**EQUITIES RESEARCH** 



# Thailand Market Strategy

# Poor 4Q22 GDP but key engines remain strong

- NESDC reported 4Q22 GDP at -1.5% q-q, +1.4% y-y. For 2022, GDP rose 2.6% y-y.
- Government spending and exports dragged, private sector and tourism drove.
- We expect 2023 GDP to accelerate. Our strategy continues to focus on domestic and reopening plays.

### Thailand's 4Q22 GDP was below expectations

The Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) reported that Thai GDP dropped by 1.5% q-q and expanded by only 1.4% y-y in 4Q22, missing the market's expectation of +0.6% q-q, +3.6% y-y. In 2022, the Thai economy grew by 2.6% y-y, below the street's forecast of +3.2% y-y. However, the growth rate accelerated from +1.5% y-y in 2021 as the country started to fully reopen in 2H22.

## Government spending and exports dragged

Key pressures in 4Q22 were a sharp drop in government consumption of 8% y-y from the high base of +10% y-y in 4Q21. This was due to the easing Covid-19 situation, leading to lower Covid-19 treatment expenditures. The government gradually reduced and ended its stimulus programs targeting low-income earners; those most impacted by the pandemic. In addition, exports of goods posted a sharp drop of 10.5% y-y across every region on the global economic slowdown from very high inflation and China's lockdowns from its zero-Covid policy. The sharp THB appreciation in 4Q22 was another key pressure on exports.

### Private consumption and tourism remained strong

However, there were still positive numbers for the main engines. In 4Q22, private consumption and investment continued to rise by 5.7% y-y and 4.5% y-y, respectively. Spending mainly increased in non-durable items, especially foods, transportation, restaurants and hotels. All of which were in-line with the country's full reopening. Moreover, service exports drastically increased by 94.6% y-y as international tourists were allowed to fly in without quarantine since July 2022 after the Thailand Pass registration was lifted. In 4Q22, 5.5 million international tourists visited Thailand, equal to 56% of the pre-Covid level.

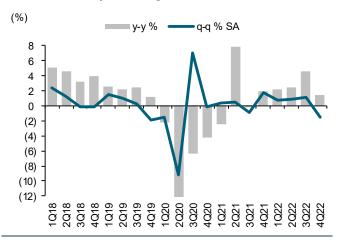
#### Expect this trend to continue in 2023

We expect this economic trend to continue in 2023 as higher inflation in the US and EU should pull the economy down in coming quarters, which would impact Thai export demand in 2023 and impact THB appreciation comparably to last year. We anticipate government spending to post negative growth for two consecutive years as higher public debt from borrowing during the pandemic should limit spending capabilities. The private sector should be the key economic driver in 2023, as well as a tourism recovery which would significantly benefit from China's reopening, especially in 2Q23 onward. The NESDC has lowered its 2023 GDP forecast to the range of 2.7-3.7%, while the Bank of Thailand currently expects 3.7%. Our strategy recommends accumulating on dips and maintaining focus on domestic and reopening sectors. We like ADVANC, BA, BDMS, BEM, CPN, M, NOBLE and SHR.



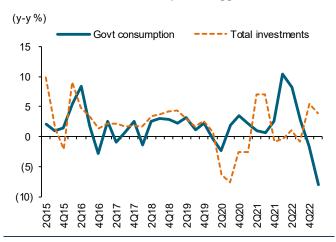
Veeravat Virochpoka veeravat.vir@fssia.com +66 2646 9821

**Exhibit 1: Quarterly TH GDP growth** 



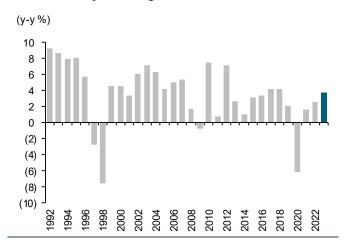
Source: NESDC

Exhibit 3: Government consumption dragged 4Q22



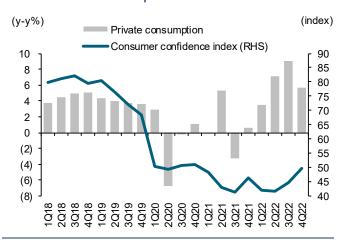
Source: NESDC

Exhibit 5: Yearly TH GDP growth



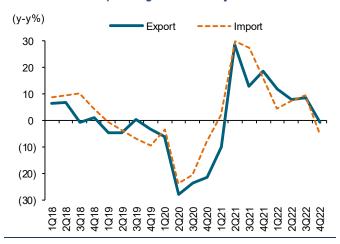
Sources: NESDC and Bank of Thailand (BoT)

**Exhibit 2: Private consumption continues to rise** 



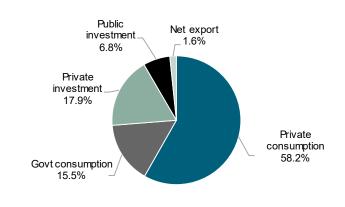
Source: NESDC

Exhibit 4: Weak export of goods offset by services



Source: NESDC

Exhibit 6: 2023E TH GDP contribution



Sources: BoT and FSSIA estimates

Exhibit 7: NESDC and BoT economic projections

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	NESDC	Bank of Thailand
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2023E
	(y-y%)	(y-y%)	(y-y%)	(y-y%)	(y-y%)	(y-y%)	(y-y%)
Real GDP growth	4.2	2.3	(6.4)	1.5	2.6	2.7-3.7	3.7
Private consumption	4.6	4.0	(8.0)	0.6	6.3	3.2	2.4
Private investment	4.1	2.7	(8.1)	3.0	5.1	2.1	3.4
Public consumption	2.6	1.7	1.4	3.7	(0.0)	(1.5)	(1.4)
Public investment	2.8	0.1	5.1	3.4	(4.9)	2.7	1.8
Export value growth (USD b)	7.5	(3.3)	(6.5)	19.2	5.5	(1.6)	2.1
Headline inflation	1.1	0.7	(8.0)	1.2	6.1	2.5-3.5	3.0
Current account to GDP (%)	5.6	7.0	4.2	(2.1)	(3.4)	1.5	-
Number of tourist arrivals (m)	38.2	39.9	0.0	0.4	11.1	28	25.5

Sources: NESDC and BoT

Exhibit 8: Summary of key valuations

Company	BBG	Share	price	Up	Re	curring pr	ofit	- EPS (	growth -		P/E		DivYld	ROE	PBV
	code	Current	Target	side	21A	22E	23E	22E	23E	22E	23E	24E	22E	22E	22E
		(THB)	(THB)	(%)	(THB m)	(THB m)	(THB m)	(y-y%)	(y-y%)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)	(x)
Advanced Info Service	ADVANC TB	211.00	240.00	14	27,068	25,550	26,651	(5.6)	4.3	24.6	23.5	22.2	3.8	31.2	7.2
Bangkok Airways	BA TB	14.10	18.00	28	(3,899)	(1,813)	918	(53.5)	(150.6)	(16.3)	32.3	18.8	1.9	7.8	2.4
Bangkok Dusit Medical Servs.	BDMS TB	29.75	34.50	16	7,736	12,471	13,462	61.2	8.0	37.9	35.1	30.9	1.6	14.6	5.0
Bangkok Expressway & Metro	BEM TB	9.45	11.50	22	1,010	2,546	4,172	152.1	63.9	56.7	34.6	27.8	1.4	10.4	3.5
Central Pattana	CPN TB	73.00	82.00	12	3,380	10,800	12,904	219.5	19.5	30.3	25.4	23.6	1.5	15.4	3.7
MK Restaurant Group	м тв	54.00	66.00	22	131	1,528	2,430	1,066.5	59.1	32.5	20.5	18.6	4.2	18.9	3.8
Noble Development	NOBLE TB	5.45	6.40	17	672	446	1,080	(33.5)	142.0	16.7	6.9	6.5	8.7	17.8	1.2
S Hotels and Resorts	SHR TB	4.42	5.30	20	(1,229)	(15)	458	(98.8)	(3,116.4)	(1,044.7)	34.6	23.5	1.2	2.8	1.0

Share prices as of 16 Feb 2023 Source: FSSIA estimates

# Corporate Governance report of Thai listed companies 2022

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AAV	BAM	CIMBT	ECL	HENG	LALIN	NEP	PRG	SCC	SPRC	THRE	TTW
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٩F	BAY	CKP	EGCO	ICC	LHFG	NKI	PSH	SCG	SSC	TIPCO	TVDH
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AIRA	BBL	CNT	ETC	Ш	LOXLEY	NSI	PTG	SCM	SST	TK	TVO
۸J	BCP	COLOR	ETE	ILINK	LPN	NVD	PTT	SCN	STA	TKN	TWPC
AKP	BCPG	COM7	FN	ILM	LRH	NYT	PTTEP	SDC	STEC	TKS	UAC
AKR	BDMS	COMAN	FNS	IND	LST	OISHI	PTTGC	SEAFCO	STGT	TKT	UBIS
ALLA	BEM	COTTO	FPI	INTUCH	MACO	OR	PYLON	SEAOIL	STI	TMILL	UPOIC
ALT	BEYOND	CPALL	FPT	IP	MAJOR	ORI	Q-CON	SE-ED	SUN	TMT	UV
AMA	BGC	CPF	FSMART	IRC	MAKRO	OSP	QH	SELIC	SUSCO	TNDT	VCOM
AMARIN	BGRIM	CPI	FVC	IRPC	MALEE	OTO	QTC	SENA	SUTHA	TNITY	VGI
AMATA AMATAV	BIZ	CPN CRC	GC	ITEL	MBK	PAP PCSGH	RABBIT RATCH	SENAJ SGF	SVI SYMC	TOA TOP	VIH WACOAL
ANAN	BKI BOL	CSS	GEL GFPT	IVL JTS	MC MCOT	PDG	RBF	SHR	SYNTEC	TPBI	WACOAL
AOT	BPP	DDD	GGC	JWD	METCO	PDJ	RS	SICT	TACC	TQM	WHA
AP	BRR	DELTA	GLAND	K	MFEC	PG	S	SIRI	TASCO	TRC	WHAUP
 APURE	BTS	DEMCO	GLOBAL	KBANK	MINT	PHOL	S&J	SIS	TCAP	TRUE	WICE
ARIP	BTW	DOHOME	GPI	KCE	MONO	PLANB	SAAM	SITHAI	TEAMG	TSC	WINNER
ASP	BWG	DRT	GPSC	KEX	MOONG	PLANET	SABINA	SMPC	TFMAMA	TSR	XPG
ASW	CENTEL	DTAC	GRAMMY	KGI	MSC	PLAT	SAMART	SNC	THANA	TSTE	ZEN
AUCT	CFRESH	DUSIT	GULF	KKP	MST	PORT	SAMTEL	SONIC	THANI	TSTH	
AWC	CGH	EA	GUNKUL	KSL	MTC	PPS	SAT	SORKON	THCOM	TTA	
AYUD	CHEWA	EASTW	HANA	KTB	MVP	PR9	SC	SPALI	THG	TTB	
BAFS	CHO	ECF	HARN	KTC	NCL	PREB	SCB	SPI	THIP	TTCL	
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ACE	ATP30	CIG	FLOYD	ITD	MATCH	NWR	PSG	SECURE	SSP	TNL	UPF
ACG	В	CITY	FORTH	J	MBAX	OCC	PSTC	SFLEX	STANLY	TNP	UTP
ADB	BA	CIVIL	FSS	JAS	MEGA	OGC	PT	SFP	STC	TNR	VIBHA
ADD	BC	CMC	FTE	JCK	META	ONEE	PTC	SFT	STPI	TOG	VL
AEONTS	BCH	CPL	GBX	JCKH	MFC	PACO	QLT	SGP	SUC	TPA	VPO
AGE	BE8	CPW	GCAP	JMT	MGT	PATO	RCL	SIAM	SVOA	TPAC	VRANDA
AHC	BEC	CRANE	GENCO	JR	MICRO	PB	RICHY	SINGER	SVT	TPCS	WGE
AIE	BH	CRD	GJS	KBS	MILL	PICO	RJH	SKE	SWC	TPIPL	WIIK
AIT	BIG	CSC	GTB	KCAR	MITSIB	PIMO	ROJNA	SKN	SYNEX	TPIPP	WIN
ALUCON	BJC	CSP	GYT	KGEN	MK	PIN	RPC	SKR	TAE	TPLAS	WINMED
AMANAH	BJCHI	CV	HEMP	KIAT	MODERN	PJW	RT	SKY	TAKUNI	TPS	WORK
AMR APCO	BLA BR	CWT DCC	HPT HTC	KISS KK	MTI NATION	PL PLE	RWI S11	SLP SMART	TCC TCMC	TQR TRITN	WP XO
APCO APCS	BRI	DHOUSE	HUMAN	KOOL	NCAP	PLE PM	SA	SMART	TFG	TRT	YUASA
AQUA	BROOK	DITTO	HYDRO	KTIS	NCH	PMTA	SABUY	SMIT	TFI	TRU	ZIGA
ARIN	BSM	DMT	ICN	KUMWEL	NDR	PPP	SAK	SMT	TFM	TRV	LIOA
ARROW	BYD	DOD	IFS	KUN	NETBAY	PPPM	SALEE	SNNP	TGH	TSE	
AS	CBG	DPAINT	IIG	KWC	NEX	PRAPAT	SAMCO	SNP	TIDLOR	TVT	
SAP	CEN	DV8	IMH	KWM	NINE	PRECHA	SANKO	so	TIGER	TWP	
ASEFA	CHARAN	EASON	INET	L&E	NNCL	PRIME	SAPPE	SPA	TIPH	UBE	
ASIA	CHAYO	EFORL	INGRS	LDC	NOVA	PRIN	SAWAD	SPC	TITLE	UEC	
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ALL	BM	CPANEL	F&D	INOX	LPH	NC	PRAKIT	SK	TCJ	TRUBB	WPH
ALPHAX	BROCK	CPT	FMT	JAK	MATI	NEWS	PTECH	SOLAR	TEAM	TTI	YGG
MC	BSBM	CSR	GIFT	JMART	M-CHAI	NFC	PTL	SPACK	THE	TYCN	
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AQ AU	CAZ CCP	D DCON	GLORY GREEN	JUBILE KASET	MDX MENA	NV PAF	ROCK RP	SQ STARK	TKC TNH	UNIQ UPA	

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\* CGR scoring should be considered with news regarding wrong doing of the company or director or executive of the company such unfair practice on securities trading, fraud, and corruption SEC imposed a civil sanction against insider trading of director and executive

Sources: Thai Institute of Directors Association (IOD); FSSIA's compilation; data as of 26 October 2021

# **Anti-corruption Progress Indicator**

CERTIFIED										
2S	BCPG	CPI	GCAP	JR	MCOT	PHOL	RABBIT	SNC	THANI	TTCL
7UP	BE8	CPL	GEL	K	META	PK	RATCH	SNP	THCOM	TU
ADVANC	BEC	CPN	GFPT	KASET	MFC	PL	RML	SORKON	THIP	TVDH
AF	BEYOND	CRC	GGC	KBANK	MFEC	PLANB	RWI	SPACK	THRE	TVI
Al	BGC	CSC	GJS	KBS	MILL	PLANET	S&J	SPALI	THREL	TVO
AIE	BGRIM	DCC	GPI	KCAR	MINT	PLAT	SAAM	SPC	TIDLOR	TWPC
AIRA	BKI	DELTA	GPSC	KCE	MONO	PM	SABINA	SPI	TIPCO	UBE
AJ	BLA	DEMCO	GSTEEL	KGEN	MOONG	PPP	SAPPE	SPRC	TISCO	UBIS
AKP	BPP	DIMET	GULF	KGI	MSC	PPPM	SAT	SRICHA	TKS	UEC
AMA	BROOK	DRT	GUNKUL	KKP	MST	PPS	SC	SSF	TKT	UKEM
AMANAH	BRR	DTAC	HANA	KSL	MTC	PR9	SCB	SSP	TMILL	UOBKH
AMATA	BSBM	DUSIT	HARN	KTB	MTI	PREB	SCC	SSSC	TMT	UPF
AMATAV	BTS	EA	HEMP	KTC	NEP	PRG	SCCC	SST	TNITY	UV
AP	BWG	EASTW	HENG	KWI	NINE	PRINC	SCG	STA	TNL	VGI
APCS	CEN	EGCO	HMPRO	L&E	NKI	PRM	SCGP	STGT	TNP	VIH
AS	CENTEL	EP	HTC	LANNA	NOBLE	PROS	SCM	STOWER	TNR	WACOAL
ASIAN	CFRESH	EPG	ICC	LH	NOK	PSH	SCN	SUSCO	TOG	WHA
ASK	CGH	ERW	ICHI	LHFG	NSI	PSL	SEAOIL	SVI	TOP	WHAUP
ASP	CHEWA	ESTAR	IFS	LHK	NWR	PSTC	SE-ED	SYMC	TOPP	WICE
AWC	CHOTI	ETE	III	LPN	OCC	PT	SELIC	SYNTEC	TPA	WIIK
AYUD	CHOW	FE	ILINK	LRH	OGC	PTG	SENA	TAE	TPCS	XO
В	CIG	FNS	INET	M	ORI	PTT	SGP	TAKUNI	TPP	YUASA
BAFS	CIMBT	FPI	INSURE	MAJOR	PAP	PTTEP	SINGER	TASCO	TRU	ZEN
BAM	CM	FPT	INTUCH	MAKRO	PATO	PTTGC	SIRI	TCAP	TRUE	ZIGA
BANPU	CMC	FSMART	IRC	MALEE	PB	PYLON	SITHAI	TCMC	TSC	
BAY	COM7	FSS	IRPC	MATCH	PCSGH	Q-CON	SKR	TFG	TSTE	
BBL	COTTO	FTE	ITEL	MBAX	PDG	QH	SMIT	TFI	TSTH	
BCH	CPALL	GBX	IVL	MBK	PDJ	QLT	SMK	TFMAMA	TTA	
BCP	CPF	GC	JKN	MC	PG	QTC	SMPC	TGH	TTB	
DECLARED										
AH	CHG	DHOUSE	EVER	J	KUMWEL	NRF	RS	SUPER	TQM	VIBHA
ALT	CI	DOHOME	FLOYD	JMART	LDC	NUSA	SAK	SVT	TRT	W
APCO	CPR	ECF	GLOBAL	JMT	MEGA	OR	SIS	TKN	TSI	WIN
ASW	CPW	EKH	ILM	JTS	NCAP	PIMO	SSS	TMD	VARO	
B52	DDD	ETC	INOX	KEX	NOVA	PLE	STECH	TMI	VCOM	

#### Level

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This level indicates practical participation with thoroughly examination in relation to the recommended procedures from the audit committee or the SEC's certified auditor, being a certified member of Thailand's Private Sector Collective Action Coalition Against Corruption programme (Thai CAC) or already passed examination to ensure independence from external parties.

Declared

This level indicates determination to participate in the Thailand's Private Sector Collective Action Coalition Against Corruption programme (Thai CAC)

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Sources: The Securities and Exchange Commission, Thailand; \* FSSIA's compilation

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#### Veeravat Virochpoka FSS International Investment Advisory Securities Co., Ltd

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Company	Ticker	Price	Rating	Valuation & Risks
Advanced Info Service	ADVANC TB	THB 211.00	BUY	The key downside risks to our DCF-based TP are stronger-than-expected competition in the mobile market and the slower-than-expected adoption of 5G use cases.
Bangkok Airways	ВА ТВ	THB 14.10	BUY	Downside risks to our SoTP-based TP include 1) extraordinary events such as political turmoil and natural disasters; 2) higher-than-expected fuel expenses following an increase in oil prices; and 3) the slower-than-expected recovery of international tourist numbers.
Bangkok Dusit Medical Services	BDMS TB	THB 29.75	BUY	Downside risks to our DCF-based target price include 1) a slowdown in international patients due to economic concerns, political protests or floods; 2) regulatory risks from drug prices and medical bill controls; and 3) higher-than-expected capex and opex for CoE projects.
Bangkok Expressway and Metro	ВЕМ ТВ	THB 9.45	BUY	The key downside risks to our SoTP-based TP are 1) traffic and ridership recovering more slowly than our expectations; and 2) the company not winning the new mass transit project bids.
Central Pattana	CPN TB	THB 73.00	BUY	Key downside risks to our DCF-derived TP are deviations to our estimates on rental rate, occupancy rate, returns on its new investments, capex and interest rate.
MK Restaurant Group	МТВ	THB 54.00	BUY	Downside risks to our P/E-based TP include potential rise of raw material cost (~32% of total revenues), labour cost given its labour intensive nature, renewal of 3-year Yayoi franchise, and risk from animal diseases.
Noble Development	NOBLE TB	THB 5.45	BUY	Downside risks to our P/E-based TP include 1) weaker-than-expected purchasing power; 2) cancellation of presales; 3) bank loan rejections; 4) delays in construction work and transfers; and 5) fierce competition.
S Hotels and Resorts	SHR TB	THB 4.42	BUY	Downside risks to our DCF-based target price include 1) extraordinary events such as political turmoil and natural disasters; 2) a higher hotel room supply, which may result in price competition; and 3) the slower-than-expected recovery of international tourist numbers.

Source: FSSIA estimates

#### **Additional Disclosures**

Target price history, stock price charts, valuation and risk details, and equity rating histories applicable to each company rated in this report is available in our most recently published reports. You can contact the analyst named on the front of this note or your representative at Finansia Syrus Securities Public Company Limited

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All share prices are as at market close on 16-Feb-2023 unless otherwise stated.

### RECOMMENDATION STRUCTURE

#### Stock ratings

Stock ratings are based on absolute upside or downside, which we define as (target price\* - current price) / current price.

BUY (B). The upside is 10% or more.

HOLD (H). The upside or downside is less than 10%.

REDUCE (R). The downside is 10% or more.

Unless otherwise specified, these recommendations are set with a 12-month horizon. Thus, it is possible that future price volatility may cause a temporary mismatch between upside/downside for a stock based on market price and the formal recommendation.

\* In most cases, the target price will equal the analyst's assessment of the current fair value of the stock. However, if the analyst doesn't think the market will reassess the stock over the specified time horizon due to a lack of events or catalysts, then the target price may differ from fair value. In most cases, therefore, our recommendation is an assessment of the mismatch between current market price and our assessment of current fair value.

#### **Industry Recommendations**

Overweight. The analyst expects the fundamental conditions of the sector to be positive over the next 12 months.

Neutral. The analyst expects the fundamental conditions of the sector to be maintained over the next 12 months.

Underweight. The analyst expects the fundamental conditions of the sector to be negative over the next 12 months.

#### Country (Strategy) Recommendations

**Overweight (O).** Over the next 12 months, the analyst expects the market to score positively on two or more of the criteria used to determine market recommendations: index returns relative to the regional benchmark, index sharpe ratio relative to the regional benchmark and index returns relative to the market cost of equity.

**Neutral (N).** Over the next 12 months, the analyst expects the market to score positively on one of the criteria used to determine market recommendations: index returns relative to the regional benchmark, index sharpe ratio relative to the regional benchmark and index returns relative to the market cost of equity.

**Underweight (U).** Over the next 12 months, the analyst does not expect the market to score positively on any of the criteria used to determine market recommendations: index returns relative to the regional benchmark, index sharpe ratio relative to the regional benchmark and index returns relative to the market cost of equity.