

Economy

Monthly

6 Mar 2025

Economic Flash

Economic activities maintain momentum on domestic factors

Exports decelerates slightly

The GSO's February report shows that export and import values grew strongly by 25.67% YoY and 39.99% YoY, reaching USD31.11bn and USD32.66bn, respectively. Tet holiday in February last year largely explained the significant increase in trade turnover this month. Excluding the holiday effect, our calculation shows that exports experienced a slowdown this month. For two first months of 2025, export value rose by 8.35% YoY, 4.45ppts-lower than December 2024.

Industrial production rises from low base

In February 2025, industrial production saw a sharp increase compared to the same period last year, largely due to the Tet holiday in February 2024. With this seasonal factor at play, IIP recorded an increase of 17.17% YoY, with notable expansions across key sectors, including manufacturing, EGSA, WSWMR, and MQ.

CPI continues to increase

In February, headline CPI rose by 0.34% MoM (or 2.91% YoY), slowing from the 0.98% increase recorded in the previous month. For two first month of 2025, CPI rose by 3.27% YoY on average, staying well below the government's annual target range of 4.5%-5.0%. The development in CPI in February was primarily driven by FFS (food and foodstuff), HCM (housing and construction materials), and Traffic. These components added 14bps, 10bps, and 6bps, respectively, to the overall increase.

Vietnam economic indicators

	24-Sep	24-Oct	24-Nov	24-Dec	25-Jan	25-Feb	Corr.1
Disbursed FDI %YoY	13.2	7.6	-6.7	22.1	2.0	9.1	-0.19
Retail sales %YoY	7.1	9.4	8.4	7.0	9.9	9.4	-0.17
Export %YoY	11.1	10.5	8.4	12.9	-4.0	25.7	-0.13
Import %YoY	11.5	13.8	10.4	19.0	-2.6	40.0	-0.06
Trade balance (USD bn)	2.3	2.0	1.1	0.5	3.1	-1.5	-0.12
CPI %MoM	0.29	0.33	0.13	0.29	0.98	0.34	-0.06
Credit %YoY	16.1	16.7	16.6	15.1	16.1	15.7	-0.24
USDVND %MoM	-1.24	2.91	0.25	0.55	-1.59	1.89	-0.37
PMI (pts)	47.3	51.2	50.8	49.8	48.9	49.2	-0.24
VNINDEX return (%)	0.8	-1.8	-1.0	1.5	-0.1	3.2	1.00

Source: SBV, GSO, Bloomberg, KIS

1 Correlation to VNINDEX's monthly return;

Green = acceleration; vellow = deceleration; red = contraction.

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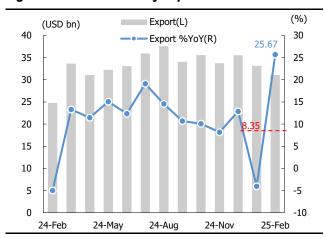
I. Exports decelerates slightly

Export turnover slows down on weak new orders

The February GSO report shows that export and import values grew strongly by 25.67% YoY and 39.99% YoY, reaching USD31.11bn and USD32.66bn, respectively. Tet holiday in February last year largely explained the significant increase in trade turnover this month. Excluding the holiday effect, our calculation shows that export value notably decelerated this month with a modest growth rate of 0.53% YoY, much lower than the previous adjusted growth rate of 24.17% YoY. For two first months of 2025, export value rose by 8.35% YoY, 4.45ppts-lower than December 2024, consistent with our calculation. This slowdown was largely attributed to a decline in new orders for the second consecutive month due to weak domestic and international demand, as highlighted in the latest PMI report.

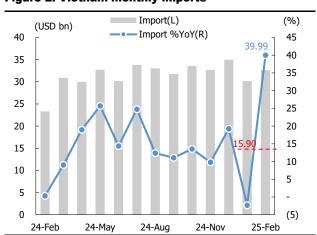
In the first two months of 2025, imports surged 15.90% YoY, significantly outpacing export growth of 8.35%, driven mainly by a 20.7% YoY increase in imports from China. While part of this rise supports export processing, evidenced by a 28.9% YoY increase in CEPP (computers, electronic products, and parts) imports, the influx of cheap Chinese goods may also be intensifying competition for local manufacturers. Consequently, February recorded a trade deficit of USD 1.55bn.

Figure 1. Vietnam monthly exports



Source: GSO, Vietnam Custom, KIS Note: The red figure represents the average value for 2M25

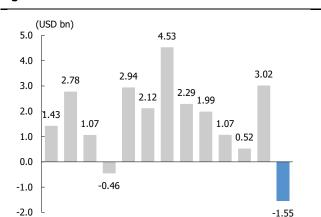
Figure 2. Vietnam monthly imports



Source: GSO, Vietnam Custom, KIS

Note: The red figure represents the average value for 2M25

Figure 3. Vietnam's trade balance

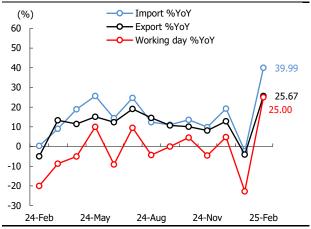


24-Aug

24-Nov

25-Feb

Figure 4. No. working days and export turnover



Source: GSO. Vietnam Custom, KIS

24-Feb

24-May

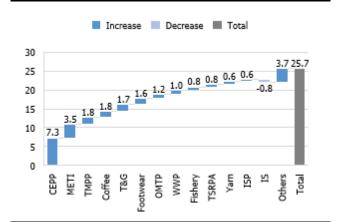
Source: GSO. Vietnam Custom. KIS

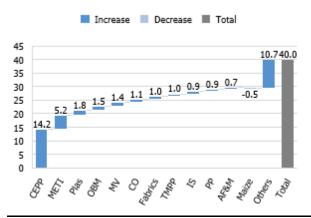
Looking deeper into the export basket, GSO's actual figures showed that export growth was widespread, with 31 out of 38 items recording improvement compared to the same period last year. In more detail, the electronics group continued to play a leading role this month, with CEPP (computers, electronic products, and parts), METI (machines, equipment, tools, and instruments), and TMPP (telephones, mobile phones & spare parts) increasing by 38.91% YoY, 29.45% YoY, and 11.31% YoY, reaching USD6.47bn, USD3.82bn, and USD4.39bn, respectively. These three items collectively contributed 12.64ppts to the overall growth rate. On the other hand, leading the decline was IS (iron & steel), which dropped by 28.05% YoY to USD0.54bn.

Regarding import activities, February's performance remained centered on the electronics sector, with 39 out of 46 items in the basket showing improvement compared to the same period last year. Specifically, CEPP, METI, and plastics increased by 46.90% YoY, 46.83% YoY, and 67.20% YoY, reaching USD10.41bn, USD3.97bn, and USD1.06bn, respectively. Additionally, OBM (other base metals), MV (automobiles), and CO (crude oil) also posted strong growth, rising by 63.37% YoY, 70.35% YoY, and 47.07% YoY, reaching USD0.92bn, USD0.79bn, and USD0.80bn, respectively.

Figure 5. Vietnam's export contributors (ppts)

Figure 6. Vietnam's import contributors (ppts)





Source: GSO, KIS
CEPP=Computers, Electric Products & Parts, METI=Machines/Equipments/Tools/Instruments,
TMPP=Telephones, Mobile Phones & Spare Parts, Coffee=Coffee, T&G=Textiles and Garments,
Footwear=Footwear, OMTP=Other Means of Transportation & Spare Parts, WWP=Wood &
Wooden Products, Fishery=Fishery Products, TSRPA=Toys/Sports Req Part/Access, ISP=Iron &
Steel Products, IS=Iron & Steel

Source: GSO, Vietnam Custom, KIS
CEPP=Electronic, Computer and Spare Parts, METI=Machines/Equipments/Tools/Instruments,
Plas=Plastics, OBM=Other Base Metals, MV=Automobiles, CO=Crude Oil,
TMPP=Telephones/Mobile Phones & Spare Parts, IS=Iron & Steel, PP=Plastic Products,
AF&M=Animal Fodders & Materials.

II. Industrial production grows slower

Industrial production seasonally grows

In February 2025, nationwide industrial production (IIP) saw a sharp increase compared to the same period last year, largely due to the Tet holiday in February 2024. With this seasonal factor at play, IIP recorded an increase of 17.17% YoY, with notable expansions across key sectors, including manufacturing, EGSA (electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning supply), WSWMR (water supply, waste management, and remediation activities), and MQ (mining and quarrying). At the sectoral level, all industries registered the acceleration or the turnaround this month. Manufacturing maintain its leading position as expanding by 20.0% YoY, followed by WSWMR and EGSA, which recorded notable increases of 13.9% YoY and 9.9% YoY, respectively. Meanwhile, MQ reversed its previous decline, posting a modest 0.4% YoY growth after months of contraction.

Figure 7. Monthly IIP %YoY

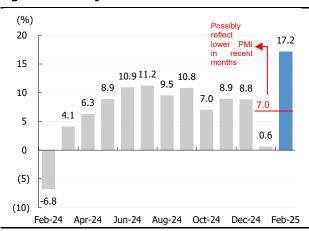
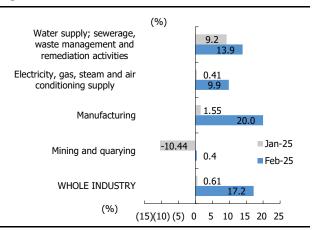


Figure 8. Movements of 1st-leveled sectors



Source: GSO, KIS Source: GSO, KIS

After adjusting for the Tet effect by analyzing the first two months of 2025, industrial production appears to have lost momentum, with a growth rate 1.8 percentage points lower than in December 2024, consistent with recent PMI reports. Underlying demand remained weak, with new orders and production declining for the second consecutive month, while export orders fell for the fourth straight month. Employment also dropped for the fifth month in a row, reflecting subdued business conditions. Supply chain disruptions persisted, with delivery times lengthening to a five-month high due to transportation issues and rising freight costs. Despite these challenges, business confidence improved for the second month, reaching its highest level since June 2024. Some firms increased purchasing activity, expecting a stabilization in economic conditions. Additionally, input cost inflation eased to a 19-month low, allowing firms to lower selling prices again to stimulate demand. While IIP showed strong growth on paper, the broader manufacturing sector continues to struggle, with demand conditions yet to show a meaningful recovery.

Table 1. Movements of notable products

Product	24- Sep	24- Oct	24- Nov	24- Dec	25- Jan	25- Feb
Beer	7.0	2.4	0.9	7.2	-1.6	11.8
Clothes	20.9	16.1	14.2	16.2	5.0	28.1
Crude steel, iron	16.2	7.4	10.8	3.5	-1.6	6.4
Leather footwear	15.4	8.4	13.2	14.6	-3.9	31.8
Mobile phone	-26.4	-0.2	5.8	5.2	-1.7	8.7
Petroleum	148.8	19.8	-4.8	-5.2	-6.0	-3.8
Phone accessories	10.7	-5.2	-1.3	11.7	-14.1	9.1
Steel bars and corners	10.3	13.4	22.5	-4.6	-6.7	9.8
Steel coil	15.1	16.2	-1.5	7.1	-6.3	-2.0
Television	12.9	30.1	18.3	86.5	50.1	64.6
Whole industry	7.0	2.4	0.9	7.2	0.6	17.2

Source: GSO, KIS

In February, green-territory dominated product performance, with 8 out of 10 categories recording annual growth, marking a strong rebound. The only exceptions were petroleum and steel coil products, which saw modest declines of 3.8% and 2.0% YoY, respectively. Television remained the fastest-growing product, surging by 64.6% YoY, extending its nine-month growth streak. Meanwhile, clothing and leather footwear products also posted notable gains, rising by 28.1% and 31.8% YoY, respectively. Overall, most products showed solid improvement, primarily driven by the low base effect from the same period in 2024.

III. Post-Tet retail sales maintain the momentum

According to GSO estimates, total retail sales of goods and services in February rose strongly compared to the same period last year, despite February 2024 was the month of traditional Tet holiday. Specifically, total retail sales increased by 9.43% YoY (-2.03% MoM), reaching VND561.67tn in this month. All sectors recorded positive growth compared to the same period last year.

In more detail, RS (retailing sector), AC (accommodation & catering), and TS (travel services) increased by 8.31% YoY (-1.36ppts), 12.66% YoY (+0.40ppts), and 17.34% YoY (-44.84ppts), respectively. The slower growth compared to January is understandable, as the 2025 Lunar New Year holiday in January likely boosted shopping and travel demand, supporting consumer spending. However, despite the 2024 Lunar New Year occurring in February, retail sales in February this year still showed strong growth compared to the same period last year, indicating a positive trend in market demand.

Additionally, the February GSO report shows that the industrial labor index increased by 0.97% MoM and 4.43% YoY, contributing to improved household purchasing power and consumer confidence. Moreover, the Prime Minister recently issued Directive 19/CĐ-TTg, calling for enhanced measures to reduce lending interest rates, which could support people's access to bank credit and stimulate consumption. We expect these positive developments to serve as key drivers for retail sales growth in the coming months.

Figure 9. Monthly retail sales

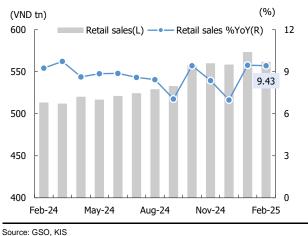
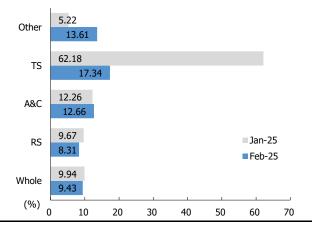


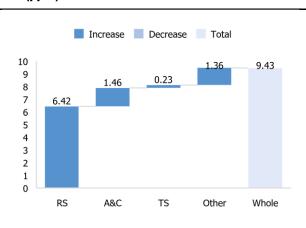
Figure 10. Monthly retail sales by component

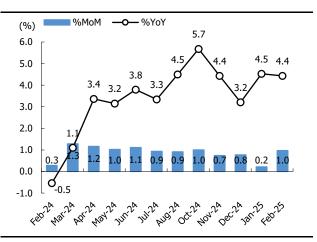


Source: GSO, KIS

Figure 11. Components contribution to total retail sales(ppts)



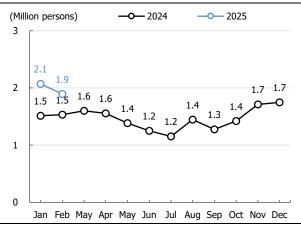




Source: GSO, KIS Source: GSO, KIS

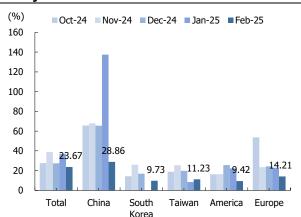
> On the other hand, February also recorded strong growth in international arrivals compared to the same period last year. The total number of foreign visitors reached 1.89mn, marking an increase of 23.67% YoY (-8.53% MoM). Notably, tourist arrivals from China, South Korea, and Taiwan showed significant improvement, rising by 28.86% YoY (-33.78% MoM), 9.73% YoY (+12.21% MoM), and 11.23% YoY (+38.91% MoM), respectively.

Figure 13. Total international arrivals by month



country

Figure 14. YoY Growth in international arrivals by



Source: GSO, KIS

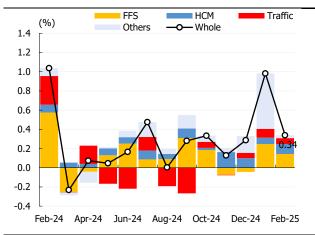
Source: GSO, KIS

IV. CPI continues to increase

CPI continues to rise, driven by the increase in pork price This month, headline CPI rose by 0.34% MoM (or 2.91% YoY), slowing from the 0.98% increase recorded in the previous month. For two first month of 2025, CPI rose by 3.27% YoY on average, staying well below the government's annual target range of 4.5%- 5.0%. The development in CPI in February was primarily driven by FFS (food and foodstuff), HCM (housing and construction materials), and Traffic. These components added 14bps, 10bps, and 6bps, respectively, to the overall increase.

The FFS index rose by 0.43% MoM, primarily due to higher food prices, particularly pork, which saw an uptick amid disease outbreaks. Meanwhile, the HCM index climbed 0.55% MoM, reflecting higher rental prices following increased post-Tet demand, along with rising electricity and water costs. For Traffic, a 0.63% MoM increase was largely driven by higher transportation demand, pushing up transport service prices, while diesel prices rose by 0.61% MoM following adjustments in February, alongside higher automobile service fees.

Figure 15. Monthly CPI change and its contributor



Source: GSO, KIS

Table 2. Monthly CPI change by item

Item	Weight (%)	% MoM	% YoY
Food and foodstuff	33.56	0.43	3.10
Beverage and cigarette	2.73	0.12	2.02
Garment, footwear, hat	5.70	-0.11	1.05
Housing and construction materials	18.82	0.55	5.07
Household appliances and goods	6.74	0.05	1.45
Medicine and healthcare	5.39	0.31	14.47
Traffic	9.67	0.63	-5.33
Postal services & telecommunication	3.14	-0.03	-0.42
Education	6.17	0.02	-0.56
Culture. Entertainment, and tourism	4.55	0.17	1.86
Other goods and services	3.53	0.18	6.36
Whole	100.00	0.34	2.91

Source: GSO, KIS

Note: shaded items mainly contributed to CPI change this month.

Figure 16. Historical live pork price

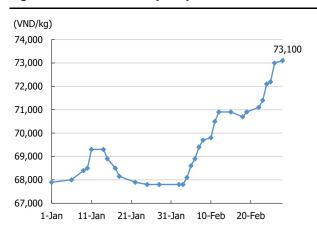
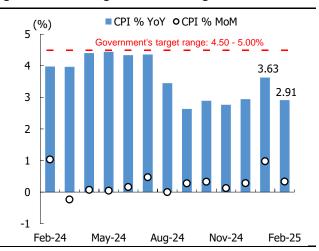


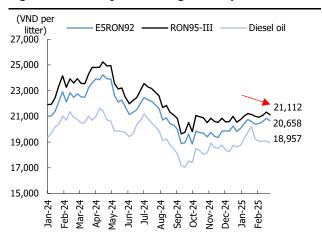
Figure 17. CPI and government's target



Source: GSO, KIS

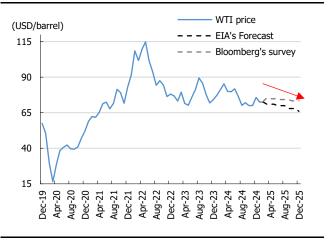
Source: KIS

Figure 18. Monthly domestic gasoline price



Source: MOIT, KIS Source: EIA, Bloomberg, KIS

Figure 19. Energy price forecast



V. Registered FDI accelerates

Disbursed and registered FDI increases notably in February

As of February 2025, FDI saw growth in both implementation and registration. Specifically, disbursed and registered FDI increased by 9.09% YoY and 32.71% YoY, respectively, reaching USD1.44bn and USD2.57bn. For 2M25, disbursed and registered FDI grew by 5.4% YoY and 35.5% YoY, reaching USD2.95bn and USD6.90bn, respectively.

Figure 20. Monthly disbursed FDI

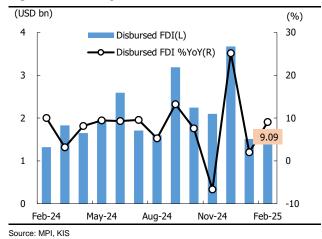
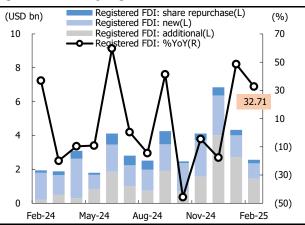


Figure 21. Monthly registered FDI



Source: MPI, KIS

Specifically, there were 516 newly registered projects with a total capital of USD2.19bn, reflecting a 10% increase in project count but a sharp 48.4% decline in capital compared to the same period last year. Meanwhile, 256 projects saw capital adjustments, with total additional capital reaching USD4.18bn, up 42.2% in project count and nearly 7.4 times in capital value compared to the same period in 2024. Regarding capital contributions and share purchases, there were 553 transactions totaling USD529.8mn, marking a 26.3% decrease in transaction volume but an 88.8% increase in total capital value.

Regarding the origin of FDI in February, South Korea emerged as the top investor, committing over USD1.5bn, accounting for 21.7% of total FDI, a 5.4-fold increase YoY, with Samsung Display alone contributing USD1.2bn in additional capital. Singapore followed with USD1.48bn (21.4% of total FDI), though this represented a 32.9% YoY decline. Other significant investors included China, Japan, and Thailand, with China leading in the number of new projects (31% of total new projects) and capital adjustments (18.8%), while South Korea led in capital contribution transactions (27.1%).

Table 3. Notable projects in 2025

Project	Sector	Origin country	Registration value (USDbn)	Location	
Samsung Display	Manufacturing	South Korea	1.20	Bac Ninh	
VSIP	Real estate	Singapore	0.47	Binh Duong	
VSIP III	Manufacturing	Singapore	0.34	Binh Duong	
Cooler Master	Manufacturing	Taiwan	0.13	Bac Ninh	
Red Board	Manufacturing	China	0.11	Ha Nam	
Hailide	Manufacturing	China	0.10	Tay Ninh	

Source: MPI, KIS

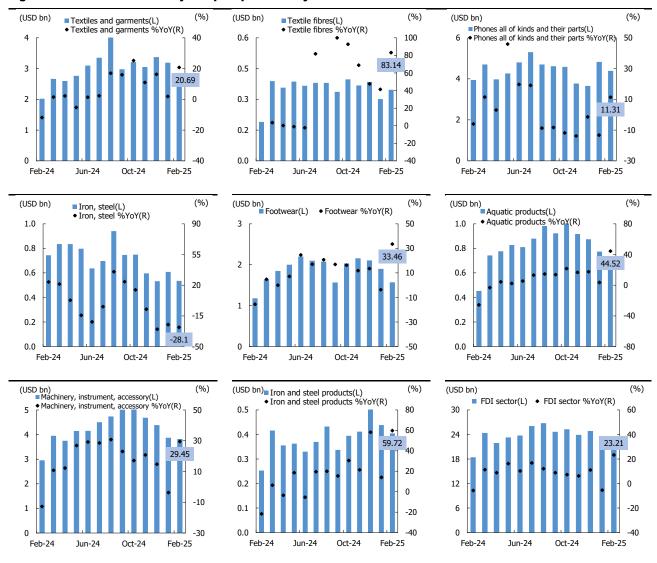
Macro scorecard

	24-Oct	24-Nov	24-Dec	25-Jan	25-Feb	1Q24	2Q24	3Q24	4Q24	2021	2022	2023	2024
Real GDP growth (%)						5.66	6.93	7.43	7.55	2.58	8.02	5.05	7.09
Registered FDI (USD bn)	2.48	4.12	6.85	4.34	2.57	6.18	9.01	9.59	13.44	31.15	27.72	36.61	38.23
GDP per capita (USD)										3,725	4,110	4,285	4,479
Unemployment rate (%)						2.24	2.29	2.23	2.22	3.22	2.32	2.26	2.24
Export (USD bn)	35.59	33.73	35.53	32.15	31.11	93.06	98.2	108.6	105.9	335.7	371.85	355.5	405.5
Import (USD bn)	33.60	32.67	35.00	30.92	32.66	84.98	94.0	99.7	101.9	331.1	360.65	327.5	380.8
Export growth (%)	10.09	8.16	12.85	-4.05	25.67	16.98	13.59	15.82	11.46	18.74	10.61	-4.4	14.3
Import growth (%)	13.56	9.81	19.23	-2.32	39.99	13.88	20.65	17.19	14.91	25.9	8.35	-8.9	16.7
Inflation (%)	2.68	2.77	2.94	3.63	2.91	3.77	4.39	3.48	2.87	1.84	3.15	3.25	3.63
USD/VND	25,282	25,346	25,386	25,082	25,530	24,786	25,458	24.093	25,386	22,790	23,650	23,784	25,386
Credit growth (%)	16.7	16.6	15.1	16.1	15.7	12.5	15.3	16.1	13.8	13.61	14.2	13.7	13.8
10Y gov't bond (%)	2.70	2.76	2.94	2.99	3.18	2.59	2.81	2.66	2.94	2.11	5.08	2.39	2.94

Source: GSO, Bloomberg, FIA, IMF

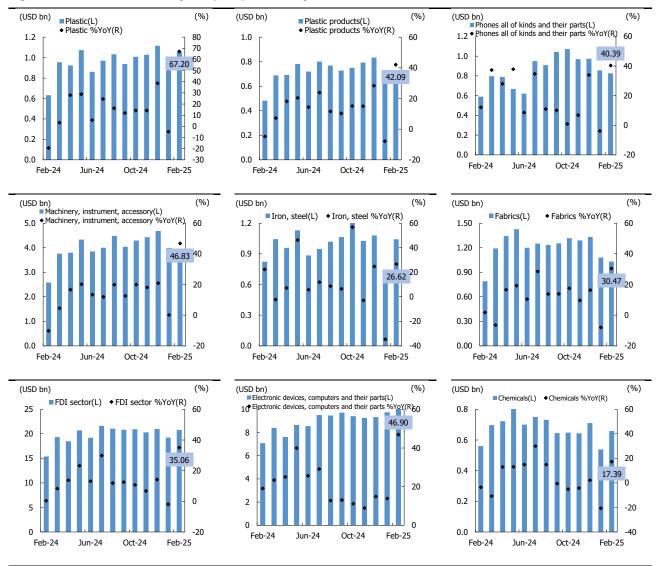
Appendix

Figure 1. Performances of major export products by month



Source: KIS, GSO

Figure 2. Performances of major import products by month



Source: KIS, GSO

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-General

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