

Thai International Trade in July 2022

Thai exports in July 2022 continued to expand for 17 consecutive months with the growth rate of 4.3 percent and amounted to 23,629.3 million USD (829,029 million Baht). Thai exports of real sector (excluding gold, oil-related products, and weaponry) rose by 4.1 percent. A major contribution was the export of agricultural and agro-industrial products. Conducive factors include higher prices of agricultural and food products as world output was disrupted by many factors such as Ukraine's limited grain exports in the previous period and export restrictions in some countries. The exports of industrial products grew slightly as semiconductor shortage affected the production of related sectors. Also, the lockdown measures in some Chinese major cities interrupted production and lengthened delivery times. However, some products expanded well, especially products that benefited from the relaxation of pandemic control measures such as gems & jewelry, cosmetics, soaps & skincare products, apparel, etc. As for export markets, there were signs of slower growth due to high inflationary pressures in trading partner countries. For the first seven months of 2022, Thai exports expanded by 11.5 percent and Thai exports of real sector (excluding gold, oil-related products, and weaponry) increased by 8.3 percent.

Thai exports in July 2022 increased by 4.3 percent to 23,629.3 million USD while imports increased by 23.9 percent to 27,289.8 million USD, resulting in a **trade deficit** of 3,660.5 million USD. For the first seven months of 2022, Thai exports expanded by 11.5 percent to 172,814.1 million USD while imports rose by 21.4 percent to 182,730.4 million USD, resulting in a **trade deficit** of 9,916.3 million USD.

Export Products

Thai exports of agricultural and agro-industrial products rose for the 20th consecutive month with the growth rate of 14.6 percent (YoY). Products that expanded favourably were rubber (+12.0%), sugar (+258.8%), fresh, chilled, frozen and processed chicken (+35.5%), canned and processed seafood (+16.4%), rice (+21.5%), pet food (+25.4%), canned and processed fruits (+17.3%), and ice-cream (+34.2%). On the contrary, exports of some products decreased, namely, fresh fruits (-32.6%), cassava products (-10.1%), and condiments (-5.4%).

Industrial product exports increased for the 17th consecutive month with the growth rate of 0.1 percent (YoY). Products that expanded favourably included gems and jewelry (excluding gold) (+19.1%), air conditioner and components (+25.5%), fax machines, telephones, equipment and parts (+34.6%), cosmetics, soaps and skincare products (+13.6%), aluminium products (+21.4%), and apparel (+10.7%). Meanwhile, exports of some products declined, such as automobiles, equipment and parts (-2.9%), computer and equipment (-21.3%), and rubber products (-4.4%).

Export Markets

- Exports to primary markets expanded by 4.2 percent. Exports to the US, ASEAN (5), CLMV, and EU (27) expanded by 4.7%, 21.3%, 24.2% and 8.1% respectively, while exports to China and Japan decreased by 20.6% and 4.7%.
- Exports to secondary markets expanded by 7.4 percent. Exports to South Asia, Australia, Middle East, and Africa grew by 21.1%, 20.0%, 27.4%, and 4.3% respectively, while exports to Latin America and Russia and CIS decreased by 6.7% and 39.7%.
- Exports to other markets decreased by 58.3 percent as exports to Switzerland declined by 64.4%.

Promotion Strategies and Export Prospects

Regarding export promotion, the Ministry of Commerce has been proactive in advancing and facilitating export of Thai entrepreneurs. Important operations in the past month included: **(1) Organizing trade promotion activities under the mini-FTA**, such as business matching for gems and jewelry sector under the mini-FTA with the Japanese city of Kofu and signing mini-FTA with the South Korean city of Busan; **(2) Organizing activities to promote Thai-Saudi Arabia trade**, during the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce visit to Thailand, by hosting business matching and signing an MoU between Thai and Saudi Arabian private sector; **(3) Negotiating with shopping centers in Europe**, to enhance opportunities for Thai products in European markets such as Denmark and United Kingdom; **(4) Promoting local Thai products in international markets**, especially unique GI products; and **(5) Encouraging entrepreneurs and farmers to utilize the FTAs to expand overseas markets.**

With respect to the export outlook, the Ministry of Commerce assesses that Thai export will expand well amid the global economic uncertainty by diversifying export to various markets. Moreover, global demand for food and agricultural products has continued to grow while Thailand remains a strong producer and exporter. Supporting factors include the depreciation of Thai Baht, decreasing freight rates, an increasing volume of shipping vessels and containers, and a downward trend in the global energy prices which will lower costs and help Thai exporters compete in the global market. Nevertheless, inflationary risk and policy interest rate hikes in trading countries as well as geopolitical conflicts may put downward pressure on the supply chain worldwide, and hence have to be monitored.



Trade Policy and Strategy Office
Ministry of Commerce
26 August 2022

Thai International Trade Value in July 2022

Unit: Million USD

	Jul 2022	Jan – Jul 2022
Trade Value	50,919.1 +14.0%	355,544.5 +16.4%
Export value	23,629.3 +4.3%	172,814.1 +11.5%
Exports of real sector	20,306.0 +4.1%	147,451.1 +8.3%
Import value	27,289.8 +23.9%	182,730.4 +21.4%
Trade Balance	-3,660.5	-9,916.3

Source: Information and Communication Technology Center, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

Top 10 Thai Export Products – July 2022

