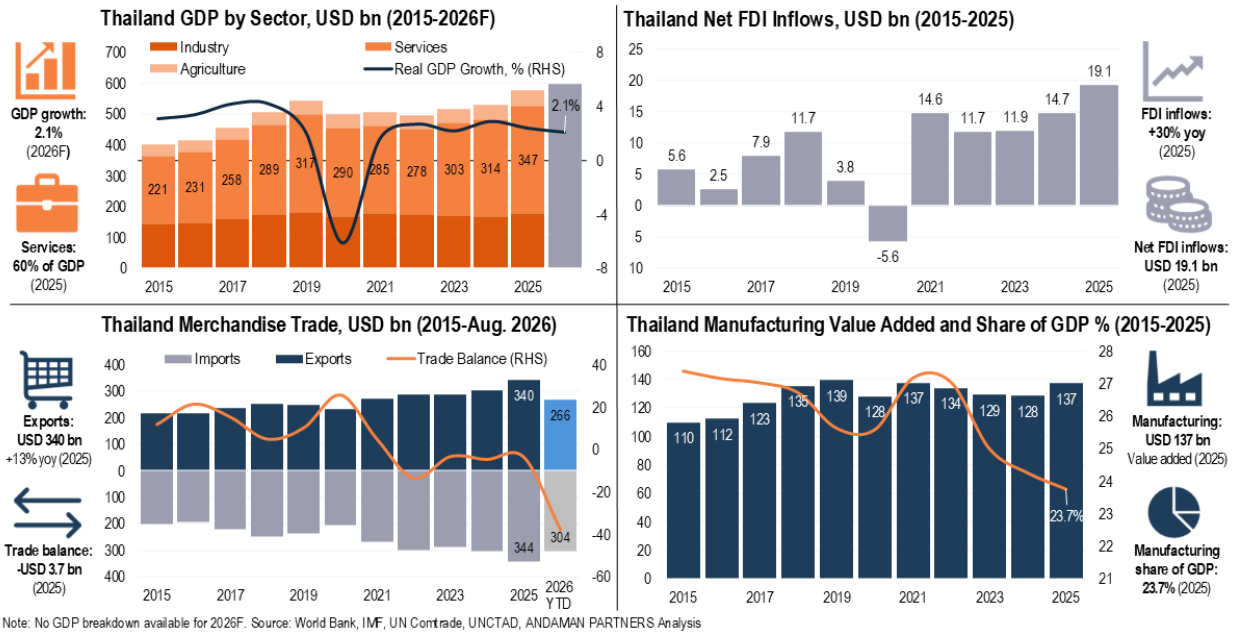
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Thailand's Economy Attracts Stronger Investment Despite Modest Growth

Rising foreign investment and a substantial manufacturing base support Thailand's economy, even as GDP growth remains subdued and trade performance fluctuates



Note: No GDP breakdown available for 2026F. Source: World Bank, IMF, UN Comtrade, UNCTAD, ANDAMAN PARTNERS Analysis

Thailand's economy presents an interesting contrast in 2026: foreign investment is gathering momentum, manufacturing remains an important economic foundation and exports are growing strongly, yet overall economic growth remains relatively modest.

The IMF forecasts GDP growth of just 2.1% in 2026, reflecting an economy that continues to expand but has struggled to regain the pace of earlier years. Services account for around 60% of GDP, supporting employment and domestic economic activity, while Thailand's established manufacturing sector remains central to its role in regional and global supply chains.

Foreign investment is one of the more encouraging developments. Net FDI inflows reached USD 19.1 billion in 2025, up 30% from the previous year. Thailand's industrial base continues to offer investors an established platform for manufacturing and regional production, although manufacturing value added, at USD 137 billion in 2025, has remained relatively stable in recent years. Its share of GDP has consequently declined to 23.7%, illustrating how the economy is gradually changing. Merchandise exports also performed strongly in 2025, rising 13% to USD 340 billion, although imports slightly exceeded exports, leaving a trade deficit of USD 3.7 billion.

For international businesses, Thailand remains an important manufacturing, investment and trading partner in Southeast Asia. The challenge for the country is to translate its investment

appeal, industrial capabilities and export performance into stronger productivity, broader economic opportunities and more sustained growth.

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- Asia's Manufacturing Momentum Is Shifting in 2026
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