

Thailand

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Several government agencies in Thailand generate a variety of international migration-related data, including remittances. The main sources of data are the Immigration Bureau, the Department of Provincial Administration, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Bank of Thailand. The census, which is carried out by the National Statistical Office, does not collect information on international migration. Among the data gaps are lack of data on Thai residents abroad, the return migration of Thai citizens to Thailand, the departure of foreign workers from Thailand, refugees and irregular migrants. Access to data is another problem area. Data may be available, but they are not published, or they are not available in the English language.

International Migration Categories, Data and Sources

Most of the data on international labor migration into and from Thailand presented in this report are secondary data collected by government offices. Some available data can be accessed through the Internet. The government agencies which are responsible for the collection and dissemination of international migration data are described below:

1. Immigration Bureau

The Immigration Bureau collects and provides statistics and information on all categories of immigrants, particularly for those who enter, depart, or request permission to stay in the Kingdom, including statistics on those who have violated the Immigration Act (1979). The Immigration Bureau has authority to enforce legal operation according to the Immigration Act and other laws. It also provides public services in the area of immigrant inspection, immigration, and alien registration. It also coordi-

nates and supports other organizations in carrying out relevant tasks or other assignments.

The statistics collected by the Immigration Bureau include the following:

- Arrival and departure of aliens/foreigners;
- Requests for permission to stay in the Kingdom;
- Notification of staying in the Kingdom over 90 days;
- Verification of nationality;
- Requests for permanent residence in the Kingdom;
- Fines for aliens/foreigners overstaying their visa;
- Passport renewal or cases of lost or expired passports;
- The arrests of aliens/foreigners;
- Deportation of aliens/foreigners;
- Foreigners believed to be victims of human trafficking; and
- Thai citizens who were denied entry and deported from a foreign country.

2. Ministry of Labour

The Thailand Overseas Employment Administration (TOEA) under the Ministry of Labour is responsible for statistics on Thai migrant workers. TOEA collects both numbers of inflow and outflow of Thai migrant workers. The Department of Employment under the Ministry of Labour also compiles statistics on migrant workers from the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), Cambodia and Myanmar who registered for work permits in Thailand. It is responsible for the annual registration process. In addition, the department collects statistics on foreign professionals working in Thailand and issues them a work permit.

3. Ministry of Interior

The Department of Provincial Administration is responsible for collecting statistics on the domestic population, which includes statistics on births, deaths, migration, annual population and housing census, and other related statistics. Information concerning the number of refugees residing in temporary shelters is the responsibility of the Border Affairs and Displaced Persons Division under the Bureau of Internal Security Affairs, Department of Provincial Administration. Some information/data are not disseminated to the general public.

4. Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for statistics on Thai citizens residing in foreign countries, as well as migration for the purpose of labor, studying and others. The office responsible for collecting such statistics is the Division of Protection of Thai Nationals Abroad, Department of Consular Affairs, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

5. National Statistical Office

The National Statistical Office is the main organization responsible for managing national statistics and is the clearing house of statistical information concerning Thailand. The National Statistical Office collects statistics from censuses and surveys from relevant organizations concerning population and households, agriculture, industry, business and others. The statistics collected by the National Statistical Office on migration are from the decennial National Migration Survey, but it only contains data on internal migration. The public may access these statistics from the National Statistical Office website.

The above organizations usually disseminate their statistical data to the public through their website, statistical yearbooks or annual reports. The organizations that collect, process, and disseminate statistical information to the public every year are the Ministry of Labour, the Immigration Bureau, and the National Statistical Office. Statistics on Thai citizens residing in a foreign country are not systematically collected or disseminated.

There is no office that estimates the number of unauthorized migrants into Thailand or from Thailand. The organization responsible for collecting statistics on the arrests of irregular migrants is the Immigration Bureau. Regarding foreign migrants who had irregularly entered the country, these statistics come under the Arrest of Alien/Foreigner category. Concerning data on Thai irregular migrants overseas, the Immigration Bureau collects such statistics under the category of Thai citizens who have been denied entry/deported. However, there are more irregular migrants than there are arrests. Both of these statistical data are collected every month, and are published in the annual reports.

Several agencies collect statistics on the return migration of foreign workers to their home countries and the return migration of Thai migrant workers to Thailand. The Immigration Bureau, which is responsible for collecting information on entries and departures to and from

Thailand, is a source of information on foreign workers leaving Thailand to return to their home countries. However, the information is reported as aggregate data, which does not distinguish labor migrants from other migrants. These statistics are collected on a monthly basis. The Ministry of Labour does not collect data on foreign workers who had left Thailand.

As the main organization that is directly responsible for Thai migrant workers, the Ministry of Labour collects a variety of statistics on this group, including data on their return to Thailand. However, the statistics are not comprehensive because some returnees do not submit and return the forms to the Immigration Bureau when they arrive in Thailand. The other statistics collected by the Ministry of Labour on Thai migrant workers are data such as the number of Thai workers who have registered with the Department of Employment to look for work abroad. Information is collected on the registered workers' birthplace (province), level of education, type of work preferred, etc. They also have statistics on Thai workers who have received permission to work abroad, which are categorized according to mode of migration (e.g., through an agency, re-entry or resuming a previous position through extended contract, individual travel, being taken to the destination country by employers or sent by the Department of Employment) and by destination country. These data are collected and published by the Ministry of Labour on a yearly basis.

The Asian Research Center for Migration (ARCM) has created a website (www.arcm.ias.chula.ac.th) to coordinate, compile and disseminate international migration data in Thailand.

International Migration to Thailand

Statistics on immigration, naturalization and registration of aliens residing in Thailand are derived from records of registration kept by the Immigration Bureau of the Royal Thai Police Headquarters. The definitions of various migration terms are as follows:

Alien: Any person who is not of Thai nationality under the Nationality Act.

Immigrant: Any alien who enters the Kingdom.

Temporary stay in the Kingdom: An alien entering the Kingdom for a temporary stay may enter for diplomatic or consular mis-

sions, performance of official duties, tourism, sports, business and investment under the auspices of the ministries and departments concerned; investment or other related activities subject to the provisions of the law on investment promotion. Transit pertains to a person in charge of the crew of a conveyance coming to a port, station or area in the Kingdom; student; mass media; missionary work under the concurrence of the ministries and departments concerned; scientific research or training or teaching in a research institute; specialists of skilled handicraft, and other activities as prescribed in the ministerial regulation. An alien who wishes to take up residence in the Kingdom must apply for a Residence Certificate from the Commissioner-General of the Royal Thai Police or from a competent official (Immigration Bureau).

According to the Immigration Bureau of Thailand (Table 1), the official number of foreigners who were in the Kingdom legally in 2005 was 857,910 out of an overall population of 62,418,054. In 2006, the foreign population had declined to 839,624.

The figures do not include irregular migrant workers from the Lao PDR, Myanmar and Cambodia.

According to the Immigrant Law, all foreigners are called "aliens." An alien refers to a person who does not have Thai nationality. The Immigration Bureau categorizes aliens/foreign population into five types according to the type of visa requirement:

1. Permanent Resident - Immigrants with this type of visa are aliens who are allowed to stay and register in the household registration.

2. Non-Immigrant - This visa applies to aliens/foreigners who ask for temporary stay in Thailand for the following purposes: business, government authorization, living with a Thai family or married to a Thai national, etc. Non-immigrant visa holders can be classified into three categories:

Non-Immigrant Visa "B" - (Business and work)

1. Foreigners who wish to work, conduct business or undertake investment activities in Thailand must apply for a Non-immigrant Visa at the Royal Thai Embassies or Royal Thai Consulates-General. Various categories of the Non-immigrant Visa

are currently provided to meet the needs and qualifications of individual business persons. These include business visa Category "B," business-approved visa Category "B-A," and investment and business visa Category "IB." Holders of these types of visas who wish to work in Thailand must be granted work permits before they can work. The visa fee is 2,000 Baht for a single-entry with three-month validity and 5,000 Baht for multiple entries with one-year validity.

TABLE 1
FOREIGN POPULATION RESIDING IN THAILAND BY
VISA CATEGORY AND GENDER, 2005 AND 2006

Visa Category	Year 2005			Year 2006		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Non – national (with name in house registration) or Permanent Resident	334,333	284,447	618,780	321,284	271,485	592,769
Non-Immigrant Visa	NA	NA	153,430	103,278	49,001	152,279
Tourist Visa (request for visa extension only)	NA	NA	52,665	36,234	19,513	55,747
Transit Visa	NA	NA	27,528	19,665	8,109	27,774
Exemption of Visa Requirements	NA	NA	3,166	4,456	2,718	7,174
Others	NA	NA	2,341	3,116	665	3,781
Total	334,333	284,447	857,910	488,033	351,491	839,524

SOURCES: For "Non-national, with name in house registration," see Department of Provincial Administration (in Thai) (2005). Available at http://www.dopa.go.th/cgibin/people2_stat.exe?YEAR=48&LEVEL=4&PROVINCE=57%23%E0%AA%D5%C2%A7%C3%D2%C2&DISTRICT=&TAMBON=; and Department of Provincial Administration (in Thai) (2006). Available at http://www.dopa.go.th/cgibin/people2_stat.exe?YEAR=49&LEVEL=4&PROVINCE=57%23%E0%AA%D5%C2%A7%C3%D2%C2&DISTRICT=&TAMBON=. For "Temporary stay," "Tourist," "Transit," "Change of visa" and "Others," see Immigration Bureau, *Annual Report 2005* and *Annual Report 2006*. Both reports are available at <http://www.imm.police.go.th/>

NOTES: NA – not available

2. Nationals of certain countries are required to apply for a visa at the Royal Thai Embassy or Royal Thai Consulate-General in their home/residence country or at a designated Royal Thai Embassy or Royal Thai Consulate-General.

Three-Year Non-Immigrant Visa "B" (Business only)

Foreign citizens who wish to visit Thailand for business purposes may apply for a three-year Non-Immigrant Visa "B." This type of visa may be issued to business people for multiple-entries and is valid for three years. It allows the holder to visit Thailand as often as required for as long as the visa remains valid and allows the holder to stay in Thailand for a period of not exceeding 90 days during each visit. Employment of any kind is strictly prohibited for holders of such visa.

Non-Immigrant Visa "O-A" (Long Stay) (or Retirement visa)

This type of visa is issued to applicants aged 50 years and over who wish to stay in Thailand for a period not exceeding one year without the intention of working (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <http://www.mfa.go.th/web/2637.php>).

3. Tourist – This visa is for foreigners who ask for permission to stay in Thailand for a period of not more than 30 days at a time but not exceeding 90 days in total.

4. Transit visa – This visa applies to foreigners who want to pass by or stop in Thailand for not more than 30 days.

5. Exemption of visa requirements – This applies to foreigners who are from countries which have a visa-free agreement with the Kingdom of Thailand.

6. Others – This applies to aliens who wish to enter Thailand for other migration-related reasons, such as being part of the diplomatic corps.

As of 2006, many of the foreigners residing in Thailand were from China and Japan. In 2005 and 2006, Japan, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea were the top three origin countries of immigrant regular professionals in Thailand (Immigration Bureau, 2005; 2006 *see* <http://www.imm.police.go.th/>). However, in 2006 and 2007, there was a change. Japan

continued to be the top origin country of new work permits issued to professionals and workers, but second and third ranked countries were China and England (Department of Employment, 2006; 2007). Most of the regular professionals and workers as of 2006 worked in administrative and managerial, and skilled positions (Ministry of Labour, 2005; 2006).¹ The Ministry of Labour categorizes legal immigrant workers into four types (Table 2):

1. Migrant workers who are granted non-immigrant visas to work temporarily in Thailand
2. Migrant workers who are recognized under the Board of Investment (BOI) scheme to promote foreign investment in Thailand
3. Migrant workers who are given a grace period according to Article 12 of the Immigration Law – They entered Thailand irregularly and are waiting to be deported. During the waiting time, they are allowed to work temporarily. At present, the Ministry of Labour has announced that migrant workers who are under Article 12 can work in Thailand. They are from Myanmar, the Lao PDR and Cambodia.
4. Foreigners who are allowed to be permanent migrant workers – This is a special category of migrant workers who entered Thailand before 13 December 1972. They can work permanently in Thailand according to the Revolutionary Announcement No. 322 [10].

The first two types can work in various occupations; the third type specifically refers to laborers or unskilled workers; and the fourth type can work in their existing employment categories but without the possibility to change jobs.

The number of migrant workers from the Lao PDR, Cambodia and Myanmar who were issued work permits in 2005 and 2006 were classified into three sub-categories: (1) those who renewed their work permits, (2) those who applied for new permits and (3) those who passed the nationality screening (according to the Memorandum of Understanding or MOU between Thailand and the three sending countries) and were given work permits. In 2005, 705,293 unskilled migrant workers renewed their work permits, whereas in 2006, out of 724,995 unskilled migrant workers who registered for work permits, 460,014 had their permits renewed. Fur-

¹ The figures exclude the number of permanent migrant workers – 14,423 persons.

TABLE 2
STOCK OF MIGRANT WORKERS OF ALL TYPES, 2005, 2006

Year	Legal Migrant Workers			Unskilled/ Undocumented Workers Temporarily Allowed to Stay and Work		Grand Total
	Permanent Migrant Workers	Temporary work permit	(BOI)	Article 12 of the Immigration Law [Minorities]	Sub-Total	
2005	14,423	72,088	23,640	40,256	150,407	705,293
2006	14,423	82,950	26,241	45,029	168,643	668,576

SOURCES: Report of the Office of Foreign Workers Administration (Work Permit) Department of Employment. Available at http://122.154.57/workpermit/main/stat/report/all_thai/2548/Dec48.pdf and Report of the Office of Foreign Workers Administration (Work Permit) Department of Employment. Available at http://122.154.57/workpermit/main/stat/report/all_thai/2549/Dec49.pdf.

thermore, 208,562 of the total number of unskilled workers had their renewed work permits, 208,562 applied for new permits, 7,205, who were from Lao PDR and Cambodia, went through nationality screening and eventually registered for formal recruitment (Ministry of Labour, 2006).

The share of the foreign worker population in the Kingdom in relation to the country's total work force (i.e., the population older than 15 years of age) is minimal. As of 2006, the 837,219 foreign worker population comprised 1.66 percent of the country's total work force of 50,471,000. Table 3 indicates that the demand for immigrant workers by employers is higher than the quota approved by the Ministry of Labour and the number of work permits eventually granted to foreign workers from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar. As shown in Table 3, in terms of employer demand, the three sectors with the greatest need, excluding the "others" category, were the household sector, agricultural and livestock sector, and construction. In terms of the work permits granted, the largest number of workers given work permits were in the agriculture and livestock, construction, and household sectors.

The Thai government records the number of unauthorized persons in the Kingdom. Thailand has data for 10 countries which are under the watch list of the Thai government, i.e., these are countries whose nationals have been found to violate Thailand's Immigration Law. These are: Cambodia, Myanmar, Lao PDR, China, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Nepal. Table 4 shows that for the period 2000-2006, the majority of immigrants who were apprehended in the Kingdom were involved in immigration-related violations, particularly traveling to Thailand without the proper travel documents. Most of the immigration violators were from the neighboring countries of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar.

Thailand hosts thousands of refugees and persons of concern. The provinces of Ratchaburi, Kanchanaburi, Maehongson and Tak have holding centers for persons from Myanmar who have fled their home country.

The Department of Provincial Administration of Thailand classifies people who are in the camps as follows:

1. People who escaped from the war pertains to those who are recognized by the Thai authority as asylum seekers.
2. Displaced persons refer to people of Myanmar nationality who have escaped from political persecution, i.e., they cannot remain in their country of origin due to political reasons.

TABLE 3
DEMAND FOR IMMIGRANT WORKERS, QUOTA GRANTED BY MOL AND REGISTRATION FOR WORK PERMIT APPLICATIONS BY IRREGULAR
IMMIGRANT WORKERS BY BUSINESS ACTIVITY, 1-30 JUNE, 2006

Sector of Employment	Demand for immigrant workers					Quota granted by MOL			Registration for Work permit			
	Employer	Total	Myanmar	Lao PDR	Cambodia	Employer	Worker	Employer	Total	Myanmar	Lao PDR	Cambodia
Total	194,133	1,333,703	1,051,577	154,787	127,339	190,920	1,226,106	138,736	460,014	405,379	29,683	24,952
1. Fishery	5,006	59,715	36,406	2,722	20,587	4,965	57,286	3,129	14,514	10,592	661	3,261
1.1 Sea fishery	3,582	51,443	30,495	1,947	19,001	3,560	50,510	2,130	11,543	8,384	394	2,765
1.2 Inland fishery	1,424	8,272	5,911	775	1,586	1,405	6,776	999	2,971	2,208	267	496
2. Fishery related	2,966	152,041	141,044	2,858	8,139	2,961	151,283	2,645	49,771	48,393	259	1,119
3. Agriculture and Livestock	40,833	212,055	176,983	18,296	16,776	40,627	200,737	30,035	94,708	83,896	5,580	5,232
3.1 Agriculture	36,033	178,285	149,404	14,754	14,127	35,830	170,408	26,672	82,628	73,712	4,653	4,263
3.2 Livestock	4,800	33,770	27,579	3,542	2,649	4,797	30,329	3,363	12,080	10,184	927	969
4. Rice mill	841	9,803	8,877	554	372	840	9,169	687	4,206	4,040	88	78
5. Brick factory	772	8,358	6,997	987	374	771	7,717	628	2,948	2,781	131	36
6. Ice factory	914	7,882	6,659	659	564	890	7,087	676	3,253	2,903	159	191
7. Marine transportation	1,744	10,321	7,368	293	2,660	1,741	10,262	203	1,715	1,042	93	580
8. Construction	15,337	200,355	146,119	19,053	35,183	15,256	183,171	11,054	71,423	64,020	2,542	4,861
9. Mining	187	2,541	2,255	181	105	185	2,507	163	864	847	2	15
10. Household servant	74,627	118,552	87,288	25,917	5,347	72,820	112,987	53,223	66,863	55,297	9,254	2,312
11. Others (including manufacturing)	50,906	552,080	431,581	83,267	37,232	49,864	483,900	36,293	149,749	131,568	10,924	7,267

SOURCE: Office of Foreign Workers Administration, Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour

TABLE 4
NUMBER OF APPREHENSIONS OF IMMIGRANTS IN THAILAND, 2000-2006

Category	Number
Persons overstaying their visa	100,814
Persons who entered the country irregularly (without proper document)	615,958
Persons who entered the country irregularly with fake documents	4,371
Persons who committed crimes	27,302
Total	748,445

SOURCE: Immigration Bureau (n.d.), *Annual Reports*, 2000-2006

Their application for displaced persons status must be approved by the Provincial Admission Boards (PAB).

3. PAB pertains to people of Myanmar nationality who are put in Holding Centers in order to have their status determined by the Provincial Admission Boards.
4. Students refer to people of Myanmar nationality who do not qualify to be considered as displaced persons, but the Thai government has allowed them to reside in the camps so they can pursue their studies.

There were a total of 104,783 people who escaped from the war, 25,824 displaced persons, 7,476 PABs, and 1,956 students. About half of the 140,039 persons who were granted displaced person status or "persons of concern status" (71,611) were males (Department of Provincial Administration, 2007).

International Migration from Thailand

The Department of Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs categorizes Thai nationals who are residing and/or working abroad into: permanent migrants, and temporary professionals and migrant workers (all skill levels), students, and prisoners. As of 2005, there were 471,350 Thai nationals residing and/or working abroad, of which the largest majority comprises permanent migrants and temporary professional and migrant workers (440,483); the rest were students (30,762); and prisoners (165). The data are not disaggregated by gender. Also, the department does not have an official estimate as to how many Thai nationals are in an unauthorized situation.

Table 5 shows the five major destinations where Thai nationals are residing and/or working. Based on data for the years 1999 to 2006, Thai nationals were mostly residing and/or working in Taiwan, China (651,844); Singapore (125,932); Israel (81,640); the Republic of Korea (56,847); and Brunei Darussalam (52,610). Table 5 also shows that the overseas Thai population is overwhelmingly male.

TABLE 5
TOP FIVE COUNTRIES/AREAS OF DESTINATION WHERE THAI NATIONALS ARE
RESIDING AND/OR WORKING, 1999-2006

Country/Area	Male	Female	Total
1. Taiwan, China	557,819	94,025	651,844
2. Singapore	122,353	3,579	125,932
3. Israel	74,837	6,803	81,640
4. Republic of Korea	48,219	8,628	56,847
5. Brunei Darussalam	43,545	9,065	52,610

SOURCE: Thailand Overseas Employment Administration (TOEA) (n.d.a.). Available at http://www.overseas.doe.go.th/oeao_th/news/index.html (only in Thai) 2005-2006 and Thailand Overseas Employment Administration (TOEA) (n.d.b.). Available at http://www.overseas.doe.go.th/oeao_th/news/index.html (only in Thai) 1999-2004.

Turning specifically to international labor migration, Table 6 shows the destination countries where Thai workers migrated. The Thailand Overseas Employment Administration (TOEA) collects data on the occupational distribution of Thai workers based abroad. For the period 1999-2006, Thai workers were mostly general workers, manufacturing workers and skilled workers (Table 7). Except for the service workers category, most of the Thai workers were males. For the years 2005 and 2006, Thai workers were mostly categorized under the skilled worker group (Table 8).

The Bank of Thailand defines "remittances" from overseas Thai migrant workers as current transfers, which means donations or contributions that residents received from non-residents.

To record the remittances sent by Thai migrant workers, each commercial bank is required to send information on remittance inflows to the Bank of Thailand. Information on remittances is drawn from data concerning the purpose of a customer's financial transaction (which comes

TABLE 6
 NUMBER OF WORKERS DEPLOYED BY COUNTRY / AREA OF
 DESTINATION AND SEX, 2005 AND 2006

Region and Country/Area of Destination	Year 2005			Year 2006		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<i>Asia Total</i>	88,929	20,025	108,954	99,037	19,593	118,630
1. Malaysia	3,690	1,225	4,915	2,431	987	3,418
2. Singapore	11,293	487	11,780	14,546	569	15,115
3. Brunei Darussalam	4,538	678	5,216	4,515	626	5,141
4. Hong Kong, China	210	3,580	3,790	196	3,564	3,760
5. Japan	4,034	2,551	6,585	4,789	2,429	7,218
6. Taiwan, China	48,920	8,743	57,663	53,381	8,681	62,062
7. Republic of Korea	12,233	1,999	14,232	14,588	1,874	16,462
8. Viet Nam	555	74	629	807	116	923
9. Cambodia	38	2	40	315	12	327
10. Other Asia	3,418	686	4,104	3,469	735	4,204
<i>Middle East Total</i>	16,978	1,723	18,701	25,319	2,007	27,326
1. Saudi Arabia	783	75	858	782	74	856
2. Qatar	3,093	46	3,139	7,448	68	7,516
3. Bahrain	502	287	789	775	319	1,094
4. United Arab Emirates	1,700	427	2,127	3,047	577	3,624
5. Kuwait	956	136	1,092	3,724	182	3,906
6. Oman	262	17	279	376	32	408
7. Israel	8,079	667	8,746	8,618	694	9,312
8. Iran, Islamic Republic of	1,381	4	1,385	--	--	--
9. Other Middle East	222	64	286	549	61	610
<i>Africa Total</i>	2,895	155	3,050	3,622	276	3,898
1. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1,267	2	1,269	1,192	2	1,194
2. South Africa	664	35	699	--	--	--
3. Other Africa	964	118	1,082	2,430	274	2,704
<i>Others Total</i>	6,465	2,497	8,962	7,774	3,218	10,992
1. United States of America	2,078	792	2,870	1,856	942	2,798
2. England	1,022	542	1,564	1,104	553	1,657
3. Germany	170	62	232	218	57	275
4. Australia	124	65	189	179	63	242
5. Italy	325	109	434	299	98	397
6. Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)	13	58	71	38	94	132
7. Denmark	1,051	24	1,075	--	--	--
8. New Zealand	118	66	184	--	--	--
Others	1,564	779	2,343	4,080	1,411	5,491
<i>All Total</i>	115,267	24,400	139,667	135,752	25,094	160,846

SOURCE: National Statistic Office (n.d.a.). Available at http://service.nso.go.th/nso/nso_center/project/table/files/1700300/2549/000/00_1700300_2549_000_000000_00300.xls 2006 and National Statistic Office (n.d.b.). Available at http://service.nso.go.th/nso/nso_center/project/table/files/1700300/2548/000/00_1700300_2548_000_000000_00300.xls 2005

from a form that customers need to fill). However, the Bank of Thailand has no information on the average amount of remittances sent by migrant workers (Interview with an official from the Bank of Thailand).

Table 9 presents remittance inflows to Thailand from 2004 to 2006.

Assessment of Currently Available International Migration Statistics

Overall, government organizations such as the Immigration Bureau, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Interior, and the National Statistical Office have a systematic collection and dissemination of statistical information, such as a yearly report that provides easy access to such information. However, certain types of statistics, such as the number of Thai citizens residing in a foreign country, are either not available on a regular basis or difficult to access.

TABLE 7
OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF THAI WORKERS OVERSEAS BY SEX, 1999-2006

Occupational Category	Male	Female	Total
Administration and management	20,930	6,380	26,770
Professionals	9,638	2,945	12,583
Technical and related workers	4,284	3,041	7,325
Clerical and related workers	6,633	4,043	10,676
Service workers, Dealers	40,741	70,347	111,061
Agriculture and fishery	35,992	3,359	39,351
Skilled workers	249,171	33,088	282,259
Manufacturing workers	325,887	66,594	392,481
General workers	441,745	26,535	468,280
Total	1,135,021	216,332	1,351,353

SOURCE: Thailand Overseas Employment Administration (TOEA) (n.d.a.). Available at http://www.overseas.doe.go.th/oeao_th/news/index.html (only in Thai) 2005-2006 and Thailand Overseas Employment Administration (TOEA) (n.d.b.). Available at http://www.overseas.doe.go.th/oeao_th/news/index.html (only in Thai) 1999-2004.

NOTES: There were no data concerning technical and related workers in 1999-2004. The *professional* category includes teachers, programmers, doctors, publicists, photographers, artists, counselors, chemists, medical technologists or medical laboratory technologists, actors, directors, musicians, geologists, physicists, etc.; *skilled workers* include stonecutters, butchers, foremen, garment workers, plumbers, etc.; and *general workers* include laborers, agriculturists, farmers, cleaners, carpenters, masons, laundry workers, etc.

TABLE 8
OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF THAI WORKERS OVERSEAS BY SEX, 2005 AND 2006

Occupational Category	2005			2006		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Administration and management	1,021	350	1,371	1,186	383	1,569
Professionals	2,362	805	3,167	3,028	826	3,854
Technical and related workers	1,864	1,272	3,136	2,420	1,769	4,189
Clerical and related	565	555	1,120	856	437	1,293
Service workers, Dealers	5,232	7,058	12,290	5,666	7,290	12,956
Agriculture and fishery	268	50	318	445	69	514
Skilled workers	40,831	3,804	44,635	51,284	3,650	54,934
Manufacturing	29,533	6,072	35,605	32,354	6,204	38,558
General workers	33,591	4,434	38,025	38,513	4,466	42,979
Total	115,267	24,400	139,667	135,752	25,094	160,846

SOURCE: Thailand Overseas Employment Administration (TOEA) (n.d.a.). Available at http://www.overseas.doe.go.th/oeao_th/news/index.html (only in Thai) 2005 – 2006.

TABLE 9
REMITTANCES TO THAILAND, 2004-2006

Year	Remittances (In Baht million)	Remittances (In US\$ million)
2004	65,124	1,916
2005	47,667	1,314
2006	53,985	1,588

SOURCE: Bank of Thailand. Available at http://www.bot.or.th/bothomepage/index/index_e.asp

NOTE: 34 Baht = 1 US\$.

Thai government organizations have better collection of information on domestic rather than international migration. The latter still needs to be improved. Thus, gaps and deficiencies on the country's international migration data must be addressed. Such limitations include the following:

1. There are many organizations responsible for collecting statistics on international migration, such as the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Immigration Bureau, and the National Statistical Office, all of which work separately, with little coordination among them. Furthermore, due to the lack of coordination among these organizations, there are data gaps, such as the number of Thai migrant workers who have returned to Thailand or statistics on foreign laborers who have departed Thailand.
2. It is difficult to access official statistics, even though many government organizations have a system of storage and dissemination through yearly reports (e.g., the Ministry of Labour and the Immigration Department). However, certain types of statistics, such as information on refugees, are not publicly disseminated. Or some statistics, such as the number of Thai nationals residing overseas, are not publicized by the relevant organizations. Those interested in such information must send an official letter to request for access to the data and wait for a reply.
3. The statistical information disseminated by organizations through their annual reports or through their websites are often-times not disaggregated by relevant categories. Usually, only the totals are provided with no information on the male-female distribution. Such details are not readily available in yearly reports or websites, and it takes time to request for special tabulations.
4. Information concerning unauthorized or irregular international migration is still rare, or some data are available, but they are sketchy or unreliable. Only information concerning unofficial or irregular migration from the number of people arrested can be found.
5. In Thailand, NGOs that keep statistical information on international migration are rare or non-existent. For the most part, data

on international migration are limited to government organizations.

Other institutions that collect and produce international migration data or conduct migration research in Thailand are as follows:

1. Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University (<http://www.ipsr.mahidol.ac.th/content/Title/SitemapTH.htm>): Their website features research reports and on-going research.
2. Asian Research Centre for Migration and World Health Organization Border Health Database (<http://www.arcml.info/index.aspx>): Their website disseminates the following information: demographic/population data; public health resources; quota and registration of unskilled migrants (Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar); medical check-up data; area situation data on disease, maternal and child health, family planning and vaccine; camp information; camp population; camp health situation; related documents and related organizations.
3. Asian Research Centre for Migration Migration Database (<http://www.arcml.ias.chula.ac.th/English/index.php>): Among the items in their website are Research Projects, Publications and Statistics. The Statistics part provides fairly detailed information about labor migration into and from Thailand.

Data on migrant workers in Thailand include the following:²

- Comparison of the result of registration (1 July - 15 Oct. 2004), quota, house registration (Tor Ror 38/1), health check and work permit for irregular immigrant workers classified by province
- Results of employment needs, quota and extension of work permit of irregular immigrant workers classified by business activity, 2004
- Results of migrant workers' survey and registration by the Department of Provincial Administration on 4 October 2004

² Unless otherwise indicated, the data pertain to migrant workers from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar.

- Results of employment needs, quota and extension of work permit for irregular immigrant workers classified by province, undertaken between 1 June 2005 and 30 August 2005
- Results of employment needs, quota and extension of work permit for irregular immigrant workers classified by business activity, undertaken between 1 June 2005 and 30 August 2005
- Results of employment needs, quota and extension of work permit for irregular immigrant workers classified by province, undertaken on 1-30 June 2006
- Results of employment needs, quota and extension of work permit for irregular immigrant worker classified by business activities, undertaken on 1-30 June 2006

Data on Thai migrant workers include the following:

- Number of Thai migrants going abroad by top 10 countries of destination, 1998-2007
 - Remittances sent by Thai migrant workers, 1995 -2006
 - Assistance and services extended to Thai migrant workers, 1999 -2003
 - Assistance and services extended to Thai migrant workers, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007
 - Educational levels of Thai migrant Workers, 1999-2007
 - Thai migrant workers approved by the Ministry of Labour by mode of migration (i.e., sent by the Department of Labour, private agencies, employers and independently) country and gender, 2000; 2001; 2002; 2003; 2005; 2006; 2007
 - Occupational distribution of Thai migrant workers, 1998-2004; 2005-2007
4. Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) (<http://www.tdri.or.th/>): Their website includes information on their research projects and various research reports.
 5. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home>): The data and materials posted on this website include a number of references

specific to Thailand. Some of the more recent references are: the 2005 UNHCR Statistical Yearbook Country Data Sheet - Thailand (published on 30 April 2007); Update: SPCP-Thailand, February 2008 (the material provides a background, analysis and policy); UNHCR Global Appeal 2008-2009-Thailand; and UNHCR maps (Myanmar-Thailand border; Myanmar-Thailand Age Distribution of Refugee Population; Myanmar-Thailand Border Refugee Population By Gender).

6. International Organization for Migration (IOM) (<http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/lang/en/pid/1>): The website includes features on migration and health; migration and development; regulating migration; facilitating migration; and migration research.

To date, most of the available data are disseminated in Thai language, which makes it difficult to share them with foreigners. Disseminating the information in English will broaden the usefulness of the data to non-Thai speakers. Also, better coordination among various offices will contribute to improving the quality, coverage and dissemination of international migration data.

Finally, concerning the Migration Information System in Asia (MISA) Project, the data need to be updated regularly and this requires commitment and resources. Furthermore, a regional comparative perspective will provide an important point of reference and it can serve to motivate each country/area to improve its data collection and dissemination strategies.

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