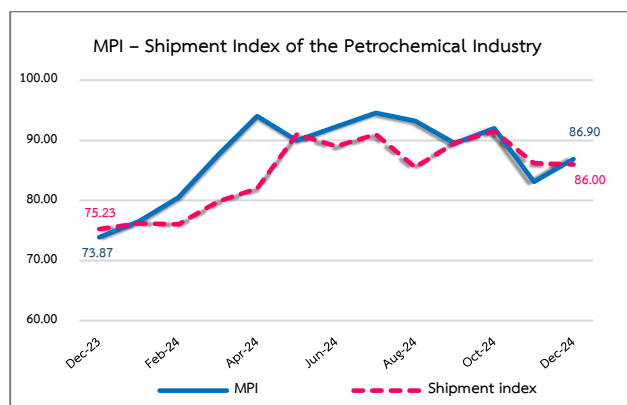


Source: Information and Communication Technology Center, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, in cooperation with the Customs Department

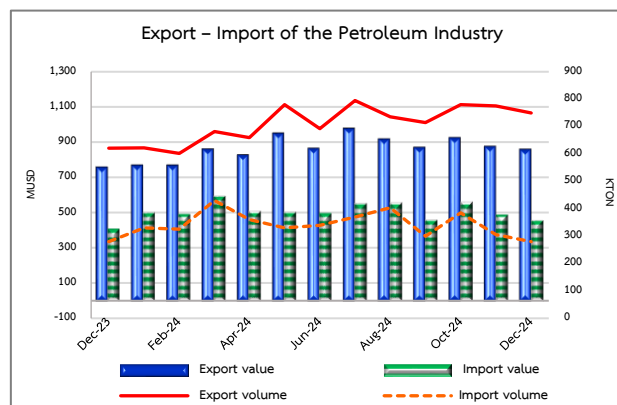
**⊕ Imports:** In December 2024, imports were valued 1,287.2 million USD, an expansion of 0.5 percent compared to the same period last year. Imports of basic chemicals segment were valued at 878.2 million USD, an increase of 1.1 percent decline, while downstream chemical imports reached 409.1 million USD, a decrease of 0.9 percent. Products contributing to this growth included cosmetics (+11.79%) and paints (+9.7%).

*“Chemical Industry Outlook for January 2025: Chemical production is expected to contract slightly due to the global economic slowdown, which is impacting demand for industrial products, particularly in the petrochemical, plastic, and textile sectors. Additionally, high interest rates are increasing financial costs for businesses, while volatile crude oil and natural gas prices may drive up production costs. As a result, some manufacturers may scale back production to mitigate risks related to costs and inventory management. However, demand for certain chemical products, such as those related to packaging and pharmaceuticals, is expected to remain stable, supported by strong domestic demand.”*

## 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

**+** **Manufacturing Production Index:** In December 2024, the production stood at 86.9, an increase of 17.6 percent compared to the same month last year and an increase of 4.4 percent from the previous month. The growth was driven by the downstream petrochemicals, such as PP resin (+35.5%) and PE resin (+22.7%), and basic petrochemicals, such as Ethylene (+16.8%), compared to the same period last year. The growth resulted from maintenance shutdowns in many countries. As for PLA bioplastic pellets, the production decreased from the previous year.

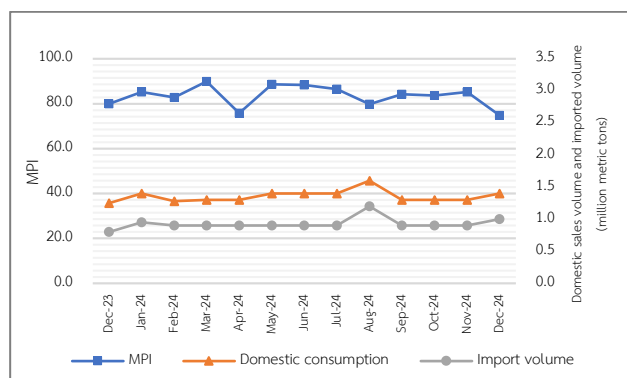
**+** **Shipment index:** In December 2024, the shipment index stood at 86.0, an increase of 14.3 percent increase from the same period last year but a decrease of 0.8 percent from last month. The shipment of basic petrochemicals, such as Ethylene increased by 27.3 percent compared to the same period last year. Similarly, the shipments of downstream petrochemicals, including PE resin increase by 15.7 percent compared to the same period last year.

**+** **Exports:** In December 2024, petrochemical exports were valued at 858.5 million USD, increasing by 13.1 percent compared to the same period last year and by 2.8 percent from the previous month. The growth was driven by exports of downstream petrochemicals, such as PE resin (+11.2%) and basic petrochemicals, such as to Toluene (+46.5%). This was mainly due to increased imports to replace production in several countries where plants were undergoing maintenance shutdowns, such as South Korea.

**+** **Imports:** In December 2024, imports were valued at 453.9 million USD, marking an 11.6 percent increase (%YoY) compared to the same period last year but a 6.1 percent decrease (MoM) from the previous month. This growth was driven by an increase in the downstream petrochemical sector, such as PET resin (+27.1%), and an increase in the upstream petrochemical sector, such as Terephthalic Acid (+96%).

*“Petrochemical Industry Outlook for January 2025: The overall production in the petrochemical industry is expected to improve compared to the same period last year, driven by recovering demand from international markets, which is offsetting production disruptions due to maintenance shutdowns at petrochemical plants in certain countries. However, production across the Asian region remains sluggish and is expected to continue at a slow pace until the end of Q1 2025.”*

## 8. Iron and Steel Industry



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

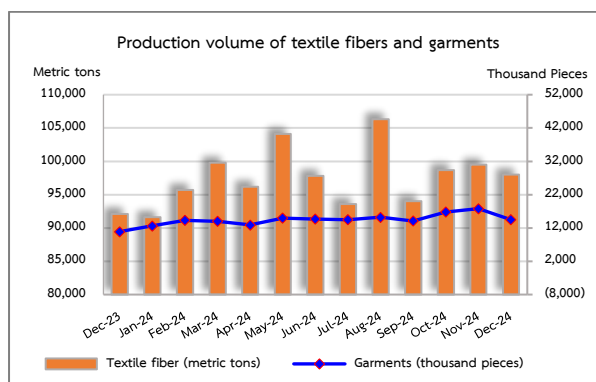
**– Manufacturing Production Index (MPI):** In December 2024, the Manufacturing Production Index stood at 74.8, reflecting a 6.0 percent decline compared to the same period last year. Upon examining key product groups, both long and flat product categories showed a decrease in production. The long products group saw a contraction of 8.0 percent, while flat products declined by 18.0 percent. Products with notable decreases included round bars (-24.4%), wire rods (-22.6%), high-tensile strength wires (-12.0%), hot-rolled coils (-35.4%), cold-rolled sheets (-10.9%), and galvanized sheets (-1.8%). On a positive note, steel pipes recorded an increase of 18.8 percent.

**+ Domestic consumption:** In December 2024, the consumption reached 1.4 million metric tons, increasing by 8.6 percent compared to the same period last year. The increase was driven by consumption of long products such as wire rods, rebars, and hot-rolled structural steel sections that reached 0.6 million metric tons, an increase of 38.1 percent compared to the same period last year. Consumption of flat product, however, decreased by 9.0 percent to 0.7 million metric tons compared to the same period last year, driven by decreased consumption of hot-rolled coils and Tinplates.

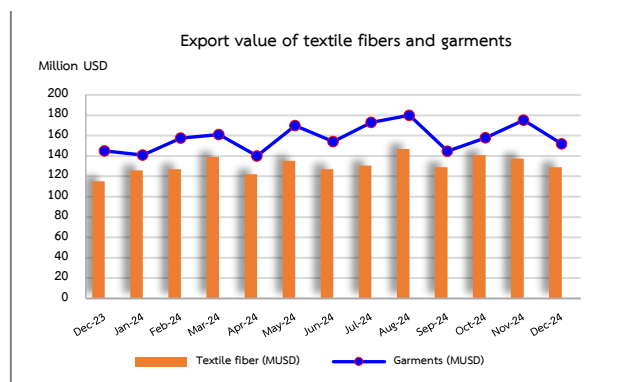
**+ Imports:** In December 2024, the volume of imports was 1.0 million metric tons, increasing by 17.6 percent compared to the same period of the previous year. This growth was primarily driven by an increase of 64.1 percent in imports of long products, which rise to 0.3 million metric tons. Key products contributing to this increase included stainless steel rebars (with higher imports from major countries such as China, Japan, and India); structural carbon steel sections (with higher imports from major countries such as China and India); and wires (with higher imports from major countries such as China, Japan, and India). Meanwhile, imports of flat products reached 0.7 million metric tons, increasing by 3.8 percent. Flat products that saw an increase in imports included hot-rolled carbon steel plates (with higher imports mainly from major countries such as China and South Korea); stainless steel (with higher imports from Taiwan, South Korea, and China); hot-rolled carbon steel sheets (with higher imports from Japan and Taiwan); and electro galvanized sheets (with higher imports mainly from Japan, South Korea, and China).

*“Iron and Steel Industry Outlook for January 2025: The steel industry is expected to decline in production compared to the same period last year. Key issues to monitor include the implementation of the “America First” policy by the US under President Donald Trump’s administration. This policy aims to reduce the US trade deficit by imposing import tariffs on products from all countries. The Thai steel industry may be indirectly affected by this policy, with China being the first to experience its impact. The US is the third-largest importer of Chinese steel, and if Chinese steel products face restrictions in the US, they will likely be redirected to alternative markets, including ASEAN countries such as Thailand.”*

## 9. Textile and Wearing Apparel Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics



Source: Ministry of Commerce

### Production

➕ Textile fibers expanded by 6.2 percent (%YoY) across all product categories, including polyester fibers, rayon fibers, cotton yarn, and man-made fiber yarn, driven by increased orders from key trading partners.

➖ Fabrics contracted by 9.3 percent (%YoY), mainly due to declines in woven cotton fabrics and woven synthetic fiber fabrics.

➕ Garments continued its growth for the sixth consecutive month, expanding by 24.7 percent (%YoY) in both woven and knitted fabric categories, including outerwear, especially sportswear, polo shirts, baby clothes, and men’s and women’s underwear. The growth was supported by increased orders domestically and internationally, as well as trade barriers between the US and China, prompting trading partners to accelerate orders before import tariff hikes.

### Domestic sales

➖ Textile fibers contracted by 4.9% (%YoY) across all product categories. Fabric sales expanded by 7.0% (%YoY), partly due to consumers opting for lower-cost raw materials such as yarn, fiber, and imported fabrics to reduce production costs.

➕ Garments grew by 10.1% (%YoY), driven by increased demand for woven clothing, supported by the improving domestic economy and tourism sector. Additionally, higher consumer spending during Christmas and New Year celebrations contributed to increased domestic consumption.

### Imports

➕ Expansion was observed throughout the supply chain. Yarn and fibers grew by 6.0 percent (%YoY), while fabrics expanded by 18.3 percent (%YoY) due to the import of lower-cost raw materials from abroad. Garments increased by 5.0 percent (%YoY), primarily driven by imports of low-cost products from China and Vietnam, as they are cheaper than domestic production. Additionally, consumer behavior has shifted toward purchasing more affordable clothing in response to the economic slowdown.

### Exports

➕ Textile fiber exports grew by 14.3 percent (%YoY), driven by increased exports of man-made fibers to key trading partners, including China, the US, and Pakistan.

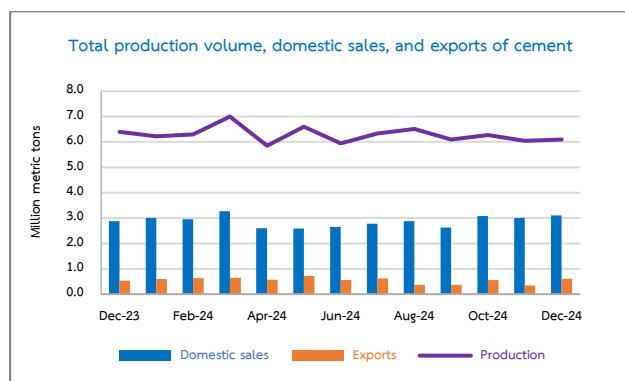
➖ Fabric exports decreased by 2.61 percent (%YoY), driven by exports to major trading partners such as Vietnam and India

➕ Exports of garments continued to expand for the seventh consecutive month, rising by 5.6 percent (%YoY). Growth was driven by exports of garments made from man-made fibers, such as sportswear and polo shirts, to key markets, including the US, Japan, Canada, the Netherlands, the UK, and Belgium. The expansion benefited from US-China trade barriers, as well as the global economic and trade recovery.

*“The textile and apparel industry outlook for January 2025 is expected to see slight growth, driven by improving domestic demand and increased consumer spending during the festive season, along with a boost from tourism. However, the industry may face challenges from the global economic slowdown due to trade wars, which could impact investor confidence and orders from key trading partners.”*



## 10. Cement Industry



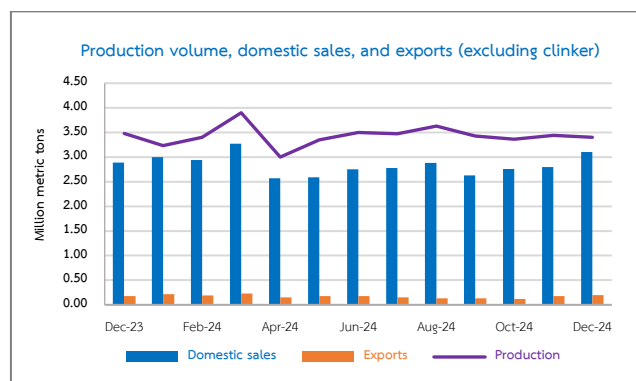
Source: 1. Domestic production and sales volume: Division of Information and Industrial Economic Indices, The Office of Industrial Economics  
 2. Export volume: Information and Communication Technology Center, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

**- Total cement production** in December 2024, reached 6.1 million metric tons, a decrease of 5.3 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year. The slowdown in production was primarily due to cost adjustments following the Energy Regulatory Commission’s (ERC) decision on November 27, 2024, to lower electricity prices from 4.18 Thai baht per unit to 4.15 Thai baht per unit for the period of January to April 2025.

**+ Total domestic cement sales** in December 2024 reached 3.1 million metric tons, an increase of 5.0 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year. This growth was primarily driven by demand for residential repairs following flooding in the southern and northern regions during the fourth quarter of 2024, as well as production to support large-scale government investment projects, including the Motorway No. 9 (Motorway M9).

**+ Total cement exports** in December 2024, reached 0.6 million metric tons, an increase of 9.86 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year. Meanwhile, export value increased by 7.6 percent, driven by higher cement demand from major trading partners, including Australia, Myanmar, and Cambodia, which saw increases of 146.6 percent, 25.1 percent, and 5.2 percent, respectively.

*“The outlook for the cement production industry in January 2025 is expected to decline due to high household debt. Economic indicators from December 2024 do not show positive signs, as both the industrial confidence index has decreased and the consumer confidence index remains low.”*



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 December 2024, reached 3.4 million metric tons, a decrease of 1.0 percent from the same month last year (%YoY). The slowdown in production was primarily due to cost adjustments following the Energy Regulatory Commission’s (ERC) decision on November 27, 2024, to lower electricity prices from 4.18 Thai baht per unit to 4.15 Thai baht per unit for the period of January to April 2025.

**+ Domestic cement sales (excluding clinker)** in December 2024 reached 3.1 million metric tons, an increase of 5.0 percent (%YoY). This growth was primarily driven by demand for residential repairs following flooding in the southern and northern regions during the fourth quarter of 2024, as well as production to support large-scale government investment projects, including the Motorway No. 9 (Motorway M9).

**- Exports of cement (excluding clinker)** in December 2024 amounted to 0.2 million metric tons, a decrease of 5.5 percent (%YoY), while export value declined 5.0 percent (%YoY). The primary export markets were Myanmar (57.4%), Cambodia (20.3%), and Lao PDR (16.8).

*“The outlook for cement production industry (excluding clinker) in January 2025 is expected to decline due to high household debt. Economic indicators for December 2024 do not show positive trends, as the industrial confidence index has declined and the consumer confidence index remains low.”*



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