

Under embargo until 12:00 noon. Bangkok Time, Monday, 1 May 2017

THAILAND

GDP (current US\$, billions):	\$395.17	Population (thousands):	68,146
Share of GDP in developing Asia-Pacific:	2.3%	GDP per capita (current US\$):	\$5,814.70
Share of GDP in South-East Asia:	17.2	Average inflation (2016)	0.2%

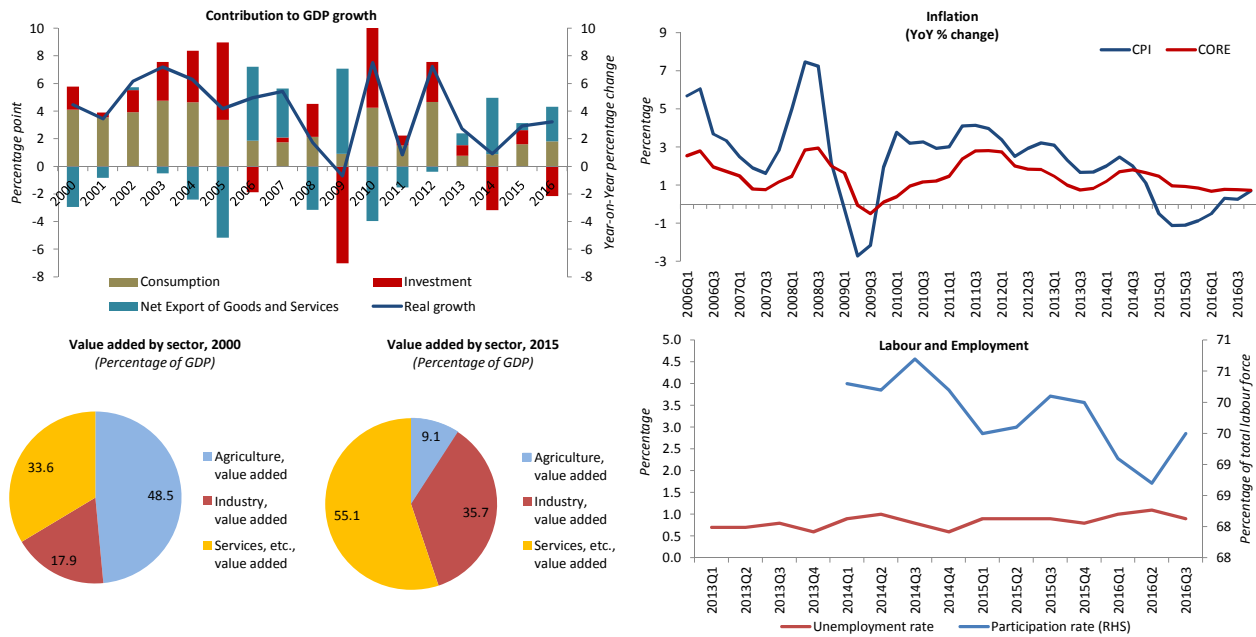
- After years of an uneven output growth record, the Thai economy gained stronger momentum in 2016. Output growth reached 3.2 per cent, after a 2.8 per cent growth rate in 2015 and 0.9 per cent in 2014.
- Despite relatively high household indebtedness and widespread drought that held back farm incomes, consumer spending growth rebounded in 2016 as a result of robust tourism revenue and various fiscal measures, such as higher thresholds for personal income taxes and soft loans and tax breaks for farmers.
- Public infrastructure projects, mainly for transport and water management, supported the overall fixed investment conditions.
- While benefiting from spillovers from public investment projects and low-interest loans, large excess industrial capacity has deterred new business investments.
- Export growth was virtually flat in 2016 as a result of slack external demand.
- Growth performance is forecast to remain stable at 3.3-3.4 per cent in 2017 and 2018.
- Private consumption will continue to be supported by modest inflation and healthy tourist arrivals.
- Counteracting positive factors are likely sluggish prices of key agricultural products, such as rice and rubber.
- On capital investment, a \$25 billion national infrastructure plan for 2017 is focused on transport infrastructure projects, particularly railways.
- To maintain a modest fiscal shortfall, the Government enacted inheritance taxes and introduced or increased excise taxes on such items as alcohol, cigarettes and diesel.
- Overall, the strength of domestic demand is conditional on smooth domestic political transition that is scheduled for early 2018 and adequate progress on the implementation of infrastructure projects. Both factors would help boost market sentiments.

MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

THAILAND

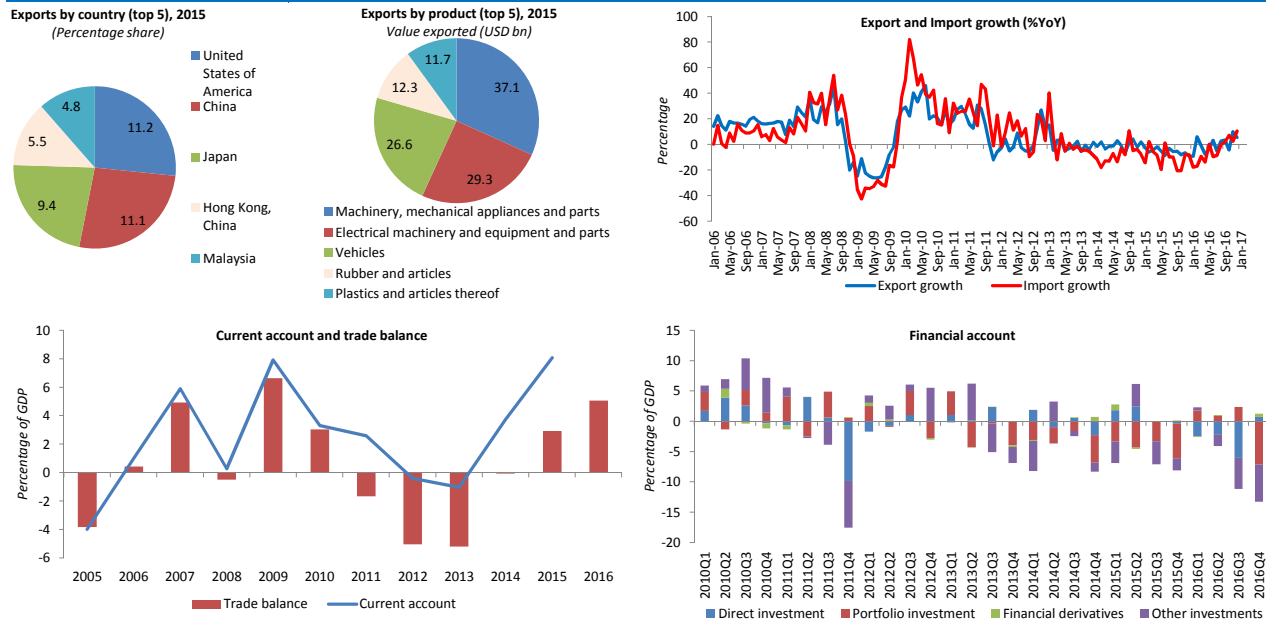
GDP (current US\$, billions, 2015):	395.17	Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90 a day (2013)	0.04%
Share of GDP in developing Asia-Pacific:	2.30%	Population (thousands):	68,146
Average inflation (2016)	0.20%	Inequality (Gini index, 2013)	37.85
GDP per capita (current US\$):	\$5,814.70	Note: Gini index of 0 represents perfect equality, while an index of 100 implies perfect inequality	

Overview



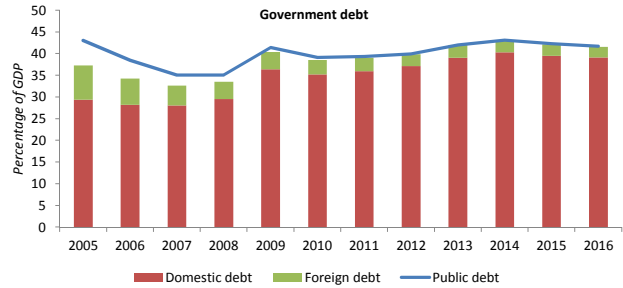
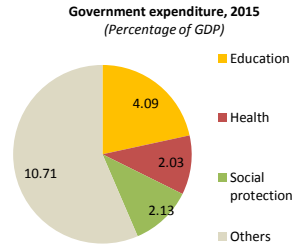
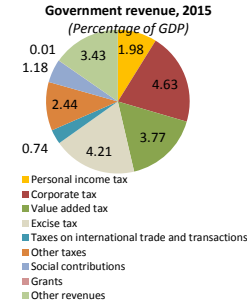
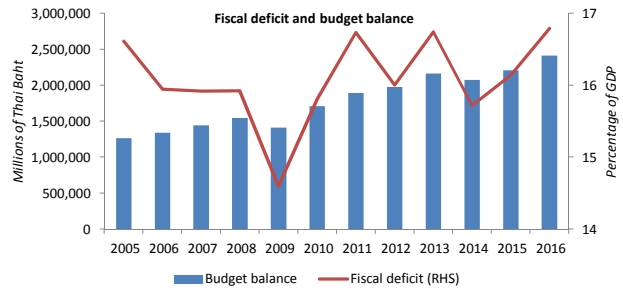
Sources: CEIC and World Development Indicators database of the World Bank.
Note: RHS = right-hand side

External sector



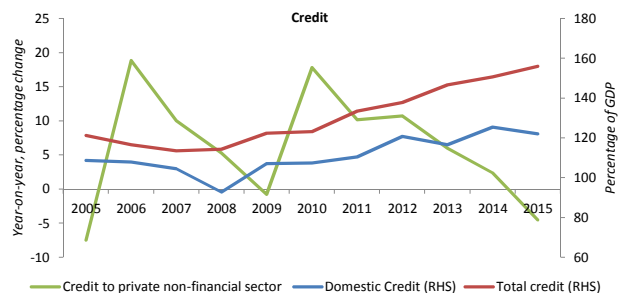
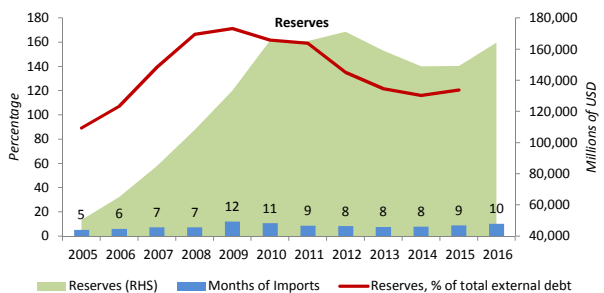
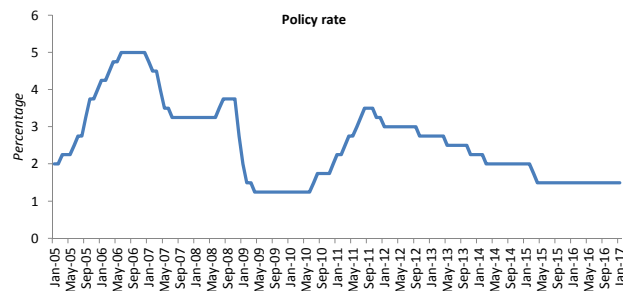
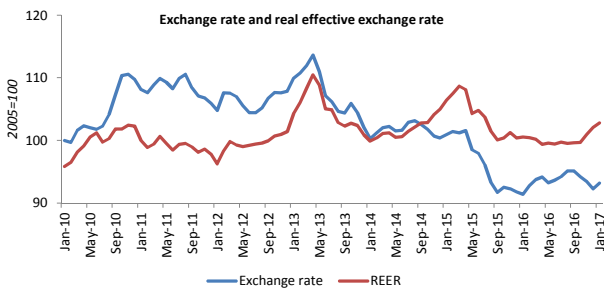
Sources: CEIC, Trade Map data of the International Trade Centre (ITC), and World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS)

Fiscal sector/public finance



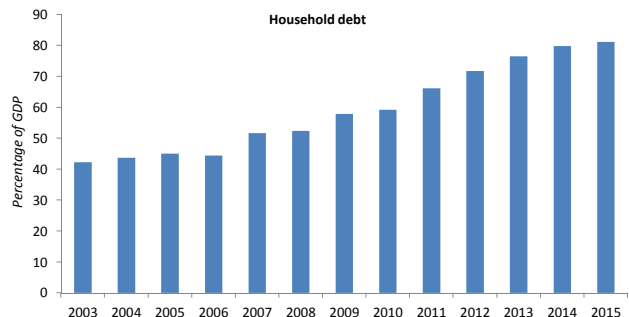
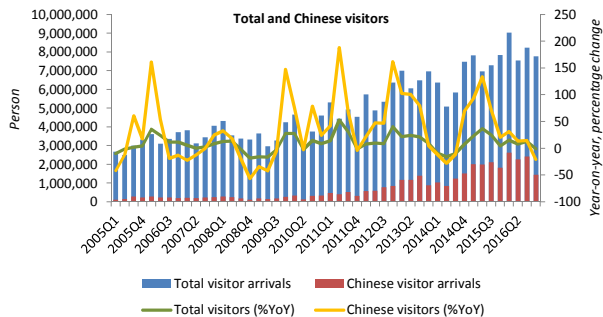
Sources: CEIC, Bank for International Settlements (BIS), and Government Financial Statistics of the IMF.

Monetary sector



Sources: CEIC and Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

Sub-sectors



Source: CEIC.

Note: RHS = right-hand side