



### Industrial Production Status

| Indicators | 2021 | 2022 | 2022 |      |      |      | 2023 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|            | Year | Year | Sep. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May  | Jun. | Jul. | Aug. | Sep. |
| MPI        | 5.8  | 0.4  | 3.0  | -4.3 | -5.3 | -8.5 | -4.8 | -2.4 | -3.9 | -8.7 | -3.1 | -5.0 | -4.7 | -7.8 | -6.1 |

In September 2023, the industrial economic situation, as measured by the **Manufacturing Production Index (MPI)**, contracted by **6.1 percent compared to the same period the previous year**. This contraction was primarily influenced by the fragile global economic conditions and a slow recovery in the domestic economy with risk factors from high levels of household debt and escalating interest rates on loans. This resulted in increased financial costs and debt burdens for entrepreneurs. Nevertheless, there were supportive factors from the expansion of the tourism sector to support domestic consumption, including the decline of the inflation rate.

When considering the MPI data for the past three months compared to the previous year (%YoY), the MPI in June, July and August 2023 contracted by 5.0 percent, 4.7 percent, and 7.8 percent, respectively.

| Indicators | 2022 |      |      |      | 2023 |      |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
|            | Sep. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr.  | May  | Jun. | Jul. | Aug. | Sep. |
| MPI        | -1.9 | -4.2 | 2.1  | -1.8 | 6.1  | -0.1 | 6.2  | -21.3 | 14.3 | -2.2 | -2.0 | 0.8  | -0.1 |

For the past three months (June, July, and August 2023) the Manufacturing Production Index (MPI), compared to the previous month (%MoM), has shown the following rate of changes: a decrease of 2.2 percent in June, a decrease of 2.0 percent in July, but an increase of 0.8 percent in August.

**Key industries that contributed to the MPI contraction in September 2023** compared to the same period last year included:

➤ **Automobile:** The industry contracted by 7.65 percent, mainly driven by pickup trucks and compact cars. The contraction was in line with the slowdown in the domestic car market as a result of income fragility, high levels of household debt, and increased strictness from financial institutions in approving loans. However, the passenger car group still experienced growth in electric cars. Still, it caused the domestic sales of combustion cars to decrease.

➤ **Electronic components and boards:** The industry contracted by 17.69 percent from the impact of the global economic slowdown, coupled with the impact of the US policy to reduce reliance on China, affecting Thailand's supply chain.

➤ **Refined petroleum products:** The industry contracted by 5.05 percent, mainly from high-speed diesel, Gasoline 95, and various types of fuel oil, due to a shutdown of one manufacturer's refinery for maintenance.

**Key industries continued to expand in September 2023** compared to the same month last year included:

➤ **Plastic and synthetic rubber in primary forms:** The industry grew by 12.35 percent, mainly from Polyethylene resin, Ethylene, and Polypropylene resin due to the shutdown of some manufacturers last year for maintenance and an oversupply of products in the market, causing reduced production last year.

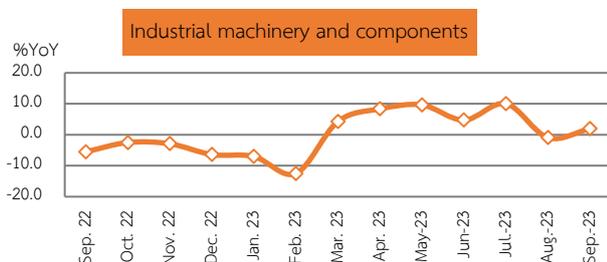
➤ **Sugar:** The industry grew by 74.64 percent as consumption demand increased from both the domestic and export markets. Refined white sugar grew in both the domestic and international markets, with India refraining from exporting sugar into the world market. As a result, Thailand received more orders. The domestic market grew in line with economic activities, especially the tourism sector, which continued to expand.



# Other Industrial Economic Indicators in September 2023

## Other Industrial Economic Indicators in September 2023

### Imports of Thailand Industrial Sector



Source: Ministry of Commerce

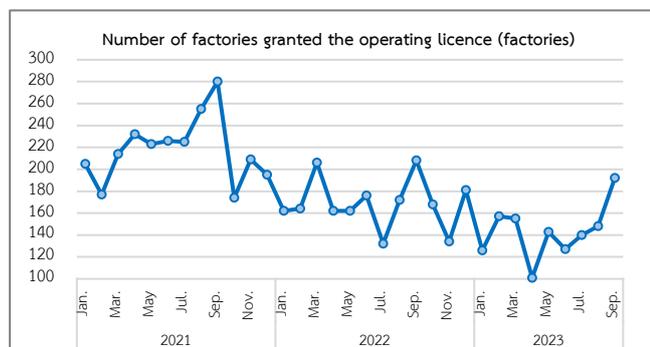


Source: Ministry of Commerce

**+** **Imports of industrial machinery and parts** in September 2023 were valued at 1,412.62 million USD, an increase of 1.96 percent compared to the same month last year. This growth was attributed to increased imports of products such as machinery and equipment used in rubber or plastic processing; metal processing machinery and components, for example.

**-** **Imports of raw and semi-finished goods (excluding gold)** in September 2023 were valued at 8,603.18 million USD, a decrease of 3.22 percent compared to the same month last year. The decline in imports was particularly notable in products such as threads and fibers, chemical products, and rubber products.

## Industrial Operation Status



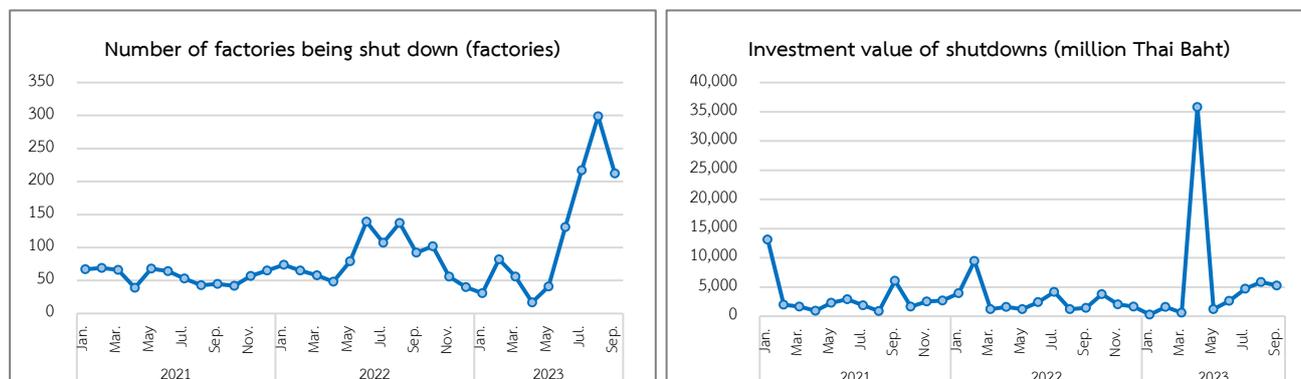
Source: Department of Industrial Works

- + The total number of factories licensed for operation in September 2023 was 192 factories, increasing by 29.73 percent (%MoM) from August 2023 but decreasing by 7.69 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.
- + The total investment from factories licensed for operating in September 2023 decreased by 19.85 percent (%MoM) from August 2023 to 15,822 million Thai Baht but increased by 59.00 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

*“The industry with the highest number of newly licensed factories to operate in September 2023 was the excavation or dredging industry of gravel, sand, or soil (23 factories), followed by the manufacture of concrete, ready-mixed concrete articles, and gypsum products (17 factories).”*

*“In September 2023, the industry with the highest investment value was the industry making, modifying, and repairing dies or jigs for with tools, with an investment value of 4,823 million Thai Baht, followed by the cold room industry, with an investment value of 1,372 million Thai Baht.”*

■ Industrial Operation Status (cont.)



Source: Department of Industrial Works

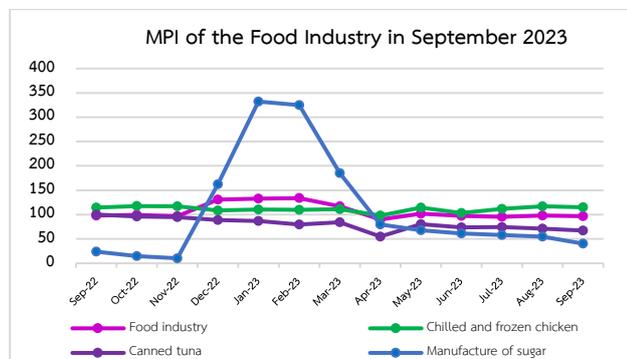
- ⊖ A total of 212 factories were shut down in September 2023, decreasing from August 2023 by 29.10 percent (%MoM) but increasing from the same month last year by 130.43 percent (%YoY).
- ⊖ The lost investment value on shutdown in September 2023 totaled 5,227 million Thai Baht, decreasing from August 2023 by 10.24 percent (%MoM) and increasing from the same month last year by 272.56 percent (%YoY).

*“The industry with the highest number of factory shutdowns in September 2023 was the excavation or dredging industry of gravel, sand, or soil (38 factories), followed by the motor vehicle repair industry (10 factories).”*

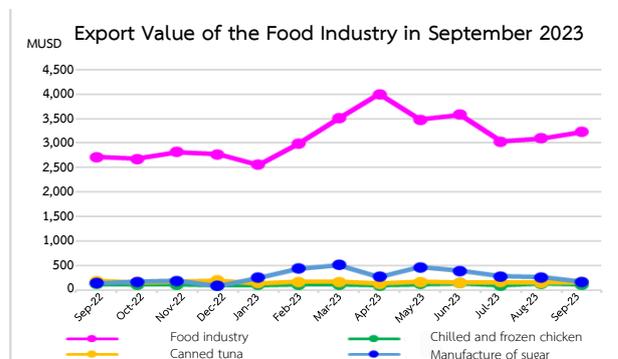
*“The industry with the highest investment value for business shutdown in September 2023 was the manufacture, assembly, modification, or repair of radio and television receivers, with an investment value of 600 million Thai Baht, followed by the jewelry-making industry using diamonds, gemstones, pearls, gold, white gold, and silver, with an investment value of 498 million Thai Baht.”*

## Industrial Economic Status by Industrial Sectors in September 2023

### 1. Food Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics



Source: Ministry of Commerce

**–** The Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) for the food industry in September 2023 decreased by 1.3 percent (%YoY) compared to the same period last year. Food products that slowed down in MPI were: **1) Fishery products**, a decrease of 18.1 percent from canned tuna (-32.8%) percent due to decreased consumption demand in both the domestic and international markets. **2) Cassava**, a decrease of 2.7 percent from tapioca starch (-2.4%) due to an outbreak of cassava leaf spot disease. As a result, the amount of cassava production decreased. **3) Beverages**, a decrease of 1.7 percent from rice whisky, blended spirits, drinking water, and energy drinks, as the purchasing power of consumers slowed down. **4) Livestock**, a decrease of 1.2 percent from seasoned cooked chicken meat (-11.9 %). The decrease was due to a slowdown in consumer purchasing power, resulting in decreased consumption demand.

However, there was a growth in MPI for some food products, including: **1) Sugar**, an increase of 74.6 percent from refined sugar (83.1%) and white sugar (57.6%) due to increased production and consumption demand. In addition, India announced the suspension of sugar exports. As a result, foreign markets like Indonesia imported more sugar from Thailand; **2) Processed fruits and vegetables**, an increase of 10.8 percent from canned sweet corn (104.5%) owing to increased consumption demand in both domestic and international markets.

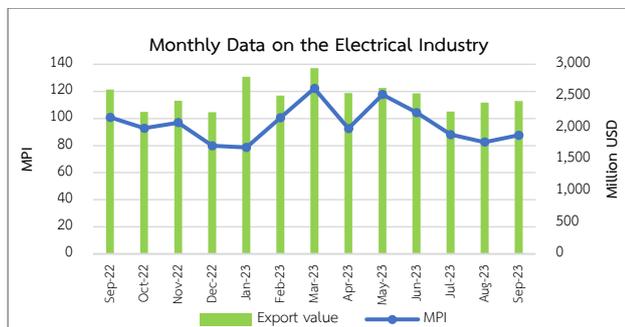
**+** **Domestic sales:** The production volume for domestically sold food products in September 2023 expanded by 3.7 percent (%YoY) in the food product categories including: **1) Other canned fruit**, an increase of 103.8 percent; **2) Canned sweet corn kernels**, an increase of 91.1 percent; **3) Soft drinks**, an increase of 24.1 percent; **4) Refined sugar**, an increase of 22.6 percent; **5) Fruit juices**, an increase of 22.5 percent.

**+** **Export markets:** In September 2023, overall food product exports grew by 18.8 percent compared to the same period last year. The following products contributed to the rise in exports: **1) Rice and grains**, mainly from rice with South Africa and Indonesia being the key markets and cassava products with China and Japan as the key markets; **2) Sugar**, mainly granulated sugar, with Indonesia and Cambodia as key markets; **3) Vegetable and animal oils and fats**, mainly from palm oil, with India being the key palm oil export market. On the other hand, the value of beverage exports grew by 0.8 percent compared to the same period last year.

*“Industry Outlook for October 2023: The overall industry is expected to slow down compared to the same period last year from the economic situation that is still slowing down. In addition, the depreciation of the Thai Baht affects the costs of businesses importing products to sell in the country. However, domestic consumption and the tourism sector still have positive outlooks for growing domestic demand and an increasing number of foreign tourists. The value of exports is expected to grow from product orders from trading partners that have increased to prepare for year-end festivities. In addition, the Israeli-Palestinian unrest has caused many countries to import more products due to food security concerns.”*

## 2. Electrical and Electronics Industry

### ■ Electrical Industry



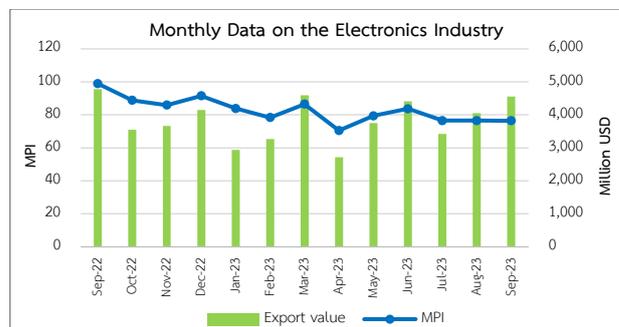
Source: The Office of Industrial Economics, Electrical and Electronics Institute, and Ministry of Commerce

➔ **Production of electrical appliances:** The MPI stood at 87.6 points, decreasing by 13.1 percent compared to the same month last year. Products with decreased MPI included transformer (-64.9%), thermo pots (-41.4%), compressors (-38.4%), electric motors (-26.8%), microwave ovens (-14.0%), air-conditioners (-13.1%), cables (-7.2%) and fan (-2.0%). This was due to decreased domestic demand and overseas orders. However, certain products experienced an increase in production, such as power lines (55.1%), washing machines (24.1%), rice cookers (10.2%), and refrigerators (8.20%), as domestic demand and orders from overseas have increased.

➔ **Exports of electrical appliances:** Exports amounted to 2,419.9 million USD, a decrease of 7.0 percent compared to the same month of the previous year. Among products that had reduced orders included microwave ovens, valued at 15.9 million USD, decreasing by 36.6 percent; air conditioners and components, valued at 426.2 million USD, decreasing by 27.7 percent; fans, valued at 42.4 million USD, declining by 20.5 percent; switchboards and control panels for electricity, valued at 230.2 million USD, decreasing by 13.8 percent; electrical circuit breakers and protectors, valued at 167.4 million USD, decreasing by 5.5 percent; motors and generators, valued at 72.8 million USD, decreasing by 0.7 percent. Meanwhile, products with increased orders included transformers and components, valued at 444.3 million USD, increasing by 46.4 percent; washing/dry cleaning machines, and components, valued at 114.4 million USD, increasing by 19.4 percent; refrigerators, freezers, and components, valued at 184.1 million USD, increasing by 9.0 percent; power lines and cables, valued at 91.1 million USD, increasing by 1.7 percent.

*“Production Outlook for October 2023: The electrical appliances industry is expected to contract compared to the same month last year due to the decline in global demand and the global economy that has yet to recover.”*

### ■ Electronics Industry



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

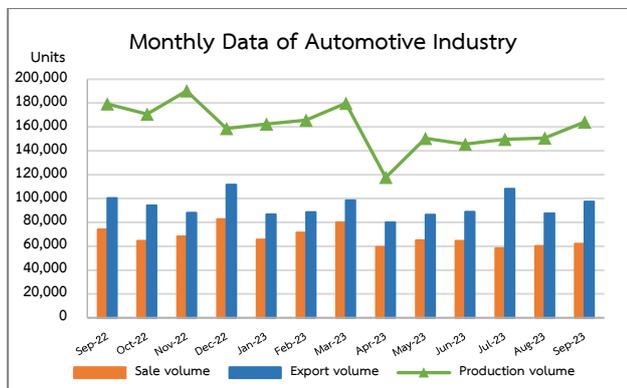
➔ **Production of electronic products** reached an MPI of 76.4 points, decreasing by 22.8 percent compared to the same month last year. Products that contracted in production were PCBAs (-40.9%), semiconductor devices (transistors) (-38.0%), printers (-31.1%), HDDs (-16.3%), ICs (-16.2%), and PWAs (-7.0%) due to a decrease in domestic demand and international orders.

➔ **Exports of electronic products** reached a value of 4,511.7 million USD, a decrease of 4.7 percent compared to the same month last year. Products that experienced a decrease in orders were Hard Disk Drives (HDDs), with export value of 1,055.3 million USD, a decrease of 33.7 percent, mainly in the US, Hong Kong, and Europe; printed circuit board assemblies (PCBAs), with export value of 109.4 million USD, a decrease of 15.2 percent in China, Japan, and Vietnam markets. Nevertheless, products with increased orders were semiconductor devices (transistors and diodes), valued at 415.9 million USD, an increase of 28.8 percent in the US, China, and Taiwan markets; circuit boards, with export value of 832.7 million USD, increased 5.1 percent in Hong Kong, China, and the US markets.

*“Production Outlook for October 2023: It is expected that the electronics industry will experience a decline in production compared to the same month in the previous year due to high production costs and insufficient raw materials meeting the global market demand.”*

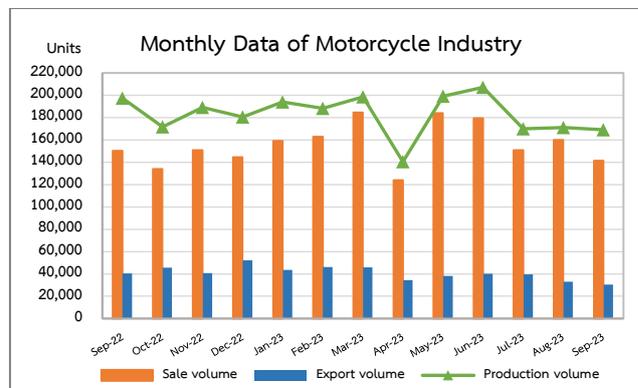
### 3. Automotive Industry

#### ■ Automotive Manufacturing Industry



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

#### ■ Motorcycle Manufacturing Industry



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

**+** **Production of automobiles** in September 2023 reached 164,093 units, an increase from August 2023 by 8.92 percent (%MoM) but a decrease from the same month last year by 8.45 percent (%YoY). The decrease was among of the manufacture of passenger cars, one-ton pickup trucks and derivatives, and commercial automobiles.

**+** **Domestic automobile sales** in September 2023 reached 62,086 units, an increase of 3.07 percent from August 2023 (%MoM) but a decrease from the same month last year by 16.27 percent (%YoY). This decline can be attributed to reduced sales of one-ton pickups, primarily due to elevated household debts. As a result, financial institutions have stricter lending processes. Additionally, it was anticipated that interest rates would rise, which in turn affected domestic demand.

**+** **Automobile exports** in September 2023 reached 97,476 units, an increase from August 2023 by 11.33 percent (%MoM) but a decrease from the same month last year by 2.90 percent (%YoY). Exports experienced declined in Asia, Oceania, and Africa markets.

*“Automobile industry outlook for October 2023: The industry is anticipated to slow down compared to October 2022 owing to the slowdown of the domestic market.”*

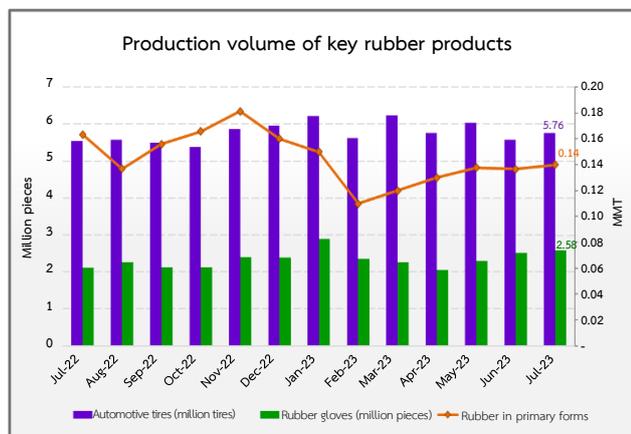
**-** **Production of motorcycles** in September 2023 reached 169,054 units, a decrease from August 2023 by 1.29 percent (%MoM) and a decrease of 14.38 percent from the same month last year (%YoY). The decline was driven by reduced production of multipurpose and sport motorcycles.

**-** **Motorcycle sales** in September 2023 reached 141,455 units, a decrease from August 2023 by 11.66 percent (%MoM) and a decrease from the same month last year by 5.88 percent (%YoY). The decline was driven by reduced sales of motorcycles sized between 51-110 cc and 126 – 250 cc.

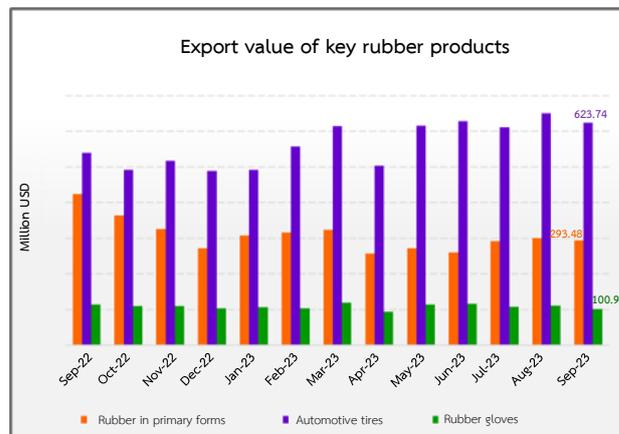
**-** **Exports of CBU motorcycle** in September 2023 reached 30,321 units, a decrease from August 2023 by 8.39 percent (%MoM) and a decrease by 24.95 percent from the same month last year (%YoY), as exports dropped in China, the US, and Australia markets.

*“Motorcycle industry outlook for October 2023: The industry is anticipated to decline compared to October 2022 owing to the slowdown of export markets.”*

#### 4. Rubber and Rubber Product Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics



Source: Ministry of Commerce

##### Production

➖ Processed rubber in primary forms (sheet rubber, block rubber, and concentrated latex) decreased by 14.92 percent due to the decreased production of sheet rubber, block rubber, and concentrated latex.

➕ Automotive tires increased by 3.70 percent due to the increased production for passenger cars.

➕ Rubber gloves increased by 22.43 percent due to the continued decline in demand in the global markets.

##### Domestic Sales

➕ Processed rubber in primary forms (sheet rubber, block rubber, and concentrated latex) decreased by 11.60 percent due to an increase in demand for concentrated latex and block rubber in downstream industries.

➖ Automotive tires decreased by 41.72 percent as per the deacceleration of the domestic automobile industry and the REM (Replacement Equipment Manufacturer) market.

➕ Sales of rubber gloves increased by 35.40 percent due to high demand for medical rubber gloves in the country.

##### Exports

➖ Processed rubber in primary forms (sheet rubber, block rubber, and concentrated latex) decreased in export value by 29.88 percent. This decrease can be attributed to reduced exports of sheet rubber to Japan, block rubber to South Korea and the US, along with decreased exports of concentrated latex to China.

➕ Automotive tires increased in export value by 15.49 percent due to a good growth of exports to the US market.

➖ Rubber gloves decreased in export value by 12.00 percent as demand in the global market has dropped.

##### Industry Outlook for October 2023

The production of primary processed rubber (rubber sheets, rubber blocks, and concentrated latex) is expected to slow down due to decreasing demand for sheet rubber, block rubber, and concentrated latex in significant export markets, especially Japan, the US, and China markets. However, automotive tire production is expected to expand again to meet the needs of overseas markets, especially in the US and Australia, which are Thailand’s major export markets for the automotive tire industry. Rubber glove production is expected to expand mainly to meet domestic demand, coupled with the low production figures from last year. The domestic sales of rubber gloves are expected to grow continuously owing to the increased demand for medical rubber gloves.

The export of processed rubber in primary forms (sheet rubber, block rubber, and concentrated latex) is expected to decrease in value. This decrease is a result of key export markets, such as Japan, the US, China, South Korea, and Malaysia, which tend to delay orders for such products from Thailand. As for automotive tires, the export is anticipated to increase in value, driven by a resurgence in demand for automobile tires in key markets. However, the export value of rubber gloves is predicted to decline due to lower demand in global markets, including the US, China, and European countries, compared to previous periods.

## 5. Plastics Industry

### MPI and Shipment Index



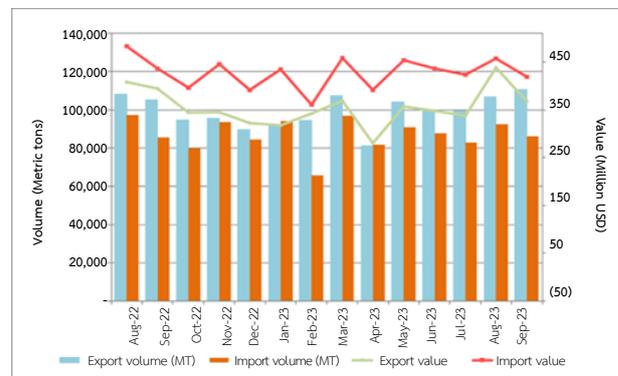
Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

➔ **The Manufacturing Production Index (MPI)** in September 2023 decreased by 5.58 percent compared to the same period last year. Many plastic products decreased in MPI, such as plastic sacks (-22.29%), plastic bags (-15.12%), and other articles of plastics (-11.54%) compared to the same period last year.

➔ **The shipment index** in September 2023 decreased by 3.78 percent. Many plastic products decreased in shipment index, such as plastic sacks (-17.52%), plastic bags (-14.75%), and other plastic packaging (-5.79%) compared to the same period last year.

➔ **Exports** in September 2023 were valued at 367.60 million USD, a decrease of 6.83 percent compared to the same period last year. Products contributing to the decline in exports included articles for the conveyance or packing of goods (HS 3923) (-19.45%), household articles (HS 3924) (-14.17%); plates, sheets, film, foil and other strips of cellular plastics. (HS 3921) (-7.21%) compared to the same period last year.

### Volume and Value of Exports and Imports



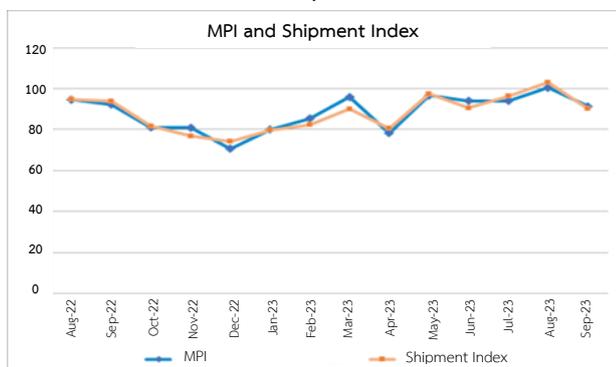
Source: Information and Communication Technology Center, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, in cooperation with the Customs Department

➔ **Imports** in September 2023 were valued at 419.32 million USD, a decrease of 3.88 percent compared to the same period last year. Key products contributing to the decline in imports were sanitary ware of plastics (HS 3922) (-26.94%), monofilament (HS 3916) (-19.00%), and household articles of plastics (HS 3924) (-10.01%) compared to the same period last year.

*“Plastics Industry Outlook for October 2023: Production is anticipated to slow down owing to higher production costs, a decrease in end-user demand, and most buyers waiting to see the situation. Exports shrink in key markets, such as the US, Japan, and Vietnam.”*

## 6. Chemical products Industry

MPI and Shipment Index



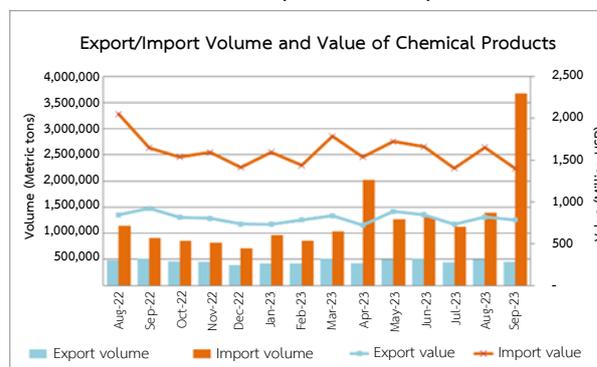
Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

**Manufacturing Production Index (MPI):** In September 2023, the MPI experienced a contraction of 1.03 percent compared to the same period last year. The basic chemicals decreased by 0.90 percent. Among the products that experienced a contraction were ethanol (-9.43%) and hydrochloric acid (-0.88%) compared to the same period last year. Moreover, the downstream chemicals also faced a decline of 1.08 percent. Among the products produced within this group, the products that experienced a contraction included talcum powder (-43.59%), fabric softeners (-12.12%), and industrial paints (-6.48%) compared to the same period last year.

**Shipment Index:** In September 2023, the index decreased by 3.88 compared to the same period last year. The basic downstream chemicals' shipment index declined by 6.26 percent. Among the products produced within this group, the products that experienced a decrease were hydrochloric acid (-12.98%), ethanol (-12.27%), and caustic soda (-5.54%). As for the downstream chemicals, there was a decline of 3.18 percent. The products that experienced a contraction were talcum powder (-43.29%), fabric softeners (-12.34%), and industrial paints (-9.16%) compared to the same period last year.

**Exports:** In September 2023, the total export value amounted to 785.96 million USD, a decrease from the same period last year by 7.08 percent. The export value of the basic chemicals was 434.97 million USD, a decrease of 9.84 percent. As for the downstream chemicals, the export value was 351.00 million USD, an increase of 3.40 percent compared to the same period last year. Products contributing to the decrease in export value included chemical fertilizers (-51.58%), organic chemicals (-21.82%), and miscellaneous chemicals (-19.46%) compared to the same period last year.

Volume and Value of Exports and Imports

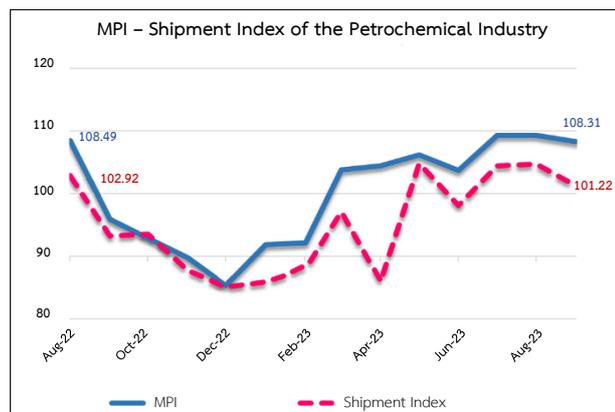


Source: Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

**Imports:** In September 2023, imports decreased in value by 31.79 percent to a total value of 1,398.36 million USD compared to the same period last year. Imports of basic chemicals decreased in value by 34.67 percent, amounting to 870.77 million USD compared to the same period last year. Additionally, the import value of the downstream chemical products decreased by 26.42 percent to a value of 527.0 million USD compared to the same period last year. Products contributing to the reduced import included inorganic chemicals (-39.79%), surfactants (-19.71%), and miscellaneous chemicals (-19.27%).

*"Chemical industry outlook for October 2023: It is expected that oil price fluctuations and concerns about the global economic slowdown will cause manufacturers to take a wait-and-see approach for the raw material cost situation and produce goods based on orders. As for exports of oil-related products such as plastic pellets and chemical exports, they will decrease in major markets such as India, China, and Vietnam."*

## 7. Petrochemical Industry

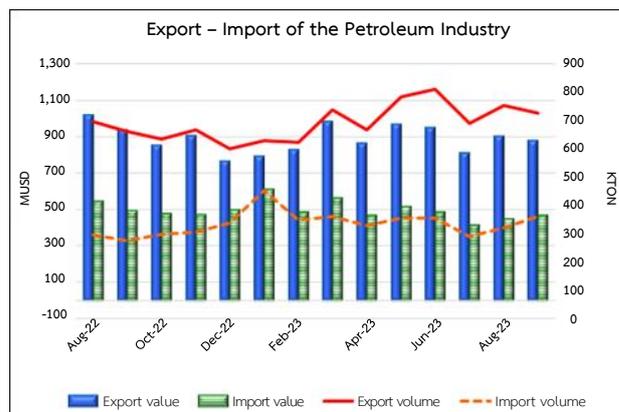


Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

**+** The **Manufacturing Production Index** in September 2023 stood at 108.31, an improvement of 13.24 percent compared to the same period last year, but decreased by 0.91 percent compared to the previous month, from basic petrochemicals, namely Propylene, which grew by 22.37 percent compared to last year. In addition, downstream petrochemicals, including PE resin and PP resin, grew by 18.99 percent and 18.75 percent compared to the same period last year. This was a result of slowing down production and waiting for maintenance shutdowns of upstream petrochemical plants during the previous year.

**+** The **shipment index** stood at 101.22 points; an increase of 8.63 percent compared to the same period last year but a decrease of 3.36 percent from the previous month. This growth was observed in both basic petrochemicals, such as Ethylene, which increased by 13.19 percent compared to the same period last year, and in downstream petrochemicals, including PP resin, which increased by 32.01 percent compared to the same period last year.

**-** **Exports** in September 2023 were valued at 882.25 million USD, a decrease of 6.18 percent compared to last year and by 2.55 percent compared to the previous month. The contraction was from a decrease in downstream petrochemicals, such as PP resin, and a decrease in basic petrochemicals, such as Propylene, due to the market situation characterized by speculation and waiting for prices to decrease. In addition, the demand for production in downstream industries decreased.

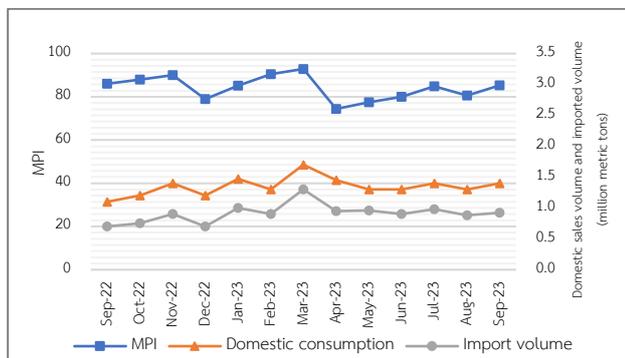


Source: Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

**-** **Imports** in September 2023 were valued at 471.17 million USD, a decrease of 4.42 percent compared to the same period last year but an increase from last month by 4.92 percent. The decrease was observed in both basic petrochemicals, such as Styrene, and downstream petrochemicals, such as PP resin.

*“Outlook for October 2023: The overall manufacturing industry is expected to show signs of improvement compared to the same period last year. This improvement is attributed to the resumption of production following maintenance activities earlier in the year. However, production expansion in the petrochemical industry remains limited due to a decrease in demand for plastics; the slowdown of exports, especially basic petrochemicals such as Ethylene and Propylene; the price fluctuations following the crude oil prices affected by production halts in many countries; and from the on-going conflict between Ukraine and Russia.”*

## 8. Iron and Steel Industry



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

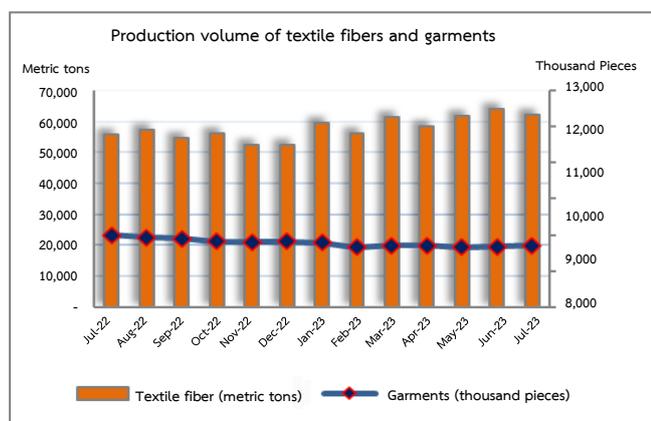
**⚠ Manufacturing Production Index (MPI):** In September 2023, the index stood at 85.3 points, a contraction of 1.5 percent compared to the same period last year. The contraction was due to the slowdown in downstream industries, such as food packaging, coupled with reduced production volumes following fewer orders. When considering the key products, the MPI of the steel industry shrank in both flat-formed and long-formed steel. Flat products contracted from tinplates, which contracted by 67.5 percent. Meanwhile, long products contracted from round bars and wire rods, which contracted by 37.0 percent and 5.3 percent, respectively.

**⊕ Domestic consumption** in September 2023 amounted to 1.4 million metric tons, increasing by 19.5 percent compared to the same period last year. Consumption of both flat products and long products grew. Consumption of long products reached 0.5 million metric tons, an increase of 15.0 percent from consumption of rebars and structural steel sections, including wires. The consumption of flat products reached 0.8 million metric tons, an increase of 22.5 percent primary from consumption of galvanized sheets and hot-rolled sheets.

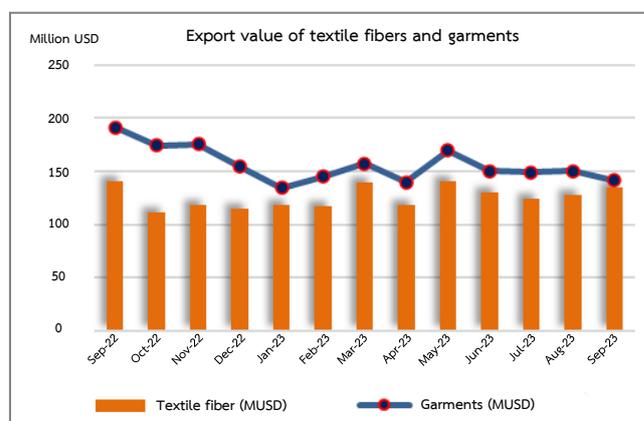
**⊕ Imports:** In September 2023, the import volume amounted to 0.92 million metric tons, increasing from the same month last year by 25.9 percent. This growth in import volume occurred in both long products and flat products. Import volume of long products amounted to 0.23 million metric tons, an increase of 3.4 percent. Among long products that experienced an increase in imports were hot-rolled carbon steel plates (with increased imports primarily from South Korea and Taiwan); stainless steel rebars (with increased imports primarily from Japan, South Korea, and India); carbon steel wire rods (with increased imports primarily from Indonesia, China, Malaysia, Vietnam, Japan, and South Korea). As for flat products, imports reached 0.69 million metric tons, increasing by 35.5 percent. Flat products that increased in imports were hot-dip galvanized sheets (with increased imports primarily from China, Vietnam, and Taiwan); hot-rolled alloy steel plates (with increased imports primarily from China, Japan, and Sweden); hot-rolled carbon steel sheets (with increased imports primarily from Japan, China, and the US).

*“Iron Industry Outlook for October 2023: Production is anticipated to decrease slightly compared to the same period last year. This is because the global market's raw material prices (billets, iron ore, and scrap iron) are expected to decline, leading consumers to delay orders to assess price directions. However, it is expected that the acceleration of constructions of government, state enterprise, and private sectors following the recovery of tourism sector will help stimulate domestic production and consumption. In addition, there are important issues that should be followed such as the global economic and trade situation, international steel prices, and China's steel industry policies, as China is a major global producer, consumer, and exporter of steel.”*

## 9. Textile and Wearing Apparel Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics



Source: Ministry of Commerce

### Production

➕ Textile fiber production increased by 9.88 percent (%YoY) for a second consecutive month for the second month, particularly within man-made fibers like polyester and rayon. This growth was driven by growing demand from both domestic and international markets, aiming to fulfill the requirements of the green trend and address consumers' environmental concerns. Notably, these fibers possess outstanding quality, flexibility, and wrinkle resistance, do not require ironing, are easy to wash, and exhibit quick-drying properties.

➖ Fabric production decreased by 8.20 percent (%YoY) within cotton fabrics, woven synthetic fiber fabrics, and towels. Garment production also dropped by 23.15 percent (%YoY); however, it increased by 3.11 percent compared to last month, particularly woven and knitted garments.

### Domestic sales

➖ Textile fiber sales contracted by 5.94 percent (%YoY). Fabrics shrank by 7.93 percent (%YoY), while apparel shrank by 12.34 percent (%YoY). This was an effect of growing inflation that affected sales, profits, and costs. Businesses reduced purchases of raw materials and production capacity.

### Imports

➖ Yarns and fiber imports contracted by 45.26 percent (%YoY), and fabric imports also contracted by 7.82 percent.

➕ Imports of garments grew by 5.60 percent (%YoY) in important markets, including China, to support public spending from domestic demand that continued to recover.

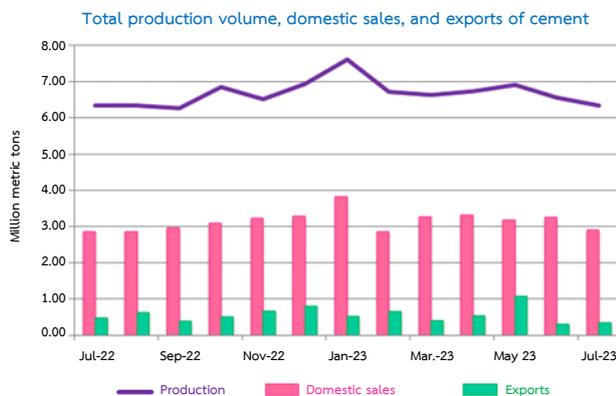
### Exports

➖ Textile fiber exports contracted by 3.99 percent (%YoY) in key markets, including Japan, China, and India. Fabric exports also decreased by 15.95 percent (%YoY) in key markets such as Vietnam, Myanmar, and Cambodia. Garment also saw a decline of 26.33 percent (%YoY) in major markets, including the US, Japan, and Hong Kong. This decline is primarily due to reduced orders from key trading partners, partly driven by environmental concerns. In response to the sustainability trend, textile manufacturers and clothing importers, particularly in Denmark and Nordic countries, have been emphasizing the use of biodegradable and recycled materials in clothing production. As a result, Thailand's textile and clothing exports contracted throughout the supply chain.

### Industry Outlook for October 2023

The textile and wearing apparel manufacturing industry is anticipated to slow down in line with the global economic situation. However, the ongoing geopolitical tensions, fluctuating exchange rates affecting exports, and energy shortages in Europe may be pressing pressure, causing a slowdown in the economies of trading partner countries. Moreover, elevated production costs, encompassing energy prices, electricity rates, raw material expenses, stringent financial conditions, and increasing loan interest rates, persistently impact Thailand's competitiveness.

## 10. Cement Industry



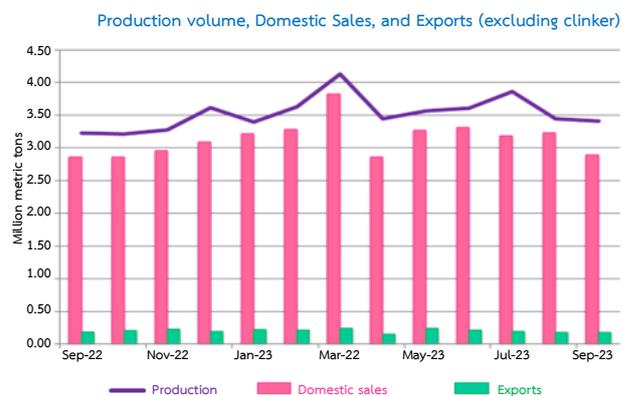
Source: 1. Domestic production and sales volume: Division of Information and Industrial Economic Indices, The Office of Industrial Economics  
2. Export volume: Information and Communication Technology Center, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

➖ **Total production of cement:** In September 2023, the production amounted to 6.34 million metric tons, a decrease of 0.10 percent from the same month last year (%YoY) as a result of decreased demand and orders for clinker.

➕ **Total domestic cement sales:** In September 2023, sales reached 2.91 million metric tons, a decrease of 1.67 percent compared to the same month last year (%YoY) from the acceleration of construction of government projects and real estate such as residential houses and condominiums.

➖ **Total cement exports:** In September 2023, exports reached 0.35 million metric tons, a decrease of 26.35 percent (%YoY) compared to the same month last year. This was primarily attributed to the reduced orders from key export markets, including the Bangladesh, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Cambodia.

*“Cement industry outlook for October 2023: The overall industry is expected to expand due to the acceleration of government project construction at the end of the year and stimulus on the sales of the real estate sector, especially housing developments and condominiums.”*



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

➖ **Cement production (excluding clinker)** in September 2023 reached 3.41 million metric tons, an increase of 5.69 percent (%YoY) compared to the same month last year from demand of the domestic market.

➖ **Domestic cement sales (excluding clinker)** in September 2023 reached 2.90 million metric tons, an increase of 1.31 percent compared to the same month last year (%YoY), from growth in the real estate sector and repairs of buildings after flooding in some areas.

➖ **Exports of cement (excluding clinker)** in September 2023 reached 0.18 million metric tons, a decrease from the same month last year by 1.12 percent (%YoY). This was primarily attributed to the decrease in orders from key export markets, including the Philippines, Vietnam, and Cambodia.

*“Cement industry (excluding clinker) outlook for October 2023: The industry is anticipated to grow from the acceleration of construction of the real estate sector, including housing developments, commercial buildings, and condominiums, to stimulate the market at the end of the year, together with an increasing number of orders from key markets.”*