

# Impact Analysis of Great Flooding in Hat Yai and Southern Thailand

# Event:

The severe flooding in southern Thailand has caused significant damage, particularly in nine economically important provinces in the lower south, including Krabi, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Trang, Phatthalung, Satun, Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat. This disaster is among the most severe natural catastrophes in 25 years and represents the worst flooding Hat Yai has experienced in 300 years.

According to the latest situation report from the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), over 2.7 million people across 980,000 households have been affected (as of November 26, 2025 at 06:00). The flooding is attributed to an intense northeast monsoon combined with unusual weather patterns that led to abnormally high cumulative rainfall. Hat Yai specifically experienced a "rain bomb" phenomenon, which is an extreme precipitation event. The topography of the city, which resembles a basin, has resulted in the entire urban area being submerged, with water depths ranging from 1-2.5 meters in many areas and exceeding 3 meters in some locations. Beyond Songkhla, the flooding has spread throughout the lower south, severely impacting Nakhon Si Thammarat (multiple districts remain in crisis with flood warnings issued), Phatthalung (heavily affected with over 220,000 rai of agricultural land damaged), Trang (9 districts declared disaster zones), and the southern border provinces of Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat, which face elevated risk from flash floods.

In response to this disaster, the government declared a state of emergency in Songkhla Province from November 25, 2025 through February 25, 2026 (3 months). The Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces was appointed as the authorized official and head of emergency response operations. Additionally, the Natural Disaster Water Management Center was established under the direction of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thammanat Prompow.

## **Analysis:**

The economic impact of this flooding is expected to be limited compared to the 2011 floods, which had a more extensive impact and severely affected industrial estates in the central region. The World Bank estimated the damage from that event at THB 1.44 trillion. LH Bank's Business Research estimates that halted economic activity will generate daily losses exceeding THB 1 billion. Under our base scenario of 14 days or less of impact, total damage would reach THB 15.8 billion (0.1% of GDP), potentially rising to THB 33.8 billion (0.2% of GDP) if the situation persists for a full month. These figures exclude restoration and repair costs, with business recovery expected to require at least one month. The government must urgently restore disrupted utilities and infrastructure to normalize residents' lives as quickly as possible.

Sectoral impact analysis is as follows:



## 1) Agricultural Sector

Agriculture has suffered the most severe impact, particularly across cultivation areas for key southern crops in all 9 provinces, including over 9.9 million rai of rubber plantations and more than 2.8 million rai of oil palm. Rice paddies, field crops, vegetables, fruits, livestock, and fisheries in multiple provinces have also been affected. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives estimates that at least 200,000 farmers have been affected, and no less than 140,000 rai of cultivated areas have been flooded (as of November 25, 2025).

#### 2) Industrial Sector

According to the Songkhla Provincial Industrial Office, approximately 715 factories across Hat Yai, Jana, Na Thawi, Thepha, Saba Yoi, Bang Klam, Rattaphum, Sadao, Ranot, Khuan Niang, Na Mom, and Khlong Hoi Khong districts have been affected, with estimated damage of approximately THB 1.28 billion. These include 29 food processing plants, 97 rubberwood processing facilities, 103 rubber product manufacturers, 44 plastic product producers, 53 metal product factories, 310 dredging and sand-pumping operations, and 79 service industry facilities. Furthermore, 17 power plants, including government-operated and private facilities, have been unable to generate electricity. While industrial estate factories remain above water, they face severe indirect impacts from transportation disruptions that prevent employee access and raw material deliveries.

## 3) Tourism and Related Service Sectors

This disaster struck at the beginning of the southern region's high season, particularly affecting Hat Yai, a primary destination for Malaysian tourists (3.2 million Malaysians visited these 9 provinces in 2024), European and Singaporean visitors, and domestic Thai tourists. We estimate that tourist numbers in these 9 provinces will decline by approximately 7-18%, or over 605,000 visitors under our 14-day base scenario, potentially reaching 1.3 million if the situation extends beyond one month.

The Ministry of Tourism and Sports has preliminarily estimated that the tourism industry in these 9 provinces is losing at least THB 500 million daily. We estimate total revenue losses of approximately THB 7.6 billion over a 14-day period, potentially reaching THB 16.2 billion if the situation persists for one month. In addition, the 33rd SEA Games and 13th ASEAN Para Games scheduled for December 2025, with Songkhla designated as a venue for 10 sporting events, may need to relocate to Bangkok-Chonburi instead. The Ministry of Tourism and Sports anticipates that this will have a substantial impact on Songkhla's and the region's tourism, representing a loss of approximately THB 5.3 billion.

#### 4) Real Estate Sector

Residential projects in low-lying areas, including Ban Phru, inner Hat Yai, and central Songkhla have experienced significant damage. Many single-story homes have necessitated complete electrical and plumbing system replacements, while numerous condominiums have experienced damage to ground floors and common areas. According to the Real Estate Information Center (REIC), as of mid-2025, Songkhla Province had 3,584 remaining supply units valued at THB 13.46 billion. Over 95% of housing units — totaling more than 2,450 units —



are in areas that are susceptible to flooding, including Tha Kham-Khuan Hin, Khuan Lang, Khlong Hae, Ban Phru, Kho Hong-Thung Ngai, and Ko Taeo - Bo It. More than 97% of condominiums are in Kho Hong-Thung Ngai and central Hat Yai, all flood-vulnerable zones. **This event will likely have a negative impact on the real estate sector as buyer confidence wavers,** though construction contractors and building material suppliers may benefit from restoration and repair work.

# Mplication:

Government and banking sector responses currently focus on providing emergency assistance to disaster victims through the following key measures:

- Direct Financial Relief: Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul has ordered the immediate <u>disbursement</u> of 9,000 baht per affected household without waiting for damage assessments to complete, providing initial living expenses. The Cabinet also approved graduated supplementary relief for households experiencing prolonged flooding (31 days or longer), with additional payments ranging from 5,000 baht to a maximum of 20,000 baht for flooding lasting 121 days or more.
- 2) Urgent Economic Stimulus Measures: The Ministry of Finance is preparing to propose a special phase of the "Half-Half Plus" program next week. This phase will target provinces severely affected by flooding. The goal of this initiative is to quickly revitalize economic activity and generate income for residents. The Ministry of Commerce has issued 4 urgent measures to assist flood victims in the southern region. These measures include closely monitoring prices and supplies of essential consumer goods, establishing a War Room as a coordination center for hourly situation monitoring, strictly prohibiting price increases, hoarding, and refusal to sell goods, and organizing "Blue Flag" discount sales. The latter will focus on household and business cleaning supplies and affordable consumer goods to reduce cost-of-living burdens during early recovery.
- Recovery Credit and Debt Relief Measures: The Bank of Thailand (BOT) has issued directives to financial institutions, encouraging them to streamline their lending processes to support borrowers. This initiative includes the implementation of relaxed criteria, such as minimum credit card payment rates and emergency personal loan limits exceeding standard ratios. Specialized financial institutions like the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) have allocated 20 billion baht in credit facilities to provide liquidity and support farmer recovery, including emergency expense loans and quality-of-life recovery and development loans. The Government Savings Bank (GSB) has implemented automatic 3-month principal and interest payment deferrals. Several commercial banks have begun offering reduced installment payments for home and business loans or principal payment suspensions for affected borrowers.

Sources: Bank of Thailand (BOT), Ministry of Commerce, BangkokBizNews <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u>, Thansettakij <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u>, Thairath, Prachachat, Thai PBS <u>1</u> <u>2</u>, The Standard



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