

Demographics of Thailand

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The population density, ethnicity, health and education, economic well-being, culture and religion of the Thai population are relatively homogenous. Recently, this unique society has been changing due to immigration and assimilation with other international cultures.

The population of Thailand is about 70 million. Majority of the people, around 75%, or about 5 million are of Thai-ethnic groups, 14% are Chinese, and various other groups form 11%. A significant number of registered foreigners are from Asia, Europe and North America. Among foreigners, several hundred thousand are illegal immigrants. Migrants from the neighboring countries including Burma, Laos and Cambodia are also increasing; the increased migrants also include Nepalese, Indian, Japanese and those from Western countries.

Foreign migrants were estimated to be 2 million in 2008. Most of the people have been living in the rural areas who mainly cultivate

rice. About 31 % people are urban and 69% rural. Rural-to-urban migration especially to Bangkok city has been steadily increasing.

The family planning program in Thailand is very successful. Population growth rate was 3.1 % in 1960 which has recently decreased to only 0.4% due to the family planning program. The public health policy in Thailand is also very successful. Twelve years of free education exists in Thailand but that does not cover all fees. However, the budget of education is good enough that it accounts for 19% of total government expenditure.

More than 85% of people in Thailand are Buddhist, 10% Muslims and 5% are other religions. Working population in Thailand lies between 15 to 64 years which is 74% of total population. Male-female ratio is 0.97%. It means that for every man there is a 0.97 female. The numbers of females are exceptionally more than males. Therefore, we can see many women working in the market, shopping centres and in the service centres including health and educational institutions. The recent population growth rate is as good as any

Western country, which have been 0.61 % in 2009 and 0.56% in 2011.

Health situations in Thailand are relatively good. Infant mortality rate is only 1.82% or 18.23 per 1000 live births (2006). Due to the relatively good health care sector, life expectancy in Thailand is better than all South Asian countries. For example, life expectancy in Thailand for a male is 71.24 years and for a female is 76.08 years (2011).

Thai is their national language. English is the secondary language, and they seem to be relatively weak in English because, they start learning their English lessons after junior high school. However, their literacy rate is very good. The people of age 15 and over can read and write. Of the total population, 92.6% are literate, which is comparable to any Western country. Male Thai's are relatively more literate than the woman. About 94.9% males are literate compared to 90.5% women literacy.

Thailand is not far from us...perhaps, we could use them, in some instances, as an example.

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