

Total world exports from Thailand, which totalled U.S. \$6.5 billion in 1980, were at U.S. \$22.9 billion in 1990 and 28.4 billion in 1991. Thailand's principal exports and imports for 1990 are outlined below.

Principal exports 1990		Principal imports 1990	
Textiles and garments	14.4%	Non-electrical machinery	18.2%
Rice	4.8%	Electrical machinery	11.8%
Tapioca	3.9%	Fuel & lubricants	9.1%
Rubber	3.9%	Iron & steel	7.6%
Precious Stones	3.9%	Chemicals	7.6%

SOURCE: The Economist Intelligence Unit

Due to Thailand's rapidly expanding industrial base, imports of manufactured goods, including machinery and manufacturing inputs, have increased dramatically. Imports of consumer goods and luxury items have also grown in recent years, reflecting a substantial increase in personal income levels. While in 1980, Thailand's total world imports were valued at U.S. \$9.2 billion, in 1990 this figure reached U.S. \$33.7 billion.

Thailand's economic boom and the surge in foreign investment have changed the composition of its external trade in recent years. Fuelled by strong demand, export industries have done well with

growth in output averaging 10.7 percent in 1991. The share of manufactured products in GNP now reaches 25.5 percent; correspondingly, agriculture is now down to 13.5 percent. Textiles, the country's largest industry, grew by about 14 percent in 1991.

Thailand is very much dependent on the state of world trade, as much of its domestic economic growth is linked to increased exports. Consequently, awareness of the implications of trade liberalization activities such as the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN), and sensitivity regarding the regional trading arrangements developing in Europe and North America characterize Thailand's approach to foreign trade policy. The Thai government played a pivotal role in bringing about commitment by ASEAN leaders to broaden regional economic integration embodied by the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA). Thailand also plans to marshal its economic and geographic clout, in order to play a significant role in the opening of new markets (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia) in the wider region.

3.2 Canada- Thailand Trade

Trade between Canada and Thailand is carried out under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT); Thailand is a beneficiary of Canada's General Preferential Tariff (GPT). In 1990, about half of the dutiable shipments from Thailand were eligible for preferential access to the Canadian market under the GPT.

	1980	% total Thai exports/imports	1985	% total Thai exports/imports	1990	% total Thai exports/imports	1991	% total Thai exports/imports
Exports to Canada	24.7	(0.3%)	108.7	(1.0%)	406.0	(1.5%)	499.5	(N/A)
Imports from Canada	141.6	(1.2%)	126.9	(0.9%)	492.1	(1.3%)	352.6	(N/A)
Total Trade (Thai-Canada)	166.3		235.6		898.1		852.1	
Balance	-116.9		-18.2		-86.1		146.9	

NOTE: "Balance" of trade refers to the ASEAN country's trade surplus (if positive number) or trade deficit (if negative number) with Canada.
Source: STATISTICS CANADA