



THAILAND



INTRODUCTION

A unified Thai kingdom was established in the mid-14th century. Known as Siam until 1939, Thailand is the only Southeast Asian country never to have been colonized by a European power. A bloodless revolution in 1932 led to the establishment of a constitutional monarchy.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

King WACHIRALONGKON

Head of Government

Prime Minister PRAYUT Chan-ocha

Government Type

constitutional monarchy

Capital

Bangkok

Legislature

bicameral National Assembly or Rathhasapha consists of the appointed Senate or Wuthissapha (250 seats) and the directly elected House of Representatives or Saphaphuthan Ratsadon (500 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 513,120 sq km

Land: 510,890 sq km

Water: 2,230 sq km

Climate

tropical; rainy, warm, cloudy southwest monsoon (mid-May to September); dry, cool northeast monsoon (November to mid-March); southern isthmus always hot and humid

Natural Resources

tin, rubber, natural gas, tungsten, tantalum, timber, lead, fish, gypsum, lignite, fluorite, arable land

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

upper middle-income Southeast Asian economy; substantial infrastructure; major electronics, food, and automobile parts exporter; globally used currency; extremely low unemployment, even amid COVID-19; ongoing Thailand 4.0 economic development

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$1.207 trillion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$17,300 (2020 est.)

Industries - tourism, textiles, garments, agricultural processing, beverages, tobacco, cement, light manufacturing, computers and parts, integrated circuits, furniture, plastics, cars/vehicle parts

Agricultural products - sugarcane, cassava, rice, oil palm fruit, rubber, maize, tropical fruit, poultry, pineapples, mangoes/guavas

Exports \$258.4 billion (2020 est.)

office machinery/parts, cars/vehicle parts, integrated circuits, delivery trucks, gold (2019)

partners: US 13%, China 12%, Japan 10%, Vietnam 5% (2019)

Imports \$233.8 billion (2020 est.)

crude petroleum, integrated circuits, natural gas, vehicle parts, gold (2019)

partners: China 22%, Japan 14%, US 7%, Malaysia 6% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

69.5 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

0.26% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Thai 97.5%, Burmese 1.3%, other 1.1% (2015 est.)

Language

Thai (official) only 90.7%, Thai and other languages 6.4%, only other languages 2.9% (includes Malay, Burmese) (2010 est.)

Religion

Buddhist 94.6%, Muslim 4.3%, Christian 1% (2015 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 52.2% of total population (2021)
rate of urbanization: 1.43% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

