

## **Economic and Financial Outlook**

ttb analytics

May 2024

### **Executive Summary**

#### Global Economy

- In April 2024, global economic activities continued to grow, which was supported by faster service activity growth, while manufacturing output also expanded for a fourth consecutive month. The manufacturing sector also benefitted from the tapering off from destocking efforts, thereby leading to a third monthly rise in manufacturing new orders globally.
- US real GDP growth in Q1/24 slightly decelerated, primarily reflected decelerations in consumer spending, exports, and state and local government spending and a downturn in federal government spending. On the other hand, Chinese GDP in Q1/24 grew at a faster-than-expected pace despite weak consumer and business confidence and prolonged downturn in the real estate sector. Meanwhile, consumer price indicators in major countries fell marginally in April 2024.

#### Thai Economy

- In March 2024, overall Thai economy slowed down, which was attributed to decrease in domestic demand as mainly from well-expanding in preceding month and the end of government stimulus measure (Easy E-receipt). Also, the number of foreign tourist arrivals also dropped considerably from the previous month in several nationalities particularly in Malaysia and Middle East as Ramadan period. The growth of merchandise exports in March slipped considerably for the first-time in eight months, mainly from the high-base effect, while imports value continued to expand from high energy import.
- Headline inflation in April 2024 turned positive in seven month, which was due mainly to energy prices after the end of government subsidy measures, fresh food prices also rose from lower production in unfavorable climate while core inflation remained in this month.
- Thai economic growth in Q1/24 grew better than expected, as mainly from private final consumption expenditure. While government expenditure and gross fixed capital formation continually diminished. Moreover, merchandise export of both agricultural and manufacturing products declined.



#### Financial Markets

- Major central banks end their hiking cycle, except Bank of Japan with the end of monetary policy easing. Market participants and futures market have pointed out possibilities that the Fed would start cutting interest rates in September 2024 since US economic momentum remained robust.
- USDTHB largely depreciated in April 2024, ending 37.06 level. It could be around 36.50-36.90 in May 2024, as market participants reassess the probabilities for Fed's interest cut to be in 2H2024.

# PART 1 Global Economy



#### Global Manufacturing PMI





Jan-21 May-21 Sep-21 Jan-22 May-22 Sep-22 Jan-23 May-23 Sep-23 Jan-24

57.8

55.0

India

Japan

58.5

54.0

61.0

53.8

58.4

51.6

- Manufacturing output slightly improved as manufacturing new orders expanded at a slower rate.
- Services activity continued to expand for the 15<sup>th</sup> straight month but at the slowest rate seen so far this year, reflecting both businesses and households adjusting to higher costs and higher-for-longer interest rates.

Mandractaring Pinn by Countries													
	Q1/23	Q2/23	Q3/23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24			
Global	49.6	48.7	49.2	48.8	49.3	49.0	50.0	50.3	50.6	50.3			
US	49.2	46.3	49.8	50.0	49.4	47.9	50.7	52.2	51.9	49.1			
ик	47.9	46.5	44.3	44.8	47.2	46.2	47.0	47.5	50.3	50			
EU	47.3	43.4	43.4	43.1	44.2	44.4	46.6	46.5	46.3	45.8			
Germany	44.7	40.6	39.6	40.8	42.6	43.3	45.5	42.5	41.9	42.5			
France	47.3	46.0	44.2	42.8	42.9	42.1	43.1	47.1	46.2	45.3			
Italy	51.1	43.8	46.8	44.9	44.4	45.3	48.5	48.7	50.4	47.3			
Asia exc. (	50.2	50.6	50.5	49.8	50.5	50.4	50.7	50.6	51.1	51.4			
China	50.0	50.5	50.6	49.5	50.7	50.8	50.8	50.9	51.1	51.4			
Australia	49.1	48.2	48.7	48.2	47.7	47.6	50.1	47.8	47.3	49.6			
India	56.4	57.8	57.5	55.5	56.0	54.9	56.5	56.9	59.1	58.8			
Japan	49.2	49.8	48.5	48.7	48.3	47.9	48.0	47.2	48.2	49.6			
Korea	47.6	47.8	49.9	49.8	50.0	49.9	51.2	50.7	49.8	49.4			
Indonesia	51.9	52.5	52.3	51.5	51.7	52.2	52.9	52.7	54.2	52.9			
Thailand	53.1	53.2	47.8	47.5	47.6	45.1	46.7	45.3	49.1	48.6			

Manufacturing PMI by countries

Services PMI by countries													
	Q1/23	Q2/23	Q3/23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24			
Global	54.3	53.8	50.7	50.4	50.6	51.6	52.3	52.4	52.5	52.7			
US	54.7	54.5	49.2	49.8	51.5	50.4	52.2	54.2	54	54.7			
UK	54.3	54.4	51.3	50.8	52.3	53.3	49.8	54.1	55.5	57.5			
EU	55.0	52.0	48.7	47.8	48.7	48.8	48.4	50.2	51.5	53.3			
Germany	53.7	54.1	50.3	48.2	49.6	49.3	47.7	48.3	50.1	53.2			
France	53.9	48.0	44.4	45.2	45.4	45.7	45.4	48.4	48.3	51.3			
Italy	55.7	52.2	49.9	47.7	49.5	49.8	51.2	52.2	54.6	54.3			
Spain	59.4	53.4	50.5	51.1	51.0	51.5	52.1	54.7	56.1	56.2			
Asia exc. (	55.9	55.2	55.6	53.3	52.6	53.5	55.2	55.1	55.7	56			
China	57.8	53.9	50.2	50.4	51.5	52.9	52.7	52.5	52.7	52.5			
Australia	48.6	50.3	51.8	47.9	46.0	47.1	49.1	53.1	54.4	53.6			

56.9

50.8

61.8

53.1

59.0 51.5 60.6

52.9

61.2

54.1

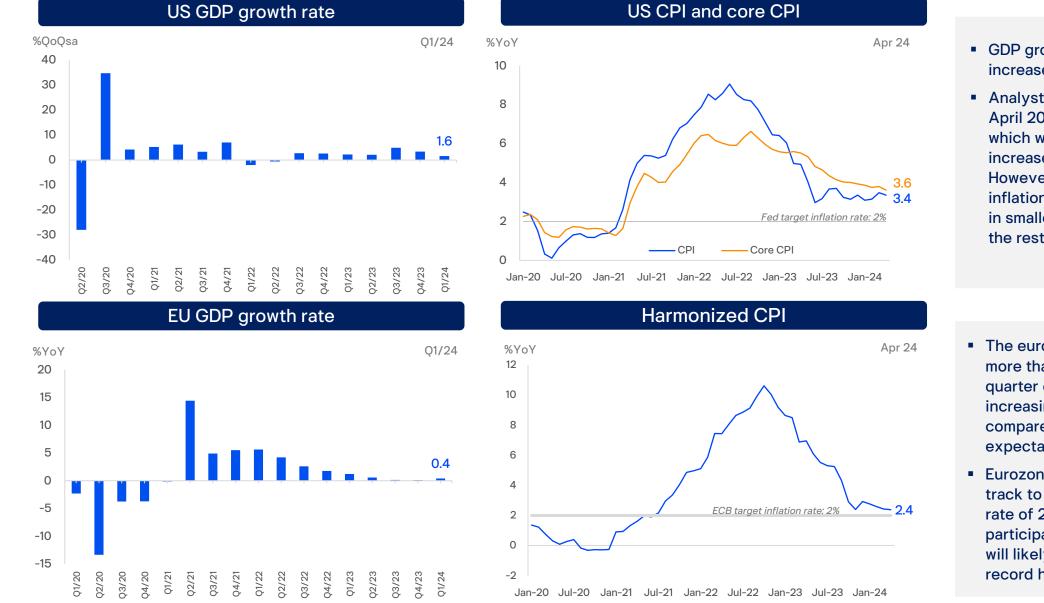
60.8

54.3

Source: Markit PMI, JP Morgan Global PMI, CEIC and ttb analytics

### US faces "high for longer" growth, inflation and rates while ECB is expected to cut rates sooner



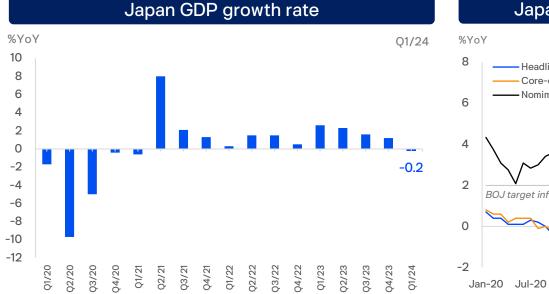


- GDP growth for the US economy increased at a 1.6% QoQsa pace.
- Analysts expect CPI report in April 2024 to rise at 3.4% YoY, which would be the smallest increase in over three years. However, the high-for-longer inflation reading would likely price in smaller and fewer rate cuts for the rest of the year.

- The euro zone economy grew by more than expected in the first quarter of 2024 with GDP increasing by 0.4% YoY, compared with the market expectations of 0.2%YoY.
- Eurozone inflation remained on track to fall back to the target rate of 2%. Hence, the market participants expect that the ECB will likely cut the policy rates from record high in June 2024.

#### Japan and China are expected to continue with policy easing to support domestic economies



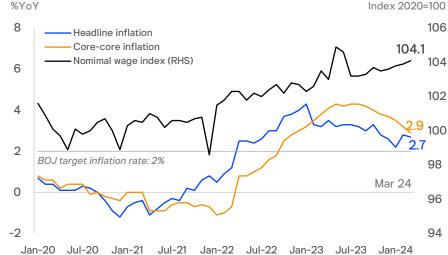


5.3

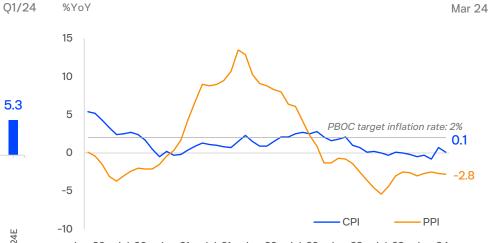
China GDP growth rate

Q1/22 Q2/22 Q3/22 Q4/22 Q1/23 Q2/23 Q3/23 Q4/23 Q1/24E

#### Japan inflation rates and wage index



#### China consumer and producer price index



Jan-20 Jul-20 Jan-21 Jul-21 Jan-22 Jul-22 Jan-23 Jul-23 Jan-24

- Japan economy contract slightly by 0.2%YoY in the first guarter of 2024 as key drivers of growth slumped following uncertain outlook, which will probably set back BOJ to raise interest rates.
- Consumer prices hover higher above the BOJ's inflation target with slowing wage gains.

- Chinese GDP in 1Q2024 grew at a faster-than-expected pace despite weak consumer and business confidence and prolonged downturn in the real estate sector.
- Consumer prices rose for a third straight month in April 2024 while producer prices extended declines but extending more than a yearlong stretch of contraction.

Source: CEIC, and ttb analytics

Q1/21 Q2/21 Q3/21 Q4/21

%YoY

20

15

10

5

0

-5

-10

Q1/20 Q2/20 Q3/20 Q4/20

# PART 2 Thai Economy



#### **Demand-side indicators** Supply-side indicators Index sa (Jan20=100) Index (Jan20=100) Index (Jan20=100) PCI Manufacturing production 120 120 140 PII Service production Foreign tourists (RHS) 115 115 Agricultural production Domestic visitors (RHS) 120 110 110 100 105 105 80 100 100 60 95 95 40 90 90 20 85 85 80 0 80 Mar-22 Jov-22 lan-23 lay-23 Jul-23 ep-23 Jov-23 Jan-24 Mar-24 Mar-22 Jul-22 ep-22 lov-23 lan-24 lar-24 May-22 ep-22 Aar-23 May-22 lan-23 Mar-23 lay-23 ep-23 Jul-22 Jul-23

#### Jul-Nov-Nar-Jul-Nov-Nov-Mar-

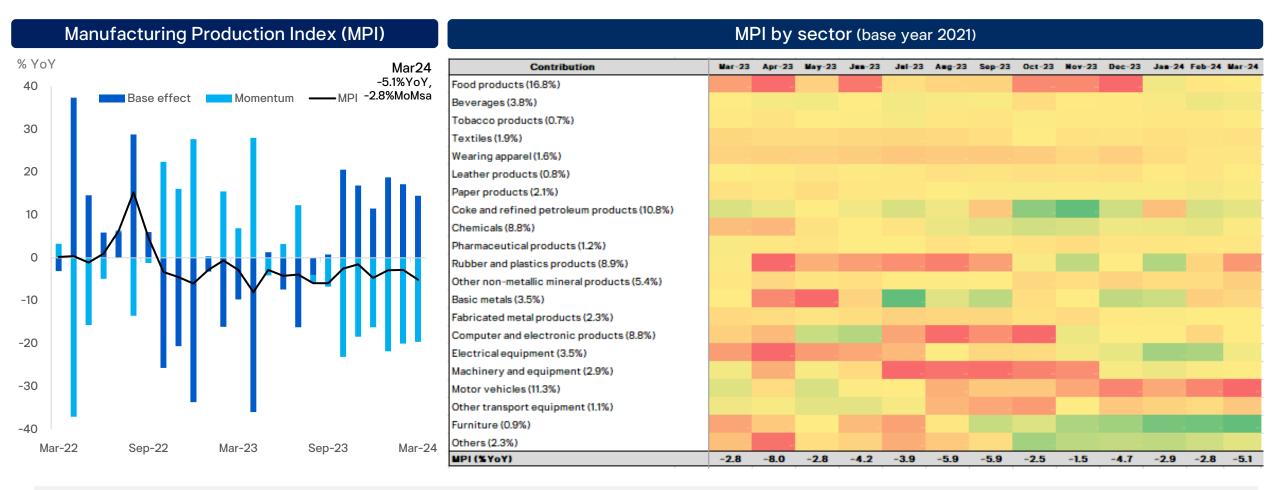
- In Mar24, Thai economy slowed down from previous month, as domestic demands and tourism sectors softened after expanding well in the preceding periods. Private consumption declined, particularly in durable goods, as well as private investment dropped from acceleration in preceding month.
- Exports and manufacturing production remained stagnant due to weak global demand and structural factors that suppressed production

#### Leading Economic Index (sa) (Jan2020=100)

Leading Economic Index and Components (SA)	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24
Authorized Capital of Newly Registered Companies (Million Baht)	109.0	1,708.2	119.2	163.2	227.6	95.2	141.8	138.2	156.1	144.9	89.6	146.1	116.8	126.9
Construction Areas Permitted (1000 sq. m)	96.9	103.9	94.7	98.2	102.5	115.2	96.4	125.4	98.7	102.3	104.6	122.4	113.1	125.3
Export Volume index (exclude Gold)	111.9	111.0	108.2	110.6	113.9	110.0	107.5	112.3	110.6	109.8	109.7	109.8	106.3	108.2
Business Sentiment Index (3 months)	107.4	108.9	108.8	108.3	108.2	106.3	105.4	106.0	104.6	101.9	102.5	102.4	102.0	103.8
SET index	107.1	106.3	101.0	101.3	99.3	102.8	103.4	97.2	91.3	91.2	93.5	90.1	90.5	91.0
Oil Price Inverse Index (Dubai)	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2

Source: Bank of Thailand and ttb analytics.





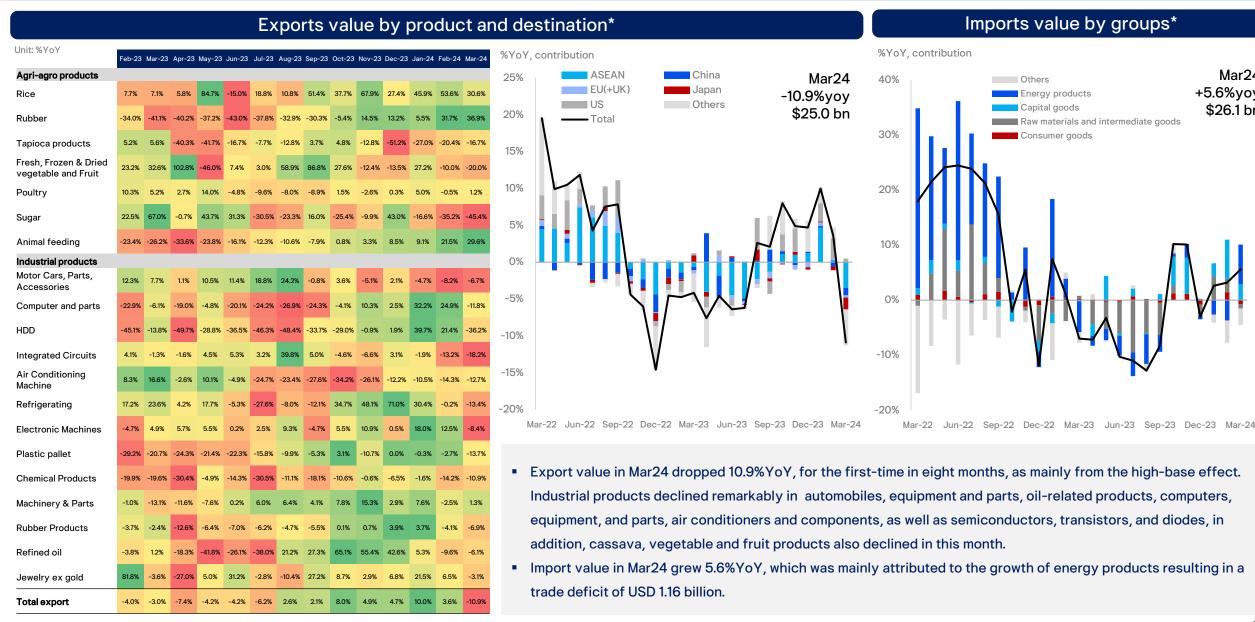
As of Mar24, Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) was contracted at 5.1%YoY, compared to the month earlier at 2.8% contraction. Several products decreased after an acceleration in the previous periods. Particularly, automotive and construction material production continued to decline due to subdued domestic demand. Sugar production fell because of the drought led to a lower sugarcane harvest. On the other hand, production of electronic circuits and components was steady compared to the previous month.



Mar24

+5.6%yoy

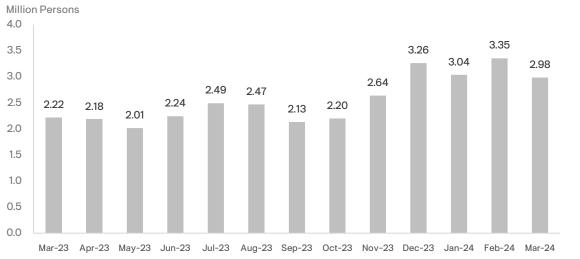
\$26.1 bn

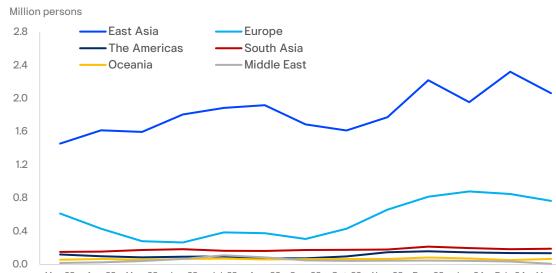


Source: Ministry of Commerce and ttb analytics Remark: Custom basis

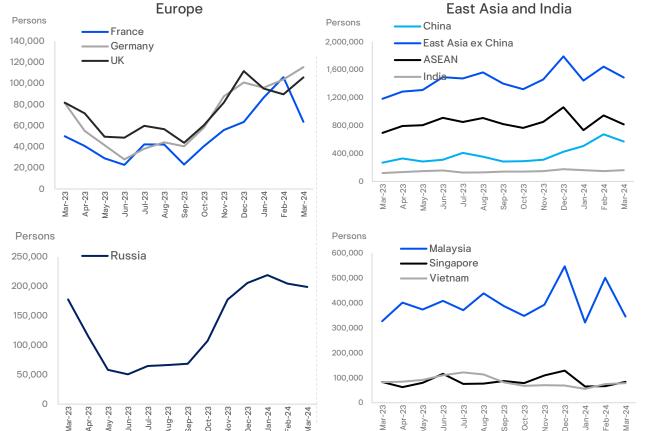








Mar-23 Apr-23 May-23 Jun-23 Jul-23 Aug-23 Sep-23 Oct-23 Nov-23 Dec-23 Jan-24 Feb-24 Mar-24



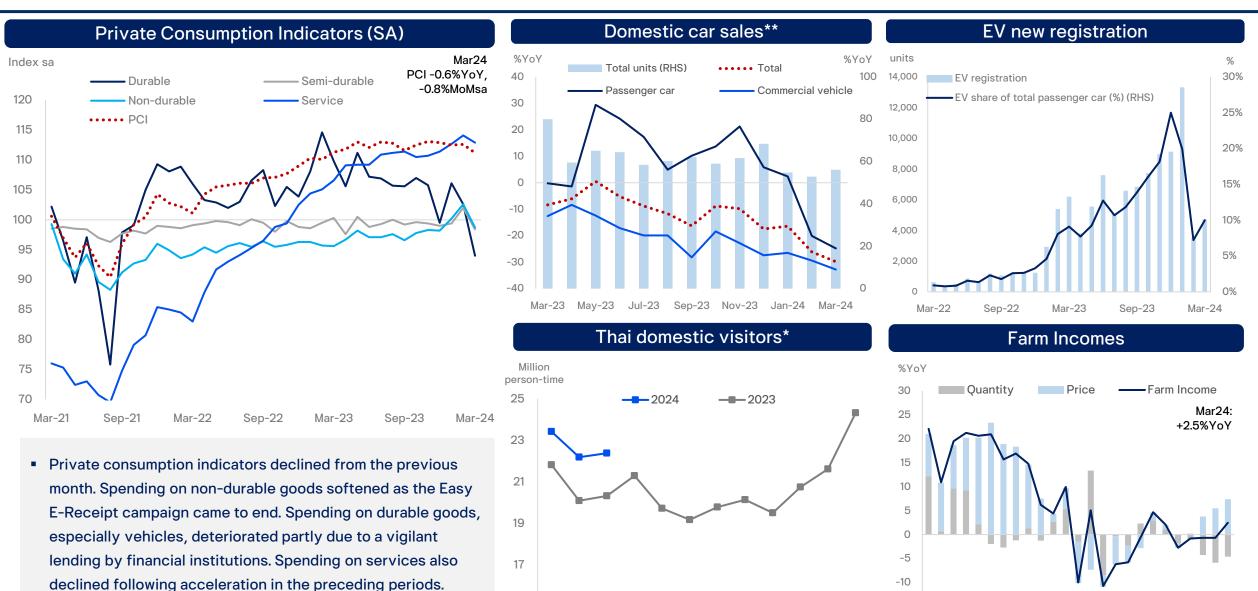
Foreign Tourist Inbounds by key regions

 As of Mar24, foreign tourist arrivals was at 2.98 million, dropped remarkably from the previous month in several nationalities, especially the tourists from Muslimbase countries as Ramadan season, while tourists from China also decreased after acceleration in previous month.

## Private consumption indicators decreased from preceding month after government stimulus campaign to end, while spending on durable goods continued to decline

15





Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Source: Bank of Thailand, The Federation of Thai Industries, CEIC and ttb analytics Jan Feb Ma Remark: \*Data not include replication in number of visitors \*\*Vehicle type as report following FTI data



-15

Mar-22

Sep-22

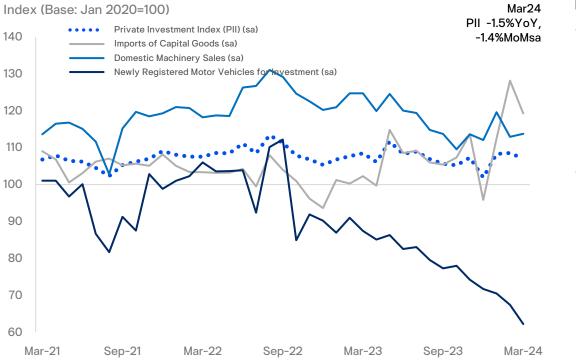
Mar-23

Sep-23

### Private investment decreased from previous month in several components



### Private Investment Indicators (SA)



- Private investment indicators decreased from the previous month.
  Investment in machinery and equipment declined, due to lower capital goods imports and numbers of registered commercial vehicles.
- Investment in construction continued to decrease, attributed to lower sales of construction materials. Permitted areas for construction, however, increased in all categories, especially permitted areas for industries and factories, as well as commercial buildings.

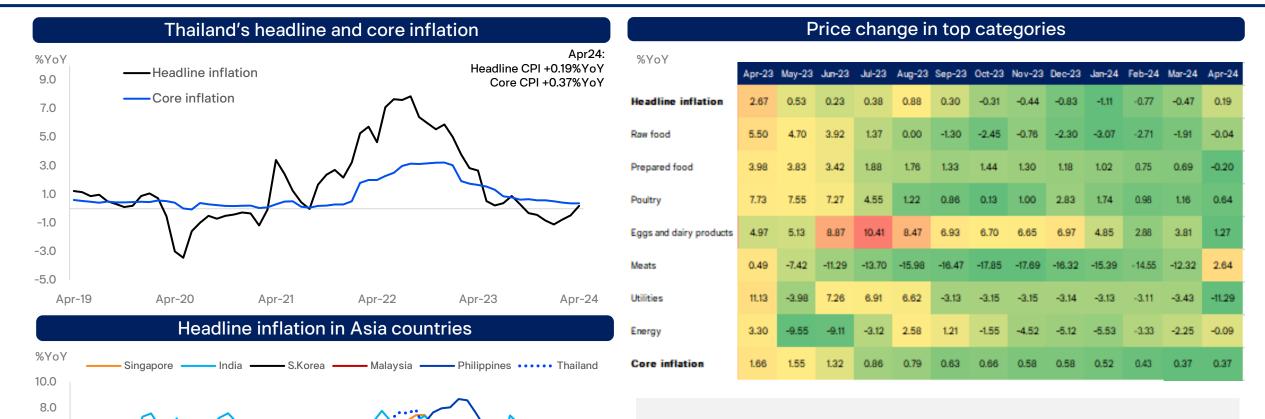


#### **Business Sentiment Index**



#### Source: Bank of Thailand and ttb analytics.





••••••

Apr-23

Apr-24

- The headline inflation (CPI) rose 0.19%YoY in Apr24, turning positive territory for first time in seven months, from the increase of oil price in world market as well as the end of government subsidies, while raw food prices also increased regarding to lower production. Besides, core inflation remained the same of 0.37%YoY
- During Jan-Apr24, headline and core inflation stood at -0.55%YoY and 0.42%YoY respectively.

Source: Ministry of Commerce, CEIC and ttb analytics

Apr-21

Apr-22

Apr-20

6.0

4.0

2.0

0.0

-2.0

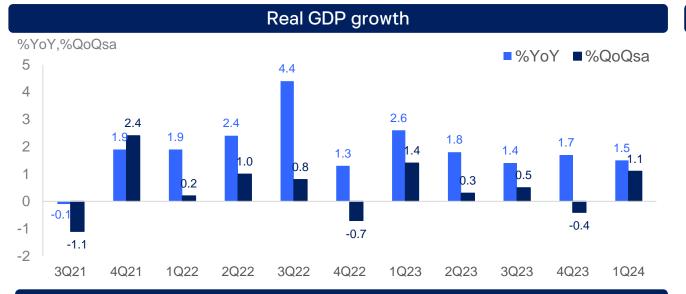
-4.0

-6.0

Apr-19

## GDP in Q1/2024 expanded 1.5%yoy, accelerated from previous quarter (QoQsa), due to increase in private spending while government investment dropped consecutively

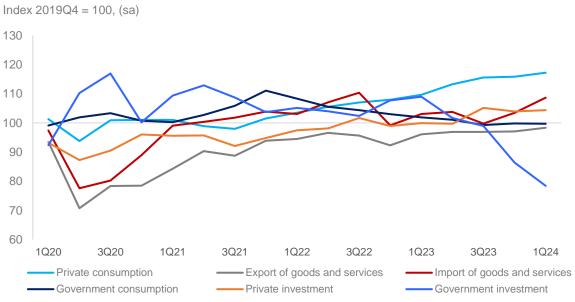




#### GDP growth composition (%yoy)

% compared to	2022	2023	2022r			2024			
previous year			QЗ	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
GDP	2.5	1.9	4.4	1.3	2.6	1.8	1.4	1.7	1.5
Private consumption (59%)	6.2	7.1	9.1	6.4	5.9	7.3	7.9	7.4	6.9
Private investment (18%)	4.7	3.2	10.7	4.3	2.8	1.4	3.5	5.0	4.6
Government consumption (17%)	0.1	-4.6	-1.5	-7.1	-6.0	-4.3	-5.0	-3.0	-2.1
Public investment (8%)	-3.9	-4.6	-5.6	2.7	4.2	-2.1	-3.4	-20.1	-27.7
Export of goods (54%)	1.1	-2.8	1.8	-10.5	-5.6	-5.3	-3.0	3.4	-2.0
Import of goods (50%)	1.2	-3.8	5.7	-10.2	-3.6	-4.8	-10.4	5.0	4.3
Export of Service (5%)	59.9	38.3	69.7	78.1	66.9	53.7	30.6	14.9	24.8
Import of Service (9%)	13.6	4.2	18.2	13.6	14.5	6.4	-5.2	2.1	9.6

Growth path development from pre-covid level



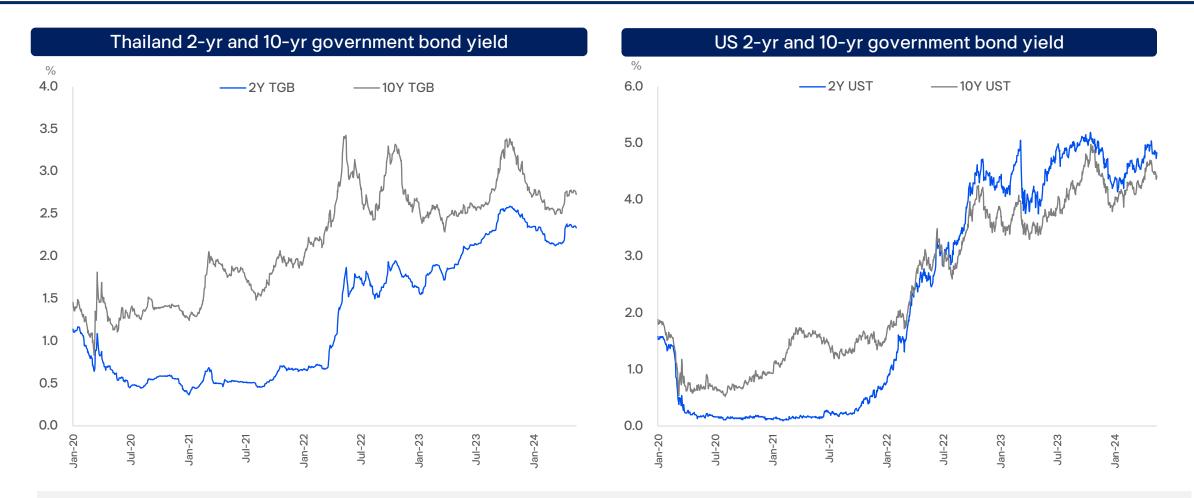
- Thai economy in Q1/24 rose by 1.5%yoy, compared to a rise of 1.7%yoy in Q4/23 or +1.1%QoQsa. Private final consumption expenditure continued to expand which was attributed from the government measures to ease the cost of living. Government expenditure and gross fixed capital formation continually diminished. Moreover, merchandise export of both agricultural and manufacturing products declined.
- In addition, NESDC revised down GDP growth projection in 2024 to 2.0-3.0% (mid-range of 2.5%), compared to latest forecast of 2.2-3.2% (midrange of 2.7%).

Source: NESDC, ttb analytics

# PART 3 Financial Market

45.02



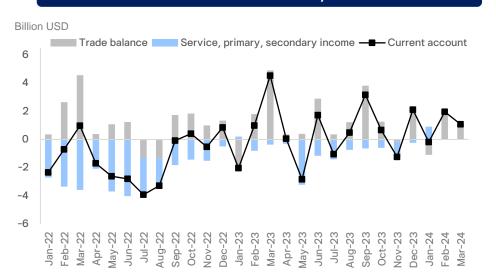


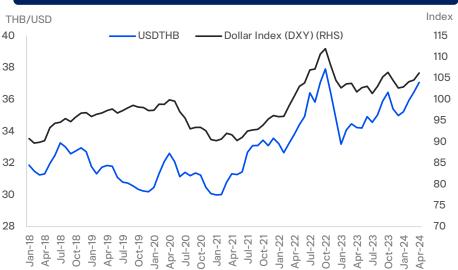
- US 10-year government bond yields declined further after reaching 4.5% mark earlier this month as market expectations toward Fed policy rate cuts during late of 2024 while Thailand 10-year government bond yields flatted accordingly. Meanwhile Thailand 2-year government bond yield also remained.
- With respect to financial market, Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) would lower the policy rate in case of weak economic growth and significantly low inflation pressure

#### Dollar traded lower awaiting key economic data



#### Thailand's current account, 2022-2024

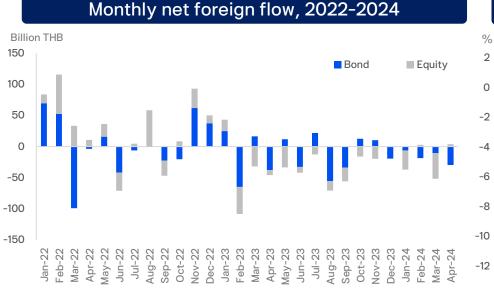




Thai Baht and Dollar Index movement

Short bets on most Asian currencies firmed to touch high levels as growing expectations of U.S. interest rates staying high for longer dampened appetite for riskier assets.

 Net foreign outflows persisted in both bond and equity markets of Thailand despite being less evident in 2024. This also attributes to weaknesses in Thai baht against the US dollar. Nevertheless, depreciation of Thai baht is still in consistent with regional peers where Japanese yen is the most affected one.



#### Monthly net foreign flow, 2022-2024

Source: Bloomberg, CEIC and ttb analytics (Data as of 15 May 24)

#### Asian FX spot return against US dollar

<sup>(-):</sup> depreciated against dollar \*Data as of 13 May 24 JPY THB KRW TWD IDR PHP INR CNY MYR SGD



