

Industrial Production Status

Indicators	2020	2021	2021										2022		
%YoY	Year	Year	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
MPI	-9.5	5.9	5.8	18.2	26.0	18.6	3.7	-4.9	0.4	2.7	4.6	6.7	2.0	2.5	-0.1

The industrial economy in **March 2022**, when considered from the **Manufacturing Production Index (MPI)**, decreased slightly by 0.1 percent from the same period last year.

When considering MPI data for the past three months compared to the previous year (%YoY), production in December 2021, increased by 6.7 percent, January 2022 increased by 2.0 percent and February 2022, increased by 2.5 percent.

In the past three months (December 2021, January and February 2022), the MPI change rates (%MoM)

Indicators	2021										2022		
%MoM	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
MPI	10.3	-16.6	9.7	-2.0	-8.3	-3.6	9.3	2.9	3.3	1.5	2.1	-2.6	7.5

were as follows: in December 2021, it increased by 1.5 percent, January 2022 increased by 2.1 percent and February 2022, decreased by 2.6 percent.

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

- **Air conditioners** contracted by 12.23 percent due to the impact of the COVID-19 situation. This causes the purchasing power of consumers to decrease and delay their purchasing decisions. As a result, the domestic market contracted, as well as dwindling exports due to the ongoing issue of container shortages and ship queues in transportation.

- **Hard disk drives** contracted by 8.18 percent from the spread of COVID-19, as a result, production is unable to be fully completed. There is also a shortage of parts along with being unable to deliver goods as planned due to flight problems in transportation.

- **Non-alcoholic beverages** contracted by 12.00 percent from the COVID-19 situation which affects purchasing power along with a lack of raw materials imported from abroad which was delayed due to transportation problems.

Key industries that expanded in March 2022 when compared to the same month of the previous year are:

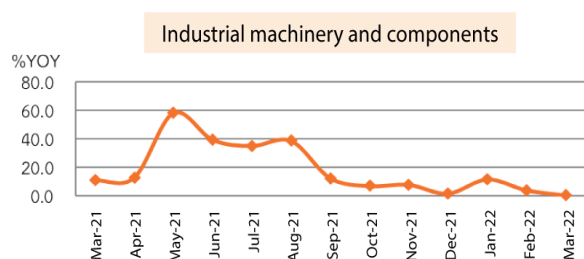
- **Sugar** increased by 61.25 percent due to higher sugarcane output than the previous year and this year sugarcane crushing operations stopped later than the previous year.

- **Petroleum refining** increased by 17.51 percent due to an increase in the number of tourists after easing immigration measures including various government tourism support measures to stimulate domestic tourism.

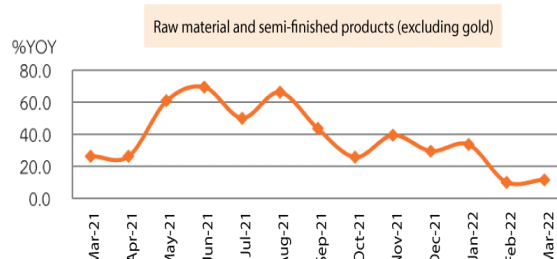
Other Industrial Economic Indicators in March 2022

Other Industrial Economic Indicators in March 2022

■ Imports of Thailand's Industrial Sector



Source: Ministry of Commerce

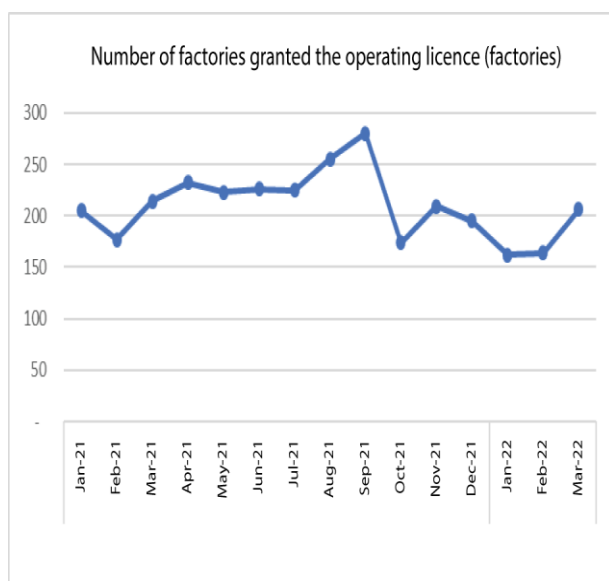


Source: Ministry of Commerce

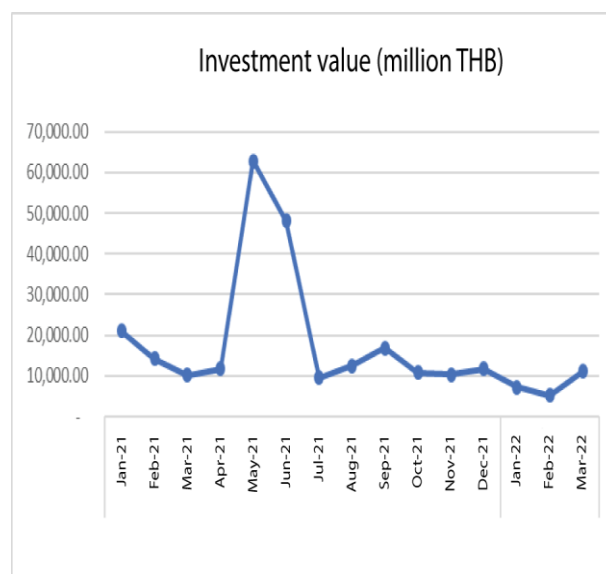
+ In March 2022, imports of industrial machinery and components valued at 1,600.5 million USD grew by 0.2 percent compared to the same month of the previous year. Expanding from construction machinery and components, other industrial machinery and components, metal processing machinery and components, engine, transmission shafts and other components and machinery and equipment used in rubber or plastic processing, etc.

+ In March 2022, imports of raw and semi-finished goods (excluding gold) valued at 10,170.6 million USD grew by 11.5 percent compared to the same month of the previous year. Expanding from circuit boards, fertilizers, pesticides and chemicals, etc.

■ Industrial Operation Status



Source: Department of Industrial Works



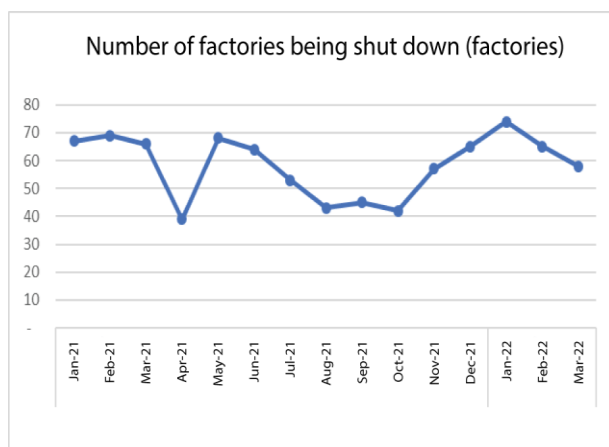
Source: Department of Industrial Works

- ➕ The total number of factories licensed for operation in March 2022 was 206 factories, increasing by 25.6 percent (%MoM) from February 2022 but decreasing by 3.7 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.
- ➕ The total investment from factories licensed for operating in March 2022 has a total value of 11,159 million THB, increasing by 115.1 percent (%MoM) from February 2022 and increasing by 8.9 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

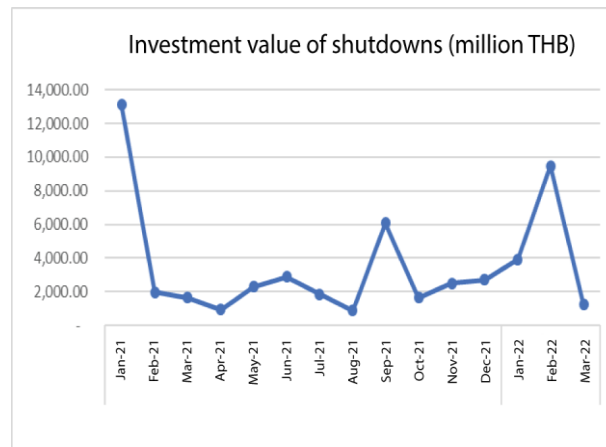
“The industry with the highest number of factories that started operations in March 2022 was the industry of digging or peeling gravel, sand or soil (31 factories), followed by the concrete product manufacturing industry of concrete mixed with gypsum products (29 factories).”

“The industry with the highest investment value in March 2022 is the industry for making all kinds of veneer or plywood, with capital amounting to 2,452 million THB, followed by the industry of plastic pellet making sticks, pipes, bulbs, sheets, floors, powder or various shapes with a capital of 757 million THB.”

■ Industrial Operation Status (Cont.)



Source: Department of Industrial Works



Source: Department of Industrial Works

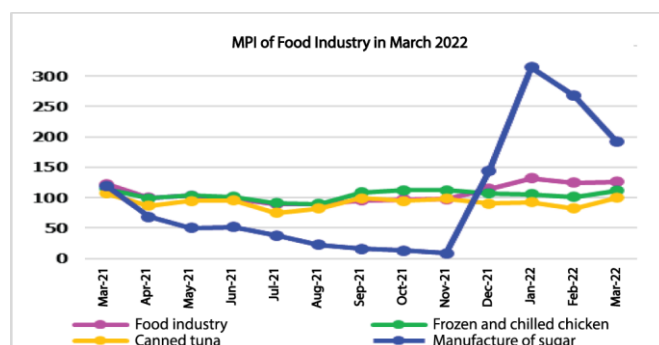
- ➕ A total of 58 factories were shut down in March 2022, decreasing by 10.8 percent (%MoM) from February 2022 and decreasing by 12.1 percent (%YoY) from the same month of the previous year.
- ➕ The lost investment value from shutdowns in March 2022 totaled 1,218 million THB, decreasing by 87.1 percent (%MoM) from February 2022 and decreasing by 25.8 percent (%YoY) from the same month of the previous year.

“In March 2022, the industry with the highest number of factory shutdowns was the industry of digging or peeling gravel, sand or soil (7 factories), followed by the engine-powered vehicle repair industry (4 factories).”

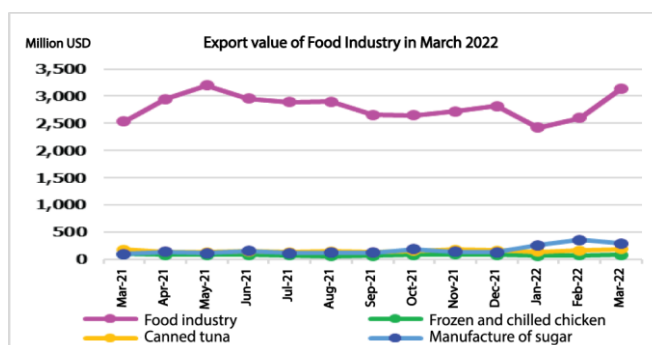
“The industry with the highest investment value in March 2022 is the industry of printing, document filing, stapling, making a cover or decorating the publication with capital amounting to 197 million THB, followed by the manufacturing, assembling, modifying or repairing radio receivers and television receivers with a capital of 139 million THB.”

Industrial Economic Status by Industrial Sectors in March 2022

1. Food Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics



Source: Ministry of Commerce



Food production index: In March 2022, grew by 3.2 percent (%YoY) due to the increase in raw sugar production in March 2022, coupled with continued demand for some products. The food products group with the production index expanding are as follows: 1) Sugar grew by 61.3 percent, mainly due to raw sugar because the factory hastened to produce raw sugar to keep up with the closure around the end of March 2022. In addition, the sugarcane yield entering the factory in the year 2021/2022 was more than the production year 2020/2021 due to farmers growing more. 2) Cassava grew by 4.2 percent and the key product is tapioca starch, due to consumer demand in 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 flour, due to the high price and 3) Livestock grew by 0.3 percent and the key product is cooked chicken, due to consumer demand in domestic and international markets. The main markets are Japan, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

However, some food production indexes also contracted and are as follows: 1) Palm oil contracted by 9.9 percent as a result of bottled palm oil producers slowing down their purchase of crude palm oil from extraction plants. The high price of palm raw materials used to produce crude palm oil leads to producers waiting to see the direction of the price. 2) Fisheries contracted by 8.2 percent due to higher prices of tuna raw materials and canned packaging, due to the cost of energy in transportation. 3) The ready-made animal food contracted by 8.2 percent due to the decline in swine supply from the pandemic of African swine fever, along with raw materials such as maize which still has a high price and insufficient quantity for production. As a result, ready-made animal food producers slow down production and 4) Processed vegetables and fruits contracted by 3.8 percent as operators slowed down production due to the impact of canned packaging prices and high freight rates.



Domestic sales: Production volume for food products in March 2022 decreased by 15.4 percent (%YoY), with the following food products declining: 1) Canned fruit decreased by 63.7 percent. 2) Refined sugar decreased by 50.5 percent. 3) Canned sardines decreased by 42.4 percent and 4) Refined palm oil decreased by 31.1 percent.

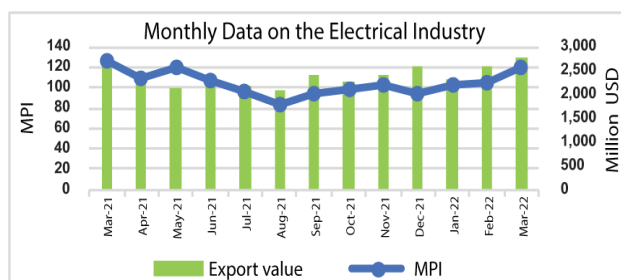


Export markets: Overall food exports in March 2022 were worth 3,131.38 million USD, increasing by 23 percent compared to the same period last year from the following products: 1) Rice and grains from major products such as rice because key importing countries such as Iraq, China and Japan have a continuous need to import rice for food security amid the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. 2) Fruits and vegetables from major products are fresh, chilled, frozen and dried fruits, with China being a key export market and 3) Sugar and molasses with the main product being sugar, due to the increasing demand of the main export markets such as Indonesia, Cambodia and Malaysia for use in continuous industries. In addition, the amount of sugarcane production in 2021/2022 was more than the previous year.

Forecasts and trends: The MPI of the food industry in April 2022 is expected to expand compared to the same period last year due to the relaxation of government measures and the policy of opening the country. However, it remains to monitor the adjustment of food raw material prices which have been affected by the Russian-Ukrainian conflict situation. Export value is likely to continue to expand in line with the global economic direction and the depreciation of the Thai baht.

2. Electrical and Electronics Industry

■ Electrical Industry



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



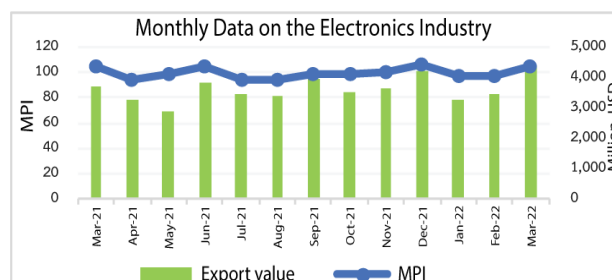
Production of electrical appliances: The MPI was at 120.2 points, decreasing by 4.6 percent compared to the same month of the previous year, with the decrease in products including electric wires, cables, rice cookers, washing machines, transformer thermos, microwave ovens and air conditioners by 36.9 percent, 20.1, 18.6, 18.1, 17.9, 17.2, 8.4 and 5.8 percent, respectively, due to a decrease in demand for domestic products and foreign orders, while the products that have increased are household fans, electric motors, compressors and refrigerators, with an increase of 24.8, 17.2, 7.9 and 4.6 percent, respectively, due to the increase in domestic sales and foreign orders.



Exports of electrical appliances were valued at 2,803.5 million USD, increasing by 4.1 percent compared to the same month of the previous year. The products that have more orders including electrical wires and cables were valued at 106.2 million USD, increasing by 19.7 percent in the ASEAN, Japan and the United States of America markets. Fans were valued at 49.8 million USD, increasing by 10.4 percent in China, the United States of America and ASEAN markets, refrigerators were valued at 234.2 million USD, increasing by 9.7 percent in Vietnam, Canada and the United States of America markets, washing machines were valued at 126.1 million USD, increasing by 9.5 percent in Mexico, ASEAN and Australia markets. Transformers and components were valued at 243.9 million USD, increasing by 6.4 percent in Mexico, China and the United States of America markets and switchboards and electrical control panels were valued at 248.6 million USD, increasing by 4.9 percent in Europe and Singapore markets. The products with reduced orders include: circuit breakers and protection were valued at 163.7 million USD, decreasing by 12.5 percent in the ASEAN market, microwave ovens were valued at 21.4 million USD, decreasing by 8.8 percent in China and the United States of America markets, air conditioners and components were valued at 728.2 million USD, decreasing by 6.1 percent in Germany and Japan markets, motors and generators were valued at 94.1 million USD, decreasing by 0.9 in Taiwan, Germany and China markets.

"The electrical appliance industry's production forecast for April 2022 is expected to decrease by 3.0-5.0 percent compared to the same month of the previous year. Due to the pandemic of the COVID-19 situation in the country and the inflation situation, consumers decided to buy more essential consumer products, with consumers having to maintain electrical appliances instead of buying new electrical appliances. As a result, the demand for electrical appliances products has decreased."

■ 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 105.4 points, slightly increasing by 0.5 percent compared to the same month last year. The products that increased were PCBA, PWB and IC that increased by 15.4, 4.9 and 3.5 percent respectively, due to an increased demand for products in both domestic and international markets. The products that declined were semiconductor devices, transistors, printers and HDD, which decreased by 10.5, 8.1 and 5.7 percent respectively, due to a decrease in domestic sales and a decrease in international orders.

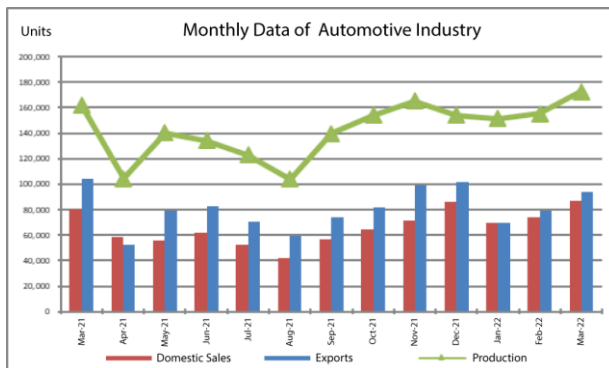


Export of electronics products were valued at 4,392.7 million USD, increasing by 19.2 percent compared to the same month of the previous year. The products that have increased orders are: HDD were valued at 1,636.8 million USD, increasing by 60.2 percent in China, the United States of America and Hongkong markets, circuit boards were valued at 820.9 million USD, increasing by 10.9 percent in the EU, South Korea and Singapore markets. While the products with reduced orders included: printed circuits were valued at 137.4 million USD, decreasing by 8.5 percent in China and Singapore markets and semiconductors, transistors and diodes were valued at 280.2 million USD, decreasing by 0.5 percent in China, Hongkong and the United States of America markets.

"Production forecast for April 2022, the electronics industry is expected to increase by 5.0 - 7.0 percent compared to the same month of the previous year because the world market still needs to use semiconductor chips and electronic components in the production of modern IoT devices and the production of electric vehicles has continued to increase both inside the country and abroad."

3. Automotive Industry

■ Automobile Manufacturing Industry



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

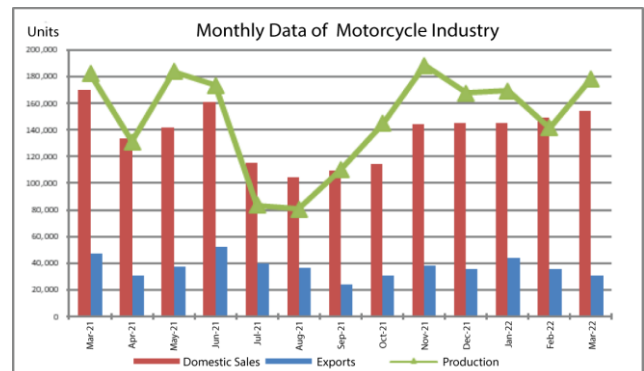
+ Automobile production: In March 2022, there were 172,671 units, increasing by 10.93 percent from February 2022 (%MoM) and increasing by 6.25 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY) from 1-ton pickup trucks, derivatives and commercial vehicles.

+ Domestic automobile sales: In March 2022, there were 87,245 units, increasing by 17.12 percent from February 2022 (%MoM) and increasing by 9.10 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY) from 1-ton pickup trucks, due to the government's economic stimulus measures to heal those affected by COVID-19 farmers income insurance. There are more economic activities of car dealer promotions including the Bangkok international motor show.

+ Automobile exports: In March 2022, there were 93,840 units, increasing by 18.11 percent from February 2022 (%MoM) but decreasing by 10.21 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY). Export markets declined in Asia, Oceania, Africa, Europe and Central and South America from the reduction of passenger cars. This was due to the slowdown in the production of some models of passenger cars due to the lack of parts and semiconductors.

"Forecasts and trends of the automotive manufacturing industry in April 2022 will increase when compared to April 2021, due to the recovery trend of the domestic market. However, the impact of the war between Russia and Ukraine must be monitored as well as the world economy."

■ Motorcycle Manufacturing Industry



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

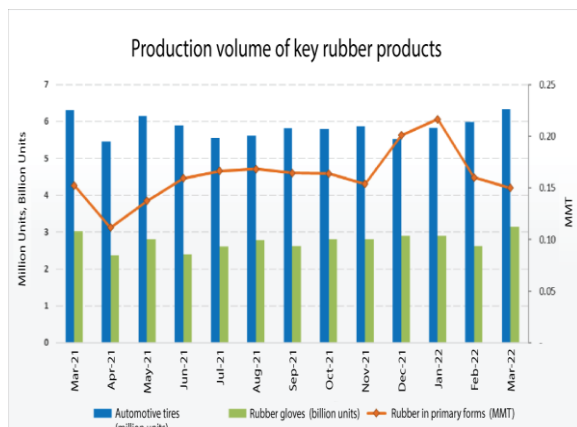
+ Motorcycle production: In March 2022, there were 178,471 units, increasing by 26.04 percent from February 2022 (%MoM) but decreasing by 2.16 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY) due to the decrease in the production of sport motorcycles.

+ Domestic sales of motorcycles: In March 2022, there were 153,928 units, increasing by 3.22 percent from February 2022 (%MoM) but decreasing by 9.28 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY) due to the decrease in motorcycle sale sizes 51-110 cc, 126-250 cc, 251-399 cc and greater than or equal to 400 cc.

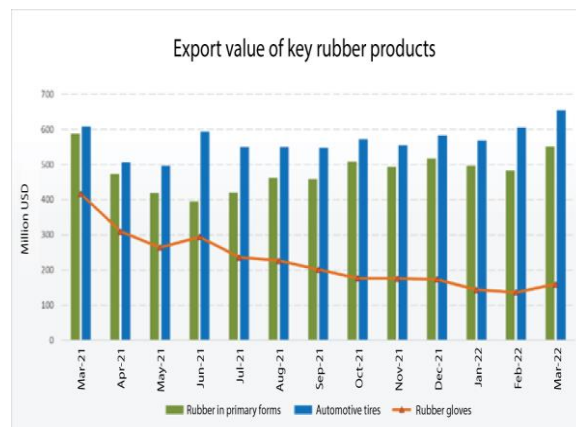
- Motorcycle exports: In March 2022, there were 30,841 units, decreasing by 13.51 percent from February 2022 (%MoM) and decreasing by 35.35 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY) by the finished motorcycle export market. There has been a decline in China, the United States of America and Japan.

"Forecasts and trends of the motorcycle manufacturing industry in April 2022 will increase when compared to April 2021. Due to the recovery trend of the domestic market, however, the impact of the war between Russia and Ukraine must be monitored along with the world economy."

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) decreased by 4.85 percent due to the slowdown in the production of smoked rubber sheets, rubber blocks and concentrated latex.

➕ Automotive tires increased by 0.48 percent from the increase in the production of pickup tires, truck tires, buses and tractor tires.

➕ Rubber gloves increased by 4.26 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 0.12 percent as a result of the increasing demand for rubber blocks.

➕ Automotive tires increased by 2.97 percent according to the expansion of the domestic automobiles industry.

➕ Rubber gloves increased by 10.29 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) increased in value by 6.03 percent as a result of the reduction of the export of concentrated latex to China market and the rubber sheet to the Japan market.

➕ Automotive tires increased in value by 7.39 percent mainly in line with the good expansion of the United States of America and Malaysia markets.

➖ Rubber gloves decreased in value by 61.62 percent mainly following the slowdown in the United States of America market.

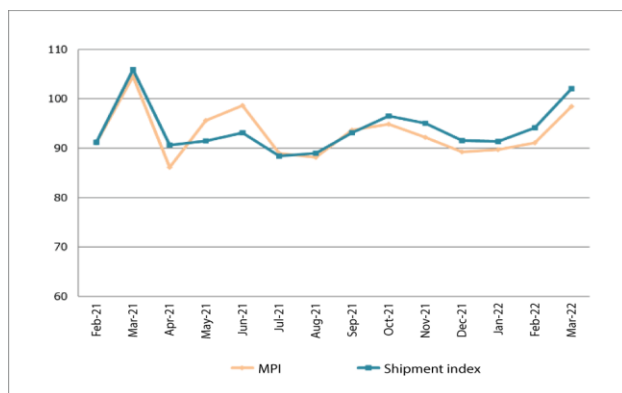
Outlook for the Industry in April 2022

Primary processed rubber production (smoked rubber sheets, block rubber and concentrated latex) is expected to return to expand mainly from production to meet the needs of the continuous industrial sector in the country. Automotive tires production is expected to expand from the previous month from the demand of both domestic and international markets that tend to increase continuously 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 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 decrease in value, especially in key export markets like China that still have lockdown measures in main 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 export base last year, because a high level and the trend of global market demand began to slow down from August 2021 onwards.

5. Plastics Industry

MPI and Shipment Index



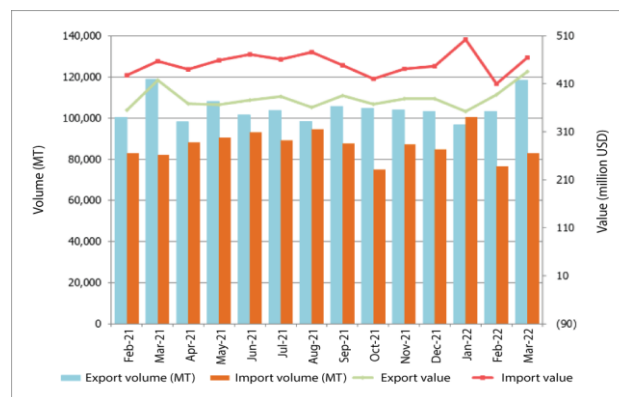
Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

– Manufacturing Production Index: In March 2022, the MPI decreased by 0.04 percent compared to the same period last year. The MPI decreased in many product groups, for example, plastic pipes and fittings decreased by 15.20 percent, plastic sacks decreased by 14.97 percent and other plastic packages decreased by 8.79 percent.

– Shipment Index: In March 2022, the shipment index decreased by 3.62 percent compared to the same period last year by contracted product groups such as plastic pipes and fittings decreasing by 14.32 percent, plastic sacks decreasing by 9.72 percent and other plastic packages decreasing by 6.37 percent.

+ Exports: In March 2022 were valued at 435.71 million USD or increased by 4.28 percent compared to the same period last year. Products that contributed to the expansion of exports were single fiber product group (HS 3916) increasing by 92.48 percent, the sanitary wear product group (HS 3922) increasing by 24.41 percent and sheets, thin sheets, films, foil and strip products that are not cellular (HS 3920) increasing by 17.48 percent. The exports expanded in key markets such as Japan, the United States of America, Japan, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Volume and Value of Exports-Imports



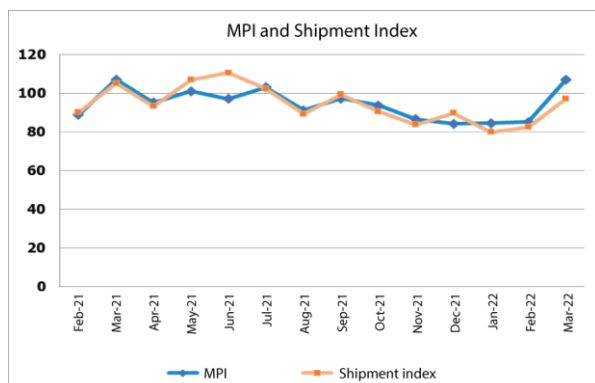
Source: Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

+ Imports: In March 2022 were valued at 465.16 million USD or increased by 1.58 percent compared to the same period last year. The main products that contributed to the expansion of imports include household products (HS 3924) increasing by 21.35 percent. single fiber product group (HS 3916) increasing by 19.71 percent and plastic flooring product group (HS 3918) increasing by 16.39 percent compared to the same period last year.

Plastics Industry Trends In April 2022, the situation of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine is causing global energy prices to rise and the direction of crude oil prices is likely to increase. As a result, the export of oil-related products such as plastic resins and chemicals increased the cost of raw materials used in the production of these products.

6. Chemical Products Industry

MPI and Shipment Index



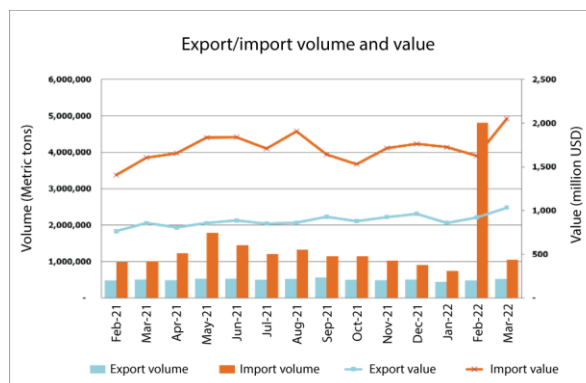
Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

Manufacturing Production Index: In March 2022, it was at 107.05 points, decreasing by 0.05 percent compared to the same period last year. The upstream chemicals group decreased by 0.52 percent compared to the same period last year. Products with decreased production include ethanol which decreased by 8.83 percent, chlorine which decreased by 2.26 percent and hydrochloric acid which decreased by 0.55 percent. The downstream chemicals group increased by 0.09 percent compared to the same period last year. Products with increased production include chemical fertilizers which increased by 26.17 percent, cleaning solutions which increased by 25.42 percent and soap and skincare products which increased by 6.05 percent.

Shipment Index: In March 2022, were valued at 97.18 points, decreasing by 7.68 percent compared to the same period last year. The shipment index of products in the upstream chemical group decreased by 2.41 percent. Products that decreased include ethanol which decreased by 15.38 percent and chlorine which decreased by 2.67 percent. The downstream chemicals group decreased by 9.07 percent, products that decreased include oil paints which decreased by 29.13 percent, chemical fertilizers which decreased by 19.68 percent and softeners which decreased by 19.01 percent.

Exports: In March 2022, total exports were valued at 1,033.46 million USD, increasing by 20.46 percent compared to the same period last year. The upstream chemicals group has an export value of 622.89 million USD, increasing by 29.86 percent compared to the same period

Volume and Value of Exports and Imports



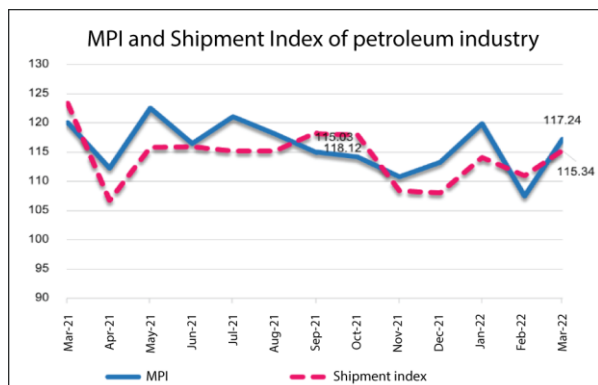
Source: Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

last year. The downstream chemicals group has an export value of 410.57 million USD, increasing by 8.53 percent. Products that contributed to the expansion of the export value were chemical fertilizers which increased by 126.51 percent, miscellaneous chemicals which increased by 39.82 percent and inorganic chemicals which increased by 30.07 percent. Exports expanded in many markets such as China, Japan, India and Vietnam.

Imports: In March 2022, total imports were valued at 2,051.08 million USD, increasing by 27.70 percent compared to the same period last year. The upstream chemicals group had an import value of 1,388.18 million USD, increasing by 22.21 percent compared to the same period last year. The downstream chemicals had an import value of 662.90 million USD, increasing by 41.10 percent compared to the same period last year.

Chemical Products Industry Trends in April 2022, the conflict situation between Russia and Ukraine is causing the price of crude oil to continue to rise. The rising cost of raw materials affects the production of the chemical products industry.

7. Petrochemical Industry

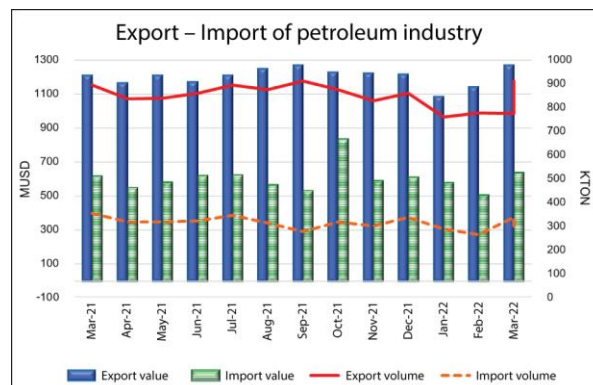


Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

Manufacturing Production Index was at 117.24 points or decreased by 2.47 percent compared to the same period last year but increased by 9.07 percent compared to the previous month. The upstream petrochemicals including ethylene decreased by 3.37 percent compared to the same period last year and downstream petrochemicals including PP resin and PVC resin which decreased by 5.34 and 0.66 percent compared to the same period last year.

Shipment Index was at 115.34 points or decreased by 5.27 percent compared to the same period last year but increased by 3.90 percent compared to the previous month. The upstream petrochemicals, including ethylene decreased by 6.65 percent compared to the same period last year and downstream petrochemicals including PP resin and SAN resin decreased by 15.80 and 24.82 percent compared to the same period last year.

Exports: In March 2022, were valued at 1,198.74 million USD, decreasing by 1.29 percent from the same period last year but increasing by 4.66 percent from the previous month, with a decrease in downstream petrochemicals such as PP resin and PS resin which decreased by 0.74 percent and a decrease in upstream petrochemicals such as vinyl chloride and derivatives of propylene.

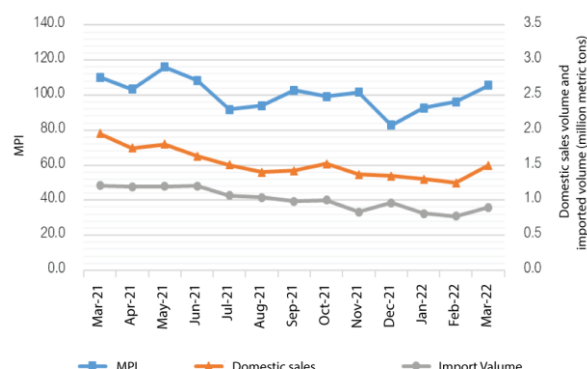


Source: Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce*

Imports: In March 2022, were valued at 641.28 million USD or increased by 3.34 percent compared to the same period last year and increased by 21.51 percent compared to the previous month, with expanding upstream petrochemical groups such as ethylene and vinyl chloride but decreased in the downstream petrochemical group PC resin and PS resin which decreased by 2.23 percent.

Forecasts and trends in April 2022, the overall industry outlook will slow down compared to the same period last year from the slowdown of imports and exports especially downstream petrochemicals such as ethylene and propylene from the price level that fluctuates in accordance with the price of crude oil as a result 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 a key global energy producer but there is a profitable sale of investors causing the price to fluctuate.

8. Iron and Steel Industry



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

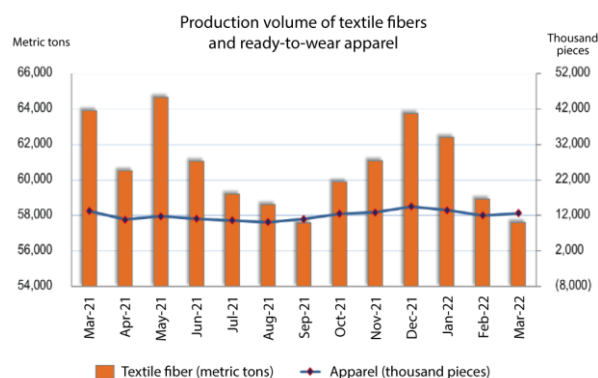
Manufacturing Production Index: In March 2022, was at 105.5 points, decreasing by 4.3 percent compared to the same period last year, due to higher raw material prices. As a result, the purchasing power of consumers is dwindling. Considering the main product, it was found that the production index of long steel products has contracted but flat steel products have expanded. For the products in the long steel group, the MPI was at 104.9 points which decreased by 7.1 percent. The products with the highest decrease were deformed steel bars which decreased by 16.7 percent followed by cold-rolled structural steel which decreased by 12.5 percent and high tensile steel wires which decreased by 10.6 percent. For the products in the flat steel group, the MPI was 109.4 points which increased by 1.7 percent. The product that production increased were hot-rolled coils which increased by 31.4 percent and tinplates which increased by 0.1 percent. However, the products that production increased were chromium coated steel sheets, cold-rolled steel sheets and galvanized steel sheets which decreased by 13.4, 12.8 and 11.5 percent, respectively.

Domestic Consumption: In March 2022, the consumption volume was 1.5 million tons, decreasing by 23.1 percent compared to the same period last year. For the long steel group, the consumption volume was 0.6 million tons, decreasing by 32.6 percent from the consumption of rebar and hot-rolled structural steel which decreased by 31.7 percent and wire rods which decreased by 42.3 percent. Consumption of flat steel was 0.9 million tons, decreasing by 15.6 percent from the consumption of hot rolled steel which decreased by 37.3 percent followed by cold rolled thin steel which decreased by 15.8 percent and hot-rolled thin steel sheets in roll and non-rolls which decreased by 14.3 percent.

Imports: In March 2022, the import volume was 0.9 million tons, decreasing by 26.0 percent compared to the same period last year. The long steel product group had an import volume of 0.2 million tons, decreasing by 41.7 percent from the import of hot-rolled structural steel (carbon steel type) which decreased by 43.3 percent (the main countries imported by Thailand are Vietnam, Japan and China) followed by steel bar (alloy steel type) which decreased by 29.1 percent (the main countries imported by Thailand are Japan, China and South Korea) and wire rod which decreased by 17.8 percent (the main countries imported by Thailand are China). The flat steel product group had an import volume of 0.7 million tons, decreasing by 21.2 percent from imports of hot-rolled thin steel sheets in roll and non-rolls (carbon steel P&O type), decreasing by 42.4 percent (the main countries imported by Thailand are Japan and South Korea) followed by hot-rolled and non-rolled thin steel sheets (alloy steel type), decreasing by 38.6 percent (the main countries imported by Thailand are Japan and China) and cold rolled thin steel (carbon steel type), decreasing by 22.8 percent (the main countries imported by Thailand are Japan and South Korea).

"The outlook for the iron and steel industry in April 2022, is expected that the MPI will slightly decline from the same period last year. Due to rising raw material prices, consumers delayed their purchase orders. There are some important issues that should be followed, including the conflict situation between Russia and Ukraine resulting in the disruption of the steel production chain, due to the decrease in steel exports from Russia and Ukraine, resulting in steel prices rising on the global market. In addition, energy and transportation costs tend to increase, resulting in a continuous rise in the price of steel products. This is in accordance with market mechanisms as with many products that raise prices and another important point is implementation of China's steel industry policy which is the world's largest steel producer, consumer and exporter because it affects the production of steel products in Thailand."

9. Textile and Wearing Apparel Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

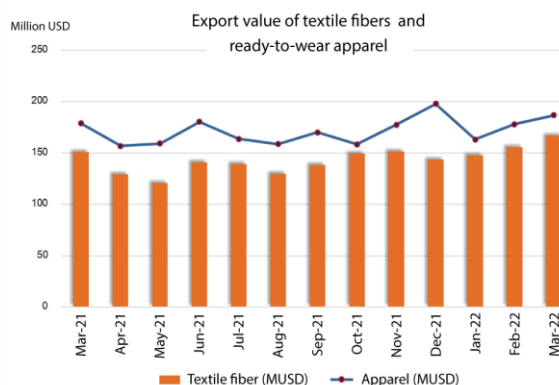
Production

⊖ Manufacture of textile fibers, fabrics and ready-made garments decreased by 9.88 and 4.26 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 export of both sports apparel and underwear continues to grow.

⊕ Manufacture of fabric production slightly increased by 3.51 percent from the expansion in the polyester synthetic woven fabric group, to support sports apparel orders, workout clothes, suit or uniform continually expanding. This was mainly due to the 13-month expansion of export markets in key markets such as the United States of America, Japan and Vietnam, coupled with the domestic market showing signs of better economic growth from the hotel business groups starting to prepare for tourism by ordering new uniforms.

Domestic sales

⊖ Textile fibers, fabrics and ready-made garments decreased by 14.05, 1.93 and 15.26 percent with the purchasing power of domestic consumers slowing down from the impact of the COVID-19.



Source: Ministry of Commerce

Exports

⊕ Textile fibers, fabrics and ready-made garments expanded throughout the supply chain for the 13th month in key markets such as the United States of America, Japan and Vietnam. Textile fibers, fabrics and ready-made garments increased by 10.37, 24.80 and 4.40 percent (%YoY).

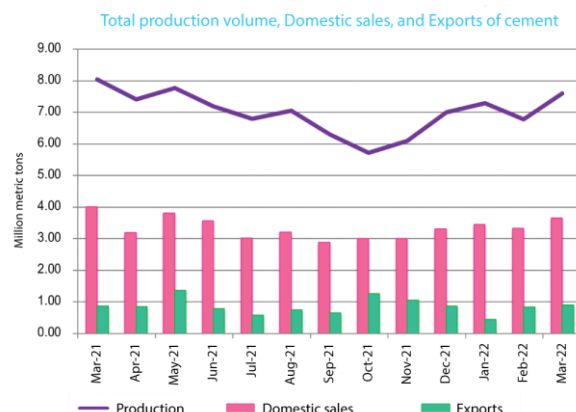
Imports

⊕ Yarns, fibers and fabrics increased by 20.19 and 16.80 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 declined for the 10th consecutive month by 3.08 percent (%YoY) from purchasing power in the country from the tourists who have not returned yet.

Industry outlook for April 2022

It is expected that the textile and wearing apparel industry will continue to expand from international markets that are continually throughout the supply chain together with the relaxation of measures to prevent COVID-19 both domestically and internationally. However, there are also negative factors such as freight charges and 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



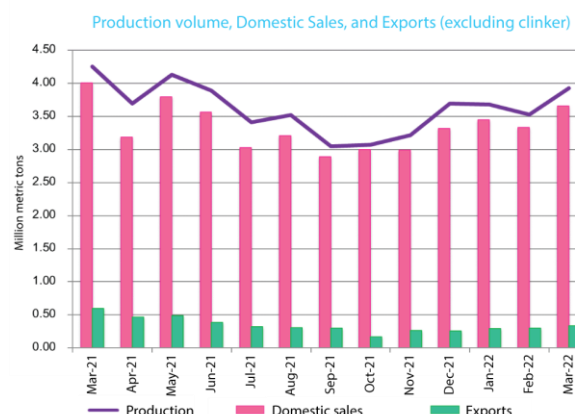
Source: 1. Domestic production and sales volume: Division of Information and Industrial Economic Indices, the Office of Industrial Economics
2. Export volume: Information and Communication Technology Center, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

➤ In March 2022, the total production of cement was 7.60 million tons, increasing by 11.92 percent from February 2022 (%MoM) but decreasing by 5.68 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY).

➤ In March 2022, total domestic sales of cement were 3.66 million tons, increasing by 9.89 percent from February 2022 (%MoM) but decreasing by 8.69 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY).

➤ In March 2022, total cement exports were 0.90 million tons, increasing by 7.88 percent from February 2022 (% MoM) and increasing by 4.18 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY). This is because some of the main export markets' economies have begun to recover and the Myanmar market has concerns over the Russia-Ukraine war, afraid that there will be a shortage of products and hastened to order more products.

Forecasts and trends of the cement manufacturing industry overall in April 2022 are expected to continue to slow down as consumers continue to be affected by the economic impact of the pandemic of COVID-19 (new species) and have a few working days because it is the Songkran festival.



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 March 2022, cement production (excluding clinker) was 3.93 million tons, increasing by 11.38 percent from February 2022 (%MoM) but decreasing by 7.69 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY).

➤ In March 2022, domestic sales of cement (excluding clinker) were 3.66 million tons, increasing by 9.89 percent from February 2022 (%MoM) but decreasing by 8.69 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY).

➤ In March 2022, cement exports (excluding clinker) were 0.33 million tons, increasing by 12.63 percent from February 2022 (%MoM) due to concerns that the product will be shortage due to the Russian-Ukrainian war but compared to the same month of the previous year, decreasing by 43.77 percent (%YoY) due to the high base of some major export markets in the previous year.

Forecasts and trends of the cement manufacturing industry (excluding clinker) in April 2022 are expected to continue to slow down further. It is the economic impact of the COVID-19 and have several days off during the festival.