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Chapter 1

234

1.1 234.guide

Texified version of data for Thailand.

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Thailand

1.2 234.guide/Thailand

Thailand

Geography (Thailand)
 People (Thailand)
 Government (Thailand)
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 Economy (Thailand)
 Economy (Thailand 2. usage)
 Communications (Thailand)
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1.3 234.guide/Geography (Thailand)

Geography (Thailand)

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Location:

Southeast Asia, bordering the Gulf of Thailand, between Burma and Cambodia

Map references:

Asia, Southeast Asia, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

514,000 km²

land area:

511,770 km²

comparative area:

slightly more than twice the size of Wyoming

Land boundaries:

total 4,863 km, Burma 1,800 km, Cambodia 803 km, Laos 1,754 km, Malaysia ↔
506

km

Coastline:

3,219 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

boundary dispute with Laos; unresolved maritime boundary with Vietnam

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

Terrain:

central plain; eastern plateau (Khorat); mountains elsewhere

Natural resources:

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

Land use:

arable land:

34%

permanent crops:
 4%
 meadows and pastures:
 1% forest and woodland:
 30%
 other:
 31%
 Irrigated land:
 42,300 km2 (1989 est.)
 Environment:
 air and water pollution; land subsidence in Bangkok area
 Note:
 controls only land route from Asia to Malaysia and Singapore

1.4 234.guide/People (Thailand)

People (Thailand)

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Population:
 58,722,437 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 1.36% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 19.97 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 6.33 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 38.5 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 68.28 years
 male:
 65.05 years
 female:
 71.66 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 2.16 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Thai (singular and plural)
 adjective:
 Thai
 Ethnic divisions:
 Thai 75%, Chinese 14%, other 11%
 Religions:
 Buddhism 95%, Muslim 3.8%, Christianity 0.5%, Hinduism 0.1%, other 0.6% (1991)
 Languages:
 Thai, English the secondary language of the elite, ethnic and regional dialects

Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1990)
 total population:
 93%
 male:
 96%
 female: 90%
 Labor force:
 30.87 million
 by occupation:
 agriculture 62%, industry 13%, commerce 11%, services (including government ←
)
 14% (1989 est.)

1.5 234.guide/Government (Thailand)

Government (Thailand)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Kingdom of Thailand
 conventional short form:
 Thailand
 Digraph:
 TH
 Type:
 constitutional monarchy
 Capital:
 Bangkok
 Administrative divisions:
 73 provinces (changwat, singular and plural); Ang Thong, Buriram,
 Chachoengsao, Chai Nat, Chaiyaphum, Changwat Mukdahan, Chanthaburi, Chiang
 Mai, Chiang Rai, Chon Buri, Chumphon, Kalasin, Kamphaeng Phet, Kanchanaburi ←
 ,
 Khon Kaen, Krabi, Krung Thep Mahanakhon, Lampang, Lamphun, Loei, Lop Buri,
 Mae Hong Son, Maha Sarakham, Nakhon Nayok, Nakhon Pathom, Nakhon Phanom,
 Nakhon Ratchasima, Nakhon Sawan, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Nan, Narathiwat, Nong
 Khai, Nonthaburi, Pathum Thani, Pattani, Phangnga, Phatthalung, Phayao,
 Phetchabun, Phetchaburi, Phichit, Phitsanulok, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya,
 Phrae, Phuket, Prachin Buri, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Ranong, Ratchaburi,
 Rayong, Roi Et, Sakon Nakhon, Samut Prakan, Samut Sakhon, Samut Songkhram,
 Sara Buri, Satun, Sing Buri, Sisaket, Songkhla, Sukhothai, Suphan Buri,
 Surat Thani, Surin, Tak, Trang, Trat, Ubon Ratchathani, Udon Thani, Uthai
 Thani, Uttaradit, Yala, Yasothon
 Independence:
 1238 (traditional founding date; never colonized)
 Constitution:
 22 December 1978; new constitution approved 7 December 1991; amended 10 ←
 June
 1992
 Legal system:
 based on civil law system, with influences of common law; has not accepted

compulsory ICJ jurisdiction; martial law in effect since 23 February 1991
 military coup
 National holiday:
 Birthday of His Majesty the King, 5 December (1927)
 Political parties and leaders:
 Democrat Party (DP), Chuan LIKPHAI; Thai Nation Party (TNP or Chat Thai
 Party), Praman ADIREKSAN; National Development Party (NDP or Chat Phattana) ↔
 ,
 Chatchai CHUNHAWAN; New Aspiration Party, Gen. Chawalit YONGCHAIYUT; ↔
 Phalang
 Tham (Palang Dharma), Bunchu ROTCHANASATIEN; Social Action Party (SAP),
 Montri PHONGPHANIT; Liberal Democratic Party (LDP or Seri Tham), Athit
 URAIRAT; Solidarity Party (SP), Uthai PHIMCHAICHON; Mass Party (Muanchon),
 Pol. Cpt. Choem YUBAMRUNG; Thai Citizen's Party (Prachakon Thai), Samak
 SUNTHONWET; People's Party (Ratsadon), Chaiphak SIRIWAT; People's Force
 Party (Phalang Prachachon), Col. Sophon HANCHAREON
 Suffrage:
 21 years of age; universal
 Elections:
 House of Representatives:
 last held 13 September 1992 (next to be held by NA); results - percent of
 vote by party NA; seats - (360 total) DP 79, TNP 77, NDP 60, NAP 51, ↔
 Phalang
 Tham 47, SAP 22, LDP 8, SP 8, Mass Party 4, Thai Citizen's Party 3, People' ↔
 s
 Party 1, People's Force Party 0
 Executive branch:
 monarch, prime minister, four deputy prime ministers, Council of Ministers
 (cabinet), Privy Council

1.6 234.guide/Government (Thailand 2. usage)

Government (Thailand 2. usage)

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Legislative branch:
 bicameral National Assembly (Rathasatha) consists of an upper house or
 Senate (Vuthisatha) and a lower house or House of Representatives
 (Saphaphoothan-Rajsadhorn)
 Judicial branch:
 Supreme Court (Sarndika)
 Leaders:
 Chief of State:
 King PHUMIPHON Adunyadet (since 9 June 1946); Heir Apparent Crown Prince
 WACHIRALONGKON (born 28 July 1952)
 Head of Government:
 Prime Minister CHUAN Likphai (since 23 September 1992)
 Member of:
 APEC, AsDB, ASEAN, CCC, CP, ESCAP, FAO, G-77, GATT, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU ↔
 ,
 IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, IOM, ISO, ITU,
 LORCS, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNIKOM, UNTAC, UPU, WCL, WHO,
 WIPO, WMO

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FAX:

[66] (2) 254-2990

consulate general:

Chiang Mai consulates:

Songkhla, Udorn

Flag:

five horizontal bands of red (top), white, blue (double width), white, and red

1.7 234.guide/Economy (Thailand)

Economy (Thailand)

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Overview:

Thailand's economy recovered rapidly from the political unrest in May 1992 to post an impressive 7% growth rate for the year. Thailand, one of the ←
more

advanced developing countries in Asia, depends on exports of manufactures and the development of the service sector to fuel the country's rapid growth. The trade and current account deficits fell in 1992; much of Thailand's recent imports have been for capital equipment suggesting that the export sector is poised for further growth. With foreign investment slowing, Bangkok is working to increase the generation of capital domestically. Prime Minister CHUAN's government - Thailand's fifth government in less than two years - is pledged to continue Bangkok's probusiness policies, and the return of a democratically elected government has improved business confidence. Nevertheless, CHUAN must overcome divisions within his ruling coalition to complete much needed ←
infrastructure

development programs if Thailand is to remain an attractive place for business investment. Over the longer-term, Bangkok must produce more ←
college

graduates with technical training and upgrade workers' skills to continue its rapid economic development.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$103 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

7% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:

\$1,800 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

4.5% (1992 est.)

Unemployment rate:

4.7% (1992 est.)

Budget:

revenues \$21.36 billion; expenditures \$22.40 billion, including capital expenditures of \$6.24 billion (FY93 est.)

Exports:

\$32.9 billion (f.o.b., 1992)

commodities:

machinery and manufactures 76.9%, agricultural products 14.9%, fisheries products 5.9% (1992)

partners:

US 21.6%, Japan 18.0%, Singapore 8.7%, Hong Kong 4.8%, Germany 4.4%, Netherlands 4.2%, UK 3.4%, Malaysia, France, China (1992 est.)

Imports:

\$41.5 billion (c.i.f., 1992)

commodities:

capital goods 41.4%, intermediate goods and raw materials 32.8%, consumer goods 10.4%, oil 8.2%

partners:

Japan 29.3%, US 11.4%, Singapore 7.6%, Taiwan 5.5%, Germany 5.4%, South Korea 4.6%, Malaysia 4.2%, China 3.3%, Hong Kong 3.3%, UK (1992 est.)

External debt:

\$33.4 billion (1991)

Industrial production:

growth rate 18% (1990); accounts for about 26% of GDP

Electricity:

10,000,000 kW capacity; 43,750 million kWh produced, 760 kWh per capita (1992)

1.8 234.guide/Economy (Thailand 2. usage)

Economy (Thailand 2. usage)

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Industries:

tourism is the largest source of foreign exchange; textiles and garments, agricultural processing, beverages, tobacco, cement, light manufacturing, such as jewelry; electric appliances and components, integrated circuits, furniture, plastics; world's second-largest tungsten producer and third-largest tin producer

Agriculture:

accounts for 12% of GDP and 60% of labor force; leading producer and exporter of rice and cassava (tapioca); other crops - rubber, corn, sugarcane, coconuts, soybeans; except for wheat, self-sufficient in food

Illicit drugs:

a minor producer, major illicit trafficker of heroin, particularly from Burma and Laos, and cannabis for the international drug market; eradication efforts have reduced the area of cannabis cultivation and shifted some production to neighboring countries; opium poppy cultivation has been affected by eradication efforts; also a major drug money laundering center

Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$870 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$8.6 billion; OPEC bilateral aid (1979-89), \$19 million

Currency:

1 baht (B) = 100 satang

Exchange rates:

baht (B) per US\$1 - 25.280 (April 1993), 25.400 (1992), 25.517 (1991), 25.585 (1990), 25.702 (1989), 25.294 (1988)

Fiscal year:

1 October-30 September

1.9 234.guide/Communications (Thailand)

Communications (Thailand)

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Railroads:

3,940 km 1.000-meter gauge, 99 km double track

Highways:

77,697 km total; 35,855 km paved (including 88 km expressways), 14,092 km gravel or other stabilization, 27,750 km mostly dirt and other (1988)

Inland waterways:

3,999 km principal waterways; 3,701 km with navigable depths of 0.9 m or more throughout the year; numerous minor waterways navigable by shallow-draft native craft

Pipelines:

natural gas 350 km, petroleum products 67 km

Ports:

Bangkok, Pattani, Phuket, Sattahip, Si Racha

Merchant marine:

169 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 752,055 GRT/1,166,136 DWT; includes ←
1

short-sea passenger, 91 cargo, 12 container, 40 oil tanker, 9 liquefied gas ←
,

2 chemical tanker, 5 bulk, 6 refrigerated cargo, 2 combination bulk, 1 passenger

Airports:

total:

106

usable:

95

with permanent-surface runways:

51

with runways over 3,659 m:

1

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

14

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
28

Telecommunications:

service to general public inadequate; bulk of service to government
activities provided by multichannel cable and microwave radio relay network ↔
;
739,500 telephones (1987); broadcast stations - over 200 AM, 100 FM, and 11
TV in government-controlled networks; satellite earth stations - 1 Indian
Ocean INTELSAT and 1 Pacific Ocean INTELSAT; domestic satellite system ↔
being
developed

1.10 234.guide/Defense Forces (Thailand)

Defense Forces (Thailand)
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Branches:

Royal Thai Army, Royal Thai Navy (including Royal Thai Marine Corps), Royal
Thai Air Force, Paramilitary Forces

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 16,685,044; fit for military service 10,148,786; reach
military age (18) annually 616,042 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$2.6 billion, about 2% of GNP (FY92/93 est.)