

Industrial Production Status

Indicators	2020	2021	2021									2022			
%YoY	Year	Year	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
MPI	-9.5	5.9	18.2	26.0	18.6	3.7	-4.9	0.4	2.7	4.6	6.7	2.0	2.5	0.4	0.6

The industrial economy in April 2022, when considered from the Manufacturing Production Index (MPI), increased by 0.6 percent from the same period last year from the COVID-19 situation in many countries, there is a tendency to relax causing the relaxation of COVID-19 control measures both in the country and in many countries around the world, this included opening the country. As a result, economic activity began to recover gradually.

When considering MPI data for the past three months compared to the previous year (%YoY), in January 2022 increased by 2.0 percent, February 2022 increased by 2.5 percent and March 2022 increased by 0.4 percent.

In the past three months (January, February and March 2022), the MPI change rates (%MoM) were as

Indicators	2021									2022			
%MoM	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
MPI	-16.6	9.7	-2.0	-8.3	-3.6	9.3	2.9	3.3	1.5	2.1	-2.6	8.1	-16.5

follows: in January 2022, increased by 2.1 percent, February 2022, decreased by 2.6 percent and March 2022, increased by 8.1 percent.

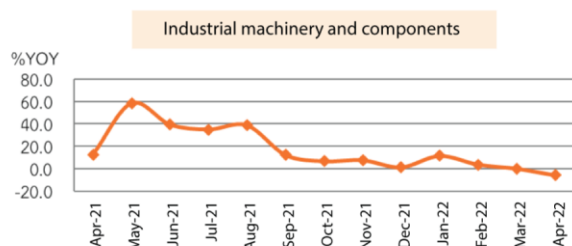
Key industries that contributed to the MPI expansion in April 2022 when compared to the same month of the previous year are:

- **Automobiles** increased by 12.82 percent according to the expansion of the domestic market and export market. This was partly due to rising agricultural prices including increasing orders from trading partners.
- **Petroleum refining** increased by 12.53 percent as the economy gradually recovered after the relaxed pandemic control measures increased domestic travel transport.
- **Other non-tire rubber** increased by 23.41 percent from the production of block rubber. This was due to a labor infection last year, which resulted in lower production than usual. Furthermore, the economies of the major trading partners have improved this year, resulting in a steady increase in orders.
- **Real jewelry** increased by 35.95 percent from the recovery of the world economy and opening of cities in many countries. The easing of measures has resulted in more tourists traveling and spending on luxury goods.
- **Electronic components** increased by 6.22 percent according to the demand in the global market that continues to expand.

Other Industrial Economic Indicators in April 2022

Other Industrial Economic Indicators in April 2022

■ Imports of Thailand's Industrial Sector



Source: Ministry of Commerce

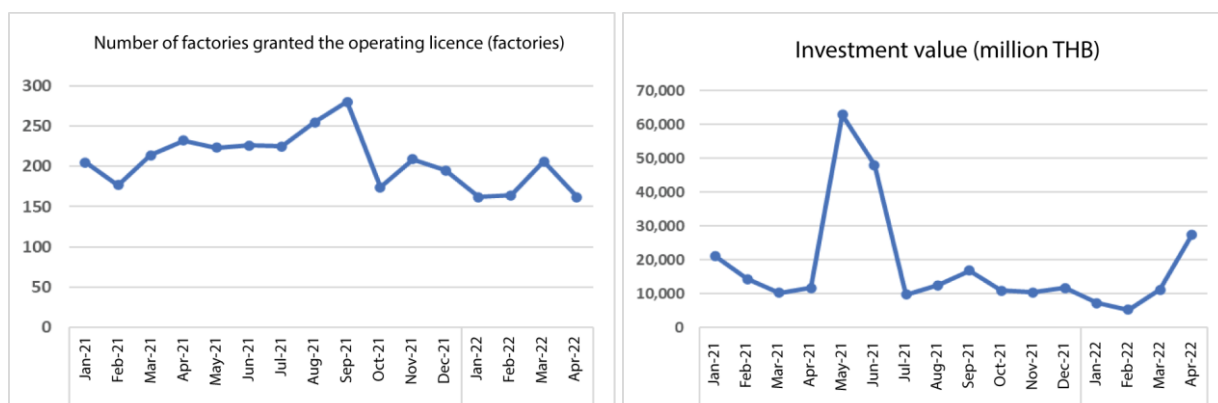


Source: Ministry of Commerce

❌ In April 2022, imports of industrial machinery and components valued at 1,328.45 million USD contracted by 5.7 percent compared to the same month of the previous year from machines in the printing industry, metal processing machinery and components. However, the import of the puppet base, formwork, machinery used in construction and components, jets, turbines and components can still expand.

✅ In April 2022, imports of raw and semi-finished goods (excluding gold) valued at 9,680.0 million USD grew by 10.1 percent compared to the same month of the previous year. Expanding from equipment, electrical and electronic components, circuit board types, diodes, transistors and semiconductors, fertilizers including other metal ores, scrap metal and products, copper and products and aluminum and products.

Industrial Operation Status



Source: Department of Industrial Works

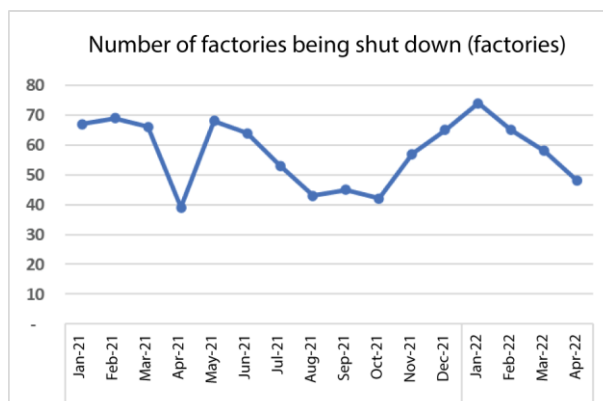
Source: Department of Industrial Works

- ➖ The total number of factories licensed for operation in April 2022 was 162 factories, decreasing by 21.4 percent (%MoM) from March 2022 and decreasing by 30.2 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.
- ➕ The total investment from factories licensed for operating in April 2022 has a total value of 27,477 million THB, increasing by 146.2 percent (%MoM) from March 2022 and increasing by 134.6 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

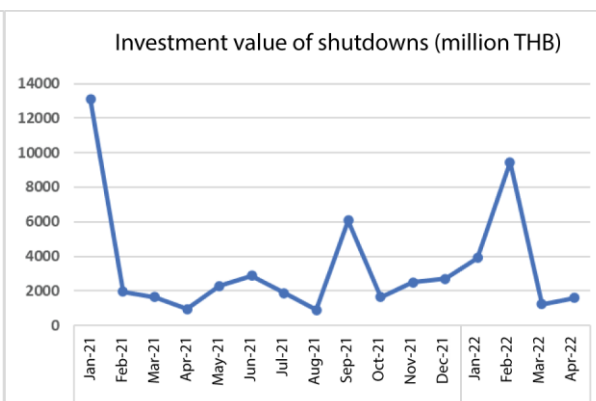
“The industry with the highest number of factories that started operations in April 2022 was the industry of concrete product and concrete mixed with gypsum product manufacturing (27 factories), followed by the industry of digging or peeling gravel, sand or soil (20 factories).”

“The industry with the highest investment value in April 2022 is the industry for making, assembling, modifying or changing automobiles, with capital amounting to 17,174 million THB, followed by the industry of plastic pellet making sticks, pipes, bulbs, sheets, floors, powder or various shapes with a capital of 1,307 million THB.”

■ Industrial Operation Status (Cont.)



Source: Department of Industrial Works



Source: Department of Industrial Works

➕ A total of 48 factories were shut down in April 2022, decreasing by 17.2 percent (%MoM) from March 2022 but increasing by 23.1 percent (%YoY) from the same month of the previous year.

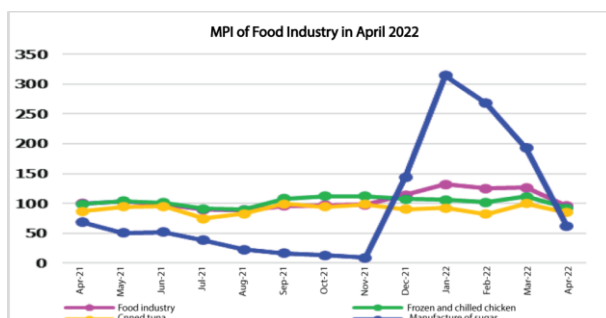
🚫 The lost investment value from shutdowns in April 2022 totaled 1,601 million THB, increasing by 31.4 percent (%MoM) from March 2022 and increasing by 69.9 percent (%YoY) from the same month of the previous year.

“In April 2022, the industry with the highest number of factory shutdowns was the industry of digging or peeling gravel, sand or soil (5 factories).”

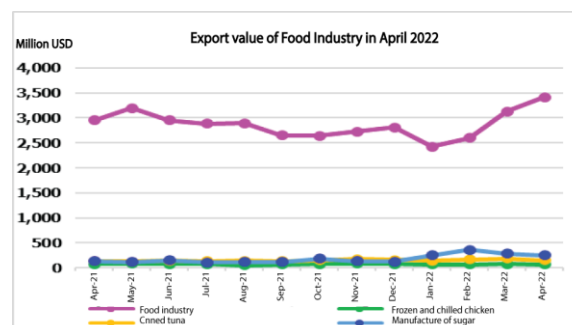
“The industry with the highest investment value in April 2022 is the industry of electric power plants with capital amounting to 784 million THB, followed by the industry of scrap metal pressing with a capital of 180 million THB.”

Industrial Economic Status by Industrial Sectors in April 2022

1. Food Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics



Source: Ministry of Commerce

Food production index: In April 2022, decreased by 4.3 percent (%YoY) compared to the same period last year due to the effects of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. As a result, the price of raw materials and energy in transportation is still at a high level. The food products group with the production index contracted are as follows: 1) Palm oil contracted by 16.1 percent from the main product is refined palm oil which contracted by 20.5 percent because bottled palm oil producers are cutting back on production, due to the high cost of palm raw materials, producers have been unable to adjust the selling price of bottled palm oil to reflect the true cost and crude palm oil also contracted by 12.5 percent. This was due to the reduction of crude palm oil content in the biodiesel blend to B5 and the slowdown in bottled palm oil production. 2) Sugar contracted by 9.5 percent from the main product is white sugar which contracted by 41.7 percent and refined sugar contracted by 15.6 percent because during the same period last year, the factory stopped buying the sugarcane on 31st March 2021, that affected the factory in April 2022, which primarily produces white sugar and refined sugar, resulting in a high base of production of such products. 3) Fisheries contracted by 4.1 percent from the main product including frozen shrimp which contracted by 10.8 percent due to the slowdown in domestic consumption and canned tuna contracted by 2.2 percent due to the high price of raw tuna and canned packaging. This is due to the energy costs of transporting raw materials. 4) Livestock contracted by 1.7 percent from the main product including frozen and chilled chicken meat which contracted by 4.2 percent as the price of chicken increased in line with the cost of feed. As a result, the consumption of the domestic market slowed down.

However, some food production indexes that expanded are as follows: Cassava grew by 12.3 percent from the key product is tapioca starch which grew by 13.5 percent due to consumer demand of domestic and international markets especially China, which is the main export market. There is a continuous demand for tapioca starch imports to be used as a substitute for corn starch during high prices. In addition, the demand for tapioca starch in China's food industry has continued to grow.

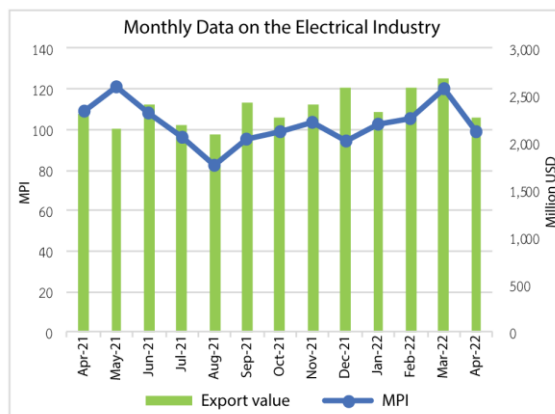
Domestic sales: Production volume for food products in April 2022 increased by 3.4 percent (%YoY), with the following food products expanding: 1) Canned pineapple grew by 64.5 percent. 2) Canned tuna grew by 46.5 percent. 3) Seasoning table grew by 30.9 percent and 4) Tapioca starch grew by 9.9 percent.

Export markets: Overall food exports in April 2022 increased by 15.4 percent compared to the same period last year from the following products: 1) Rice and grains from major products such as rice because key importing countries such as Iraq, China and Japan have a continuous need to import rice for food security amid the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, coupled with the depreciation of the Thai baht. As a result, Thai rice can compete in price with competitors such as Vietnam. Cassava products, this is because China, which is the main market, imported tapioca chips for use in the production of ethanol, animal feed and tapioca starch for use in the food industry. 2) Fats and oils from plants and animals from major products is palm oil due to the high price of crude palm oil in the world market causing producers to continuously export crude palm oil and 3) Sugar and molasses with the main product being sugar in the Indonesia and Cambodia market.

Forecasts and trends: The MPI of the food industry in May 2022 is expected to expand compared to the same period last year due to the relaxation of government measures, including the policy of opening the country, tourists came to help stimulate economic activities in the country. However, the price adjustment of food raw materials still has to be monitored which was affected by the situation of the Russian-Ukraine conflict that still has a protracted attitude that affects global economic recovery. The export value is likely to continue to expand according to the direction of the world economy and trade.

2. Electrical and Electronics Industry

■ Electrical Industry



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



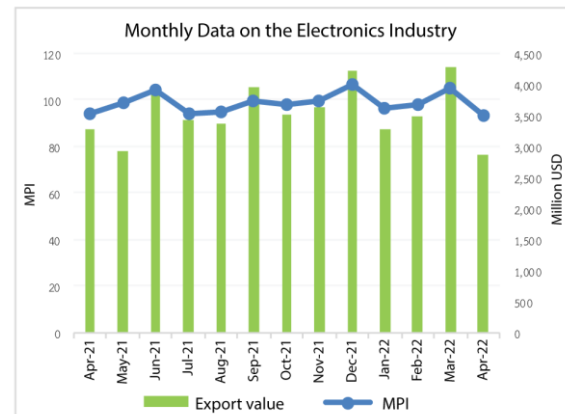
Production of electrical appliances: The MPI was at 98.6 percent, decreasing by 9.6 percent compared to the same month of the previous year, with the decrease in products including cable wires, microwave ovens, kettles, washing machines, electric wires, rice cookers, air conditioners, refrigerators and compressors by 24.8 percent, 24.1, 22.0, 22.0, 20.2, 18.6, 14.6, 3.0 and 1.1 percent, respectively, due to a decrease in demand for domestic products and foreign orders, while the products that have increased are electric motor, household fans and electric transformers, with an increase of 21.3 percent, 16.8 and 3.6 percent, respectively, due to an increase in domestic sales and foreign orders.



Exports of electrical appliances were valued at 2,264.0 million USD, decreasing by 1.8 percent compared to the same month of the previous year. The products that have reduced orders including circuit breakers and protection were valued at 133.0 million USD, decreasing by 17.1 percent in China and ASEAN markets. Washing machines were valued at 96.5 million USD, decreasing by 15.3 percent in ASEAN and Japan markets. Electric motors were valued at 10.4 million USD, decreasing by 10.1 percent in ASEAN and Japan markets. Refrigerators, freezers and components were valued at 188.9 million USD, decreasing by 6.9 percent in ASEAN and Japan markets. The products with increased orders include: microwave ovens were valued at 121.4 million USD, increasing by 46.5 percent in ASEAN markets. Fans were valued at 41.8 million USD, increasing by 17.6 percent in China, the United States of America and ASEAN markets. Electric wires and cable wires were valued at 81.8 million USD, increasing by 8.8 percent in Vietnam, China and the United States of America markets and transformers were valued at 207.9 million USD, increasing by 5.7 percent in the United States of America and China markets.

"The electrical appliance industry's production forecast for May 2022 is expected to increase by 1.0-3.0 percent compared to the same month of the previous year due to the relaxation of measures to control the spread of the COVID-19 in the country, however, inflation must be closely monitored."

■ Electronics Industry



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



Production of electronics: The MPI of electronic products was at 93.3 points, slightly decreasing by 0.8 percent compared to the same month last year. The products that decreased were printers, semiconductor devices transistors, PWB and HDD by 33.5 percent, 7.8, 4.0 and 3.9 percent, respectively, this was due to lower domestic sales and fewer foreign orders. The products that increased were PCBA and IC which increased by 24.6 percent and 1.6 percent, respectively, due to increased demand for products in both domestic and international markets.

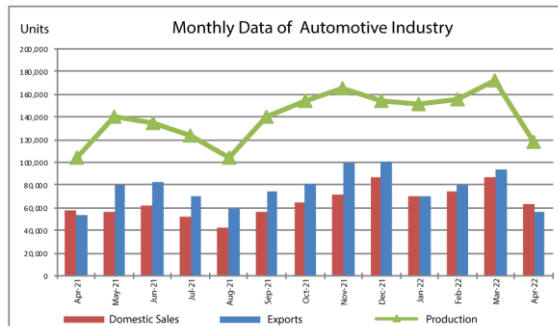


Export of electronics products were valued at 2,870.5 million USD, decreasing by 12.2 percent compared to the same month of the previous year. The products that have decreased orders are: HDD were valued at 358.9 million USD, decreasing by 35.7 percent in the EU, China and the United States of America markets. Printers, photocopiers and components were valued at 182.1 million USD, decreasing by 21.2 percent in ASEAN, the EU and the United States of America markets. Semiconductors, transistors and diodes were valued at 180.1 million USD, decreasing by 10.4 percent in ASEAN, Japan and the United States of America markets and printed circuits were valued at 116.8 million USD, decreasing by 7.0 percent in ASEAN and China. While the products with increased orders included: integrated circuits were valued at 721.8 million USD, increasing by 16.0 percent in the United States of America, ASEAN and the EU markets.

"Production forecast for May 2022, the electronics industry is expected to slightly decrease by 1.0-3.0 percent compared to the same month of the previous year due to the shortage of raw materials used in production. This made it unable to produce enough to meet the demand for electronic products in the world market."

3. Automotive Industry

■ Automobile Manufacturing Industry



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

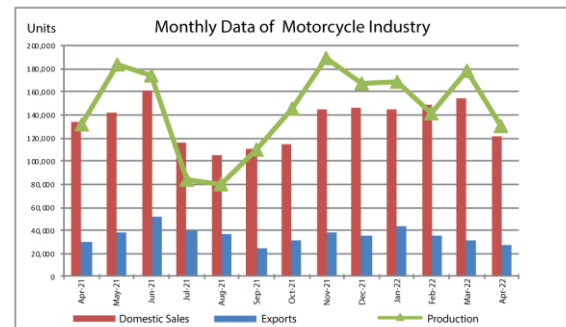
+ Automobile production: In April 2022, there were 117,786 units, decreasing by 31.79 percent from March 2022 (%MoM) but increasing by 12.87 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY) from 1-ton pickup trucks, derivatives and commercial vehicles.

+ Domestic automobile sales: In April 2022, there were 63,427 units, decreasing by 27.30 percent from March 2022 (%MoM) but increasing by 9.11 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY) from the increase in passenger cars, 1-ton pickup trucks and commercial vehicles. Due to the government's economic stimulus measures to heal those affected by COVID-19 farmers income insurance. There are more economic activities and relaxation of restrictions for tourists to enter the country more conveniently.

+ Automobile exports: In April 2022, there were 55,696 units, decreasing by 40.65 percent from March 2022 (%MoM) but increasing by 5.33 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY). The export market has been increasing in Asia, Middle East, North America and Central and South America.

"Forecasts and trends of the automotive manufacturing industry in May 2022 will increase when compared to May 2021 due to the recovery trend of the domestic market and the export market. However, the impact of the lockdown situation in China, the war between Russia and Ukraine and the lack of parts and semiconductors still needs to be monitored."

■ Motorcycle Manufacturing Industry



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

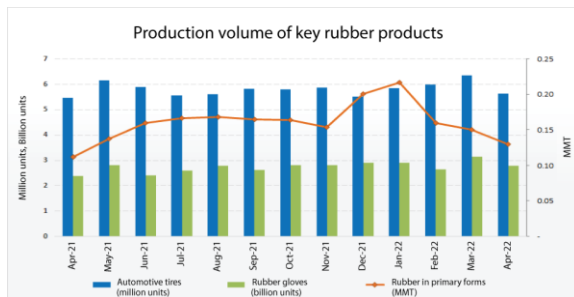
- Motorcycle production: In April 2022, there were 130,737 units, decreasing by 26.75 percent from March 2022 (%MoM) and slightly decreasing by 0.53 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY) from the decline in the production of sports motorcycles.

- Domestic sales of motorcycles: In April 2022, there were 121,845 units, decreasing by 20.84 percent from March 2022 (%MoM) and decreasing by 8.97 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY) from the decrease of motorcycle sales sizes 51-110 cc, 126-250 cc, 251-399 cc and greater than or equal to 400 cc.

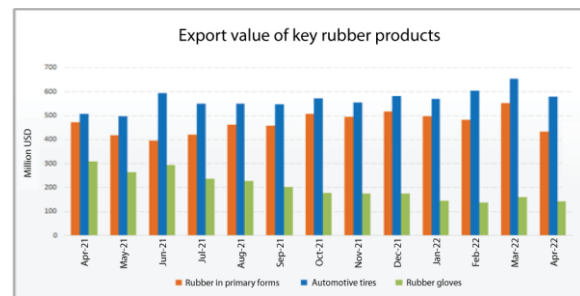
- Motorcycle exports: In April 2022, there were 26,851 units, decreasing by 12.94 percent from March 2022 (%MoM) and decreasing by 12.20 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY) by the finished motorcycle export market. There has been a decline in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Taiwan.

"Forecasts and trends of the motorcycle manufacturing industry in May 2022 will slightly decrease when compared to May 2021. Due to still having to follow the effects of the situation of the impact of the lockdown situation in China, the war between Russia and Ukraine and the lack of parts and semiconductors."

4. Rubber and Rubber Product Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics



Source: Ministry of Commerce

Production

+ Primary processed rubber (smoked rubber sheets, rubber blocks and concentrated latex) increased by 18.69 percent from the expansion of rubber blocks and concentrated latex production to meet the needs of the domestic market.

+ Automotive tires increased by 2.93 percent from the increase in the production of passenger tires, truck tires and bus tires.

+ Rubber gloves increased by 16.98 percent in line with the good expansion of the domestic market.

Domestic sales

+ Primary processed rubber (smoked rubber sheets, rubber blocks and concentrated latex) increased by 4.83 percent as a result of the demand for rubber blocks and latex have increased.

+ Automotive tires increased by 0.56 percent according to the expansion of the domestic automobiles industry.

+ Rubber gloves increased by 19.31 percent as the demand for rubber gloves to prevent disease in the country is increasing.

Exports

- Primary processed rubber (smoked rubber sheets, rubber blocks and concentrated latex) decreased in value by 8.63 percent as a result of the reduction of the export of concentrated latex to the China market and rubber sheets to the United States of America market.

+ Automotive tires increased in value by 14.30 percent mainly in line with the good expansion of the United States of America and Australia markets.

- Rubber gloves decreased in value by 53.66 percent mainly following the slowdown in the United States of America market.

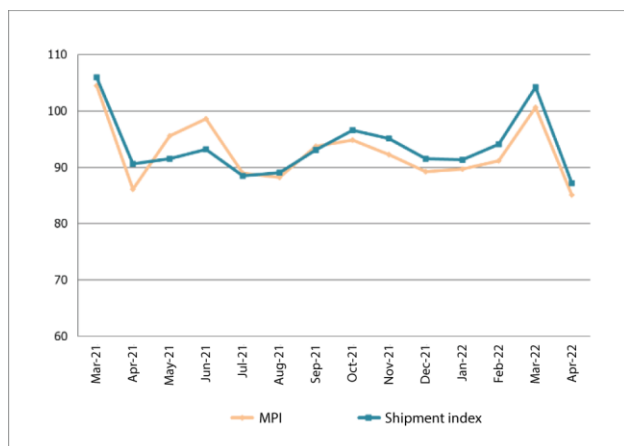
Outlook for the Industry in May 2022

Primary processed rubber production (smoked rubber sheets, block rubber and concentrated latex) is expected to expand mainly from production to meet the needs of the continuous industrial sector in the country. Automotive tires production is expected to expand well from the good expansion trend of both domestic and international markets, while selling automotive tires in the country is expected to continue to expand according to the expansion of the domestic automotive industry. The production and distribution of rubber gloves in the country are expected to continue to expand from the previous month. This is a result of the trend for the demand for rubber gloves to prevent disease remains at a high level.

Exports of primary processed rubber production (smoked rubber sheets, rubber blocks and concentrated latex) are expected to increase in value as China, an important export market, has begun to relax the lockdown measures in key economic cities. Automobile tires are expected to increase in value from the positive trend in the United States of America which is the main market. As for the exports of rubber gloves, the value is expected to continue to decline from the numerical base of exports last year which were at a high level. The price of rubber gloves has decreased from the past period and the trend of global market demand has begun to slow down since August 2021 onwards.

5. Plastics Industry

MPI and Shipment Index



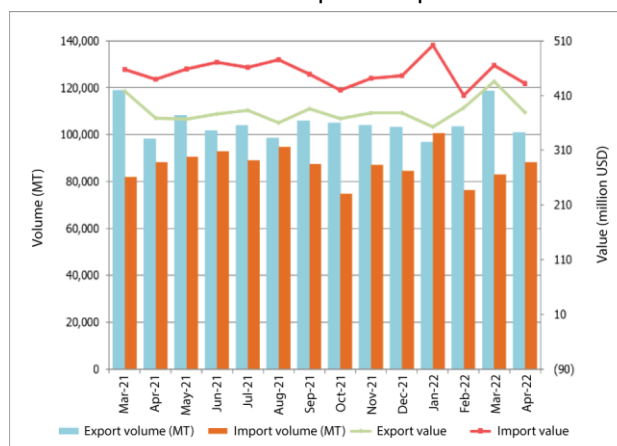
Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

⊖ Manufacturing Production Index: In April 2022, the MPI decreased by 1.18 percent compared to the same period last year. The MPI decreased in many product groups, for example, other plastic packages decreased by 11.42 percent, plastic pipes and fittings decreased by 4.38 percent and plastic sacks decreased by 2.41 percent.

⊖ Shipment Index: In April 2022, the shipment index decreased by 3.83 percent compared to the same period last year by contracted product groups such as plastic pipes and fittings decreased by 15.76 percent, other plastic packages decreased by 11.35 percent and plastic sacks decreased by 2.68 percent.

+ Exports: In April 2022 were valued at 379.71 million USD or increased by 3.02 percent compared to the same period last year. Products that contributed to the expansion of exports were the sanitary wear product groups (HS 3922) increasing by 135.39 percent, household product groups (HS 3924) increasing by 21.92 percent and sheets, thin sheets, films, foils and strip products that are not cellular (HS 3920) increasing by 12.45 percent. The exports expanded in key markets such as the United States of America, Japan, Vietnam and China.

Volume and Value of Exports-Imports



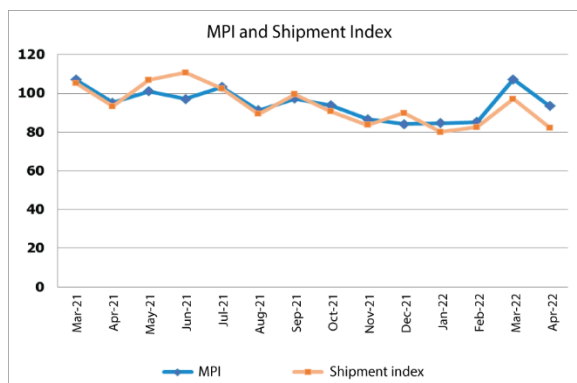
Source: Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

⊖ Imports: In April 2022 were valued at 432.49 million USD or decreased by 1.75 percent compared to the same period last year. The main products that contributed to the contraction of imports include tubes or pipe product groups (HS 3917) decreasing by 14.64 percent, other sheets, thin sheets, films, foils and other self-adhesive strips (HS 3919) decreasing by 8.22 percent and plastic flooring product group (HS 3918) decreasing by 8.22 percent compared to the same period last year.

Plastics Industry Trends in May 2022, Russia cuts natural gas exports to Europe from the impact of sanctions by many countries. As a result, oil and gas prices have risen and the cost of raw materials used to produce products has increased. Plastic pellets are the main raw materials used in the production process causing the price to increase which affects the cost of production.

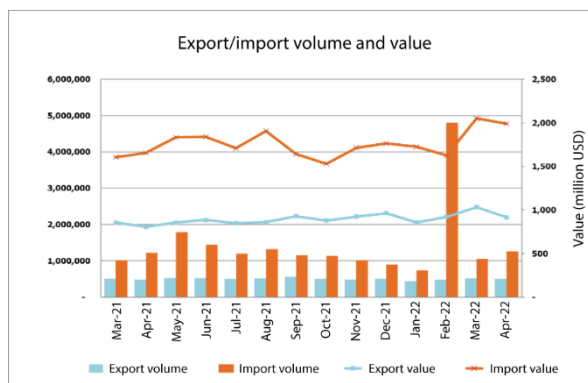
6. Chemical Products Industry

MPI and Shipment Index



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

Volume and Value of Exports and Imports



Source: Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

Manufacturing Production Index: In April 2022, it was at 93.52 points, decreasing by 1.73 percent compared to the same period last year. The downstream chemicals group decreased by 3.43 percent compared to the same period last year. Products with decreased production included detergent powder which decreased by 34.16 percent, fabric softener which decreased by 12.90 percent and shampoo which decreased by 7.78 percent. The upstream chemicals group increased by 3.07 percent compared to the same period last year. Products with increased production included caustic soda which increased by 5.98 percent.

Shipment Index: In April 2022, it was valued at 82.25 points, decreasing by 11.90 percent compared to the same period last year. The shipment index of products in the downstream chemical group decreased by 16.47 percent. Products that decreased included chemical fertilizers which decreased by 48.88 percent, detergent powder which decreased by 32.77 percent and oil paints which decreased by 21.86 percent. The upstream chemicals group increased by 5.42 percent. Products that increased included caustic soda which increased by 11.99 percent, hydrochloric acid which increased by 2.60 percent and chlorine which increased by 0.36 percent.

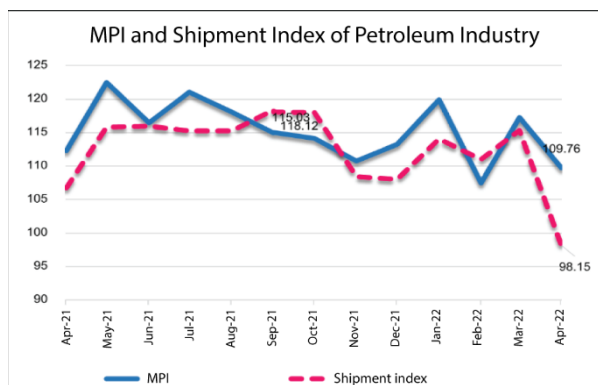
Exports: In April 2022, total exports were valued at 916.11 million USD, increasing by 13.54 percent compared to the same period last year. The upstream chemicals group had an export value of 577.87 million USD, increasing by 13.80 percent compared to the same period of the previous year.

The downstream chemicals group had an export value of 338.24 million USD, increasing by 13.09 percent. Products that contributed to the expansion of the export value were chemical fertilizers which increased by 61.98 percent, inorganic chemistry which increased by 35.85 percent and cosmetics which increased by 16.03 percent. Exports expanded in many markets such as China, India, Vietnam and Japan.

Imports: In April 2022, total imports were valued at 1,990.72 million USD, increasing by 20.21 percent compared to the same period last year. The upstream chemicals group had an import value of 1,284.14 million USD, increasing by 10.92 percent compared to the same period last year. The downstream chemicals group had an import value of 706.58 million USD, increasing by 41.79 percent compared to the same period last year.

Chemical Products Industry Trends in May 2022, the conflict situation between Russia and Ukraine affects both the production and the exports of some types of chemical products such as chemical fertilizers. The main countries such as China and Russia, where produce and export nitrogen fertilizer, limit the exports. The fertilizer production costs increase in accordance with the prices of natural gas which is an important raw material. Besides, an increase of fertilizer prices in the world market impacts an increase of fertilizer prices in the country.

7. Petrochemical Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics



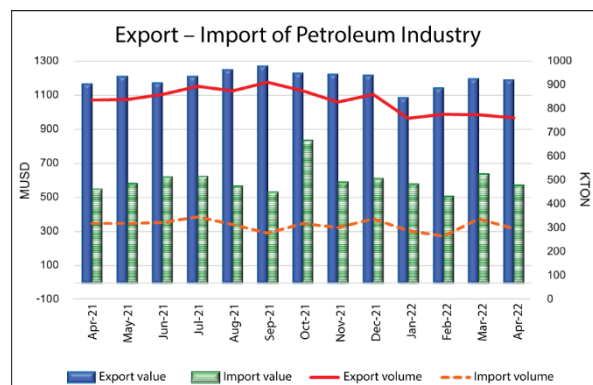
Manufacturing Production Index was at 109.76 points or decreased by 2.52 percent compared to the same period last year and decreased by 6.36 percent compared to the previous month. The upstream petrochemicals, including toluene which decreased by 25.83 percent compared to the same period last year and the downstream petrochemicals, including EPS resin and SAN resin which decreased by 59.83 and 20.52 percent compared to the same period last year.



Shipment Index was at 98.15 points or decreased by 6.66 percent compared to the same period last year and decreased by 14.37 percent compared to last month. The upstream petrochemicals, including ethylene decreased by 15.33 percent compared to the same period last year and the downstream petrochemicals, including EPS resin and PE resin decreased by 67.81 and 19.13 percent compared to the same period last year.



Exports: In April 2022, were valued at 1,193.64 million USD or increased by 1.93 percent from the same period last year but decreased by 0.43 percent from last month, with an increase in upstream petrochemicals such as derivatives of ethylene and toluene but a decrease in downstream petrochemicals such as PP resin and PVC resin which decreased by 2.36 percent.



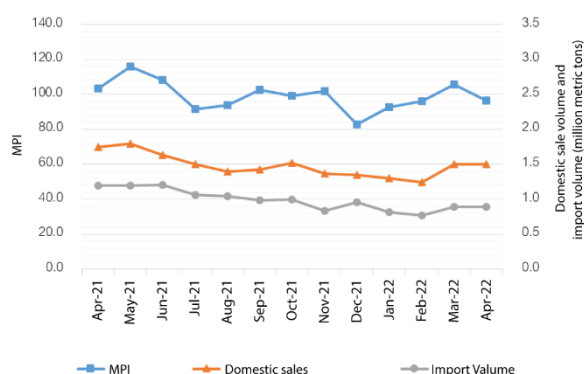
Source: Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce*



Imports: In April 2022, were valued at 575.41 million USD or increased by 4.32 percent compared to the same period last year but decreased by 10.27 percent compared to last month. The upstream petrochemical groups such as propylene and styrene increased by 9.34 percent and the downstream petrochemical groups such as PP resin and PE resin increased by 3.14 percent.

Forecasts and trends in May 2022, the overall industry outlook will be as stable as the same period last year from the slowdown of imports and exports especially upstream petrochemicals such as ethylene and propylene from the price level that fluctuates in accordance with the price of crude oil because of the prolonged Ukraine-Russia war. In addition, OPEC countries have not considered increasing production volumes even though many countries have imposed trade sanctions on Russia which is the key global energy producer. However, the United States of America has started increasing oil rigs and oil stocks to slow down the prices in the short-run period.

8. Iron and Steel Industry



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



Manufacturing Production Index: In April 2022, it was at 96.7 points, decreasing by 6.6 percent compared to the same period last year due a slowdown of private sectors' constructions. Considering the main product, it was found that the production index of long steel and flat steel contracted. The MPI of the long steel product group was at 95.9 points, decreasing by 2.6 percent. The products with the highest decrease were deformed steel which decreased by 20.1 percent followed by high tensile steel wires which decreased by 12.4 percent and wire rods which decreased by 12.4 percent. The MPI of the flat steel product group was at 102.8 points, decreasing by 10.7 percent. The products with the highest decrease were chromium coated steel sheets which decreased by 31.5 percent followed by cold-rolled steel sheets which decreased by 31.0 percent, tin coated steel sheets which decreased by 6.8 percent and galvanized steel sheets which decreased by 5.2 percent.



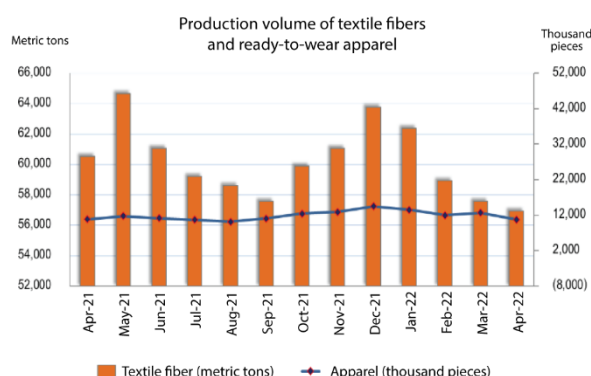
Domestic Consumption: In April 2022, the consumption volume was 1.5 million tons, decreasing by 14.0 percent compared to the same period last year due to buyers observing market clarity and expecting steel prices to be steady or depreciable. The consumption volume of the flat steel product group was 0.9 million tons, decreasing by 22.8 percent. The consumption of hot-rolled *thick plate steel* decreased by 57.2 percent followed by hot-rolled *thin plate steel* which decreased by 28.4 percent and cold-rolled *thin plate steel* which decreased 16.2 percent. The consumption volume of the long steel product group was 0.6 million tons, increasing by 3.3 percent. The consumption of rebar and hot-rolled structural steel increased by 27.6 percent. However, the consumption of wire rods decreased 25.0 percent.



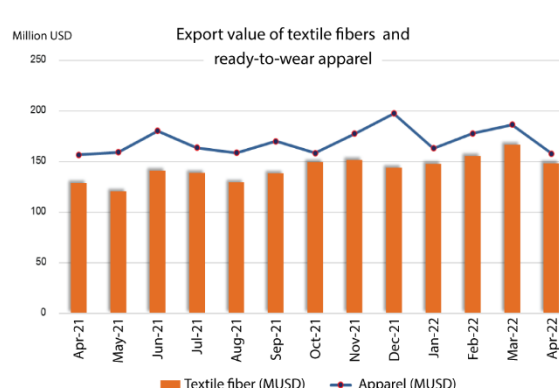
Imports: In April 2022, the import volume was 0.9 million tons, decreasing by 25.2 percent compared to the same period last year. The import volume of the long steel product group was 0.2 million tons, decreasing by 24.5 percent from the import of alloy steel wire rods which decreased by 43.7 percent (the main country imported by Thailand is China) followed by alloy steel bars which decreased by 35.2 percent (the main country imported by Thailand is Japan) and carbon steel wire rods which decreased by 23.3 (the main countries imported by Thailand are Malaysia and Vietnam). The import volume of the flat steel product group was 0.7 million tons, decreasing by 25.4 percent from the import of hot-rolled *thick plate steel* (carbon steel) which decreased by 59.9 percent (the main countries imported by Thailand are Japan, China, South Korea and Indonesia) followed by hot-rolled *thin plate steel* of both rolls and non-rolls (alloy steel) which decreased by 54.3 percent (the main countries imported by Thailand are Japan and China) and hot-rolled *thin plate steel* of both rolls and non-rolls (carbon steel P&O) which decreased by 31.2 percent (the main country imported by Thailand is Japan).

“The outlook for the iron and steel industry in May 2022, is expected that the MPI will decline from the same period last year because the global steel prices tend to be steady or depreciable. Furthermore, there are some factors that would make the steel prices steady such as energy and transportation costs tending to increase, issues of steel industry policy in many countries such as China’s policy to reduce the steel production volume for reaching environmental goals. Due to China being the largest manufacturer, consumer and exporter in the world and India’s raising export tax policy on iron ores and some types of semi-finished steel products, the steel prices would be stable in the world market.”

9. Textile and Wearing Apparel Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics



Source: Ministry of Commerce

Production

➖ Manufacture of textile fibers and ready-made garments decreased by 5.95 and 0.74 percent due to the slowdown in domestic consumption by the production of textile fibers decreasing from the polyester fiber group, while the production of ready-made garments contracted from the ready-made children's clothing segment, although the production for exports of both sports apparel and underwear continues to grow.

➕ Manufacture of fabrics increased by 13.61 percent from the expansion in the polyester synthetic woven fabric group, to support orders of sports apparel, workout clothes, suits or uniforms which are continually expanding. This was mainly due to the 14-month expansion of export markets in key markets such as the United States of America, Indonesia, Myanmar and India, coupled with the domestic market showing signs of better economic growth from the start of opening country to support travelling.

Domestic sales

➖ Textile fibers, fabrics and ready-made garments decreased by 8.11 percent, 0.05 percent and 14.38 percent with the purchasing power of domestic consumers slowing down from the *rising cost of living*.

Exports

➕ Textile fibers, fabrics and ready-made garments expanded throughout the supply chain for the 14th month in key markets such as the United States of America, Indonesia, Cambodia, Myanmar and Indonesia. Textile fibers, fabrics and ready-made garments increased by 10.37, 24.80 and 4.40 percent (%YoY).

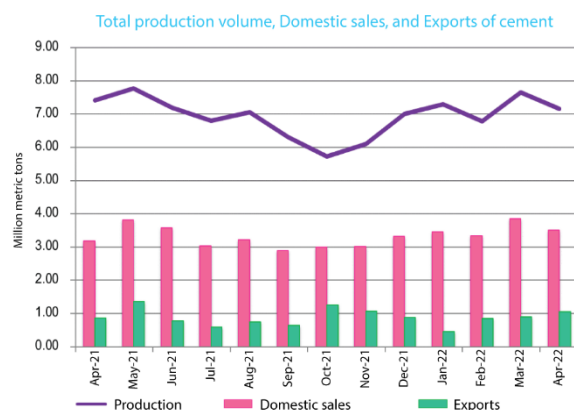
Imports

➕ Yarns, fibers and fabrics increased by 8.24 and 3.65 percent (%YoY) from parts to be used in the production of export products in response to increased orders. As a result, importers increased ready-made garments. Imports started expanding for the first month by 3.68 percent from China, Italy and Vietnam markets.

Industry outlook for May 2022

It is expected that the textile and wearing apparel industry will continue to expand from international markets with continuous demands throughout the supply chain together with an *end of lockdown* measures after using the Zero Covid policy from China on 1st June 2022 as well as the government's tourism boost measures, *Thailand fully opened* on 1st May 2022. However, there are also negative factors such as the increased cost of transportation will increase the price of goods, materials and raw materials used in production, affecting the production cost of the industry.

10. Cement Industry



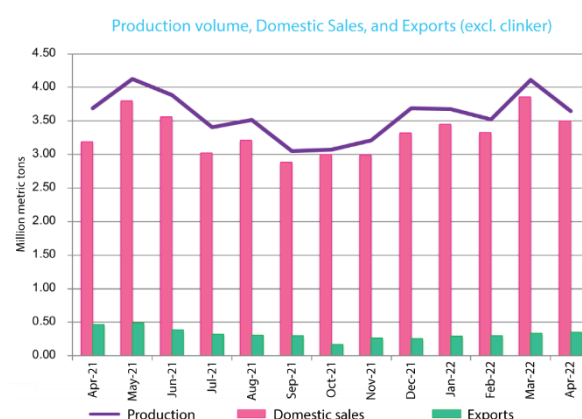
Source: 1. Domestic production and sales volume: Division of Information and Industrial Economic Indices, the Office of Industrial Economics
2. Export volume: Information and Communication Technology Center, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

➖ In April 2022, total production of cement was 7.17 million tons, decreasing by 6.45 percent from March 2022 (% MoM) and decreasing by 3.31 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY).

➕ In April 2022, total domestic sales of cement were 3.50 million tons, decreasing by 9.14 percent from March 2022 (%MoM) but increasing by 9.86 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY).

➕ In April 2022, total cement exports were 1.05 million tons, increasing by 16.31 percent from March 2022 (%MoM) and increasing by 23.01 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY) due to the increase of cement clinker orders.

Forecasts and trends of the cement manufacturing industry overall in May 2022 are expected to slightly increase. Although there are the relaxation of government measures to prevent COVID-19 outbreak which caused the expansion of the economic activities and the growing export market for cement clinkers in some countries, Thailand is going to be in rainy season which may hinder construction.



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 April 2022, cement production (excluding clinker) was 3.64 million tons, decreasing by 11.38 percent from March 2022 (% MoM) and decreasing by 1.29 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY).

➕ In April 2022, domestic sales of cement (excluding clinker) were 3.50 million tons, decreasing by 9.14 percent from March 2022 (%MoM) but increasing by 9.86 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY).

➕ In April 2022, cement exports (excluding clinker) were 0.35 million tons, increasing by 5.13 percent from March 2022 (% MoM) but decreasing by 24.93 percent from the same month last year (%YoY) due to the decreased orders from the Philippines and the Myanmar market by 69.75 and 44.33, respectively.

Forecasts and trends of the cement manufacturing industry (excluding clinker) in May 2022 are expected to slightly increase, for rainy season may hinder construction as well as the rising costs of constructions which are affected by the Russian-Ukrainian war.