

Summary

In the first two months of 2015, Taiwan's exports and imports decreased by 1.3% and 13.2% year on year. During the same period, the industrial production index and export orders posted an annual increase of 5.6 % and 3.2%. The annual growth rate of the consumer price index (CPI) in the first two months of 2015 decreased by 0.56%, and the unemployment rate fell from 3.71% in January to 3.69% in February. On the financial side, February's M2 monetary aggregate increased by 6.51%, while the stock price index averaged 9,505 points.

In February, 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 0.10% and 0.22% from the previous month.

The global economy seems set for a moderate pace of recovery, but there are concerns that issues, such as the divergence of monetary policy among central banks in developed countries, 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	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan.- Feb.
% Change over previous year.								
GDP	3.80	2.06	2.23	3.74	3.35 ^a	-	-	-
CPI	1.42	1.93	0.79	1.20	0.61	-0.94	-0.19	-0.56
Exports	12.3	-2.3	1.4	2.7	-2.8	3.4	-6.7	-1.3
Imports	12.0	-3.9	-0.2	1.6	-12.3	-4.8	-22.4	-13.2
Export orders	7.2	1.1	0.4	6.7	4.5	8.1	-2.7	3.2
Industrial Production Index	4.4	-0.3	0.7	6.4	7.3	7.6	3.3	5.6
Monetary Aggregate (M2 ^b)	5.84	4.18	4.78	5.66	5.85	5.86	6.51	6.19
Unemployment rate (%)	4.39	4.24	4.18	3.96	3.79	3.71	3.69	3.70
TWSE Stock Index ^c	8,156	7,481	8,093	8,992	9,109	9,281	9,505	9,370

Note : ^a Q4 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).