

Thailand Morning Cuppa

Economic Research

CPI Climbed Above 1.0% For First Time In Eight Months

- Headline inflation accelerated to 1.1% YoY in January, the first time it was above the lower limit of central bank's target of 1% in eight months. This is as fresh food prices were higher from the impact of the drought, while energy prices also picked up.
- However, core inflation, which strips off raw food and fuel prices from the total, remained weak at 0.5% during the month, reflecting subdued demand-pull pressures amidst slower economic growth.
- With the recent coronavirus outbreak likely to dampen tourism and domestic consumption, as well as its negative impact on oil prices, we revised downwards our inflation target to 0.7%, similar to what we saw in 2019.

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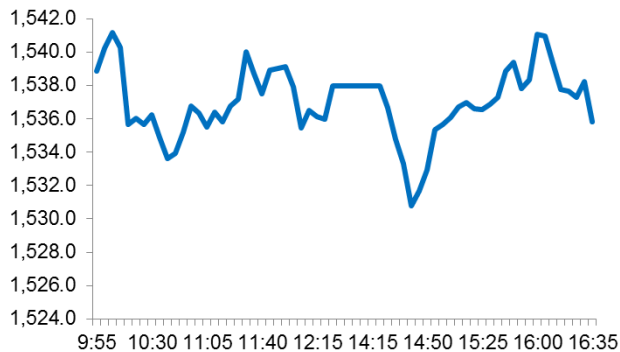
Today's Report: [CPI Climbed Above 1.0% For First Time In Eight Months \(6 Feb 2020\)](#)

Previous Report: [BoT Cuts Policy Rate To Fresh Low of 1.0% \(5 Feb 2020\)](#)

Bulletin

STOCK/SECTOR	NEWS	COMMENT	RATING
Thailand Hospitality Sector	<p>TAT slashes revenue target for 2020. The tourism sector is heading for its first revenue contraction in a decade, as Chinese tourists, the biggest source market, are under lockdown amid fears of a pandemic. The coronavirus outbreak led the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) to chop the 2020 revenue target to THB2.91tn, after battling with many negative factors since the beginning of this year. The revised target is 3.4% lower than the THB3.01tn in tourism revenue logged in 2019 and weaker than the previous target of THB3.16tn.</p> <p>TAT governor Yuthasak Supasorn expects the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) to soon adjust its tourism forecast, which will not be far from TAT's new target. The decline in revenue is mostly attributed to the downturn in international receipts, which stand at THB1.78trn, down 7.7% from THB1.93trn last year.</p> <p>Prior to China's ban on group travel, the NESDC estimated Thailand will receive 41.8m international tourists this year, slightly higher than the TAT's previous target set at 40.8m. However, the TAT reduced its estimate to only 36m travellers. "Some 36m tourists is the highest number we might achieve this year. If the situation gets worse, the figure may plunge to 35m," said Yuthasak. TAT is maintaining the same target for the domestic market, which should generate THB1.13trn from 172m trips nationwide this year.</p> <p>A clearer scenario for Thai tourism should be seen after 20 Feb, as almost all Chinese travellers have already returned to the mainland and passed the 14-day incubation period, said Vichit Prakobgosol, president of</p>	<p>Negative growth in Thai tourism indicators and the deeper negative revenue per available room (RevPar) growth for hoteliers vs our current assumptions are highly possible. We expect the direct impact of the ban on Chinese tour groups (assuming that it lasts for two months) to result in a 10% downside in China visitor arrivals in Thailand, at 12m (+8%) in 2020. This would also lead to a 3% downside in total international arrivals, at 42.5m (+7%) this year. However, there may be a further indirect effect on these numbers following fears over the pandemic flu spread, which may result in overseas travel postponements to destinations where cases have been reported, over the short term.</p> <p>Thai hoteliers' earnings in 1Q20F may be weak, despite it being the industry's typical peak period of the year. Their 2Q20F performance may also be lackluster, as it would be the lowest earnings season of the year. Any positive developments regarding the outbreak may instantly lead to a rebound in investor sentiment. However, this could take a longer time – of at least 3-4 months – before the industry is back to normal. As such, we maintain our cautious view on Thai hotel operators' earnings outlook throughout 1H20F. Minor International may see the least impact, as just 11% of its total revenue was generated from its owned hotel properties in Thailand.</p>	<p>NEUTRAL</p> <p>(MINT TB, BUY, TP: THB48.00)</p>

the Association of Thai Travel Agents (ATTA). "Tour operators in China convinced us that if the Chinese Government can control the situation by this month, tour groups are most likely to come back within two months," he said. (*Bangkok Post*)

Chart 1: SET intra-day graph


SET	2017	2018	2019	2020F
PE (x)	17.60	16.25	15.57	14.31
P/BV (x)	2.03	1.74	1.61	1.54
Yield (%)	2.80	3.35	3.30	3.48

SET Value by investor Type: Daily

	Buy (THBm)	Sell (THBm)	Net (THBm)
Institution	11,480.56	7,653.99	3,826.57
Proprietary	8,762.48	8,948.01	-185.53
Foreign	26,057.39	28,435.87	-2,378.48
Retail	23,063.53	24,326.10	-1,262.57

SET Value by investor Type

	MTD (THBm)	YTD (THBm)
Institution	9,575.43	-2,765.64
Proprietary	-1,608.21	-2,429.26
Foreign	-5,300.14	-22,602.59
Retail	-2,667.08	27,797.49

SET50 Index Future

	Long	Short	Net	MTD	YTD
Institution	46,010	35,181	10,829	11,580	22,800
Foreign	55,691	58,047	-2,356	12,769	-31,542
Local	97,077	105,550	-8,473	-24,349	8,742

Foreign Fund Flows (USDm)

	Daily	WTD	MTD	YTD	YoY
Thailand	-76.7	-171.0	-171.0	-733.0	5464.4

Note: *As at 6 Feb 2020 closing

Table 1: Key market indices (7 Feb 2020)

	Index	Chg	% Chg	% YTD
SET	1535.79	1.65	0.11%	-2.8%
SET50	1032.07	-0.82	-0.08%	-3.4%
SET100	2259.86	-0.04	0.00%	-3.5%
Dow Jones	29379.77	88.92	0.30%	2.9%
S&P500	3345.78	11.09	0.33%	3.6%
Nasdaq	9572.15	63.47	0.67%	6.7%
FTSE	7504.79	22.31	0.30%	-0.5%
FSSTI	3231.55	31.42	0.98%	0.3%
Hang Seng	27493.70	706.96	2.64%	-2.5%
Nikkei	23873.59	554.03	2.38%	0.9%
KLCI	1552.77	15.98	1.04%	-2.3%
SHANGHAI SE	2866.51	48.42	1.72%	-6.0%
JCI	5987.15	8.64	0.14%	-5.0%

Key Statistics
Foreign Exchange Rates / Oil Market

	Closed	Chg.	%Chg.
USD			
Baht (Onshore)	31.19	0.01	-0.04
Yen	109.97	-0.02	0.02
Euro	1.10	0.00	-0.02
Oil Price (USD/barrel)			
Brent	54.48	-0.54	-0.98
Nymex-Crude Light	51.37	0.42	0.82

Note: *As at 6 Feb 2020 closing

Top BUYs

	TP (THB)	Upside (%)	Catalysts
Advance Info Service (ADVANC TB)	250.00	22.55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better profitability due to the TOT litigation settlement (for towers and 2G equipment) that could decrease its network opex by THB3.2bn pa. Strong convergence services portfolio, with a low base of fixed broadband customers who should benefit from the shift in the industry's acquisition trends. Solid balance sheet and cash flow that could be a safeguard against uncertainties during the spectrum auction.
Bangkok Bank (BBL TB)	205.00	39.46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved sustainable earnings growth prospects, underpinned by continued loan growth, lower provisions, and efficient cost management. Sustainable earnings growth prospects, underpinned by continued loan growth, lower provisions, and efficient cost management. Moderate fee income growth is supported by the collaboration with AIA and less impact from the online fee waiver. ROE is trending up to 9-9.2% in 2019-2020 from the low level at 8.5% in 2017. As the top corporate lender, BBL is likely to gain the most benefits from the infrastructure investment cycle to shore up loans growth.
Bangkok Chain Hospital (BCH TB)	21.50	38.71	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A leading private hospital and the Social Security Office (SSO) scheme's largest service provider. Enhanced its customer base to capture the upper-end and international patient segments. Key growth drivers are upcoming price adjustment and clearer payment policy from the SSO, higher revenue intensity from larger portion of cash patients who come for complicated cases, as well as better volume growth from upcoming new facilities and higher utilisation of World Medical Centre.
Central Pattana (CPN TB)	79.00	26.40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the online retail trend, the malls of Central Pattana – Thailand's No.1 shopping mall developer – are likely to become the centre of consumer lifestyle and activities. Expect better YoY earnings growth in 4Q19F compared to the previous quarter, to be driven by the major transfer of its three sold-out, high-rise residential projects. Loans refinancing may lower Grand Canal Land's cost of debts by c.0.5ppts by the final quarter this year, benefitting Central Pattana's interest expenses. Potentially, c.THB1.75bn net extra gains from the asset spin-offs to its REIT may be recorded in 1H20.
CP All (CPALL TB)	95.00	33.80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Its 7-Eleven convenience store outlook is likely on track – CP All continues to open new stores at the same 700 outlets pa rate it has undertaken so far, to enjoy sales from ongoing launches of new merchandise and the attractive stamp campaign, along with a recovery of service income thanks to rising transactions of its banking agent service. Siam Makro's product and customer developments play vital roles for the improvement of its operations, which have boosted sales and operating leverage. The factors help limit the impact of rising opex due to its overseas expansion. Expect stronger earnings growth of 13% in 2020F to be driven by both the 7-Eleven and Siam Makro segments.
CH Karnchang (CK TB)	26.00	29.61	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With a small orderbook worth about THB37bn, the company has three construction projects. Remaining orders that can generate significant revenue in the near term include the mechanical & engineering system procurement contract for the Blue-Line Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) extension, Orange-Line MRT construction works under a JV with Sino-Thai Engineering & Construction, and the Xayaburi hydropower project in Laos. CK has signed new orderbooks worth about THB6bn from the Rama III-Dao Khanong Expressway. The company's opportunity to grow its orderbook will arise when high-speed railway network linking three international airports is scheduled for an upcoming contract signing.

Top BUYs

	TP (THB)	Upside (%)	Catalysts
Electricity Generating (EGCO TB)	394.00	29.61	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We like this company for its relatively low gearing of 1x D/E and cash on hand of THB20.6bn, which we believe will support further growth in the overseas market. We expect 2020F earnings to be boosted by 10% to THB12.8bn, as two large scale projects have already commenced in 4Q19: The 500MW San Buenaventura Power in the Philippines and 1,285MW Xayaburi hydro-electric power plant in Laos.
Osotspa (OSP TB)	49.00	10.73	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Osotspa's organisational streamlining by its new management team has effectively turned the company from a family business to a professionally run entity. Local and overseas activities to help driving topline sales, the launch of new products to capture consumer demands, expansion of production facilities, and distribution coverage abroad – mainly in Myanmar – to strengthen its leading position there. Its key business strategy – premiumisation of new products and corporate cost-savings programme – should be the key factors that help boost GPM and keep opex under control. Expect stronger earnings growth of 16% in 2020F vs 14% in 2019F.
PTT Explore & Production (PTTEP TB)	147.00	17.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The company's products are both directly and indirectly linked to crude oil prices, so it remains South-East Asia's best proxy to crude oil prices. We expect higher sales volume while costs remain stable. Its Leng Lebah (SK410B) field currently has estimated total resources at 2tcf. PTTEP expects to drill another nearby well in 2Q20. It is possible that another 2-3tcf can be found. This project could potentially be commercialised by 1Q25, as it could use shared existing facilities within the area. Assuming 30%-100% of 2tcf is proved reserves, this project could add c.TH3.50-11.50 per share to PTTEP's current valuation.
Siam Cement (SCC TB)	400.00	9.59	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Among Siam Cement's major businesses, the cement & building materials division – along with the packaging wing – will somehow mitigate the heavy impact on the petrochemical business. This is based on management's guideline of proactive long-term measures to cope with macroeconomic uncertainties, eg the US-China trade war. While demand for cement has picked up since 3Q18, the company should leverage on this situation by introducing new high-value-added products in building materials and expanding its retail outlet network via partnerships made in major provincial cities.
Star Petroleum Refining (SPRC TB)	10.30	13.19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We like this company as share price has been depressed for most of 2019F due to its 45-day planned maintenance shutdown in 4Q19. After planned maintenance, we will see its refining capacity increase from 165kbpd to 175kbpd. We see earnings are set for a rebound, from net loss THB1.9bn for 2019F to net profit of THB5.0bn. The company has minimal debt, currently at USD51.8m temporary short-term debt. With its strong financial position, we believe the company is well placed for further expansion or diversification. We believe SPRC will make an announcement of its plans to expand into new business in 2Q20F. This new business, we believe, will be within its core competence and possibly downstream petrochemicals business.
WHA Corp (WHA TB)	4.85	40.99	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHA is the proxy in industrial estates to benefit from e-commerce in Thailand. After the company's successful deal with Alibaba, its key strength in premium warehouses should make it an attractive option for e-commerce players, especially from China. The stronger inflow of foreign direct investments (FDIs) into Thailand should bear fruit in 2019, when investors make decisions on the Eastern Economic Corridor's 10 target industries. Good signals from Chinese FDI investors, as they are requesting visits to WHA's project sites, especially for smart electronics, auto parts for electric vehicles, robotics, and food for the future.

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