

# **Thailand Defence and Security Report Q2 2014**

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## Abstracts

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BMI View: As with preceding quarters, large-scale protests and internal political turmoil continue to be the greatest immediate threats to Thailand's security. Over the course of Q114, the political crisis has turned increasingly violent. In February a grenade blast in the capital Bangkok killed two, injuring a further twenty-two. At the same time gunmen opened fire on an anti-government rally in eastern Thailand, killing a five-year old girl Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra described the attacks as 'terrorist acts for political gain'. Worryingly, with violence moving outside Bangkok, the continuing political impasse in Thailand threatens long-term instability in the country.

Despite general elections being held in Q114 the political impasse in Thailand persists. Thailands's constitutional court ruled the 2 February general election as 'unconstitutional ' because it did not take place on the same day across the country. The lack of a unified election date was the result of protestors blocking the polls. It is not clear when a new election will be scheduled. Protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban declared that protestors would block polling stations in any future elections, threatening to further escalate the crisis.



### **Contents**

BMI Industry View
Key Forecasts
Key Developments
SWOT
Thailand Security SWOT
Thailand Defence & Security SWOT
Political
Economic
Business Environment
Industry Forecast
Defence Expenditure
Table: Thailand's Government Defence Expenditure, 2014-2018
Table: Thailand's Defence Expenditure Scenario - Changing % Of GDP, 2014-2018
(US\$mn)
Table: Thailand's Armed Forces ('000 personnel, unless otherwise stated)
Defence Trade
Table: Thailand's Defence Trade Balance, 2014-2018 (US\$mn)
Imports
Table: Thailand's Defence Imports, 2014-2018 (US\$mn)
Exports
Table: Thailand's Defence Exports, 2014-2018 (US\$mn)
Macroeconomic Forecasts
Economic Analysis
Table: Thailand - Economic Activity
Industry Risk Reward Ratings
Asia Security Risk Ratings
Table: Asia Pacific Security Risk Ratings
Table: Asia Pacific State Vulnerability To Terrorism Index
Thailand Security Risk Ratings
Market Overview
Thailand Defence Market Overview
Recent Developments
Armed Forces
Domestic Industries
Imports
Exports
Thailand Security Overview



**Domestic Threats** 

Table: Thai Muslim Insurgents

Regional threats

International Threats

Company Profile

Loxley

Minebea

Thai-Italian Interarms Company

Regional Overview

Political Risk Analysis

Global Industry Overview

Global Political Outlook

Table: Election Timetable, 2014

Methodology

Industry Forecast Methodology

Sector-Specific Methodology

Sources

Risk/Reward Rating Methodology

Sector-Specific Methodology

Table: Security Risk/Reward Ratings Indicators

Table: Weighting Of Indicators



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