

Thailand International Trade – July 2020

In July 2020, Thai exports show signs of improvement since modest increases have been recorded for few months. Some products have demonstrated strong expansion such as food products (cassava products, palm oils, canned tuna, fresh, chilled, and frozen chicken, pet food); **Work-from-Home & Covid-19-related products** (furniture and parts, oven, microwave, refrigerator and freezer, washing machine, and rubber gloves). **In terms of markets, exports to the US market stood out and registered positive growth for two consecutive months.** Export value to most major trading partners contracted at lower rate, indicating recovery momentum in the future.

In July 2020, Thai exports dropped 11.37 percent to 18.8 billionUSD while imports dropped 26.38 percent to 15.5 billion USD, **resulting in trade surplus** of 3,343.25 millionUSD. For **the first seven months of 2020**, Thai exports contracted 7.72 percent to 133.2 billionUSD while imports dropped 14.69 percent to 119.1 billion USD, **resulting in trade surplus** of 14,044.2 millionUSD.

Export Products

In July 2020, agricultural and agro-industrial products decreased 10.9 percent. Some products still expanded favorably, for example, pet food (+14.5%), palm oils (+194.0%), canned tuna (+18.0%), cassava products (+0.8%). On the contrary, exports of some products decreased, namely, rubber (-54.1%), sugar (-42.4%), rice (-16.8%), chilled and frozen shrimp (-15.9%). **For the first seven months of 2020**, exports of agricultural and agro-industrial products dropped 3.4 percent.

Industrial products decreased 10.3 percent in July 2020. Some products expanded favorably, for example, rubber products (+13.3%), furniture and parts (+16.3%), semi-conductor devices, transistors and diodes (+46.8%), golds (+37.2%). Meanwhile, exports of some products declined, namely, oil related products (-24.9%), automobile, equipment and parts (-30.9%), radio-broadcast receivers, television receiver and parts (-23.3%), iron and steel products (-22.6%). **For the first seven months of 2020**, exports of industrial products declined 7.9 percent.

Export Markets

Export value to most major trading partners contracted at a lower rate than previous month. This reflects that exports are likely to improve gradually after several countries have succeeded to control the COVID-19 situation and eased the lockdown measures along with government stimulus measures to accelerate economic recovery after COVID-19.

- Exports to the main markets dropped by **3.3%**. Exports to US markets expanded by **17.8%**, while exports to Japan and EU contracted by **17.5%** and **16.0%** respectively.
- Exports to high potential markets dropped **15.9%**. exports to ASEAN (5), CLMV, South Asia, and China markets contracted by **24.6%**, **13.2%**, **38.4%** and **2.7%** respectively.
- Exports to emerging markets dropped by **21.1%**, namely, Middle East (-16.4%), Africa (-24.6%), Latin America (-34.9%), Russia and CIS (-41.1%), and exports to Australia declined **13.5%**



2020 Export Prospects and Promotion Strategies

Thai exports are expected to continue its gradual recovery. There are potential products to support export prospects such as Food products, which Thailand has production capability and considerable advantage in food quality and safety standards, and new normal products in response to changing consumer behavior during COVID-19. However, export recovery after COVID-19 remains nascent as few uncertainties lie ahead to the outlook including global economic slowdown, a second wave of COVID-19 and lockdown measures, governments imposing trade restrictions, baht appreciation, as well as depressed oil price in global market.

For the rest of the year 2020, the Ministry of Commerce aims to accelerate Cross-Border e-Commerce in potential markets, for example, China, South Korea, India, Cambodia; to establish TOP Thai Store on leading international online platforms; as well as to advance Thaitrade.com to all-in-one National B2B E-Marketplace.



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Unit: Million USD	Jul 2020	Jan-Jul 2020
Export value	18,819.5 -11.37 %	133,162.4 -7.72 %
Import value	15,476.2 -26.38 %	119,118.2 -14.69 %
Trade Balance	+3,343.2	+14,044.2

Top 10 Export Products

