



INVESTMENT SERVICES CENTER
THE BOARD OF INVESTMENT
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY

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Press Release

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5-month FDI post strong trend, 45% increase in applications auto, machinery, electronic and parts industries top the list

Thailand Board of Investment (BOI) announced significant increase of 45 percent in foreign direct investment value during the first five months of 2012 compared to the same period last year. Metal products, machinery and transport equipment, and electronic industry and electrical appliances attracted the highest foreign investments. Japanese investors remain the largest investors with the highest number of submitted applications, at 308 projects.

Mrs. Atchaka Sibunruang, Secretary General of the BOI, said that foreign direct investment (FDI) from January to May 2012 attracted Bt205.6 billion, an increase of 45 percent from Bt141.39 billion in 2011. The number of investment project applications increased by 26 percent from last year's 432 projects to 547 projects in 2012. The number indicates that Thailand remains an attractive investment destination among foreign investors.

Of the total investment applications, 57.4 percent were submitted by existing investors who wished to expand investment in Thailand, accounting for 314 projects with a total investment value of Bt152 billion. There were 233 new projects seeking promotional incentives with an investment value of Bt53.56 billion.

The industries with the highest investment value included metal products, machinery and transport equipment with 176 projects valued at Bt62.47 billion; electronic and electrical appliances with 116 projects valued at Bt55.7 billion; service and public utilities with 106 projects valued at Bt24.4 billion; and chemicals, paper and plastics with 73 projects valued at Bt24.3 billion, respectively.

Over the period, Japanese investors had the highest number of applications, at 308 projects, worth Bt130.46 billion, followed by the Netherlands (16 projects, worth Bt11.57 billion), the Malaysians (16 projects, worth Bt11.3 billion), the Singaporeans (53 projects, worth Bt11.28 billion) and the American (18 projects, worth Bt9.1 billion) respectively.

The foreign investment promotion statistics from January to May 2011 and 2012

Month	No. of projects in 2011	No. of projects in 2012	Investment value in 2011 (Bt million)	Investment value in 2012 (Bt million)
January	63	74	14,910.3	22,731.1
February	75	107	26,921.5	54,071.9
March	105	126	26,335.3	54,039.7
April	87	97	39,179.9	24,561.9
May	102	143	34,049.9	50,241.4
Jan-May	432	547	141,396.9	205,646

Mrs. Atchaka Sibunruang added that the investment promotion applications in January and April are generally lower, in terms of both number of project applications and investment value. This is owing to the fact that January marks the beginning of the year after a long New Year holiday whereas in April, there are many holidays such as Songkran holiday or Thai New Year.

The record also shows that the investment value in April 2011 is higher than that of April 2012 even though the number of project application is lower. This is due to the fact that there were project applications worth around Bt10 billion in the Auto industry and nearly 10 project applications with the size of investment worth more than Bt1 billion.

As shown here is the net application submitted to illustrate the investment trend over the period. The statistics of applications approved or operation certificates issued are not up to date because the procedures for applications approval usually take up to 2-3 months, while the processes of operation certificate issued may take up to 1-3 years after the application submission date, thus, such figures could not show the trend of investments precisely.
