

Summary

Owing to a moderate growth in exports and private consumption, the annual real GDP growth rate was 3.46% in 2015 Q1. In March, Taiwan Business Indicators showed that the domestic economy continued its steady growth. Among the indicators compiled by the National Development Council (NDC), the overall monitoring indicator returned to flashing the “green” signal, but the trend-adjusted leading index and the trend-adjusted coincident index decreased by 0.46% and 0.33% respectively from the previous month.

In the same month, Taiwan’s exports and imports decreased by 8.9% and 17.8% year on year, and the industrial production index and export orders expanded by 6.5% and 1.3% respectively. The consumer price index (CPI) annual growth rate decreased by 0.61%, and the unemployment rate rose from 3.69% in February to 3.72% in March. On the financial side, March’s M2 monetary aggregate increased by 6.57%, while the stock price index averaged 9,611 points.

The global economy seems set for a moderate recovery, but there are concerns that issues, such as Eurozone deflation, the fact that Mainland China's economic growth performance was below expectation, and geopolitical risks of the situation in the Middle East, may weigh on global economic trends. The combination of these factors will have an impact on Taiwan’s economy.

	Historical Data				Data for Recent Months			
	2011	2012	2013	2014	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Jan. - Mar
% Change over previous year.								
GDP	3.80	2.06	2.23	3.74	-	-	3.46 ^a	-
CPI	1.42	1.93	0.79	1.20	-0.94	-0.19	-0.61	-0.59
Exports	12.3	-2.3	1.4	2.7	3.4	-6.7	-8.9	-4.2
Imports	12.0	-3.9	-0.2	1.6	-4.8	-22.4	-17.8	-15.0
Export orders	7.2	1.1	0.4	6.7	8.1	-2.7	1.3	2.5
Industrial Production Index	4.4	-0.3	0.7	6.4	7.6	2.7	6.5	5.7
Monetary Aggregate (M2 ^b)	5.84	4.18	4.78	5.66	5.86	6.51	6.57	6.32
Unemployment rate (%)	4.39	4.24	4.18	3.96	3.71	3.69	3.72	3.71
TWSE Stock Index ^c	8,156	7,481	8,093	8,992	9,281	9,505	9,611	9,466

Note : ^a Q1 Preliminary Estimation.

^b Daily Average.

^c Monthly Average TAIEX.

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