

## Thailand International Trade – September 2019

### Exports and Imports

Thai exports in September 2019 decreasingly dropped 1.4 percent with the value of 20.5 billion USD. This month exports show some improvement both in terms of product and market dimension. Some industrial goods return to positive growth, for example, automobile and parts, and electrical circuits. Additionally, rising star products still maintain their upward trend, for instance, radio and television reception and parts, textiles, motorcycles and parts, furniture and parts, home and kitchen equipment. Agricultural products, namely, fresh, frozen, and processed fruits and vegetables, and frozen and processed chicken, expand favorably both in value and quantity. Exports to US maintain positive momentum while exports to Japan, China, Taiwan, ASEAN (5), and Latin America bounced bank this month. In the first nine months of 2019, Thai exports contracted 2.1 percent.

### Export Markets

Thai Exports to some major trading partners expanded well, for example, US (+7.8%), Japan (+2.4%), China (+6.1%), Taiwan (13.0%), ASEAN (5) (+0.6%), and Latin America (+10.3%). On the contrary, exports to EU(15), CLMV, India, and Hong Kong contracted -8.2%, -15.3%, -10.9%, and -10.8%.

### Export Products

Growth of agricultural and agro-industrial products decreased 1.4 percent. Some products still expanded favorably, for example, sugar (+36.3%), beverages (+14.6%), fresh and frozen chicken (+12.1%), fresh, frozen, and processed fruits (+7.7%). On the contrary, exports of some products decreased, namely, rice (-32.2%), cassava products (-35.2%), and rubber (-15.4%), frozen and processed shrimps (-10.5%). In the first nine months of 2019, agricultural and agro-industrial products contracted -2.2 percent.

Industrial products bounced back and registered at 0.2 percent. Some products still expanded favorably, for example, golds (+110.6%), motorcycles and parts (+31.5%), furniture and parts (+15.9%), air-conditioner and parts (+15.1%), automobiles and parts (+5.4%), Jewelry and accessories (excluding golds) (+0.7%). While exports of some products contracted, namely, oil-related products (-16.2%), computer and parts (-12.3%). In the first nine months of 2019, industrial products contracted 1.3 percent.

### Export Prospects

Global economy and Thai exports are clouded by a variety of global challenging factors, namely, US – China Trade war, US tariffs on EU goods as well as long-running Brexit negotiation between UK and EU. Also, oversupply of agricultural products in global market and baht appreciation are still downside risks to Thai export prospects in the last quarter. However, supply disruption in the Middle east and higher demand during winter season would raise global oil prices and benefit exports of related-products.

For the first 3 quarters of 2019, aside from major export products, Thai exports are resilient to external shocks and performed well in terms of product diversification. Many new rising-star products have grown constantly, for example, textiles, motorcycles and parts, furniture and parts, kitchenwares and household appliances. However, it should be emphasized that strengthening partnership with existing importers are also great importance to exporters in parallel with expanding market share for new potential products. For the rest of the year, the ministry aims to expedite exports of major agricultural and industrial product in potential markets. For example, cassava products and coconut in China,

woods, rubber, and furniture in **India**. Also, upcoming visit to **Turkey** by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce, Jurin Laksanawisit, will potentially **expand new market for rubber**. Moreover, the ministry has placed its **emphasis on strengthening trade partnership**, aiming to complete RCEP by this year and FTA Thailand-Turkey by early 2020 as well as to prepare for other FTA negotiations such as FTA Thailand - EU.

### Export Value and Growth

Unit: Million USD	Sep 2019	Jan-Sep 2019
Export value	20,481.3 -1.39%	186,571.9 -2.11%
Import value	19,206.1 -4.24%	179,190.5 -3.68%
Trade Balance	+1,275.2	+7,381.4

### Export by Products

