WHY THAILAND
THAILAND, with a population of 69 million, stands at the heart of the ASEAN Economic Community, a 10-nation Southeast Asian common market of 660 million consumers.

With its 2nd largest economy in Southeast Asia, the country has a strong consumer buying power totaled US$ 246.11 Billion.

Thailand offers high quality infrastructure for air, land, sea and rail transportation, as well as excellent digital connectivity, a highly skilled labor force and an excellent standard of living, making Thailand an outstanding value when considering its cost effectiveness. These factors, together with the Thai government's comprehensive policies and investment incentives, make Thailand the preferred investment location in the region.
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS RANKINGS

Thailand is committed to easing business processes for foreign companies.

The government has instituted a wide range of initiatives designed to facilitate investment, including reducing paperwork, process steps, and digitizing government systems.

These efforts have resulted in a significant improvement in international rankings for ease of doing business.

TRADE SPOTLIGHT

Thailand is one of the top 3 export bases in ASEAN.

In 2018, the country registered an export growth of 6.7% to US $249.77 billion

3rd Largest Supplier of Natural Rubber
- US $4.6 Billion in 2018
- Supplies 34.8% of global exports

Leading exporter of Canned Tuna
- Exports 20% of global market supply
- Value nearly US $3.3 Billion in 2018

2nd Largest Global Exporter of Rice
- Supplies 21% of global rice supply
- Valued at almost US $4 Billion in 2019

Top 5 Exports in 2019

1. Machinery including computers (16.4%)
2. Electrical machinery, equipment (13.8%)
3. Vehicles (11.8%)
4. Gems, precious metals (6.4%)
5. Rubber, rubber articles (6.3%)

Top 5 Major Trading Partners

- China: US $79,815 Billion
- Japan: US $58,021 Billion
- USA: US $48,792 Billion
- Malaysia: US $23,424 Billion
- Vietnam: US $17,577 Billion

Sources: Ministry of Commerce/ Thai Rubber Association/ Thai Tuna Industry Association/ Thai Rice Exporter Association
LOCATION & MARKET ACCESS

Thailand is well-connected to the fast-growing CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam) sub-region by excellent transportation infrastructure, including rail, road, water and airways.

Businesses based in Thailand have access to a domestic market of 69 million people, with 52 million middle class consumers.

The ongoing national investment and rapid development of Thailand’s logistics systems are integrating the country’s transportation system with those of emerging economies.

This brings vast opportunities for cross-border trade and investment, making Thailand an ideal investment destination.

Within 5,000 km, Business have access to 4.6 Billion consumers in Asia
Thailand offers the rewards of almost tariff-free trade with 18 different nations, including major global economies such as Australia, China, New Zealand and South Korea, as well as the ASEAN community.

Thailand has signed 13 FTAs, not including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) that is targeted for official signing in 2020 and is expected to cover roughly one third of global GDP.

Foreign trade volume due to FTA’s reached US $406.77 billion for the first 3 quarters of 2018.

The most active FTA’s are with ASEAN, China, and Japan, with trade volumes of US $90.74, US $65.15 and US $48.73 billion, respectively.

Source: Department of Trade Negotiations
Thailand has 38 airports, including 12 international and 26 domestic, which serve more than 140 million air passengers each year. The country is well positioned as an aviation hub to the CLMV region. A large upgrade and expansion project at a main Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok is scheduled to be completed by 2026. When complete, the airport will be able to handle more than 100 million international passengers per year, doubling the airport’s existing capacity.

Sources: Department of Airports/Airports of Thailand PLC.

The quality road and highway network in Thailand not only connects provinces across the whole country but also paves the way for Thailand to become a hub for land-based trade in Southeast Asia. Currently, the kingdom has over 42 international overland border crossings, Malaysia (9 crossings), Myanmar (6 crossings), Lao PDR (20 crossings) and Cambodia (7 crossings). In addition, there are 51 temporary checkpoints that facilitate trade along Thailand’s borders. These checkpoints enable cross-border trade to flourish as goods from neighboring countries are transported through Thailand due to its strategic location.

As part of the infrastructure investment plan, the existing road network will be extended to connect Thailand to South China via the Route R12 project, which will reduce transportation time between Thailand and China by up to 50%.

Sources: Foreign Affairs Division Office of the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Interior/Asian Development Bank.
With access to the Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean, Thailand’s Eastern Seaboard is a thriving hub of international shipping traffic.

The countries strategic position is being strengthened by expansion of ports and addition of new deep-sea ports.

This US $3 billion project will expand port capacity in the Eastern Seaboard areas and include a cruise ship port in Sattahip, as well as upgrades to major shipping ports in Laem Chabang and Map Ta Phut.

Upon completion in 2023, Laem Chabang port will have an annual capacity of 18 million TEUs, up from 7.7 million annually in 2018.

New port facilities will be able to support Super-Post Panamax ships up to a maximum of 100,000 DWT, capable of carrying more than 10,000 TEUs.

At present, the port handles 54% of Thailand’s overall import and exports traffic. That figure is expected to increase by 2023, when the port project is completed, as well as the new double track railway and an expansion of the 4-lane thruway connected with the port.

The Thai government has placed a high priority on the rail mega project. The planned expansion of double track rail lines will increase 15 times over the next 7 years to 3,840 kilometers.

In addition, a 220 kilometer high-speed rail line will link the 3 key airports to facilitate convenient transportation between the industrial zone and major cities. The State Railway of Thailand (SRT) estimates that at least 160,000 passengers are likely to utilize the service daily. The development of surrounding areas will generate a wide variety of business opportunities including logistics, real estate, and international trade.

**Map Ta Phut**
- New Liquid and Natural Gas Terminals
- Channel Deepening
- Construction of Industrial Power Sources
- Improvements in Ship Traffic Control System

**Laem Chabang**
- 4th Busiest Seaport in Southeast Asia
- Capacity 7.7 Million TEU to 18 Million 2023
- Support for Super-Post Panamax Ships

**Connected via Double Track Railway and 4-lane Thruway**

Sources: Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) Office

Sources: Institute of Developing Economies/ Japan External Trade Organization/ Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning/ Ministry of Transport
Thailand has strong connections to the world of digital information through multiple high capacity bandwidth submarine cable systems. Currently, there are 8 marine cable systems mostly owned by state enterprises.

To support Thailand’s rising consumer demand, and to enable widespread adoption of cutting edge information tools such as big data analysis, the kingdom is expanding their connectivity to the Asia-Pacific region spanning from Singapore to Japan and mainland China.

Two new submarine cable systems, the Southeast Asia - Japan2 (SJC2) and the CAT - China Aviation Cloud Telecom, are under construction and are scheduled to be complete in the last quarter of 2020 and 2022, respectively.

The Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) is a flagship megaproject that aims to support the development of an advanced technology and innovation-driven economy in Thailand.

Spanning over 13,000 square kilometers across three provinces of Chonburi, Rayong, and Chachoengsao, the EEC has designated areas including the Eastern Airport City (EECa), the Eastern Economic Corridor of Innovation (EECi), Digital Park Thailand (EECd), Thammasat Integrated Medical Innovation Center (Pattaya) (EECmd), and promoted industrial estates/industrial zones.

The current transport infrastructure development projects strengthen the EEC’s position as a key logistics hub in the ASEAN Economic Community. The projects include the high-speed rail linking the 3 major airports, enabling fast and convenient transfer between the EEC and the capital city, as well as the massive development of Phase III Laem Chabang, Phase III Map Ta Phut, and the Sattahip Commercial deep seaports, which are connected by double-track railway networks.
As a regional economic center, Thailand has been the second home for numerous global MNEs, and a supply chain hub for major industries. These foreign investment activities have been enabled by streamlining of government legislation, a growing domestic market, and access to resources such as finance and technical knowledge.

Prime office space in Bangkok, Thailand’s capital, is an outstanding value. As compared to other leading cities in the region, Bangkok is nearly half of the cost of Ho Chi Minh City, only 40% of the cost of Seoul and Singapore, and a quarter of the cost of New Delhi, Tokyo and Beijing.

### Cost per sq. ft. per annum (US$)

- **Hong Kong**: 322
- **Singapore**: 114
- **Bangkok**: 43
- **Beijing**: 177
- **Seoul**: 105
- **Ho Chi Minh City**: 80
- **New Delhi**: 144
- **Tokyo**: 168
- **Jakarta**: 48
WAGES

The current minimum wage rate in Thailand varies by province ranging from THB 313 to THB 336 per day. The average daily minimum wage rate is THB 325.2 (approximately US $10.61). As wages across the ASEAN region rise due to economic growth, the wage inflation rate in Thailand is among the lowest in the ASEAN region.

Average Daily Minimum Wage
US $10.61

Wage Inflation Rate
Among the Lowest in ASEAN

Survey on Business Conditions of Japanese Companies in Asia and Oceania (2018)

Education

Survey on Business Conditions of Japanese Companies in Asia and Oceania (2018)

93.9% Literacy Rate

3rd Most Popular Education Destination in ASEAN
International Degrees 1,882 to 30,000 from 1999-2018

In addition to capital infrastructure, the Thai government is committed to capacity building in human resource development, especially in a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education as part of its comprehensive strategy to become a regional leader in ASEAN.

Thailand’s Ministry of Education partnered with the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) to host the first two SEAMEO regional centers for STEM education and for Sufficiency Economy Philosophy for Sustainability.

Sources: Ministry of Labour/ Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)
Additionally, the government has designed a wide range of vocational education programs, including Dual Vocational Education and Training, Cooperative Education, Work-Integrated Learning (WiL) and Talent Mobility (TM), to ensure that Thai workforce has right skills and is able to meet the requirements of future jobs, especially in emerging technologies such as robotics, automation and AI.

**Dual Vocational Education and Training**
Facilitates agreements and collaboration between vocational educational institutes and private firms to create effective curriculum, training, testing, and evaluation for students in order to gain practical working experience.

**Work Integrated Learning (WiL)**
Provides collaborative services between educational institutes and the private sector in the form of Public Private Partnerships (PPP).

**Cooperative Education**
Provides a structured method for combining classroom-based education with practical experience in the workplace, with the student taking the status of an actual trainee.

**Talent Mobility Program (TM)**
Recruits researchers from universities and government research institutions to work temporarily with private sector entities in four areas of development: research and development, technical and engineering solutions, testing and standards systems, and technology and innovation management.

**Investment Incentives**
- Corporate income tax holiday of up to 13 years
- 50 percent reduction of the corporate income tax
- Exemption/reduction of import duties on machinery, and raw or essential materials
- Deduction on the cost of installation or construction of facilities
- Land ownership rights for foreign investors
- Facilitation in bringing in foreign experts and technicians to work in investment promoted activities
- Facilitation in bringing in foreign nationals for the purpose of studying investment opportunities
- Provide Smart Visa for highly skilled foreigner

**Business Services**
- Provide advice and information on investment opportunities and rules & regulations on BOI investment promotion.
- Link investors with government agencies & private sector to facilitate business operation process.
- Provide support on industrial linkage and sourcing of local suppliers.
- Provide support on the identification of potential investors.
- Provide counsel on overseas investment and provide training courses on overseas investment for Thai investors.
- Provide services in identifying and recognition of foreign specialists of researchers in science and technology by BOI Strategic Talent Center (STC).

The Thailand Board of Investment (BOI) reports directly to the Office of the Prime Minister, underscoring the country’s commitment to supporting economic investment. The agency is responsible for promoting both foreign investment into Thailand and Thai investments overseas.