## MARKET PROFILES

## IOWA FAR EAST TRADE MISSION COUNTRIES

Hong Kong<br>Japan<br>The Philippines<br>Taiwan (Formosa)<br>Thailand

Prepared by
Research Division
Iowa Development Commission
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Hong Kong is a British Crown Colony located at the mouth of the Canton River in South China. Hong Kong is a free port and a most important import and export center for Asia. By Asian standards, the Hong Kong colony is quite prosperous.

People
The 1965 estimated population is 3.6 million and is increasing at about $3 \%$ per year. At least $70 \%$ of the people live in small urban centers on Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, and New Kowloon. However, urban areas account for only 10\% of the total land area. The residents are almost entirely Chinese.

English is the official language and is understood by most businessmen.
Hong Kong has a good educational system. About $80 \%$ have had schooling and the literacy rate is $75 \%$.

There is virtually full employment, about 1.4 million being employed. More than one-third are employed in industry, $11 \%$ in commerce, $7 \%$ in agriculture, $7 \%$ in transportation and communications and $22 \%$ in services. Wages are quite low but they are rising.

## Economy

Hong Kong's economy is very dynamic and rapidly expanding. The growth rate is estimated at $10 \%$ a year. Lacking mineral and fuel resources, it compensates by utilizing low-cost labor in high labor-input industries and by virtue of its position as an important distribution point for other far Eastern markets. Industries thrive in its highly competitive economy, relatively free of government control.

Per capita income is roughly $\$ 400$. The principal economic activities are manufacturing, construction, tourism, trade and commercial services. New firms which are almost constantly established require a wide range of imported machinery and raw material.

Agriculture is limited by scarce land. The major crops are rice and vegetables. Some poultry and livestock are raised and there is some dairy production. The bulk of food requirements is imported. Demand for soybean oil is rising.

Industrial production is geared largely for export and based on the processing of imported materials. Few heavy industries are feasible due to the limited land area, but light consumer industries are extremely active and quite prosperous. Major light industries include textiles, clothing, furniture and jewelry.

A U.S. trade mission to Hong Kong in 1963 uncovered markets for building materials; equipment and accessories, machine tools and light metal working machinery; scientific, medical, optical and hospital equipment; consumer goods; packaging and handling machinery; and road building and heavy construction equipment.

Port and shipping facilities are among the best in Asia. The modern international airport serves the latest jet aircraft. There is a 29 mile rail line and good paved highways connect major points.

Hong Kong has well developed and modern radio, television, telephone, telecommunication and postal facilities.

No data are available on Hong Kong's Gross National Product.
Foreign Trade

Imports
1964
1963

Total
\$1,496 million
\$1,297 million

From U.S. \$171 million \$142 million

Suppliers by market share, 1964
Communist China 22.3\%
Japan 18.2\%
U.S. , $11.4 \%$

United Kingdom $9.8 \%$
Principal imports from the U.S. include: cotton, machinery, air conditioning equipment, plastic materials, fruits and vegetables, and tobacco.

Hong Kong is a free port. Being a British Colony it is not subject to rules and regulations of the customs and postal departments of the Chinese Republic.

Excellent trade prospects exist in the following areas: non-electric machinery, food products, chemicals, clothing, man-made fabrics, tobacco products and raw cotton. .

Import licenses are required on four classes of goods.
(1) Dutiable goods - Includes tobacco products; alcoholic beverages; toilet preparations; proprietary medicine; hydrocarbon oils; and table waters.
(2) Dangerous and undesirable goods - e.g., explosives, narcotics and poisons.
(3) Restricted goods - The present coverage includes: coin-operated gaming and music-playing machines; celluloid film scrap; coal; frozen or chilled beef, mutton and pork; veal and lamb; rice; sugar; plants originating in the American tropics; and silver and gold.
(4) Strategic goods - Items embargoed for shipment to Communist China and North Korea.

Meat and poultry must be accompanied by an official certificate issued by the U.S.D.A.

## Finance

The Hong Kong dollar is worth 0.175 U.S. dollars(HK\$l=US\$0.175). Currency in circulation equaled l.4 billion Hong Kong dollars at the end of 1964.

There is an official exchange control and also an extensive free market for trading in dollars and other currencies.

UNITED STATES EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE TO HONG KONG, 1964


Japan, located off the eastern coast of Asia, is comprised of four large islands. The largest island, and by far the most important economically, is Houshu in the center of the archipelago. To the south and southwest lie Kyushu and Shikoku, and on the north Hokkaido, the least developed of the islands. People

The October, 1964 , population estimate was 96.6 million with a $1 \%$ annual increase. The capitol and commercial center is Tokyo, population 10.6 million. The chief port is Yokohama and Osaka is a major manufacturing center.

Japanese is the official language but English is widely used in international commerce.

The June, 1964, labor force totaled 48 million persons, of which 400,000 were unemployed. Manufacturing accounts for 11.6 million workers and services (including Government), 7.5 million. Basic wages have nearly doubled in the past decade.

## Economy

Japan enjoys the most highly advanced oriental economy, after an amazingly rapid recovery from total destruction in World War II. In some respects the devastation was beneficial, in that Japanese industry was able to utilize the most efficient production technique available for reconstruction.

Due to an increasing desire for western products and production management by Japanese consumers and industry, they have become the major overseas business partner of the U.S. (excluding North America).

Japan's GNP increased by $12 \%$ in 1963 , and by $9.4 \%$ to $\$ 95$ million in
1964. However, after a long period of economic growth, the Japanese economy has been showing signs of a slow down. The major problems have been inflationary pressures and a recurring balance-of-payments problem. These difficulties are typical of many nations with a high rate of economic growth. A shortage of workers is resulting in rising labor costs, but productivity increases continue to exceed wage boosts.

All things considered, the Japanese economy is still healthy and is expected to continue to expand at a moderate rate despite problems. The rate of economic expansion is expected to remain relatively high.

The dominant features of agriculture in Japan are the relatively small proportion of arable land (16\%) and the poor natural fertility of the soil. The average farm is about two acres. However, with various innovations, Japan is able to raise about $80 \%$ of its food requirements. Major crops are rice, wheat, barley and potatoes.

Japan is dependent upon agricultural imports to supplement its food requirements and provide raw materials for its industrial economy. In 1960, food stuffs and crude materials eccounted for $72.4 \%$ of Japan's total imports. Major agricultural imports were cotton, wheat, sugar, soybeans, hides and corn.

Manufacturing is concentrated primarily in the Tokyo-Yokohama and KobeOsaka areas on the island of Houshu. Japan leads the world in shipbuilding, is second in sales of electrical products, third in steel production, and fifth in automobiles.

Railroads are the main domestic carrier, as the highway system is inadequate. Japan's merchant fleet is the world's fifth largest. The government operates
some of the radio and television stations and all of the telephone and telegraph systems.

## Foreign Trade

| $\frac{\text { Total }}{\text { Imports }}$ |  | From U.S. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fiscal 1964 | $\$ 7,938$ million | $\$ 2,336$ million |
| Fiscal 1963 | $\$ 7,200$ million | $\$ 2,246$ million |

The U.S. supplied $31.2 \%$ in 1963 and $29 \%$ in 1964, of Japan's total imports.

Japan's chief imports from the U.S. are grains, scrap metals, cotton, industrial machinery, soybeans, coal, logs, organic chemicals, petroleum, calculating machines, aircraft and engines, and chemical wood pulp.

Additional trade opportunities exist for air conditioners, dehumidifiers, animal husbandry equipment, special production equipment and foodstuffs. U.S. exports are expected to continue to grow, but competition is rising from domestic and Australian producers.

Iowa exports to Japan totaled \$52.3 million in 1963, and consisted of: Soybeans, \$20 million; corn, \$17 million; manufactured goods, \$1 million; hides and skins, $\$ 7$ million; meat products, $\$ 2$ million; machinery, $\$ 1$ million; animal feeds, \$l million; and metal scrap, \$1 million.

Limited import controls exist to protect certain weaker domestic industrial sectors until they become competitive with imported goods.

Over $90 \%$ of Japan's import trade has been liberalized, as regards the U.S., and imports may be made under procedures which assume automatic licensing. Where specific import licenses are required, an import quota system applies. Advance deposits ranging from 1 to $35 \%$ are necessary in order to obtain import li-
censes on specified goods.
Import licenses are usually valid for six months, and imported goods must be cleared through customs in that time.

A revised custe s tariff, entirely ad valorem, exists. Duties range from $5 \%$ to a duty on certain tobacco of $355 \%$. Most duties are from 10 to $30 \%$, and a number of essential products are duty free.

Machinery used in industries contributing to the attainment of economic self-support of Japan, is duty free.

The value for duty is defined in the Customs Tariff as the price at which an article is offered for sale in the exporting country, in the usual wholesale quantities and in the ordinary course of trade? (excluding internal excise taxes to be remitted or rebated) plus ordinary expenses prior and incidental to the loading of such article on board the vessel at the port of export and ordinary freight as well as ordinary insurance covering the transportation of such article to the port of entry.

## Finance

Japanese currency is the yen. There are 360 to one U.S. dollar(360 yen= US\$1).

The balance of payments has suffered periodic adverse balances which have been temporarily corrected by a tight money policy. Gold and foreign exchange reserves as of January, 1965, were $\$ 2,027$. million.


On July 4, 1946, the Philippines became an independent country, and the new Philippine Republic was formally inaugurated.

The Philippine archipelago is divided into some 7,100 individual islands and islets, with a total estimated area of about 115,707 square miles. The two largest islands are Mendanao and Luzon.

Manilla, on Luzon Island, is the principal port and commercial center, Quezon City, northeast of Manila is the new capital. People

Estimated 1963 population was 31 million, predominantly Malay origin, with Chinece being the largest minority group. The rate of growth is $3.3 \%$ a year.

English, Spanish and Filipino are the primary languages. English, which is spoken by $40 \%$ of the population, is used in commercial circles.

The Philippines have a well developed system of free public education which has resulted in a $75 \%$ literacy rate.

The labor force of eleven million persons is growing by 300,000 annually. Underemployment and unemployment are quite high.

## Economy

The overall economic progress of the Philippines was encouraging during 1964 with a $5 \%$ increase in GNP to $\$ 4.3$ billion. Prospects for continued growth during the balance of 1965 appear mixed. In the public sector, economic programming and development expenditures are somewhat subordinated to politics during this Presidential election year. The private sector continues to exhibit vigorous
growth despite a tight credit situation.
The Philippine Central Bank is following a tight credit policy to curtail inflationary pressures which may increase as a result of higher minimum wage scales signed into law in April, 1965. However, assuming continued control over inflation, the increased demand for goods senerated by higher wages may stimulate the private sector.

Agriculture accounts for $24 \%$ of the national income and $59 \%$ of total employment. Rice and corn are the principal crops. Agricultural productivity lags behind other Asian nations.

The industrial sector is growing rapidly, accounting for $20 \%$ of the GNP in 1963. Philippine ins stry consists primarily of finishing operations and light non-durable goods production. Pood processing accou ted for $42 \%$ of manufacturing production in 1963.

Transportation facilities are generally inadequate for the needs of the economy. The 1,150 miles of railroads are confined to Luzon Island. Only about one-fourth of the roads are paved. Major cities have domestic airline service and coastal shipping serves the 350 ports. The Port of Manila handles 85$90 \%$ of the imports, resulting in frequent cargo congestion.

Telephone service extends to all principal islands and the radio network serves the entire Philippines. TV stations are located in Manila, Bacolod and Gebu.

Foreign Trade

| Imports | $\frac{\text { Total }}{1964}$ | From U.S. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1963 | $\$ 868$ million | $\$ 347$ million |
|  | $\$ 618$ million | $\$ 243$ million |

The U.S. share was $41 \%$ in 1963 and $40 \%$ in 1964. Important Philippine imports include machinery, transport equipment, raw cotton, wheat, base metals, chemicals, plastics and crude petroleum.

Imports are regulated by tariffs and taxes rather than licensing controls. Philippine policy, seeking to diversify its trading base, is gradually phasingout preferential market access with the U.S.

Long term trade prospects are good, especially in machinery and equipment and chemical items. However, 1965 U.S. exports to the Philippines are expected to fall below the record 1964 level. Export categories showing the best progress during 1964 included machinery and equipment, wheat, textile waste materials, chemical elements and compounds, plastic materials, crude and synthetic rubber, paper and paperboard, fon and steel mill products, and professional and scientific equipment.

Declines were reported in dairy products, newsprint, textile yarns and fabrics.

## Finance

Following devaluation of the peso in 1962 , the exchange rate has steadied at 3.9 pesos to one U.S. dollar (P3.9=US\$1). The money supply totals 2, 700 million pesos.

Exchange for authorized imports is issued in accordance with regulations of the Central Bank. An import tax of $1.7 \%$ is levied, but this tax is scheduled to be eliminated on January 1, 1966.

The Philippine reserve position is relatively weak at slightly more than $\$ 100$ million.


| SECT. O FOOD | AND LIVE ANIMALS |
| :---: | :---: |
| 002 | animals for food |
| 003 | live animals nes |
| 011 | meat fresh nes |
| 012 | MEAT DRIED ETC |
| 013 | meat canned etc |
| 022 | milk and cream |
| 023 | Butter |
| 024 | cheese and curd |
| 025 | EGGS |
| 031 | Fish fresh etc |
| 032 | FISH PRESERVED |
| 04. | \#HEAT UNMILLED |
| 042 | RICE |
| 043 | barley unmilled |
| 044 | MAIEE UNMILLED |
| 045 | CEREAL UNH NES |
| 045 | WHEAT FLOUR ETC |
| 047 | FLOUR ETC NES |
| 048 | cereal preps |
| 051 | FRUIT Nuts fresh |
| 052 | ORIED FRUIT |
| 053 | FRUIT PREP PRES |
| 054 | VEG FRESH DRY |
| 055 | VEG PREP PRES |
| 061 | SUGAR AND HONEY |
| 062 | SUGAR PREPS CONF |
| 071 | COFFEE |
| 072 | COCOA |
| 073 | Choclte And prep |
| 074 | tea and mate |
| 075 | SPices |
| 081 | FODOER NES |
| 091 | margarine etc |
| 099 | FOOD PREP NES |

sect. 1 beverages ano robacco

| 356,496,503* |
| :---: |
| 41.795,571* |
| 152,346 |
| 226.236 |
| 137.973 |
| 36.038 |
| 492,778 |
| 5,419,345 |
| 24,774 |
| 153,329 |
| 16,600 |
| 2,125 |
| 1.038.671 |
| 10,162,336 |
| $\begin{array}{r} 11,285,696 \\ 1,843 \end{array}$ |
|  |  |
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|  |
| 965,027 |
| 369,535 |
| 1,735,404 |
| 1,215,491 |
| 659,512 |
| 1,399,942 |
| 568,919 |
| 1.137.027 |
| 33,865 |
| 914.015 |
| 60.239 |
| -594,216 |
| $\begin{array}{r} 928.967 \\ 42,145 \end{array}$ |
|  |  |
|  |
| 819.913 |
| 6,533 |
| 999.694 |
| 759,768* |
| 8,41040,426 |
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| 33,3231800* |
| $\begin{aligned} & 295.298 \\ & 370.425 . \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  |
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| 16,370 |
| 2, 194,961 |
| 2,509,353 |
| 818010 |
| 11.349 |
| 15,370,095 |
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| 34,247 |
| $67+005$185.010 |
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| 316 |
| 333,542 |
| 885.542 |
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Value
\{dollars)

| Continont, country of destination and SITC section descciption |  |
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| $\begin{gathered} \operatorname{sircte} \\ \text { group } \\ \text { coto } \end{gathered}$ | SITC group dexciption |

Valuo
[dollaris

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\begin{array}{ll}
689 & \text { BASE METAL NES } \\
691 & \text { CONSTR MEAL } \\
692 & \text { CONTAINERS METAL } \\
693 & \text { WIRE PROO NONEL } \\
694 & \text { NAILS BOLTS ETC } \\
695 & \text { HAND TOOLS ETC } \\
695 & \text { CUTLERY } \\
\text { HARES METL } \\
& \text { HOUSE WARS METL } \\
& \text { METAL MFS NES }
\end{array}
$$

ECT. 7 MACHINERY \& transport EQUIPMNT

| 711 | Power mach nes |
| :---: | :---: |
| 712 | agriculture mach |
| 714 | OfFICE MACHRY |
| 715 | metalwrking mach |
| 717 | textile etc mach |
| 718 | MACH FR SPEC ${ }^{\text {a }}$ NO |
| 719 | Machinery nes |
| 722 | elec power mach |
| 23 | elec distria mac |
| 724 | TELECOM EQUIPMNT |
| 725 | dmstc elec equip |
| 726 | elec medical equ |
| 729 | ELEC MACH NES |
| 731 | Railway vehicles |
| 732 | ROAD MOTOR VEH |
| 733 | ROAD VEH NES |
| 734 | AIRCRAFT |
| $735$ | SHIPS ANO BOA |

sect. s misc manufactured articles

| 812 | blog fixtures |
| :---: | :---: |
| 821 | Furniture etc |
| 831 | handogas etc |
| 841 | clothes not fur |
| 842 | fur clothes etc |
| 851 | FOOTWEAR |
| 861 | instruments etc |
| 862 | phoro goods |
| 863 | devo mevie film |
| 864 | *ATCHES CLOCKS |
| 891 | MUSIC instru etc |
| 892 | Printed matter |
| 893 | PLASTIC MFS NES |
| 894 | TOYS ETC |
| 895 | StATIUNERY |
| 896 | ART WORKS ETC |
| 897 | gold silvr wares |
| 899 | MFO G000S NES |

SECT. 9 COMMODItIES NOT CLSFD BY KIND


931 SPCL SHIPMENTS

Exclusive of Special category cocrodities
Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce U.S. Exports, 1964

Taiwan(Formosa) is an island off the east coast of China under Nationalist China's control. The province consists of 14 islands comprising 13,837 square miles.

People
The population of Taiwan was 12 million in 1964 and has been growing at $3.5 \%$ a year. The capitol city is Taipei, population 1,030,000. Principal seaports are Kaohsuing, population 520,000 , and Keeliing, population 260,000 .

Mandarin is the official language, although a southern Fukien dialect is used by most of the people. Some Japanese and English are also used.

Elementary education is free and compulsory, followed by secondary or vocational school for qualified graduates. The literacy rate is over $75 \%$.

Taiwan's labor force is approximately 4 million persons.

## Economy

Taiwan's economic future has never looked brighter. Phase-out of the U.S. economic aid testifies to the nation's economic progress and is not expected to significantly affect total movement of goods from the U.S.

Gross national product continues to increase, rising by $10 \%$ to 2.1 billion in 1964. The Chinese Government has taken steps to ensure continued economic growth and expansion. It has established the island's duty-free export processing zone at Kaohsuing at the southern end of Taiwan.

Taiwan's economy is still based primarily on agriculture, although manufacturing is becoming an increasingly important sector. The principal crops include rice, sugarcane, bananas, mushrooms, and citrus fruits. Agricultural production
is growing at about 4\% a year and accounts for $29 \%$ of the Net National Product.
Industrial production is growing at 14\% a year and accounts for about $20 \%$ of NNP. Although the Central Government monopolizes the major industries of sugar, petroleum, fertilizer, and power, small-scale private enterprises account for $70 \%$ of total industrial production.

Local commerce is mainly through small shopkeepers and vendors. Prices are generally stable despite growth of the money supply.

Rail and highway facilities are well developed. Two harbors accommodate 20,000 ton vessels. Local airlines operate in Taiwan and the island is served by international carriers.

Well developed postal and communications facilities are operated by the government. Electric power is abundant and coal and petroleum or gas fuel is also available.

## Foreign Trade

$\frac{\text { Imports }}{1964}$
1963

Total
$\$ 418$ million
$\$ 337$ million

From U.S. $\$ 146$ million \$138 million

Principal suppliers were the U.S. (35\%) and Japan (33\%). Primary imports from the U.S. included raw cotton, machinery and equipment, petroleum and other chemical products, wood, electronics, iron and steel bars, rods and slabs, soybeans, wheat and communication equipment.

A U.S. trade mission to Taiwan in March, 1965, to counteract phaseout of U.S. aid reported a number of promising opportunities for trade; industrial air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment; textile machinery; metal working and wood working tools; small hoists and wrenches; small powered hand tools;
packaging equipment; scientific and quality control equipment; injection molding equipment for plastics; color printing equipment; irrigation piping and pumps; office equipment and supplies; chemical raw materials; agricultural chemicals; small sized fertilizer spreaders; feed grains; supplements and additives; and breeding stock for hogs and poultry. In some cases it was emphasized that lower prices and more liberal credit terms are necessary to compete with other foreign suppliers.

All merchandise imported into China, otherwise than by parcel post must be accompanied by consular invoices, if valued at or above $\$ 250$ U.S. Currency, f.o.b. port of shipment. However, Chinese Consulates are not authorized to legalize documents for Communist-controlled ports.

The duty-paying value of any import liable to ad valorem duty shall be determined on the basis of the goods at the port of importation.

Finance
The unit of currency is the New Taiwan dollar which is equal to $21 / 2$ cents (NT\$40=US\$1). The money supply in December of 1964 was $\$ 316$ million, 24\% above December of 1963.

The exchange certificate system was abolished on September 30, 1963. Importers make applications for foreign exchange allocations, and when granted they may buy the exchange at the official selling rate of 40.10 Taiwan dollars to the U.S. dollar. Most imports from the U.S. are paid for by letter of credit.

| Continant, country of destination and SITC section description |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{gathered} \operatorname{sif} c \\ \substack{\text { group } \\ \text { code }} \end{gathered}$ | SITC group deactiption |

TAITAN (FORMOSA) TOTAL 1
sect. O f000 and live animals

| $\begin{aligned} & 002 \\ & 003 \end{aligned}$ | ANIMALS FOR FOOD -LIVE anImals nes |
| :---: | :---: |
| 022 | milk and |
| 025 | eges |
| 032 | Fish preserved |
| 041 | Wheat unmilled |
| 044 | maize unmille |
| 046 | -heat flour etc |
| 047 | Flour etc nes |
| 048 | cereal preps |
| 051 | FRUIT NUTS FR |
| 052 | dried fruit |
| 053 | fruit prep pres |
| 054 | VEG FRESH DRY |
| 055 | VEG PREP PRES |
| 061 | SUGAR AND HONEY |
| 062 | sugar preps conf |
| 071 | COFFEE |
| 072 081 | COCOA |
| 091 | marg |
| 099 | FOOD PREP NES |

sect. 1 beverages and tobacco

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\begin{aligned}
& 112 \\
& 121 \text { - BEVERAGES ALC } \\
& 122 \text { TOACCC UMF } \\
& \text { TOBACCO MFS }
\end{aligned}
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sect. 2 crude mtrls, inedible ex fuels

| 211 | hides crude |
| :---: | :---: |
| 221 | OIL SEEDS ETC |
| 231 | RUBEER CRUDE SYN |
| 242 | WOOO ROUND ETC |
| 243 | WOOD SHAPED ETC |
| 251 | PULP WASTEPAPER |
| 262 | WOOL AND MAIR |
| 263 | COTTON |
| 266 | ART SYNTH FIBRES |
| 273 | STONE SANO GRAVL |
| 275 | abrasives natrl |
| 276 | minerals cro nes |
| 282 | SCRAP IRON STEEL |
| 283 | ORES ${ }^{\text {a METAL }}$ NES |
| 284 | Scrap metal nes |
| 291 | ANIMAL MATTR NES |
| 292 | veg matter nes |

sect. 3 mineral fuels, Luericnts a mat 332 petroleum proos
sect. a animal \& vegetable oils \& fats
411 ANIMAL OILS FATS
421
431 VEG OIL SOFT
OIL FAT PROC NES
$\underset{\substack{\text { Value } \\ \text { (dollass) }}}{ }$

145,364,383* 22.232.721*
76.087
25.577

25,577
$-1,230,533$ $1,239,533$
1,008
392 392
$\mathbf{1 7 . 4 6 1 + 8 2 1}$
444.674 444.674
1.374 .143
33.2645 33,264
468,445 468.445
18528
277.341 277.742
155.240
36,101 35,101
1,434
1,332
30 1.232
30.469
7.956
12.783
178.682 178,682
402,269 1,603.799* 14,207
$1.585,923$
3.669 56,032,638* 482,889 $21+150,749$
300.912 300.912
1,906
681
2.540 .051

$\underset{\substack{\text { Value } \\ \text { (dotlars) }}}{ }$
sect. 5 chemicals
11,956,450* 2.257 .691.
308.200
40.8 $308.200^{\circ}$
400.833
1.609 1,609
54,394
47.693 47.693
8.767
247.586 247.586
786.185
88.189


4,373
$3,108,442$ 14.107,326*

sect. 7 machinery \& transport equiphnt

sect. a misc manufactured articles
812 BLOG FIXTURES
821 FURNITURE ETC FUANITURE ETC
HANOBAGS ETC CLOTHES NOT FUR
FUR CLOTHES ETC FUR CLOTHES ETC PHOTO GOODS OEVO MOVIE FILM
WATCHES CLOCKS WATCHES CLOCKS
MUSIC INSTRU ETC PRINTED MATTER
PLASTIC MFS NES PLASTIC MFS
TOYS ETC
STATIOLEY STATIONERY
ART WORKS ART WORKS ETC
GOLD SILVR WARES
MFD GOOOS NES
899 MFD GOODS NES
931 - SPCL SMIPMENTS
${ }^{2}$ Exciusive of Special category conraitites
Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce;
U.S. Exports, 1964

The Kingdom of Thailand lies in Southeast Asia and covers about 200,000 square miles of the Indochinese peninsula. The name of the country which had long been Siam, was changed in 1939 to Thailand - "Land of the Free". People

The population is nearly 30 million of mostly homogenous Thai stock with about 3.5 million of Chinese origin. Bangkok (population 2 million) is the largest city and major port.

Siamese is the spoken and written language, but English is in general use for commercial purposes.

Thailand's literacy rate is rapidly increasing, currently about 68\% for those 10 years and older. Most leaders are educated or trained abroad.

The labor force, age 11 and up, was 13.8 million in 1960. Of this total, 11.4 million work in agriculture, fishing and forestry.

Economy
Thailand's economy is basically agricultural with about $85 \%$ of the working population employed in this field. Gross National Product was up to $\$ 3.2$ billion in 1964 and has been growing about 6\% annually. Per capita income in 1964 was $\$ 110$ and is increasing at $3 \%$ a year. The reasons for the slow growth of industry are the lack of raw materials and energy fuels.

Leading crops are rice, rubber, corn, lac, tobacco, sugar, jute and kenaf. Rice accounts for over $35 \%$ of Thailand's exports. A program to encourage irrigation is underway to increase agricultural production.

Industries are small, but growing. Food processing and fabrication of
consumer products and building materials are the leading sectors. Manufacturing accounted for $12 \%$ of the 1963 GNP and has been growing about $9 \%$ annually. The government has initiated a Six-Year Plan to achieve diversification through gradual industrialization.

Tourism is the main method of earning foreign exchange in Thailand. This business is growing by $15 \%$ annually and drew 150,000 tourists in 1963.

Over one-half of goods are transported on rivers and canals. Modernization of a 2,200 mile railroad is underway along with improving and extending 8,000 miles of highways.

Communications are limited and underdeveloped. Bangkok has less than 30,000 telephone lines, but this system is being expanded. Thailand has 22 radio stations, 3 million receiving sets, 5 television stations, $120,000 \mathrm{TV}$ sets, and several large movie theaters.

## Foreign Trade

| Imports | Total <br> 1963 | From U.S. <br> 1962 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | | $\$ 104$ million |
| :--- |
| $\$ 93$ million |

Japan has $30 \%$ of the market and the U.S. $17 \%$. Thailand's major imports include: petroleum products; iron and steel; motor vehicles; textiles; mining, construction, and industrial machinery; electrical machinery; dried milk; medicines and pharmaceuticals; and rubber manufacturers.

Commercial imports into Thailand are comparatively free from restrictions. Controls exist mainly for two reasons: (1) To exclude imports from Communist Ghina, and (2) as a protection for domestically produced goods. Merchants generally maintain low inventories because of the high cost of financing.

Finance
The unit of currency is the baht, sometimes known as the tical. Par value is 20.80 bahts to the dollar (B20.80=US\$1). Thailand's money supply in September, 1964, was $\$ 881$ million.

Commercial credit is tight in Thailand in view of the relative shortage of capital. Commercial rates on domestic credit range from 12 to $15 \%$ annually while small, poorly secured loans cost 25 to $40 \%$.

Exchange control approval for bona fide commercial transaction is given automatically. Foreign exchange reserves totaled over $\$ 600$ million in early 1965.

## UNITED STATES EXPORTS*OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE TO THAILAND, 1964



## SELECTED ECONOMIC DATA ON FAR EAST COUNTRIES

| Country | $\begin{gathered} \text { Population } \\ (1,000) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Latest year avail. | $\begin{gathered} \text { Area } \\ \text { (1,000 } \\ \text { sq. mile) } \end{gathered}$ | Density (pop. per sq. mile) | GNP <br> (millions of dollars) | Latest year avail. | GNP per capita |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Japan | 96,560 | '64 | 142 | 680 | 62,600 | '63 | 648 |
| Philippines | 30,758 | '63 | 115 | 267 | 4,333 | '63 | 141 |
| Thailand | 29,700 | '64 | 198 | 150 | . 2,952 | '62 | 99 |
| Taiwan | 11,884 | '63 | 14 | 849 | $\therefore 1,810$ | '62 | 152 |
| Hong Kong | 3,592 | '63 | 0.4 | 9,025 | NA | --- | NA |
| United States | 192,119 | '64 | 3,549 | 54 | 622,300 | '64 | 3,239 |

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

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