

# Taiwan export and import growth surge to 28-month highs in June

Export and import growth both far exceeded forecasts in June, reaching their highest levels since February 2022



Source: Shutterstock

# 23.5% YoY

 Taiwan export growth

Higher than expected

## Export and import growth hit 28-month highs amid a broader recovery and supportive base effects

Taiwan's trade data came in much stronger than forecast in June, with exports surging 23.5% YoY and imports up 33.9% YoY, eclipsing both the market and our forecasts. In terms of the impact on GDP growth, the net impact was a smaller trade surplus of only USD4.7bn, lower than forecasts.

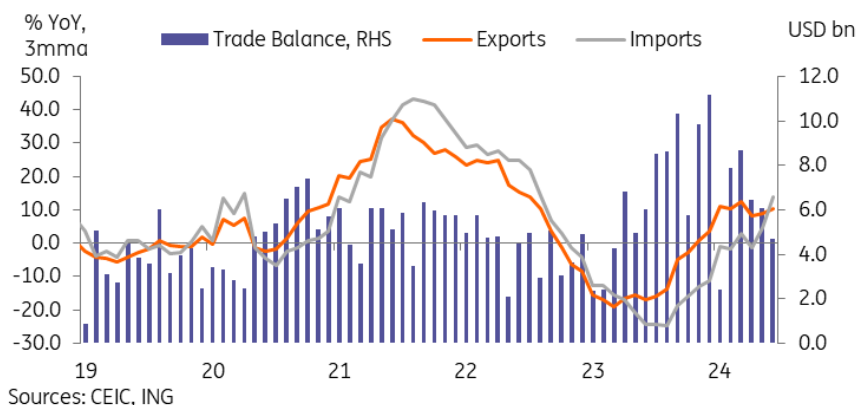
As expected, machinery and electrical equipment (up 32.8% YoY) continued to lead export

growth. Minerals (23.8%), chemicals (15.4%), plastics (9.2%), and textiles (16.5%) recovered in June, after recording negative growth for the first five months of the year.

Exports to other regions finally recovered in June, after previously being concentrated in North and Central America. Export growth to the US (74.2%) continued to lead the pack and exports to ASEAN (30.9%) continued to register strong growth. We also saw a recovery of exports to Mainland China & HK (7.3%) as well as to Europe (7.4%), helping to bolster overall export numbers.

Import growth surprised by even more than export growth in June. The numbers showed broad-based strength, with most categories seeing significantly higher growth in June than in previous months. The largest import categories - machinery & electrical equipment (up 37.7% YoY), mineral products (33.9%), and base metals (58.9%) - which together represent over two thirds of all imports in the first half of 2024, all surged in June. Imports from the US grew by 41.9%, while imports from Mainland China and Hong Kong grew by 35.1%.

## Taiwan's trade growth surged but the trade surplus came in lower than forecast



## Base effects should continue to support YoY growth numbers in coming months

There are significant base effects in play so the data should still be taken with a grain of salt. Market forecasts unanimously expected a rebound in the data in June as base effects from 2023 heavily favoured a strong year-on-year read. In June 2023 exports fell by -23.4% YoY while imports fell by -30.2% YoY, both the largest YoY declines of the year.

Moving forward, export and import growth should moderate from June's extraordinarily strong read. Year-on-year numbers should remain well supported for most of the second half of 2024. More importantly for growth will be how the trade surplus develops, and if we can see a sustained broader recovery in non-semiconductor related export categories.

In general, and with recent economic data trending stronger than expected amid the semiconductor boom, we have upgraded our 2024 GDP growth forecast to 3.8% YoY.

## Author

**Lynn Song**

Chief Economist, Greater China

[lynn.song@asia.ing.com](mailto:lynn.song@asia.ing.com)

## Disclaimer

This publication has been prepared by the Economic and Financial Analysis Division of ING Bank N.V. (“ING”) solely for information purposes without regard to any particular user’s investment objectives, financial situation, or means. *ING forms part of ING Group (being for this purpose ING Group N.V. and its subsidiary and affiliated companies)*. The information in the publication is not an investment recommendation and it is not investment, legal or tax advice or an offer or solicitation to purchase or sell any financial instrument. Reasonable care has been taken to ensure that this publication is not untrue or misleading when published, but ING does not represent that it is accurate or complete. ING does not accept any liability for any direct, indirect or consequential loss arising from any use of this publication. Unless otherwise stated, any views, forecasts, or estimates are solely those of the author(s), as of the date of the publication and are subject to change without notice.

The distribution of this publication may be restricted by law or regulation in different jurisdictions and persons into whose possession this publication comes should inform themselves about, and observe, such restrictions.

Copyright and database rights protection exists in this report and it may not be reproduced, distributed or published by any person for any purpose without the prior express consent of ING. All rights are reserved. ING Bank N.V. is authorised by the Dutch Central Bank and supervised by the European Central Bank (ECB), the Dutch Central Bank (DNB) and the Dutch Authority for the Financial Markets (AFM). ING Bank N.V. is incorporated in the Netherlands (Trade Register no. 33031431 Amsterdam). In the United Kingdom this information is approved and/or communicated by ING Bank N.V., London Branch. ING Bank N.V., London Branch is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and is subject to regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority and limited regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority. ING Bank N.V., London branch is registered in England (Registration number BR000341) at 8-10 Moorgate, London EC2 6DA. For US Investors: Any person wishing to discuss this report or effect transactions in any security discussed herein should contact ING Financial Markets LLC, which is a member of the NYSE, FINRA and SIPC and part of ING, and which has accepted responsibility for the distribution of this report in the United States under applicable requirements.

Additional information is available on request. For more information about ING Group, please visit <http://www.ing.com>.