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January 2, 2024

Thai Enquirer News Summary

Economic News

- Thailand's tourism industry has roared back to life, exceeding its own expectations for the year just ended. In a post on her personal Facebook account, Minister of Tourism and Sports Sudawan Wangsupakitkosol revealed that a total of 28,042,131 international tourists entered Thailand by the end of 2023, surpassing the targeted figure. This surge resulted in over 1.2 trillion Baht in tourism income, Sudawan said.



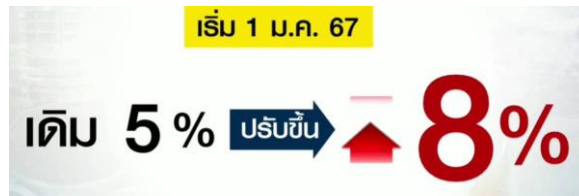
ป๋อง - สุดาวรรณ หวังศุภกิจโกศล

16 ชม. · 🌐

🎉 #สวัสดีปีใหม่ #ฉลองยอดนักท่องเที่ยว
ต่างชาติปี 2023 ทะลุเป้า 28 ล้านคนค่ะ 🎉
... ดูเพิ่มเติม



- ❖ Last week The Ministry of Tourism and Sports announced that from December 18 to 24, 2023, a total of 796,808 international visitors arrived in Thailand, marking a 16.6% increase compared to the previous week. This brings the cumulative total for the year to an impressive 27,252,488 international tourists.
- January 2024 is the month when the Bank of Thailand (BoT) will gradually increase the minimum credit card payment.
 - ❖ To alleviate financial burdens of Thai people during the COVID-19 pandemic, the BOT implemented a temporary reduction in the minimum credit card payment from 10% to 5%.
 - ❖ As the Thai economy rebounds, the BoT will gradually increase the minimum payment to 8% in 2024 and eventually back to 10% by 2025.
 - ❖ Anticipating potential challenges as the minimum payment increases, Kattiya Indaravijaya, CEO of Kasikornbank, stated that Kasikornbank is proactively preparing support measures for customers. The plans include debt restructuring and transitioning loans to long-term loans.
 - ❖ Meanwhile, Sukhumvit Asset Management Co (SAM) is actively promoting its 'Debt Clinic Relief' project which offers interest rates as low as 3-5% per year and extended repayment periods of up to 10 years.
 - ❖ This program, launched in 2017, has already assisted over 52,000 people with debts exceeding 10 billion Baht. In 2023 alone, it helped 17,000 additional individuals.



- Interior Ministry permanent secretary Suthipong Chulcharoen revealed that as of January 1, 2024 as many as 114,653 citizens have registered in the government's informal debt relief program, with the debt amount exceeding 740 billion Baht.
 - ❖ There are also 84,834 creditors who have registered for the program. 4,361 debtors are currently proceeding with the debt negotiation efforts, with 937 individuals already successfully completing this process.



- Kasikorn Research Center (K-Research) has advised investors to monitor Thailand's domestic inflation figures, set to be released on January 5 by the Ministry of Commerce, along with foreign capital movement and key US economic indicators during the January 2-5 period.
 - ❖ Support levels for the benchmark SET Index are expected at 1,400 and 1,380 points, while resistance levels are anticipated at 1,430 and 1,450 points.
- The Stock Exchange of Thailand closed the year at 1,415.85 points, down 15.48% from the January 3 level of 1,678.97, with a market capitalization of 17.43 billion Baht.
 - ❖ The P/E ratio stands at 18.42 times, the market yield is 3.32%, and the index earnings per share was 76.86 baht.
 - ❖ Foreign investors divested Thai shares amounting to 192.49 billion Baht between January 1 and December 28, while local individuals purchased 116.98 billion Baht during the same period.

- The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) was the 2nd worst performing stock market in the world in 2023 and there were big winners and losers on the market.
 - ❖ The biggest winner was the women's fashion (bra, panties, and shoes) maker – New City Bangkok Plc (NC), which rose by a staggering 326.32% despite it falling by more than 60% in its value from the peak it had seen in June 2023.
 - ❖ Read the story - <https://www.thaienquirer.com/51460/2023s-best-worst-performers-on-thai-stock-market-old-school-biz-pale-in-comparison-to-those-of-upcoming-trends-in-womens-fashion-and-beauty/>
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Political News

- Today's Cabinet meeting, the 1st for 2024, will proceed with a slightly different schedule. As a symbolic start, Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin and his spouse presided over a merit-making ceremony at 07:30 am to celebrate the New Year, joined by the entire cabinet. Following this auspicious beginning, they will commence the Cabinet meeting at 08:30 am, an hour earlier than the usual session time.
 - ❖ The early meeting is expected to focus on preparations for the parliamentary debate on the 3.48 trillion-Baht budget bill for the 2024 fiscal year. The bill will undergo deliberation by the House of Representatives from January 3 to 5.
 - ❖ Prime Minister Srettha has promised to dedicate around half an hour to personally explaining the intricacies of the bill before the House. He does not need “bodyguards”, a term used to describe MPs who speak to defend a minister, during the 3-day debate on the 2024 fiscal budget bill starting on Wednesday.
 - ❖ When asked about the reports of certain legislators pressuring government agencies in exchange for the bill approval during the drafting procedure, Srettha responded that he has no knowledge of such matters.



- Both the governing coalition and the opposition parties will separately convene today to prepare for the upcoming debate on the budget bill.
 - ❖ The government whip will meet at around 13:00 hrs, while the opposition whip will gather at 10:00 hrs at the Parliament. According to Pakornwut Udompipatskul, list MP for the Move Forward Party, the opposition has been given 20 hours to deliberate on the bill, with the breakdown as follows:
 - Move Forward Party: 830 minutes
 - Democrat Party: 200 minutes
 - Thai Sang Thai Party: 60 minutes
 - Fair Party: 20 minutes
 - Remaining Opposition Parties: 10 minutes each
- Opposition leader and head of the Move Forward Party, Chaithawat Tulathon, addressed speculations about potential shifts in the Democrat Party's stance, which might lead them to join the government.
 - ❖ He stated that neither the opposition nor the government camps are entirely unified as every party is different. Party positions can evolve based on various factors and circumstances.
 - ❖ Sirikanya Tansakul, deputy leader of the opposition Move Forward party, said earlier that the 2024 budget is disappointing, because it is no different to that of the previous government and does not address economic and constitutional crises and political conflicts.
- Srettha Thavisin has clarified his plans for overnight stays at the Government House. He revealed that he may be able to sleep at the Government House after January 7 onward.
 - ❖ Srettha previously said he would begin his overnight stay on January 2.
- The Office of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) revealed that Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin owns wealth valued at 650 million baht, including a 50-million-Baht luxury car and 38 watches. He owned assets worth a total of 659,391,610 Baht. The Thai PM has 1 million Baht in cash, 68,986,558 Baht in deposits across 47 bank accounts, and 1,301,668 Baht in investments.
 - ❖ Srettha also owns a ngan (nearly 0.1 acre) and 98 tarang wa (0.09 acres) land in Bangkok, which is worth 158.4 million baht. He owned other building assets worth 156,423,120 Baht. Amongst them are an apartment in the Hua Hin resort area in

Prachuap Khiri Khan province and a three-storey house in Khlong Toei district in the capital, worth 18 million Baht.

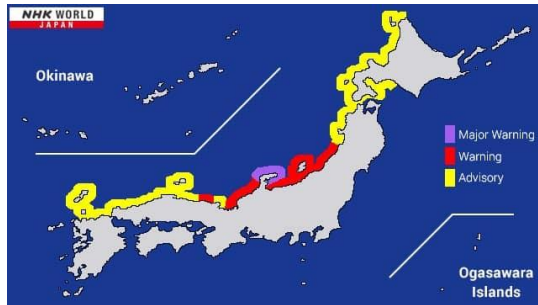
- ❖ As for vehicles, he owns an Aston Martin DB5, which is valued at 50 million Baht. Srettha told reporters on Thursday that the vehicle is a vintage 1963 model that appears in the most recent James Bond film, which was shot in Italy. Other assets include 38 watches (worth 121,953,100 Baht), six amulets (1,622,600 Baht), one gold necklace (165,000 Baht), and Louis-Vuitton x Supreme chest (6 million Baht). The PM has debt of 10,182,549 Baht.
- Srettha is not the richest Cabinet member, there are others richer than him including the likes of



General News

- A magnitude 7.6 earthquake occurred in Japan on January 1, with an epicenter in the Noto Peninsula of Ishikawa Prefecture, about 526 kilometers from Tokyo.
- ❖ The Royal Thai Embassy in Tokyo reported that there were reports of at least 4 deaths, and a tsunami with a height of 3-5 meters. However, the Japanese authorities have lifted the warning of a large tsunami along the western coast, but they are still advising people to be aware of a tsunami with a height of about 1 meter.

- ❖ Experts on earthquakes in the United States warned that there is a possibility of aftershocks continuing in the area for several months.
- ❖ Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin yesterday ordered relevant agencies to prepare a plan to assist Thai people in the affected area in case of an emergency. There are currently no reports of Thai casualties.



- Though the Central Juvenile and Family Court chose to release the young Siam Paragon shooting suspect on legal technicalities, his father has agreed to leave him under the care of state psychiatrists.
 - ❖ The court on Monday issued an order freeing the 14-year-old from detention at the Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection because investigators failed to meet the Sunday night deadline. The boy had been placed under the care of psychiatrists at the Galya Rajanagarindra Institute shortly after the shocking mass shooting at the luxury mall in downtown Bangkok.
 - ❖ Siriprakai Worapreecha, deputy director-general of the department, said the doctors did not set a timeframe for the boy's treatment but have decided to consult the father to set up a treatment plan. When ready, the doctors will put the boy through a final evaluation before deciding if he is fit to stand trial. If considered mentally fit, the boy will then be handed back to police investigators for interrogation.
 - ❖ The October 3 shooting saw three people killed and four others wounded. A Chinese tourist and a Myanmar worker were among those killed.



- The Expressway Authority of Thailand (EXAT) Governor, Surachet Laophulsuk, has issued a public apology following an offensive Facebook post made by an employee suggesting that those who use the temporary toll-free expressways during the New Year's holiday are like “dogs”.
- ❖ The post, which quickly went viral, sparked outrage among Thai social media and road users. In response, EXAT launched an investigation and the employee involved had since admitted to making the post.
- ❖ According to Surachet, the employee claimed that the post was meant to be a lighthearted joke referencing the annual tradition of setting off fireworks on New Year's Eve, which can often startle dogs and cause them to run onto the expressways.
- ❖ However, the governor acknowledged that the post was insensitive. He also confirmed that the employee had received a disciplinary punishment, although the exact nature of the sanctions was not disclosed.



จากกรณีที่ข้าพเจ้าได้โพสต์ข้อความเกี่ยวกับสุนัขขึ้นทางด่วนฟรีนั้น ข้าพเจ้าขอชี้แจงว่า ข้าพเจ้าไม่ได้มีเจตนาที่จะหมายถึงผู้ให้บริการทางพิเศษแต่อย่างใด แต่ข้าพเจ้าหมายถึงสุนัขที่จะวิ่งขึ้นมาบนทางพิเศษเป็นประจำ โดยเฉพาะในช่วงที่เป็นเทศกาลต่างๆ ที่มีการจุดพลุ เช่น เทศกาลวันขึ้นปีใหม่ เป็นต้น จะมีสุนัขเกิดอาการตกใจจากเสียงพลุ และจะหนีเตลิดขึ้นมาบนทางพิเศษเป็นจำนวนมาก ข้าพเจ้าต้องขอภัยผู้ให้บริการทางพิเศษ ที่โพสต์ของข้าพเจ้าก่อให้เกิดความไม่พอใจและ

- Yesterday, Anutin Charnvirakul, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, traveled to inspect traffic conditions during the New Year holidays along the Mittraphap Road in Nakhon Ratchasima. He also climbed into a helicopter to oversee the overall traffic situation and reported that there was a significant number of vehicles accumulating on the inbound lanes to Bangkok.



- The first 3 of the New Year break's so-called "seven dangerous days" saw 128 people killed and 1,151 injured in 1,150 road accidents nationwide, the road safety centre said.
 - ❖ The centre called a press conference on Monday at the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department to announce the figures derived from its monitoring of roads nationwide from December 29.
 - ❖ Deputy national police chief Pol General Surachate Hakpam told the press that on Sunday, the third day of the monitoring period, 424 accidents had occurred killing 51 people and injuring 416 others.
 - ❖ Surachate said speeding was the biggest cause of the accidents, accounting for 37.26%, followed by drunk driving (32.78%).
- Thailand's National Children's Day in 2024 falls on Saturday, January 13, next week. Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin has extended his wishes to the children this year, encouraging them to "see the world broadly, think creatively, respect differences, and collaborate in building democracy."



คำขวัญ
นายเศรษฐา ทวีสิน นายกรัฐมนตรี
เนื่องในวันเด็กแห่งชาติ ประจำปีพุทธศักราช ๒๕๖๗

ขอเชิญชวน เด็กและเยาวชน
ร่วมกิจกรรม ๑๐๐ ล้านก้าว
สู่สังคมไทยที่ก้าวหน้า

(นายเศรษฐา ทวีสิน)
นายกรัฐมนตรี

Political News Headlines in Thai Media

- Panel to visit Thaksin on Jan 12: govt
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2715871/panel-to-visit-thaksin-on-jan-12-govt>
- January 1, 2024: Being optimistic is how everyone should start the New Year, but there is a clear line between that and being blindly hopeful bordering on suicidal.

- Link- <https://www.thaipbsworld.com/thai-politics-nobody-has-plan-b/>
- Ombudsman to release 10k scheme review this month
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2715854/ombudsman-to-release-10k-scheme-review-this-month>
- Democrat rounds on govt over B2.4tn in 'off-budget' spending
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2715504/democrat-rounds-on-govt-over-b2-4tn-in-off-budget-spending>
- Govt readies defence of 2024 budget bill as debate looms
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2715174/govt-readies-defence-of-2024-budget-bill-as-debate-looms>
- Move Forward Party leader Chaithawat Tulathon said the prime minister's post might change hands by mid-2024 because Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin is facing many complaints.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/politics/40034287>
- The victory of the Move Forward Party in the May 14 general election was regarded as the biggest event of 2023 while its former party leader was "the most outstanding male politician", Suan Dusit Poll found.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/politics/40034282>
- Move Forward's biggest challenge is not its political competitors, but more its ability to deliver on campaign promises and supporters' expectations, the opposition party's leader said.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/politics/40034265>
- Opposition leader Move Forward Party warned the government of tough scrutiny at next week's parliamentary debate on the 2024 Budget Bill.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/politics/40034263>
- The Army chief on Friday described as "good" the ties between the Royal Thai Army and the coalition government led by the Pheu Thai Party.

- Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/politics/40034237>
 - The opposition Move Forward Party has rejected an allegation by a Cambodian political group that it is supporting “propaganda” and anti-government activities against Phnom Penh from Thai soil.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/politics/40034232>
 - Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin was pictured walking on the beach in Hua Hin in Prachuap Khiri Khan province, where he is spending his New Year break.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40034256>
 - Thais return to Israel, despite risks
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2716028/thais-return-to-israel-despite-risks>
 - Panel to visit Thaksin on Jan 12: govt
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2715871/panel-to-visit-thaksin-on-jan-12-govt>
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Economic News Headlines in Thai Media

- Govt sets ambitious B3.5tr tourism target for '24
- Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/general/2715928/govt-sets-ambitious-b3-5tr-tourism-target-for-24>
- The first month of the registration for government aid in resolving debt not related to authorised financial institutions has been declared a success, with a total of 114,307 people signing up.
- Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40034295>
- Increasing government spending, higher public consumption as well as private investment could boost Thailand’s gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2024 to 2.7 to 3.7 per cent, the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) said on Friday.

- Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/economy/40034250>
 - Energy Minister Pirapan Salirathavibhaga said he was urging the state-owned oil and petrol company, PTT Plc, to continue granting NGV subsidies for taxis, trucks, buses and general motorists next year.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40034289>
 - The Thai Health Promotion Foundation identified seven critical trends demanding immediate attention for the country's well-being in its ThaiHealth Watch 2024 report.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40034288>
 - Though most Thais said they were happy over the past, many also said they were fed up with ongoing economic woes, a recent opinion survey found.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40034283>
 - Bangkok is one of the top 10 ultimate places worldwide to bid farewell to the old year and welcome the new one, according to CNN.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40034280>
 - The Pink Line rapid transit system connecting Bangkok's Minburi district with Nonthaburi province resumed full service on Saturday.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40034267>
 - The Commerce Ministry is pushing for negotiations to conclude more free trade agreements (FTAs) in 2024, Deputy Commerce Minister Napintorn Srisunpang said.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/business/trading-investment/40034275>
 - Gold miner Akara Resources faces indictment for alleged encroachment
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2715803/gold-miner-akara-resources-faces-indictment-for-alleged-encroachment>
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Issues to be watched out for

- January 5, 2024 - December & Fiscal Year 2023 Consumer Confidence Inflation Data
- January 17th 2024 - The Constitutional Court has also set the date of January 17th 2024 as the date to look into the case of false asset declaration and other allegations made against the former Minister of Transport – Saksayam Chidchob.
- January 17, 2024 - The Criminal Court is set to read out the verdict against 29 former co-leaders of the People's Alliance for Democracy after many defendants, including Chamlong Srimuang, fell ill on December 18th verdict day. They are accused of shutting down the 2 main airports in Bangkok during their protest in December 2008.
- January 24, 2024 - The Constitutional Court would announce its verdict in the iTV shareholding case against former Move Forward Party leader Pita Limjaroenrat.
- January 31, 2024 - The Constitutional Court would announce its verdict in the case of Move Forward party using Article 112 as a campaign issue, but the decision would have a major impact on Move Forward party immediately.
- February 7, 2024 - Monetary Policy Committee holds its meeting.
- February 20, 2024 - The National Economic & Social Development Council (NESDC) is set to announce the Q4 2023 GDP data that could possibly in the negative territory.
- February 22, 2024 - Former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra could possibly be able to go back to his house to serve the remaining 6-months of his 1-year 'jail' term after having been in hospital since he arrived in Bangkok from his 15-year exile on August 22, 2023.
- April 10, 2024 - Monetary Policy Committee holds its meeting
- June 12, 2024 - Monetary Policy Committee holds its meeting
- August 21, 2024 - Monetary Policy Committee holds its meeting
- October 16, 2024 - Monetary Policy Committee holds its meeting
- December 18, 2024 - Monetary Policy Committee holds its meeting

For information on Opportunity Day of various companies click on the link –

<https://www.set.or.th/streaming/oppdayCalendar>

Key Data

SET Index	1,415.85	+5.42
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Link - 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 December 28, 2023

Buying, Selling or Transfer of shares by Owners/Management

Stock Code	Volume	Value	Action
AMA	2,000	3.95	Purchase
EKH	5,000	7.25	Purchase
EKH	5,000	7.3	Purchase
JPARK	50,000	6.55	Sale
MICRO	30,000	2.08	Purchase

PCC	121,000	3	Purchase
QLT	98,800	2.9	Purchase
STC	40,000	0.67	Sale
STC	20,900	0.67	Purchase
SPALI	30,000	18.5	Purchase
SPALI	170,900	18.44	Purchase
TACC	1,000,000	4.37	Sale
TACC	1,000,000	4.37	Sale
VL	200,000	0.9	Purchase
ZEN	1,400	9.41	Sale
ZEN	28,900	9	Sale

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

Daily as of 28 December 2023						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	6,407.23	13.41	6,354.99	13.30	52.24	-
Proprietary Trading	3,442.17	7.20	3,581.83	7.49	-139.66	-
Foreign Investor	25,820.88	54.03	21,849.05	45.72	3,971.83	-
Local Individuals	12,123.38	25.37	16,007.79	33.49	-3,884.42	-
Monthly Cumulative between 1 Dec -28 December 2023						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	68,076.50	9.93	57,637.46	8.41	10,439.04	-

Proprietary Trading	51,852.05	7.56	54,626.89	7.97	-2,774.84	-
Foreign Investors	358,583.72	52.29	358,787.37	52.32	-203.65	-
Local Individuals	207,202.42	30.22	214,662.97	31.30	-7,460.55	-
Yearly Cumulative since 1 Jan -28 December 2023						
Unit: M.Baht						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	1,085,718.77	8.75	1,004,607.34	8.09	81,111.43	-
Proprietary Trading	946,789.68	7.63	952,387.14	7.67	-5,597.46	-
Foreign Investors	6,392,985.81	51.51	6,585,475.75	53.06	-192,489.94	-
Local Individuals	3,984,989.15	32.11	3,868,013.18	31.17	116,975.98	-

Total Trading Value 47,801.77 Million Baht

Background Information

According to the report by the Election Commission of Thailand as of May 8, 2019, the strength of each party in the Thai Parliament following the elections on March 24, 2019.

- 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

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