

Brief Summary

China's trade performance weak in January 2016, Exports fell 11.4 percent from a year earlier, while imports dropped 19.0 percent. Besides, Taiwan's export slumped 13.0 percent in the same time.

(1) Overview of Cross-Strait Trade Activities

- a. By referring to Taiwan Customs statistics, the estimated value of total cross-strait bilateral trade was US\$9.5 billion in Jan 2016 with the decrease of 14.8% Year-On-Year. The value for Taiwan exports to Mainland China has decreased by 22.0% Year-On-Year to US\$5.5 billion while the value that imports from Mainland China has decreased by 6.5% Year-On-Year to US\$4.0 billion.
- b. In Jan 2016, Taiwan's trade with Mainland China accounted for 23.3% of Taiwan's total foreign trade, a decrease of 0.1 percentage points from 23.4% at the end of 2015. Exports to Mainland China accounted for 24.8% of Taiwan's total exports, a decrease of 1.0 percentage points from 25.8% at the end of 2015, while imports from Mainland China accounted for 21.4% of Taiwan's total imports, an increase of 1.1 percentage points from 20.3% at the end of 2015.

(2) Taiwan Investment in Mainland China

According to the Investment Commission, MOEA, Taiwan, the number of approved foreign investment totaled to 76 cases with the value of US\$573.3 million, in which US\$357.2 billion was approved to invest in Mainland China in Jan 2016. Mainland China has attracted 62.3% of Taiwan's total foreign investment where it became the foremost destination for Taiwan's foreign investment. Approved investment to Mainland China accumulated to 41,716 cases from 1991 to the end of January 2016 with a value of US\$155.3 billion, which is 61.4% of Taiwan's total foreign investment.

A total of 30 cases for the investment in Mainland China covering the post-registration were approved in Jan 2016 with a decrease of 35.5% (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\$357.2 million with a decrease of 5.5% (the post-registration is uncovered) Year-On-Year.

Taiwan's investments mainly located in Shanghai, Fujian, Jiangsu, Guangdong and other

areas in Mainland China with the investment values of US\$140.5 million (39.3% of total investments), US\$69.5 million (19.5% of total direct investment), US\$50.7 million (14.2% of total direct investment), and US\$48.3 million (13.5% of total direct investment) respectively. Investments were distributed among Financial and Insurance with US\$ 82.9 million (23.2% of total direct investment), Wholesale and Retail Trade with US\$69.2 million (19.4%), Chemical Material Manufacturing with US\$ 26.4 million (7.4 % of total direct investment) and Beverages Manufacturing with US\$22.5 million (6.3% of total direct investment).

(3) Mainland China Investment in Taiwan

According to the Investment Commission, MOEA, Taiwan, the number of approved Mainland China investment in Taiwan totaled to 21 cases with the amount of US\$0.6 million in Jan 2016. The number of approved Mainland China investment in Taiwan totaled to 810 cases with the amount of US\$1.4 billion from June, 2009 to January, 2016, where mainly distributed in wholesale and retail trade, banking services, electronics parts and components manufacturing, and harbor port services. The investment amounts for above industries are US\$447.6 million (30.9% of total amount), US\$201.4 million (13.9%), US\$151.5 million (10.5%), and US\$139.1 million (9.6%), 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 5.9% Year-On-Year to US\$412.1 billion in Jan-Dec 2015. Meanwhile, the remittances from Mainland China to Taiwan totaled to US\$277.8 billion with an increase of 27.3% 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 2016 totaled to 410 thousand visitors with an increase of 1.0% Year-On-Year. The number of Taiwan tourists to Mainland China from 1987 to the end of January 2016 totaled to 88.1 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 0.4 million Chinese visitors from Mainland China in Jan 2016 with an increase of 14.0%. Among these, 12.8 thousands visitors to Taiwan for economic and trade related activities with a decrease of 27.3%, and 0.3 million visitors to Taiwan for tourism with an increase of 13.9%. In total, there have been 23.6 million Chinese visitors to Taiwan from 1987 to the end of January 2016.

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

- a. Direct transport links' statistics. The Taiwanese vessels made 503 trips to Mainland China in Jan 2016, which shows an increase of 1.4% Year-On-Year. Meanwhile, 428 trips to Taiwan by the Chinese vessels have shown an increase of 2.6% Year-On-Year. In total, 106.9 thousand trips were made across the Taiwan Strait from 2001 to the end of January 2016.
- b. 72 thousands visitors (including residents of Taiwan and Mainland China) arrived to Kinmen and Matsu in Jan 2016. And 72 thousands visitors (including residents of Taiwan and Mainland China) departed from Kinmen and Matsu in the same period. A total of 14.2 million visitors from 2001 to the end of January 2016 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 838.4 thousands projects with US\$1,653.6 billion from 1979 to the end of January 2016. In Jan 2016, there were 2,008 approved foreign direct investments in Mainland China.

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

In Jan-Dec 2015, U.S. imported from Taiwan accounted for 1.8% which rose 0.2% from the end of 2014, and imported from Mainland China accounted for 21.5% which increase by 0.8 percentage points from end of 2014. In Jan-Dec 2015, Japan imported from Taiwan and Mainland China respectively accounted for 3.6% and 24.8% of its total imports with increase of 0.7 percentage points and 2.2 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-Feb 2016 total to 13,176 cases with the total amount of US\$ 11.1 billion. According to the accumulated statistics to February 2016, Taiwan's Financial Supervisory Commission has approved 13 Taiwan's banks open branches in Mainland China, in which 26 branches and 13 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 12 Taiwan's insurance companies and 3 insurance broker companies participating the equity in Mainland China which 7 insurance companies and 2 insurance broker companies has started the businesses and established 13 representative offices among these 12 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.