

## Overview

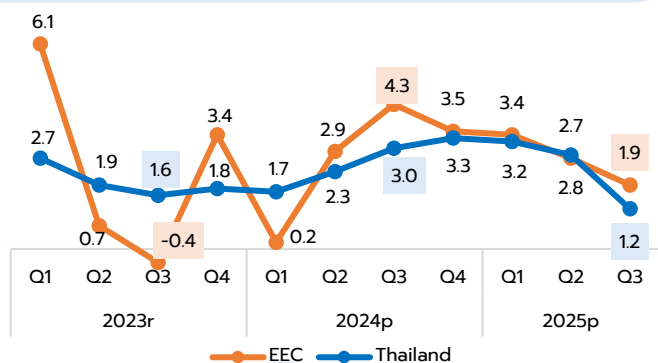
The EEC economy in Q3 **contracted by 1.9 percent** compared to the same period last year.

**Economic contraction was driven by declines in exports, agriculture, and tourism, although fiscal spending continued to provide support to overall activity.** Exports remained on a slowing trajectory, particularly in food products, chemicals, and electrical equipment. This reflected weaker external demand due to U.S. tariff measures, continued uncertainty in global supply chains, and an incomplete domestic consumption recovery.

Similarly, agricultural output declined, led by lower production of fruit, broiler chickens, and shrimp, owing to volatile weather conditions and elevated cost pressures. As a result, farm incomes softened. The services sector also moderated following a decline in tourist arrivals, amid intensifying competition in the regional tourism market and a continued global economic slowdown linked to ongoing trade tensions. This contributed to a contraction in tourism-related revenues.

Nevertheless, economic activity in the EEC continued to receive support from sustained government expenditure, partly reflecting catch-up disbursements after significant delays in the previous fiscal year.

### Gross Provincial Product Growth Rate (% YoY)

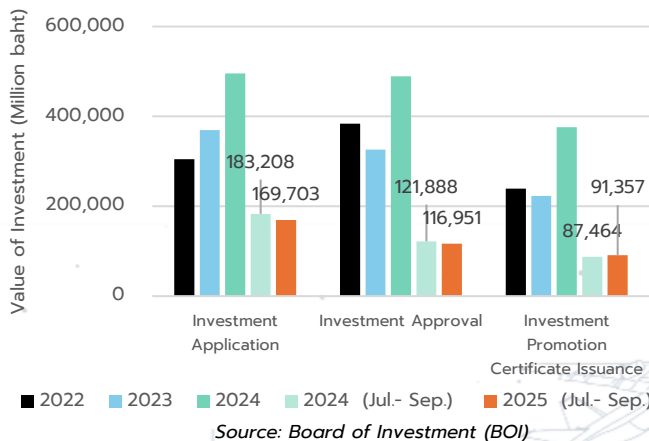


Source: Quarterly compilation by the Overall Planning Division, EECO

Note: 2023 data revised in accordance with NESDC's GPP figures

r: revised p: preliminary

### Value of Investment Promotion in the EEC



Source: Board of Investment (BOI)

The EEC economy is expected to grow by approximately 3.0 percent in 2025 and 2.3 percent in 2026.

Positive signals include the recent issuance of BOI investment promotion certificates and the designation of additional special economic promotion zones, which will enhance the area's capacity to attract investment. In addition, the announcement to commence construction of the second runway and taxiway under the U-Tapao Airport and Eastern Aviation City project will further support investment momentum in the EEC.

2024p1	2025p1	2026f
2.7	3.0	2.3



### Upside Risks

- Public investment** that could further support domestic economic activity.
- The Thai Travel Together 2025 program**, expected to boost tourism demand.
- Stable energy costs supported by government price-stabilization measures**, including electricity tariffs and diesel prices.
- Establishment of eight additional Special Economic Promotion Zones** (46 in total), enhancing the EEC's capacity to attract investment.
- Commencement of construction of the second runway and taxiway** under the U-Tapao Airport and Eastern Aviation City project.



### Downside Risks

- Continued weakness in the export sector** due to external headwinds.
- Baht appreciation**, which may erode export competitiveness.
- Slower foreign tourist arrivals** in the EEC amid increased safety concerns.
- Persistently high household and corporate debt** levels.

# Key Factors Affecting the EEC Economy

## Slowdown in Industrial Investment in the EEC

### Industrial Plant Openings and Closures

Industrial plants that commenced operations or expanded outnumbered those that ceased operations, resulting in **positive net investment and employment** in the quarter.

- New and expanding plants:**  
 A total of 26 plants began operations or expanded, primarily in electrical appliances and equipment, followed by metal products and chemicals. Their combined investment value totaled 2.493 billion baht, generating 1,056 additional jobs.
- Plant closures:**  
 17 plants ceased operations, mainly in metal products, followed by wood processing and wood products. The associated investment value amounted to 452 million baht, affecting 532 workers.

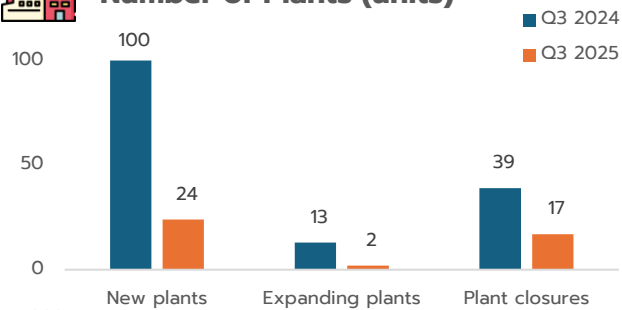
However, compared with **Q3 last year**, the number of new and expanding plants **fell 77.0% YoY**, investment value **declined 84.2% YoY**, and new employment **decreased 89.1% YoY**, reflecting a marked slowdown in industrial activity in the area.

Key contributing factors include:

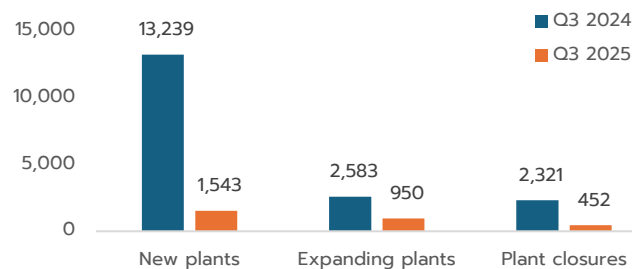
- Weakening external demand**, following front-loaded orders ahead of the implementation of U.S. import tariff measures, which has pressured exports and delayed investment decisions.
- Baht appreciation**, which has eroded price competitiveness and reduced export returns.



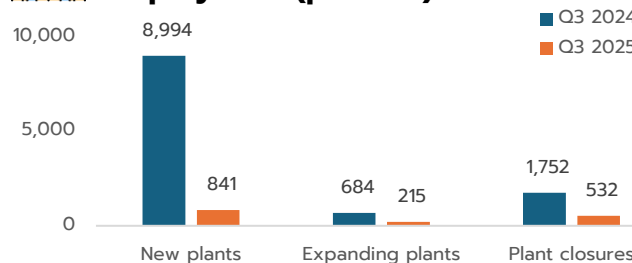
### Number of Plants (units)



### Investment Value (million baht)



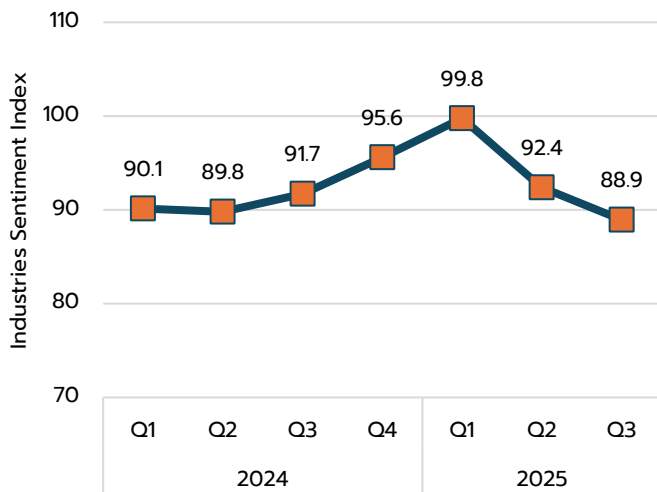
### Employment (persons)



Source: Department of Industrial Works  
 Note: Includes only plants classified under the Factory Act (No. 2), 2019, with a size of 50 employees/horsepower and above.



### Eastern Industries Sentiment Index



Source: The Federation of Thai Industries

In addition, **the Eastern Industries Sentiment Index stood at 88.9 in Q3**, a 3 percent decline from the previous year. This reduction reflects uncertainty over U.S. import tariff rates, which remain under negotiation and have affected several key industries in the EEC, resulting in lower production volumes—particularly in rubber products, automobiles and parts, and air conditioners. At the same time, domestic production costs have increased in line with the appreciation of the baht.

Although some product categories—such as computers and electronic components—continue to expand due to rising global demand, overall momentum in the manufacturing sector has yet to show a clear recovery.

# EEC Tourism Sector Experiences Slight Deceleration

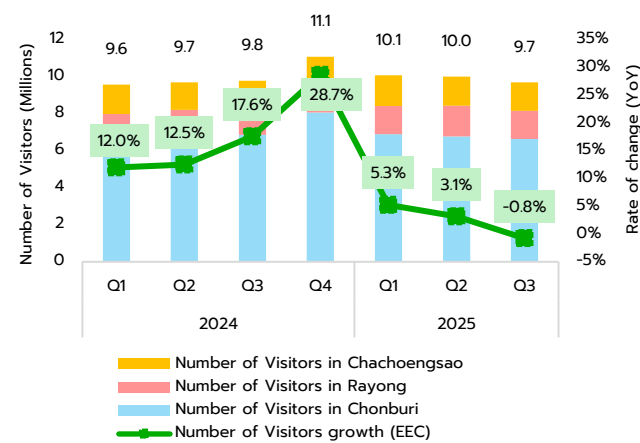
Tourism activity in the EEC softened slightly, with total visitors at 9.7 million, down 0.8% YoY, accounting for 11.7% of national arrivals. Chonburi remained the primary destination, representing 61.1% of all EEC visitors.

The slowdown was mainly driven by a sharp 29% YoY drop in international arrivals—particularly from China and South Korea, the key markets for Chonburi. The decline reflected heightened safety concerns and intensified competition within the region, especially from China, which has been actively promoting domestic tourism amid the global trade slowdown. As a result, travelers increasingly favored closer and more convenient destinations.

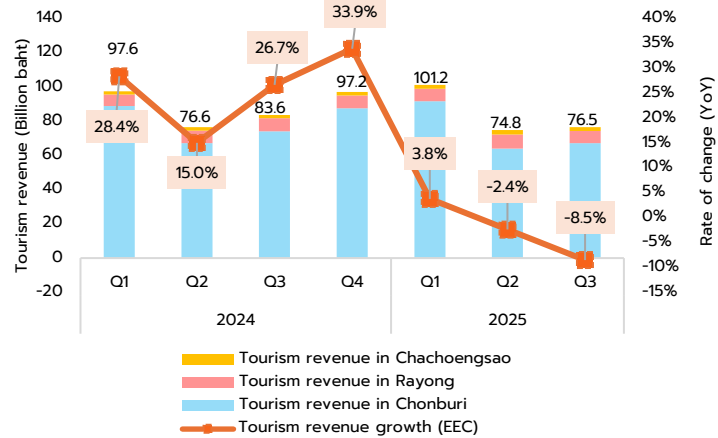
In contrast, domestic tourism in the EEC continued to expand, with Thai tourist arrivals up 13.8% YoY, supported by the government's We Travel Together stimulus program. Chonburi recorded the highest nationwide accommodation bookings under this scheme. The sector also benefited from promotional events such as the Bangsaen Grand Prix 2025 and the Amazing Thailand Pattaya Marathon, which helped boost local tourism sentiment.

Tourism revenue in the EEC totaled 76.5 billion baht, down 8.5% YoY, consistent with the significant decline in foreign visitors, who traditionally account for a large share of tourism income.

## Number of Visitors to the EEC



## Tourism Revenue in the EEC



Source: Ministry of Tourism and Sports

# Agricultural Sector Growth Moderates

The overall agricultural economic index slowed compared to the same period last year. Although output expanded, declines in the prices of major agricultural products led to a reduction in farmers' income. Details are as follows:

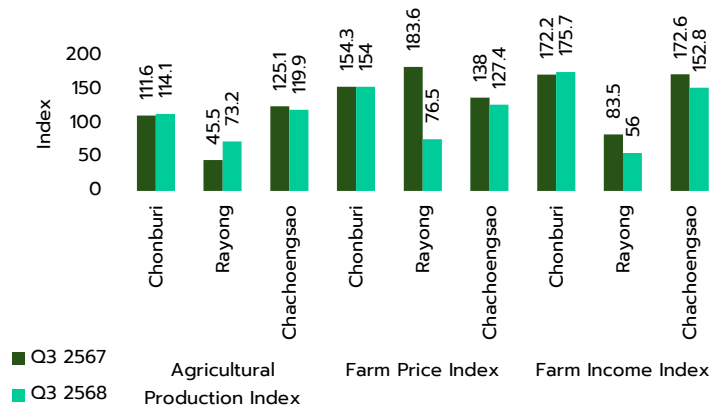
- Agricultural Production Index:** Increased in line with higher output of key agricultural products such as rice, pineapple, rubber, oil palm, broiler chickens, eggs, and swine.
- Farm Price Index:** Declined following lower prices for major products including rice, cassava, rubber, commercial fisheries products, tilapia, eggs, and mango.
- Farm Income Index:** Decreased in line with the drop in agricultural product prices received by farmers.

## Factors Affecting the Agricultural Sector:

Although demand for agricultural products is expected to rise and government agricultural policies continue to support the sector, several key pressures remain:

- High production costs**, such as animal feed, fuel, fertilizers, and labor.
- Climate change impacts**, affecting cultivated areas and crop growth.

## Agricultural Economic Indicators



## Crop and Fruit Sector



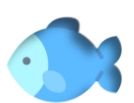
<b>Output</b>	+15.7%
<b>Price</b>	-36.2%
<b>Income</b>	-18.5%

## Livestock Sector



<b>Output</b>	0.0%
<b>Price</b>	+1.3%
<b>Income</b>	+1.1%

## Fisheries Sector



<b>Output</b>	-4.9%
<b>Price</b>	-0.6%
<b>Income</b>	-6.7%

Source: Office of Agricultural Economics Region 6, compiled by EECO

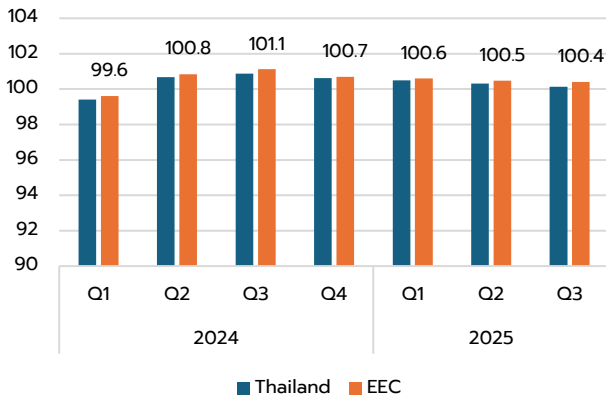
# Consumption Slows in the EEC

The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** in the EEC averaged 100.4 in Q3/2025, down from 101.1 a year earlier, resulting in a 0.7% YoY decline in headline inflation. The decrease was driven mainly by easing energy prices—particularly fuel and electricity—following government price-stabilization measures and weaker global energy markets, along with a fall in fresh food prices such as vegetables, fruits, and eggs.

At the same time, the **Consumer Confidence Index (CCI)** in the Eastern region fell to 53.1 from 59.0 a year earlier, reflecting concerns over declining agricultural prices, reduced farm income and purchasing power, high living costs, uncertainty surrounding U.S. trade policy, and domestic political instability. Looking ahead, consumption in the EEC is expected to continue expanding but at a slower pace as more cautious spending, weakening purchasing power, and concerns about current economic conditions weigh on demand.



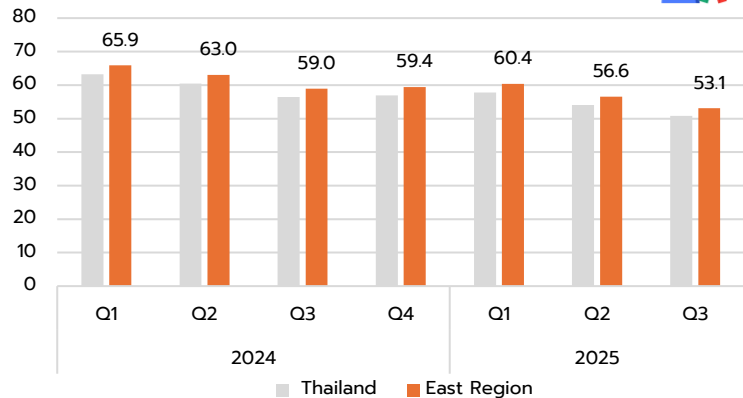
## Consumer Price Index



Source: Ministry of Commerce



## Consumer Confidence Index



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

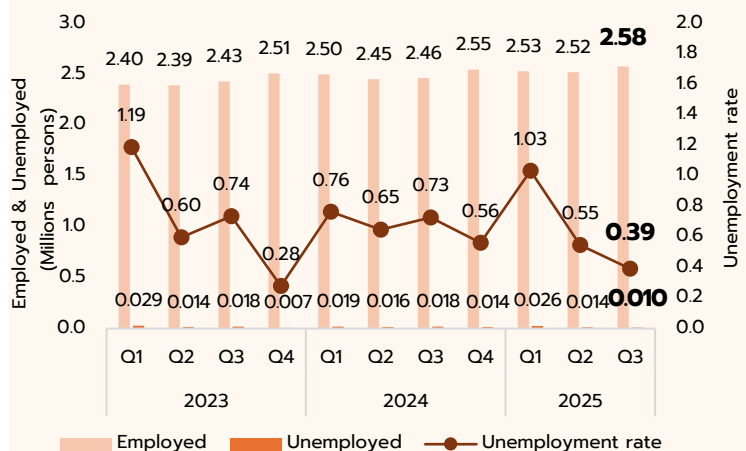
# Improving Labor Market Conditions

The labor market continued to expand, with total employment reaching 2.6 million people (+4.6% YoY), driven largely by higher employment in non-agricultural sectors, as follows:

- **Services sector (53.1% share):** Employment increased by 1.1%, supported by growth in wholesale and retail trade, transportation, public administration, healthcare, and other services. Meanwhile, employment declined in construction, real estate, administration, education, and arts, entertainment, and recreation.
- **Industrial sector (38.6% share):** Employment increased by 15.6%, driven by higher hiring in the manufacturing sector.
- **Agricultural sector (8.0% share):** Employment fell by 1.2%, in line with declining prices of key agricultural commodities in the EEC.

The unemployment rate stood at 0.4%, down from 0.7% YoY. The number of unemployed persons totaled 10,000, compared with 18,000 a year earlier (-44.4% YoY).

## Number of Employed Persons, Unemployed Persons, and the Unemployment Rate



Source: Labor Force Survey, National Statistical Office

# Significant Increase in Government Budget Disbursement

## Fiscal Year 2025

### Total Budget Disbursement in Q4

**8,372.6**  
million baht

↑ up 134% YoY

▶ Current Expenditures  
**2,559.4** million baht

↑ up 249% YoY

▶ Capital Expenditures  
**5,813.2** million baht

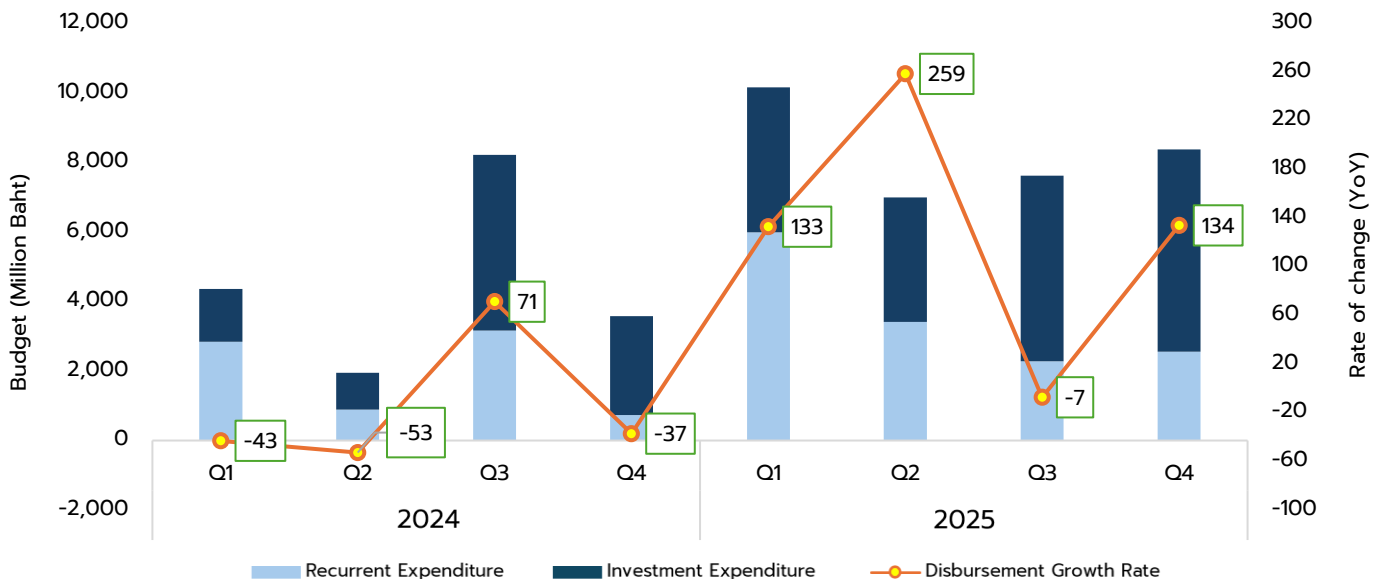
↑ up 104% YoY



**Government spending for EEC development in Q4 FY2025 (July–September 2025) totaled 8,372.6 million baht, rising 134% YoY.** This comprised current expenditures of 2,559.4 million baht (+249% YoY) and capital expenditures of 5,813.2 million baht (+104% YoY). The sharp increases largely reflect a low base in FY2024, when the delayed enactment of the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Act (April 2024) caused budget allocations to be carried over into the following year.



## Annual Budget Disbursement



Source: GFMS System, Comptroller General's Department

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