สำนักงานเศรษฐกิจอุตสาหกรรม | OFFICE OF INDUSTRIAL ECONOMICS

กระทรวงอุตสาหกรรม MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY

Report on the Industrial Economics Status

March 2026

OIE embraces a green commitment, earning
"the Carbon Footprint for Organization (CFO) certification."

Industrial Production Status

Indicators	2024	2025	2025										2026		
%YoY	Year	Year	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
MPI	-0.5	-0.4	0.9	2.0	2.0	0.3	-3.6	-3.7	1.6	0.5	-3.7	2.6	1.6	0.09	0.75

The industrial economic situation in **March 2026**, as reflected by the **Manufacturing Production Index (MPI), stood at 108.7, expanding by 0.75 percent compared with the same month last year**. The expansion was primarily driven by renewed growth in the petroleum and automotive industries.

When considering the MPI data for the past three months compared with the same period last year, the index expanded by 2.6 percent in December 2025, 1.6 percent in January 2026, and 0.09 percent in February 2026.

Indicators	2025										2026		
%MoM	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
MPI	10.4	-13.7	9.6	-3.9	-3.7	-1.4	3.1	0.3	-3.9	2.7	7.1	-3.9	11.1

Over the past three months (December 2025–February 2026), the Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) changes were as follows: the index expanded by 2.7 percent in December 2025 and 7.1 percent in January 2026, respectively, before contracting by 3.9 percent in February 2026.

Key Industries Driving MPI Growth in March 2026 compared with the same month last year included:

- Sugar: The industry expanded by 60.7 percent, driven by raw sugar, molasses, and refined sugar. The growth was supported by higher sugarcane output, as increased rainfall and improved water distribution across cultivation areas resulted in greater volumes of sugarcane entering mills.
- Basic Iron and Steel: The industry expanded by 14.1 percent, primarily driven by hot-rolled steel sheets, deformed bars, and wire rods. Growth was supported by continued demand, as several Thai steel producers have adopted production processes that generate lower carbon emissions than the thresholds specified under the European Union’s (EU) Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).
- Basic Chemicals: The industry expanded by 16.1 percent, mainly driven by caustic soda, chlorine, and ethanol. Some manufacturers expanded production capacity to meet rising demand for ethanol as a gasohol blend, following higher oil prices resulting from conflicts in the Middle East.

Key Industries Causing MPI Contraction in March 2026 compared with the same month last year included:

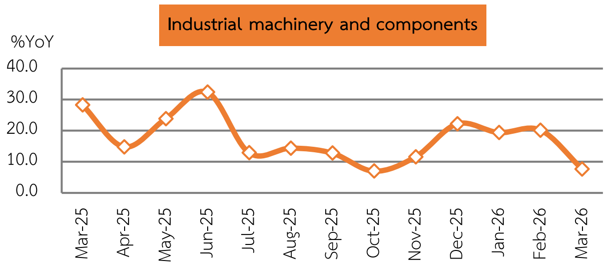
- Air Conditioners: The industry contracted by 12.6 percent due to high inventory levels, coupled with a high base in the previous year, when some manufacturers received substantial orders from Vietnam.
- Plastics and Primary Synthetic Rubber: The industry contracted by 10.6 percent because some manufacturers temporarily shut down production for maintenance, alongside a shortage of raw materials resulting from the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.
- Starch and Starch Products: The industry contracted by 23.6 percent, primarily driven by cassava starch. The decline reflected lower volumes of cassava roots entering the market as a result of drought conditions and cassava mosaic disease, together with the situation along the Thai–Cambodian border, which prevented Thailand from importing cassava roots from Cambodia.

Other Industrial Economic Indicators in

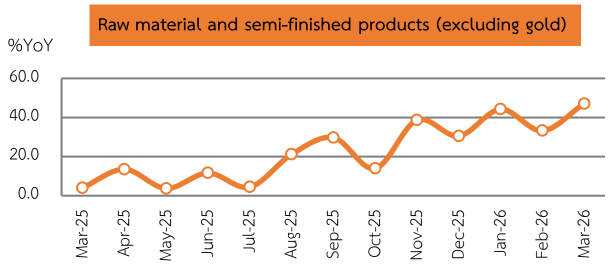
March 2026

Other Industrial Economic Indicators in March 2026

■ *Imports of Thailand Industrial Sector*



Source: Ministry of Commerce

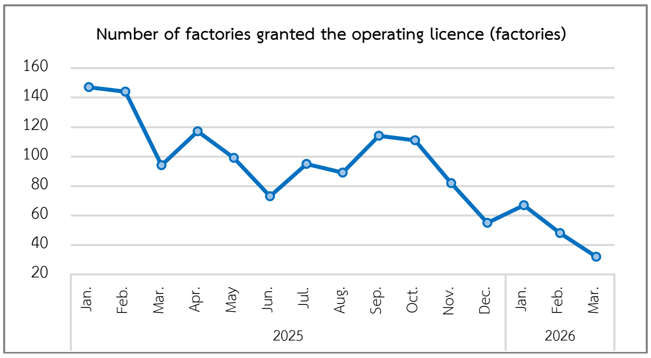


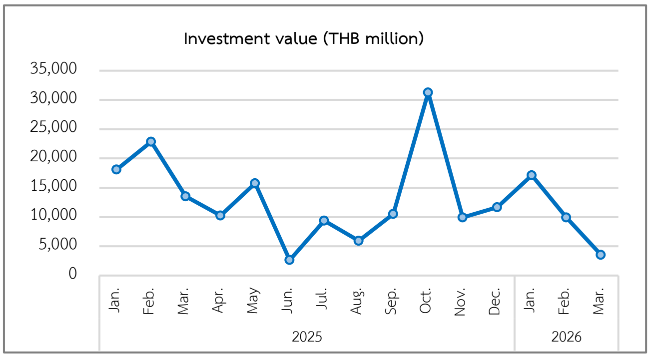
Source: Ministry of Commerce

- **Imports of industrial machinery and parts** in March 2026 were valued at USD 1,778 million, expanding by 7.7 percent compared with the same month last year. The expansion was driven by increased imports of turbo-jets and parts thereof, machinery for working rubber or plastics, and construction machinery and parts thereof.

- **Imports of raw materials and intermediate products (excluding gold)** in March 2026 were valued at USD 14,664 million, expanding by 47.09 percent compared with the same month last year. The expansion was mainly driven by higher imports of electrical and electronic equipment and parts thereof, other metal ores and scrap, and chemical products.

Industrial Operation Status





Source: Department of Industrial Works

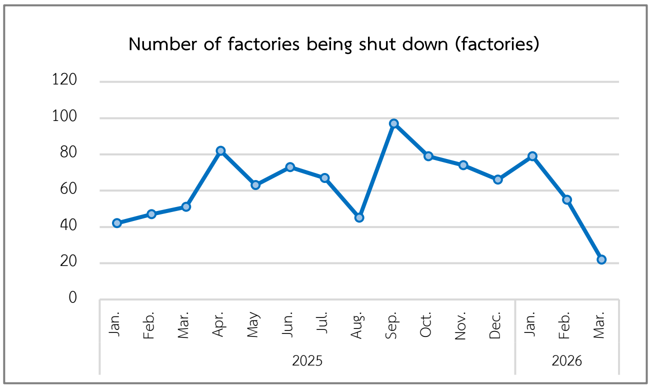
- The total number of factories granted operating licenses in March 2026 was 32 factories, decreasing by 66.0 percent from the same month last year and by 33.3 percent from February 2026.

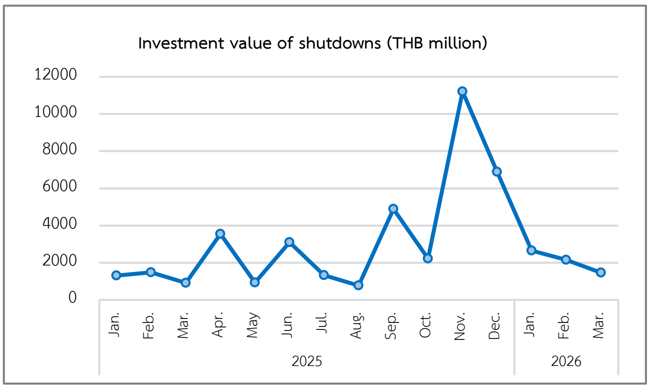
- The total investment value of factories granted operating licenses in March 2026 amounted to THB 3,557 million, decreasing by 73.8 percent from the same month last year and decreasing by 64.2 percent compared with February 2026.

"The industry with the highest number of factories commencing operations in March 2026 was the factory processing unused industrial products or factory waste into raw materials, with 5 factories. This was followed by thermal power generation factories, with 3 factories, and waste sorting or landfill factories for sewage or unused materials, with 3 factories."

"The industry with the highest investment value in March 2026 was the thermal power generation factory, with an investment value of THB 775 million. This was followed by the factory processing unused industrial products or factory waste into raw materials, with THB 500 million, and the furniture or interior decoration manufacturing, finishing, modifying, or repairing factory, with THB 484 million."

■ Industrial Operation Status (cont.)





Source: Department of Industrial Works

- The number of factories that ceased operations in March 2026 totaled 22 factories, decreasing by 57.0 percent compared with the same month last year and decreasing by 60.0 percent from February 2026.

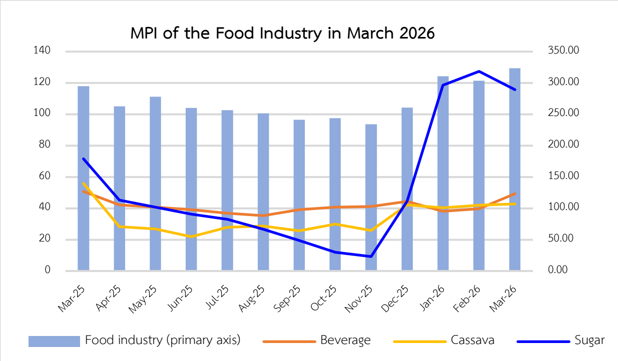
- The total investment value of factory closures in March 2026 amounted to THB 1,460 million, expanding by 61.9 percent compared with the same month last year but decreasing by 32.1 percent from February 2026.

"In March 2026, the industry with the highest number of factory closures was solar power generation factories (excluding rooftop installations), with 4 factories. This was followed by rice milling, winnowing, or polishing factories, with 2 factories; and sawing, planing, cutting, grooving, or wood processing factories, with 2 factories; and cement, lime, or plaster manufacturing factories, with 2 factories."

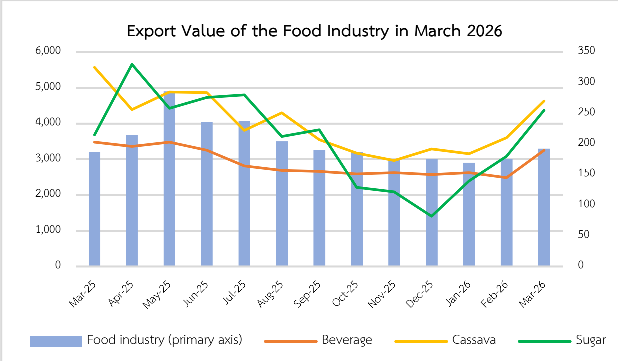
In March 2026, the industry with the highest investment value in factory closures the automotive or trailer manufacturing, assembly, modification, or conversion factor; with an investment value of THB 920 million. This was followed solar power generation factories (excluding rooftop installations), with an investment value of 359 million and ice manufacturing, cutting, slicing, crushing, or grinding factories, with an investment value of 45 million Baht."

Industrial Economic Status by Industrial Sectors in March 2026

1. Food Industry



Source: Domestic production and sales volume, Division of Information and Industrial Economic Indices, The Office of Industrial Economics



Source: Exports and Imports, Information and Communication Technology Center, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

Manufacturing Production Index (MPI): In March 2026, the MPI of the food industry stood at 128.8, expanding by 8.4 percent compared with the same month last year. Food product groups experiencing manufacturing expansion included 1) sugar production, which increased by 60.7 percent due to an increased sugarcane yield driven by favorable weather from the La Niña phenomenon that began in the 2025 planting season, resulting in sufficient rainfall and higher volumes of sugarcane delivered to mills compared with the previous year. In addition, the ethanol industry continued to benefit from government policies promoting ethanol use to reduce dependence on imported fuel. 2) Palm oil production also expanded by 13.0 percent as market volumes exceeded the previous year; crude palm oil yield for 2026 is projected to rise by 1.8 percent to 3.5 million metric tons. The expansion was supported by newly cultivated plantation areas entering the production stage and adequate rainfall conditions, which improved yields per rai. 3) Additionally, prepared animal feed production increased by 3.4 percent, driven by 2.5 percent growth in prepared pet food production. Growth was supported by rising domestic and international demand, reflecting increasing pet ownership and Thailand's position as a globally recognized production base for international pet food brands.

Meanwhile, key contractions were observed in starch and starch products, which declined by 23.6 percent, mainly due to 24.8 percent contraction in cassava starch production. The decline reflected lower cassava output resulting from cassava mosaic disease and shortages of disease-resistant planting materials.

Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) for the beverage sector declined by 3.0 percent, driven by key products including the distilling, rectifying, and blending of spirits, which contracted by 11.8 percent. Within this category, white spirits contracted by 23.7 percent and blended spirits contracted by 12.5 percent due to a decline in domestic consumption as consumers became more cautious with their spending in line with the economic slowdown. Additionally, energy drinks contracted by 13.7 percent due to a decrease in exports to neighboring countries.

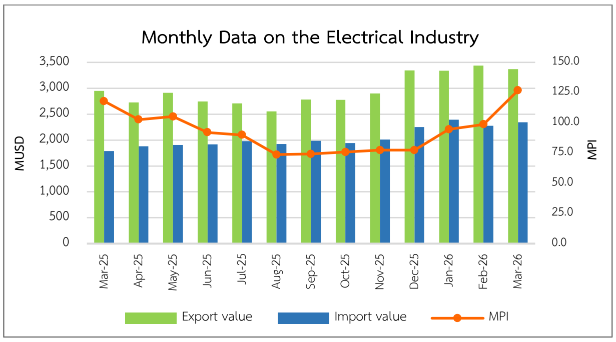
Domestic Market: Production of food products for domestic sale in March 2026 expanded by 13.2 percent compared with the same month last year. Major products contributing to the increase included soy sauce, fermented soybean paste, and seasoning sauce (+104.5%); instant coffee powder (+66.2%), purified drinking water (+9.9%); and carbonated soft drinks (+14.7%).

Export Market: Overall food exports in March 2026 expanded by 3.2 percent compared with the same month last year. Products recording export growth included animal and vegetable fats and oils, which increased by 250.7 percent, marking the eighth consecutive month of expansion (with growth in India, Malaysia, and Myanmar); sugar, which expanded by 17.3 percent (with growth in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the new market of Sudan); livestock products, particularly processed chicken, which expanded by 4.9 percent, marking the fourth consecutive month of expansion (with growth in Japan, the Netherlands, and Singapore); and pet food, which expanded by 4.0 percent, marking the seventh consecutive month of expansion (with growth in Japan, Australia, and Malaysia). Conversely, rice exports contracted by 18.3 percent (with declines in China, South Africa, and Hong Kong, but growth in the U.S., Malaysia, and Mozambique); cassava products contracted by 17.1 percent, marking the ninth consecutive month of contraction (with declines in China and U.S., but growth in Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea); and beverage exports contracted by 5.9 percent (with declines in China and U.S., but growth in Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos, and Philippines).

*"**Food Industry Outlook for April 2026:** The MPI for the food industry is expected to decrease slightly compared with the same month last year, driven by cost pressures and decreased consumer demand. This is due to rising crude oil prices following tensions in the Middle East, which have led to increased transportation and production costs, coupled with uncertainties surrounding trade measures and the prolonged geopolitical situation, which could affect global trade and the purchasing power of trading partners. However, spending during the Songkran festival remains a supporting factor that helps sustain domestic demand in the short term."*

2. Electrical and Electronics Industry

■ Electrical Industry



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

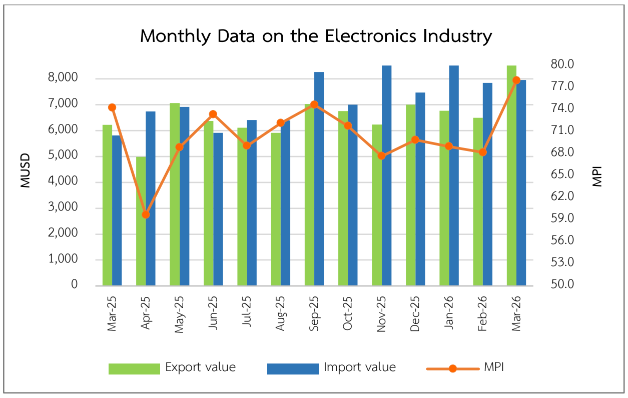
Electrical Appliance Production: The Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) for electrical appliances stood at 126.7, an increase of 11.4 percent compared with the same month last year. This growth was driven by an upward trend in international orders, particularly from Asia. Products that saw an increase included electric thermos pots, cables, and refrigerators, which grew by 66.8 percent, 23.4 percent, and 18.2 percent respectively. Conversely, products that experienced a decline included electrical transformers, window-type air conditioners, and household fans, dropping by 31.5 percent, 27.4 percent, and 27.3 percent respectively.

Electrical appliance exports: Exports reached a value of USD 3,370 million USD, an increase of 14.2 percent compared with the same month last year. Products with expanding exports included rice cookers, grills, and roasters, valued at USD 34 million (increasing 18.9 percent in Europe, China, and the U.S.); washing machines, valued at USD 115 million (increasing 6.1 percent in ASEAN, Europe, China, and the U.S.); and refrigerators, valued at USD 147 million (increasing 5.0 percent in Europe and the U.S.). Meanwhile, products with declining exports included microwave ovens, valued at USD 15 million (down 8.6 percent in Japan and Europe); and air conditioners, valued at USD 744 million (down 2.9 percent in Europe and Japan).

Electrical Appliance Imports: Imports reached a value of USD 2,341 million, an increase of 30.8 percent compared with the same month last year. Products with expanding imports included refrigerators, valued at 13.61 million USD (increasing 52.8 percent from ASEAN, Europe, China, and Japan; washing machines, valued at USD 18.3 million (increasing 37.9 percent from Europe and China); and compressors for refrigeration equipment and parts, valued at USD 107 million (increasing 12.4 percent from China, ASEAN, Europe, and the U.S.). Meanwhile, products with declining imports included microwave ovens, valued at USD 3 million, dropping by 31.7 percent from Europe, China, the U.S., and Japan.

*"**Electrical Appliance Industry Outlook for April 2026:** The industry is expected to expand, driven by rising demand for electrical appliances, particularly in the Smart Appliances segment, alongside accelerated purchasing by global manufacturers to build up inventory. However, the conflict situation between the U.S. and countries in the Middle East must still be monitored closely, as it could lead to volatility and upward pressure on global crude oil prices."*

Electronics Industry



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

Electronics production: The Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) stood at 78.0, an increase of 5.0 percent compared with the same month last year. This growth was driven by an increase in international orders, aligned with the growth of Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies, which expanded the demand for electronic components and devices. Products that saw an increase included printers (+29.7%) and integrated circuits (IC) (+16.0%). Conversely, products that experienced a decline included PCBA (-8.1%) and PWB (-1.2%).

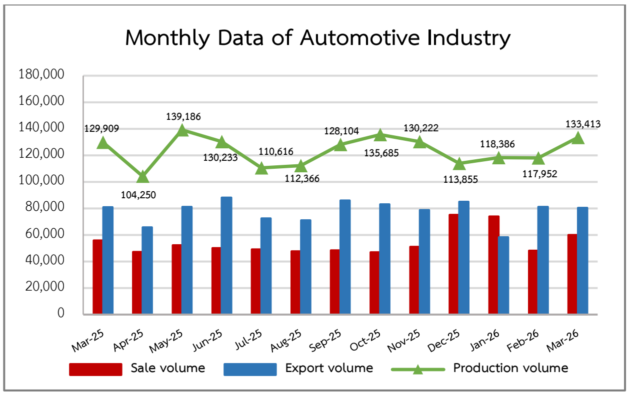
Electronics exports: In March 2026, electronics exports were valued at USD 8,940 million, representing a sharp increase of 43.8 percent compared with the same month last year. Products with expanding exports included semiconductor devices (excluding integrated circuits), valued at USD 119 million (increasing 59 percent in ASEAN, Europe, China, the U.S., and Japan), and integrated circuits, valued at USD 857 million (increasing 4.4 percent in ASEAN, Europe, China, and the U.S.). Meanwhile, products with declining exports included HDDs, valued at USD 553 million (down 5.2 percent in Japan), and electrical capacitors, valued at USD 52 million (down 1.6 percent in China and Japan).

Electronics imports: In March 2026, electronics imports were valued at USD 7,951 million, representing an increase of 36.8 percent compared with the same month last year. Products with expanding imports included printed circuits, valued at USD 406 million (increasing 86.7 percent from ASEAN, China, the U.S., and Japan), and semiconductor devices (excluding integrated circuits), valued at USD 273 million (increasing 49.3 percent from ASEAN, Europe, China, and Japan). Conversely, products with declining imports included HDDs, valued at USD 7 million (down 64.3 percent from China and Japan), and magnetic tapes, magnetic discs, and CDs, valued at USD 292.95 million (down 0.4 percent from Europe, U.S., and Japan). Magnetic tapes, magnetic discs for computer

*"**Electronics Industry Outlook for April 2026**: The industry is expected to expand compared with the same month of the previous year, driven by strong international demand aligned with the growth trends of new technologies such as AI, 5G, and Data Centers, which will benefit Thai electronic products. Growth is further supported by accelerated purchasing to build up inventory by global manufacturers. However, the conflict situation between the U.S. and countries in the Middle East must still be monitored closely, as it could lead to volatility and upward pressure on global crude oil prices."*

3. Automotive Industry

■ Automotive Manufacturing Industry



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

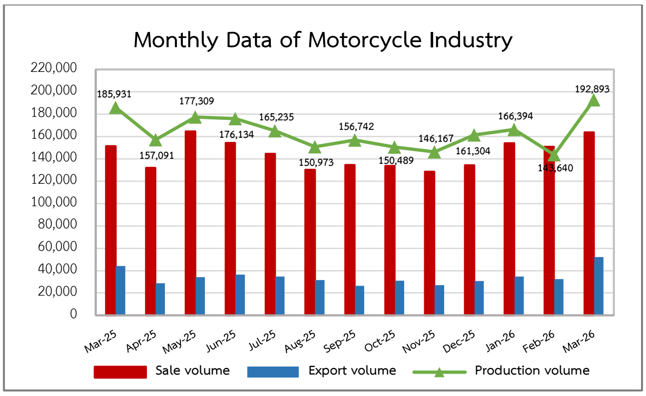
Automobile production in March 2026 totaled 133,413 units, an increase of 2.7 percent compared with the same month last year. This growth was driven by key supporting factors, including the production of 1-ton pickup trucks for export and the commencement of Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) production to offset imports under the conditions of the EV 3.5 scheme's first year. Additionally, automobile production increased by 13.1 percent from the previous month.

Domestic automobile sales in March 2026 reached 59,865 units, an increase of 7.3 percent compared with the same month last year. The increase was supported by vehicle deliveries under the EV 3.0 scheme and deliveries of vehicles booked at the Bangkok International Motor Show, particularly electric vehicles, which received a large number of bookings. Domestic automobile sales also increased by 24.1 percent compared with the previous month.

Automobile exports in March 2026 totaled 80,394 units, decreasing by 0.6 percent compared with the same month last year, mainly due to the discontinuation of production for certain passenger car models destined for export markets. Exports to the Middle East contracted by 16.0 percent. Compared with the previous month, automobile exports decreased by 1.0 percent.

*“**Automobile Industry Outlook for April 2026:** The industry is expected to contract slightly compared with April 2025, due to fewer working days, lower exports to the Middle East, and volatile oil prices resulting from ongoing geopolitical conflicts. These factors continue to pressure the internal combustion engine vehicle segment, which remains Thailand’s primary automotive production base. Nevertheless, support is expected from battery electric vehicle (BEV) production to offset imports under the EV 3.5 scheme.”*

■ Motorcycle Manufacturing Industry



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

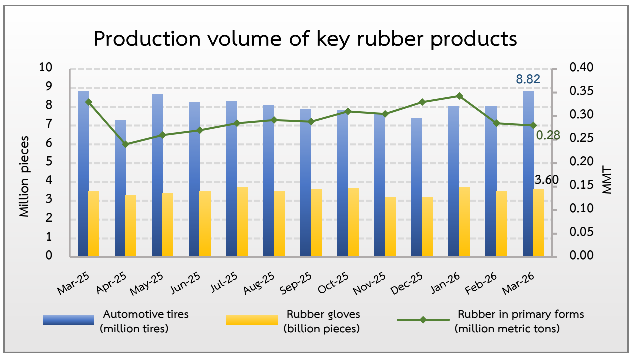
Production of motorcycles in March 2026 totaled 192,893 units, increasing by 3.7 percent compared with the same month last year, driven by growth across all types of motorcycle categories. Compared with the previous month, motorcycle production increased by 34.3 percent.

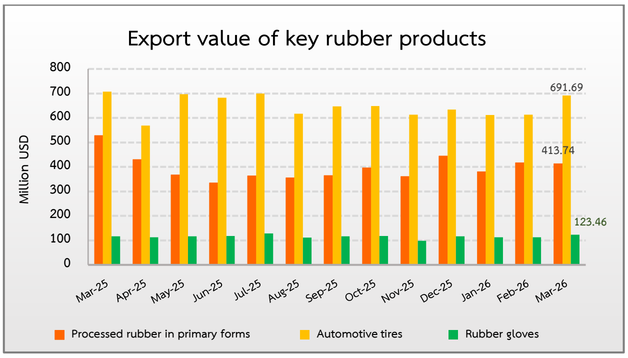
Motorcycle sales in March 2026 totaled 163,684 units, increasing by 8.2 percent compared with the same month last year. The increase was driven by higher sales of motorcycles in the 111–125 cc and 126–250 cc motorcycles. Motorcycle sales also increased by 8.5 percent from the previous month.

Exports of Completely Built-Up (CBU) units in March 2026 totaled 52,166 units, an increase of 18.3 percent compared with the same month last year. Exports of Completely Knocked-Down (CKD) motorcycles for assembly in destination countries also increased by 1.0 percent compared with the same month last year. Notably, CBU motorcycle exports increased by 60.8 percent compared with the previous month.

“Motorcycle Manufacturing Industry Outlook for April 2026: The industry is expected to decline slightly compared with the same month last year. Although domestic demand continues to provide some support, the recovery remains gradual amid weak purchasing power and volatile oil price trends.”

4. Rubber and Rubber Product Industry





Production

Processed rubber in primary forms (rubber sheets, rubber blocks, and concentrated latex) decreased by 17.4 percent compared with the same month last year because it was during the leaf-shedding season and the end of the dry season, resulting in a reduced volume of latex entering the market.

Automotive tire production decreased by 0.10 percent compared with the same month last year, driven by a reduction in the production of pickup truck tires.

Rubber glove production increased by 2.7 percent, driven by stronger demand for medical gloves from public health and industrial sectors.

Domestic Sales

Sales of processed rubber in primary forms (rubber sheets, rubber blocks, and concentrated latex) declined by 7.8 percent compared with the same month last year, due to lower latex supply resulting from weather and seasonal factors, together with elevated latex prices, which caused some buyers to delay purchases.

Tire sales declined by 3.0 percent due to lower demand for pickup truck tires, truck tires, and bus tires.

Rubber glove sales increased by 30.7 percent, supported by rising demand from the medical and manufacturing sectors.

Exports

Export value of processed rubber in primary forms (rubber sheets, rubber blocks, and concentrated latex) decreased by 21.7 percent due to a contraction in exports to China, aligned with high rubber prices and inventory levels, as well as an increase in China's domestic supply, causing importers to delay orders.

Export of tires declined by 2.1 percent, mainly due to lower exports to the U.S.

Export value of rubber gloves increased by 5.3 percent in value terms, supported by geopolitical developments that boosted demand for natural rubber products, as well as continued demand from the public health sector.

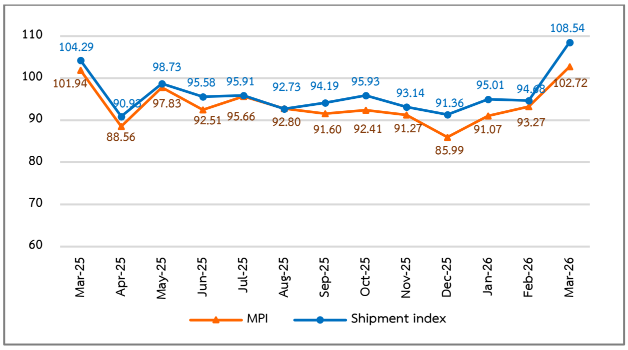
Rubber and Rubber Product Industry Outlook for April 2026:

The production of processed rubber in primary forms (rubber sheets, rubber blocks, and concentrated latex) is expected to slow down due to seasonal factors, as many areas enter the leaf-shedding season and the dry season, resulting in a reduced volume of latex entering the market. Meanwhile, automotive tire production is likely to improve slightly, in line with the gradual recovery of both the domestic and international automotive industries. Rubber glove production is expected to remain stable or increase slightly, driven by a recovery in orders and a global shortage of synthetic rubber gloves; however, manufacturers continue to manage their production capacity cautiously. Domestic sales of rubber gloves are expected to improve slightly due to higher global market prices and a reduced supply of synthetic rubber gloves, coupled with continuous demand from the medical sector. Nevertheless, there remain constraints from consumer purchasing power and global market competition.

However, exports of processed rubber in primary forms (rubber sheets, rubber blocks, and concentrated latex) are anticipated to expand within a limited range, consistent with the seasonally reduced domestic supply. Meanwhile, automotive tire exports are likely to recover gradually in accordance with the rebound of global demand. Rubber glove exports tend to improve slightly due to the initial recovery of order volumes and gradually increasing prices. However, exports still face limitations from global market competition and buyers' price acceptance capabilities.

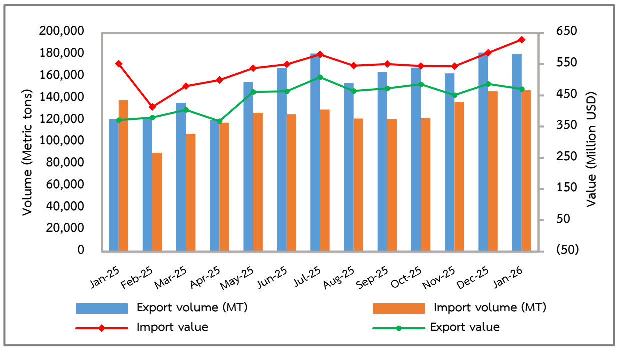
5. Plastics Industry

MPI and Shipment Index



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

Volume and Value of Exports and Imports



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

Manufacturing Production Index (MPI): The index for March 2026 increased by 0.8 percent % compared with the same month last year. Products experiencing growth in production included plastic bags (+6.4%), plastic sacks (+6.2%), and plastic pipes and fittings (+5.3%). This was due to the effects of the war, which accelerated the production and distribution of agricultural products, thereby increasing the use of plastic packaging and supporting the continued expansion of domestic consumption within the plastic industry.

Shipment index of the plastics industry: In March 2026, the shipment expanded by 4.1 percent compared with the same month last year. Products that saw expansion included tableware, kitchenware, and toilet articles (+21.8%), plastic pipes and fittings (+18.9%), and plastic sacks (+6.2%) compared with the same month last year. This growth was driven by a high expansion in the household plastics segment, as demand continued to rise for certain types of plastics necessary for daily life.

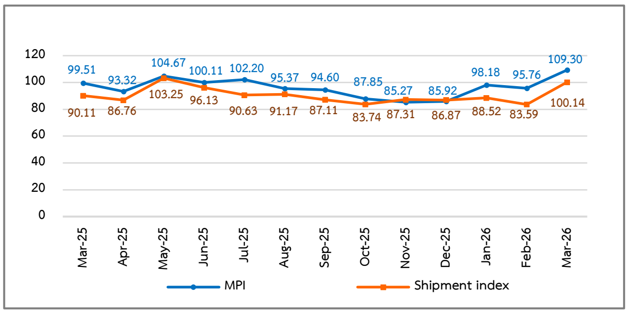
Plastics exports: In March 2026, exports were valued at USD 523 million, representing an expansion of 29.5 percent compared with the same month last year. Products driving the overall export expansion included plastic floor coverings (+103.0%), kitchenware and toilet articles (+62.2%), and tubes, pipes, and hoses (+41.3%). Uncertainties stemming from the war and geopolitical tensions prompted many countries to accelerate imports to compensate for disrupted domestic production and to diversify supply chain risks, resulting in a high level of expansion for Thai plastic product exports.

Plastics imports: In March 2026, imports reached a total value of USD 546 million, an expansion of 14.1 percent compared with the same month last year. Products driving the overall expansion included other plates, sheets, film, foil, and strip of plastics (non-cellular and not reinforced) (+22.0%); other articles of plastics (19.9%); and kitchenware and toilet articles (+18.6%). This growth was due to the volatility of raw material prices in the global market and supply constraints from certain producing countries as a result of the war situation. This prompted importers to diversify their import sources and increase order volumes in certain months to manage cost risks and ensure production continuity, serving as key factors that expanded plastic imports compared with the same month last year.

*"**Plastic Industry Outlook for April 2026**: The industry is expected to contract due to volatility in petrochemical feedstock prices, which are directly linked to global crude oil prices. Ongoing conflicts and geopolitical tensions may increase plastic production costs and put pressure on manufacturers' profit margins. In addition, uncertainty surrounding global supply chains and logistics, including freight costs, shipping lead times, and risks to international trade routes affected by geopolitical conflicts, may result in higher import and export costs. These developments remain key factors that should be closely monitored, with appropriate response measures to be implemented as necessary."*

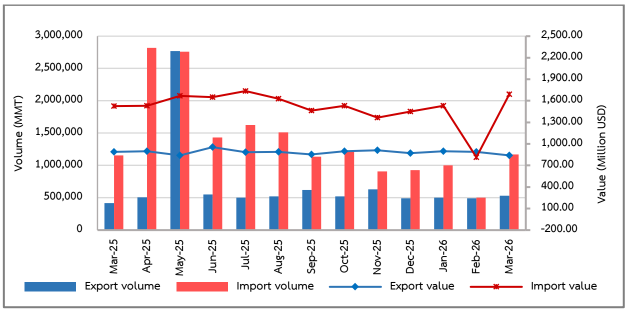
6. Chemical products Industry

Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) — Shipment Index



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

Export/Import Volume and Value of Chemical Products



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

Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) of the chemical products industry in March 2026 expanded by 9.8 percent compared with the same month last year. The basic chemicals segment expanded by 18.6 percent, with higher production of hydrogen gas (+55.3%), methyl ester (biodiesel) (+32.6%), and ethanol (+26.4%). This growth was driven by the impacts of the war and geopolitical tensions in several regions, which caused global energy and petrochemical feedstock prices to remain volatile and elevated, thereby incentivizing domestic manufacturers to accelerate production to substitute imports and meet rising demand. Meanwhile, the downstream chemicals segment expanded by 5.9 percent. Products with expanding production included dishwashing liquid (+15.0%), fabric softener (+13.7%), and soap and skincare products (+13.6%) compared with the same month last year. The expansion was supported by increased demand for essential daily-use products, as global economic uncertainty and the war prompted consumers to place greater emphasis on everyday necessities. As a result, demand for downstream chemical products, which are considered essential goods, continued to expand.

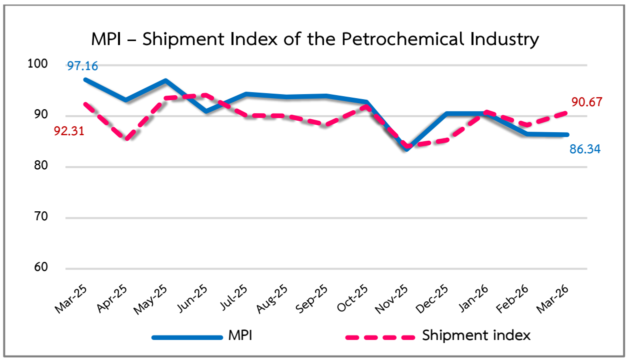
Shipment Index for chemical products industry in March 2026 contracted by 11.1 percent compared with the same month last year. However, the basic chemicals segment expanded by 13.4 percent, driven by products such as hydrogen gas (+29.2%), methyl ester (biodiesel) (+27.0%), and caustic soda (+23.0%) compared with the same month last year. The expansion was mainly driven by energy uncertainty arising from the war and geopolitical tensions, prompting many countries to increase stockpiling and diversify sources of chemical raw materials, which resulted in higher export orders. Additionally, downstream chemicals expanded by 9.8 percent, with products contributing to the expansion including chemical fertilizers (+33.2%), soap and skincare products (+13.8%), and dishwashing liquid (+12.6%) compared with the same month last year. Under the context of uncertainty from the war and global supply chain volatility, many countries accelerated the import of essential goods, supporting continued demand for essential chemical products.

Exports of chemical products in March 2026 expanded by 7.3 percent compared with the same month last year. Exports of the basic chemicals segment expanded by 16.7 percent, while the downstream chemicals segment contracted by 4.3 percent. Products that contributed to the overall export expansion included miscellaneous chemical products (+31.9%), surfactants (+2.0%), and paints (+0.9%) compared with the same month last year. The expansion was supported by continued global demand for basic chemical products amid energy and supply chain uncertainties arising from the war, prompting many countries to increase imports of raw materials for downstream industries. As a result, Thailand's exports of basic chemical products continued to expand.

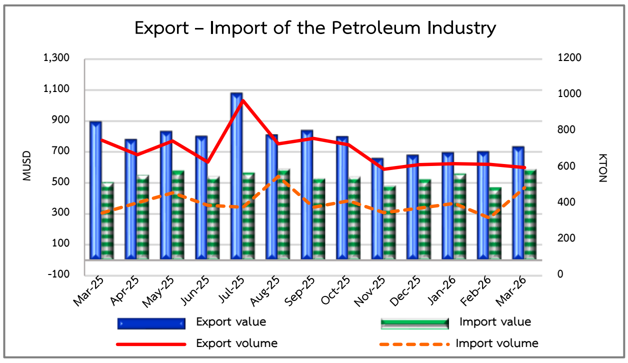
Imports of chemical products in March 2026 expanded by 11.1 percent compared with the same month last year. Imports of the basic chemicals segment expanded by 17.0 percent, and the downstream chemicals segment expanded by 1.7 percent. Products contributing to the overall import expansion included miscellaneous chemical products (+21.3%), cosmetics (+15.8%), and paints (+12.6%) compared with the same month last year. The expansion was supported by increased domestic demand for chemical products in line with the recovery of the manufacturing and consumption sectors. In addition, uncertainty in global supply chains arising from the war and geopolitical tensions prompted manufacturers to increase imports of raw materials and chemical products for stockpiling and future production requirements, contributing to overall import growth.

*"**Chemical Products Industry Outlook for April 2026:** The industry is expected to slow down slightly due to volatility in energy and feedstock prices arising from the war and geopolitical tensions. These factors continue to affect the prices of crude oil, natural gas, and naphtha, which are key feedstocks for the industry. If price volatility remains high, it may affect manufacturers' production planning and put pressure on profit margins."*

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 March 2026, the MPI stood at 86.3, a decrease of 11.1 percent compared with the same month last year, and 0.01 percent compared with the previous month. In the basic petrochemical segment, products such as ethylene decreased by 15.5 percent compared with the same month last year. In the downstream petrochemical segment, PP resin and PE resin declined by 26.6 percent and 21.7 percent, respectively. This contraction resulted from basic petrochemical plants reducing or suspending production due to the conflict affecting the Strait of Hormuz, which disrupted supplies of major raw materials imported from the Middle East.

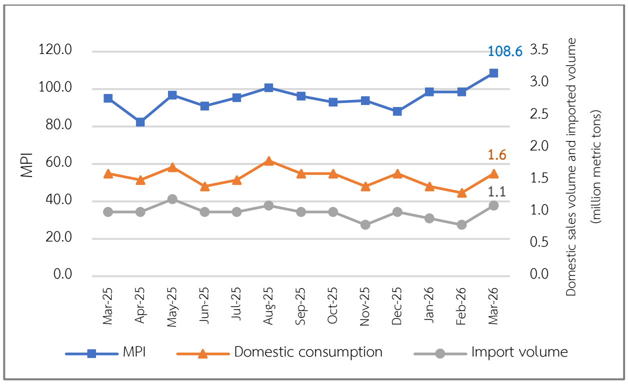
Shipment index: In March 2026, the Shipment Index stood at 90.7, decreasing by 1.8 percent compared with the same month last year, but increasing by 3.1 percent compared with the previous month. In the basic petrochemical segment, products such as toluene decreased by 19.5 percent compared with the same month last year. In the downstream petrochemical segment, PP resin declined by 26.6 percent compared with the same month last year (however, PP resin inventories decreased by 8.7 percent compared with the previous month but increased by 3.9 percent compared with the same month last year).

Exports: In March 2026, exports were valued at USD 734 million, decreasing by 18.0 percent compared with the same month last year, but increasing by 4.4 percent compared with the previous month. The decline was mainly due to lower exports in the downstream petrochemical group, particularly PE resin, which declined by more than 30.3 percent, as well as the basic petrochemical group, particularly terephthalic acid, which declined by 100 percent. Exports began to be affected by slower overseas demand as producers adjusted prices in response to rising raw material costs.

Imports: In March 2026, imports were valued at USD 586 million, increasing by 16.1 percent compared with the same month last year and by 25.3 percent compared with the previous month. The increase was driven by the downstream petrochemical group, particularly PE resin, which increased by more than 28.8 percent, as well as the basic petrochemical group, particularly ethylene glycol, which increased by more than 1,000 percent.

*"**Petrochemical Industry Outlook for April 2026:** The industry is expected to contract compared with the same month last year due to the conflict affecting the Strait of Hormuz, which has disrupted global supplies of crude oil and natural gas. In particular, naphtha, a product derived from crude oil refining and the feedstock for more than 60 percent of petrochemical production, may become unavailable in the market. Basic petrochemical plants that rely primarily on naphtha may suspend production, directly affecting prices of both upstream and downstream petrochemical products, including plastic resins. If the situation persists, petrochemical manufacturers may eventually be forced to reduce production."*

8. Iron and Steel Industry



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

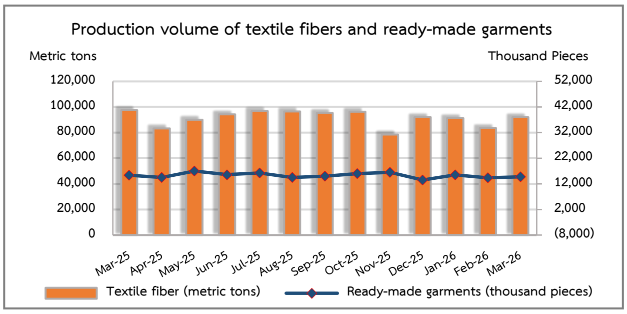
Manufacturing Production Index (MPI): In March 2026, the MPI stood at stood at 108.6, expanding by 14.1 percent compared with the same month last year. The manufacturing index expanded across all product groups, including long products, flat products, and steel pipes. Long products expanded by 14.2 percent, with the highest growth observed in wire rods (+35.6%), followed by round bars and deformed bars, which expanded by 27.7 percent and 20.7 percent respectively. Flat products expanded by 19.2 percent, led by cold-rolled sheets (+28.6%), followed by hot-rolled coils and galvanized sheets, which expanded by 26.2 percent and 14.6 percent respectively. Steel pipes expanded by 7.8 percent.

Domestic Consumption In March 2026, domestic consumption totaled 1.6 million metric tons, contracting by 0.5 percent compared with the same month last year. The contraction was mainly attributable to long products, for which consumption totaled 0.6 million metric tons, declining by 10.8 percent compared with the same month last year due to lower consumption of rebars and structural steel. In contrast, consumption of flat products totaled 1.0 million metric tons, expanding by 6.9 percent compared with the same month last year, driven by higher consumption of galvanized steel sheets, hot-rolled steel sheets, and cold-rolled steel sheets.

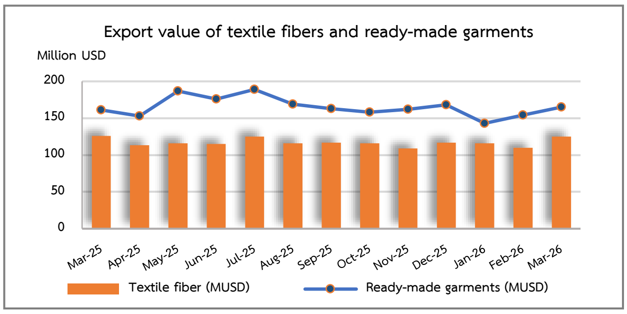
Imports: In March 2026, steel imports totaled 1.1 million metric tons, expanding by 11.2 percent compared with the same month last year, driven by higher imports of flat steel products. Flat steel products recorded an import volume of 0.9 million metric tons, expanding by 17.2 percent. Products recording higher imports included cold-formed steel sections (with higher imports mainly from China); hot-rolled carbon steel sheets, which increased by 106.9 percent (with higher imports mainly from South Korea, China, and Japan); and hot-dip galvanized sheets (with higher imports mainly from China, Taiwan, and South Korea). Long steel products recorded an import volume of 0.2 million metric tons, contracting by 6.4 percent. Products recording lower imports included hot-rolled carbon steel structural sections (with lower imports mainly from India); carbon steel wire rods (with lower imports mainly from Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan); and steel wire (with lower imports mainly from China, South Korea, Taiwan, and Japan).

*"**Iron and Steel Industry Outlook for April 2026**: The manufacturing is expected to expand compared with the same month last year. Key issues to monitor include the government's infrastructure investment measures and the European Union's Safeguard Measures (SG) against increasing steel imports, which will come into effect from July 2026 onwards. The EU measures will reduce the annual steel import quota to 18.4 million metric tons and double the tariff rate for imports exceeding the quota from 25 percent to 50 percent. This will result in higher costs due to the increased tax burden for exports to the EU that exceed the designated quota volume."*

9. Textile and Wearing Apparel Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics



Source: Ministry of Commerce

Production

Textile fiber production contracted by 5.6 percent compared with the same month last year, driven by lower orders for man-made fibers, cotton yarn, and man-made fiber yarn from trading partners.

Fabric production expanded by 12.6 percent compared with the same month last year, particularly in woven cotton fabrics, woven synthetic fabrics, and towels, driven by increased production to support demand from downstream industries.

Ready-made garment production contracted by 1.5 percent compared with the same month last year, particularly in the woven garment segment and knitted garment segment, including outerwear such as sportswear, polo shirts, and baby garments, as well as men's and women's underwear. The conflict in the Middle East has caused energy costs and petrochemical raw material prices to rise sharply, prompting some manufacturers to delay production or reduce production capacity. In addition, economic pressures have led some manufacturers to discontinue production lines and shift to importing products from parent companies for distribution.

Domestic sales

Domestic sales expanded across the supply chain. Textile fibers increased by 1.6 percent, particularly in man-made fibers, cotton yarn, and man-made fiber yarn segment. Fabric sales expanded by 36.9 percent, particularly in woven cotton fabrics and woven synthetic fabric segment, driven by demand for raw materials used in the production of finished goods. Meanwhile, ready-made garment sales increased by 6.6 percent in both woven and knitted garments segment. The conflict in the Middle East prompted some consumers to purchase products in advance amid concerns over future price increases, particularly as energy costs may lead to higher product prices.

"Textile and Wearing Apparel Industry Outlook for April 2026: Exports are expected to slow down compared with April 2025, as the conflict in the Middle East causes volatility in global energy prices, supply chain disruptions, and global economic uncertainty; since the textile and wearing apparel industry is highly integrated into the global supply chain across raw materials (such as synthetic fibers derived from petrochemicals), manufacturing, and exports to major markets like the U.S., the EU, and the Middle East, it remains significantly sensitive to these external factors."

Imports

Imports of yarns and textile fibers contracted by 5.2 percent compared with the same month last year, particularly in the textile fibers for weaving segment, weaving yarn segment, and fine yarn segment. Fabric imports contracted by 13.9 percent compared with the same month last year, particularly in the woven cotton fabric segment, woven synthetic and artificial fiber fabric segment, and other woven fabric segment. The contraction was consistent with the reduction in domestic production capacity, as some manufacturers shifted toward importing ready-made products instead.

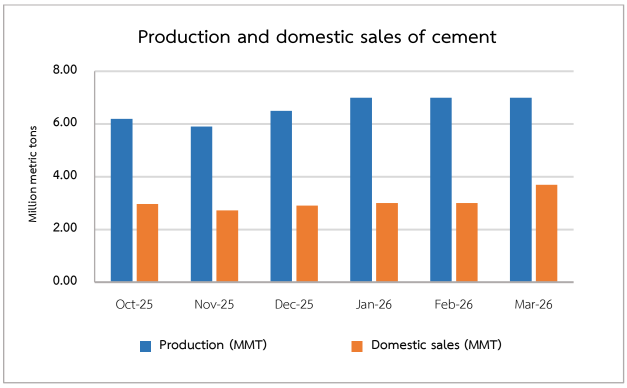
Imports of ready-made garments expanded by 21.8 percent compared with the same month last year, particularly in the suits, trousers and skirts segment, underwear segment, nightwear segment for both men and women, and other apparel segment. The expansion was mainly driven by imports of low-priced products from China, Vietnam, and Bangladesh due to cheaper production costs and lower minimum order quantities (MOQs) compared to domestic manufacturing, alongside a shift in consumer behavior toward affordable Fast Fashion, while imports of high-end ready-made garments from Italy and France also increased.

Exports

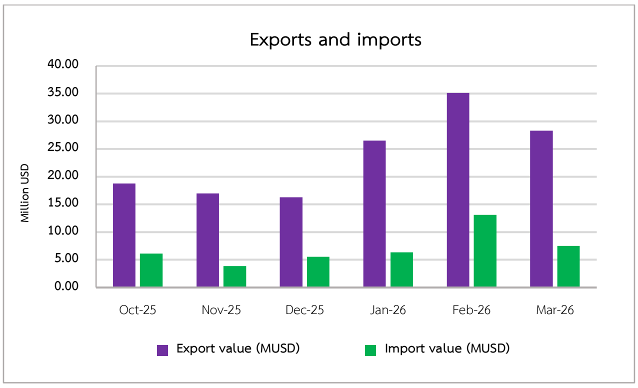
Exports of textile fibers contracted by 0.5 percent compared with the same month last year, due to lower exports of man-made fibers to key trading partners, including China, the U.S., and Pakistan, while exports to Indonesia and India expanded. Fabric exports contracted by 6.2 percent compared with the same month last year, covering both man-made fiber fabrics and other woven fabrics, due to lower exports to key markets, including Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Cambodia, despite increased exports to Myanmar and India.

Exports of ready-made garments expanded by 2.6 percent compared with the same month last year, driven by higher exports of garments made from other woven materials and baby garments to key trading partners, including the U.S., Belgium, the U.K., and Japan. The expansion reflected the gradual delivery of products under orders that had been manufactured in the previous period.

10. Cement Industry



Source: Domestic production and sales volume: Division of Information and Industrial Economic Indices, The Office of Industrial Economics



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

Total cement production amounted to 7.0 million metric tons, decreasing by 3.4 percent compared with the same month last year. This contraction was a result of manufacturers slowing down production to manage risks under the current circumstances, regarding both the economy and security. Key factors include the tension and conflict in the Middle East, which directly channels into rising energy prices, the slowdown in the real estate sector, weak consumer purchasing power, and rising household debt. As of the end of the fourth quarter of 2025, household debt stood at THB 17 trillion, equivalent to 86.7 percent of GDP.

Domestic cement sales totaled 3.7 million metric tons, increasing by 5.8 percent compared with the same month last year. The expansion was supported by demand for cement in infrastructure projects, including high-speed railways and motorways. Additional support came from stronger cement demand following the end of the rainy season, which facilitated construction activities as well as the transportation, storage, and stockpiling of cement. Demand for cement used in home renovation and extension projects also continued to expand, particularly in the second-hand housing market, and has shown growth since February 2026.

Cement exports totaled 0.7 million metric tons, increasing by 16.0% compared with the same month last year. The top three export destinations for Thailand were Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Vietnam, accounting for proportions of 49.2 percent, 21.9 percent, and 7.4 percent respectively.

Cement imports totaled 0.1 million metric tons, increasing by 6.1 percent compared with the same month last year. The top three countries Thailand imported from were Lao PDR, China, and Malaysia, accounting for proportions of 94.6 percent, 2.5 percent, and 0.6 percent respectively.

*“**Cement Industry Outlook for April 2026:** The industry is expected to slow down due to ongoing unrest in the Middle East. This situation directly affects energy costs, a major component of cement production, making it more difficult for manufacturers to plan production effectively. Furthermore, this situation remains a key factor driving inflation, thereby pressuring consumers to delay investments in real estate, including both residential and commercial properties”*

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