

April 27, 2022

Thai Enquirer Summary

**Political News**

- Deputy Prime Minister General Prawit Wongsuwan, as the Palang Pracharat Party (PPRP) leader, has come out hint that the PPRP may have more than 1 prime ministerial candidate, other than General Prayut Chan-o-cha. Gen Prawit's remarks, somehow, have caused confusion as PPRP key members denied any knowledge of the topic.
  - ❖ Gen Prawit's answer came after the media asked him about Gen Prayut's maximum tenure which is capped at 8 years. Gen Prayut's premiership terms is speculated to be raised by the opposition during the upcoming censure debate. Gen Prawit said his party may nominate an alternative PM candidate.
- 2014 coup leader – General Prayut's 8-year term is set to end on August 24<sup>th</sup> as per the 2016 constitution that was drafted by the drafting committee set forth by Gen. Prayut and his gang of coup makers. Article

158 of the constitution forbids a person to be in Prime Minister's position for more than 8-years continuously or with breaks.

- ❖ When asked if the PPRP's alternative PM candidate would be a civilian, Gen Prawit replied, "Don't know".
- ❖ The PPRP has over the past year been insisting that they will propose Gen Prayut as its prime minister candidate for the next election.
- Being on the hot seat the 2014 coup leader came out to defend himself by saying that Gen Prawit "did not say that".
  - ❖ Another staunch supporter of General Prayut - Digital Economy and Society (DES) Minister Chaiwut Thanakhamanusorn, as deputy PPRP leader, said he had no knowledge of Gen Prawit's plan to propose an alternative PM candidate.
    - When asked if Gen Prayut is still the PPRP's No.1 PM candidate, Chaiwut said "yes" but he had no idea about the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> PM candidates.
  - ❖ Industry Minister Suriya Juangroongruangkit, as a PPRP executive, said he had no idea about the matter. Justice Minister Somsak Thepsuthin, another PPRP executive, concurred with Suriya and tried to brush aside the topic.
- The opposition said it will submit a censure motion against the government after draft amendments to 2 organic laws on the election pass the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading in Parliament.
  - ❖ Opposition and Pheu Thai Party leader Chonlanan Srikaew revealed, after a meeting of leaders and key members of the opposition parties, that the opposition will file a motion of no-confidence targeting Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha and individual ministers

- ❖ The opposition will submit a censure motion as soon as possible, the most possible timeline is after the deliberation of draft amendments to 2 organic laws on the election in the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.
- ❖ Chonlanan said the censure debate will focus on 6 issues concerning:
  - The government's failures in national administration
  - Violations of the Constitution and laws related to ethical standards
  - The government's alleged corruption and nepotism
  - The alleged failure to implement policies stated in Parliament,
  - The alleged infringements of the rights and liberties of the people
  - The alleged undermining of democracy and the parliamentary system.
- Meanwhile, Pichet Sathirachawal, Palang Pracharat Party (PPRP) party list MP and leader of the so-called "16 MPs" Group, said he could **NOT** guarantee their vote in support of Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha and individual ministers targeted by the opposition in the upcoming censure debate.
  - ❖ Responding to opposition leader Chonlanan Srikaew's claim about the opposition's deal with 30 government MPs for their support in the censure debate, Pichet did not deny the deal but said the "16 MPs" have come together to work for the public. They will listen to debate information from the opposition and decide whether to vote in support of Gen Prayut. Pichet said small parties are not under the government's command.
- Reports have emerged that the "Setthakit Thai" (Thai Economic) Party has approached Thirachai Phuvanatanarubala, an ex-finance minister, and Mingkwan Sangsuwan, party list MP and ex-leader of the New Economics Party to join its economic team.
  - ❖ Boonsing Warinrak, Setthakit Thai list MP and executive, said the party will reveal names of executives and the party's strategy at the party's annual general meeting to be held at 10.00 hrs on April 29.

- ❖ He said the party plans to unveil members of its economic team comprising at least 3 ex-ministers in May. He guaranteed that the party is preparing to include high-profile figures well-known to the public.
- On charges of sexual assaults its ex-deputy leader Prinn Panitchpakdi that divided the party's support for its leader Jurin Laksanawisit, a group of 11 ex-Democrat MPs in the north has showed support for Jurin and Chalermchai Sri-on, the party's secretary-general, to lead the party in the next election.
  - ❖ The group of 11 ex-Democrat MPs in the north led by Sampan Tangbenjapol, a former MP for the Democrat Party in Sukhothai, sent a letter via the party's LINE chat application account to confirm support for Jurin and Chalermchai to lead the party to contest the next election.
  - ❖ When asked about calls for Jurin to resign to take responsibility over the Prinn sexual harassment scandal, Sampan said the party cannot "switch horses" during the battle. He also dismissed the possibility of former prime minister Abhisit Vejjajiva's return to the party's helm and the chance of Chuan Leekpai, the party's chief advisor, to return to the top post.
- On related news, the Democrat Party has set up a probe panel to look into a leaked conversation among party members to a group of reporters via the party's LINE chat.
  - ❖ The panel headed by Democrat deputy leader Narapat Kaewthong. The panel was given 1 week to look into the leaked comments that there are other cases of sexual misconduct.
  - ❖ Narapat said, for instance, the panel will still look into Mallika Boonmeetrakul Mahasuk's unfounded claim implicating another party member whom she alleged

of having an affairs with other man's wife. He stressed that the panel will probe Mallika's comments despite her resignation.

- Suchatvee Suwansawat and Chadchart Sittipunt are locked in a tight race for next month's Bangkok's gubernatorial election, according to new findings by Thammasat University's Research and Consultancy Institute (TU-RAC) poll.
  - ❖ The poll found Chadchart, an independent candidate, has a 27.93% to 21.95% edge over Suchatvee, a candidate in Bangkok's gubernatorial race under the Democrat Party's banner, according to the TU-RAC poll which conducted on 20,377 samples across 180 districts of Bangkok during April 15-22.
  - ❖ Ex-Bangkok governor Aswin Kwanmuang was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the popularity rating with 14.68%, followed by Wiroj Lakkhanaadisorn, who is running under the banner of the Move Forward Party (MFP) (10.16%), Sqn Ldr Sita Divari, who runs under the Thai Sang Thai (Thais Build Thais) Party (7.41%), ex-Bangkok deputy governor Sakoltee Phattiyakul (3.50%), Rosana Tositrakul (2.44%), while 10.18% were undecided and 1.52% were No Vote/Vote No.



## **Economic News**

- Finance Minister Arkhom Termpittayapaisith came out to dismiss an extension on a diesel excise tax reduction that will end on May 20. He said it is too soon for the government to mull an extension for diesel excise tax cut.
  - ❖ Arkhom said the decision depends on economic conditions and the government's tax collection ability.
  - ❖ Asked about the re-launch of the half-half co-payment scheme in the 5th phase, the Finance Minister said the government is facing more limitations in seeking additional loans while key economic engines, especially tourism are on rebound.
- The domestic diesel price may climb to 32 baht/litre from 30 baht/litre after May 1 after the government lifts its cut on the diesel excise tax, according to Deputy Prime Minister and Energy Minister Supattanapong Punmeechaow.
  - ❖ Supattanapong still insists that the government will still help subsidise the diesel price but to a lesser extent.
  - ❖ He said the retail price of diesel (without the subsidy) should be at 40 baht per litre.
    - The amount that is beyond the 30-baht cap is 10 baht per litre, and if the government subsidises half of the price above 30 baht a litre, the new cap will be 35 baht per litre for diesel.
  - ❖ The energy minister said his ministry will ensure that the diesel price will not see an immediate jump to 35 baht per litre as people will suffer.

- Impact of the lifting of the current cap of diesel price is likely to impact the logistics costs.
  - ❖ The Land Transport Federation of Thailand came out to say that it expects the impact to be felt by the freight companies all across the board.
    - Land Transport Federation of Thailand is set to lodge its opposition to the removal of the cap at Government House today and ask the government to come up with measures to ease impacts of the diesel price rise.
- The price of a 15kg cylinder of liquified propane gas (LPG) is set to rise again after the Energy Ministry gave the greenlight for operators to raise LPGA prices by 1 baht per kg for 3 months from April to June 2022.
  - ❖ As a result, the price of a 15kg cylinder was pushed up to 333 baht per a 15kg cylinder in April, from 318 baht. The next increase will be 348 baht per cylinder in May and 363 baht per cylinder in June.
  - ❖ The rise will also drive up food costs.
- The Commerce Ministry vowed to retain price control over commodities under 18 categories following the government's plan to lift subsidy on the diesel price.
  - ❖ Commerce Minister - Jurin Laksanawisit admitted that the lifting will affect production and transport costs. He has instructed officials to keep a close watch on 18 groups of products. He said the ministry has sought cooperation from operators to maintain good prices.
    - The 18 categories include fresh food, instant noodle, canned food, rice, seasonings and sauce, vegetable oil, milk and dairy products, electrical appliances, cleaning products, fertilisers, pesticides, animal feed,

carbonated drinks, steel and steel products, cement, paper, medicine and medical products.

- Thailand's exports hit a new 30-year high of US\$28.86 billion in March, according to the Ministry of Commerce's data.
    - ❖ Thai exports increased 19.5% year-on-year in March, the highest level in 3 decades, says Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit. The ministry also recorded a 14.9% rise in exports to \$73.601 billion in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of this year, leading to a trade deficit of \$944 million.
    - ❖ Imports have grown 18.0% to \$27.4 billion, resulting in a \$1.459 billion trade surplus.
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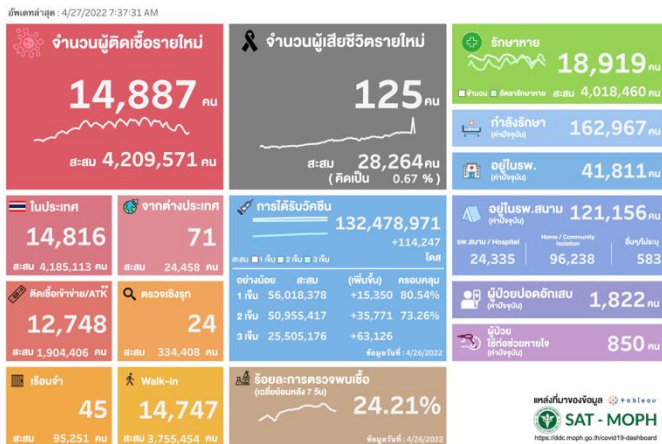
### **General News**

- The investigation into the death of TV actress Nida "Tangmo" Patcharaveerapong in late February, which sparked many theories and plenty of debate, was finally wrapped up.
  - ❖ At a press conference on Tuesday, police ruled out murder and concluded that she died in an accident caused by negligence and recklessness.
  - ❖ Pol Lt-General Jiraphat Phumphichit, chief of Police Region 1, met the press at Police Region 1 headquarters to announce the conclusion of the case. The case was then forwarded to public prosecutors in Nonthaburi, who then slapped the six suspects with relevant charges in court. The suspects were released on bail and public prosecutors said they would set up a three-member panel to review the report.



- ❖ Tangmo, 37, reportedly fell off a speedboat into the Chao Phraya River on February 24 and her body was found two days later. She was on the boat with five others, who now face criminal charges. A sixth person is also facing charges for allegedly advising the five suspects to keep quiet.
- ❖ The 2,249-page investigative report is supported by 88 times of evidence, 47 pieces of documentary evidence and 200 video clips.

## COVID-19 News



Infection data for today are as follows

Total New PCR Infections = 14,887

Total positive cases (ATK/Antigen) = 12,748

Total New Death = 125

Total New Recovery = 18,919

Total Infection including PRC & ATK = 27,635

Total infections so far since outbreak = 4,209,571

Total deaths so far since outbreak = 28,264

Total in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) = 1,822

Total number on life support (ventilator) 850

The government's data on 'Positive testing' numbers as a percentage of the tests it undertakes stands @ 24.21% as of April 26.

Details of data for each day can be found @ <https://ddc.moph.go.th/covid19-dashboard/> (All information is in Thai language)

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### **Political News Headlines in Thai Media**

- The ruling Palang Pracharath Party (PPRP) has more than one candidate for the prime minister position to prepare for all eventualities ahead of the next election, its leader said on Tuesday.
  - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/39687/prawit-hints-that-prayut-might-not-be-pprp-candidate-in-next-election/>
- The handcuffs on Maynu Supitcha's hands were deliberately tightened to inflict as much pain as possible. Every movement sent a shock of pain from her wrist up her arm as she walked to her temporary cell on March 28.
  - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/39679/a-new-generation-of-female-activists-are-forcing-tough-conversations-despite-state-intimidation-and-arrests/>
- Former Democrat secretary-general Suthep Thaugsuban urged the party's executive committee to show responsibility for the sexual misconduct accusations against its disgraced former deputy leader, Prinn Panitchpakdi, to restore public confidence in the party.
  - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2300786/democrat-party-reshuffle-urged>

- A selection committee has unanimously ruled that Worawit Kangsasitiam, president of the Constitutional Court, will leave the post after serving nine years or reaching the age of 75, whichever comes first.
  - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2300774/judge-given-further-time-to-lead-constitutional-court>
- The Foreign Affairs Ministry has appointed Pornpimol "Pauline" Kanchanalak, one of the foreign minister's advisers, as its special envoy for relations with Myanmar.
  - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2300734/new-special-envoy-for-myanmar-named>
- Former Democrat Party deputy leader Prinn Panitchpakdi reported to Phetchaburi police on Tuesday to hear another indecent assault charge filed against him by a woman who once worked for the party, police said.
  - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2300678/prinn-charged-in-another-sexual-misconduct-case>
- Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan, as well as spokespeople for the police and Defence Ministry, have dismissed an allegation, by exiled Pol Maj Gen Paween Pongsirin, former deputy commissioner of Provincial Police Region 8, claiming that Gen Prawit had interfered with an investigation into human trafficking involving Rohingya refugees almost seven years ago.
  - Link- <https://www.thaipbsworld.com/dpm-prawit-police-army-deny-interference-in-rohingya-human-trafficking-probe/>
- The parking area at Parliament complex in Bangkok's Dusit district was partly flooded on Monday after water gushed out of water pipes.
  - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/in-focus/40014943>

- SCG Packaging Plc (SCGP), the packaging unit of Thailand's conglomerate Siam Cement Group, reported a 22-per-cent drop in profits for the first quarter from a year earlier on Tuesday, pressured by rising costs.
  - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/39700/scg-packagings-first-quarter-earnings-dip-22-year-on-year-%ef%bf%bc/>
- The baht weakened to 34 baht against the US dollar on Tuesday, its lowest point against the greenback in five years, due to growing concerns on global economic situations, with analysts warning of further losses.
  - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/39692/baht-drops-against-dollar-to-5-year-low-poised-to-drop-further/>
- Police on Tuesday mounted a search of 33 locations across 12 provinces connected to the online sales of overpriced lottery tickets by the Kong Salak Plus website.
  - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2300782/police-widen-investigations-into-overpriced-online-lottery-sales>
- The tripartite national wage committee is expected to finalise a proposal calling for an increase in minimum daily wages in August but it is unlikely to approve a proposed flat-rate wage of 492 baht a day, said a top labour official.
  - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2300850/daily-wages-tipped-to-rise-but-flat-rate-unlikely>
- The unemployment situation in the first quarter is likely to improve boosted by healthy export growth and a gradual recovery of the tourism sector, according to the Employers' Confederation of Thai Trade and Industry.
  - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2300334/employment-situation-seen-improving-in-first-quarter>
- The Mohan border checkpoint in China has issued Thai durian exporters an ultimatum to resolve their Covid-19 problem in five days, starting Monday, failing which they will be banned.
  - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/in-focus/40014939>
- Bangkok's famous New World mall, which became a tourist attraction over the years, will finally be demolished.

- Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/in-focus/40014929>
- Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawist was upbeat about the country's export growth, saying the 19.5 per cent year-on-year surge in March was the highest in 30 years.
  - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/business/40014944>
- Media spending for the upcoming Bangkok governor election is expected to reach 200 million baht, with advertisements shifting to digital and social media, says Media Intelligence (MI), a media planning and creative agency.
  - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2300846/race-for-bangkok-governor-to-attract-b200m-in-advertising>
- The Bank of Thailand said on Tuesday it was closely monitoring the Thai baht and is ready to take action if moves in the currency are unusually volatile.
  - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2301134/central-bank-ready-to-act-if-baht-is-too-volatile>
- The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is maintaining its target for tourism arrivals at 300,000 visitors per month, even as the low season approaches, before gaining momentum at end of this year.
  - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2301078/tat-maintains-monthly-arrivals-target>
- Japan has pledged to expand investment in Thailand, especially in high-technology industries such as electric vehicles (EVs), smart electronics, medical services and bio-, circular and green (BCG) businesses, according to Deputy Prime Minister Supattanapong Punmeechaow, who led a delegation to roadshows in Tokyo and Kanagawa during April 19-23.
  - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2300970/japan-vows-to-expand-thai-expenditure>
- The Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) expects to extend new loans worth between 30-50 billion baht in the new accounting year, says president Tanaratt Ngamvalairatt.

- Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2300930/baac-targets-up-to-b50bn-of-new-loans-in-new-year>

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### **Issues to be watched out for**

- March 1-May 21, 2022 – The parliament is set to go into recess.
- March-April, 2022 – The 4th phase of the half-half co-payment subsidy scheme to stimulate spending on goods are set to take effect.
- April, 2022 – The Finance Ministry is set to announce its new assessment for 2022 economic growth. It is likely to slash its 2022 economic growth forecast of 3.5-4.5% due to these key risks to the economic growth.
- May, 2022 – Ordinary parliamentary sessions resume.
- May 1, 2022 – The Oil Fuel Fund Administration's subsidy on the diesel price is set to go off.
- May 5, 2022 – Trade Policy and Strategy Office makes its monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for the month of April 2022.
- May 17, 2022 – The National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) is set to announce its forecast for 1st quarter GDP growth.
- May 21, 2022 – The date for by-election in Ratchaburi's Constituency 3 to fill in a seat left vacant by former Palang Pracharat Party MP Pareena Kraikupt who was disqualified by the Supreme Court's ruling over her use of forest land.
- May 22, 2022 – The new parliamentary session is set to begin.
- May 22, 2022 – Tentative date for Bangkok governor and Pattaya Mayor City elections
- May 31–June 2, 2022 – The budget bill for the 2022 fiscal year is scheduled to be debated in the House of Representatives.
- June 6, 2022 – Trade Policy and Strategy Office makes its monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for the month of May 2022.

- June 16, 2022 – The D-Day for the government’s selling of lottery tickets at 80 baht apiece via the Pao Tang App.
- July, 2022 – The wage committee is set to meet to calculate the new minimum wage rate.
- June 8, 2022 – The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) makes the decision on the policy rate.
- July 5, 2022 – Trade Policy and Strategy Office makes its monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for the month of June 2022.
- August 5, 2022 – Trade Policy and Strategy Office makes its monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for the month of July 2022.
- August 10, 2022 – The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) makes the decision on the policy rate.
- August 24, 2022 – The last day as per the current constitution for Prayut to be the Prime Minister under the 2016 constitution Article 158 which forbids a person to be in Prime Minister’s position for more than 8-years continuously or with breaks.
- September 5, 2022 – Trade Policy and Strategy Office makes its monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for the month of August 2022.
- September 28, 2022- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) makes the decision on the policy rate.
- October 5, 2022 – Trade Policy and Strategy Office makes its monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for the month of August 2022.
- November, 2022 – The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit is to be held.
- November 5, 2022 – Trade Policy and Strategy Office makes its monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for the month of October 2022.
- November 30, 2022 – The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) makes the decision on the policy rate.
- December 6, 2022 – Trade Policy and Strategy Office makes its monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for the month of November 2022.
- January, 2023 – The hike in the daily minimum wage is set to become official.

### **Key Data**

**SET Index** **1,668.97** **-6.36**

Link - [https://www.set.or.th/en/company/ipo/upcoming\\_ipo\\_set.html](https://www.set.or.th/en/company/ipo/upcoming_ipo_set.html)

### **Global Commodities**

Metal -Link <http://www.bloomberg.com/markets/commodities/futures/metals/>

Energy -Link - <http://www.bloomberg.com/energy/>

Baltic Dry Index (BDI)-Link - <http://www.bloomberg.com/quote/BDIY:IND>

### **Global Equity Market's Movements**

Link - <http://www.bloomberg.com/markets/stocks/world-indexes/asia-pacific/>

### **Asian Equity Markets Movement**

Link - <http://www.bloomberg.com/markets/stocks/world-indexes/>

### **Information on April 26, 2022**

#### **Buying, Selling or Transfer of shares by Owners/Management**

**Stock Code** **Volume** **Value** **Action**

ASEFA	5,400	4.44	Sale
ASEFA	7,500	4.48	Purchase
FN	210,000	3.26	Sale
FN	138,200	3.31	Sale
FN	330,600	3.38	Sale
RPH	10,000	6.45	Purchase
S11	22,500	6	Purchase
TRV	3,000	3.27	Purchase



UVAN	20,000	8.8	Purchase
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### **XD, XE or XM or other notifications**

For list of Companies that have dividend payment and AGM meeting schedules click on <https://www.set.or.th/set/xcalendar.do>

### **Trading Breakdown on the Stock Exchange of Thailand**

<b>Daily as of 26 Apr 2022</b>						
<b>Investor Type</b>	<b>Buy</b>		<b>Sell</b>		<b>Net</b>	
	<b>Value</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>%</b>
Local Institutions	4,754.59	5.83	7,321.66	8.98	-2,567.06	-
Proprietary Trading	6,117.34	7.50	5,483.02	6.72	634.32	-
Foreign Investor	37,476.21	45.94	37,229.37	45.64	246.84	-
Local Individuals	33,227.02	40.73	31,541.12	38.67	1,685.90	-
<b>Monthly Cumulative between 1- 26 Apr 2022</b>						
<b>Investor Type</b>	<b>Buy</b>		<b>Sell</b>		<b>Net</b>	
	<b>Value</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>%</b>
Local Institutions	73,547.04	7.37	86,531.91	8.67	-12,984.86	-
Proprietary Trading	84,123.07	8.43	85,001.39	8.52	-878.32	-
Foreign Investors	453,481.76	45.45	446,179.20	44.71	7,302.56	-
Local Individuals	386,701.00	38.75	380,140.38	38.10	6,560.62	-
<b>Yearly Cumulative since 1 Jan -26 Apr 2022</b>						
<b>Investor Type</b>	<b>Buy</b>		<b>Sell</b>		<b>Net</b>	
	<b>Value</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>%</b>

Local Institutions	459,529.15	7.03	554,680.07	8.49	-95,150.93	-
Proprietary Trading	570,020.52	8.72	569,846.71	8.72	173.81	-
Foreign Investors	3,020,190.74	46.22	2,902,023.89	44.41	118,166.85	-
Local Individuals	2,484,967.10	38.03	2,508,156.83	38.38	-23,189.73	-

Total Trading Value 81,575.17 Million Baht

### **Background Information –**

The strength of each party in the Thai Parliament as of May 8, 2019 as per the report by the Election Commission of Thailand. Elections took place on March 24, 2019

- [https://www.ect.go.th/ect\\_th/news\\_all.php?cid=24](https://www.ect.go.th/ect_th/news_all.php?cid=24)
- List of MPs - [https://www.ect.go.th/ect\\_th/download/article/article\\_20190508184334.pdf](https://www.ect.go.th/ect_th/download/article/article_20190508184334.pdf)

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