

## Thai News Update: 4 September 2018

### 1. Inflation Rises 14th Month In A Row

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

Thailand's headline inflation, as gauged by the increase in the consumer price index (CPI), accelerated for the 14th straight month in August from rising prices of fresh food and energy, according to the Ministry of Commerce. The CPI rose 1.62 per cent to 102.27 last month from 102 in July, said Pimchanok Vonkorpon, director-general of the ministry's Trade Policy and Strategy Office. Headline inflation hit 1.46 per cent in July after easing to 1.38 per cent a month earlier. Pimchanok cited a 0.31 per cent rise in fresh food prices after two months of contraction, and energy prices' advance for a 21st straight monthly rise of 9.05 per cent in August, for increase in CPI.

### 2. HK Seeks Thai , Asean Investors For New Guangdong-HK-Macao Greater Bay Area

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

Hong Kong, a special administrative region of China, has eyed Thai and other Asean firms to invest in the new Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area which has a combined population of 69 million and GDP of US\$1 trillion. The former colonial-era islands of Hong Kong and Macau as well as nine other southern Chinese cities, including Guangzhou and Shenzhen, are now inter-connected for the first time by one of the world's longest highways whose construction is just completed. This and other infrastructures as well as specific promotional policies are expected to turn the area into a new economic and investment magnet.

### 3. Kunming Central To Promotion Of Thai Fruits Across All Chinese Provinces

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

The Commerce Ministry aims to promote the sale of Thai fruits to every province of China, so that produce such as longan and durian – popular among Chinese consumers – has markets in all seasons. The ministry plans to use southern China to link the sales drive across every Chinese province, with important strategic cities such as Kunming and Pingxiang being used as key areas to support Thailand to become a “super-power” of fruit production, it announced on 4 September. The government wishes to see Thai entrepreneurs use opportunities created by the state to sell

fruits and other types of products through various channels, having paved the way and sought cooperation with China.

#### **4. Rice Exports Slip In July, Still Poised For 11m Tonnes**

**Source:** Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

Thai rice exports fell in July, both in volume and value, especially for hom mali fragrant rice and parboiled rice, but traders remain upbeat the country's overall rice shipments can reach 11 million tonnes as expected. The Thai Rice Exporters Association's report said shipments fell to 836,381 tonnes in July, down 7.3% from the same period last year, with values worth 13.83 billion baht, down 6.4%. The association's president, Charoen Laothammatas, said the drop was primarily because of dips in shipments of parboiled and hom mali rice.

#### **5. Commerce Ministry Predicts Over 10% Growth In China Shipments**

**Source:** Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

Despite risks from the escalating trade war between China and the US, the Commerce Ministry remains positive Thailand's exports to China will grow by more than 10% this year, boosting the country's overall shipments to a 9% gain. Commerce Minister Sontirat Sontijirawong said on 3 September Thailand's exports will definitely exceed 8% growth as projected by the ministry, helped by the growing economies of key trading partners, including China. Mr Sontirat's remarks were delivered at a seminar titled "Opening the Gate to South China", organised by the Commerce Ministry, International Trade Promotion Department, Foreign Trade Department, the New Economy Academy and Post Today newspaper.