



Thailand International Trade – Aug 2019

Exports and Imports

Thai exports in August 2019 dropped 4.00 percent with the value of 21.9 billion USD, largely resulted from front-loading imports to avoid last slot of US tariffs before effective date on 1 September, 2019. Moreover, uncertainty of trade disputes clouds over global economy causing economic slowdown in most Thailand's major trading partners, in particular, ASEAN-5, CLMV, and South Asia. Downward trend of global oil prices suppressed exports of oil-related products. Also, oversupply of agricultural products in global market and baht appreciation are still downside risks to Thai export prospects. In the first eight months of 2019, Thai exports contracted 2.2 percent.

Export Markets

Thai Exports to some major trading partners expanded well, for example, US (+5.8%), Australia (18.4%) and Middle East region (5.3%). On the contrary, exports to China, ASEAN (5) and CLMV contracted -2.7%, -24.6%, and -22.7%.

Export Products

Growth of agricultural and agro-industrial products decreased 4.4 percent. Oversupply in world market and baht appreciation are key factors suppressing exports of major agricultural products, namely, rice (-44.7%), cassava products (-25.3%), and rubber (-7.2%). However, some products still expanded favorably, for example, fresh, frozen, and processed fruits (+26.8%), fresh and frozen chicken (+5.6%), and wheat products and other prepared food (+13.5%). In the first eight months of 2019, agricultural and agro-industrial products contracted -2.1 percent.

Industrial products also dropped 1.9 percent largely resulted from decrease in exports of automobiles to Australia and ASEAN. Global oil prices dampened exports of oil-related products. However, some industrial products still registered positive growth, for example, golds (377.5%), jewelry and accessories (51.1%), motorcycles and parts (9.2%). In the first eight months of 2019, industrial products contracted 1.5 percent.

Export Prospects

A variety of challenging factors, namely global economic slowdown, prolonged trade disputes between US and China, and baht appreciation casts a shadow over Thai exports for the rest of 2019. In the second half of 2019, the Ministry of Commerce sets export target at 3 percent with vision to maintain matured markets, expand new areas, and restore trade with long-lost trading partners. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce, Jurin Laksanawisit, will soon visit China and India to expand market opportunities for agricultural commodities products. Moreover, the ministry aims to unlock trade obstacles in order to stimulate border trade with neighboring countries.

Export Value and Growth

Unit: Million USD	Aug 2019	Jan-Aug 2019
Export value	21,914.9 -4.00%	166,090.6 -2.19%
Import value	19,862.4 -14.62%	159,984.4 -3.61%
Trade Balance	+2,052.6	+6,106

Export by Products

