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## Monthly Economic Report (April 2018)

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Mr. Warotai Kosolpisitkul, Fiscal Policy Advisor of the Fiscal Policy Office, and Mr. Soraphol Tulayasathien, Executive Director of Macroeconomic Policy Bureau revealed the economic report in April 2018 that “The Thai economy in April 2018 improved continually from the first quarter of 2018 reflecting by significant economic engines such as exports of goods, domestic consumption, and private investment which expanded well. Meanwhile, the supply-side indicators showed the expanding signs in all sectors as the production in manufacturing and agricultural sectors increased. In addition, the number of inbound foreign tourists grew continually.”

Economic indicators on private consumption expenditures in April 2018 obviously showed recovering signs.

Private Consumption Indicators	2017	2017				2018				
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Feb	Mar	Apr	YTD
Real Value Added Tax Collection (%yoy)	3.8	3.4	1.1	5.9	4.6	4.2	7.3	-1.6	7.0	4.9
<i>%qoq_SA / %mom_SA</i>		2.0	1.3	1.6	-0.3	1.4	1.7	-6.0	3.7	-
Passenger Car Sales (%yoy)	23.7	38.7	13.9	11.2	33.9	12.1	10.9	3.8	17.2	13.3
<i>%qoq_SA / %mom_SA</i>		20.9	-0.1	0.7	10.3	0.5	-4.4	-1.9	4.9	-
Registration of new motorcycles (%yoy)	4.5	3.2	8.3	0.2	6.5	-1.7	-5.3	-2.9	-3.1	-1.7
<i>%qoq_SA / %mom_SA</i>		3.0	4.2	-3.6	2.8	-4.9	-2.5	-0.2	5.1	-
Import volume of consumption goods (%yoy)	4.7	0.3	3.2	5.3	10.0	7.4	8.9	-1.7	17.6	9.7
<i>%qoq_SA / %mom_SA</i>		3.6	1.7	1.4	3.1	0.5	-5.1	-2.6	7.2	-
Farmers' real incomes (calculated by FPO)	2.7	14.2	14.8	-2.6	-7.2	-5.3	-7.2	-4.5	-1.5	-4.3
Consumer Confidence Index	64.0	64.2	64.4	62.4	65.2	66.6	66.2	66.8	67.8	67.0

Economic indicators on private investment in April 2018 continued to improve particularly in equipment and machinery sector as commercial car sales expanded continually.

Private Investment Indicators	2017	2017				2018				
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Feb	Mar	Apr	YTD
<b><u>Machinery and equipment sector</u></b>										
Commercial car sales (%yoy)	7.5	5.3	2.2	12.8	9.5	13.0	9.9	17.5	30.6	16.9
<i>%qoq_SA / %mom_SA</i>		5.2	3.2	2.8	-1.4	7.5	5.2	6.9	7.1	-
Import volume of capital goods (%yoy)	6.4	1.2	9.9	8.4	6.5	8.9	1.8	-1.0	3.4	7.6
<i>%qoq_SA / %mom_SA</i>		1.7	1.9	2.0	0.7	3.9	7.1	-7.1	1.5	-
<b><u>Construction sector</u></b>										
Cement sales (%yoy)	1.3	0.5	-1.6	3.5	3.1	1.6	-0.4	3.8	0.0	1.3
<i>%qoq_SA / %mom_SA</i>		3.6	-4.3	0.9	3.1	9.9	-1.1	2.3	-3.7	-
Construction Materials Price Index (CMI)	1.9	2.0	-1.0	3.0	3.6	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.8
Real estate tax collection (%yoy)	-0.9	-9.7	-8.4	12.3	3.1	14.8	15.2	4.3	25.2	17.1
<i>%qoq_SA / %mom_SA</i>		-3.8	4.5	6.8	-4.3	7.6	1.7	-1.1	2.9	-

External demand continued to grow from the previous month as export of goods in April 2018 highly expanded by 12.3 percent.

Main trading partners (16 countries)	2017	2017				2018				
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Feb	Mar	Apr	YTD
(Export shares 2016 >> 2017 )										
Exports to the world (%yoy)	9.9	4.9	10.9	12.0	11.7	11.3	10.3	7.1	12.3	11.5
1. China (11.0% >> 12.4%)	23.7	36.5	26.0	21.7	14.2	0.6	1.5	-8.7	19.9	5.0
2. U.S.A. (11.0% >> 11.2%)	8.3	7.4	7.0	8.1	10.7	9.3	5.1	11.1	9.6	9.3
3. Japan (9.5% >> 9.4%)	8.9	-2.5	20.1	10.4	9.3	23.4	41.1	5.7	14.8	21.5
4. EU (9.3% >> 9.1%)	7.6	9.2	5.5	4.5	11.4	10.0	12.4	8.7	18.5	11.8
5. Australia (5.6% >> 5.3%)	3.5	-0.4	-2.0	0.3	17.4	13.8	18.2	6.2	16.9	14.5
6. Hong Kong (5.3% >> 5.2%)	7.3	6.3	13.0	7.7	2.8	1.3	-4.4	-2.6	13.8	3.7
7. Vietnam (4.4% >> 4.9%)	23.7	23.4	26.0	25.9	20.3	18.6	3.3	12.4	11.6	16.9
8. Malaysia (4.5% >> 4.4%)	7.5	-3.6	7.5	10.4	16.5	15.5	7.1	13.1	9.8	14.1
9. Middle East (4.2% >> 3.8%)	-1.7	-19.7	4.6	5.1	6.9	10.4	9.7	10.6	-4.9	6.8
10. Indonesia (3.8% >> 3.7%)	7.7	-9.3	22.1	2.4	19.7	20.4	24.2	16.1	4.7	16.2
11. Singapore (3.8% >> 3.5%)	0.7	-20.2	34.0	-0.1	-1.7	12.1	-3.4	49.3	-30.3	-0.3

Main trading partners (16 countries) (Export shares 2016 >> 2017 )	2017	2017				2018				
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Feb	Mar	Apr	YTD
12. Philippines (3.0% >> 2.9%)	8.6	0.6	6.2	8.6	18.9	14.0	17.2	5.0	12.9	13.8
13. Africa (2.9% >> 2.9%)	10.7	-0.4	2.9	19.4	20.8	21.5	14.4	15.8	19.7	21.1
14. India (2.4% >> 2.7%)	25.8	18.3	13.3	27.3	46.3	31.0	42.9	21.7	28.7	30.4
15. South Korea (1.9% >> 2.0%)	14.6	24.2	24.2	11.3	0.8	4.2	4.5	7.7	9.9	5.6
16. Taiwan (1.6% >> 1.7%)	18.2	15.9	22.1	23.3	11.3	11.5	9.0	8.6	-4.1	7.3
PS.ASEAN-9 (25.4% >> 25.2%)	8.9	0.0	15.0	9.6	11.7	15.2	11.4	17.8	5.7	12.9
PS.ASEAN-5 (15.1% >> 14.6%)	6.0	-8.9	17.2	5.3	13.1	15.7	11.4	20.7	-2.6	11.0
PS.Indochina-4 (10.3% >> 10.6%)	13.1	15.3	11.8	16.2	9.9	14.5	11.4	14.0	19.3	15.6

Supply-side indicators were supported by Agricultural Product Index (API) which expanded well, while the number of inbound foreign tourists highly increased.

Supply Side Indicators	2017	2017				2018				
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Feb	Mar	Apr	YTD
Agricultural Production Index (%yoy)	6.7	3.9	18.4	11.9	-1.5	8.5	7.7	5.1	9.6	9.0
<i>%qoq_SA / %mom_SA</i>		-2.8	7.6	-0.7	-4.8	7.1	1.4	4.4	6.1	-
Thai Industries Sentiment Index (TISI) (level)	86.3	87.0	85.5	85.2	87.3	90.5	89.9	90.7	89.1	90.2
Number of Inbound Foreign Tourists (%yoy)	8.8	2.1	8.3	6.4	19.5	15.4	19.3	16.3	9.4	14.0
<i>%qoq_SA / %mom_SA</i>		10.6	5.9	2.3	0.3	5.8	1.4	1.7	-2.2	-

Internal economic stabilities remained favourable and external economic stability remained robust.

Macroeconomic Stability Indicators	2017	2017				2018				
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Feb	Mar	Apr	YTD
<b>Internal Stability</b>										
Headline Inflation (%yoy)	0.7	1.3	0.1	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.8	1.1	0.7
Core Inflation (%yoy)	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Unemployment rate (% of total labor force)	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.2
Public debt (% of GDP)	41.2	41.7	41.3	41.9	41.2	41.2	41.4	41.2	-	41.2
<b>External Stability</b>										
Current Account Balance (Billion USD)	49.3	15.0	7.8	13.8	12.7	5.8	6.2	5.8	-	11.4
International Reserves Position	202.6	180.9	185.6	199.3	202.6	215.6	212.7	215.6	215.2	215.2

Macroeconomic Stability Indicators	2017	2017				2018				
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Feb	Mar	Apr	YTD
(Billion USD)										
Net Forward (Billion USD)	36.7	26.6	30.8	31.2	36.7	35.8	36.1	35.8	34.2	34.2
International reserves to short term external debt (times)	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.5	-	3.5

Table 1: Monthly Economic Indicators

	2017	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	YTD
<b>External sector</b>																		
- Dubai crude oil price (US\$/Barrel) /7	53.1	53.7	54.4	51.2	52.3	50.4	46.4	47.7	50.2	53.1	55.6	60.8	61.7	66.1	62.7	62.9	66.6	64.7
- Fed funds rate (%) /7	1.00-1.25	0.50-0.75	0.50-0.75	0.75-1.00	0.75-1.00	0.75-1.00	1.00-1.25	1.00-1.25	1.00-1.25	1.00-1.25	1.00-1.25	1.00-1.25	1.00-1.25	1.00-1.25	1.00-1.25	1.50-1.75	1.50-1.75	1.50-1.75
<b>Fiscal sector</b>																		
- Government expenditure (Billion baht) /1	2888.9	255.0	157.9	223.6	217.2	209.8	224.8	256.8	165.1	211.3	428.4	250.2	288.9	244.6	166.0	220.2	246.4	1,844.6
(%y-o-y) /1	0.1	-1.9	-1.7	-13.8	-2.9	10.8	-15.1	39.4	4.0	-2.1	-1.6	42.4	-19.3	-4.1	5.1	-1.5	13.5	1.2
- Budget expenditure (Billion baht) /1	2708.2	229.8	142.8	204.1	210.1	202.0	212.6	251.7	158.1	199.2	413.9	221.2	262.6	226.8	147.1	198.9	236.6	1,707.2
(%y-o-y) /1	2.3	-4.7	3.0	-9.1	-0.6	14.5	-15.2	42.9	5.9	-1.8	-2.0	49.0	-14.0	-1.3	3.0	-2.6	12.6	2.7
- Current expenditure (Billion baht) /1	2332.5	211.1	113.8	153.0	188.3	171.2	181.8	227.0	126.5	149.2	381.7	202.1	226.8	200.4	119.0	159.7	211.3	1,501.1
(%y-o-y) /1	3.3	-4.4	4.5	-14.7	1.1	22.6	-14.0	47.5	6.5	-4.0	-3.3	59.5	-13.6	-5.1	4.6	4.4	12.2	3.5
- Capital expenditure (Billion baht) /1	375.8	18.7	29.0	51.2	21.9	30.8	30.8	24.7	31.5	50.0	32.2	19.1	35.8	26.5	28.1	39.1	25.3	206.1
(%y-o-y) /1	-3.4	-7.2	-2.8	13.1	-13.2	-16.5	-21.7	11.2	3.5	5.4	17.0	-12.1	-16.4	41.6	-3.1	-23.5	15.7	-3.2
- Carry-over budget (Billion baht) /1	180.7	25.3	15.2	19.5	7.0	7.8	12.2	5.0	7.0	12.0	14.4	29.0	26.3	17.7	18.9	21.3	9.8	137.4
(%y-o-y) /1	-24.2	33.4	-30.9	-44.1	-42.0	-39.7	-12.6	-37.4	-26.0	-7.3	11.2	6.2	-50.2	-29.8	24.4	9.6	38.8	-14.1
<b>Supply-side indicators</b>																		
<b>Agricultural sector</b>																		
- Agricultural Production Index (%y-o-y) /6	6.7	-8.3	2.2	22.8	33.9	12.1	9.3	16.1	15.1	4.2	-1.2	-5.7	8.6	12.5	7.7	5.1	9.6	9.0
- Agricultural Price Index (%y-o-y) /6	-2.7	15.0	12.1	7.7	2.4	-3.1	-5.8	-15.7	-16.4	-6.0	-2.3	-4.8	-10.5	-14.6	-13.6	-8.5	-9.3	-11.6
- Real farm income (%y-o-y) /14	3.0	3.2	12.6	31.2	36.7	9.9	4.1	-1.8	-3.6	-2.4	-3.9	-10.7	-3.3	-4.4	-7.2	-4.5	-1.5	-4.3
- New employment in agricultural sector (%y-o-y) /3	-0.1	-1.7	-4.4	0.8	7.0	6.3	4.5	0.6	-4.9	-0.7	-1.5	-2.9	-2.4	7.0	5.4	4.5	1.8	3.8
<b>Industrial sector</b>																		
- Manufacturing Production Index (%y-o-y) /10	2.5	1.0	-1.6	0.9	-1.6	3.0	1.0	4.0	5.6	5.3	1.0	6.3	5.8	4.7	4.7	2.6	na	3.9
- Import value of raw materials in USD (%y-o-y) /1	18.7	22.3	20.8	21.1	15.9	22.5	23.3	29.3	13.8	13.0	10.3	14.5	19.9	12.4	21.9	14.8	15.7	16.1
- Import volume of raw materials in USD (%y-o-y) /1	14.8	17.6	16.2	17.1	11.7	18.6	19.7	27.0	11.4	9.8	6.3	9.8	13.8	6.5	15.9	8.7	0.0	0.0
- Capacity utilization (%) /10	60.6	68.3	67.6	74.3	60.0	68.5	66.4	65.3	68.2	68.7	65.4	69.4	67.8	70.5	70.4	na	na	72.4
- New employment in industrial sector (%y-o-y) /3	-4.1	-5.8	-1.0	-3.8	-11.4	-3.1	-3.9	-6.2	-1.5	-4.4	-7.6	0.8	0.2	-5.4	-3.7	-0.7	-0.9	-3.5
- Thai Industrial Sentiment Index (Index) /9	86.3	87.2	86.2	87.5	86.4	85.5	84.7	83.9	85.0	86.7	85.9	87.0	89.1	91.0	89.9	90.7	89.1	90.2
<b>Service sector</b>																		
- No. of foreign tourists (Million persons) /11	35.4	3.2	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.7	3.1	3.1	2.6	2.7	3.0	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.1	13.7
(%y-o-y) /14	8.8	6.5	-3.2	2.0	7.0	4.6	11.4	4.8	8.7	5.7	20.9	23.2	15.5	10.9	19.3	16.3	9.4	14.0
- New employment in service sector (%y-o-y) /3	0.8	2.0	2.4	0.6	1.6	-0.4	-0.4	0.3	-0.6	-1.0	2.0	2.2	0.7	-2.3	-1.7	-3.3	0.4	-1.3
<b>Demand-side indicators</b>																		
<b>Private consumption indicators</b>																		
- Value added tax at constant price (%y-o-y) /1	3.8	1.9	3.4	5.0	-2.6	7.6	-1.1	1.0	14.7	2.0	7.6	1.6	4.8	6.9	7.3	-1.6	7.0	4.9
- Import volume of consumer goods in USD (%y-o-y) /1	4.7	4.0	1.7	-4.1	-2.8	10.1	2.1	1.6	6.0	8.4	6.1	11.9	11.9	15.8	8.9	-1.7	20.7	10.4
- Sales of passenger cars (%y-o-y) /14	23.7	23.5	49.8	40.9	23.2	4.4	15.6	10.0	8.5	14.9	24.3	34.9	40.7	27.3	10.9	3.8	17.2	13.3
- Sales of motorcycles (%y-o-y) /13	4.5	-6.2	14.9	3.0	16.3	15.4	-2.6	8.1	-5.2	-0.7	6.6	10.7	1.9	3.5	-5.3	-2.9	-3.1	-1.7
- Consumer Confidence Index (Index) /5	64.0	63.1	64.3	65.1	65.4	64.3	63.4	62.2	62.4	62.5	64.1	65.2	66.2	67.0	66.2	66.8	67.8	67.0
<b>Private investment indicators</b>																		
- Import volume of capital goods in USD (%y-o-y) /1	16.1	-22.4	20.4	9.7	8.5	14.0	7.2	8.3	5.5	11.4	5.5	10.1	4.5	30.6	1.8	-1.0	6.1	8.2
- Sales of commercial cars (%y-o-y) /14	7.5	4.5	6.3	5.0	10.1	-1.7	-0.5	5.8	5.8	26.6	6.1	12.5	9.5	10.2	9.9	17.5	30.6	16.9
- Total taxes collected from real estate transaction (%y-o-y) /1	-0.9	-12.3	-10.0	-8.0	-50.3	44.6	21.1	24.1	2.3	13.3	5.5	5.4	-0.1	23.8	15.2	4.3	25.2	17.1
- Domestic cement sales (%y-o-y) /2	1.3	2.0	-0.1	-0.3	-0.9	-5.1	1.3	-0.5	6.1	4.9	-0.4	6.4	3.4	1.1	-0.4	3.8	0.0	1.3
<b>International trade indicators</b>																		
- Exports (Billion USD): custom basis	236.7	17.1	18.5	20.9	16.9	19.9	20.3	18.9	21.2	21.8	20.1	21.4	19.7	20.1	20.4	22.4	18.9	81.8
(%y-o-y) /4	9.9	9.0	-2.7	9.0	8.0	12.7	11.7	10.5	13.2	12.2	13.1	13.4	8.6	17.6	10.3	7.1	12.3	11.5
- Export price (%y-o-y) /4	3.6	3.7	4.2	3.3	3.3	2.7	2.3	2.5	3.6	4.2	4.0	4.5	4.4	4.8	4.5	4.8	3.6	4.4
- Export volume (%y-o-y) /14	6.1	5.1	-6.7	5.4	4.6	9.8	9.2	7.7	9.3	7.7	8.7	8.4	4.0	12.2	5.5	2.2	8.4	6.8
- Imports (Billion USD): custom basis	222.8	16.3	16.9	19.3	16.8	19.0	18.4	19.0	19.1	18.5	19.9	19.7	20.0	20.2	19.6	9.5	20.2	81.1
(%y-o-y) /4	14.7	5.1	20.4	19.2	13.3	18.3	13.7	18.5	14.9	9.7	13.5	13.7	16.6	24.3	16.0	6.8	20.4	17.2
- Import price (%y-o-y) /4	5.5	8.3	8.9	7.0	6.2	4.4	3.0	3.3	3.7	4.5	4.4	6.4	6.6	6.7	6.2	6.8	14.3	8.5
- Import volume (%y-o-y) /14	8.7	-3.0	10.5	11.4	6.7	13.3	10.5	14.6	10.9	5.0	8.7	6.9	9.4	16.4	9.2	2.5	5.3	8.1
- Trade balance (Billion USD): custom basis /4	13.9	0.8	1.6	1.6	0.1	0.9	1.9	-0.2	2.1	3.4	0.2	1.8	-0.3	-0.1	0.8	12.9	-1.3	0.7
<b>External economic stability</b>																		
- Average exchange rate (Baht/USD) /2	31.4	35.2	34.9	34.5	34.6	34.1	34.0	33.3	33.2	33.4	33.2	32.6	32.7	31.4	31.5	31.4	31.5	31.4
- Current account (Billion USD) /2	49.3	5.3	6.0	3.7	2.7	1.0	4.2	2.8	4.7	6.3	3.1	4.8	3.4	5.2	6.2	5.8	-	11.4
- International reserves (Billion USD) /2	202.6	179.2	183.0	180.9	184.5	184.1	185.6	190.4	196.9	199.3	200.5	203.1	202.6	214.7	212.7	215.6	215.2	215.2
- Net Forward Position (Billion USD) /2	36.7	23.6	22.9	26.6	27.4	30.8	31.3	30.8	30.9	31.2	30.3	33.0	36.7	34.8	36.1	35.8	34.2	34.2
<b>Internal economic stability</b>																		
- Unemployment rate (%) /3	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.2
- Producer Price Index (%yoy) /4	0.7	3.1	3.9	2.6	1.7	-0.2	-0.1	-1.3	-0.6	0.5	0.1	0.5	-0.6	-1.1	-1.9	-1.4	-0.8	-1.3
- Headline inflation (%yoy) /4	0.7	1.6	1.4	0.8	0.4	0.0	-0.1	0.2	0.3	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.8	1.1	0.7
- Core inflation (%yoy) /4	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
- Public debt to GDP (%) /1	41.8	41.5	41.5	41.7	42.2	42.6	41.3	41.4	41.5	41.9	41.3	41.2	41.2	41.5	41.4	41.2	-	41.2

1/ Data from Ministry of Finance

2/ Data from Bank of Thailand

3/ Data from National Statistic Office

4/ Data from Ministry of Commerce

5/ Data from University of Thai Chamber of Commerce

6/ Data from Office of Agricultural Economics

7/ Data from Reuters