

Implication of Global Trade Uncertainty on Thailand Manufacturing Sector's Green Innovation

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Amid slowing Thai economy, exacerbated by global trade policy uncertainty, Thailand's manufacturing sector confronts significant headwinds. The imposition of US tariffs on key export sectors—including steel, aluminum, and automotive—creates acute challenges and uncertainty. This study investigates a central research question: How does the performance of manufacturing firms exposed to this tariff uncertainty compare to those in less-exposed sectors? Furthermore, it explores the critical implications of these trade disruptions for the development of green innovation.

Utilizing firm-level data from the 2022 Industrial Census from Thailand's National Statistical Office, the analysis will examine key performance indicators such as productivity, export value, investment, and R&D expenditures. The findings will illuminate the readiness of Thailand's leading industries to advance green innovation in areas like the circular economy and renewable energy while navigating an era of increasing global economic volatility.