

# Thailand – Alberta Relations



*This map is a generalized illustration only and is not intended to be used for reference purposes. The representation of political boundaries does not necessarily reflect the position of the Government of Alberta on international issues of recognition, sovereignty or jurisdiction.*

## PROFILE

**Capital:** Bangkok

**Population:** 67 million (2014)

**Language:** Thai, English (secondary language)

**Government:** Constitutional Monarchy

**Head of State:** His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej (since June 1946)

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha. On May 22, 2014 the Thai military, led by General Prayuth, seized control of the government. Elections are not expected until 2016.

**Currency:** CAD\$1 = 29.15 Thai Baht (THB);  
1 THB = CAD\$0.03 (October 2014)

**GDP:** USD\$389 billion (2014)

**GDP (PPP):** USD\$986 (2014)

**GDP Per Capita (PPP):** USD\$14,670 (2014)

**GDP growth rate:** 2% (2014)

**Inflation:** 2.2% (2014)

**Unemployment:** 1% (2014 est.)

**Key Industry Sectors:** tourism, textiles and garments, agricultural processing, beverages, tobacco, cement, light manufacturing, such as

jewelry and electric appliances, computers and components, integrated circuits, furniture, plastics, automobiles and automotive parts.

## RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- In December 2004, a Southeast Asia tsunami caused massive destruction of property and loss of life in Thailand's southern provinces of Krabi, Phangnga, and Phuket. On behalf of Albertans, the Alberta government made a CAD\$5 million donation to the Canadian Red Cross, earmarked for tsunami victim relief in Southeast Asia.
- Canada and Thailand are Dialogue Partners in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and are partners in many regional institutions, such as Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and the security-oriented ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

## DID YOU KNOW?

- On June 26, 2013, the Petroleum Authority of Thailand Exploration and Production Company Ltd., (PTTEP) donated \$500,000 to flood relief

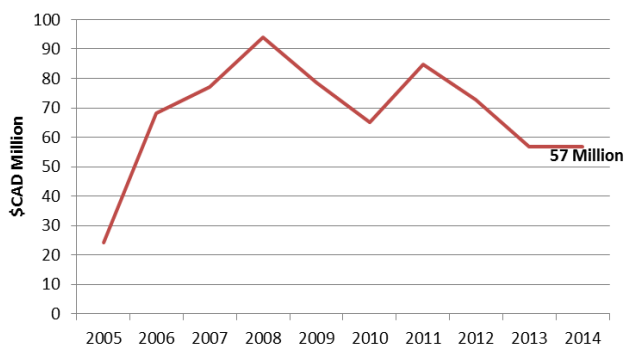
efforts in southern Alberta.

- Unlike other areas of Southeast Asia, Thailand never came under colonial rule.
- King Bhumibol is the world's longest reigning monarch.
- Thailand is the world's second-largest tungsten producer and the world's third-largest tin producer.

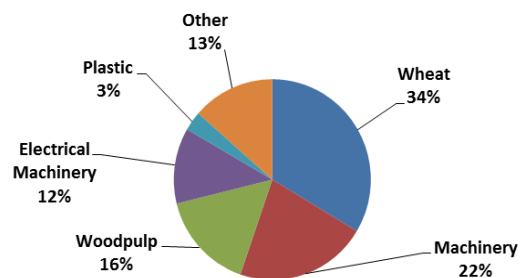
## TRADE

- Between 2010 and 2014, Alberta's exports to Thailand averaged CAD\$67million. Primary exports included wheat, electrical machinery, woodpulp and plastics.
- Between 2009 and 2014, Alberta's direct imports from Thailand averaged CAD\$116 million. Primary imports included seafood, electrical equipment, machinery and rice. This does not include goods sold in Alberta that arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.

Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Thailand 2005-2014



Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Thailand 2010-2014



## ENERGY

- Thailand is the second largest energy consumer in Southeast Asia and heavily dependent on energy imports for both oil and natural gas.
- Thailand's oil reserves stand at 461 million barrels (2015).
- Thailand produced approximately 228 thousand barrels per day (bbl/day) of crude oil in 2014, the third largest in Southeast Asia behind Indonesia and Malaysia.
- Thailand is expected to account for approximately 30 per cent of Southeast Asia's oil demand growth to 2035, with increased reliance on the Middle East for imports.
- Thailand's natural gas reserves (8.4 trillion cubic feet in 2015) hold potential opportunities for Alberta companies in the field of natural gas development.
- Thailand's production is expected to decline sharply and will have increased reliance on imports including liquefied natural gas imports which began in 2011. Currently Myanmar supplies approximately 20 per cent of gas imports.
- Thailand's steadily growing electricity generation is highly dependent on natural gas, and the government is seeking ways to diversify fuel sources. Coal use is expected to increase as well as some renewable energy and potentially nuclear capacity in the long-term.
- Thailand's refining capacity stands at 1.1 M bbl/d with 7 refineries. Major refineries are Sriracha I and II, Rayong III.
- Major companies operating in Thailand include Chevron Corporation, PTT Exploration & Production Co. Ltd. (PTTEP), and Mitsui Oil Exploration Co., Ltd.
- Pan Orient Energy, a junior oil and natural gas company based in Calgary, has interest in an oil

producing concession (L53). Other Alberta based companies active in Thailand include Oil Optimization and Pan Orient.

- In November 2010, PTTEP, Thailand's largest state-owned company, signed a partnership unit sale agreement with Statoil Canada Ltd and Statoil Canada Holdings Corp for a 40% stake in the Kai Kos Dehseh (KKD) Oil Sands Project in Canada for US\$2.3 billion. As part of this investment, PTTEP Canada Ltd., was established in Calgary in 2010. The assets for KKD were split in 2014 and the project was subsequently postponed for the time being.

## EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- In June 2012, a delegation from Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs met with Mount Royal University to discuss opportunities for furthering Alberta-ASEAN institutional linkages.
- The University of Alberta's (U of A) Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation is active in Thailand with the Play Around the World program. This three-month practicum experience gives students the opportunity to build sustainable programs for underserved populations, including the disabled in Thailand.
- Alberta's post-secondary institutions, including the U of A, the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology have strong ties with Thailand in areas such as teacher training and educational administration, biotechnology, primary health care, medicine and pharmaceutical sciences, human resources development, distance learning, and food technology.
- The University of Calgary's (U of C) Haskayne School of Business has a student exchange agreement with Thammasat University. The U of C's Faculty of Arts also runs the Southeast Asia Globalization program which allows Geography students to travel through Thailand, China, Vietnam,

Cambodia and Singapore over the course of five weeks.

## AGRICULTURE

- Alberta's agri-food exports to Thailand were valued at CAD\$19.9 million in 2013 (about 31% less than in 2012).
- Top agri-food exports that year included wheat (\$17.9 million), peas (\$680,000), mustard seed (\$555,000), and raw hides and skins (\$409,000).
- Alberta agricultural products that hold potential for the Thai market include wheat and feed ingredients.
- Thailand's growing middle class and its tourism sector fuel demand for processed and on-the-go foods, which present opportunities to supply food and beverage ingredients to Thailand.

## FORESTRY

- Alberta's forest products exports to Thailand were valued at CAD\$14.2 million in 2012, consisting mainly of wood pulp.
- Thai manufacturers have been focusing their production towards exports of Thai furniture and construction of homes for higher-end consumers.
- Manufacturers in Thailand use softwood for pallets, packaging and higher-premium quality softwood for housing construction, decks and furniture.
- Third-party forest certification is important to Thai manufacturers as it assures customers that the wood materials are produced in a sustainable manner.
- Alberta's forest product industry has achieved third-party certification on nearly 80% of its forests.

## COMMUNITY

- Approximately 2,000 Albertans are of Thai descent.

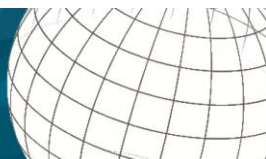
- Between 2009 and 2013, 441 immigrants from Thailand chose Alberta as their destination. Approximately 29% were economic immigrants. This includes principal applicants and their dependents.
- From 2009 to 2013, 1,061 foreign workers from Thailand were issued a permit to work in Alberta. These workers were largely occupied as agriculture and horticulture workers.
- From 2009 to 2013, 151 foreign students from Thailand were issued a permit to study in Alberta.
- The Alberta Thai Association (ATA), one of the strongest and most active Thai community associations in Canada, has been active in both Edmonton and Calgary for over 20 years.
- The ATA in partnership with the Prince Rupert Community League in Edmonton are working towards building a Thai Centre, with support from the City of Edmonton, which they hope will be completed by 2015.

## RECENT VISITS

- June 2014: Consul General of Thailand, Mrs. Sutthiluck Sangarmangkang, conducted her first official visit to Alberta.
- April 2014: Former Ambassador of Thailand to Canada, Mr. Pisan Manawapat conducted his first official visit to Alberta.
- July 2013: The former Ambassador of Thailand to Canada, Mr. Udomphol Ninnad, visited Calgary to discuss business opportunities and meet with Calgary Economic Development and the Canadian Home Builders Association. He also met with Mr. Thomas Walter of the Asia Advisory Council for a business roundtable.
- February 2013: Former Ambassador of Thailand to Canada, Mr. Udomphol Ninnad, visited Alberta with representatives from PTTEP to meet with Associate Minister Teresa Woo-Paw and government officials to discuss energy and Thailand-Alberta relations.

## DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- The Ambassador of Thailand to Canada is His Excellency, Vijavat Isarabhakdi.
- The Ambassador of Canada to Thailand is His Excellency Philip Calvert.
- The Consul General of Thailand in Vancouver, with jurisdiction for Alberta, is Mrs. Sutthiluck Sangarmangkang.
- Thailand's Honorary Consul General in Edmonton is Mr. Dennis L. Anderson.
- Mr. Anderson is overseeing the affairs of Thailand's Consulate General in Calgary until a new Honorary Consul is named.
- Mr. Dennis G. Laliberte is Thailand's Honorary Vice-Consul in Edmonton.



**For more information, contact:**