

Economic Flash

Steady expansion amid external headwinds

Trade deficit narrows sharply

In August, the trade deficit narrowed significantly to USD0.11bn as exports rose to USD54.79bn (+26.01% YoY) while imports moderated to USD54.91bn (+37.90% YoY), bringing the 8M26 cumulative deficit to USD20.46bn. Despite shipments nearing balance, softer PMI export orders point to emerging headwinds from ongoing geopolitical tensions. Looking ahead, export resilience under Section 301 tariffs faces lingering downside risks from pending US investigations, while CIF import costs remain exposed to Middle East logistics volatility.

Industrial production grows faster

In August, Vietnam's industrial production continued to grow strongly, with the IIP rising 14.4% YoY, maintaining the same pace to July. Among constituents, mining and quarrying accelerated impressively as growing 18.5% YoY, nearly 8ppts faster than July, while other sectors experienced a slight deceleration. The output of manufacturing, water supply, waste management, and remediation activities, and electricity, gas, steam, and air-conditioning supply rose by 14.6% YoY, 9.5% YoY, and 11.8% YoY, which are 0.4ppts, 5.4ppts, and 0.7ppts lower than July.

CPI rebounds on higher fuel prices

According to the NSO, CPI rebounded strongly in August after declining for two consecutive months, mainly due to a resurgence in fuel prices. CPI rose by 0.47% MoM and 4.89% YoY. Transportation was the key driver, rising 4.09% MoM as gasoline and diesel prices jumped by 9.53% and 22.15%, respectively. Education also added some upward pressure, increasing 0.47% MoM as tuition fees and prices of school-related products picked up ahead of the new school year.

Vietnam economic indicators

	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	Corr.
Disbursed FDI %YoY	9.3	11.9	8.8	16.3	15.4	13.9	-0.16
Retail sales %YoY	11.5	11.6	13.8	14.3	14.5	14.9	-0.16
Export %YoY	20.6	22.8	18.5	28.1	25.0	26.0	-0.05
Import %YoY	27.8	35.6	33.5	45.2	41.4	37.9	0.04
Trade balance (USD bn)	-0.7	-4.0	-5.2	-2.6	-3.6	-0.1	-0.03
CPI %YoY	4.7	5.5	5.6	4.7	4.4	4.9	-0.03
Credit %YTD	3.2	4.6	6.0	7.7	8.4	9.4	-0.23
USDVND %MoM	1.2	0.0	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	-0.8	-0.3
PMI (pts)	51.2	50.5	52.8	51.8	52.9	53.3	-0.09
VNINDEX return (%)	-10.9	10.7	0.5	-0.2	-6.7	5.6	1.00

Source: SBV, NSO, Bloomberg, KIS

¹ Correlation to VNINDEX's monthly return;

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

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I. Trade deficit narrows sharply

Trade balance nears equilibrium, yet softer PMI export orders highlight ongoing geopolitical risks

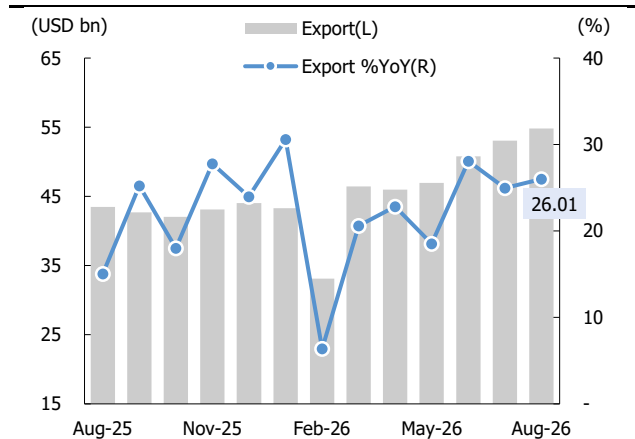
According to the NSO's August report, export value reached USD54.79bn (+26.01% YoY, +3.23% MoM), while imports recorded USD54.91bn (+37.90% YoY, -3.11% MoM), resulting in a significantly reduced trade deficit of USD0.11bn. On a cumulative basis, Vietnam recorded a substantial trade deficit of USD20.46bn in 8M26. The monthly trade deficit narrowed substantially toward near-balance, primarily propelled by sustained outbound shipment growth alongside a sequential contraction in import values. However, underlying export momentum showed emerging headwinds; according to the latest PMI report, new export orders declined slightly as ongoing geopolitical uncertainties continued to weigh on global client demand.

Looking ahead, Vietnam's trade outlook will remain closely tied to global trade policy shifts and geopolitical developments.

On the export side, while shipments have demonstrated resilience following the implementation of the 12.5% Section 301 labor tariff, supported by exemptions on key electronics, prospects from the remaining Section 301 investigations continue to present downside risks.

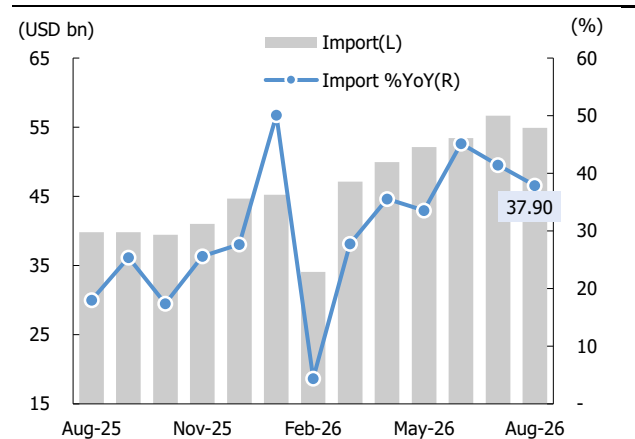
Meanwhile, CIF import values remain vulnerable to logistics cost volatility amid protracted Middle East tensions. Consequently, navigating these external uncertainties will be crucial for exporters to sustain momentum in the remaining months of the year.

Figure 1. Vietnam monthly exports



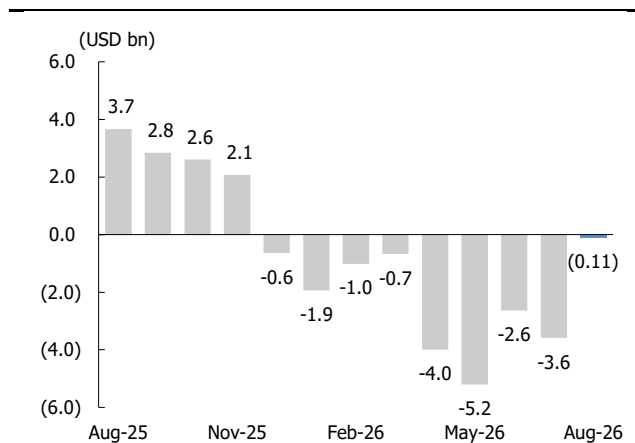
Source: NSO, Vietnam Custom, KIS

Figure 2. Vietnam monthly imports



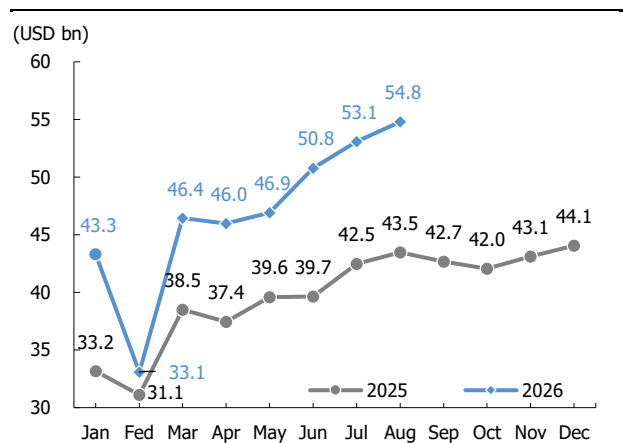
Source: NSO, Vietnam Custom, KIS

Figure 3. Vietnam's trade balance



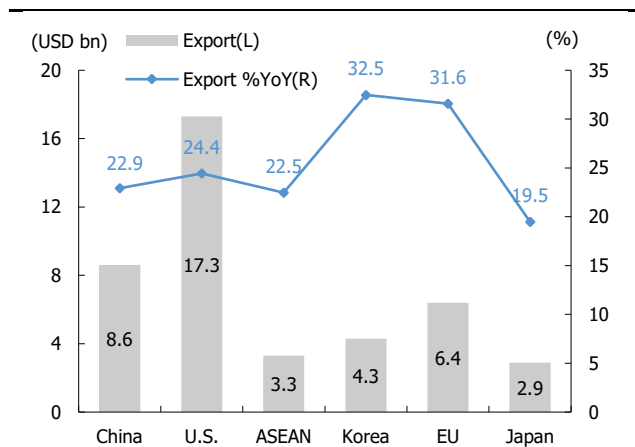
Source: NSO, Vietnam Custom, KIS

Figure 4. Monthly export value



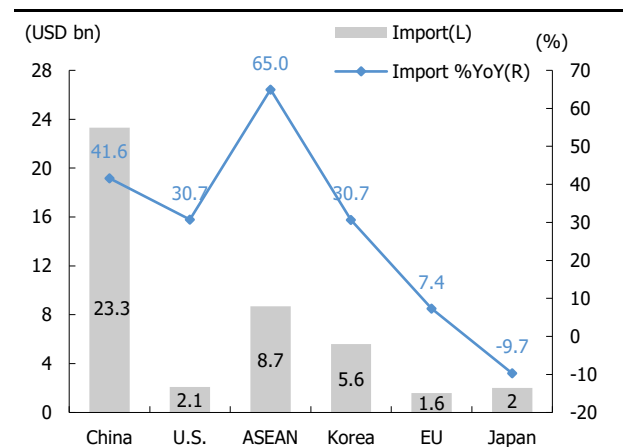
Source: NSO, Vietnam Custom, KIS

Figure 5. August's export breakdown by market



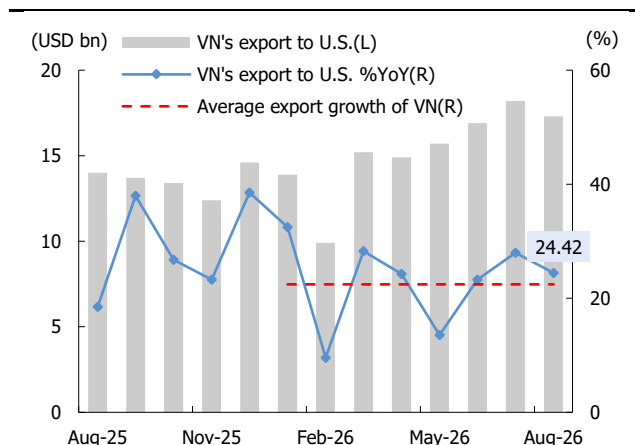
Source: NSO, Vietnam Custom, KIS

Figure 6. August's import breakdown by market



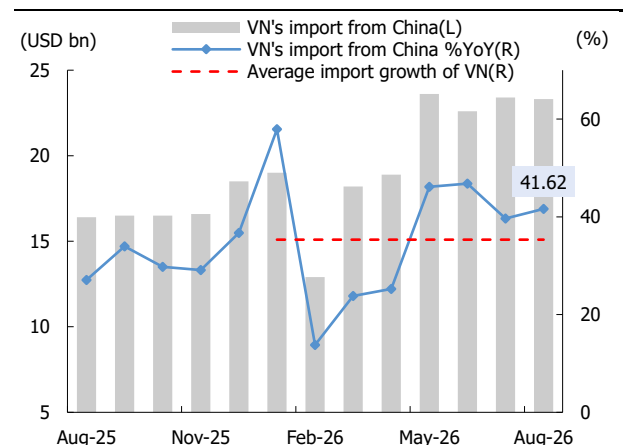
Source: NSO, Vietnam Custom, KIS

Figure 7. Vietnam's export value to U.S.



Source: NSO, Vietnam Custom, KIS

Figure 8. Vietnam's import value from China



Source: NSO, Vietnam Custom, KIS

Table 1. Movements of notable export products

Product	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26
Computers, electric products & parts	51.9	47.7	46.3	60.8	55.1	55.9
Machines, equipments, tools, instruments	16.1	21.0	10.4	18.6	22.2	23.8
Telephones, mobile phones & spare parts	22.1	26.0	20.8	30.5	29.6	34.3
Textiles and garments	3.1	0.5	-3.0	2.6	1.3	3.2
Footwear	2.5	-0.5	-0.3	1.6	1.6	0.8
Other means of transportation & spare parts	13.3	30.0	22.3	23.2	7.3	15.2
Wood & wooden products	-5.4	9.0	1.9	13.9	8.6	7.3
Toys, sports req part, access	11.5	2.0	15.6	16.6	40.8	44.5
Fishery products	5.0	12.3	2.1	20.8	13.5	6.4
Vegetables and fruits	58.6	19.6	15.2	17.6	14.3	2.0
Iron & steel	8.5	-4.2	2.0	1.2	57.4	98.0
Plastic products	9.3	16.9	4.6	16.4	24.2	14.4

Source: NSO, KIS

Green = acceleration; yellow = deceleration; red = contraction

A deeper dive into the trade basket highlights contrasting trends between outbound and inbound shipments. On the export side, momentum moved largely sideways, as NSO figures indicate a balanced split with 19 out of 37 primary export categories recording higher growth compared to the previous month. Conversely, deceleration was broad-based on the import side, with 35 out of 46 major items experiencing slower growth or contraction, which served as the primary driver behind the sharp compression in the monthly trade deficit.

Table 2. Top Vietnam's export and import items by contributors

	EXPORT	Value (USDmn)	Growth YoY (%)	Share in total export	*** (%)	IMPORT	Value (USDmn)	YoY (%)	Share in total import	*** (%)
Best	Computers, electric products & parts	15,854	55.94	28.93	13.08	Electronic, computer and spare parts	25,616	80.40	46.65	28.67
	Machines, equipments, tools, instruments	6,970	34.34	12.72	4.10	Machines, equipments, tools, instruments	6,331	18.29	11.53	2.46
	Telephones, mobile phones & spare parts	7,085	23.77	12.93	3.13	Petroleum products	1,376	149.60	2.51	2.07
	Iron & steel	880	97.98	1.61	1.00	Coal	720	90.91	1.31	0.86
	Vegetables and fruits	1,373	44.51	2.50	0.97	Other base metals	1,194	31.04	2.17	0.71
	Other means of transportation & spare parts	1,714	15.17	3.13	0.52	Ores & other mineral products	446	109.32	0.81	0.58
	Chemicals	467	88.16	0.85	0.50	Automobiles	1,025	24.85	1.87	0.51
	Insulated wires and cables	557	41.70	1.02	0.38	Crude oil	821	26.33	1.50	0.43
	Textiles and garments	3,997	3.18	7.29	0.28	Chemicals	792	24.28	1.44	0.39
	Coffee	572	24.12	1.04	0.26	Iron & steel products	862	16.40	1.57	0.31
Worst	Still image & vdo cameras	667	-20.21	1.22	-0.39	Fertilizers	76	-65.91	0.14	-0.37
	Rice	280	-34.74	0.51	-0.34	Cashew nuts	298	-24.19	0.54	-0.24
	Crude oil	37	-64.86	0.07	-0.16	Wheat	77	-48.46	0.14	-0.18
	Rubber	332	-7.55	0.61	-0.06	Telephones, mobile phones & spare parts	1,041	-6.10	1.90	-0.17
	Manioc and manioc products	84	-17.15	0.15	-0.04	Other means of transport and parts	135	-30.21	0.25	-0.15
	Glass & glassware	135	0.46	0.25	0.00	Ferrous waste & scrap	136	-18.90	0.25	-0.08
	Cashew nuts	475	0.20	0.87	0.00	Other petroleum products	203	-9.81	0.37	-0.06
	Pastrycooks, sweets, cereals	114	1.22	0.21	0.00	Maize	291	-6.79	0.53	-0.05
	Tea	27	6.83	0.05	0.00	Paper products	101	-13.62	0.18	-0.04
	Textiles, leather, footwear materials	220	1.02	0.40	0.01	Still image, video cameras	224	-4.83	0.41	-0.03

Source: NSO, KIS

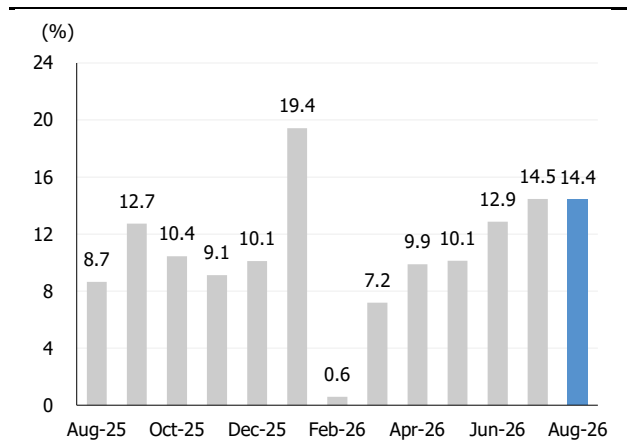
Note: *** is contribution rate

II. Industrial production grows faster

Industrial production momentum continues to improve

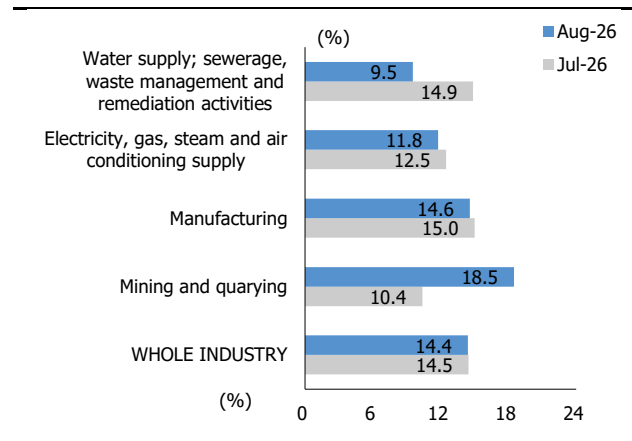
In August, Vietnam's industrial production continued to grow strongly, with the IIP rising 14.4% YoY, maintaining the same pace to July. Among constituents, mining and quarrying (MQ) accelerated impressively as growing 18.5% YoY, nearly 8ppts faster than July, while other sectors experienced a slight deceleration. The output of manufacturing, water supply, waste management, and remediation activities (WSWMR), and electricity, gas, steam, and air-conditioning supply (EGSA) rose by 14.6% YoY, 9.5% YoY, and 11.8% YoY, which are 0.4ppts, 5.4ppts, and 0.7ppts lower than July.

Figure 9. Monthly IIP %YoY



Source: NSO, KIS

Figure 10. Movements of 1st-levelled sectors



Source: NSO, KIS

At the product level, some industries accelerated while others slowed, leaving overall industrial production broadly unchanged from July. On the upside, output of beer, garments, and crude steel & iron grew by 16.4%, 7.5%, and 13.3% YoY, respectively—0.6–1.9 percentage points faster than in July. Leather footwear also returned to positive growth after contracting in the previous month. On the downside, growth moderated for mobile phones, petroleum products, steel bars and sections, steel coils, and televisions, with growth rates 1.2–9.0 percentage points lower than July.

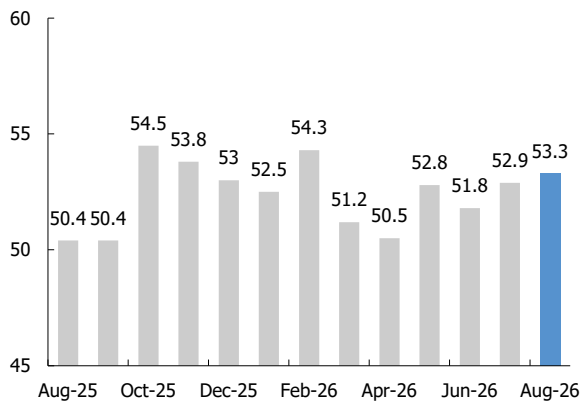
Table 3. Movements of notable products

Product	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26
Beer	8.0	16.7	12.5	11.8	15.8	16.4
Clothes	3.5	5.8	2.7	3.3	6.6	7.5
Crude steel, iron	14.1	8.2	9.1	16.1	11.4	13.3
Leather footwear	0.5	-12.8	-11.5	-5.5	-2.0	3.0
Mobile phone	-6.2	3.3	-4.2	1.6	13.4	10.8
Petroleum	7.0	8.8	-2.5	10.1	20.5	19.3
Phone accessories	-5.6	-3.1	-6.8	-14.5	#NA	#NA
Steel bars and corners	20.0	2.3	1.7	12.0	25.0	20.8
Steel coil	10.5	13.0	32.6	31.5	29.6	20.6
Television	0.7	-3.3	9.2	-3.4	10.3	4.8
Whole industry	-6.3	15.7	10.6	11.4	9.8	4.6

Source: NSO, KIS

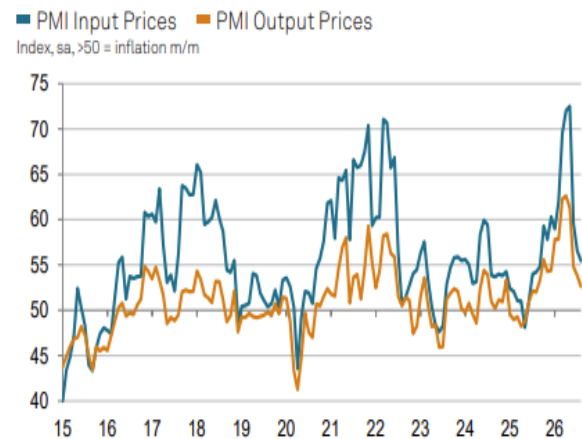
The strong performance in industrial production was consistent with the continued improvement in Vietnam's manufacturing PMI reported by S&P Global. Vietnam's manufacturing PMI improved further in August, rising to 53.3 from 52.9 in July. Manufacturing output expanded at the fastest pace in more than two years, while new orders recorded their strongest growth since last October, supported by improving domestic demand and new product launches. However, external demand remained weaker, with new export orders declining slightly after three months of growth. Meanwhile, inflationary pressures continued to ease, although employment fell again and business confidence softened amid geopolitical uncertainty.

Figure 11. Vietnam's monthly PMI



Source: S&P Global PMI, KIS

Figure 12. PMI Input and Output prices



Source: S&P Global PMI, KIS

III. Retail sales accelerate

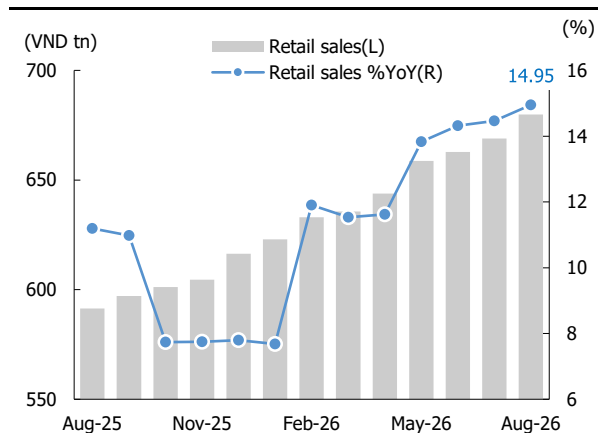
Holiday festivities and hospitality surge boost retail activity before seasonal tourism cooling

In August, total retail sales of goods and consumer services reached VND679.81tn, up 14.95% YoY and 1.62% MoM. The retail goods segment continued to expand at a faster pace of 13.81% YoY (up 0.43ppts from the previous month). This growth was partly supported by persistent high commodity prices, which lifted nominal turnover. Meanwhile, accommodation and catering services grew strongly by 21.47% YoY (up 3.54ppts from May). In contrast, travel services slowed down after the summer peak to 19.18% YoY (down 8.58ppts MoM), but still kept a high growth rate.

The broader consumption base remained anchored by a strengthening labor market, with the industrial employment index advancing 0.95% MoM and 3.83% YoY, underpinning steady household income.

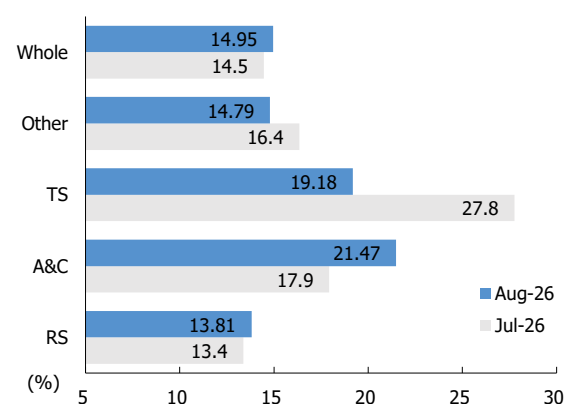
International tourism also reaccelerated sharply, recording 2.0mn arrivals (+18.37% YoY) to provide substantial tailwinds to hospitality and leisure services. Looking ahead, consumer turnover in late August and early September is poised to benefit from extended holidays and major commemorative events for Vietnam's 81st National Day, attracting both local and foreign tourists. However, tourism and shopping are likely to slow down after that as summer ends and the stormy season begins, which may reduce people's spending.

Figure 13. Monthly retail sales



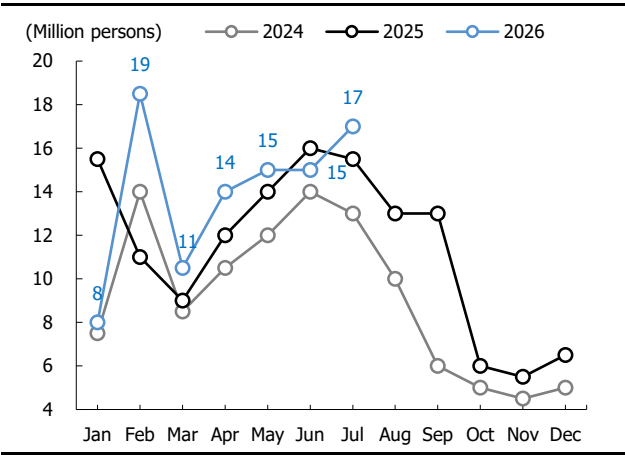
Source: NSO, KIS

Figure 14. Monthly retail sales by component



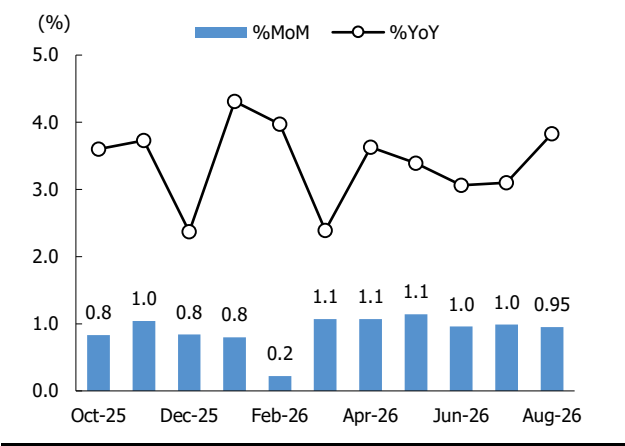
Source: NSO, KIS

Figure 15. Total domestic arrivals by month



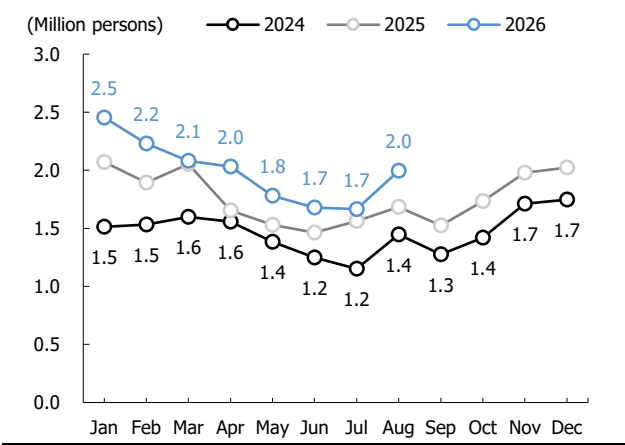
Source: Vietnamtourism, KIS

Figure 16. Industrial labor employed index (LEI)



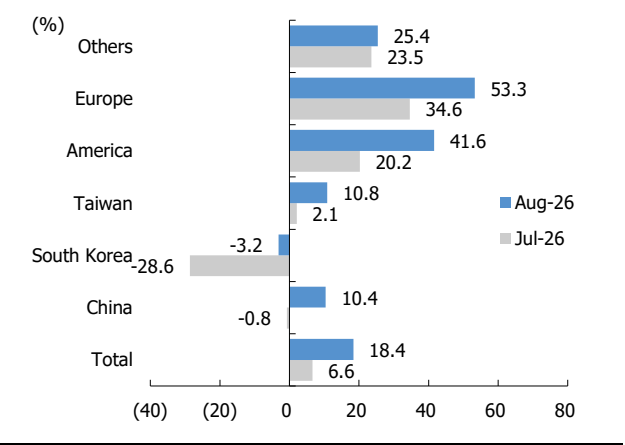
Source: NSO, KIS

Figure 17. Total international arrivals by month



Source: NSO, KIS

Figure 18. % YoY in international arrivals by country



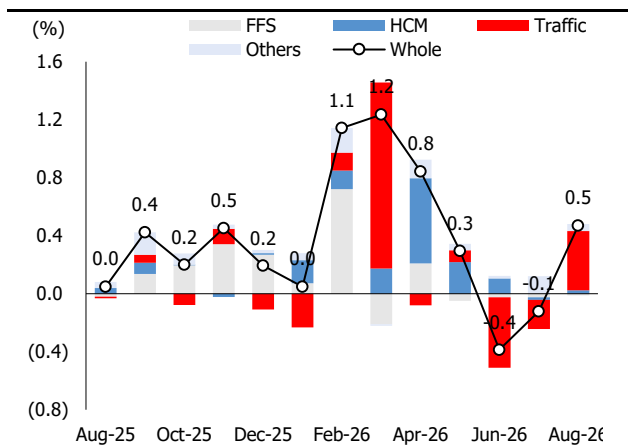
Source: NSO, KIS

IV. CPI rebounds on higher fuel prices

CPI extends the reduction on lower fuel prices

According to the NSO, CPI rebounded strongly in August after declining for two consecutive months, mainly due to a resurgence in fuel prices. CPI rose by 0.47% MoM and 4.89% YoY. Transportation was the key driver, rising 4.09% MoM as gasoline and diesel prices jumped by 9.53% and 22.15%, respectively. Education also added some upward pressure, increasing 0.47% MoM as tuition fees and prices of school-related products picked up ahead of the new school year.

Figure 19. Monthly CPI change and contributors



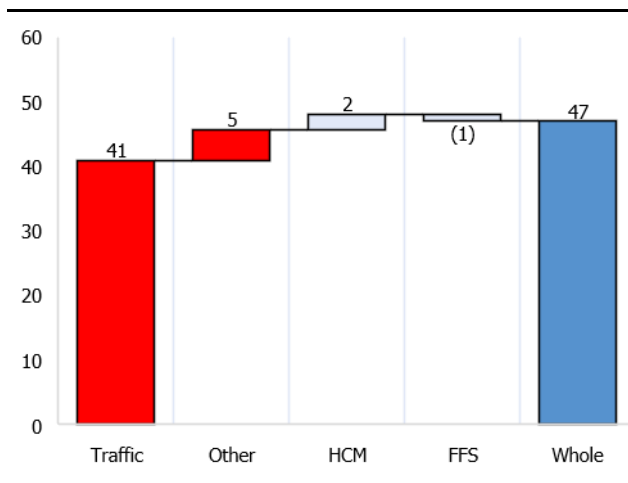
Source: NSO, KIS

Table 4. Monthly CPI change by item

Item	Weight (%)	% MoM	% YoY
Food and Foodstuffs	35.82	-0.03	4.67
Beverages and Cigarettes	1.75	0.12	4.09
Garments, Footwear and Hats	3.52	0.11	2.23
Housing and Material Construction	22.70	0.10	6.60
Household Equipment and Goods	5.14	0.19	3.29
Medication and Health	4.66	0.05	1.25
Transport	9.98	4.09	8.02
Postal Services & Telecommunication	3.74	0.08	0.50
Education	5.96	0.47	3.90
Culture, Entertainment and Tourism	3.14	0.03	3.59
Other Consumer Goods and Services	3.58	0.15	5.95
Whole	100.00	0.47	4.89

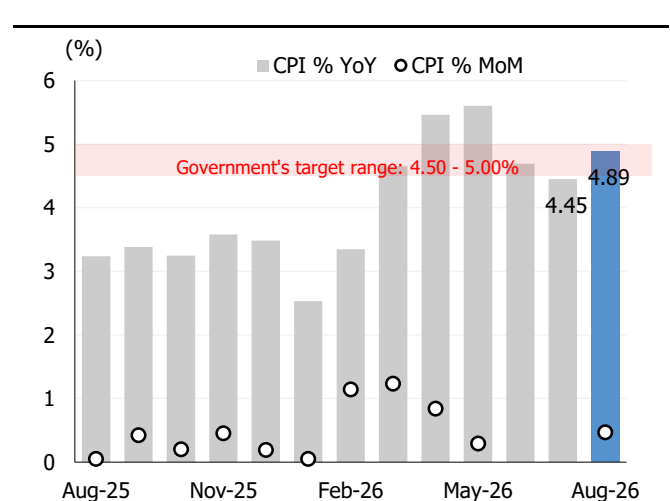
Source: NSO, KIS

Figure 20. Monthly CPI change and its contributor (bps)



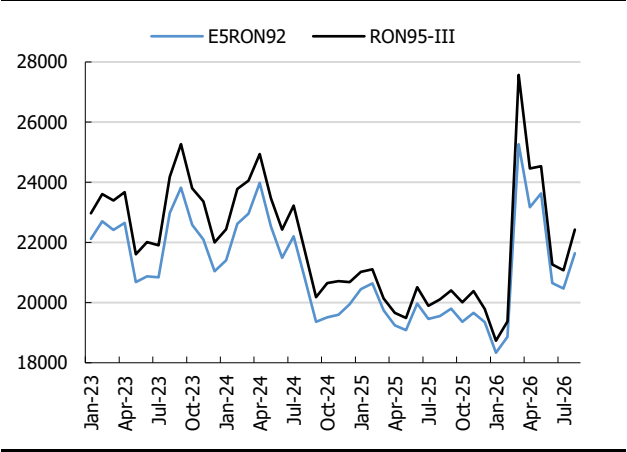
Source: NSO, KIS

Figure 21. CPI and government's target



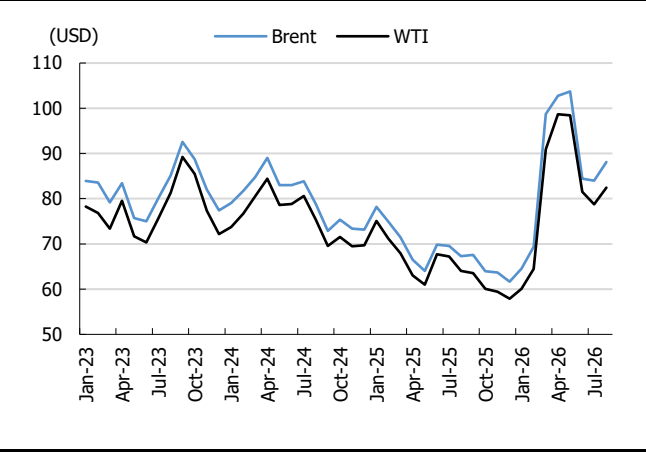
Source: NSO, KIS

Figure 22. Vietnam domestic gasoline price



Source: KIS

Figure 23. Global oil price performance



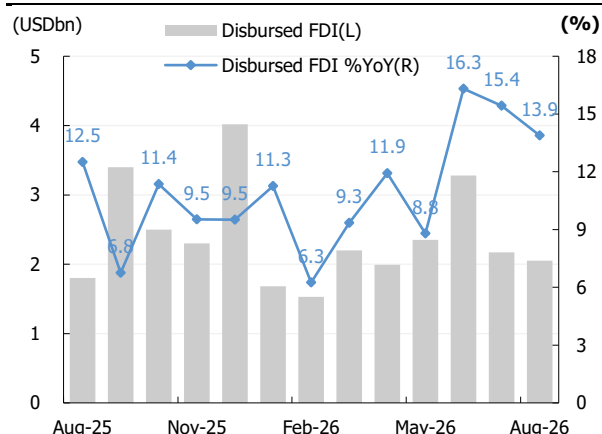
Source: Bloomberg, KIS

V. FDI decelerates in both registered and disbursed capital

FDI inflows moderated

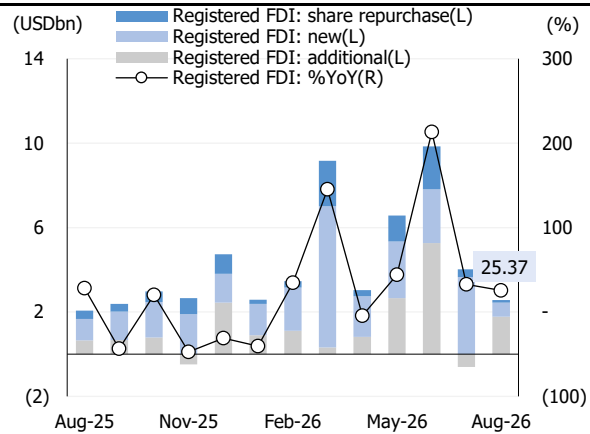
In August, disbursed FDI reached around USD2.05bn, up 13.9% YoY, bringing the cumulative total for 8M26 to around USD17.0bn. Despite remaining at a double-digit level, growth moderated from 15.4% YoY in July. Registered FDI also lost momentum, with monthly registered capital increasing by only 25.4% YoY, significantly slower than the previous months.

Figure 24. Monthly disbursed FDI



Source: NSO, KIS

Figure 25. Monthly registered FDI



Source: NSO, KIS

By investment type, the composition shifted significantly. Newly registered capital plunged 81.7% MoM and 33.4% YoY to USD0.67bn, following the exceptionally strong level in July. In contrast, additional investment rebounded to USD1.78bn, up 169.7% YoY, becoming the main driver of registered FDI in August. Share purchases remained subdued at USD0.12bn, down 69.5% YoY.

Table 5. Notable projects in 2026

Project	Sector	Origin country	Registration value (USDbn)	Location	Month
LNG Quynh Lap	E&G	Vietnam and Korea	2.15	Nghe An	Apr
LG Innotek Semiconductor Chip	Manufacturing	Korea	1.00	Hai Phong	Jul
Evolution DC	Manufacturing	Singapore	0.51	Ho Chi Minh	Apr
STARMASON	Manufacturing	Vietnam and Singapore	0.48	Ho Chi Minh	Apr
HAOHUA Vietnam	Manufacturing	China	0.40	Dong Nai	Feb
EV Foxconn	Manufacturing	Taiwan	0.37	Quang Ninh	Jun
VSIP Quang Ninh Industrial	Manufacturing	Singapore / Vietnam	0.23	Quang Ninh	Aug
PCB - Meiko Electronics	Manufacturing	Japan	0.15	Phu Tho	Jan
BHFLEX Vina	Manufacturing	South Korea	0.14	Phu Tho	Jan
Be Milk Dairy Factory	Manufacturing	Switzerland	0.10	Tay Ninh	Jun

Source: KIS

Note: E&G – Electricity and Gas

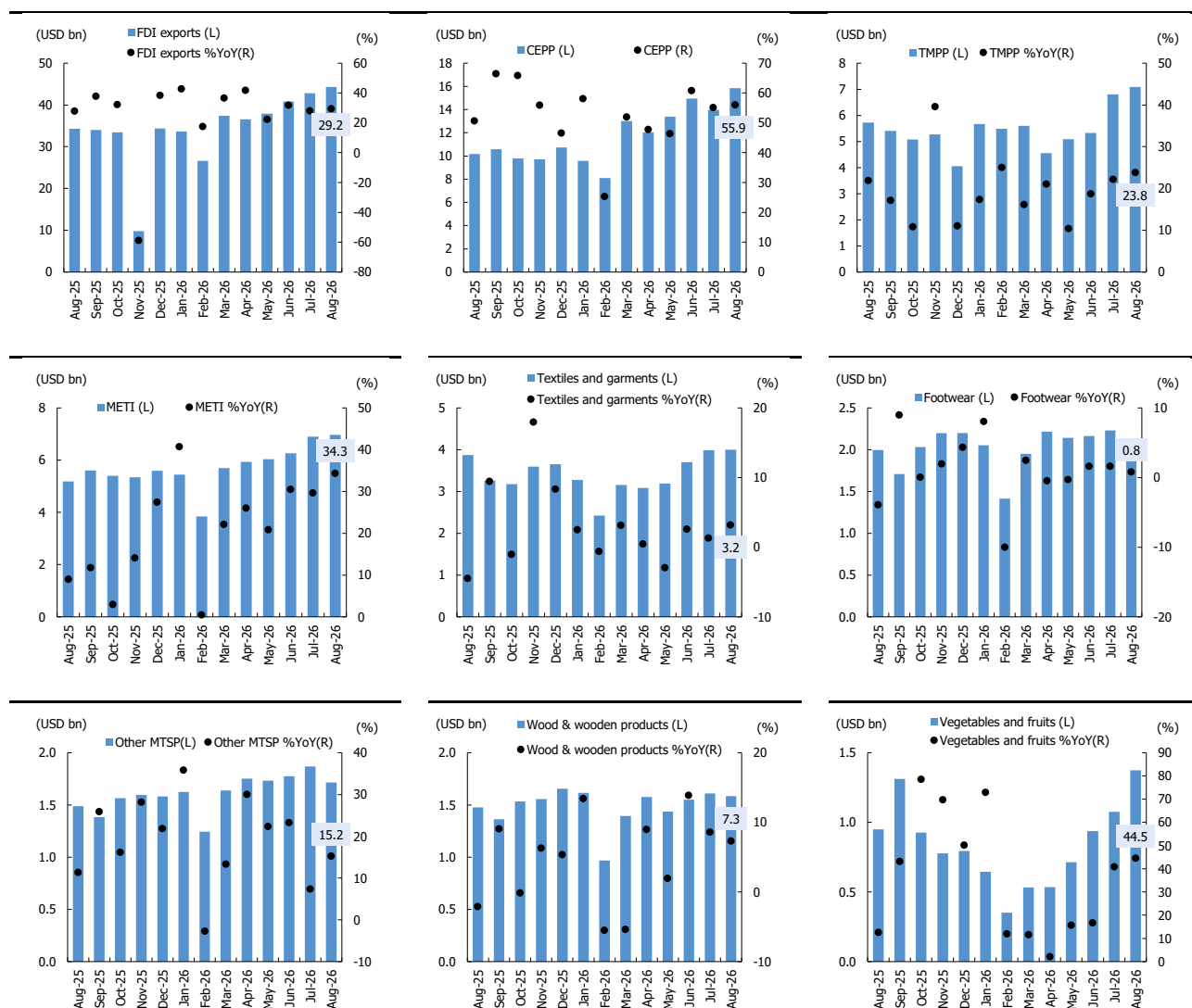
Macro scorecard

	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	3Q25	4Q25	1Q26	2Q26	2022	2023	2024	2025
Real GDP growth (%)						8.25	8.46	7.94	8.39	8.54	4.98	7.04	8.02
Registered FDI (USD bn)	3.04	6.57	9.84	3.41	2.57	7.02	9.88	15.2	19.45	27.72	36.61	38.23	38.42
GDP per capita (USD)										4,110	4,285	4,700	5,026
Unemployment rate (%)						2.21	2.22	2.21	2.22	2.32	2.26	2.24	2.22
Export (USD bn)	45.99	46.93	50.79	53.08	54.79	118.38	126.3	122.93	143.59	371.85	355.5	405.5	475.0
Import (USD bn)	49.98	52.14	53.43	56.67	54.91	120.19	123.1	126.57	156.6	360.65	327.5	380.8	455.01
Export growth (%)	22.81	18.52	28.09	24.98	26.01	18.38	19.96	19.21	22.66	10.61	-4.4	14.3	17.00
Import growth (%)	35.56	33.54	45.19	41.42	37.90	20.19	21.28	27.03	39.08	8.35	-8.9	16.7	19.40
Inflation (%)	5.46	5.60	4.69	4.45	4.89	3.27	3.44	3.51	5.25	3.15	3.25	3.63	3.31
USDVND	26,353	26,313	26,312	26,296	26,078	26,427	26,296	26,342	26,312	23,650	23,784	25,386	26,296
Credit growth (%)	18.25	18.23	16.70	17.07	16.59	20.10	19.07	15.88	16.37	14.2	13.7	13.8	17.87
10Y gov't bond (%)	4.37	4.46	4.52	4.54	4.57	3.76	4.19	4.36	4.52	5.08	2.39	2.94	4.19

Source: NSO, Bloomberg, FIA, IMF

Appendix

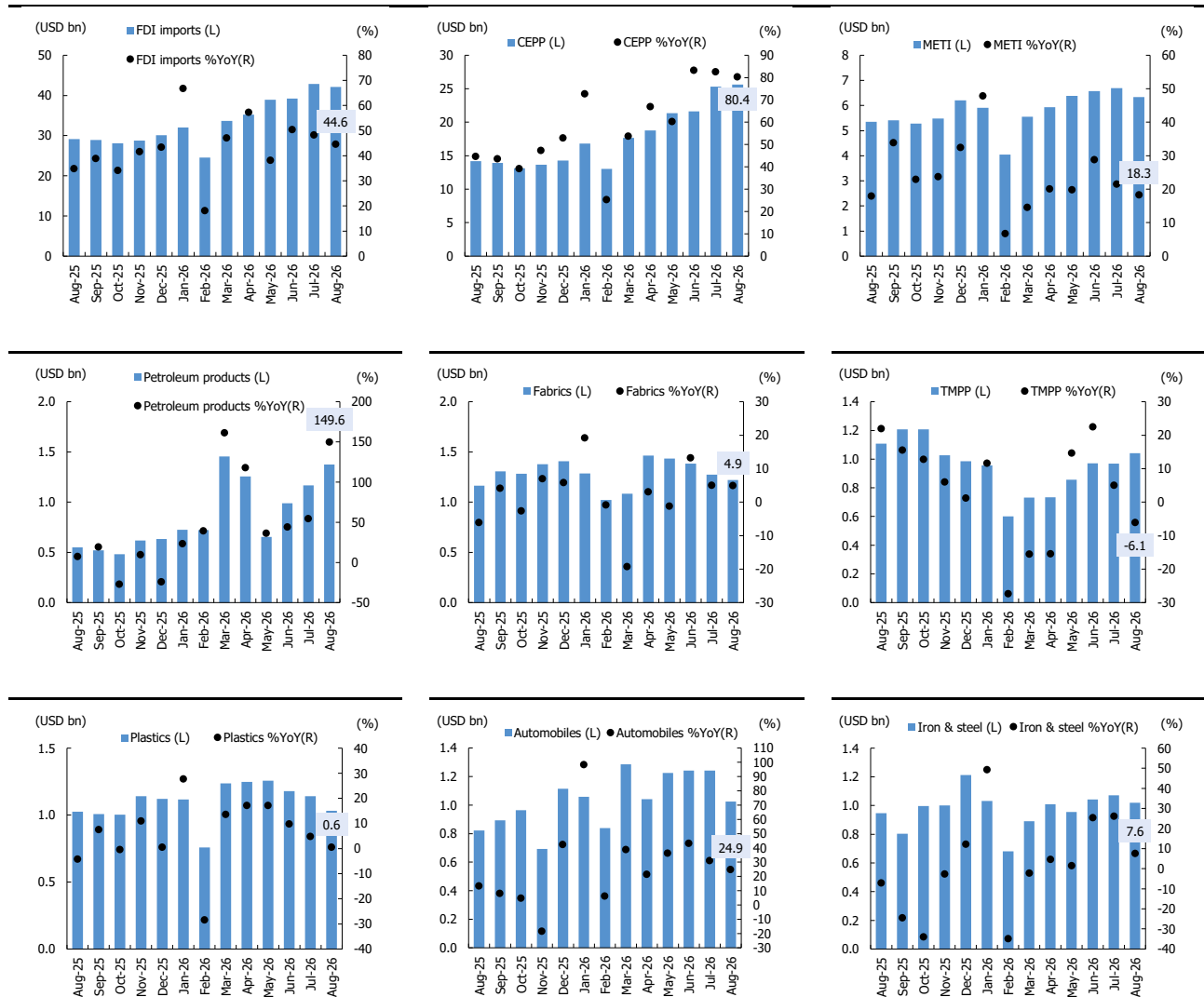
Figure 1. Performances of major export products by month



Source: KIS, NSO

Note: CEPP: Computers, electric products & parts; METI: Machines, equipments, tools, instruments; TMPP: Telephones, mobile phones & spare parts; Other MTSP: Other means of transportation & spare parts.

Figure 2. Performances of major import products by month



Source: KIS, NSO

Note: CEPP: Computers, electric products & parts; METI: Machines, equipments, tools, instruments; TMPP: Telephones, mobile phones & spare parts.

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