

Industrial Production Status

Indicators	2019	2020	2020										2021		
%YoY	Year	Year	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
MPI	-3.4	-9.3	-11.1	-19.1	-24.1	-17.9	-13.6	-9.3	-2.6	-1.3	-0.6	-2.8	-2.0	-1.4	4.1

The industrial economy in **March 2021**, when considered from the **Manufacturing Production Index (MPI)**, **increased by 4.1 percent from the same period last year**—increasing for the first time over 23 months after the impact of the trade war and the COVID-19 outbreak. The increase is partly beneficial from the low base in 2020.

When considering MPI data for the past three months compared to the previous year (% YoY), production in December 2020, January 2021, and February 2021 decreased by 2.8, 2.0, and 1.4 percent, respectively.

Indicators	2020										2021		
%MoM	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
MPI	2.7	-25.0	2.9	4.1	4.6	5.2	3.8	0.3	1.6	-0.7	6.9	-3.1	8.4

In the past three months (December 2020, January 2021, and February 2021), the MPI change rates (%MoM) were as follows: a decrease of 0.7 percent in December 2020, an increase of 6.9 percent in January 2021, and a decrease of 3.1 percent in February 2021.

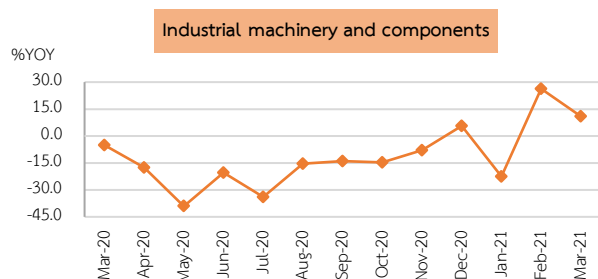
Key industries that contributed to the MPI contraction in March 2021 compared to the same month last year were as follows:

- **Automobiles and parts:** The industry grew by 7.53 percent from a low base last year when the economy was hit by the COVID-19 outbreak, causing the need to implement lockdown measures. In addition, major trading partners slowed down economic activity.
- **Iron and steel:** The industry grew by 19.19 percent from a low base last year, where demand contracted. Customers slowed orders after the severe COVID-19 outbreak. This year benefited from lower global steel volumes. As a result, global steel prices increased. Therefore, production accelerated to generate profits while products are in a shortage.
- **Sugar:** The industry grew by 26.89 percent as production concluded later than last year. Additionally, this year's fresh sugarcane yields were of higher quality, which could be extracted into sugar. As a result, the average sugar yield per ton of sugarcane was higher than the previous year.
- **Furniture:** The industry grew by 42.76 percent, mainly from wooden furniture, due to continued orders for tables and chairs for export to the US.
- **Prepared animal feed:** The industry grew by 15.48 percent from pet food and animal feed for pigs, fish, and shrimp, and continued orders for cat food exports to the US. In addition, more manufacturers expand to online market channels. There was also a continuing demand from farmers raising crickets.

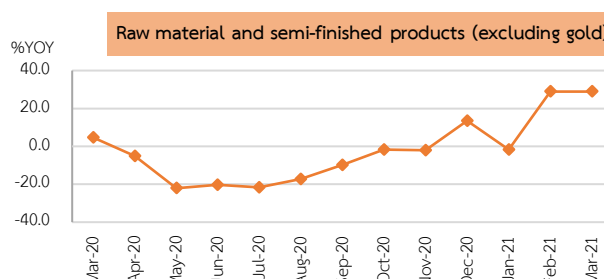
Other Industrial Economic Indicators in March 2021

Other Industrial Economic Indicators in March 2021

Imports of Thailand Industrial Sector



Source: Ministry of Commerce

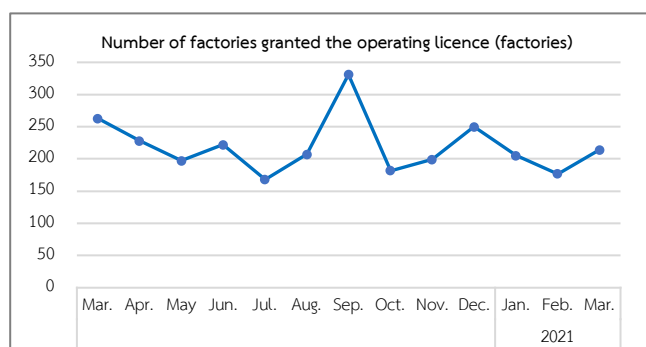


Source: Ministry of Commerce

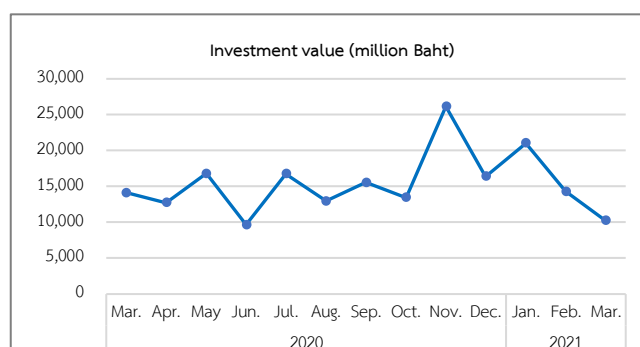
+ **Imports of industrial machinery and parts** in March 2021 increased by 10.9 percent compared to the same month last year to 1,597.3 million USD, which increased from engines, transmission shafts, and other parts, construction machinery and parts, machinery and parts used in other industries, air pump, fluid pumps, printing machinery, etc.

+ **Imports of raw and semi-finished goods (excluding gold)** in March 2021 increased by 28.9 percent compared to the same month last year to 9,121.0 million USD, which increased from iron, steel and products thereof, electrical/electronic equipment and components such as PCBs and circuit boards, etc.

Industrial Operation Status



Source: Department of Industrial Works



Source: Department of Industrial Works



The total number of factories licensed for operation in March 2021 was 214 factories, an increase of 20.9 percent (%MoM) from February 2021 but a decrease of 18.63 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

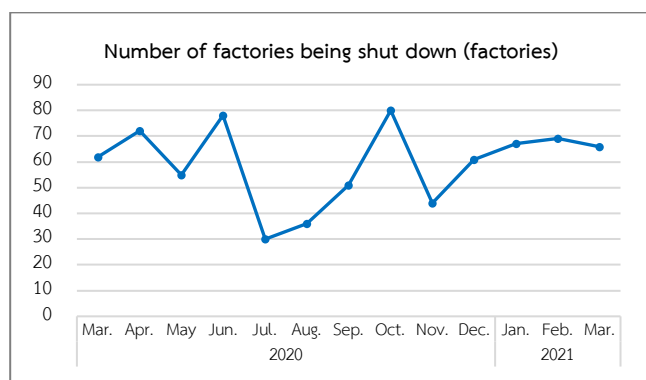


The total investment from factories licensed for operating in March 2021 decreased by 28.32 percent (%MoM) from February 2021 to 10,251 million Baht and decreased by 27.3 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

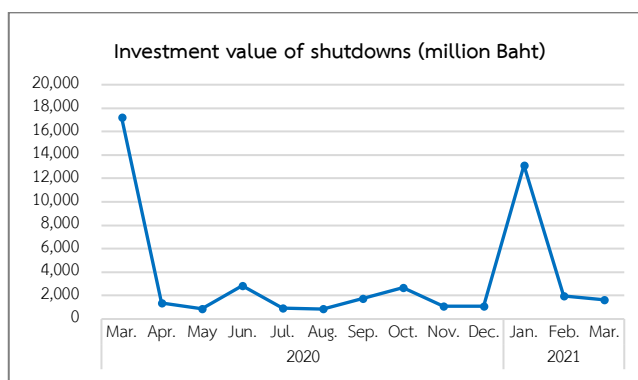
"The industry with the highest number of newly licensed factories to operate in March 2021 was the excavation or dredging industry of gravel, sand, or soil (24 factories) and the manufacture of concrete, ready-mixed concrete articles, and gypsum products (24 factories)."

"In March 2021, the industry with the highest investment value was the manufacture of non-tire rubber products (1,684 million Baht), followed by the power generation from heat energy (993 million Baht)."

■ Industrial Operation Status (cont.)



Source: Department of Industrial Works



Source: Department of Industrial Works

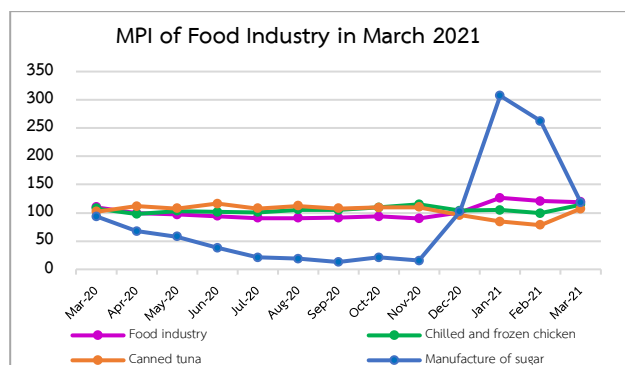
- ➕ A total of 66 factories were shut down in March 2021, decreasing by 4.35 percent (% MoM) from February 2021 but increasing by 6.45 percent (% YoY) from the same month last year.
- ➕ The lost investment value on shutdown in March 2021 totaled 1,641 million Baht, a decrease of 16.28 percent (%MoM) from February 2021 and a decrease of 90.469 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

“In March 2021, the industry with the highest number of factory shutdowns was the excavation or dredging industry of gravel, sand, or soil (9 factories), followed by the manufacture of concrete, ready-mixed concrete articles, and gypsum products (4 factories).”

“The industries with the largest investment that shut down business were the industry of printing, manufacture of document files, book binding, manufacture of book covers, or print finishing (319 million Baht), followed by manufacturing industry of rib smoked sheets, crepe rubber, block rubber, and latex (253 million Baht).”

Industrial Economic Status by Industrial Sectors in March 2021

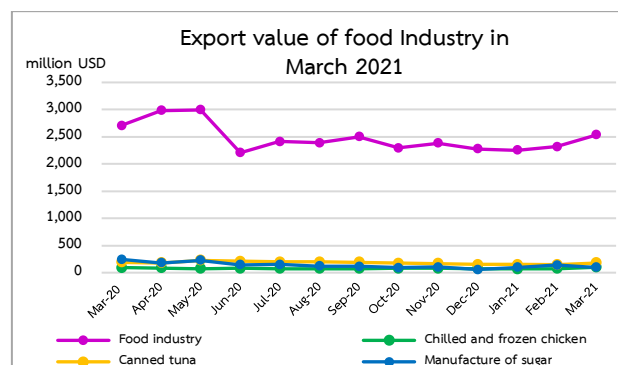
1. Food Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

Production: The overall MPI in the food industry for March 2021 grew by 8.0 percent (%YoY) from sugar products as sugar production was stopped production later than the previous year, including some products had ongoing orders. Products that increased in MPI were (1) canned pineapple (67.7% YoY), (2) sugar (26.9% YoY), (3) prepared pet food (23.7% YoY), (4) frozen shrimps (12.0% YoY), (5) chilled and frozen chicken (6.2% YoY), (6) canned tuna (5.1% YoY), and (7) cooked chicken meat (1.1% YoY).

Domestic sales: In March 2021, sales volume grew by 3.0 percent from some products, such as (1) pet food (54.8% YoY), (2) frozen shrimps (35.2% YoY), (3) refined sugar (23.7% YoY), (4) chilled and frozen chicken (15.2% YoY), and (5) refined soybean oil (13.0% YoY).



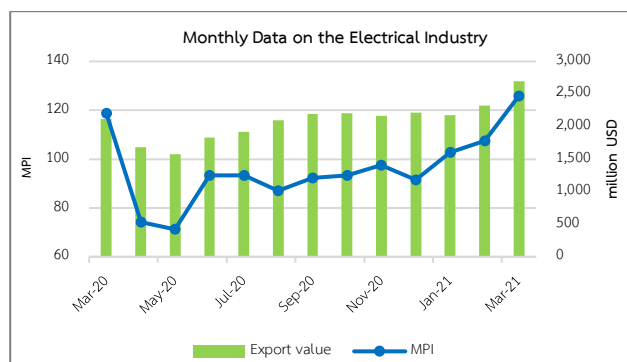
Source: Ministry of Commerce

Export markets: Overall food exports in March 2021 valued at 2,532.7 million USD, a contraction from the same period last year (%YoY) by 6.9 percent from key products, including (1) sugar—due to the decline in global sugar prices caused by adequate supplies from Brazil and India, which are major producers. In addition, Indonesia, a major sugar importer, increasingly adopted the policy to produce sugar domestically. (2) rice—the production cost of Thai rice was higher than that of competitors, making it unable to compete in price. Furthermore, white rice, a key product that Thailand exports, did not meet the needs of consumers, which increasingly turned to softer rice, and (3) chilled, frozen, canned, and processed fruits and vegetables—due to weather variability, exports of fruits, such as durian, mangosteen, and longan, decreased, resulting in a lower export value.

Outlook for the food industry: It is expected that the MPI and export value of the overall food industry in April 2021 are projected to decline compared to the same period of the previous year. This is because, during the past year, factories were in continuous production as a result of more orders from the trading partner countries to reserve food during the pandemic.

2. Electrical and Electronics Industry

■ Electrical Industry



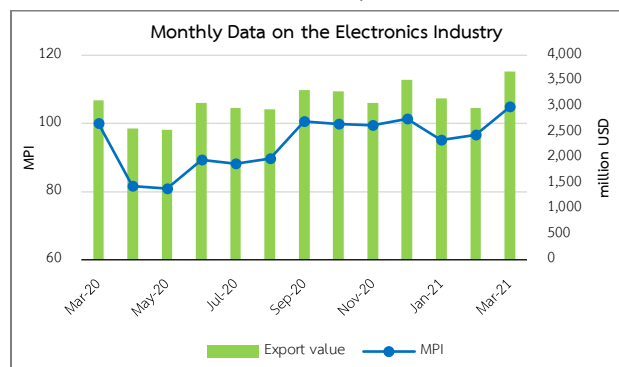
Source: The Office of Industrial Economics, Electrical and Electronics Institute, and Ministry of Commerce

➕ **Production of electrical appliances** increased by 5.8 percent compared to the same month last year with an MPI of 125.9 points. Products that increased in production were electric motors (41.3%), electric wires (39.2%), thermo pots (30.9%), microwave ovens (25.5%), cables (23.9%), washing machines (21.4%), transformers (17.2%), refrigerators (13.3%), and rice cookers (10.7%). The increment was due to an increase in domestic sales and orders from international markets. Nevertheless, products that decreased in production were household fans (-13.6%), air-conditioners (-7.7%), and compressors (-2.1%) because of a decrease in demands for products from overseas.

➕ **Exports of electrical appliances** increased by 20.9 percent compared to the same month last year to 2,693.7 million USD. Products that increased in orders were transformers and parts—increasing by 64.2 percent to 229.4 million USD from Europe, China, and the US markets; microwave ovens—increasing by 58.1% to 23.4 million USD in Australia, India, and ASEAN markets; electric wires/cables—increasing by 52.8 percent to 88.7 million USD in the US, Malaysia, and Australia markets; household fan—increasing 44.5 percent to 45.1 million USD in China, India, and Germany markets; refrigerators—increasing 25.6 percent to 213.50 million USD in the US, Taiwan, and Saudi Arabia markets.

“Production outlook in April 2021: The electrical industry is expected to increase by 6.0 percent from the same month last year, as Thailand’s main export markets began to recover. As a result, there was a growing demand for electrical appliances such as microwave ovens, refrigerators, electrical wires, and cables.”

■ Electronics Industry



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

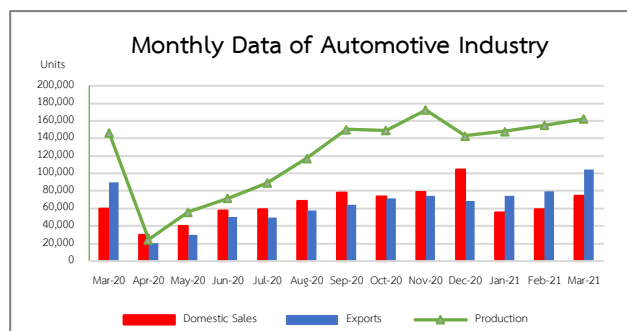
➕ **Production of electronics** increased by 4.7 percent compared to the same month last year with an MPI of 104.85 points. Electronic products that increased in production were printers (77.6%), PWBs (13.7%), ICs (13.4%), semiconductor device transistors (12.5%), and HDDs (3.2%), owing to the growth of domestic sales and an increase in orders from overseas. Meanwhile, electronic product that decreased in production was PCBAs (-29.8%) because of demands for the products from domestic and overseas markets dropped.

➕ **Exports of electronics** increased by 13.6 percent compared to the same month last year to 3,686.6 million USD. Product that increased in orders were PCBAs—increasing 39.9 percent to 150.4 million USD in ASEAN and the US markets; ICs—increasing by 18.9 percent to 739.6 million USD in ASEAN, the US, and Europe markets; semiconductors, transistors, and diodes—increasing by 12.3 percent to 281.7 million USD in Europe, China, and ASEAN markets. In contrast, the product with a decrease in orders was HDDs, decreasing 15.5 percent to 1,021.7 million USD in Europe, the US, and China markets.

“Production outlook in April 2021: The electronics industry expected to continue to increase by 5.0 percent from the same month last year. This is because Thailand’s main export markets, such as the US, China, and Europe, have started to recover from the COVID-19 situation. Additionally, network expansions and development of 5G network equipment will increase the demand for electronic equipment and components in domestic and international markets.”

3. Automotive Industry

■ Automotive Manufacturing Industry



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

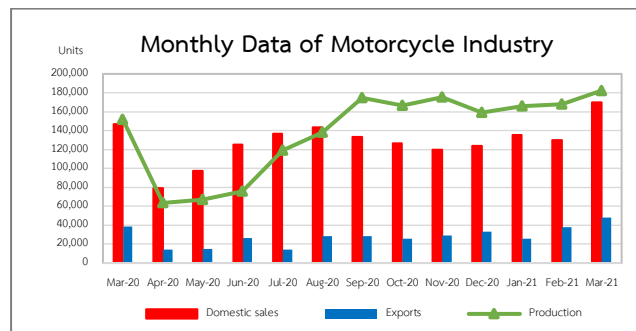
➕ **Automotive production** in March 2021 increased by 4.71 percent (%MoM) from February 2021 to 162,515 units and increased by 10.70 percent (%YoY) compared to the same month last year from production growth of passenger cars, 1-ton pick-up trucks and derivatives, and commercial vehicles.

➕ **Domestic automobile sales** in March 2021 reached 74,295 units, an increase from February 2021 by 26.01 percent (%MoM) and by 25.62 percent from the same month of last year (%YoY). The growth was due to increased sales of passenger cars, 1-ton pickup trucks, and derivatives, commercial vehicles, PPVs, and SUVs. This was from the government easing control on COVID-19 prevention measures, which increased domestic economic activity. Furthermore, there were government measures to support purchasing power which continuously stimulated domestic consumption.

➕ **Automobile exports** in March 2021 reached 104,506 vehicles, an increase of 31.50 percent from February 2021 (%MoM) and 16.38 percent from the same month of the previous year (%YoY). Automobile exports rose to Asia, Oceania, and Europe, as the global economy began to recover from clearer COVID-19 vaccine measures and the economic stimulus measures that all countries began to launch.

"Automotive industry outlook: The automotive industry in April 2021 is expected to grow compared to April 2020, because of automobile production base in April 2020 fell to the lowest point from the COVID-19 outbreaks, which had an impact on the global automobile market."

■ Motorcycle Manufacturing Industry



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

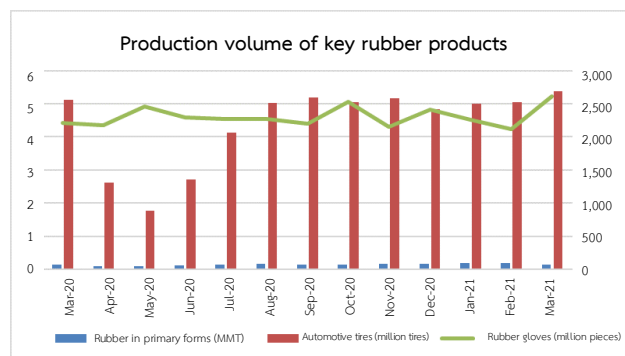
➕ **Motorcycle production** in March 2021 increased by 8.47 percent (%MoM) from February 2021 to 182,359 units and increased by 20.21 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year from an increase in the production of multi-purpose and sport motorcycles.

➕ **Domestic sales of motorcycles** in March 2021 increased by 30.39 percent (%MoM) from February 2021 to 169,672 units and 15.63 percent (%YoY) over the same month last year from an increase in sales of 51-110 cc, 111-125 cc, 126-250 cc, and 251-399 cc motorcycles.

➕ **Motorcycle exports** in March 2021 increased by 26.80 percent (%MoM) from February 2021 to 47,707 units and increased by 23.42 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year, whereby exports markets for CBU motorcycles increased in the UK, China, and the US.

"Motorcycle industry outlook: The industry in April 2021 is expected to grow compared to April 2020 because of motorcycle production base in April 2020 fell to the lowest point from the COVID-19 outbreaks, which had an impact on the global automobile 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)* increased by 5.29 percent from smoked rubber sheets and concentrated latex.

➕ *Automotive tires* increased by 5.19 percent, following the expansion of both domestic and overseas markets.

➕ *Rubber gloves* increased by 18.04 percent, in line with continued growth of demands for medical uses because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Domestic Sales

➕ *Processed rubber in primary forms (smoked rubber sheets, rubber blocks, and concentrated latex)* grew 29.98 percent from concentrated latex products.

➕ *Automotive tires* increased by 16.89 percent, in line with the expansion of the automotive industry and replacement markets.

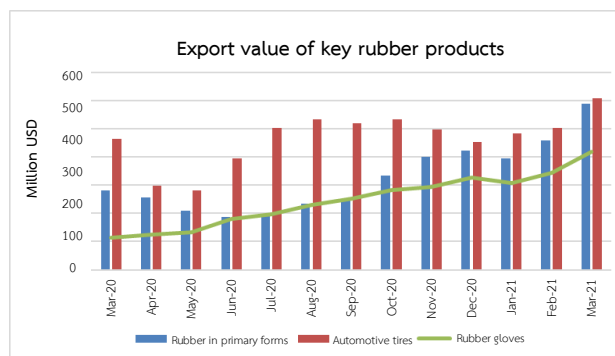
➖ *Rubber gloves* decreased by 50.76 percent as domestic manufacturers decreased their shipments through middlemen and turned to overseas marketing by themselves.

Exports

➕ *The export value of processed rubber in primary forms (smoked rubber sheets, rubber blocks, and concentrated latex)* increased in value by 109.71 percent from the expansion of exports of all processed rubber in primary forms following the growing demands from China, Malaysia, and Japan.

➕ *Automotive tires* increased in export value by 31.55 percent following the expansion of the US, China, and Australia.

➕ *Rubber gloves* increased in export value by 271.57 percent following the continued expansion of the US, the UK, China, Japan and Germany markets, respectively.



Source: Ministry of Commerce

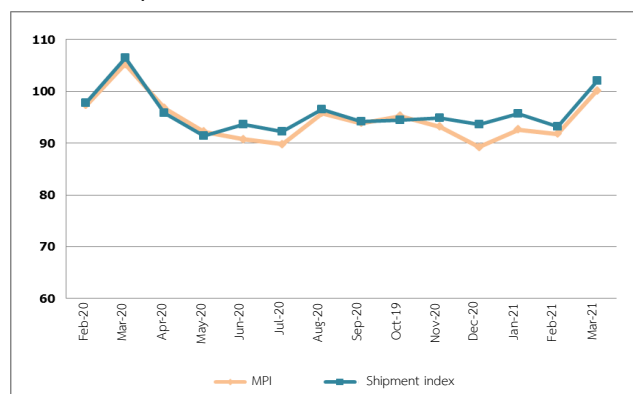
Outlook for the industry in April 2021

The production of processed rubber in primary forms (smoked rubber sheets, rubber blocks, and concentrated latex) is expected to increase as the summer storm brings precipitation faster than last year. Therefore, Thailand enters the rubber tapping season earlier than last year, causing more rubber to enter the market. 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) are expected to increase in value from the previous month, especially in the China, Malaysia and Japan markets. Demand for rubber block, latex, and smoked sheet rubber from Thailand increased, especially for the production of tires and rubber gloves, which is a product that has expanded well in the world market. Tire exports are expected to improve on the back of a growing trend of exports to the US. Despite the anti-dumping issue, Thailand is subject to lower preliminary taxes than other countries. Exports of rubber gloves are expected to grow in line with rising global medical demand, especially in the US, the EU, the UK, China, and Japan.

5. Plastics Industry

MPI and Shipment Index



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics



The manufacturing production index in March 2021 declined by 4.9 percent from the same period last year to 100.15 points. Plastic products that decreased in MPI were plastic sheets (-14.02%), other plastic packaging (-13.51%), and pipes and fittings (-8.28%).

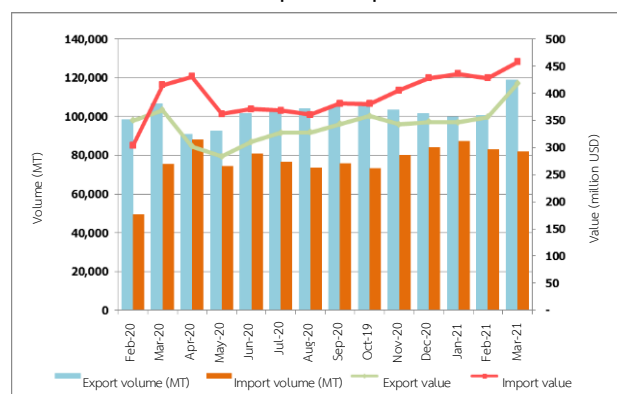


The Shipment Index in March 2021 stood at 102.02 points, a decrease of 4.19 percent from the same period last year. Plastic products that decreased in shipment index were other plastic packaging (-18.05%), plastic sheets (-10.47%), and pipes and fittings (-2.91%).



Exports in March 2021 increased by 13.31 percent compared to the same period last year to 417.84 million USD. Plastic products with the highest increase of export value were sanitary ware (HS 3922) (193.65%), followed by tubes and pipes (HS 3917) (32.61%), and floor coverings (HS 3918) (22.19%). Compared to the same period last year, exports expanded in key markets such as the US, Japan, Vietnam, and China.

Volume and value of exports-imports



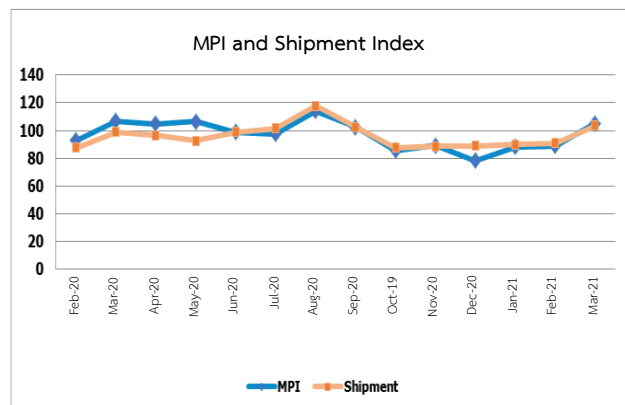
Source: Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce



Imports in March 2021 increased in value by 10.23 percent compared to the same period last year to 457.91 million USD. Key products contributing to an increase in imports from last year were tubes and pipes (HS 3917) (36.14%), builders' ware of plastics (HS 3925) (26.61%), and sanitary ware (HS 3922) (16.60%).

Plastics industry outlook for April 2021: It is expected that production and exports will remain on the rise. However, there are factors to monitor, such as the new waves of COVID-19 outbreaks domestically and internationally, which will impact the economic recovery and the growth of the plastics industry.

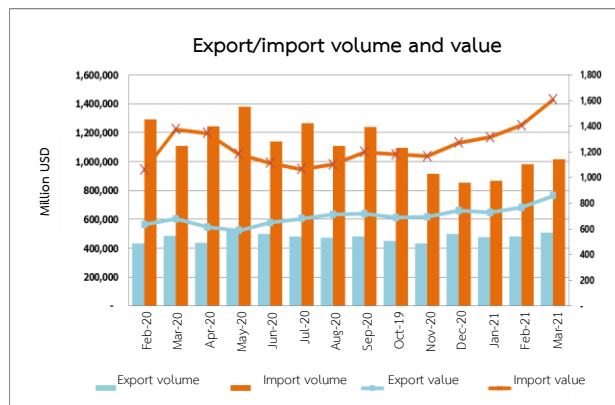
6. Chemical Industry



Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

➖ The manufacturing production index in March 2021 stood at 105.12 points, a decrease of 1.60 percent compared to the same period last year. The production of upstream chemicals contracted by 1.02 percent, and the product with the highest decrease in the MPI was ethanol (-19.42%). For downstream chemicals, the production dropped by 1.75 percent, and the product with the highest decrease of production soap and skin cares (-18.66%) and shampoos (-7.83%).

➕ The shipment index of the chemical industry in March 2021 reached 103.449 points, an increase of 4.75 percent from the same period last year. Upstream chemicals' shipment index contracted by 5.86 percent, which decreased among ethanol and chlorine products. As for downstream chemical products, the shipment index grew by 8.03 percent in many products, such as talcum powder, chemical fertilizers, etc.



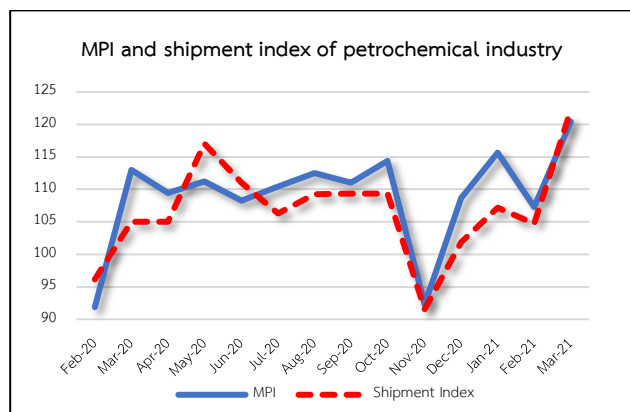
Source: Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

➕ Exports in March 2021 valued at 857.94 million USD, increasing 26.55 percent compared to the same period last year. Export value of upstream chemical products reached 479.65 million USD, rising 35.24 percent compared to the same period last year. Exports of downstream chemical products valued at 378.29 million USD, up 17.02 percent. Products contributing to the increase in export value were organic chemicals (41.42%), miscellaneous chemical products (34.76%), and cosmetics (19.91%) whereby exports increased in many markets such as China, Japan, Vietnam, and Indonesia.

➕ Imports in March 2021 valued at 1,605.74 million USD, an increase of 16.79 percent from the same period of last year. Upstream chemicals' import value increased by 25.01 percent from last year to 1,135.94 million USD, and downstream chemicals' import value also increased by 0.78 percent from last year to 469.94 million USD.

Outlook Chemical industry: In April 2021, the intense new wave of COVID-19 outbreaks will affect the recovery of some chemical products and impact chemical product exports.

7. Petrochemical Industry

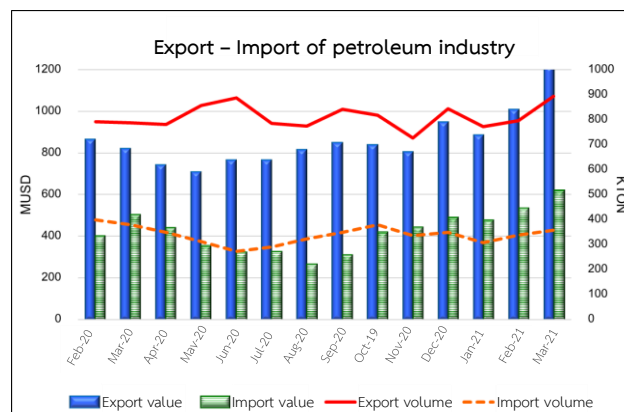


Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

+ The manufacturing production index in March 2021 increased by 6.81 percent compared to the same period last year to 120.42 points and increased by 13.24 percent from last month. Upstream petrochemicals which increased in the MPI were Ethylene (12.64%) and Propylene (9.04%); meanwhile, downstream petrochemicals were PP resin (7.05%) and PET resin (6.48%).

+ The shipment index in March 2021 stood at 122.26 points, increasing 16.51 percent compared to the same period last year and 16.35 percent from last month. Upstream petrochemicals that increased in shipment index were Ethylene (13.53%) and Propylene (20.28%) compared to last month. Meanwhile, downstream petrochemicals that increased in shipment index from the same period last year were PE resin (15.29%) and PP resin (23.59%).

+ Exports in March 2021 grew by 48.27 percent compared to the same period last year to 1,214.39 million USD and 20.36 percent from the previous month, which increased among upstream petrochemicals (25.02%), such as Propylene and also increased among downstream petrochemicals (54.43%), such as PE resin, PC resin, etc.

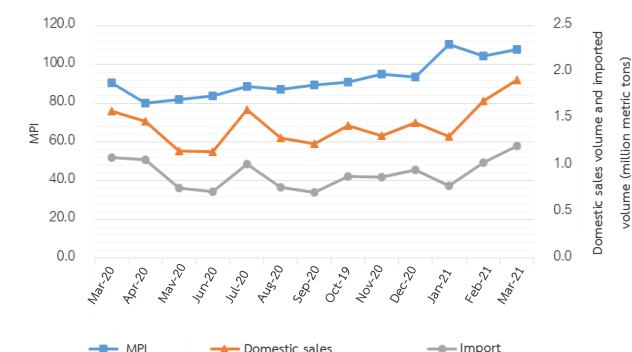


Source: Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

+ Imports in March 2021 increased by 25.08 percent compared to the same period last year to 620.54 million USD and 14.92 percent from last month, which increased among upstream petrochemical products—Ethylene and Toluene—and downstream petrochemical products, e.g., PS and PP resins. This was partly due to the price level that started to increase following the crude oil price level in the first three months of 2021.

Outlook for April 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

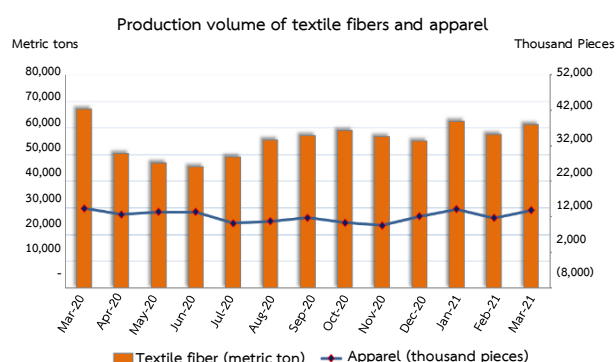
+ The manufacturing production index was 107.9 points, growing 19.2 percent compared to the same period of the previous year. The increase was in line with the continued recovery of downstream industries, such as the automotive and food industries. As a result, manufacturers accelerated the production following the increased orders from customers concerned about raw material prices and rising steel prices. When considering key products—long and flat products—the MPI of both products increased, whereby the MPI of long product rose by 20.4 percent to 111.6 points. Long product that increased in the MPI were round bars (87.3%), followed by steel wires (61.4%), and cold-formed structural steel sections (27.8%). Flat products' MPI increased by 25.2 percent to 105.0 points from products, such as tinplate (105.0%), followed by cold-rolled sheets (51.6%) and chromium-coated sheets (50.9%).

+ Domestic consumption in March 2021 reached 1.9 million metric tons, an increase of 21.5 percent compared to the same period last year. Consumption of long products increased by 33.9 percent to 0.8 million metric tons from rebars and hot-rolled structural steel sections (49.9%) and wire rods (9.9%). As for flat products, the consumption reached 1.1 million metric tons, an increase of 13.2 percent from cold-rolled sheets (35.5%), followed by hot-rolled plates (31.8%) hot-rolled sheets, and other coated steel (31.1%).

+ Imports in March 2021 increased by 11.5 percent compared to the same period last year to 1.2 million metric tons, whereby imports of flat products reached a volume of 0.9 million metric tons, up 17.8 percent. Flat products that increased in imports were hot-rolled sheets (38.7%) and cold-rolled sheets (33.5%). However, imports of long products decreased by 4.8 percent to a volume of 0.3 million metric tons. Long products which decreased in imports were hot-rolled structural steel sections (-41.1%), and wire rods (-11.6%).

“Outlook for April 2021: The overall steel industry is expected to increase compared to the same period of last year. Supporting factors come from the industry's continuous growth, including government policies to support the industry, such as the “Made in Thailand” policy that supports the procurement of domestically produced goods. However, the continuously rising prices of steel and raw materials may affect the costs of producers and consumers. Important issues that should be monitored include foreign steel prices, the world economy, and trade situation, and China's policy to lift export tariffs on some steel products in May. Such issues will affect the production and consumption of domestic steel products.”

9. Textile and Wearing Apparel Industry



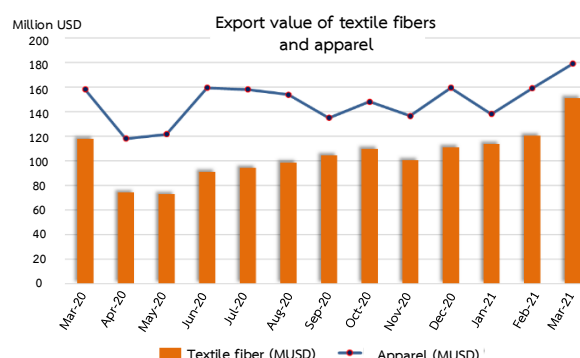
Source: The Office of Industrial Economics

Production

Production of textile fibers, fabrics, and apparel decreased by 8.41 percent, 20.75 percent, and 4.05 percent (%YoY) from the COVID-19 outbreaks, which resulted in a slowdown in domestic consumer purchasing power. This was coupled with political unrest in Myanmar, which caused the export of Thai fabrics to slow down, although exports began showing signs of recovery. Textile fiber products grew in trading partners, including China, South Korea, and Vietnam. The garment segment expanded for the first month of the year in key markets such as the US, as formal and semi-formal clothes sales increased. Additionally, the Chinese, Hong Kong, UK, and German markets grew. Compared to the previous month (%MoM), textile fibers, fabrics, and apparel grew by 6.61 percent, 17.44 percent, and 18.49 percent, respectively.

Domestic sales

Domestic sales of fabrics and apparel declined by 7.94 percent and 15.09 percent (%YoY) due to lower export demand, especially for fabrics. In addition, the purchasing power of domestic consumers slowed from the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. Compared to the previous month (%MoM), the sales of textile fibers, fabrics, and apparel grew by 10.07 percent, 18.79 percent, and 13.74 percent, respectively, in part, to be used in the production of products for export following increased orders.



Source: Ministry of Commerce

Exports

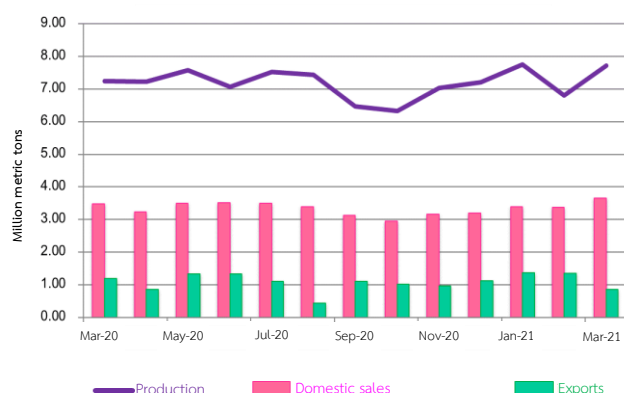
Exports of textile fibers and apparel grew by 28.43 percent and 13.18 percent (%YoY) from the economy of key trading partners, which began to ease from the COVID-19 vaccination. As a result, garment exports resumed growth in key markets such as the US, China, Hong Kong, the UK, and Germany. Textile fibers grew in key markets such as China, South Korea, and Vietnam, while fabrics slowed down. This is because core markets like Myanmar were affected by political unrest. As a result, foreign companies suspended orders, and China's textile mills were destroyed. Compared to the previous month (%MoM), exports of textile fibers, fabrics, and apparel grew by 25.68 percent, 23.33 percent, and 12.55 percent, respectively.

Outlook for April 2021

It is expected that the textile and garment industry will slow down following the domestic purchasing power due to the latest COVID-19 outbreak and political unrest in Myanmar that could affect the textile industry. However, exports are projected to continue improving from the economic recovery of key trading partner countries after vaccination. The economic stimulus measures from many countries will also positively impact pre-orders.

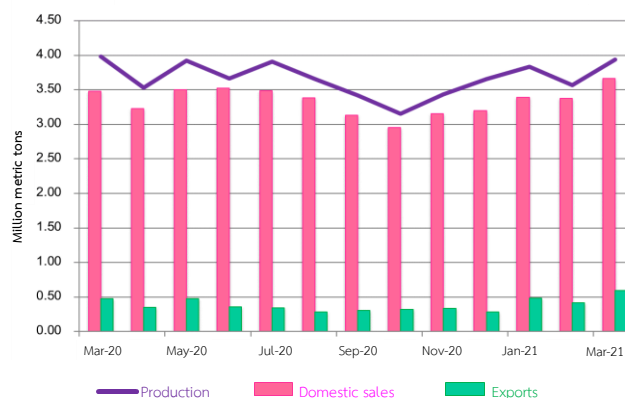
10. Cement Industry

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 March 2021 increased by 13.70 percent (%MoM) from February 2021 to 7.73 million metric tons and increased by 6.80 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

+ **Total domestic sales of cement** in March 2021 increased by 8.44 percent (%MoM) from February 2021 to 3.66 million metric tons and increased by 5.28 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

- **Total exports of cement** in March 2021 reached 0.87 million tons, a contraction from February 2021 by 36.04 percent (%MoM) and by 26.93 percent from the same month of last year (%YoY), due to a decline in orders from several main markets, including Sri Lanka, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Bangladesh, by 100 percent, 99.94 percent, 94.92 percent, and 44.25 percent, respectively.

The overall cement manufacturing industry outlook in April 2021, compared with the same period of the previous year, is expected to decline due to the return of COVID-19 outbreaks, causing a loss of confidence in the consumption and purchasing power of the people, as some workers were removed from work and trade became sluggish.

+ **Cement production** (excluding clinker) in March 2021 increased by 13.24 percent (%MoM) from February 2021 to 3.94 million metric tons but decreased by 1.09 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

+ **Domestic sales of cement** (excluding clinker) in March 2021 increased by 8.44 percent (%MoM) from February 2021 to 3.66 million metric tons and increased by 5.31 percent (%YoY) from the same month last year.

+ **Export of cement** (excluding clinker) in March 2021 amounted to 0.59 million tons, an increase of 42.92 percent from February 2021 (%MoM) and 24.92 percent from the same month last year (%YoY) as a result of increasing cement orders (excluding clinker) from Myanmar and Cambodia, by 40.26 percent and 18.13 percent, respectively.

The cement manufacturing industry (excluding clinker) outlook in April 2021, compared with the same period of the previous year, is expected to decline due to the lower consumer confidence and purchasing power.