



**"Thailand"** **11**  
What you No. need to know -

**Energy & Telecom Infrastructure**

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The European ASEAN Business Centre (EABC) is a European Trade Organisation contributing to improve the trade and investment environment for European companies in Thailand with an aim to see a larger number of European companies (especially SMEs) being established in Thailand and increased export and investment by European companies into Thailand.

The EABC supports trade advocacy by playing an important role as the independent voice of European business vis-à-vis Thai authorities. It also acts as a focal point for market information for European companies in Thailand, facilitating their market access.

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## EABC European Union's window to Thailand

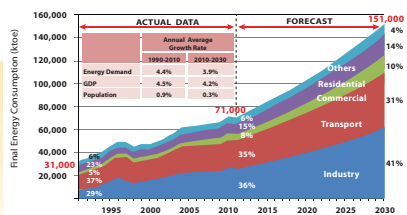


## Overview

Main focuses of Thailand's infrastructure development plan for 2012 – 2020:

- Electricity: boost combined capacity of power plants by 55,000 megawatts over the next 18 years.
- Telecommunications: provide high-speed internet services covering all areas in the country and developing Government Information Network (Glnet) for support of SMEs.
- Public Infrastructure Development: Develop water supply systems and implement waste water management system to optimize use of resources.

Thailand's energy consumption in the past and projected future demand



(Sources: NESDB and BOI – Sep 2013)

This leaflet is part of the EABC publication series on "Thailand" What you need to know. The information in this leaflet is provided for informational purposes only, and should not be construed as business or legal advice on any specific facts or circumstances.

## Electricity Supply

The Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) is the main electricity producer and distributor, producing 60 per cent of Thailand's electricity requirements. A further 37.6 per cent comes from Independent Power Producers (IPP) and Small Power Producers (SPP), and the remaining 2.4 per cent comes from Laos and Malaysia.

Distribution of electricity in Thailand is provided mainly through the Metropolitan Electricity Authority (MEA) and the Provincial Electrical Authority (PEA). The National Energy Policy Committee (NEPC) sets the rates that EGAT charges MEA and PEA.

Thailand's industry sector is the primary energy consumer accounting for 45.53 per cent of all electricity used in the country. Residential consumers are the second largest contributors, followed by business consumers and small general services, and the agricultural sector.

(Source: BOI – Sep 2013 - <http://www.boi.go.th/index.php?page=electricity>)

Thailand was ranked\* 10th with an estimated 35 days in total to complete a full energy supply process and it was ranked\*\* 44 out of 144 countries relating to quality of electricity supply.

\* World Bank Doing Business Index report (2013)

\*\* World Economic Forum (Global Competitiveness Report 2012-2013)

## Water Supply

Potable water supplies are generally provided by two agencies: the Metropolitan Waterworks Authority (MWA) and the Provincial Waterworks Authority (PWA). MWA engages in production and distribution of potable water in the Bangkok metropolitan region while PWA is responsible for all other provinces in Thailand.

Serving around 15 million inhabitants in the provinces of Bangkok, the MWA has a daily water production capacity of 5.5 million cubic meters with water being sourced from the Chao Phraya River (70 per cent from the Bhumibol and Sirikit Dams), and 30 per cent from Mekong Dam.

PWA and MWA are public companies. However Thailand has privatized part of its water supply in the provinces. Generally in metropolitan regions, water supply can be provided in a matter of days.

(Source: NESDB and BOI - Sep 2013 - [http://www.boi.go.th/index.php?page=water\\_supply](http://www.boi.go.th/index.php?page=water_supply))

## Oil and Gas

Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT) is the leading petroleum and natural gas producer, wholesaler and retailer, although there are other players with a wide national coverage.

Retailers are spread in a large nationwide network making it easy to access gasoline (now all unleaded), diesel oil, and other petroleum products for consumers and industrial operations. Gasoline prices in Thailand averaged 1.56 US \$/litre in 2012. (Source: World Bank - Sep 2013)

## Telephone and Internet

Thailand's telecommunications services are at an international standard, especially in urban areas, and the IT industry is rapidly developing. Fixed telephone lines, mobile telephones, and ADSL broadband are all available.

Fixed line services represent 38 per cent of household connections. The Bangkok metro area is served by three fixed-line operators:

- Telephone Organization of Thailand (TOT), state-owned;
- True Corporation Plc. (True) Private Company;
- CAT Telecom Public Company Limited, state-owned, responsible for Thailand's international telecommunications infrastructure.

The first two can install phone lines in a matter of days. Areas outside Bangkok are served by the TOT and TT&T Public Co., Ltd.

TOT has 6.6 million subscribers nationwide. True, operating in the greater Bangkok region has 2 million subscribers and TT&T, providing coverage for all areas beyond the capital, has 1.2 million subscribers.

The government and TOT have been providing more telecommunication facilities to the general public in provincial communities to improve services, especially internet.

Mobile operators provide mobile network and internet coverage in all Thailand regions with a few exceptions in some of the remote interior regions. With 98 per cent of the Thai population owning a mobile phone, agreements between the three mobile phone operators guarantee that users can make a cross-network call easily.

(Source: BOI - Sep 2013 - [http://www.boi.go.th/index.php?page=telephone\\_services](http://www.boi.go.th/index.php?page=telephone_services))

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