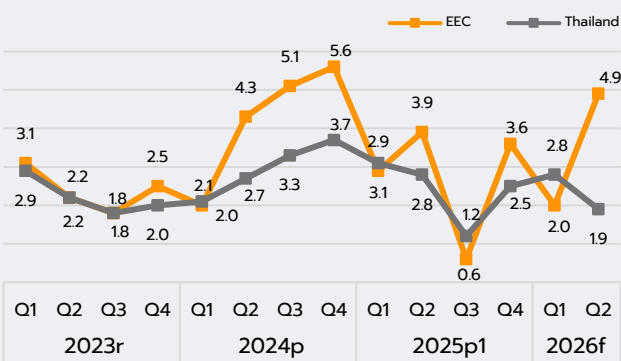


In Q2 2026, the EEC economy expanded by 4.9 percent year on year, driven mainly by accelerated government budget disbursement and continued growth in the labor market, particularly employment in manufacturing, the largest employment sector in the area. The industrial sector slowed slightly as business sentiment weakened on higher freight costs and raw material constraints, together with a lower value of investment promotion than a year earlier. Tourism was stable, with visitor numbers close to the previous year while revenue declined, reflecting lower spending per visitor. Agriculture was likewise stable, as higher output was offset by soft farm prices. Consumption slowed in line with a higher cost of living and weaker consumer confidence. Overall, the regional economy continued to expand, with public spending and employment as the key drivers, while industrial investment and household purchasing power remain factors to monitor going forward.

GPCP (%YoY)

Gross Provincial Cluster Product Growth Rate



Growth Outlook

2025p1

2.8

2026f

3.3

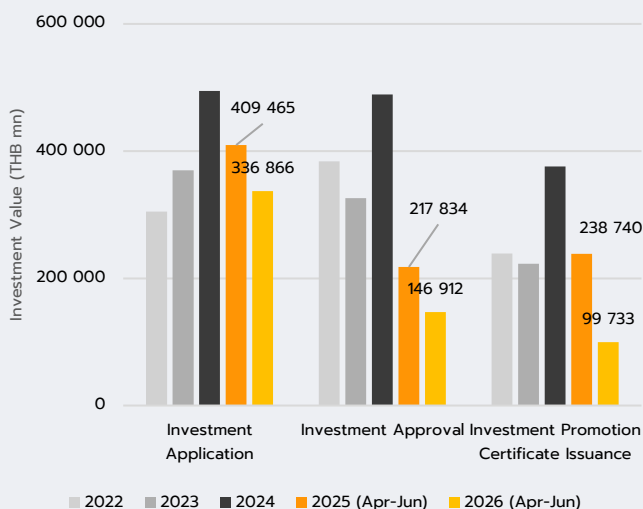
Source: Compiled quarterly by EECO Overall Planning Division

Note: 2023 revised per NESDC GPP.

r: Revised p: Preliminary (Based on Annual Figures)

p1: Preliminary (Without Annual Figures)

Value of Investment Promotion in the EEC



Source: Board of Investment (BOI)

Key Factors Affecting the EEC Economy

Compared with the same period of the previous year



Industrial Investment

Slowing



Tourism

Stable



Agriculture

Stable



Consumption

Slowing



Labor Market

Growing



Government Budget Disbursement

Rising



Real Estate Investment

Stable

Supporting Factors

1. Accelerated budget disbursement and government spending under FY2026 remains a key support for economic activity in the area
2. Investment in the electronics and digital industries, such as printed circuit boards (PCB) and data centers, together with continued growth in electronics exports
3. Readiness of industrial estate land to accommodate new investment, alongside an expanding labor market and a workforce with rising educational attainment

Risk Factors

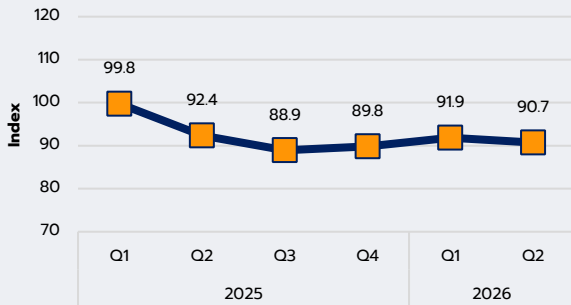
1. Prolonged tensions in the Middle East are keeping energy and freight costs elevated, along with raw material constraints, particularly for the petrochemical industry
2. A slowdown in the value of investment promotion applications and promotion certificates issued, together with rising land costs, may constrain actual investment going forward
3. High household debt and cost of living, together with flat farm income and a decline in foreign tourist arrivals, may limit the recovery of private consumption and the service sector



Key Factors Affecting the EEC Economy

Industrial Sector Slowing Slightly

Thai Industries Sentiment Index Eastern Region



Source: Federation of Thai Industries (FTI)

The Thai Industries Sentiment Index for the Eastern Region stood at 90.7 in Q2, down 18 percent from the same period of the previous year, reflecting business concerns over rising freight costs and raw material constraints in both volume and price, particularly a naphtha shortage affecting the petrochemical industry, especially in the production of plastic resins and packaging. However, supporting factors continue to lift business sentiment, including investment in the electronics and digital industries, such as printed circuit boards (PCB) and data centers, as well as electronics exports that continue to expand, which help support economic activity and manufacturing in the area

Remaining Land for Sale-Lease in Industrial Estates

Industrial estate land-use permits, Q2 2026

Province	Total Land for Sale/ Lease (rai)	Remaining Land for Sale/ Lease (rai)	Share Remaining (%)
Chachoengsao	10 916	2 576	23.6%
Chon Buri	40 687	8 267	20.3%
Rayong	61 775	7 863	12.7%
EEC	113 379	18 705	16.5%

Source: Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT), compiled by EECO

Nevertheless, the EEC remains the area with the highest concentration of industrial estates in Thailand, with more than 53 estates (63 percent of all industrial estates nationwide)

At present, more than 18,705 rai of land remains available for sale or lease for business operations, reflecting the area's readiness to accommodate new investment in the future

Broken down as follows....

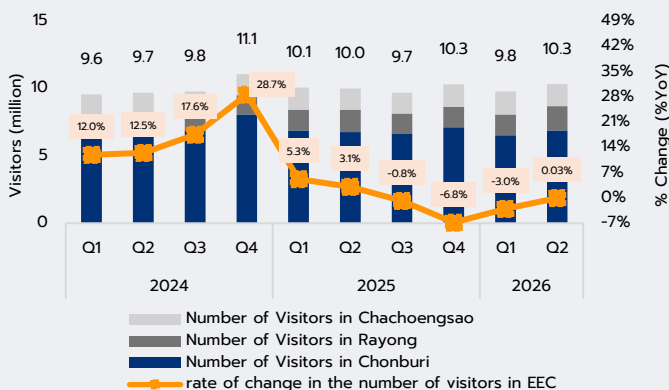
1. General Industrial Zone (GIZ) = 16,513.5 rai
2. I-EA-T Free Zone (IFZ) = 566 rai
3. Commercial Zone (CM) = 1,625.5 rai



Tourism Sector Stable

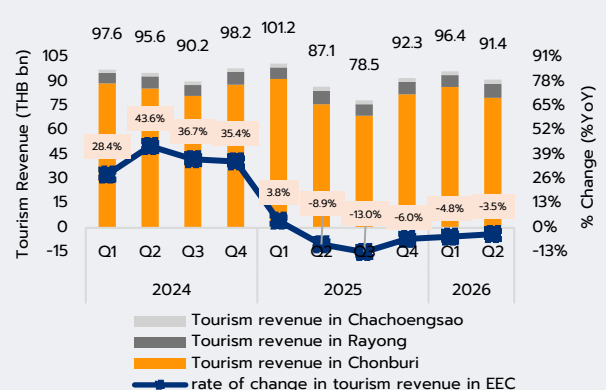
Tourism in the EEC was stable, with a total of 10.3 million visitors, up 0.03 percent from the same period of the previous year and accounting for 11.5 percent of the national total. Chon Buri remained the main destination, accounting for 87.6 percent. Tourism revenue stood at THB 91.4 billion, down 3.5 percent, accounting for 13.4 percent of the national total. The decline in tourism revenue alongside stable visitor numbers reflects lower spending per visitor, owing to the impact of the Middle East conflict, elevated travel costs, and price competition in the tourism market, which have made travelers more cautious in their spending. Thai visitors rose 2.0 percent while foreign visitors fell 7.5 percent, and the occupancy rate declined 0.02 percent, together weighing on tourism revenue in the area. Nevertheless, EEC tourism continues to be supported by the recovery of Chinese tourists, a key market for Thailand, together with government tourism stimulus measures and local promotional events such as the Songkran and Wan Lai Festival, Thailand Travel Mart Plus (TTM+) 2026, Colors of the East EEC, the Rayong Fruit and Local Products Festival, and the Luang Pho Sothon Worship Festival

Number of Visitors in the EEC



Source: Ministry of Tourism and Sports

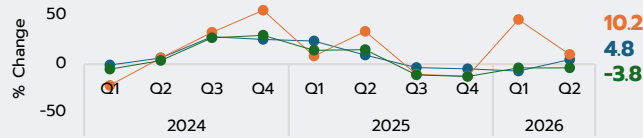
Tourism Revenue in the EEC



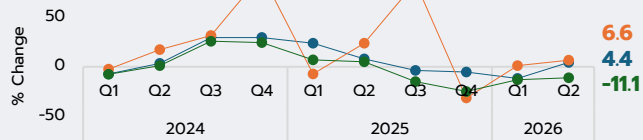


Agricultural Sector Stable

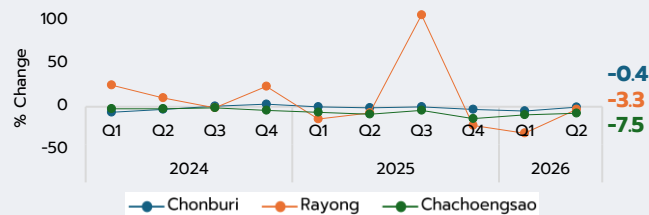
Production Index



Farm Income Index



Price Index



Source: Provincial Treasury Offices of Chon Buri, Rayong and Chachoengsao, analyzed by EECO

The EEC agricultural production index expanded by 3.7 percent year on year, driven by higher output of durian, cassava, rubber, swine and shrimp, while the agricultural price index contracted by 3.7 percent, leaving the farm income index flat at -0.03 percent, indicating that the agricultural sector still faces pressure from soft farm prices even as overall output rose

The expansion in agricultural output was driven mainly by Rayong and Chon Buri. In Rayong, higher output of durian, swine and pineapple lifted the production index by 10.2 percent and the income index by 6.6 percent. In Chon Buri, higher output of swine, broiler chicken and rubber lifted the production index by 4.8 percent and the income index by 4.4 percent

However, Chachoengsao remained a drag on the area's agricultural sector, with the production index contracting 3.8 percent and the income index contracting 11.1 percent. Although output of cassava, rubber and shrimp rose from the previous year, the province remained under pressure from lower livestock output and soft farm prices

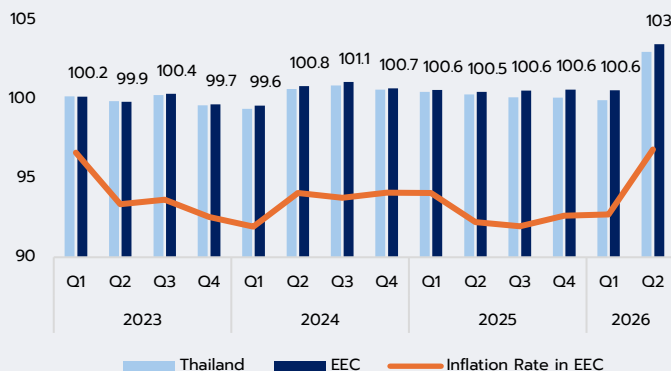
As a result, the EEC agricultural sector overall was stable in Q2 2026 compared with the same period of the previous year.



Consumption Slowing

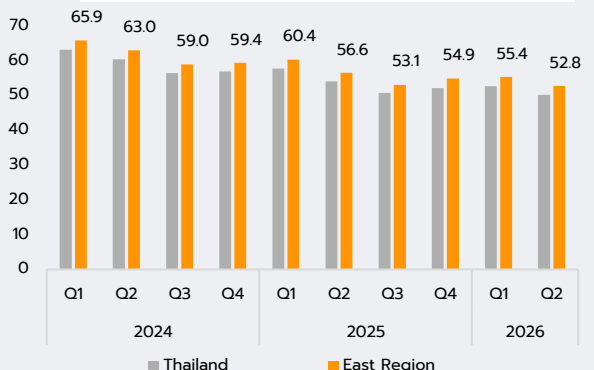
The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the EEC averaged 103.50 in Q2 2026, with headline inflation up 3.01 percent year on year, driven mainly by fuel prices holding above last year's levels as a result of the Middle East conflict, which fed through to freight costs and public transport fares, together with higher prices for prepared food in line with production and transport costs, and higher fresh vegetable prices than a year earlier. At the same time, the Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) for the Eastern Region declined in Q2 2026 to 52.8 from 56.6 in the same period of the previous year, indicating weaker consumer confidence. Key drivers were concerns over economic conditions and the high cost of living, household debt burdens, and uncertainty arising from the economic situation and external risk factors

Consumer Price Index



Source: Ministry of Commerce

Consumer Confidence Index, Eastern Region



Source: Center for Economic and Business Forecasting, University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce



Labor Market Expanding

Employed persons totaled **2.7** million, up **8.1** percent year on year, reflecting expanding economic activity and overall employment, as follows:

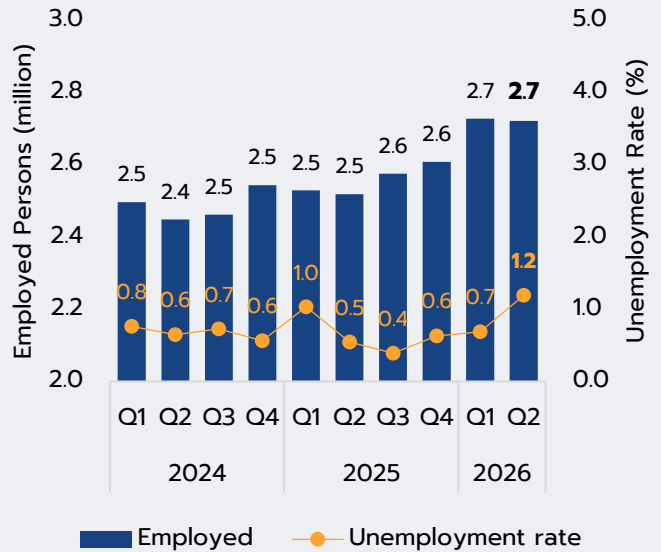
- **Services** (share of **52.0** percent): employment rose **3.8** percent, driven by expansion in administrative and support services, professional and technical activities, and construction, while employment in wholesale and retail trade, public administration, and accommodation and food services declined
- **Industry** (share of **37.0** percent): employment rose **7.9** percent, on higher employment in manufacturing, the largest employment sector in the EEC
- **Agriculture** (share of **10.2** percent): employment rose sharply by **33.6** percent, in line with higher overall agricultural output in the area

Workforce structure: the increase in employment was concentrated among workers with higher educational attainment – 120,000 at tertiary level, 70,000 at upper secondary level and 50,000 at lower secondary level – while those with primary education or below fell by 40,000, **reflecting a shift in the employment structure toward a more highly educated workforce**

Unemployment rate stood at **12** percent (33,000 unemployed), up from the same period of the previous year and above the national average of 1 percent

Rising employment alongside the number of unemployed this quarter indicates that the labor market is expanding but still faces challenges in matching workers to suitable positions, particularly in developing worker skills to meet demand and support the EEC's continued growth

Employed Persons and Unemployment Rate



Source: Labor Force Survey, National Statistical Office



Government Budget Disbursement Rising

Disbursement as of Q3 of fiscal year 2026

Total Budget

12,370.28

THB mn



+62% YoY

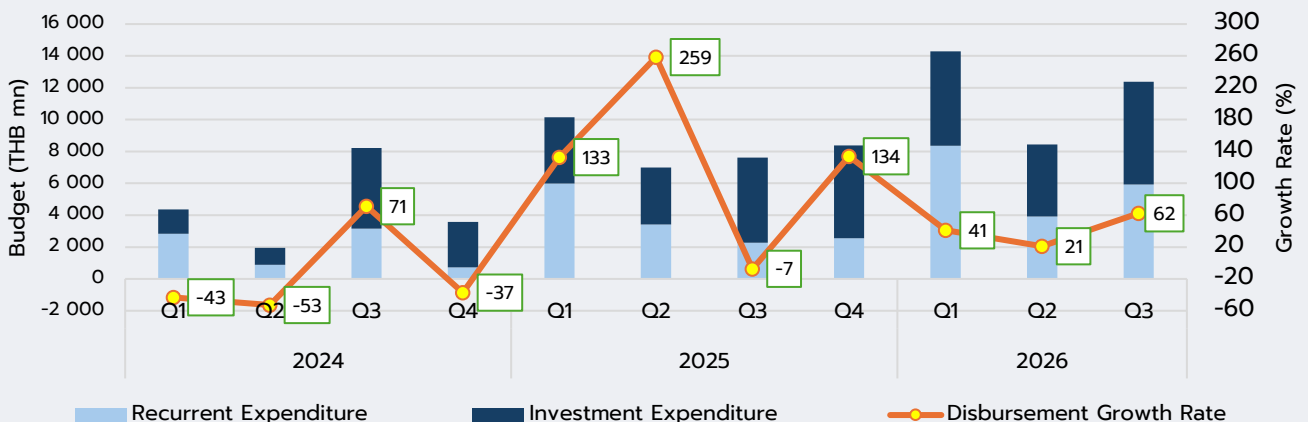
Current expenditure
THB 5,922.17 mn

+160 YoY

Capital expenditure
THB 6,448.12 mn

+21% YoY

Government spending on EEC area development in Q3 of fiscal year 2026 (April – June 2026) **totaled THB 12,370.28 million, up 62 percent from the same period of the previous year**, comprising current expenditure of THB 5,922.17 million, up 160 percent year on year, and capital expenditure of THB 6,448.12 million, up 21 percent year on year. This was supported by the continuation of measures to accelerate budget disbursement and government spending for fiscal year 2026, which aim to channel budget funds into the economy continuously and rapidly in support of economic expansion



Source: GFMS, Comptroller General's Department

*Note: The chart uses fiscal year data, running from 1 October of one year to 30 September of the following year.



Real Estate Sector Stable

Housing prices rose from the same period of the previous year, as follows:

- **The housing estate price index** stood at 126.4, up 0.5 percent. Prices rose in Chon Buri and Chachoengsao while Rayong edged down, indicating that the market is entering a period of stability in line with slowing purchasing power, together with a high level of accumulated unsold units that has prompted developers to continue clearing stock, moderating the pace of price increases
- **The condominium price index** stood at 103.1, up 0.5 percent, reflecting persistently high housing development costs across construction materials, labor and land

The undeveloped land price index stood at 458.8, up 39.6 percent year on year and at its highest level since the index began. The locations with the largest land price increases were Mueang Rayong, Ban Chang, Bang Lamung, Si Racha and Nikhom Phatthana districts, reflecting demand to hold land in high-potential areas to accommodate future residential, commercial and industrial development

Housing Price Index



Undeveloped Land Price Index



Source: Real Estate Information Center (REIC), Government Housing Bank

