

a 225-member Senate which is appointed by the King upon the recommendation of the Prime Minister at the time of the elections for the House. The two Houses, in joint session, elect the Prime Minister.

Party System:

Thailand has a factionalized multi-party system. Parties often are little more than the personal following of a prominent personality. Other parties represent narrow provincial or regional interests. The last elections (April 22, 1979) were contested by 37 political parties and a host of independent candidates. No party was able to get more than 27% of the vote. The three major parties are the Chart Thai Party representing business and the military; the Social Action Party, a centrist coalition; and the Democratic Party, a mixture of liberal pragmatists and Sino-Thai businessmen.

5. ECONOMIC INDICATORS (1982 estimates and in US\$ billions unless otherwise indicated)

	<u>Thailand</u>	<u>Canada</u>
GNP:	38.7	*265
Per Capita Income:	US\$788	US\$10,776
Percentage Average GNP Growth (1971-1981):	7.0%	4%
(1982)	4.7%	-2.6%
As a percentage of GNP (Selective sectors for illustration)		
- Agriculture:	26%	3.11%
- Industry:	28%	19.38%
- Defence:	4% (Official)	1.73%
- Foreign Trade (Two-Way):	27%	61.00%
Unemployment Rate:	5.6% (Bangkok)	12.2%
Consumer spending:	0.1 (1981 est)	166.1%
Inflation (CPI) in 1982:	5.5%	
Merchandise Exports:	7.2	69.7%
Merchandise Imports:	9.0	55.0
Percentage Energy Consumption Imported:	85.0%	-23%
Two-way trade volume with five major trading partners:		
	Japan 3.2	USA 87.5
	USA 2.1	Japan 6.9
	S'pore 1.2	UK 4.6
	S. Arabia 0.7	FRG 2.3
	Neth. 0.4	France 1.5
Total Government Expenditures:	6.0	80
Total Government Revenue:	5.0	70
Foreign Reserves:	2.5	3.8
Outstanding Foreign Debt:	8.3	72.9
Debt Service Ratio:	21.5%	8%
Current Account:	1.8 deficit	4.76 surplus
Exchange Rate per US dollar:	23 baht	1.19

\* At 1981 Market Prices. 103.4 in Constant Dollars