

## Fact Sheet – Thailand

<b>Official Name</b>	Kingdom of Thailand
<b>Capital</b>	Bangkok (population 10 million)
<b>Area</b>	513,115 sq km (about 1/6 <sup>th</sup> of area of India)
<b>Provinces</b>	77 provinces including one Specially Governed District (Bangkok)
<b>Major cities</b>	Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, Khon Kaen, Nakhonn Ratchasima, Ubon Ratchathanee, Hat Yai and Udon Thani
<b>Population</b>	67.19 million (2014) population growth rate – 0.7% per annum
<b>Religion</b>	Buddhist 95%, Muslims 3.8%, Christians 0.5%, others 1.7%.
<b>Ethnic Groups</b>	Thais, Chinese, Malays, the Burmese, Lao, Khmers
<b>Currency</b>	Baht (1 US\$ - 35.50 Baht – December 2015)
<b>National Day</b>	5 December (Birthday of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej)
<b>Languages</b>	Thai, Chinese, English
<b>Climate</b>	Tropical: temperatures vary between 19 C to 38 C
<b>Government</b>	Constitutional Monarchy with Parliamentary Democracy The revolution of 1932 brought an end to absolute monarchy and replaced it with a Constitutional Monarchy. The democratic system has been weak and the country was ruled by a succession of military leaders installed after coups, the most recent in 2014. Thailand has so far had twenty Constitutions; however the basic structure of government has remained the same.
<b>Head of State</b>	HM Bhumibol Adulyadej, the 9 <sup>th</sup> King (Rama IX) of the House of Chakri, is the world's longest-serving ruler (since 1946). The king is titled as the upholder of the Buddhist religion & the defender of all faiths. Crown Prince is HRH Maha Vajiralongkorn.
<b>Head of Government</b>	<b>General Prayut Chan-o-cha</b> is the Prime Minister since August 2014. He is also Head of the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO)
<b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</b>	Mr. Don Pramudwinai was appointed as Minister of Foreign Affairs on 24 August 2015.
<b>Economy</b>	Thailand is an emerging economy which is heavily export-dependent, with exports accounting for more than two thirds of GDP. The industrial (39%) and the service sectors serve as the two main sectors in the Thai GDP. Agricultural sector shares only 8.6 % of the GDP – lower than trading sector (13.5%) and the logistics & communication sector (9.6%). The construction & mining sector 4.3% to the country's GDP. Other service sectors - which include the financial, the educational, the hotel sectors etc. - account for 25 % GDP.

<b>Major Exports</b>	automobile parts and accessories, precious stones and jewelry, rice, rubber, electronic ICs; refined fuels, iron and steel products, chemical products, polymers of ethylene, propylene, machinery etc.
<b>Major Imports</b>	crude oil, machinery & parts, chemicals, electrical machinery, iron and steel products, jewelry including silver bars & gold, computers and parts, other metal ores, natural gas, fertilizer & pesticides etc.
<b>Major crops</b>	Rice, Rubber, Sugarcane, Cassava, Pineapple, Maize
<b>Major Trading Partners</b>	Japan, China, USA, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, , S. Korea, UAE
<b>GDP Nominal</b>	US\$ 373.5 billion; GDP PPP – US\$ 1.1 trillion (IMF Oct 2015 E)
<b>GDP per capita</b>	US\$ 5,426 (IMF 2015); GDP PPP per capita– US\$ 16,081 (IMF 2015 E)
<b>Total Thai Exports</b>	US\$ 230 billion (2013)
<b>Total Thai Imports</b>	US\$ 250 billion (2013)
<b>Indian Exports</b>	US\$ 3.04 billion (2014)
<b>Indian Imports</b>	US\$ 5.62 billion (2014)
<b>Time Zone</b>	GMT + 7 hours (IST + 1hr 30 Minutes)
<b>Calling code</b>	+66
<b>Indian community and organizations</b>	There are an estimated 200,000 people of Indian origin in Thailand, many of them having lived in the country for several generations. The community comprises of Punjabis, Namdhari and other Sikh sects, Gorakhpuris, Tamils and Sindhis. India-Thai Chamber of Commerce; India-Thai Business Association; IIT Alumni Association; Indian Women’s Club; Guru Singh Sabha; Thai-Bharat Cultural Lodge; Sindhi Association; Tamil Muslim Association; South Indian Association
<b>Air-links</b>	Air connectivity is growing with 140 flights per week by Air India, Jet Air, Indigo, SpiceJet, Thai, Cathay Pacific, Air Asia, Druk Air etc reflecting rapidly growing passenger traffic between the two countries. Bangkok is connected by air to 9 Indian destinations.

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