Taiwan Business Indicators in March 2014

Press Release

National Development Council (NDC)

April 28, 2014

In March 2014, the Taiwan Business Indicators showed that the economy was gradually stabilizing, but some risks remained. Among the indicators compiled by the National Development Council (NDC), the trend-adjusted leading index increased by 0.10%, the trend-adjusted coincident index slightly decreased by 0.04% from the previous month, and the overall monitoring indicator flashed the "green" signal for the second month.

1. Leading Indicators: With revised data, the composite leading index stood at 104.49, up by 0.22% from February 2014. Its trend-adjusted index increased by 0.10% to 101.16. Among the seven indicators making up the trend-adjusted index, the TIER manufacturing sector composite indicator, building permits, net accession rate of employees on payrolls of industry and services, real monetary aggregates M1B, and TAIEX average closing price had positive cyclical movements from the previous month, while the index of export orders and SEMI book-to-bill ratio had negative cyclical movements.
2. Coincident Indicators: With revised data, the coincident index stood at 103.70, up by 0.08% from February 2014. Its trend-adjusted index slightly decreased by 0.04% to 100.40. Among the seven indicators making up the trend-adjusted index, real machineries and electrical equipments imports, the index of producer’s shipment for manufacturing, and real customs-cleared exports had positive cyclical movements from the previous month, while electric power consumption, sales of trade and food services, nonagricultural employment, and the industrial production index had negative cyclical movements.
3. Lagging Indicators: With revised data, the lagging index stood at 100.46, down by 0.15% from February 2014. Its trend-adjusted index decreased by 0.27% to 97.26. Among the six indicators making up the trend-adjusted index, the unemployment rate(inverted) had positive cyclical movement from the previous month, while the manufacturing unit output labor cost index, loans and investments of monetary financial institutions, the inventories to sales ratio for manufacturing, the interbank overnight call-loan rate, and regular employees on payrolls in industry and services had negative cyclical movements.
4. The Monitoring Indicators: The total score in March 2014 remained at 25, flashing the “green” signal for the second month. Among the nine components, the industrial production index and the customs-cleared exports changed its individual light signal from “green” to “yellow-blue”, each lost one point, while the imports of machineries and electrical equipments gained two points to change its individual light signal form “yellow-blue” to “yellow-red”. The light signal for the rest of six components remained unchanged.

**T~~ The next release is scheduled for May 27 2014 ~~T**

# **Table 1 Leading Indicators**

Seasonally adjusted

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2013 | 2014 |
| Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
| **Composite Index** | 102.85 | 103.18 | 103.48 | 103.76 | 104.00 | 104.26 | 104.49 |
| Change from preceding month (%) | 0.36 | 0.32 | 0.29 | 0.27 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.22 |
| Trend adjusted index | 100.28 | 100.49 | 100.66 | 100.81 | 100.93 | 101.06 | 101.16 |
| Change from preceding month (%) | 0.24 | 0.21 | 0.17 | 0.15 | 0.12 | 0.13 | 0.10 |
| **Components** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Index of export orders (2011=100) | 108.3 | 109.0 | 112.3 | 118.8 | 107.0 | 108.9 | 108.3 |
| Real monetary aggregates M1B (NT$ billion) | 12,668  | 12,760  | 12,863  | 12,944  | 13,059  | 12,978  | 13,219  |
| TAIEX average closing price (1966=100)\* | 8,193  | 8,366  | 8,237  | 8,431  | 8,567  | 8,496  | 8,687  |
| Net accession rate of employees on payrolls of industry and services \*\* (%) | 0.21 | 0.14 | 0.29 | 0.08 | 0.20 | 0.34 | 0.20p |
| Building permits \*\*\* (1,000m2) | 3,470  | 3,260  | 2,271  | 2,931  | 2,603  | 3,588  | 2,990  |
| SEMI Book-to-Bill Ratio | 0.97 | 1.05 | 1.11 | 1.02 | 1.04 | 1.01 | 1.06 |
| The TIER manufacturing sector composite indicator (2006=100) | 97.99 | 96.20 | 95.81 | 98.76 | 101.23 | 101.33 | 102.15 |

Note：1. p = Preliminarily estimated.

2. \* TAIEX average closing price is not seasonally adjusted.

\*\* Net accession rate is equal to accession rate minus separation rate.

\*\*\* Including only housing, mercantile, business and service, industry warehousing.

# **Table 2 Coincident Indicators**

Seasonally adjusted

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2013 | 2014 |
| Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
| **Composite Index** | 102.10  | 102.46  | 102.86  | 103.24  | 103.48  | 103.62  | 103.70  |
| Change from preceding month (%) | 0.28  | 0.35  | 0.39  | 0.37  | 0.24  | 0.14  | 0.08  |
| Trend adjusted index | 99.55  | 99.78  | 100.06  | 100.31  | 100.42  | 100.45  | 100.40  |
| Change from preceding month (%) | 0.16  | 0.23  | 0.27  | 0.25  | 0.12  | 0.02  | -0.04  |
| **Components** | 　 |  |  |  |  |  | 　 |
| Industrial production index (2011=100) | 99.9  | 101.2  | 102.2  | 104.3  | 102.5  | 103.8  | 101.7  |
| Electric power consumption (billion kWh) | 11.94  | 11.72  | 11.84  | 11.76  | 12.03  | 12.08  | 11.69  |
| Index of producer’s shipment for manufacturing (2011=100) | 97.4  | 98.8  | 98.9  | 101.6  | 97.7  | 102.2  | 99.0p |
| Sales of trade and food services (NT$ billion) | 1,185  | 1,189  | 1,199  | 1,211  | 1,220  | 1,192  | 1,190  |
| Nonagricultural employment (thousand persons) | 10,441  | 10,452  | 10,462  | 10,471  | 10,482  | 10,495  | 10,498  |
| Real customs-cleared exports (NT$ billion) | 782.8  | 792.6  | 781.1  | 800.6  | 777.8  | 802.5  | 803.1  |
| Real machineries and electrical equipments imports (NT$ billion) | 217.8  | 209.5  | 207.6  | 246.0  | 216.3  | 206.3  | 228.6  |

# **Table 3 Lagging Indicators**

Seasonally adjusted

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2013 | 2014 |
| Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
| **Composite Index** | 102.16  | 101.87  | 101.52  | 101.15  | 100.85  | 100.61  | 100.46  |
| Change from preceding month (%) | -0.30  | -0.29  | -0.34  | -0.36  | -0.30  | -0.24  | -0.15  |
| Trend adjusted index | 99.62  | 99.21  | 98.75  | 98.28  | 97.87  | 97.52  | 97.26  |
| Change from preceding month (%) | -0.41  | -0.41  | -0.46  | -0.48  | -0.42  | -0.36  | -0.27  |
| **Components** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unemployment rate\* (%) |  4.18  |  4.18  |  4.15  |  4.14  |  4.07  |  4.05  |  4.06  |
| Regular employees on payrollsin industry & services (thousand persons) |  6,985  |  6,996  |  7,008  |  7,013  |  7,026  |  7,034  |  7,045p  |
| The manufacturing unit output labor cost index(2011=100) | 102.2  | 106.3  | 103.8  | 100.6  | 101.6  | 97.1  | 102.8p  |
| Interbank overnight call-loan rate\*\*(percent per annum) |  0.386  |  0.387  |  0.386  |  0.387  |  0.388  |  0.387  |  0.387  |
| Loans and investments of monetary financial institutions (NT$ billion) | 26,532  |  26,617  |  26,745  |  26,695  |  26,886  |  27,006  |  27,110  |
| Inventories to sales ratio for manufacturing (%) | 67.8  | 66.6  | 67.0  | 65.9  | 66.8  | 65.8  | 66.9p  |

Note： \* This series is inverted while aggregating composite lagging index.

 \*\* Interbank overnight call-loan rate is not seasonally adjusted.

2004.3(P) 2005.2(T) 2008.3(P) 2009.2(T)



Note: Shaded areas represent recessions.

 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

**Figure 1 Composite Leading Index**



2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

**Figure 2 Trend-adjusted Composite Leading Index**

****

2004.3(P) 2005.2(T) 2008.3(P) 2009.2(T)

 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

**Figure 3 Composite Coincident Index**

**Figure 4 Trend-adjusted Composite Coincident Index**

 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

2004.3(P) 2005.2(T) 2008.3(P) 2009.2(T)

****

2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

**Figure 5 Composite Lagging Index**

****

2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

**Figure 6 Trend-adjusted Composite Lagging Index**



**Figure 7 Total Scores in the Past Year**

****

**Figure 8 Monitoring Indicators**