

Economic and Financial Outlook ttb analytics

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Oct 2024



Executive Summary





Global Economy

- In September 2024, the global economy showed signs of slowing, with disappointing data except for the US. PMI figures indicate a continued slowdown, with the manufacturing sector contracting for the third straight month and slower growth in services. Price pressures have eased and fallen below the central bank's target.
- U.S. economic data indicate strength, supported by a string of better-than-expected labor market figures. Additionally, retail sales, which serve as a measure of consumption, remain strong, fostering optimism for U.S. GDP in the third quarter.
- China's economic activity showed a slight improvement in September; however, overall GDP growth in the third quarter was the slowest since early 2023.

 A recent stimulus package has increased the chances of meeting this year's GDP target, but its long-term effectiveness is still uncertain.



Thai Economy

- In August 2024, Thai economy remained stable from preceding period. Private consumption slightly increased, as mainly from non-durables spending. On the other hand, private investment and industrial production declined, while merchandise exports improved across several categories, but some of these improvements were temporary.
- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted 5 to 2 to cut the policy rate by 25 bps. from 2.50 to 2.25%, effective immediately in the fifth meeting of 2024, the lowest rate in two years. The Committee concerned over the balance regarding new debt creation and household debt risk. However, this interest rate reduction in this meeting is not the beginning of an easing cycle or a continuous reduction.
- Headline inflation turned accelerated to 3-month-high in September 2024. The major increase in price pressures was primarily due to diesel price as well as raw food price due to flood effect. Besides that, core inflation continued to accelerate. Overall, Thailand's inflation still below the central banks' target range and below the peers and major economies.



Financial Markets

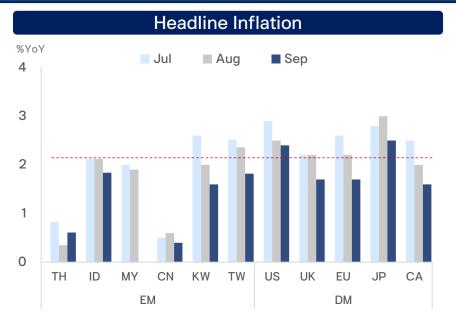
- U.S. Treasury yields increased as investors recalibrated their expectations for Fed rate cuts in light of a strong labor market. Meanwhile, Thai government bond yields were affected by an unexpected rate cut from the Thai MPC.
- The dollar has strengthened due to strong economic data, especially in the labor market, and is further boosted by Middle Eastern tensions and Trump's potential election win. Meanwhile, the Thai Baht has weakened to over 33.00 against the dollar since early October, aligning with other regional currencies, though it sometimes correlates with gold prices. Despite this, the baht has appreciated about 3% since the end of last year.



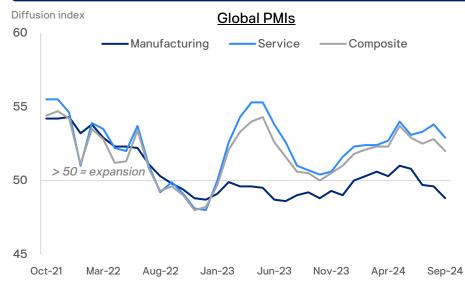
Global economy showed further signs of slowing, with a further decline in global manufacturing activity







Global PMI by selected countries



Composite PMIs

	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
Euro Area	50.9	50.2	51.0	49.6
Asia	52.8	52.4	52.5	51.3
Australia	50.7	49.9	51.7	49.6
China	52.8	51.2	51.2	50.3
France	48.8	49.1	53.1	48.6
Germany	50.4	49.1	48.4	47.5
Italy	51.3	50.3	50.8	49.7
Japan	49.7	52.5	52.9	52.0
Spain	55.8	53.4	53.5	56.3
UK	52.3	52.8	53.8	52.6
US	54.8	54.3	54.6	54.0

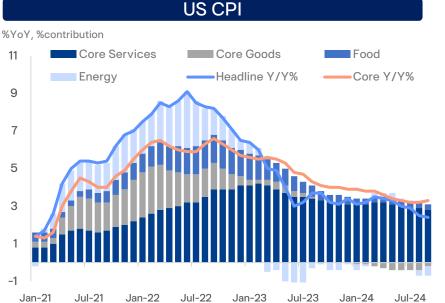
- Recent economic data indicates that the global economy continues to show signs of slowing down.
 However, US economic indicators have bounced back to demonstrate resilience, particularly in the labor market.
- Price pressures have continued to decrease and have dipped below the central bank's target, partly due to falling energy prices. Meanwhile, core inflation is showing more signs of easing, especially in the services sector.
- Looking ahead, the composite PMI data indicates a continued economic slowdown. The manufacturing sector has entered a contraction phase for the third consecutive month, while the service sectors are growing at a slower pace. Additionally, the PMIs across various countries show signs of economic slowdown.

Source: BOT, Bloomberg, CEIC, ttb analytics

Recent strong set of labor market data have eased US recession concerns









- broad recovery and resilience. The latest non-farm payroll and unemployment rate figures alleviate recent worries about the labor market and fears of an economic recession in the US.
- expectations across all measures, US inflation does not indicate a resurgence. Furthermore, persistent categories like shelter prices and owners' equivalent rent (OER) show signs of slowing down.
- US retail sales in September recorded stronger-than-expected growth, underscoring the resilience of consumer spending that supports the economy.

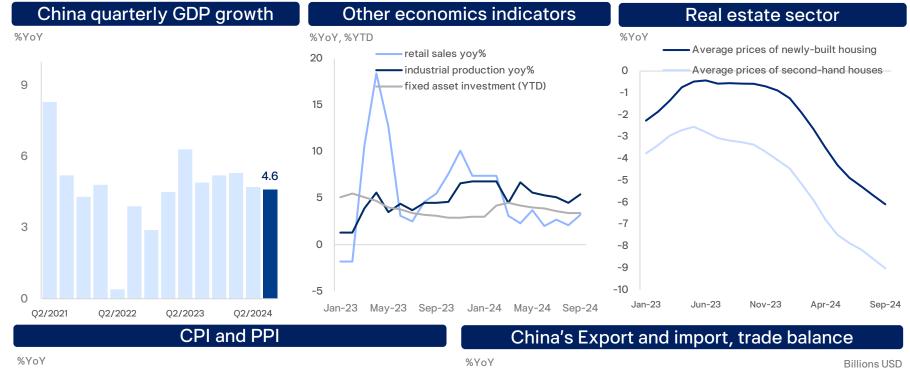
 Additionally, the strong figures from the retail control group indicate favorable prospects for Q3 consumption and GDP.

Source: BOT, Bloomberg, CEIC, ttb analytics

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While some September economic data exceeded expectations, the overall Chinese economy remained weak





Jan-23

May-23

PPI

2

0

-2

China's Export and import, trade balance

%YoY

Billions USD

20
Trade balance (RHS) — Export growth — Import growth 120

15
100
5
0
-5
-10
-15
-20

Jan-24

May-24

Sep-24

Sep-23

- In Q3, China's GDP increased by 4.6% year-on-year, just above the 4.5% forecast but lower than the 4.7% recorded in the second quarter.
 Although it marked the slowest growth since early 2023, September saw a pickup in retail sales, industrial production, and fixed-asset investment
- However, the property sector continues to struggle, as evidenced by a decline in new home prices for the 16th consecutive month, with drops occurring at a rate similar to that of August. Meanwhile, consumer inflation unexpectedly slowed in September, while producer price deflation intensified
- China's exports increased less than anticipated in September, hindering a trade rebound that had been a bright spot for the slowing economy.
 Meanwhile, imports have lagged due to domestic growth slowdowns

Recent stimulus measures may boost sentiment in China's economy and help reach the 5% target, but their long-term effectiveness remains uncertain



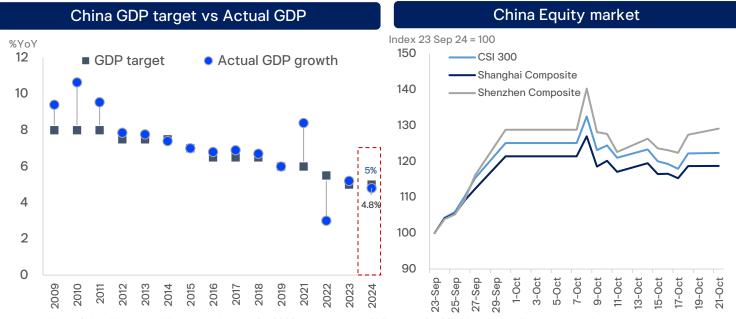
China's Announced/Reported Stimulus Measures

Sector	Measure
Monetary policy	 Seven-day reverse repurchase rate cut MLF rate cuts LPR cuts RRR cuts
Property	 Outstanding mortgage rate cuts Cuts on minimum down-payment ratio on 2nd home purchases expand a "white-list" of housing projects Expansion of PBOC re-lending program Megacities to relax curbs for non-local buyers Scrapping of distinction btw 1st and 2nd home purchases Special local government bonds can be used for unsold home purchases
Stocks	New measures to encourage M&A Swap facility to tap PROC manage to buy aguities.

- Swap facility to tap PBOC money to buy equities
- Re-lending facility to buy back shares and raise holdings
- · A possible stabilization fund

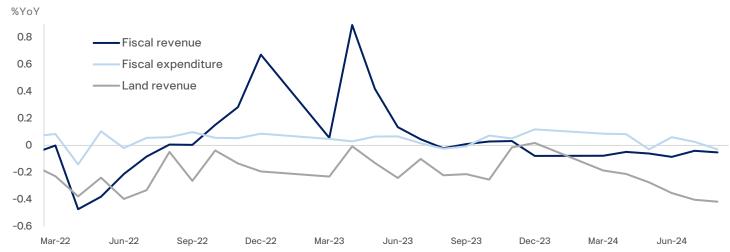
Finance & Fiscal

- · Addition of core tier 1 capital to 6 commercial banks
- Potential issuance of special sovereign bonds
- Plans to issue special sovereign bonds to boost capital at largest state-owned banks
- Government to give one-off large bond quota to swap hidden debt



Notes: China did not establish a growth target for 2020, and the actual GDP growth for 2024 is based on Bloomberg's weighted average.

China fiscal revenue and expenditure



Clearer signs of policy rate easing from both developed and emerging market central banks





Asian countries' expectations

Country/Region	Current Policy Rate	Changes in policy rate in 2024 (bps)	Forecast policy rate at the end of 2024 (%)
Malaysia	3.0		3.00
South Korea	3.25	-25	3.23
Indonesia	6.0	-25	5.75
India	6.50		6.30
Philippines	6.0	-50	5.85
Taiwan	2.0		2.00
China	2.0	-50	
Vietnam	4.5		4.50

Latest Monetary Policy development



The market dismissed the possibility of a 50 basis point cut due to stronger-than-expected economic data, particularly in the labor market, and comments from Fed officials.



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The ECB reduced the deposit rate by 25 basis points to 3.25% in October, its third cut this year amid slow growth and falling consumer prices. Lagarde hasn't ruled out further cuts, but current policy remains restrictive.



The market expects the Bank of Japan to keep interest rates steady in October, given the low risk of prices exceeding July's projections. Additionally, the BOJ will monitor the US economy and the potential impacts of next month's US election.



With the recent CPI falling short of the BOE's target and a surprising slowdown in services inflation, the market expects the BOE to lower its policy rate in the upcoming meetings.



The PBOC is utilizing all available monetary policy tools, including RRR, LPR, MLF, and the 7-day reverse repurchase rate, and hint further easing as part of China's stimulus package aimed at achieving a 5% GDP growth in 2024.

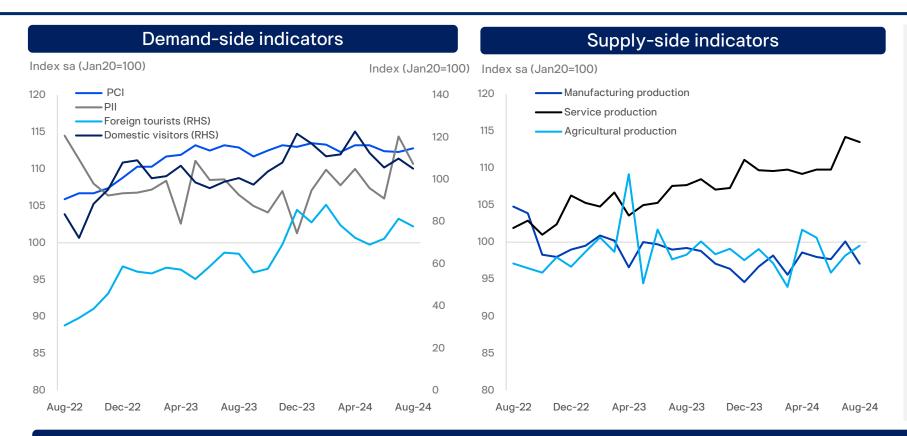


Emerging Asia's central banks have shifted to easing, but the rate decisions revealed key differences in domestic economic factors and responses to global financial conditions and commodity prices.



In August24, overall economic activities remained stable





- In Aug24, Thai economy remained stable from preceding period. Private consumption slightly increased, as mainly from non-durables spending. Meanwhile, private investment and industrial production declined, while merchandise exports improved across several categories, but some of these improvements were temporary.
- On the economic stability front, the September's headline inflation accelerated due to impact of higher diesel price and raw food prices; in terms of trade balance, it turned surplus as rising in export value.

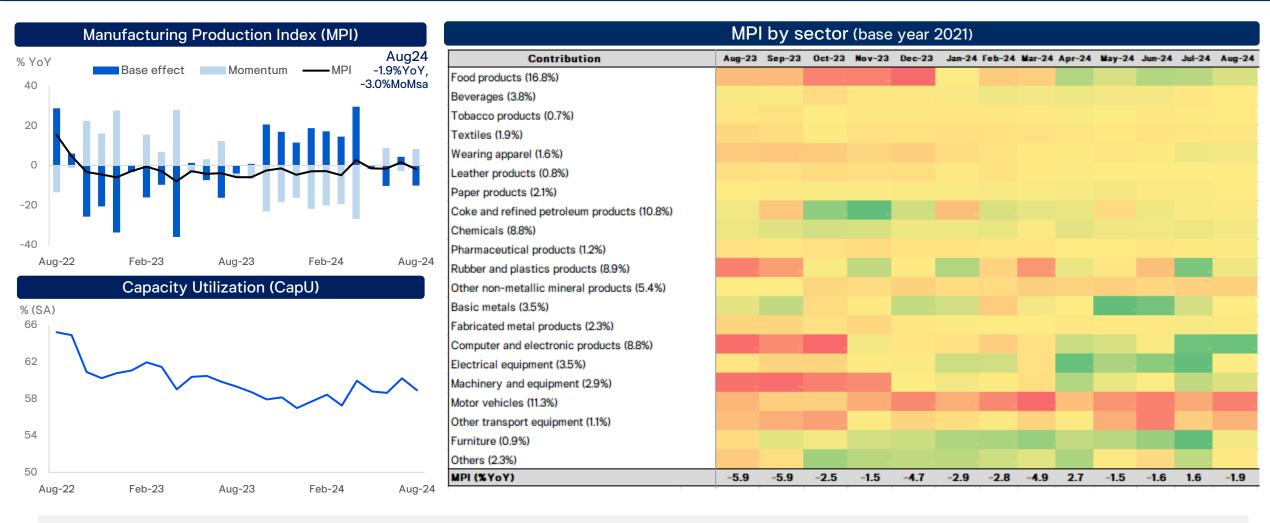
Leading Economic Index (sa) (Jan2020=100)

Leading Economic Index and Components (SA)	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24
Authorized Capital of Newly Registered Companies (Million Baht)	141.9	138.3	156.1	144.9	89.5	146.0	116.7	126.8	155.4	123.9	159.3	134.6	100.2
Construction Areas Permitted (1000 sq. m)	96.4	125.4	98.7	102.3	104.6	122.4	113.1	121.7	96.5	95.7	100.1	99.1	114.2
Export Volume index (exclude Gold)	107.1	113.0	110.3	109.9	109.4	109.8	106.7	109.1	114.0	113.4	113.3	115.2	119.4
Business Sentiment Index (3 months)	105.8	106.3	104.7	102.0	102.3	102.2	101.7	103.2	101.4	103.7	101.4	99.9	97.8
SET index	103.4	97.2	91.3	91.2	93.5	90.1	90.5	91.0	90.3	88.9	85.9	87.2	89.8
Oil Price Inverse Index (Dubai)	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3

Source: Bank of Thailand and ttb analytics.

Manufacturing production declined due to good expansion in the prior period amid high level of inventory

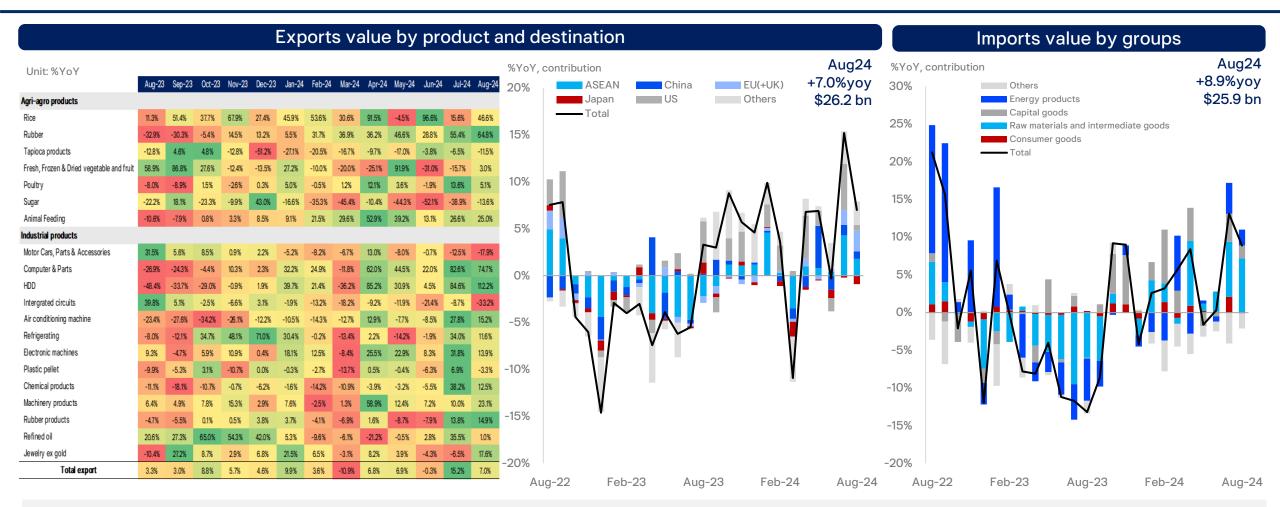




As of Aug24, Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) contracted 1.9YoY, compared to the month earlier of 1.6%YoY, following the impact of the acceleration in the previous month and high level of inventory in several product categories. The major attribution was in several categories, particularly in production of 1) automotive 2) rubber and plastic and 3) electrical machinery.

August's export growth continued to grow but slower pace

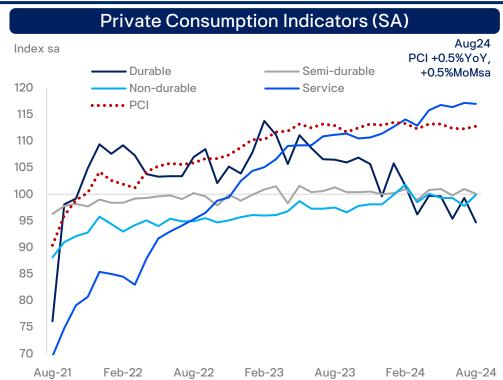




Export value in Aug24 expanded 7.0%YoY, continuing from previous month of 15.2%YoY increase. The growth had shown across all product categories, especially in agricultural and agro-industrial products (e.g., rubber, rice and Animal Feeding), industrial products also performed well (e.g., computer & parts, HDD and machinery products), for export to markets continued to expand well, including major markets such as the US, China, ASEAN and EU. Import value also increased 8.9%YoY, continuing its growth from the previous month, which was mainly attributed to the growth of raw materials and intermediate goods (e.g., jewelry, gold, copper), including energy products and capital goods. As a result, the trade balance returned to a surplus of USD 264.9 million. (During first 8 months of 2024, trade deficit stood at USD 6.3 billion)

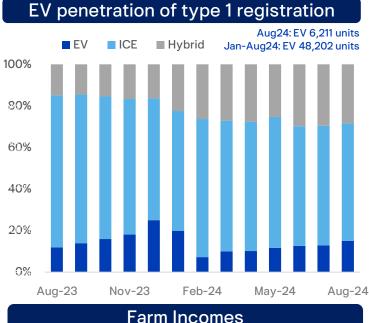
Private consumption indicators remained steady from previous month



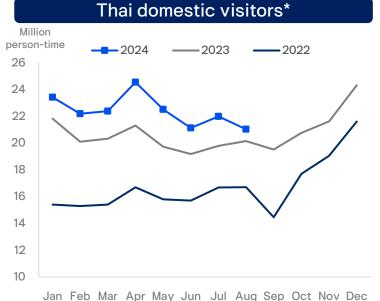


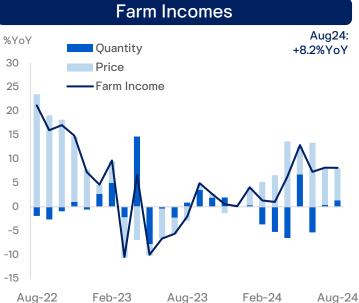
Commercial vehicle Passenger car units —■— Total (%YoY) 11.7% 1,200 -3.3% 1,000 800 -23.9%YoY 600 400 200 2021 2022 8M23

Domestic car sales**



- Private consumption indicators slightly increased from the previous month, driven by higher spending on non-durables.
- However, spending on durable goods contracted as mainly from lower sales of passenger cars and pickup trucks, as well as fewer new motorcycle registrations. Spending in the service category also slightly decreased, consistent with the decline in the number of foreign tourists and Thai visitors.

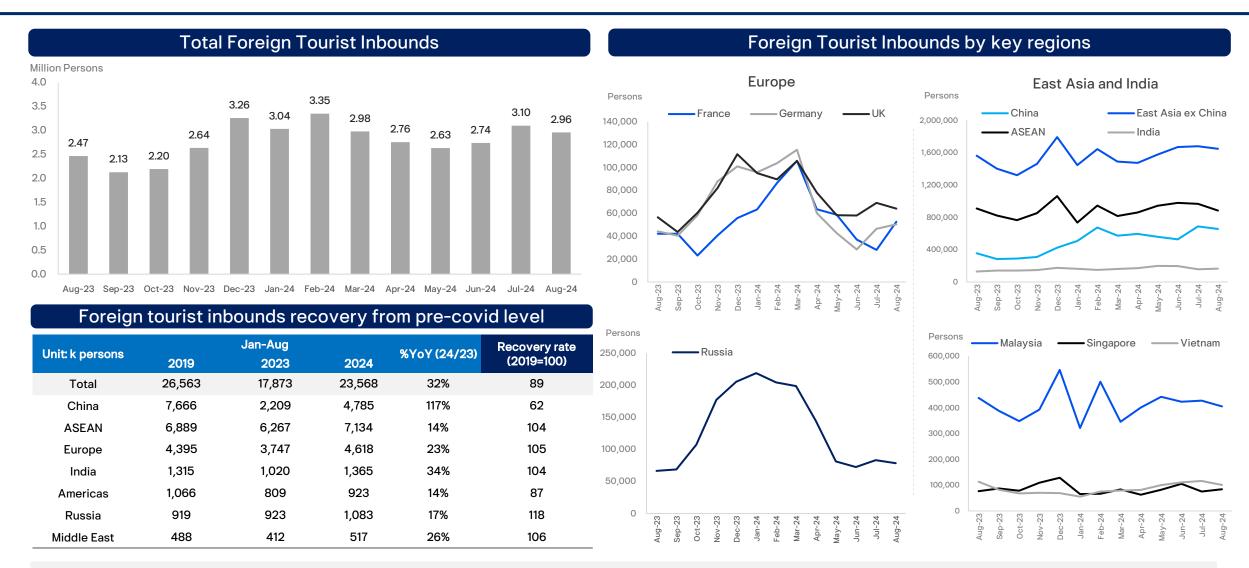




8M24

Foreign tourist arrivals slightly dropped from the previous month

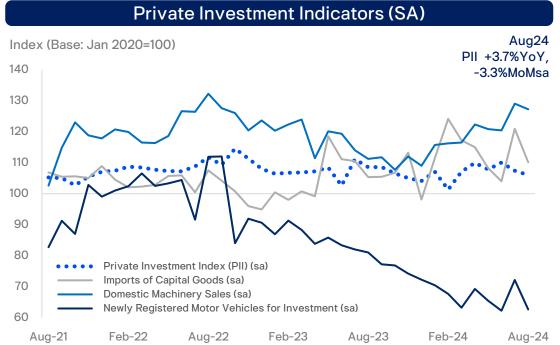


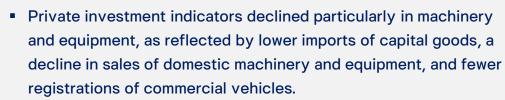


As of Aug24, foreign tourist arrivals was at 2.96 million, dropped gradually from previous month. This was attributed from most regions. However, many European countries showed an improvement. During first 8 months, number of foreign arrivals reached 23.6 million persons or 89% recovery from pre-covid level.

Private investment declined particularly in machinery and equipment, while business sentiment indicator remained flat

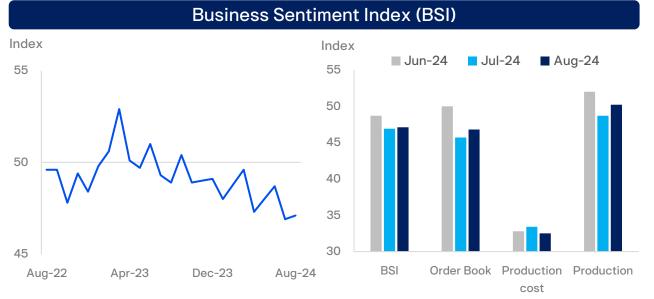






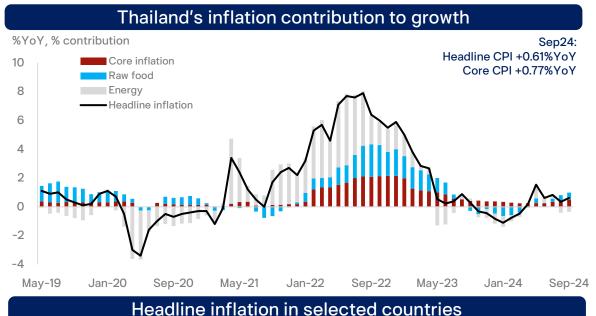
- Nonetheless, construction investment increased slightly due to higher sales of construction materials, particularly concrete blocks and precast concrete slabs, while the permitted area for residential construction decreased.
- Business Sentiment Index (BSI) remained stable from the previous month.

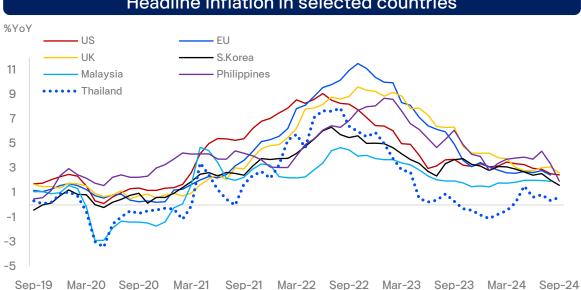




Headline inflation quicken in September, but still below the bottom line





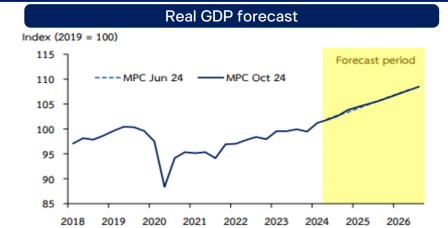


Price change in top categories													
%YoY	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
Headline inflation	0.30	-0.31	-0.44	-0.83	-1.11	-0.77	-0.47	0.19	1.54	0.62	0.83	0.35	0.61
Raw food	-1.30	-2.45	-0.76	-2.30	-3.07	-2.71	-1.91	-0.20	1.51	0.19	1.10	1.93	2.31
Prepared food	1.33	1.44	1.30	1.18	1.02	0.75	0.69	0.64	0.61	0.67	1.54	1.81	2.38
Poultry	0.86	0.13	1.00	2.83	1.74	0.98	1.16	1.27	0.18	-0.52	-0.04	0.62	0.31
Eggs and dairy products	6.93	6.70	6.65	6.97	4.85	2.88	3.81	2.64	3.48	4.07	2.89	1.67	1.43
Meats	-16.47	-17.85	-17.69	-16.32	-15.39	-14.55	-12.32	-11.29	-8.09	-7.18	-5.16	-2.91	-2.07
Utilities	-3.13	-3.15	-3.15	-3.14	-3.13	-3.11	-3.43	-3.44	8.42	-3.29	-3.29	-3.31	1.45
Energy	1.21	-1.55	-4.52	-5.12	-5.53	-3.33	-2.25	-0.09	7.15	2.43	1.78	-3.10	-2.55
Core inflation	0.63	0.66	0.58	0.58	0.52	0.43	0.37	0.37	0.39	0.36	0.52	0.62	0.77

- The headline inflation (CPI) rose 0.61%YoY in Sep24, accelerated from previous month of 0.35%YoY. The major increase in price pressures was primarily due to diesel price as well as raw food price due to flood effect. Besides, core inflation ticked up to 0.77%YoY in Sep24 from the previous month's 0.62%YoY. During first 9 months of this year, headline and core inflation stood at 0.20%YoY and 0.48%YoY respectively.
- Overall, Thailand's inflation still below the central banks' target range of 1-3%, and below the peers and major economies.

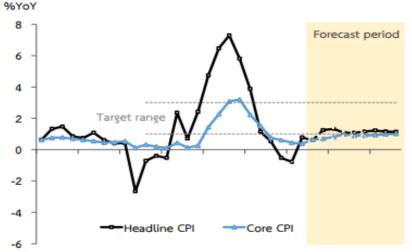
MPC made surprise rate cut of 25 bps. to 2.25%, the lowest rate in two years





	500 5 · · ·	2015-2019	2023	20	24	2024	2025	
ı	GDP Growth	2015-2019	2023	H1	H2	2024	2025	
	%YoY	3.4	1.9	1.9	3.5	2.7	2.9	
	Avg. %QoQsa	0.8	0.4	1.2	1.0	1.1	0.6	

Inflation forecast



Q1-18 Q1-19 Q1-20 Q1-21 Q1-22 Q1-23 Q1-24 Q1-25 Q1-26

Macroeconomic projection as of October	2024
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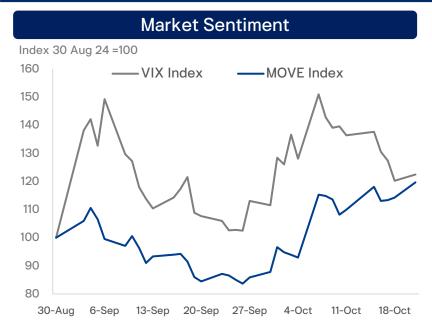
Annual percentage change	2023*	2024	2025
GDP growth	1.9	2.7	2.9
Domestic demand	3.5	2.4	2.7
Private consumption	7.1	4.2	2.5
Private investment	3.2	-2.8	2.9
Government consumption	-4.6	2.0	2.6
Public investment	-4.6	1.1	4.5
Exports of goods and services	2.1	4.8	2.8
Import of goods and services	-2.3	4.4	1.4
Current account (billion, U.S. dollar)	7.4	10.0	16.0
Value of merchandise exports (%YoY)	-1.5	2.8	2.0
Value of merchandise imports (%YoY)	-3.8	5.1	0.4
Number of foreign tourists (million persons)	28.2	36.0	39.5
Dubai crude oil price (U.S. dollars per barrel)	82.0	80.0	80.0
Headline inflation	1.2	0.5	1.2
Core inflation	1.3	0.5	0.9
Note: * Outturns			

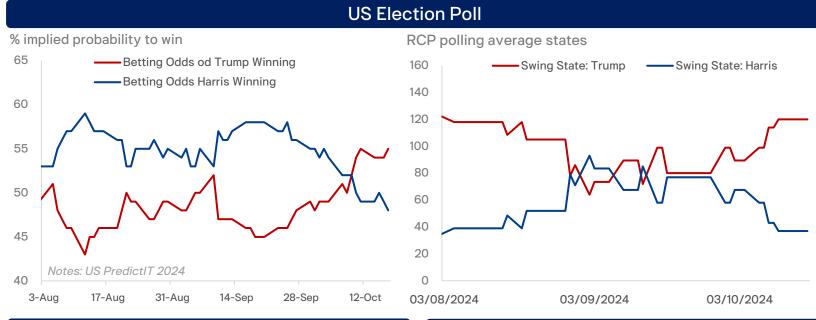
- Note: * Outturns
- The MPC voted 5 to 2 to cut the policy rate by 0.25 percentage point from 2.50 to 2.25%, effective immediately in the 5/2024 meeting, the lowest rate in two years. It is concerned over the balance regarding new debt creation and household debt risk.
- Looking ahead, Thai economy in 2024 and 2025 is projected to expand at rates close to the previous assessment, while headline inflation is projected to remain below the lower bound of the target.
- The Committee deems that the policy rate should remain neutral and consistent with economic potential and hinted that this interest rate reduction in this meeting is not the beginning of an easing cycle or a continuous reduction.



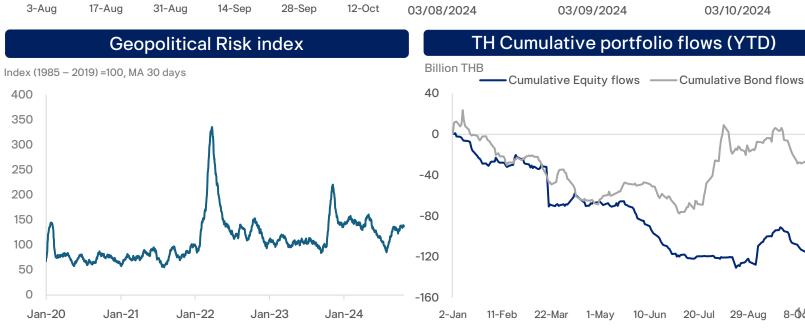
There is heightened uncertainty in financial markets in the last quarter of the year





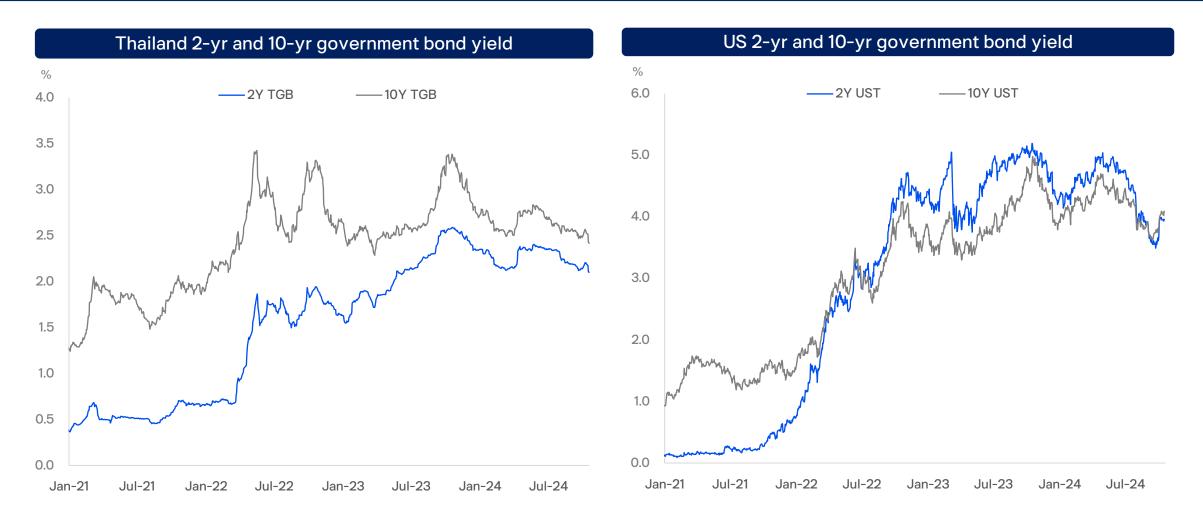






U.S. Treasury yields edged up as investors adjusted Fed cut expectations due to a strong labor market, while Thai government bond yields were influenced by an unexpected rate cut from the Thai MPC

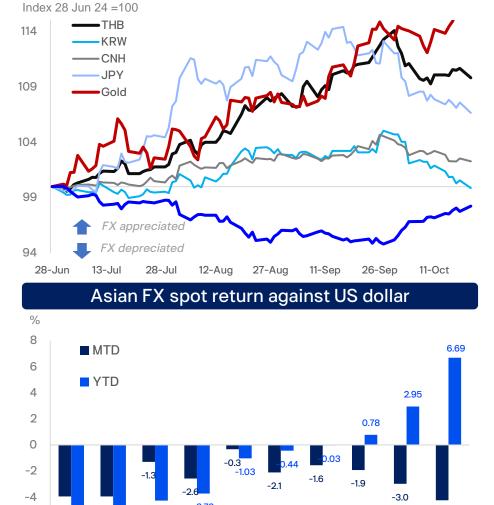




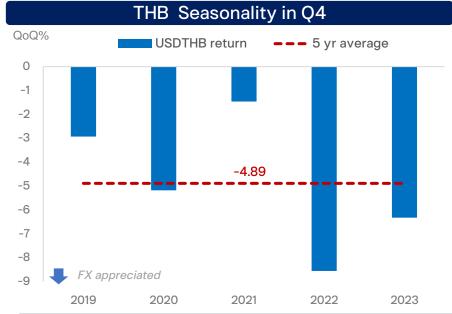
• U.S. government bond yields, including the 2-year and 10-year Treasury yields, have slightly pick up following the series of strong labor market data especially the non-farm payrolls. On the other hand, Thai government bond yields dropped following the surprise rate cuts from Thai MPC

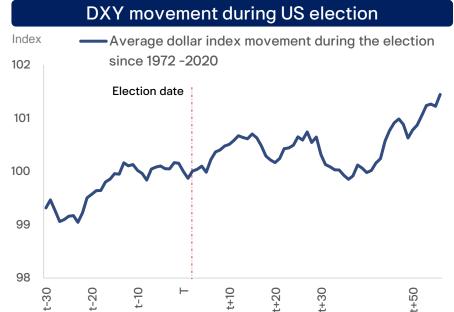
Since the beginning of October, the Thai baht has weakened to over 33.00, primarily due to the strength of the dollar





Movement in regional FX in H2 2024





- The dollar has strengthened due to robust economic data, particularly in the labor market. Additionally, the dollar index is receiving further upward momentum from tensions in the Middle East and the possibility that Trump may win the upcoming election.
- The Thai baht has weakened to over 33.00 against the dollar since the start of the fourth quarter, following a trend seen in other regional currencies, although it occasionally correlates with gold prices. Compared to the end of last year, the baht has still appreciated by about 3%.
- Looking ahead, the future movement of the Thai baht remains highly uncertain. Typically, the baht appreciates towards the end of the year, but following the election, the dollar often strengthens.

depreciated against dollar *Data as of 18 Oct 24



