

## Fact Sheet – Thailand



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| <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, Nakorn Ratchasima, Ubon Ratchathanee, Hat Yai and Udon Thani                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Population</b>                     | 67.09 million (July 2012) 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\$ - 29.45 Baht - May 2013)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <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 Mahavajiralongkorn.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Head of Government</b>             | PM Yingluck Shinawatra (since August 2011), Thailand's first female PM and the 28 <sup>th</sup> PM of Thailand, member of the Pheu Thai Party                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Parliament (National Assembly)</b> | The National Assembly of Thailand is a bicameral body. <u>The Senate</u> (Upper House) is a non-partisan legislative chamber, composed of 150 members (76 Senators are directly elected from the Provinces, while 74 are appointed from various sectors by the Senate Selection Committee). The Senate operates under fixed terms of 6 years. <u>The House of Representatives</u> (Lower House) with a 4 years term has a total 500 Members (375 Members are elected through single constituency elections, while the other 125 are appointed on the basis of percentage of votes obtained by each party. |

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| <b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</b>        | Deputy PM and Foreign Minister - Dr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul<br>Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs- Mr. Jullapong Nonsrichai                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <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 jewellery, 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, jewellery 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\$ 377.16 billion (estimate-2012)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>GDP per capita</b>                     | US\$ 5,850 (estimate-2012)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Total Thai Exports</b>                 | US\$ 229.52 billion (2012)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Total Thai Imports</b>                 | US\$ 247.59 billion (2012)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Indian Exports</b>                     | US\$ 3.20 billion (2012)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Indian Imports</b>                     | US\$ 5.48 billion (2012)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <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 150,000-200,000 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, etc.                                                    |
| <b>Air-links</b>                          | Air connectivity is growing with over 150 flights per week by Air India, Jet Air, Indigo, 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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