

Brief Summary

China's economic development has entered a new normal, the official set it GDP growth target at around 7% for 2015. Besides, subject to interference from the Chinese New Year, resulting in January volatile data, including cross-strait trade growth of 9.7 percent, while the amount of Taiwan investment in Mainland China decreased by 56.3% in January 2015.

1. Major Cross-Strait Economic Exchange Indicators

(1) Overview of Cross-Strait Trade Activities

- a. By referring to Taiwan Customs statistics, the estimated value of total cross-strait bilateral trade is US\$10.8 billion in Jan 2015 with the increase of 9.7% Year-On-Year. The value for Taiwan exports to Mainland China has increased by 9.5% Year-On-Year to US\$6.7 billion while the value that imports from Mainland China has increased by 10.1% Year-On-Year to US\$4.1 billion.
- b. In Jan 2015, Taiwan's trade with Mainland China accounted for 23.8% of Taiwan's total foreign trade, an increase of 1.0 percentage points from 22.8% at the end of 2014. Exports to Mainland China accounted for 26.7% of Taiwan's total exports, an increase of 0.6 percentage points from 26.1% at the end of 2014, while imports from Mainland China accounted for 20.3% of Taiwan's total imports has increased by 1.5 percentage points from 18.8% at the end of 2014.

(2) Taiwan Investment in Mainland China

According to the Investment Commission, MOEA, Taiwan, the number of approved foreign investment totaled to 82 cases with the value of US\$1.2 billion, in which US\$761.7 million was approved to invest in Mainland China in Jan 2015. Mainland China has attracted 61.3% of Taiwan's total foreign investment where it became the foremost destination for Taiwan's foreign investment. Approved investment to Mainland China accumulated to 41,300 cases from 1991 to the end of January 2015 with a value of US\$144.7 billion, which is 62.4% of Taiwan's total foreign investment.

A total of 41 cases for the investment in Mainland China covering the post-registration were approved in Jan 2015 with a reduction of 3.1% (the post-registration is uncovered) Year-On-Year, while the total value of approved investment in Mainland China covering the post-registration stands at US\$761.7 million with an decrease of 56.3% (the post-registration is uncovered) Year-On-Year.

Taiwan's investments mainly located in Guangdong, Jiangsu, Henan, Shanghai and other areas in Mainland China with the investment values of US\$213.2 million (28.0% of total investments), US\$211.2 million (27.7%), US\$98.0 million (12.9%), and US\$83.1 million (10.9%) respectively. Investments were distributed among electronic parts and components manufacturing with US\$ 191.2 million (25.1%), financial and insurance with US\$125.6 million (16.5% of total direct investment), Basic Metal Manufacturing with US\$ 103.0 million (13.5%) and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services with US\$71.4 million (9.4%).

(3) Mainland China Investment in Taiwan

According to the Investment Commission, MOEA, Taiwan, the number of approved Mainland China investment in Taiwan totaled to 12 cases with the amount of US\$4.6 million in Jan 2015. The number of approved Mainland China investment in Taiwan totaled to 631 cases with the amount of US\$1.2 billion from June, 2009 to January, 2015, where mainly distributed in wholesale and retail trade, banking services, harbor port services, and electronics parts and components manufacturing. The investment amounts for above industries are US\$292 million (24.3% of total amount), US\$201 million (16.7%), US\$139 million (11.6%), and US\$126 million (10.5%), respectively.

(4) Cross-Strait Remittance

All Taiwan's bank remittances to and from Mainland China have shown a persisted growing pattern except for the year of 2009. The remittances to Mainland China have increased by 5.3% Year-On-Year to US\$389.2 billion in Jan-Dec 2014. Meanwhile, the remittances from Mainland China to Taiwan totaled to US\$218.2 billion with an increase of 11.3% Year-On-Year.

(5) Taiwan Visitors to Mainland China

According to the China National Tourism Administration, the number of Taiwan tourists to Mainland China in Jan 2015 totaled to 0.4 million visitors with an increase of 19.6% Year-On-Year. The number of Taiwan tourists to Mainland China from 1987 to the end of January 2015 totaled to 82.6 million visitors.

(6) Mainland Chinese Visitors to Taiwan

The poll of Mainland China residents visit to Taiwan for tourism has been more than

those visits to Taiwan for economic and trade activities since 2003. According to Taiwan National Immigration Agency statistics, there have been 0.3 million Chinese visitors from Mainland China in Jan 2015 with an increase of 20.0%. Among these, 17.6 thousands visitors to Taiwan for economic and trade related activities with an increase of 31.0%, and 270.5 thousand visitors to Taiwan for tourism with an increase of 22.4% Year-On-Year. In total, there have been 16.2 million Chinese visitors to Taiwan from 1987 to the end of January 2015.

In addition, Mainland Chinese visitors to Taiwan could be reduced than before due to the tourism act forcing in October. However, a surprising outcome was found that the Mainland Chinese tourists continued to grow in recent months without influencing by the higher tour prices. In the future, the expected Mainland Chinese visitors would be increased with the relaxation of restrictions for self-guided tourists, thus could help to increase the average consumption amounts for each visitor as well as to improve the quality of Taiwan's local tourism.

(7) The Kinmen and Matsu Mini-Three Links Breakdowns (K-M mini three links)

- a. Direct transport links' statistics. The Taiwanese vessels made 496 trips to Mainland China in Jan 2015, which shows a reduction of 4.8% Year-On-Year. Meanwhile, 417 trips to Taiwan by the Chinese vessels have shown an increase of 6.4% Year-On-Year. In total, 96.2 thousand trips were made across the Taiwan Strait from 2001 to the end of January 2015.
- b. 65 thousands visitors (including foreigners, residents of Taiwan and Mainland China) arrived to Kinmen and Matsu in Jan 2015. And 69 thousands visitors (including foreigners, residents of Taiwan and Mainland China) departed from Kinmen and Matsu in the same period. A total of 12.6 million visitors from 2001 to the end of January 2015 have arrived and departed from Taiwan and Mainland China via K-M mini three links.

2. Foreign Investment in Mainland China

According to the Ministry of Commerce of Mainland China statistics, the number of approved foreign investment totaled to 812 thousands projects with US\$1,527.2 billion from 1979 to the end of January 2015. In Jan 2015, there were 2,266 approved foreign direct investments in Mainland China.

3. Comparison of Taiwan and Mainland China Market Shares in U.S. and Japan

In January to December 2014, U.S. imports from Taiwan accounted for 1.7% which is the same as the end of 2013, and imports from Mainland China accounted for 19.9% which was dropped by 0.7 percentage points from end of 2013. In Jan 2015, Japan imports from Taiwan and Mainland China respectively accounted for 3.3% and 24.3% of its total imports with increase of 0.4 percentage points and 1.7 percentage points from the end of 2014, respectively.

4. The Implementation of ECFA Early Harvest Program

The number of approved certificates of origin in Jan 2015 totaled to 8,746 cases with the total amount of US\$ 0.8 billion. According to the accumulated statistics to Jan 2015, Taiwan's Financial Supervisory Commission has approved 13 Taiwan's banks open branches in Mainland China, in which 18 branches and 9 sub-branches have started their business and 3 banks established representative offices in Mainland China. In insurance industry, Taiwan's Financial Supervisory Commission has approved 10 Taiwan's insurance companies and 2 insurance broker companies participate the equity in Mainland China, which 10 insurance companies and 2 insurance broker company has started the businesses and established 13 representative offices among these 10 approved Taiwan's insurance companies. Taiwan's Financial Supervisory Commission has also approved the permissions for the Mainland Chinese Bank to set up the 3 branches and a representative office in Taiwan.