

Industrial Production Status

Indicators	2019	2020	2020											2021	
%YoY	Year	Year	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
MPI	-3.4	-9.3	-4.9	-11.1	-19.1	-24.1	-17.9	-13.6	-9.3	-2.6	-1.3	-0.6	-2.8	-2.0	-1.1

The industrial economy in **February 2021**, when considered from the **Manufacturing Production Index (MPI)**, contracted by **1.1 percent** from the same period last year as a result from new wave of the COVID-19 outbreak.

When considering MPI data for the past three months compared to the previous year (% YoY), production in November 2020, December 2020, and January 2021 decreased by 0.6, 2.8, and 2.0 percent, respectively.

Indicators	2020												2021	
%MoM	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
MPI	6.0	-3.8	2.7	-25.0	2.9	4.1	4.6	5.2	3.8	0.3	1.6	-0.7	6.9	-2.9

In the past three months (November 2020, December 2020, and January 2021), the MPI change rates (%MoM) were as follows: an increase of 1.6 percent in November, a decrease of 0.7 percent in December, and an increase of 6.9 percent in January 2021.

Key industries that contributed to the MPI contraction in February 2021 compared to the same month last year were as follows:

- Petroleum refinery decreased by 18.48 percent from the shutdown for maintenance of distillation units at some refineries. Furthermore, jet fuel consumption remained low from the on-going outbreak of the COVID-19, causing reduced domestic and international travel.
- Apparel contracted by 33.32 percent, down from both the domestic and export markets, because of the COVID-19 outbreak. The virus outbreak also affected the domestic and trading partners' economies, whereby consumers reduced their purchases of luxury goods. In addition, manufacturers could not compete with Chinese manufacturers who produced large quantities of their products, fast and cheap. Also, there were still some manufacturers which temporarily suspended production.
- Manufacture of beer decreased by 26.22 percent, as there was a new outbreak of COVID-19 infections, resulting in more surveillance measures which caused beer distribution channels to reduce.

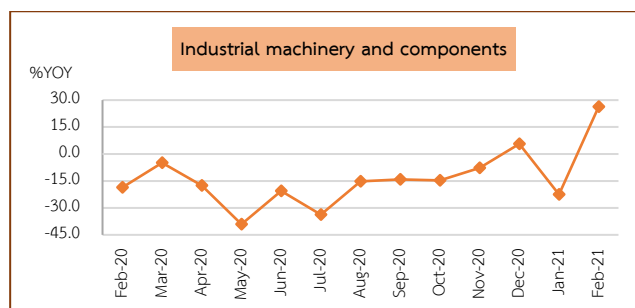
Key industries that continued to grow in February 2021 compared to the same month last year were:

- Sugar increased by 19.85 percent, as the volume of sugarcane entered the crushing mills was higher than the same period of the previous year. Furthermore, some factories that closed production continued to process raw sugar into granulated sugar.
- Electronic components increased by 16.3 percent, in line with global demand for electronic components that continued to increase, especially in the automotive industry that was still in demand.

Other Industrial Economic Indicators in February 2021

Other Industrial Economic Indicators in February 2021

■ Imports of Thailand Industrial Sector



Source: Ministry of Commerce

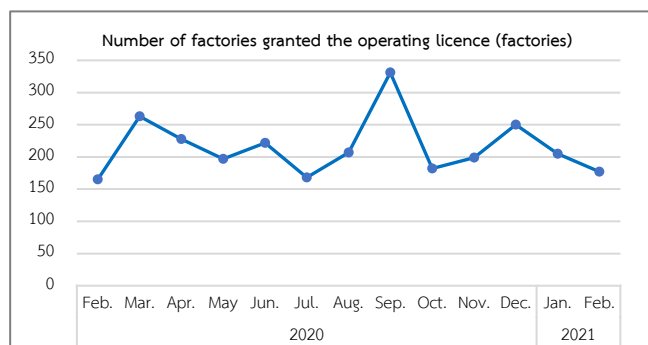


Source: Ministry of Commerce

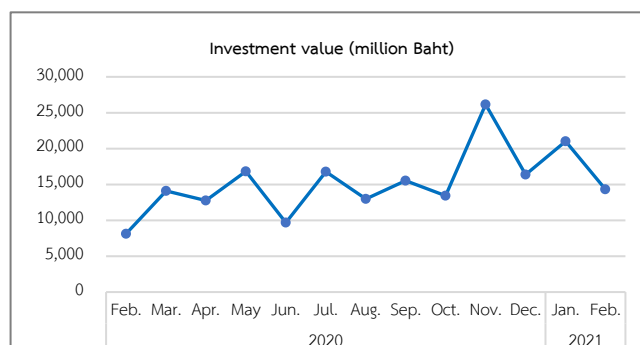
+ Imports of industrial machinery and parts in February 2021 increased by 26.3 percent compared to the same month last year to 1,439.8 million USD, which increased from engines, transmission shafts, and other parts; air pump, fluid pumps, machinery and parts used in other industries, construction machinery and parts, printing machinery, etc.

+ Imports of raw and semi-finished goods (excluding gold) in February 2021 increased by 28.9 percent compared to the same month last year to 7,762.7 million USD, which increased from chemical products, plastic pellets, iron, steel and products thereof, etc.

Industrial Operation Status



Source: Department of Industrial Works



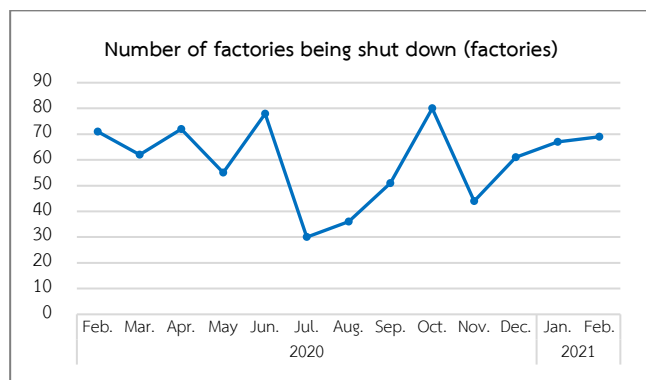
Source: Department of Industrial Works

- The total number of factories licensed for operation in February 2021 was 177 factories, a decrease of 13.7 percent (%MoM) from January 2021 but an increase of 7.27 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.
- The total investment from factories licensed for operating in February 2021 decreased by 31.97 percent (%MoM) from January 2021 to 14,302 million Baht but increased by 75.83 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

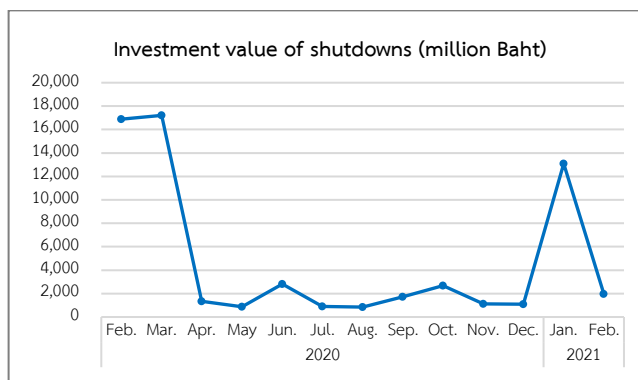
"The industry with the highest number of newly licensed factories to operate in February 2021 was the excavation or dredging industry of gravel, sand, or soil (17 factories) and the industry of separation and landfill of sewage or unusable materials (14 factories)."

"In February 2021, the industry with the highest investment value was the manufacture of non-tire rubber products—1,804 million Baht, followed by the manufacture of special parts or accessories for automobiles—1,635 million Baht."

Industrial Operation Status (cont.)



Source: Department of Industrial Works



Source: Department of Industrial Works

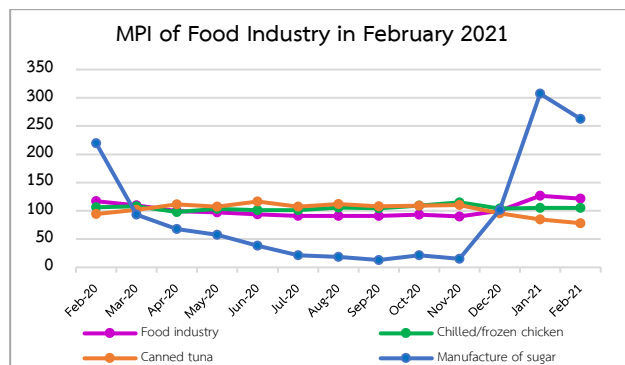
- ➕ A total of 69 factories were shut down in February 2021, increasing by 3.0 percent (% MoM) from January 2021 but decreasing by 2.82 percent (% YoY) from the same month last year.
- ➕ The lost investment value on shutdown in February 2021 totaled 1,960 million Baht, a decrease of 85.04 percent (%MoM) from January 2021 and a decrease of 88.39 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

“In February 2021, the industry with the highest number of factory shutdowns was the excavation or dredging industry of gravel, sand, or soil (6 factories), followed by the sand suction (5 factories).”

“The industries with the largest investment that shut down business were door and window frames, window/door leaves industry (501 million Baht), followed by manufacturing, assembly, or repair of radios and televisions (293 million Baht).”

Industrial Economic Status by Industrial Sectors in February 2021

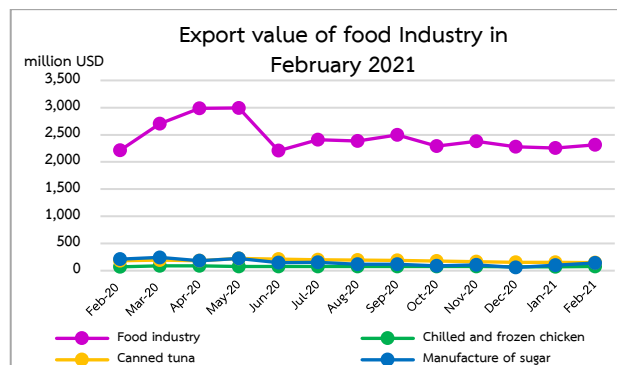
1. Food Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

Production: The overall MPI in the food industry for February 2021 grew by 3.7 percent (%YoY) because of the accelerated production of key products, such as sugar and some products that had continued orders. The products affecting the production index were (1) sugar, (2) prepared pet food, and (3) tapioca starch, which increased in production by 19.9, 5.1, and 4.4 percent (%YoY), respectively.

Domestic sales: In February 2021, sales volume grew by 5.1 percent from some products, such as (1) Frozen shrimps (30.5% YoY), (2) Table condiments (14.2% YoY), (3) Frozen fruits and vegetables (9.6% YoY), (4) Tapioca starch (7.4% YoY), and (5) Canned pineapple (6.8% YoY).



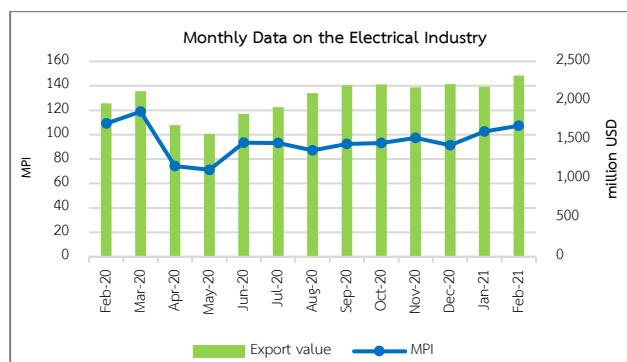
Source: Ministry of Commerce

Export markets: Overall food exports in February 2021 valued at 2,317.1 million USD, a growth from the same period last year (%YoY) by 4.2 percent from key products, including (1) Cassava products—due to China requires raw materials for the production of ethanol, bio-plastics, and tapioca starch. (2) Fresh, chilled, frozen, canned, and processed fruits and vegetables—due to an increase in demands from trading partners, such as China, the US, Hong Kong, and Malaysia. (3) Pet food—due to the growing trend of raising pets around the world. In addition, Thailand's pet food business has grown from production to the world's leading brands, whereby the major markets were the US, Japan, Malaysia, and Australia.

Outlook for the food industry: It is expected that the MPI of the food industry in March 2021 will grow slightly from the same period of last year, from the government's economic stimulus measures, namely, the "We Win" and the "Section 33 We Love Each Other" schemes, together with the easing of COVID-19 prevention measures in the 54 provinces under surveillance, which lifted the curfew for restaurants, entertainment venues, and shopping centers. Furthermore, the efficient distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine will impact economic confidence. The export value is expected to expand slightly as trading partners continue to demand fresh, chilled, frozen, canned, and processed fruits and vegetables, cassava products, and pet food.

2. Electrical and Electronics Industry

■ Electrical Industry



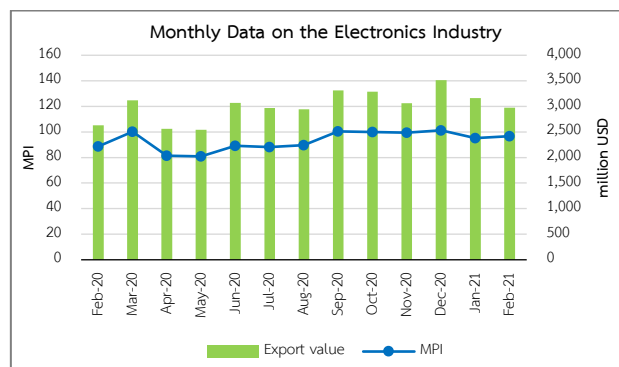
Source: The Office of Industrial Economics, Electrical and Electronics Institute, and Ministry of Commerce

➖ **Production of electrical appliances** decreased by 1.9 percent compared to the same month last year with an MPI of 107.4 points. Products that decreased in production were transformers (-27.1%), rice cookers (-15.5%), air-conditioners (-10.8%), thermoses (-9.3%), and compressors (-5.5%). The decline was due to a decrease in orders of transformers, rice cookers, thermoses, and compressors from domestic market and air-conditioners from international markets. Nevertheless, products that increased in production were cables (29.9%), washing machines (24.9%), electric wires (14.9%), refrigerators (11.2%), microwave ovens (10.5%), electric motors (7.2%), and household fans (5.2%) caused by an increase in demand for products from overseas.

➕ **Exports of electrical appliances** increased by 18.0 percent compared to the same month last year to 2,318.4 million USD. Products that increased in orders were electric wires and wire harness—increasing by 40.4 percent to 74.8 million USD from the US, China, and Europe markets; microwave ovens—increasing by 38.6 percent to 21.2 million USD in Europe, the US, and Japan markets; washing machines—increasing by 32.0 percent to 100.5 million USD in the US, China, and Europe markets; refrigerators—increasing 22.5 percent to 162.0 million USD in China and the US markets. Meanwhile, products that decreased in orders were household fans—decreasing by 7.4 percent to 8.4 million USD in China, ASEAN and Europe markets.

“Production outlook in March 2021: The electrical industry is expected to increase by 4.5 percent from the same month last year, as the global economic situation begins to recover from the accelerated vaccination and government measures to stimulate the economy. Additionally, changing weather conditions from winter to summer is expected to increase demand for refrigeration appliances such as fans, air-conditioners, and refrigerators.”

■ Electronics Industry



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

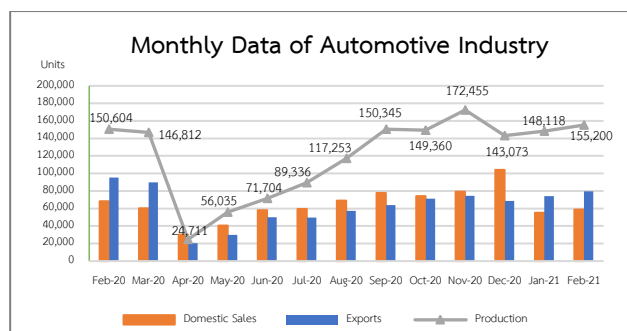
➕ **Production of electronics** increased by 9.0 percent compared to the same month last year with an MPI of 96.6 points. Electronic products that increased in production were printers (66.7%), PWBs (15.4%), semiconductor device transistors (12.3%), ICs (7.9%), and HDDs (4.4%), owing to the growth of domestic sales and an increase in orders from overseas. Meanwhile, electronic product that decreased in production was PCBAs (-2.9%) because of demands for the products from domestic and overseas markets dropped.

➕ **Exports of electronics** increased by 13.1 percent compared to the same month last year to 2,972.4 million USD. Product that increased in orders were PCBAs which increased in orders by 47.0 percent to 144.7 million USD from the US, China, and ASEAN markets. Printers, photocopier, and parts increased in orders by 46.0 percent to 284.2 million USD from China, Europe, and the US markets. Diodes, transistors, semiconductors and parts increased by 7.4 percent to 124.8 million USD in Europe, ASEAN, and the US markets. In contrast, the product with a decrease in orders was HDDs, decreasing 9.3 percent to 448.5 million USD in China, ASEAN, and the US markets.

“Production outlook in March 2021: The electronics industry is expected to increase by 7.8 percent from the same month last year because of network construction and the development of 5G network devices, requiring more electronic devices and components. Also, demands for electronic products from domestic and international markets are growing.”

3. Automotive Industry

■ Automotive Manufacturing Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics; data collected from Automotive Division, Federation of Thai Industries

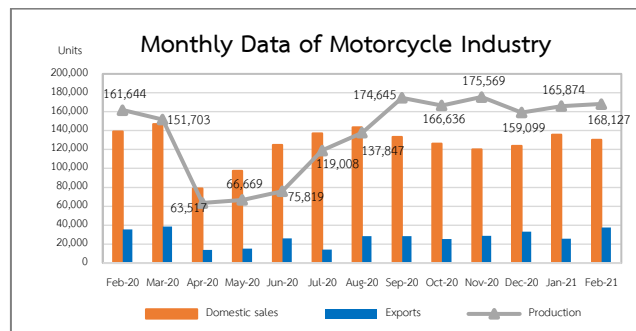
+ **Automotive production** in February 2021 increased by 4.78 percent (%MoM) from January 2021 to 155,200 units and increased by 3.05 percent (%YoY) compared to the same month last year from production growth of 1-ton pick-up trucks and derivatives.

+ **Domestic automobile sales** in February 2021 reached 58,960 units, an increase of 6.80 percent (%MoM) from January 2021, but a decrease of 10.95 percent (%YoY) compared to the same month last year. The decrease resulted from a drop in sales of passenger cars, 1-ton pickup trucks, and derivatives, including commercial vehicles, since domestic consumers were concerned about the new wave of COVID-19 outbreaks from December 2020, which spread to many other provinces—resulting in new infections and the uncertainty of the vaccine and its side effects.

+ **Automobile exports** in February 2021 reached 79,470 vehicles, an increase of 7.20 percent from January 2021 (%MoM), but a decrease of 16.52 percent decrease from the same month last year (%YoY). Car exports decreased to Oceania, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe, because of the COVID-19 pandemic and new outbreaks in many countries.

"Automotive industry outlook: The automotive industry in March 2021 is expected to grow compared to March 2020 because of the decrease of automobile production in March 2020—resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak, which affected the global automobile market."

■ Motorcycle Manufacturing Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics; data collected from Automotive Division, Federation of Thai Industries

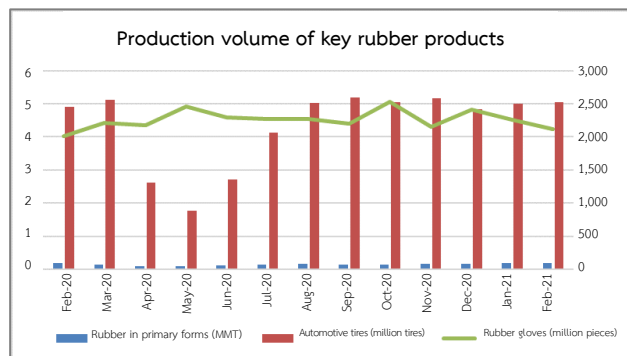
+ **Motorcycle production** in February 2021 increased by 1.36 percent (%MoM) from January 2021 to 168,127 units and increased by 4.01 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year from an increase in the production of sport motorcycles.

- **Domestic sales of motorcycles** in February 2021 decreased by 4.06 percent (%MoM) from January 2021 to 130,130 units and decreased by 6.38 percent (%YoY) over the same month last year from a decrease in sales of 51-110 cc, 111-125 cc, 126-250 cc, and ≥ 400 cc motorcycles.

+ **Motorcycle exports** in February 2021 increased by 46.35 percent (%MoM) from January 2021 to 37,624 units and increased by 5.72 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year, whereby exports markets for CBU motorcycles increased in the US, the UK, Belgium, and Japan.

"Motorcycle industry outlook: The industry in March 2021 is expected to grow compared to March 2020 because the production of automobiles in March 2020 declined due to the COVID-19 outbreak, which affected the global motorcycle market."

4. Rubber and Rubber Products Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

Production

➖ Processed rubber in primary forms (smoked rubber sheets, rubber blocks, and concentrated latex) contracted by 0.40 percent, which was the slowed down in smoked rubber sheets and rubber blocks.

➕ Automotive tires increased by 2.76 percent, following the expansion of the domestic and overseas markets.

➕ Rubber gloves increased by 5.70 percent, in line with continued increase in demands for medical uses following the COVID-19 outbreak.

Domestic Sales

➖ Processed rubber in primary forms (smoked rubber sheets, rubber blocks, and concentrated latex) decreased by 1.51 percent as smoked rubber sheets sales dropped.

➕ Automotive tires increased by 0.59 percent, in line with the expansion of the automotive industry and replacement markets.

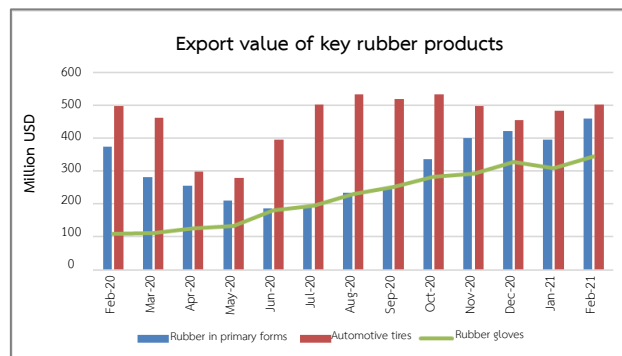
➖ Rubber gloves decreased by 58.51 percent as domestic manufacturers decreased their shipments through middlemen and turned to overseas marketing by themselves.

Exports

➕ The export value of processed rubber in primary forms (smoked rubber sheets, rubber blocks, and concentrated latex) increased by 22.85 percent because of the increase in exports of all processed rubber in primary forms following the growing demands from Japan, China, the US, and Malaysia.

➕ Automotive tires increased in export value by 1.08 percent following the expansion of Australia, South Korea, and Vietnam markets.

➕ Rubber gloves increased in export value by 214.79 percent following the continued expansion of the US, Germany, China, Japan and the UK markets, respectively.



Source: Ministry of Commerce

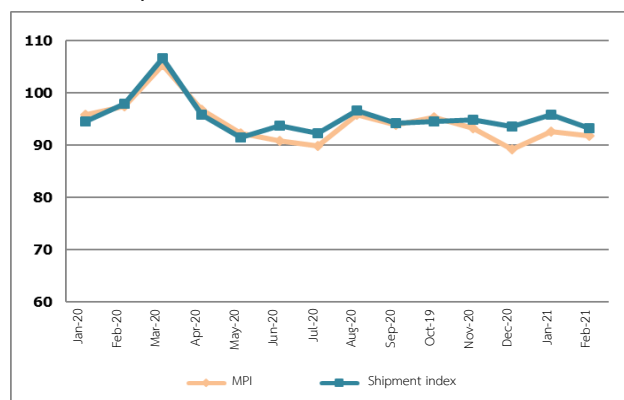
Outlook for the industry in March 2021

The production of processed rubber in primary forms (smoked rubber sheets, rubber blocks, and concentrated latex) is expected to decline due to the early ending of rubber tapping season from last years. As the result, the amount of rubber entering the market will likely continue to contract from the past month. Automotive tire production and sales are expected to grow in line with the favorable expansion of both domestic and international markets. As for rubber gloves, the production is expected to remain on the rise following higher demands for medical use worldwide from the COVID-19 outbreak. Meanwhile, domestic rubber glove sales are expected to drop from the previous month, as domestic manufacturers reduced their sales through middlemen and turned to foreign markets more.

The export value of processed rubber in primary forms (smoked rubber sheets, rubber blocks, and concentrated latex) is expected to rise continually, especially in Malaysia. This is because the Country has high demands for concentrated latex from Thailand to support the production of rubber gloves, which continues to expand globally. Automotive tire exports are expected to remain stable due to the export slowdown in the US market from the Anti-dumping issues or to increase export value slightly following the expansion of minor-export markets, such as Australia, South Korea, and Vietnam. As for rubber gloves, exports are expected to increase in line with growing demands for medical uses worldwide, especially in the US, the EU, Japan, China, and the UK.

5. Plastics Industry

MPI and Shipment Index



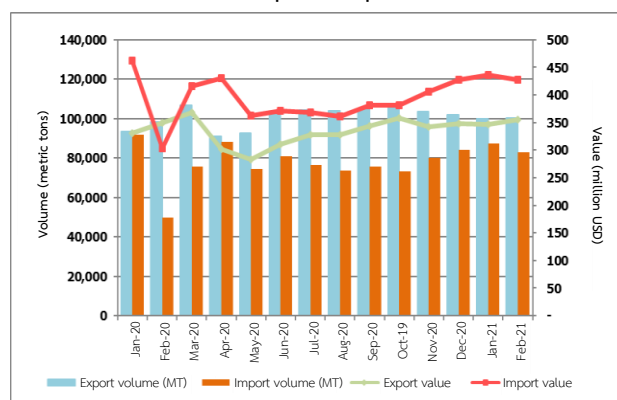
Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

➖ The manufacturing production index in February 2021 declined by 5.65 percent from the same period last year to 91.81 points. Plastic products that decreased in MPI were other plastic packaging (-18.62%), plastic sheets (-14.17%), and plastic sacks (-12.68%).

➖ The Shipment Index in February 2021 stood at 93.15 points, a decrease of 4.77 percent from the same period last year. Plastic products that decreased in shipment index were plastic sheets (-15.37%), other plastic packaging, pipes, and fittings (-15.09%), the manufacture of other plastic products, tableware, kitchenware (-13.71%).

➕ Exports in February 2021 increased by 0.52 percent compared to the same period last year to 355.90 million USD. Plastic products with the highest increase of export value were sanitary ware (HS 3922) (92.95%), followed by self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes (HS 3919) (14.79%), and other non-cellular plastic plates, sheets, film, foil and strip (HS 3920) (7.53%). Compared to the same period last year, exports expanded in key markets such as Japan, the US, China, and India.

Volume and value of exports-imports

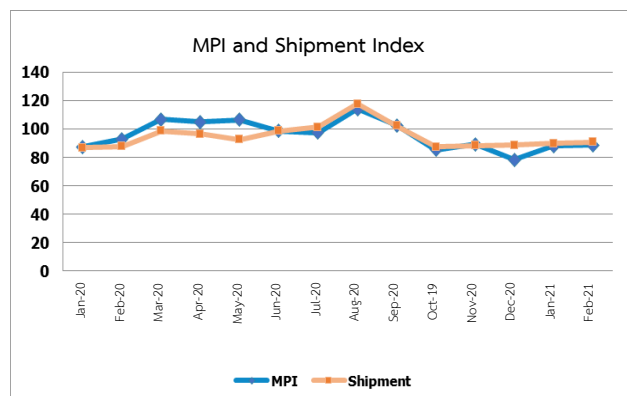


Source: Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

➕ Imports in February 2021 increased in value by 41.01 percent compared to the same period last year to 428.13 million USD. Key products contributing to an increase in imports from last year were other articles of plastics (HS 3922) (230.82%), monofilament (HS 3916) (149.65%), and builders' ware of plastics (HS 3925) (94.25%).

Plastics industry outlook for March 2021: It is expected that production and exports remain on the rise. However, there are factors to monitor, such as the number of countries receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, resulting in an improved situation. Therefore, the economy in many countries is expected to recover, resulting in an improvement in Thai exports.

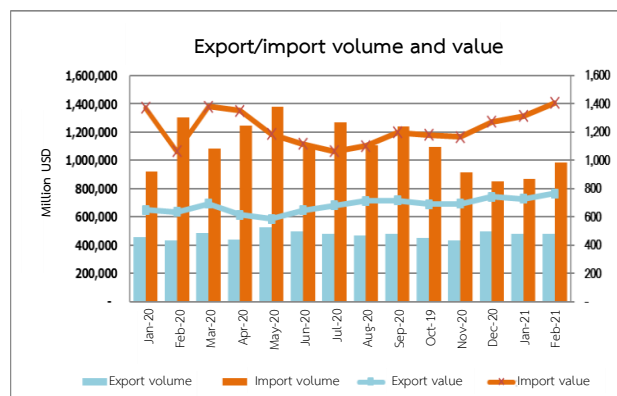
6. Chemical Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

- The manufacturing production index in February 2021 stood at 88.93 points, a decrease of 4.33 percent compared to the same period last year. The production of upstream chemicals contracted by 14.98 percent, and the product with the highest decrease in the MPI was ethanol (-39.10%) caused by the shortage of molasses used as raw material for ethanol production. For downstream chemicals, the production dropped by 0.16 percent, and the product with the highest decrease of production was plastic emulsion paint (-13.71%).

+ The shipment index of the chemical industry in February 2021 reached 90.89 points, an increase of 3.55 percent from the same period last year. Upstream chemicals' shipment index contracted by 4.75 percent, which decreased among ethanol and chlorine products. As for downstream chemical products, the shipment index grew by 6.24 percent in many products, such as chemical fertilizers, talcum, etc.



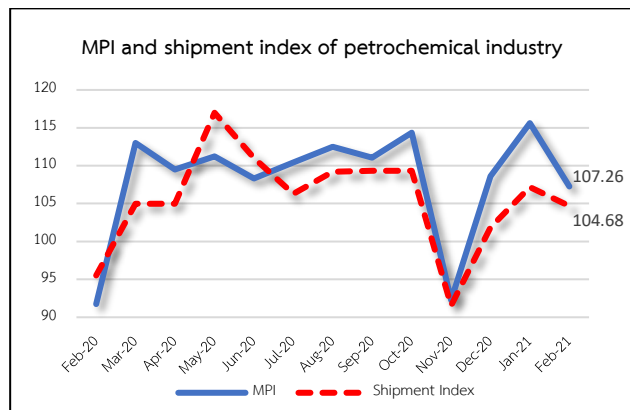
Source: Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

+ Exports in February 2021 valued at 765.97 million USD, increasing 20.82 percent compared to the same period last year. Export value of upstream chemical products reached 459.79 million USD, rising 39.33 percent compared to the same period last year. Exports of downstream chemical products valued at 306.18 million USD, up 0.71 percent. Products contributing to the increase in export value were organic chemicals (73.50%) and miscellaneous chemical products (17.11%), whereby exports increased in many markets such as China, Japan, India, and Vietnam.

+ Imports in February 2021 valued at 1,406.89 million USD, an increase of 32.36 percent from the same period of last year. Upstream chemicals' import value increased by 43.22 percent from last year to 936.96 million USD, and downstream chemicals' import value also increased by 14.98 percent from last year to 469.94 million USD.

Outlook for Chemical industry: In March 2021 production and exports are expected to grow. However, there are factors to monitor, such as COVID-19 vaccination in Thailand.

7. Petrochemical Industry

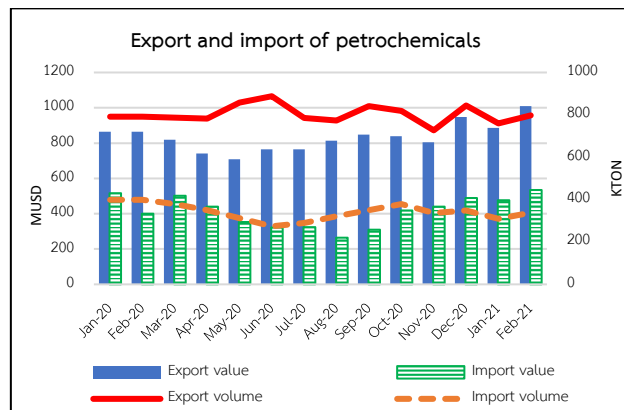


Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

+ The manufacturing production index in February 2021 increased by 17.21 percent compared to the same period last year to 107.26 points but decreased by 7.12 percent from last month. Upstream petrochemicals which increased in the MPI were Toluene (51.63%) and Propylene (23.99%); meanwhile, downstream petrochemicals were PS resin (50.41%) and PE resin (21.42%).

+ The shipment index in February 2021 stood at 104.68 points, increasing 9.13 percent compared to the same period last year but decreasing 1.74 percent from last month. Compared to last month, upstream petrochemicals that declined in shipment index were Toluene (17.06%) and Propylene (4.29%). Meanwhile, downstream petrochemicals increased in shipment index from the same period last year were PE resin (11.62%) and PP resin (4.79%).

+ Exports in February 2021 grew by 28.31 percent compared to the same period last year to 1,008.95 million USD and 13.95 percent from the previous month, which increased among upstream and down petrochemicals, e.g., Polyethylene, PE resin, and PP resin.

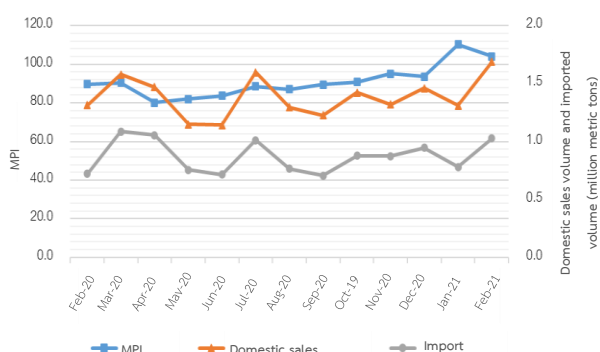


Source: Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

+ Imports in February 2021 increased by 35.74 percent compared to the same period last year to 533.97 million USD and 13.35 percent from last month. Imports of upstream petrochemicals, such as Vinyl Chloride and Styrene, grew by 28.48 percent; imports of downstream petrochemicals such as PE and PP resins increased by 38.61 percent. The increase was partly from the price level that began to rise, in line with the first three months of crude oil price.

Outlook for March 2021: It is expected that the overall industry will improve compared to the same period last year, from resumed production in many products. However, the volatility of crude oil prices in the world market, economic recovery after the COVID-19 outbreak, global market concerns over vaccination deaths, and a lockdown in the EU from new COVID-19 outbreaks may prevent production and exports from returning to normal.

8. Iron and Steel Industry



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

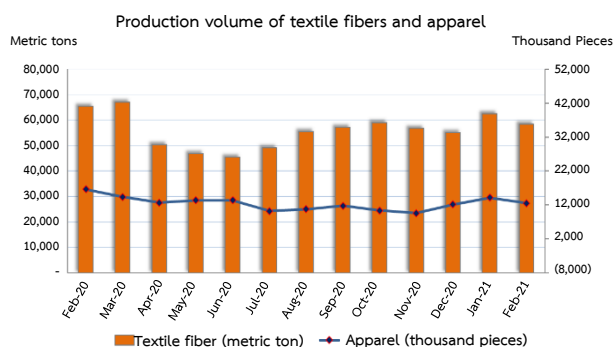
+ The manufacturing production index was 104.1 points, growing 16.0 percent compared to the same period of the previous year. The increase was in line with the continued recovery of downstream industries and higher global steel prices compared to last year, causing manufacturers to produce products to make a profit in the short term. When considering key products—long and flat products—the MPI of both products increased, whereby the MPI of long product rose by 6.5 percent to 98.0 points. Long product that increased in the MPI were round bars (31.8%), followed by wire rods (28.1%), and steel wires (11.5%). Flat products' MPI increased by 31.1 percent to 110.9 points from products, such as cold-rolled sheets (106.4%), followed by tinplate (78.7%) and Chromium-coated sheets (49.7%).

+ Domestic consumption in February 2021 reached 1.7 million metric tons, an increase of 28.5 percent compared to the same period last year. Consumption of long products increased by 15.2 percent to 0.6 million metric tons from wire rods (53.1%). As for flat products, the consumption reached 1.1 million metric tons, an increase of 38.1 percent from cold-rolled sheets (67.2%), followed by hot-rolled sheets (34.2%) and galvanized sheets (19.8%).

+ Imports in February 2021 increased by 42.4 percent compared to the same period last year to 1.0 million metric tons, whereby imports of long products reached a volume of 0.2 million metric tons, up 48.2 percent. Long products that increased in imports were Carbon steel wire rods (221.3%), hot-rolled structural Carbon-steel sections (107.1%), Carbon steel rebars (77.3%). As for flat products, imports grew by 41.0 percent to a volume of 0.8 million metric tons. Flat products which increased in imports were Chromium-coated sheet (91.9%), cold-rolled Carbon steel sheets (90.8%), and electro galvanized steel sheets (88.0%).

“The steel industry outlook in March 2021: It is forecasted that production will increase compared to the same period last year with supporting factors from the expansion of downstream industries, including government policies or economic stimulus measures that stimulate spending. Nevertheless, there are important issues to monitor, such as the price of foreign steel products, the implementation of government construction projects, and the world economic and trade situation. Such issues will affect the production volume and domestic consumption of steel products.”

9. Textile and Wearing Apparel Industry



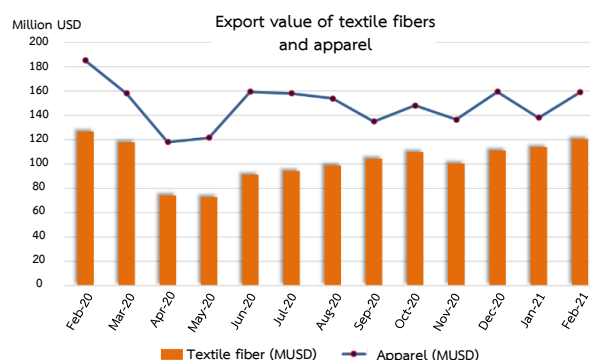
Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

Production

Production of textile fibers, fabrics, and apparel decreased by 10.92 percent, 29.14 percent, and 24.59 percent (%YoY) because of the new wave of COVID-19 outbreaks continued to affect the export of apparel and the purchasing power of domestic and foreign consumers to slow down. As a result, the production from upstream raw materials to apparel declined, especially in major trading partners such as the US. However, compared to the previous month (%MoM), production of textile fibers, fabrics, and apparel dropped by 6.69, 9.86 and 11.4 percent, respectively.

Domestic sales

Domestic sales of textile fibers, fabrics, and apparel declined by 13.41, 26.22, and 16.53 percent (%YoY) because of a decrease in demand of raw materials for export. Also, domestic consumer purchasing power slowed down because of the impact of the new COVID-19 outbreaks. Nevertheless, compared with the previous month (%MoM), textile fiber sales grew by 5.58 percent, partly to be used to produce goods for export following increased orders.



Source: Ministry of Commerce

Exports

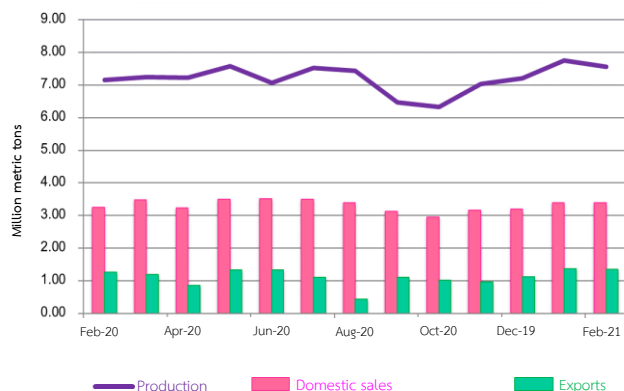
Exports of textile fibers, fabrics, and apparel declined by 4.90 percent, 27.04 percent, and 14.14 percent (%YoY) as the global economy has not yet recovered from the COVID-19 outbreak. Furthermore, major trading partners slowed down, like the US, Japan, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Cambodia. As a result, exports of textiles and garments contracted throughout the supply chain. Meanwhile, compared with the previous month (%MoM), exports of textile fibers signaled an improvement in artificial yarn products, which grew 5.86 percent, from major export markets including the US, China, Indonesia, India, and Pakistan. Exports of apparel grew by 15.07 percent to key markets such as the US in formal and semi-formal apparel products.

Outlook for March 2021

It is expected that the textile and apparel industry remain slowdown following the domestic purchasing power and the overall world economy, where all countries are affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. In addition, the impact of political unrest in Myanmar may affect the garment industry. However, compared to the previous month, the industry is expected to expand both in the production and export sectors.

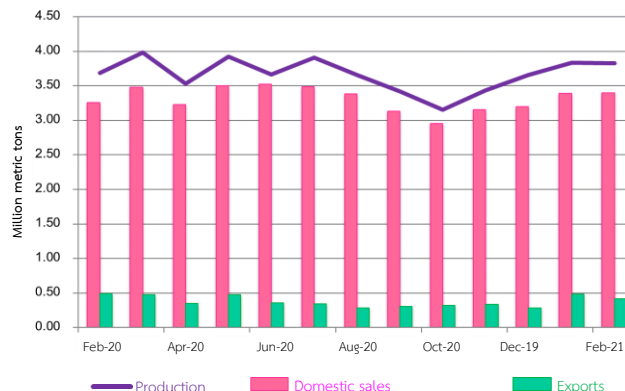
10. Cement Industry

Total production volume, domestic sales, and exports of cement



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

Production volume, Domestic Sales, and Exports (excluding clinker)



Source: 1. Domestic production and sales volume: Division of Industrial Economics Information and 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 February 2021 decreased by 2.50 percent (%MoM) from January 2021 to 7.75 million metric tons but increased by 5.59 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

+ **Total domestic sales of cement** in February 2021 increased by 0.21 percent (%MoM) from January 2021 to 3.40 million metric tons and increased by 4.27 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

+ **Total exports of cement** decreased slightly 0.53 percent (%MoM) from January 2021 to 1.36 million metric tons but increased by 6.87 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year, resulting from an increase in orders of clinker from Sri Lanka by 1,472.14 percent.

The overall cement manufacturing industry outlook in March 2021, compared with the same period of the previous year, is expected to increase from the government's economic stimulus measures to boost the purchasing power of the people. Furthermore, the government has started vaccinations against COVID-19, creating optimism for the people on the improvement of the country's economy.

+ **Cement production (excluding clinker)** in February 2021 decreased by 0.30 percent (%MoM) from January 2021 to 3.83 million metric tons but increased by 3.79 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

+ **Domestic sales of cement (excluding clinker)** in February 2021 increased by 0.21 percent (%MoM) from January 2021 to 3.40 million metric tons and increased by 4.27 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

- **Export of cement (excluding clinker)** in February 2021 reached 0.42 tons—a contraction from January 2021 by 13.34 percent (%MoM), and 14.92 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year—because of a reduction in cement orders (excluding clinker) in several key export markets, namely Laos, Vietnam, and Sri Lanka, by 100 percent, 100 percent, and 99.29 percent, respectively.

The cement manufacturing industry (excluding clinker) outlook in March 2021 compared with the same period of the previous year is expected to increase from positive factors to accelerate the construction of large public utility projects after receiving budget, the gradual launch of measures to stimulate the people's purchasing power and the start of vaccinations against COVID-19 in the country.