

Taiwan's Economic Situation

Summary

In May 2012, under the effects of the global economic slowdown, Taiwan's exports and imports decreased by 6.3% and 10.5% from the same month in 2011, while industrial production fell 0.2% and export orders were down 3.0% year on year. Consumer prices (the CPI) climbed by 1.74%, and the unemployment rate rose slightly to 4.12%. On the financial side, May's M2 monetary aggregate growth declined to 4.4%, while the stock price index averaged 7,635 points. In April, the overall monitoring indicator flashed the "blue" signal for the seventh consecutive month, but the annualized six-month rate of change of the leading index increased by 0.3 of a point, and the trend-adjusted coincident index increased by 0.6% from the previous month, with the indicators showing some scattered signs of improvement.

In order to actively respond to the impact of European economic weakness on Taiwan's economy, the government will continue to implement the "Economic Climate Response Program" featuring seven sets of strategies for stabilizing finance, holding down prices, increasing employment, promoting investment, helping industries, pepping up consumption, and boosting exports. At the same time, the government will closely monitor prices and take active price stabilization measures to avoid price fluctuation influenced by gasoline and electricity price adjustments.

Furthermore, the government will carry out the next wave of measures for reshaping Taiwan's economic structure, including strengthening technological innovation, bolstering cultural & creative enterprise, enhancing R&D and innovation, promoting the revitalization of traditional industries, and emphasizing the development of service industries, especially those that export services. At the same time, the government will promote the expansion of exports to emerging markets and diversification of export products. These initiatives should ensure that sound progress is kept up toward endowing Taiwan with a vigorous and sustainable new economy.

% change on previous year	Historical Data				Current Data (2012)			
	2008	2009	2010	2011	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jan.-Apr.
GDP	0.12	-1.81	10.72	4.03	0.39	-	-	-
CPI	3.53	-0.87	0.96	1.42	1.21	1.44	1.74	1.41
Unemployment rate	4.14	5.85	5.21	4.39	4.17	4.10	4.12	4.17
Exports	3.6	-20.3	34.8	12.3	-3.2	-6.4	-6.3	-5.0
Imports	9.7	-27.5	44.2	12.1	-5.8	2.1	-10.5	-5.3
Export orders	1.7	-8.3	20.6	7.2	-1.6	-3.5	-3.0	-0.6
Industrial production	-1.8	-8.1	26.9	4.6	-3.4	-2.3	-0.2	-3.2
Monetary aggregate (M2)	2.7	7.2	4.6	5.8	5.1	4.7	4.4	4.9
Stock market**	7,024	6,460	7,950	8,155	7,745	7,621	7,357	7,635

Note: * The DGBAS estimated that Taiwan's real GDP will grow 3.03% in 2012.

** Stock index (monthly average).

Sources: The Central Bank of China (CBC) and the Directorate-General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics (DGBAS).