



World Justice
Project

Human Rights in Thailand:

Insights from the WJP Rule of Law Index® 2020 - 2024

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HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND: INSIGHTS FROM THE *WJP RULE OF LAW INDEX*® 2020 – 2024

Executive Summary

Human Rights in Thailand: Insights from the *WJP Rule of Law Index*® 2015-2024 presents a comprehensive analysis of Thailand's progress and challenges in rule of law issues over the past decade, including key findings related to governance, civic participation, and human rights principles. Drawing upon data collected and analyzed for the annual *WJP Rule of Law Index* series, this report also contextualizes Thailand's rule of law performance in relation to regional peer countries in Southeast Asia.

This report is divided into three chapters: 1) An overview of Thailand's performance in the 2024 *WJP Rule of Law Index*, including notes on the Index's conceptual framework; 2) a multi-dimensional analysis of the human rights situation in Thailand, covering civil and political rights, civic participation, labor and property rights, and due process; and 3) notes on the methodology employed in the design of this report.

RULE OF LAW IN THAILAND

With an overall score of 0.50, Thailand ranks 78th out of 142 countries worldwide in the 2024 *WJP Rule of Law Index*. In contrast to global trends, Thailand's overall score increased by 1.5% this year, placing Thailand among the minority of countries to improve their overall score in 2024. Among countries in the East Asia and Pacific region, Thailand ranks 10th out of 15. Despite outperforming some regional peers, including the Philippines, Myanmar, and Cambodia, Thailand still trails behind leading countries such as New Zealand, Australia, and Japan.

Examining Thailand's Index performance at the indicator-level, the country's advancements in rule of law in 2024 can be attributed to improvements in several key areas, notably in its scores for Factor 4: Fundamental Rights and Factor 7: Civil Justice, each of which improved by 3.7%. Preceded by three consecutive years of declines, this positive shift in Fundamental Rights reflects modest improvements in such areas as the right to life and security, absence of discrimination, and the freedoms of expression and assembly. Despite these gains, though, challenges persist. While Thailand's global rank improved seven positions in 2024, its position at 94th out of 142 countries embodies the country's ongoing challenge in ensuring the full protection of many civil and political freedoms.

As Thailand's second-highest scoring factor, Civil Justice represents a relative strength for the country.

In the 2024 Index, Thailand's improvements in this factor reflect progress in the areas of access to justice and the absence of corruption. However, justice delays and ineffective enforcement institutions remain obstacles to the country's justice system, albeit with improving trends over recent years.

Aside from these positive developments in Factors 4 and 7, Thailand achieved mixed results in other dimensions of the rule of law. While the country observed slight gains in its scores for Factor 1: Constraints on Government Powers and Factor 2: Absence of Corruption in 2024, these lower-scoring factors remain relative weaknesses for Thailand, reflecting persistent vulnerabilities in democratic governance and anti-corruption mechanisms. Meanwhile, Factor 8: Criminal Justice, Thailand's worst-performing factor, saw a 1.2% decline in score over the past year, continuing its consistent deterioration since 2021. This factor's lowest-scoring indicators, such as the effectiveness of the correctional system, underscore Thailand's systemic weaknesses and highlight the urgent need for reform.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND

In its ability to protect and promote human rights, Thailand's performance in the Index underscores a landscape of both progress and enduring challenges. Over the past decade, Thailand has experienced a 4% decline in its Fundamental Rights score (falling from 0.51 in 2015 to 0.48 in 2024), though this decline is less severe than those observed in neighboring countries. The 2% increase in this score in the 2024 Index signals the potential for positive change, but Thailand's entrenched political dynamics and structural hurdles complicate the path to sustained progress.

This report's second chapter examines Thailand's performance across an array of critical human rights, providing comprehensive insights into the country's rule of law while comparing it against regional peers in Southeast Asia and notable global benchmarks.

To capture the breadth of topics included under the human rights umbrella, this chapter separates its analysis into four thematic sections: Civil and Political Rights, Participation and Access to Information, Labor and Property Rights, and Fair and Impartial Justice.

1. Civil and Political Rights, an area in which Thailand outperforms the Southeast Asia regional average, faces significant risks. While Thailand performs well in freedom of belief and expression, with scores among the highest in Southeast Asia, persistent declines in the freedom of assembly, equality, and non-discrimination point to increasing limitations on individual liberties.

2. Participation and Access to Information, another vital area, deteriorated across all indicators in recent years, including those measuring access to complaint mechanisms and civic participation. Despite Thailand's high regional rank in this area, these declines reflect barriers that limit meaningful citizen engagement and governmental accountability.

3. Labor and Property Rights encompasses indicators that have also experienced setbacks over the past decade, with declines in equal pay, union rights, and protection against expropriation. Thailand's scores remain below the regional average, trailing behind countries like Singapore, Indonesia, and Vietnam, and highlight the need for strengthened protections to improve competitiveness and equity.

4. Fair and Impartial Justice reflects a domain in which Thailand experienced notable advancements in recent year, with improved scores for Civil Justice sub-factors such as access to justice and reduced discrimination. However, indicators related to administrative proceedings, including delays and respect for due process, have worsened, placing Thailand below the regional average. In particular, Thailand's performance in Criminal Justice remains stagnant, reflecting systemic challenges that undermine impartiality and fairness.

Taken together, the findings presented in these four sections suggest that, while Thailand's upward trajectory in the WJP Rule of Law Index and incremental improvements in human rights provide reasons for optimism, the country must address systemic weaknesses to achieve a more robust and inclusive rule of law framework. Continued reform will be essential to strengthen Thailand's democratic institutions, protect civil liberties, and ensure equitable access to justice for all of the country's residents.

METHODOLOGY

This report includes a description of the methodological framework that the WJP employs in its production of the WJP Rule of Law Index. This output-oriented methodology, which relies on primary data collected through household surveys and expert questionnaires, combines public perceptions with insights from in-country legal practitioners and academics to ensure a comprehensive and comparable analysis of a country's rule of law systems as experienced in practice. This chapter also outlines the WJP's data validation measures, including cross-referencing with external data sources and various statistical tests that ensure the robustness of the data presented in the Index.

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CHAPTER 1

RULE OF LAW INDEX IN THAILAND



DEFINING THE RULE OF LAW

The World Justice Project defines the rule of law as a durable system of laws, institutions, norms, and community commitment that delivers:



UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE ONE

Accountability

The government as well as private actors are accountable under the law.



UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE TWO

Just Law

The law is clear, publicized, and stable and is applied evenly. It ensures human rights as well as property, contract, and procedural rights.



UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE THREE

Open Government

The processes by which the law is adopted, administered, adjudicated, and enforced are accessible, fair, and efficient.



UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE FOUR

Accessible and Impartial Justice

Justice is delivered timely by competent, ethical, and independent representatives and neutrals who are accessible, have adequate resources, and reflect the makeup of the communities they serve.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE WJP RULE OF LAW INDEX

The conceptual framework of the *WJP Rule of Law Index* is comprised of eight factors further disaggregated into 44 sub-factors. These factors and sub-factors are presented below.



FACTOR ONE

Constraints on Government Powers

- 1.1 Government powers are effectively limited by the legislature
- 1.2 Government powers are effectively limited by the judiciary
- 1.3 Government powers are effectively limited by independent auditing and review
- 1.4 Government officials are sanctioned for misconduct
- 1.5 Government powers are subject to non-governmental checks
- 1.6 Transition of power is subject to the law



FACTOR TWO

Absence of Corruption

- 2.1 Government officials in the executive branch do not use public office for private gain
- 2.2 Government officials in the judicial branch do not use public office for private gain
- 2.3 Government officials in the police and the military do not use public office for private gain
- 2.4 Government officials in the legislative branch do not use public office for private gain



FACTOR THREE

Open Government

- 3.1 Publicized laws and government data
- 3.2 Right to information
- 3.3 Civic participation
- 3.4 Complaint mechanisms



FACTOR FOUR

Fundamental Rights

- 4.1 Equal treatment and absence of discrimination
- 4.2 The right to life and security of the person is effectively guaranteed
- 4.3 Due process of the law and rights of the accused
- 4.4 Freedom of opinion and expression is effectively guaranteed
- 4.5 Freedom of belief and religion is effectively guaranteed
- 4.6 Freedom from arbitrary interference with privacy is effectively guaranteed
- 4.7 Freedom of assembly and association is effectively guaranteed
- 4.8 Fundamental labor rights are effectively guaranteed



FACTOR FIVE

Order and Security

- 5.1 Crime is effectively controlled
- 5.2 Civil conflict is effectively limited
- 5.3 People do not resort to violence to redress personal grievances



FACTOR SIX

Regulatory Enforcement

- 6.1 Government regulations are effectively enforced
- 6.2 Government regulations are applied and enforced without improper influence
- 6.3 Administrative proceedings are conducted without unreasonable delay
- 6.4 Due process is respected in administrative proceedings
- 6.5 The government does not expropriate without lawful process and adequate compensation



FACTOR SEVEN

Civil Justice

- 7.1 People can access and afford civil justice
- 7.2 Civil justice is free of discrimination
- 7.3 Civil justice is free of corruption
- 7.4 Civil justice is free of improper government influence
- 7.5 Civil justice is not subject to unreasonable delay
- 7.6 Civil justice is effectively enforced
- 7.7 Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms are accessible, impartial, and effective



FACTOR EIGHT

Criminal Justice

- 8.1 Criminal investigation system is effective
- 8.2 Criminal adjudication system is timely and effective
- 8.3 Correctional system is effective in reducing criminal behavior
- 8.4 Criminal justice system is impartial
- 8.5 Criminal justice system is free of corruption
- 8.6 Criminal justice system is free of improper government influence
- 8.7 Due process of the law and rights of the accused

RULE OF LAW IN THAILAND 2024

The rule of law is internationally recognized as a foundational element in guaranteeing justice, democracy, and the realization of human rights. Around the world, however, the rule of law continues to weaken. The 2024 edition of the World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index® reveals that a majority of countries are experiencing backsliding, with factors such as executive overreach, erosion of human rights, and deteriorating justice systems playing a significant role.

THE WJP RULE OF LAW INDEX

Published on an annual basis, the *WJP Rule of Law Index* serves as a comprehensive quantitative assessment tool that measures adherence to the rule of law around the world. It provides a global overview of legal systems, justice, and the safeguarding of fundamental rights, which are central to peace, democracy, human rights, and sustainable development.

The Index is structured around eight key factors: Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, Fundamental Rights, Order and Security, Regulatory Enforcement, Civil Justice, and Criminal Justice. These elements capture both a “thin” procedural aspect of the law and a “thick” substantive one, ensuring that it applies to diverse political systems.

The scores and rankings presented in the 2024 Index are constructed using original survey data from over 214,000 individuals and more than 3,500 expert questionnaires worldwide. Taken together, these two data sources provide current, relevant information reflecting the experiences and perceptions of the general public and in-country legal practitioners and experts in 142 countries and jurisdictions worldwide (for more details on the WJP’s methodology, please see the Project Design chapter).

Findings from this year’s *WJP Rule of Law Index* report indicate that the global rule of law recession continues, with a majority of countries experiencing declining rule of law performance for the seventh year in a row. This downward trend is especially driven by rising authoritarianism, diminished civic freedoms, and deteriorating access to justice. Despite this concerning finding, the 2024 Index points toward some areas of improvement, including global strides in anti-corruption efforts and judicial reforms.

RULE OF LAW IN THAILAND

Thailand’s performance in the 2024 *WJP Rule of Law Index* presents a hopeful narrative amidst the global rule of law recession. Ranked 78th out of 142 countries worldwide, Thailand increased its overall rule of law score (0.50) by 1.5% this year. This improvement sets Thailand apart from the 57% majority of countries that saw a decline in score since 2023.

Among regional peers in East Asia and the Pacific, Thailand ranks 10th out of 15. Top performers in the

East Asia and Pacific region include New Zealand (6/142), Australia (11/142), and Japan (14/142). Thailand continues to outperform lower-ranked regional peers such as the Philippines (99/142), Myanmar (138/142), and Cambodia (141/142). Compared to other countries in the upper-middle income group, Thailand ranks 22nd out of 41.

Looking at the breakdown of Thailand's performance across different areas of the rule of law, Thailand made modest improvements in score for each factor except Factor 8: Criminal Justice, which fell by -1.2% in the past year. Thailand saw its greatest improvements in score for Factor 4: Fundamental Rights and Factor 7: Civil Justice, both of which increased by 3.7%.

Additional key findings include:

- **Persistent struggles with Criminal Justice.** In addition to being Thailand's only factor score to decline in the past year, Factor 8: Criminal Justice is Thailand's lowest scoring factor at 0.41. This score places Thailand's performance behind both regional and income group averages. At the sub-factor level, Thailand especially struggles with 8.3 measuring the effectiveness of the correctional system – at 0.25, it is Thailand's lowest-scoring sub-factor in 2024. Furthermore, this year's negative change reflects longer-term downward trends. Thailand's Factor 8 score has fallen -6% since 2020, and while scores peaked at 0.46 in 2016, Criminal Justice has consistently deteriorated in Thailand every year since 2021.
- **Consistent improvements in Civil Justice.** Thailand's second-highest scoring factor is Factor 7: Civil Justice, which scored 0.50 this year. Thailand's top sub-factors in this category, including 7.3 measuring absence of corruption in the civil justice system (0.71) and 7.1 on the accessibility and affordability of civil justice (0.60), outperform both regional and income group averages. However, Thailand faces challenges in justice delays (sub-factor 7.5, which scores 0.36) and ineffective enforcement (7.6, scoring 0.35), and falls behind peer averages in both categories. Despite these areas of weakness, though, Thailand improved its sub-factor scores in both categories in the past year. Additionally, the improvements in Thailand's Civil Justice scores this year feed into longer-term positive trends. Since its low point in 2020 (0.48), Thailand's Factor 7 score has increased by 5%, and has been making progress with gradual improvements every year since 2021.

- **Potential trend-reversals in Fundamental Rights.**

Thailand's Factor 4: Fundamental Rights score peaked in 2020 at 0.49, and since then has decreased by -2%. After three years of consecutive deteriorations in score, though, Thailand increased its Fundamental Rights score by 3.7% in 2024. This positive change was driven by modest improvements across many sub-factors, covering absence of discrimination, the right to life and security, due process, labor rights, and the freedoms of opinion, privacy, and assembly. To continue to strengthen this measure of the rule of law, Thailand has much work ahead. Despite the encouraging improvements made this year, Thailand's Factor 4 performance lags behind its peers, ranking 94/142 globally, 10/15 among East Asia and Pacific countries, and 32/41 among the upper-middle income group. Thailand's challenges lie in ensuring that civic and political freedoms are fully protected and upheld, which remains crucial in its overall rule of law progress.

- **Limited gains in Constraints on Government Powers and Absence of Corruption.** Thailand saw marginal improvements in its scores for Factor 1: Constraints on Government Powers (up 1.5%) and Factor 2: Absence of Corruption (up 1.3%) since last year. Both factors scored 0.46 in the 2024 Index, representing Thailand's third lowest-scoring factors (behind Factor 8: Criminal Justice and Factor 6: Regulatory Enforcement). While this improvement in Absence of Corruption reflects the positive global trend, Thailand is in the minority of countries to experience growth in Constraints of Government powers in 2024. That being said, Factor 1 is Thailand's lowest-ranking factor at 101st out of 142 countries worldwide. Moreover, compared to 2020, Thailand's scores for both factors have experienced notable declines – Factor 1 has fallen -5%, and Factor 2 is down by -6%.

Looking ahead, Thailand's upward trajectory in the *WJP Rule of Law Index* offers a glimmer of hope. While the country still faces significant hurdles, especially in strengthening its democratic institutions and ensuring that the rule of law serves all members of society, its progress demonstrates that reform is possible even amidst global challenges.

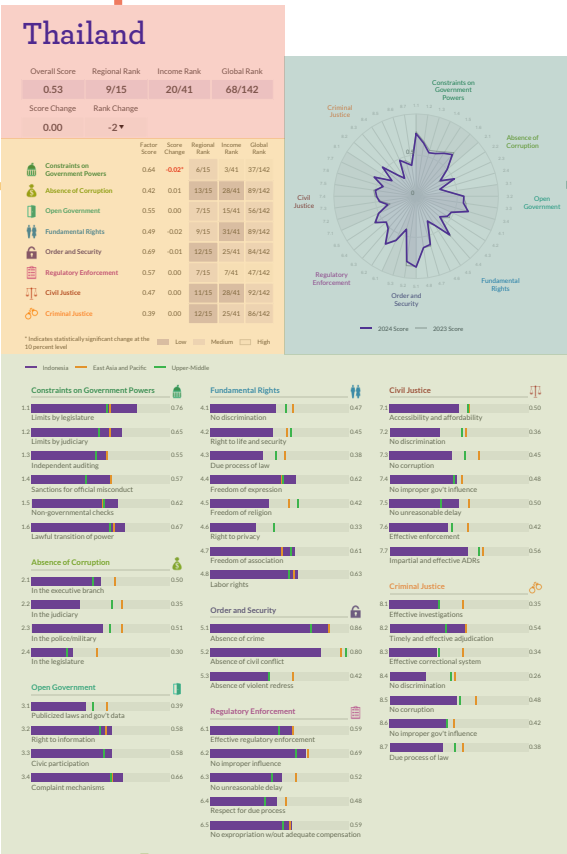
HOW TO READ THE COUNTRY PROFILE

This section presents Thailand profile in the *WJP Rule of Law Index® 2024* report, which includes Thailand's scores and rankings for each of the Index's factors and sub-factors and draws comparisons between Thailand and its regional and income group peers.

The scores range from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score (strong adherence to rule of law) and 0 signifies the lowest possible score (weak adherence to rule of law). The country profiles consist of four sections, outlined below.

Displays the Thailand's overall rule of law score; its overall global, income, and regional ranks; and its change in score and rank from the 2023 edition of the Index.

SECTION 1



SECTION 2

Displays the Thailand's individual factor scores, along with its global, regional, and income group rankings. The global, regional, and income rankings are distributed across three tiers – high, medium, and low – as indicated by the color of the box where the score is found.

SECTION 3

Displays the country's disaggregated scores for each of the sub-factors that compose the *WJP Rule of Law Index*.

Thailand's score is represented by the purple bar and labeled at the end of the bar. The average score of Thailand's region is represented by the orange line. The average score of Thailand's income group is represented by the green line.

SECTION 4

Presents the individual sub-factor scores underlying each of the factors listed in Section 3 of the country profile.

Each of the 44 sub-factors is represented by a gray line drawn from the center to the periphery of the circle. The center of the circle corresponds to the worst possible score for each sub-factor (0), and the outer edge of the circle marks the best possible score for each sub-factor (1).

Thailand's scores for 2024 are represented by the purple line. Thailand's scores for 2023 are represented by the gray line.

THAILAND

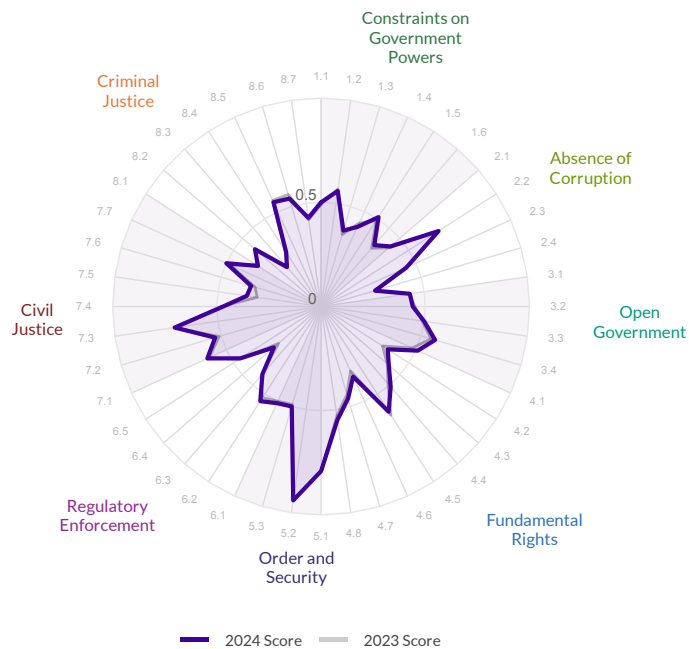
The scores range from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score and 0 signifies the lowest possible score.

Overall Score	Regional Rank	Income Rank	Global Rank
0.50	10/15	22/41	78/142
Score Change	Rank Change		
0.01 ▲	4 ▲		

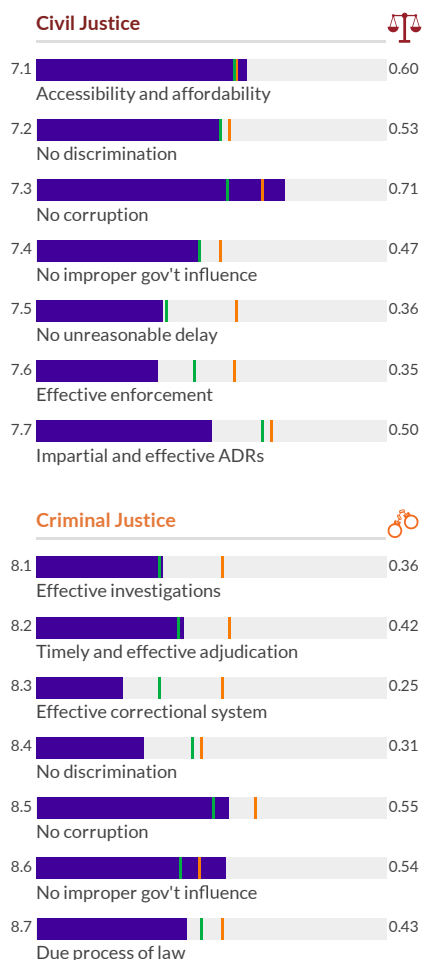
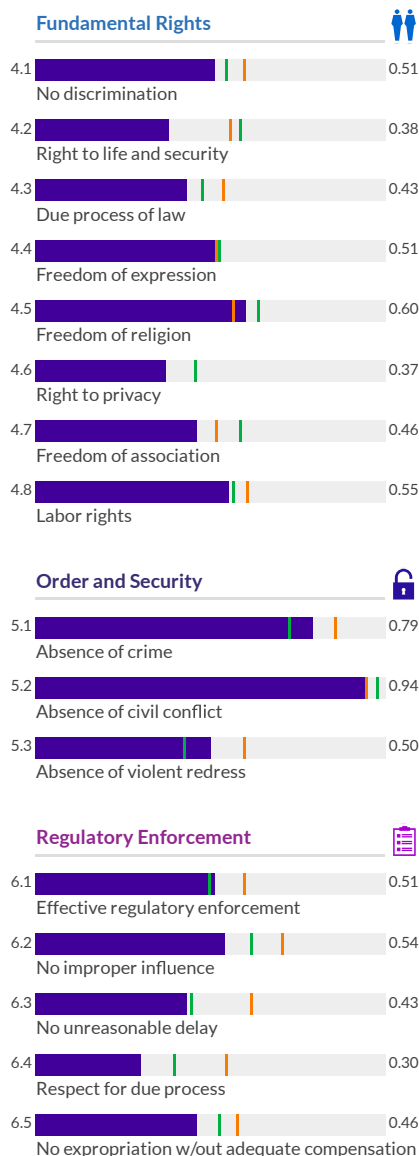
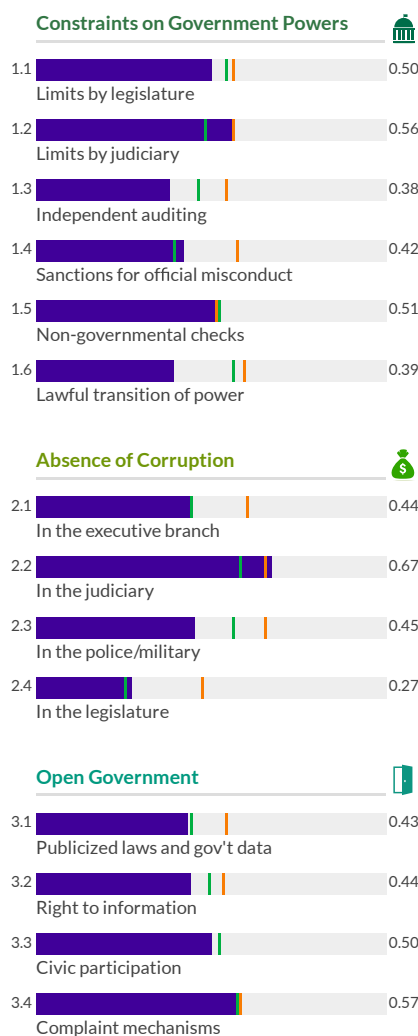
	Factor Score	Score Change	Regional Rank	Income Rank	Global Rank
Constraints on Government Powers	0.46	0.01	12/15	30/41	101/142
Absence of Corruption	0.46	0.01	9/15	18/41	70/142
Open Government	0.48	0.01	9/15	25/41	75/142
Fundamental Rights	0.48	0.02	10/15	32/41	94/142
Order and Security	0.74	0.00	11/15	18/41	65/142
Regulatory Enforcement	0.45	0.01	13/15	31/41	99/142
Civil Justice	0.50	0.02	10/15	22/41	79/142
Criminal Justice	0.41	0.00	11/15	22/41	80/142

* Indicates statistically significant change at the 10 percent level

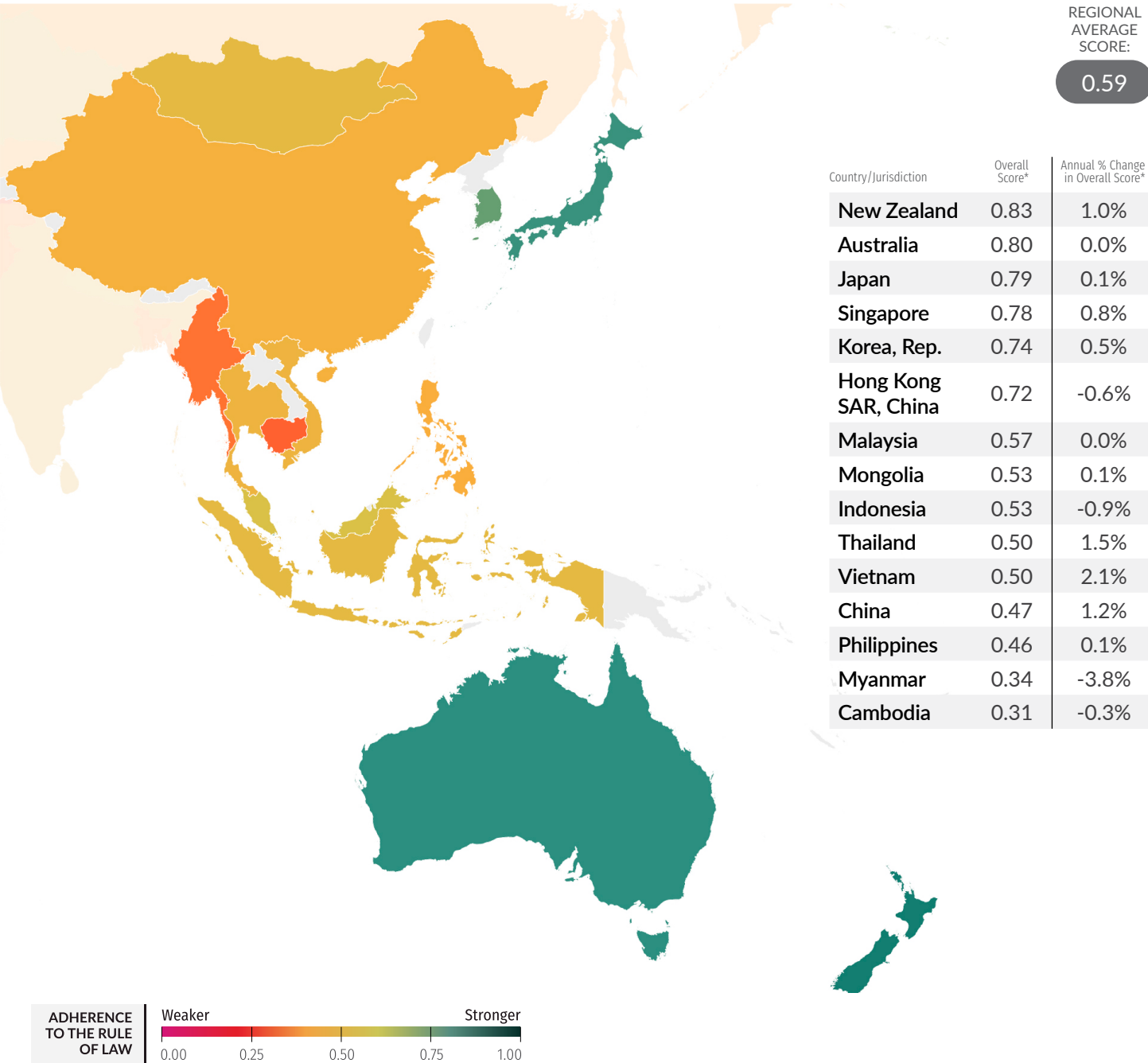
Low Medium High



Thailand East Asia and Pacific Upper-Middle



RULE OF LAW IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC FROM 2023 TO 2024



* Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place.



CHAPTER 2

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND



HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND

The *WJP Rule of Law Index*® encompasses a broad range of governance and legal metrics. In Chapter II, we focus specifically on sub-factors directly related to Thailand's human rights landscape. This section introduces a conceptual framework that consolidates 20 sub-factors across four categories: Civil and Political Rights, Participation and Access to Information, Labor and Property Rights, and Fair and Impartial Justice. Rather than evaluating these insights within the broader Asia-Pacific context, we narrow the scope to Southeast Asia, offering a more relevant comparison of Thailand's performance relative to its closest regional peers: Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, and Vietnam. This focused approach aims to provide a clearer understanding of how Thailand's legal and institutional frameworks either support or hinder human rights protections.

To provide a comprehensive understanding of Thailand's evolving human rights situation, this section thematically organizes the 20 sub-factors related to human rights monitored by the World Justice Project. This approach offers an integrated overview of human rights in Thailand, highlighting both persistent challenges and areas of improvement.

Conceptual Framework and Insights

The theoretical framework for this report is structured to assess Thailand's rule of law and human rights situation across four key domains: Civil and Political Rights, Participation and Access to Information, Labor and Property Rights, and Fair and Impartial Justice. Each domain includes sub-factors that illustrate the strengths and weaknesses of the country's governance and legal systems, offering a comprehensive analysis of the extent to which fundamental rights and the rule of law are upheld. This framework allows for a nuanced understanding of Thailand's legal and institutional landscape, providing insight into both areas of progress and persistent challenges.

1 Civil and political rights

- Freedom of belief and religion
- Equality and discrimination
- Freedom of expression and opinion
- Freedom of assembly and association
- The right to life and security of the person is effectively guaranteed
- Freedom from interference with privacy

2 Participation and access to information

- Access to complaint mechanisms
- Non-governmental checks of government power
- Civic participation
- Right to information

3 Labor rights and property rights

- Labor rights
- Protection from expropriation without due process

4 Fair and impartial justice

- Access to and affordability of civil justice
- Improper government influence in criminal justice
- Discrimination in civil justice
- Improper government influence in civil justice
- Administrative proceedings are conducted without unreasonable delay
- Due process of the law and rights of the accused
- Impartiality in criminal justice
- Due process is respected in administrative proceedings

1. Civil and Political Rights.

Civil and Political Rights refer to the fundamental freedoms that protect individuals from undue state interference and enable active participation in social, cultural, and political life. These rights include freedom of expression, assembly, belief, and protection from unwarranted state intrusion, forming the bedrock of democratic governance and the rule of law.

Sub-factors assessed:

- Freedom of belief and religion
- Equality and discrimination
- Freedom of expression and opinion
- Freedom of assembly and association
- The right to life and security of the person is effectively guaranteed
- Freedom from interference with privacy

The sub-factors collectively aim to depict the degree of political freedom and civil rights enjoyed by citizens. Assessing these indicators provides insight into how well the legal framework supports individual liberties in practice.

Main Insights

In Thailand, five out of six indicators used to assess Civil and Political Rights declined between 2020 and 2024, preceded by declines for four out of six indicators between 2015 and 2020. In the past five years, the freedom of assembly and association, freedom of expression and opinion, and equality and non-discrimination sub-factors each saw a 6% decrease, while the national score for the sub-factor on the right to life and security of the people fell by over 5%. These declines suggest increasing risks to fundamental individual rights and liberties. The only area of improvement was in freedom of belief and religion, reflecting greater liberties to practice religious beliefs without coercion. Regionally, Thailand outperforms some neighbors, such as Myanmar and Cambodia, but lags behind others, like Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia, particularly in safeguarding the right to life and security of the people

Highlights

- Thailand ranks as one of the top Southeast Asian countries in terms of freedom of belief and religion and is also a reference point in the region for freedom of expression. While several indicators have declined over the past decade, Thailand remains one of the strongest performers in these areas. For all indicators assessing Civil and Political Rights, Thailand's scores are above the regional average.

Challenges

- Between 2020 and 2024, Thailand saw an almost 20% decline in freedom of assembly (from 0.60 to 0.46) and a drop of over 15% in equality and discrimination (from 0.61 to 0.51). These decreases indicate heightened risks of property seizures and potential limitations on individual freedoms based on identity. They are also situated in the context of prior declines since 2015; all indicators for Civil and Political Liberties decreased in Thailand between 2015 and 2020 with the exception of freedom from interference with privacy and the guaranteed life and security of the person.

2. Participation and Access to Information.

Participation and Access to Information emphasize the mechanisms that allow citizens to participate in public life and engage in civil society activities. This concept underscores the importance of transparency, open communication, and institutional responsiveness, ensuring that the government's actions align with the rule of law and respect individual rights.

Sub-factors assessed:

- Access to complaint mechanisms
- Non-governmental checks of government power
- Civic participation
- Right to information

These sub-factors gauge the extent to which citizens can access information regarding government policies and whether accountability mechanisms exist outside the formal structures of government. This domain provides a measure of how open and responsive the state is to public participation and scrutiny.

Main Insights

All sub-factors of Participation and Access to Information have declined over the past five years. Access to complaint mechanisms, the highest-ranked indicator, fell by 7%, civic participation dropped by 6%, and access to information, which has the lowest score, decreased by 2%. These declines suggest that mechanisms enabling citizens to advocate for change through collective mobilization and formal complaints are lagging. Barriers persist in translating this engagement into policy influence, with non-governmental entities still encountering difficulties in holding the government accountable. Despite these drops, Thailand remains one of the top performers in the region for these sub-factors, trailing only behind Singapore, Indonesia and Philippines.

Highlights

- For all sub-factors, Thailand's scores remain above the regional average. The only countries that consistently outperform Thailand across all Participation and Access to Information sub-factors are Indonesia and Singapore. Additionally, though Thailand's score for right to information decreased between 2020 and 2024 (-2%), it has seen a 10% increase since 2015.

Challenges

- The sub-factors with higher scores —measuring access to complaint mechanisms and civic participation— are experiencing steeper declines. These drops suggest growing barriers that are preventing citizen participation from translating into meaningful policy influence and effective scrutiny of government actions.

3. Labor and Property Rights.

Labor and Property Rights focus on ensuring that all individuals, regardless of socioeconomic status or background, have access to fundamental labor rights and protection from expropriation of property.

Sub-factors assessed:

- Labor rights
- Protection from expropriation without due process

These sub-factors assess whether fundamental labor rights are effectively guaranteed and whether the government respects the property rights of individuals and companies. This domain provides an indication of the health and integrity of the labor system and the mechanisms through which the government expropriates.

Main Insights

Thailand's scores for both labor rights and protection from expropriation without due process declined between 2015 and 2020 (-9% and -3%, respectively), as well as between 2020 and 2024 (-6% and -5%, respectively). This suggests setbacks in areas such as equal pay, freedom from discrimination, the right to form unions and bargain collectively, and protections against child and forced labor. Additionally, property rights for individuals and businesses appear to be weakening.

Highlights

- For both indicators assessing Labor and Property Rights, Thailand's scores are close to the regional average but remain below it, ranking fifth in both categories, near the fourth and third positions.

Challenges

- In terms of labor rights, Thailand's 2024 score is below the regional average, lagging behind Singapore, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Malaysia. This suggests that Thailand is less competitive in labor and property rights within the region, which negatively impact its business environment.

4. Fair and Impartial Justice

Fair and Impartial Justice encompasses the integrity of the justice system in general, including the due process of the law, freedom from influences on civil and criminal justice, impartiality, and freedom from discrimination in matters of justice, with a focus on ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their background, have the right to seek legal redress through fair, impartial, and transparent judicial processes. This domain emphasizes the principles of legal equality, non-discrimination, and judicial independence in delivering justice.

Sub-factors assessed:

- Access to and affordability of civil justice
- Improper government influence in criminal justice
- Discrimination in civil justice
- Improper government influence in civil justice
- Administrative proceedings are conducted without unreasonable delay
- Due process of the law and rights of the accused
- Impartiality in criminal justice
- Due Process is respected in administrative proceedings

Main Insights

In Thailand, the sub-factors related to civil justice, with the exception of improper government influence in civil justice, have improved since 2020. The most notable advancements are in discrimination in civil justice (+8%) and access to and affordability of civil justice (+3%), positioning these two sub-factors among the best-ranked in the region. It is important to note that four out of seven indicators experienced increases in their respective scores between 2015 and 2020, with the most significant increase in improper government influence in criminal justice (+50%). However, scores decreased or remained the same for the remaining three indicators, the most significant decrease being in respect for due process in administrative proceedings (-41%).

In the case of criminal justice, there have not been significant changes over time, which is concerning for impartiality in criminal justice, as the score remains at the regional average. The most pressing issues are found in sub-factors related to regulatory enforcement in administrative proceedings. Specifically, the indicator measuring administrative proceedings conducted without unreasonable delay has dropped by 12%, and due process respected in administrative proceedings has fallen by 7%, placing it below the regional average, only outperforming Myanmar and Cambodia.

Highlights

- Four of the seven sub-factors in the domain of fair and impartial justice improved from 2020 to 2024. Across all the indicators, except for due process is respected in administrative proceedings and impartiality in criminal justice, Thailand remains above the regional average.
- The main improvements are observed primarily in civil Justice sub-factors, with the exception of improper government influence. Notably, access to and affordability of civil justice and discrimination in civil justice are among the highest-ranked scores in this domain.

Challenges

- Sub-factors related to criminal justice have not shown significant changes over the past five years.
- Additionally, sub-factors for regulatory enforcement in administrative proceedings are worsening over time.



CHAPTER 3

PROJECT DESIGN

Methodology



METHODOLOGY SNAPSHOT: STEPS TO PRODUCE THE WJP RULE OF LAW INDEX

The production of the *WJP Rule of Law Index*[®] can be summarized in 11 steps:

1. The WJP developed the conceptual framework summarized in the Index's nine factors and 47 sub-factors in consultation with academics, practitioners, and community leaders from around the world.
2. The Index team developed a set of five questionnaires based on the Index's conceptual framework to be administered to experts and the general public. Questionnaires were translated into several languages and adapted to reflect commonly used terms and expressions.
3. The Index team identified, on average, more than 300 potential local experts per country to respond to the expert surveys, or Qualified Respondents' Questionnaires (QRQs). The team engaged the services of leading local polling companies to implement the household surveys, or General Population Poll (GPP).
4. Polling companies conducted pilot tests of the GPP in consultation with the Index team and launched the final survey for full fieldwork.
5. The Index team sent the QRQ questionnaires to local experts and engaged in continual interaction with them.
6. The Index team collected and mapped the data onto the 44 sub-factors with global comparability.*
7. The Index team constructed the final scores using a five-step process:
 - a. Codified the questionnaire items as numeric values;
 - b. Produced raw country scores by aggregating the responses from several individual (experts and/or general public);
 - c. Normalized the raw scores;
 - d. Aggregated the normalized scores into sub-factors and factors using simple averages;
 - e. Produced the normalized scores, which are rounded to two decimal points, and the final rankings.
8. The data was subject to a series of tests to identify possible biases and errors. For example, the Index team cross-checked all sub-factors against more than 70 third-party sources, including quantitative data and qualitative assessments drawn from local and international organizations.
9. A sensitivity analysis was conducted by the Econometrics and Applied Statistics Unit of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, in collaboration with the Index team, to assess the statistical reliability of the results.
10. To illustrate whether the rule of law in a country significantly changed over the course of the past year, a measure of change over time was produced based on the annual difference in the country-level factor scores, the standard errors of these scores (estimated from a set of 100 bootstrap samples), and the results of the corresponding t-tests.
11. The data was organized into country reports, tables, and figures to facilitate its presentation and interpretation. For tables organized by income group, the WJP follows the World Bank income classifications.

* As Factor 9: Informal Justice and its three sub-factors are not globally comparable, they are excluded from Index calculations (see page 16 for more information).

METHODOLOGY

The *WJP Rule of Law Index* is the first attempt to systematically and comprehensively quantify the rule of law around the world and remains unique in its operationalization of rule of law dimensions into concrete questions.

The *WJP Rule of Law Index 2024* report presents information on eight composite factors that are further disaggregated into 44 specific sub-factors (see page 5). Factor 9: Informal Justice is included in the conceptual framework but has been excluded from the aggregated scores and rankings in order to provide meaningful cross-country comparisons.

The country scores and rankings presented in this report are built from more than 500 variables drawn from the assessments of over 214,000 households and 3,500 legal practitioners and experts in 142 countries and jurisdictions, making it the most accurate portrayal of the factors that contribute to shaping the rule of law in a country or jurisdiction.

DATA SOURCES

To present an image that accurately portrays the rule of law as experienced by ordinary people, each score of the Index is calculated using a large number of questions drawn from two original data sources collected by the World Justice Project in each country: a General Population Poll (GPP) and a series of Qualified Respondents' Questionnaires (QRQs). These two data sources collect up-to-date firsthand information that is not available at the global level and constitute the world's most comprehensive dataset of its kind. They capture the experiences and perceptions of ordinary citizens and in-country professionals concerning the performance of the state and its agents and the actual operation of the legal framework in their country.

The GPP surveys provide firsthand information on the experiences and the perceptions of ordinary people regarding a range of pertinent rule of law information, including their dealings with the government, the ease of interacting with state bureaucracy, the extent of bribery and corruption, the availability of dispute resolution systems, and the prevalence of common crimes to which they are exposed.

The GPP questionnaire includes 127 perception-based questions and 213 experience-based questions, along with socio-demographic information on all respondents. The questionnaire is translated into local languages, adapted to common expressions, and administered by leading local polling companies using a probability sample of 1,000¹ respondents. In previous editions of the Index, the poll was conducted in the three largest cities of each country. However, the World Justice Project's goal was to update its methodology to include nationally representative polls. Towards this end, nationally representative polls have been

conducted in 97 countries and jurisdictions covered in the 2024 *WJP Rule of Law Index*. Nationally representative polls will be conducted in the remaining countries in future editions of the Index. Depending on the particular situation of each country, one of three different polling methodologies is used: face-to-face, telephone, or online. The GPP has been carried out in each country every few years. The polling data used in this year's report was collected during spring 2024 (for 27 countries), summer 2023 (for three countries), fall 2021 through summer 2022 (for 21 countries), fall 2020 through summer 2021 (for 18 countries), fall 2019 (for five countries), fall 2018 (for 56 countries), fall 2017 (for 42 countries), fall 2016 (for four countries), fall 2014 (for three countries), fall 2012 (for one country), and fall 2011 (for two countries). Detailed information regarding the country coverage (cities covered or nationally representative), the polling companies contracted to administer the questionnaire.

The QRQs complement the household data with assessments from in-country practitioners and academics with expertise in civil and commercial law; constitutional law, civil liberties, and criminal law; labor law; and public health. These questionnaires gather timely input on a range of topics from practitioners who frequently interact with state institutions. Such topics include information on the efficacy of courts, the strength of regulatory enforcement, and the reliability of accountability mechanisms.

The questionnaires contain closed-ended perception questions and several hypothetical scenarios with highly detailed factual assumptions aimed at ensuring comparability across countries. The QRQ surveys are conducted annually, and the questionnaires are completed by respondents selected from directories of law firms, universities and colleges, research organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as through referrals from the WJP global network of practitioners, and all are vetted by WJP staff based on their expertise. The expert surveys are administered in six languages: Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. The QRQ data for this report includes more than 3,500 surveys, which represents an average of 25 respondents per country. This data was collected from February 2024 through June 2024.

DATA CLEANING AND SCORE COMPUTATION

Once collected, the data is carefully processed to arrive at country-level scores. As a first step, the respondent level data is edited to exclude partially completed surveys, suspicious data, and outliers (which are detected using the Z-score

¹ Due to small populations or obstacles to data collection in certain countries and jurisdictions, the sampling plan was adjusted in some cases. For more information on specific countries and jurisdictions and sample sizes, see pages 188-191.

method). Individual answers are then mapped onto the 44 sub-factors of the Index (or onto the intermediate categories that make up each sub-factor), codified so that all values fall between 0 (weakest adherence to the rule of law) and 1 (strongest adherence to the rule of law), and aggregated at the country level using the simple (or unweighted) average of all respondents.

This year, to allow for an easier comparison across years, the resulting 2024 scores have been normalized using the Min-Max method with a base year of 2015. These normalized scores were then successively aggregated from the variable level all the way up to the factor level to produce the final country scores, rounded to two decimal points, and rankings. In most cases, the GPP and QRQ questions are equally weighted in the calculation of the scores of the intermediate categories (sub-factors and sub-sub-factors).

A full picture of how questions are mapped onto indicators and how they are weighted is available on the *WJP Rule of Law Index* web page at <https://worldjusticeproject.org/index>.

DATA VALIDATION

As a final step, data is validated and cross-checked against qualitative and quantitative third-party sources to provide an additional layer of analysis and to identify possible mistakes or inconsistencies within the data. Most of the third-party data sources used to cross-check the Index scores are described in Botero and Ponce (2011).²

METHODOLOGICAL CHANGES TO THIS YEAR'S REPORT

Every year, the WJP reviews the methods of data collection to ensure that the information produced is valid, useful, and continues to capture the status of the rule of law in the world. To maintain consistency with previous editions and to facilitate tracking changes over time, this year's questionnaires and data maps are closely aligned with those administered in the past.

In order to improve the accuracy of the QRQ results and reduce respondent burden, proactive dependent interviewing techniques were used to remind respondents who participated in last year's survey of their responses in the previous year.

This year, no new questions or indicators were added to the Index. Overall, 100 percent of questions remained the same between the 2023 and 2024 editions of the Index. A description of the variables is available at worldjusticeproject.org.

TRACKING CHANGES OVER TIME

This year's report includes a measure to illustrate whether the rule of law in a country, as measured through the factors of

the *WJP Rule of Law Index*, changed since the previous year. This measure is presented in the form of arrows and represents a summary of rigorous statistical testing based on the use of bootstrapping procedures (see below). For each factor, this measure takes the value of zero (no arrow) if there was no statistically significant change in the score since last year, a positive value (upward arrow) if there was a change leading to a statistically significant improvement in the score, and a negative value (downward arrow) if there was a change leading to a statistically significant deterioration in the score. This measure complements the numerical scores and rankings presented in this report, which benchmark each country's current performance on the factors and sub-factors of the Index against that of other countries. The measure of change over time is constructed in three steps:

1. First, last year's scores are subtracted from this year's to obtain, for each country and each factor, the annual difference in scores.
2. To test whether the annual changes are statistically significant, a bootstrapping procedure is used to estimate standard errors. To calculate these errors, 100 sample sizes of respondent-level observations (of equal size to the original sample) are randomly selected with replacement for each country from the pooled set of respondents for last year and this year. These samples are used to produce a set of 100 country-level scores for each factor and each country, which are utilized to calculate the final standard errors. These errors—which measure uncertainty associated with picking a particular sample of respondents—are then employed to conduct pair-wise t-tests for each country and each factor.
3. Finally, to illustrate the annual change, a measure of change over time is produced based on the value of the annual difference and its statistical significance (at the 10% level).

STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS

The Index methodology has both strengths and limitations. Among its strengths is the inclusion of both expert and household surveys to ensure that the findings reflect the conditions experienced by the population. Another strength is that it approaches the measurement of rule of law from various angles by triangulating information across data sources and types of questions. This approach not only enables accounting for different perspectives on the rule of law, but it also helps to reduce possible bias that might be introduced by any other particular data collection method. Finally, it relies on statistical testing to determine the significance of the changes in the factor scores over the last year.

With the aforementioned methodological strengths come a number of limitations. First, the data sheds light on rule of law dimensions that appear comparatively strong or weak,

² Botero, J. and Ponce, A. (2011) "Measuring the Rule of Law": WJP Working Paper No. 1, available at worldjusticeproject.org/publications.

but is not specific enough to establish causation. Thus, it will be necessary to use the Index in combination with other analytical tools to provide a full picture of causes and possible solutions. Second, in previous editions of the Index, the methodology has only been applied in three major urban areas in each of the indexed countries for the General Population Poll. However, the World Justice Project's goal was to update its methodology to include nationally representative polls. Towards this end, nationally representative polls have been conducted in 97 countries and jurisdictions covered in the 2024 *WJP Rule of Law Index*. Nationally representative polls will be conducted in the remaining countries in future editions of the Index. Third, given the rapid changes to the rule of law occurring in some countries, scores for some countries may be sensitive to the specific points in time when the data was collected. To address this, the WJP is piloting test methods of moving averages to account for short-term fluctuations. Fourth, the QRQ data may be subject to problems in measurement error due to the limited number of experts in some countries, resulting in less precise estimates. To address this, the WJP works constantly to expand its network of in-country academic and practitioner experts who contribute their time and expertise to this endeavor. Finally, due to the limited number of experts in some countries (which implies higher standard errors) and the fact that the GPP is carried out in each country every few years (which implies that for some countries, some variables do not change from one year to another), it is possible that the test described above fails to detect small changes in a country's situation over time.

OTHER METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

A detailed presentation of the methodology, including a table and description of the more than 500 variables used to construct the Index scores, is available at: worldjusticeproject.org and in Botero, J. and Ponce, A. (2011) "Measuring the Rule of Law": WJP Working Paper No.1, available at: worldjusticeproject.org/publications.


USING THE WJP RULE OF LAW INDEX

The *WJP Rule of Law Index* has been designed to offer a reliable and independent data source for policy makers, businesses, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other constituencies to assess a country's adherence to the rule of law as perceived and experienced by the average person, identify a country's strengths and weaknesses in comparison to similarly situated countries, and track changes over time. The Index has been designed to include several features that set it apart from other indices and make it valuable for a large number of countries, thus providing a powerful resource that can inform policy debates both within

and across countries. However, the Index's findings must be interpreted in light of certain inherent limitations.

1. The *WJP Rule of Law Index* does not identify priorities for reform and is not intended to establish causation or to ascertain the complex relationship among different rule of law dimensions in various countries.
2. The Index's scores and rankings are the product of a rigorous data collection and aggregation methodology. Nonetheless, as with all measurements, they are subject to measurement error.
3. Given the uncertainty associated with picking a particular sample of respondents, standard errors have been calculated using bootstrapping methods to test whether the annual changes in the factor scores are statistically significant.
4. Indices and indicators are subject to potential abuse and misinterpretation. Once released to the public, they can take on a life of their own and be used for purposes unanticipated by their creators. If data is taken out of context, it can lead to unintended or erroneous policy decisions.
5. Rule of law concepts measured by the Index may have different meanings across countries. Users are encouraged to consult the specific definitions of the variables employed in the construction of the Index, which are discussed in greater detail in the methodology section of the *WJP Rule of Law Index* website.
6. The Index is generally intended to be used in combination with other instruments, both quantitative and qualitative. Just as in the areas of health or economics, no single index conveys a full picture of a country's situation. Policy-making in the area of rule of law requires careful consideration of all relevant dimensions—which may vary from country to country—and a combination of sources, instruments, and methods.
7. Pursuant to the sensitivity analysis of the Index data conducted in collaboration with the Econometrics and Applied Statistics Unit of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, confidence intervals have been calculated for all figures included in the *WJP Rule of Law Index*. These confidence intervals and other relevant considerations regarding measurement error are reported in Kovacic and Caperna (2022)³ and Botero and Ponce (2011).

³ Kovacic, M. and Caperna, G. (2022) "Joint Research Centre Statistical Analysis of the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2021 (ROLI)", available at <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC131884>



CHAPTER 4

DATA ANALYSIS


Section I: Civil and Political Rights

Section II: Participation and Access to Information

Section III: Labor and Property Rights

Section IV: Fair and Impartial Justice





SECTION I

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Regional Comparison
Time Comparison



CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Civil and Political Rights encompass the fundamental freedoms and rights that protect individuals from undue interference by the state and enable them to participate actively in the social, cultural, and political life of their society. These rights include the ability to express opinions, practice religion freely, participate in peaceful assemblies, and maintain privacy. Recognized under various international human rights instruments, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, these liberties form the cornerstone of democratic governance and the rule of law.

To provide an overview of Thailand in terms of Civil and Political Rights, we gather the following sub-factors which help us to better understand the realization of these rights. These sub-factors are the following:

Freedom of belief and religion

This sub-factor focuses on the right of individuals to practice, change, or abandon their religion or beliefs without coercion. It evaluates the legal and social protections in place for diverse religious practices and beliefs and the extent to which individuals are free from discrimination or state control in their religious observances.

Equality and discrimination

This element focuses on the legal framework's effectiveness in ensuring that all individuals are treated equally under the law, regardless of their identity or status. It examines the presence of legal protections against discrimination and the extent to which these protections are applied consistently across all cases, fostering a justice system that respects and upholds the principle of equality. This subpillar is composed of the following sociodemographic characteristics:

- Socio-economic status
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Religion
- Foreign nationality
- Sexual orientation

Freedom of expression and opinion

This element gauges the degree to which individuals can freely express their opinions, criticize government policies, and engage in public discourse without fear of censorship or retaliation. It considers the freedoms of the press, media, and individual speech, emphasizing the ability to communicate diverse viewpoints openly. This indicator is measured by the following topics:

- People are free to express political opinions alone or in peaceful association with others.
- Freedom of the media is respected.
- Freedom of civil and political organization is respected.

Freedom of assembly and association

This sub-factor assesses the extent to which individuals can freely gather in peaceful assemblies and form or join associations, including civil society organizations, unions, and political parties. It measures the ability of people to mobilize collectively for a cause or to express shared interests without facing harassment or interference from the state.

The right to life and security of the person is effectively guaranteed

This sub-factor measures the extent to which the state provides protections against threats to physical security and life, both in and outside the workplace. It examines whether the government ensures safety regulations and mechanisms to protect workers from hazardous conditions and whether individuals are safeguarded against violence or abuse. It emphasizes the right to work in environments that do not pose risks to health and safety.

Freedom from interference with privacy

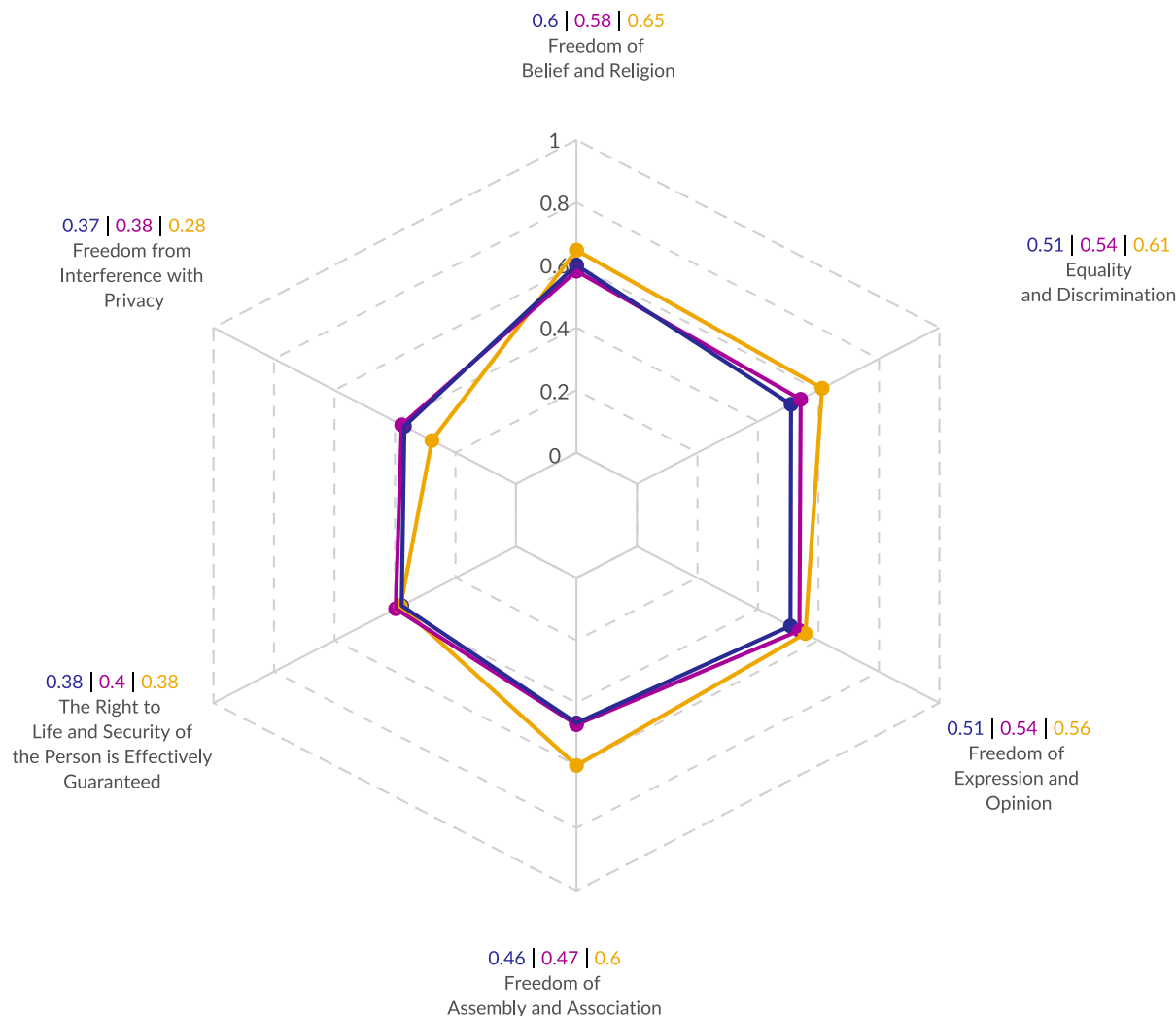
This dimension assesses the protection of individuals from unwarranted surveillance or intrusions into their private lives by the state. It includes protections against unlawful searches, wiretapping, and monitoring of personal communications. The sub-factor measures the ability of individuals to enjoy personal privacy in their homes and communication without undue governmental interference.

CHART 1.1.

Civil and Political Rights in Thailand Over the Last Decade

The chart ranges from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score and 0 signifies the lowest possible score.

● 2024 ● 2020 ● 2015

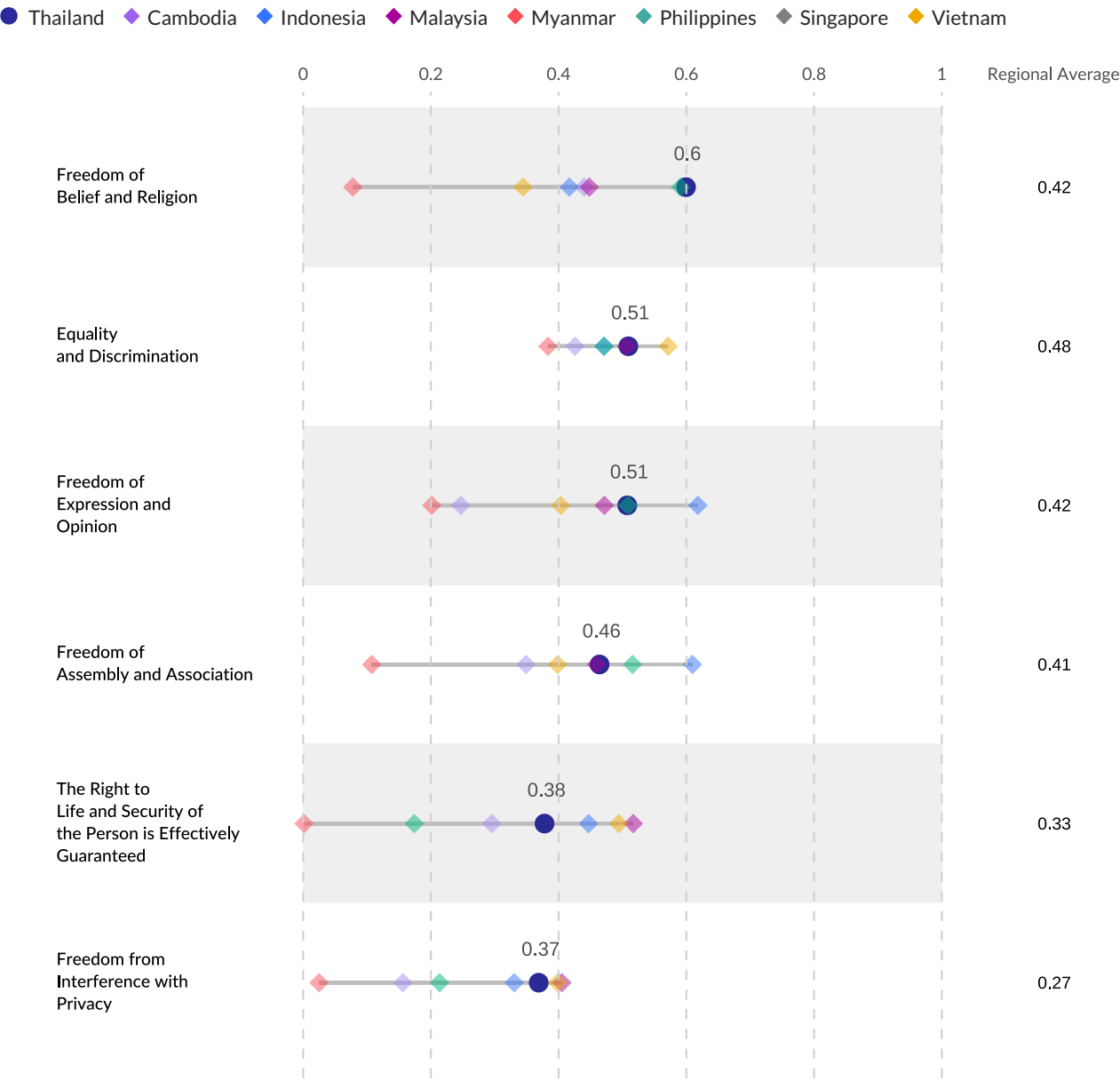


Between 2020 and 2024, nearly all indicators related to Civil and Political Rights declined. The most significant decreases were in freedom of assembly and association (-6%), equality and non-discrimination (-6%), and the right to life and security of the person (-5%). The only indicator that showed improvement was freedom of belief and religion, which increased by over 3% and holds the highest score among the indicators. However, the score for freedom of belief and religion in Thailand has decreased overall since 2015 (-8%). In general, scores for most indicators under Civil and Political rights have decreased over the past decade, which reveals a historical continuation of the trends observed between 2015 and 2024. There are two deviations: freedom from interference with privacy increased between 2015 and 2020 (-35%) and then decreased from 2020 to 2024 (-3%). While the score for guarantee to life and security of the person remains the same in 2024 as it did in 2015, it increased between 2015 and 2020 (+5%), then decreased between 2020 and 2024 (-5%).

CHART 1.2.

Civil and Political Rights in the Southeast Asia

The chart ranges from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score and 0 signifies the lowest possible score.



Regionally, Thailand ranks in the upper half of peer countries across most indicators related to civil liberties and rights. Among these, Thailand's highest score is in freedom of belief and religion, at 0.60, which is above the regional average of 0.47. While Thailand consistently performs above the regional average, it typically ranks third or fourth among the region's top-performing countries.

Source: WJP Rule of Law Index 2024



SECTION II

PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Country Comparison
Time Comparison



PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Participation and Access to Information refers to the mechanisms and environment that allow citizens participate in public affairs, engage in civil society activities, and access government information. This concept emphasizes the importance of transparency, open communication, and institutional responsiveness, ensuring that the actions of those in power align with the rule of law and respect the rights and interests of individuals.

The following key sub-factors provide an essence of this concept in practice:

Access to complaint mechanisms

This sub-factor assesses the availability and effectiveness of formal processes through which individuals can report grievances and seek redress against government actions or decisions. It includes mechanisms such as ombudsman offices, human rights commissions, and other complaint channels that provide a structured way for citizens to voice concerns and hold officials accountable.

Non-Governmental Checks of Government Power

This subfactor examines the role of non-governmental entities, such as civil society organizations, media, and independent watchdogs, in monitoring and influencing government actions. It considers the extent to which these actors can freely scrutinize government behavior, report misconduct, and demand transparency without facing undue pressure or retaliation. This ensures that power is balanced and that there are effective mechanisms outside of the formal governmental structure to prevent abuse. This indicator is composed of the following topics:

- People are free to express political opinions alone or in peaceful association with others
- Freedom of the media is respected
- Freedom of civil and political organization is respected

Civic participation

This element focuses on the capacity of citizens to actively engage in public life, including through voting, participating in political discussions, and contributing to policy-making processes. It highlights the opportunities available for individuals to influence decisions that affect their lives, ensuring that government remains responsive to the needs and concerns of the community. This concept is measured considering the following dimensions:

- Freedom of opinion and expression is effectively guaranteed
- Freedom of assembly and association is effectively guaranteed
- Right to petition and civic engagement
- Complaint mechanisms

Right to information

This aspect examines the extent to which individuals can access information held by the government, including data on policies, budgets, and public activities. It emphasizes transparency in governance by ensuring that citizens have the right to seek, receive, and impart information about governmental actions. This sub-factor assesses the following topics:

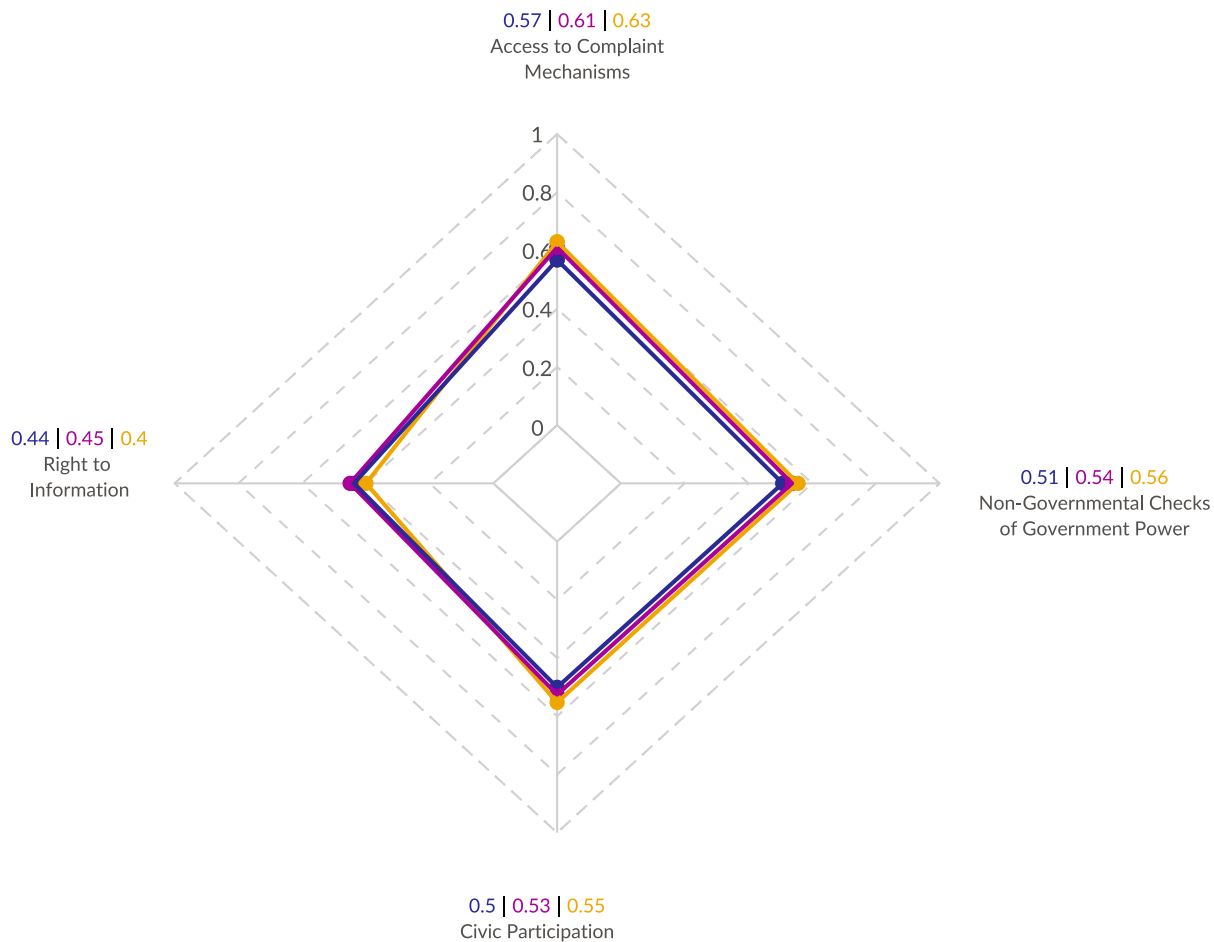
- Information requests - responsiveness
- Information requests - quality
- Information requests - timeliness
- Information requests - affordability and trust
- Information requests - general accessibility of information

CHART 2.1.

Participation and Access to Information in Thailand Over the Last Decade

The chart ranges from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score and 0 signifies the lowest possible score.

● 2024 ● 2020 ● 2015

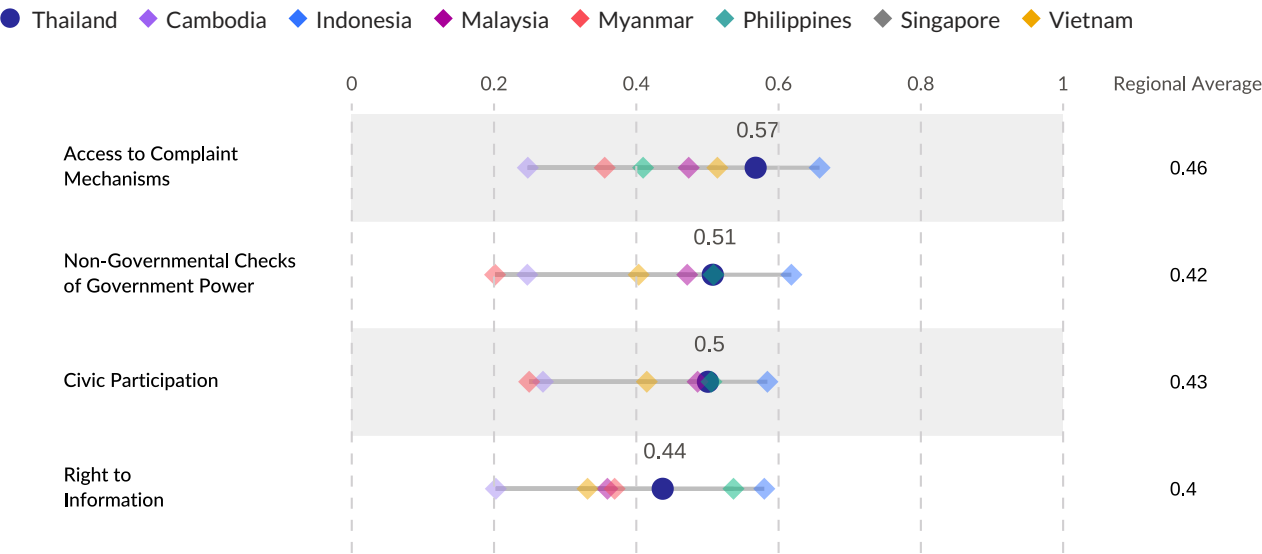


Scores for access to complaint mechanisms, civic participation, non-governmental checks of government power, and right to information decreased by 7%, 6%, 5% and 2% between 2020 and 2024, respectively. This downward trend was preceded by declines in civic participation, checks on government power and access to complaint mechanisms since 2015. Right to information, however, increased between 2015 and 2024 (+11%). These trends suggest that individuals now face greater obstacles in obtaining and using public information to drive change through participation in the policy-making process.

Source: WJP Rule of Law Index 2015, 2020, and 2024

CHART 2.2.
Participation and Access to Information in the Southeast Asia

The chart ranges from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score and 0 signifies the lowest possible score.



Thailand's scores for all four indicators are in the upper range of the regional distribution. Its highest score is in access to complaint mechanisms, ranking second behind Indonesia and Singapore. In civic participation and right to information, Thailand ranks fourth, following the Philippines, Indonesia, and Singapore, yet still scores above the regional average.

Source: WJP Rule of Law Index 2024



SECTION III

LABOR AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

Country Comparison
Time Comparison



LABOR AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

Labor and Property Rights refer to the standards and safeguards that ensure workers are treated with dignity and fairness, and that social systems are in place to protect individuals' well-being and security. This concept highlights the importance of fair treatment in the workplace, access to due process in disputes, and the assurance of basic human rights. It is essential for creating a just society where economic and social rights are respected and upheld.

To assess Labor and Property Rights in Thailand, we include the two following key sub-factors that illustrate the practical application of this concept:

Labor rights

This sub-factor evaluates the protection of fundamental labor rights, including the rights to fair wages, safe working conditions, freedom from forced labor, and the ability to organize and join labor unions. It considers the extent to which labor regulations are enforced and whether workers can freely exercise their rights without fear of retaliation or discrimination, thereby ensuring dignity and fairness in the workplace. This sub-factor captures the following concepts:

- Equal payment and absence of discrimination
- Freedom to form unions and bargain collectively
- Prohibition of child and forced labor

Protection from expropriation without due process

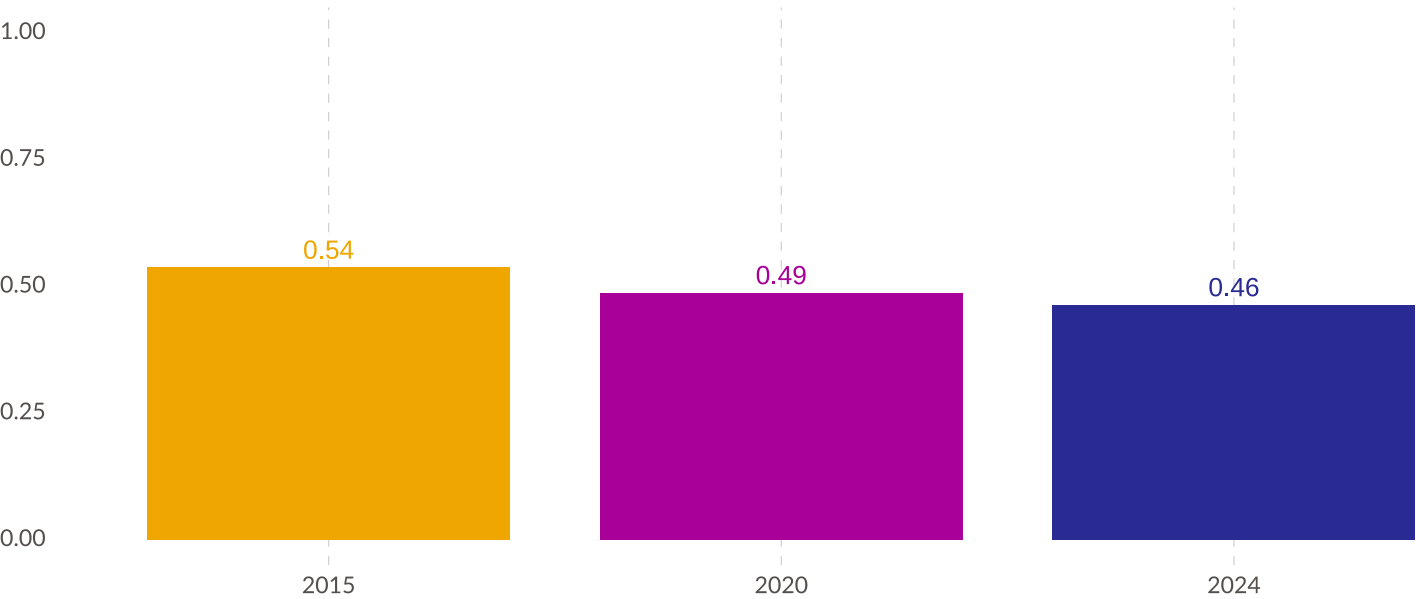
This aspect evaluates whether the government respects legal procedures when expropriating property, including property that is essential for individuals' livelihoods, such as land or businesses. It considers whether expropriation is conducted transparently with opportunities for appeal and adequate compensation. This ensures that individuals' economic rights are protected, and that any state intervention in property matters is lawful and fair. This indicator is measured with respect to the following topics:

- Property rights for the people
- Property rights for companies

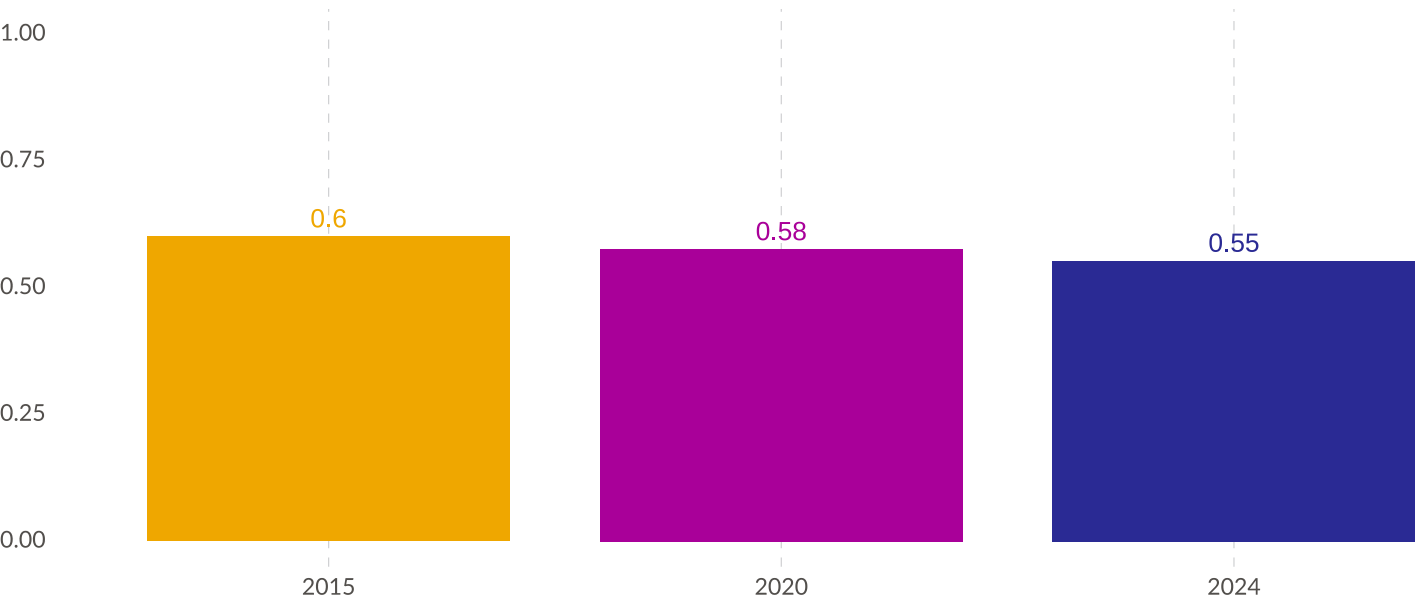
CHART 3.1.
Labor and Property Rights in the Thailand Over Last Decade

The chart ranges from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score and 0 signifies the lowest possible score.

Labor rights



Protection from expropriation without due process

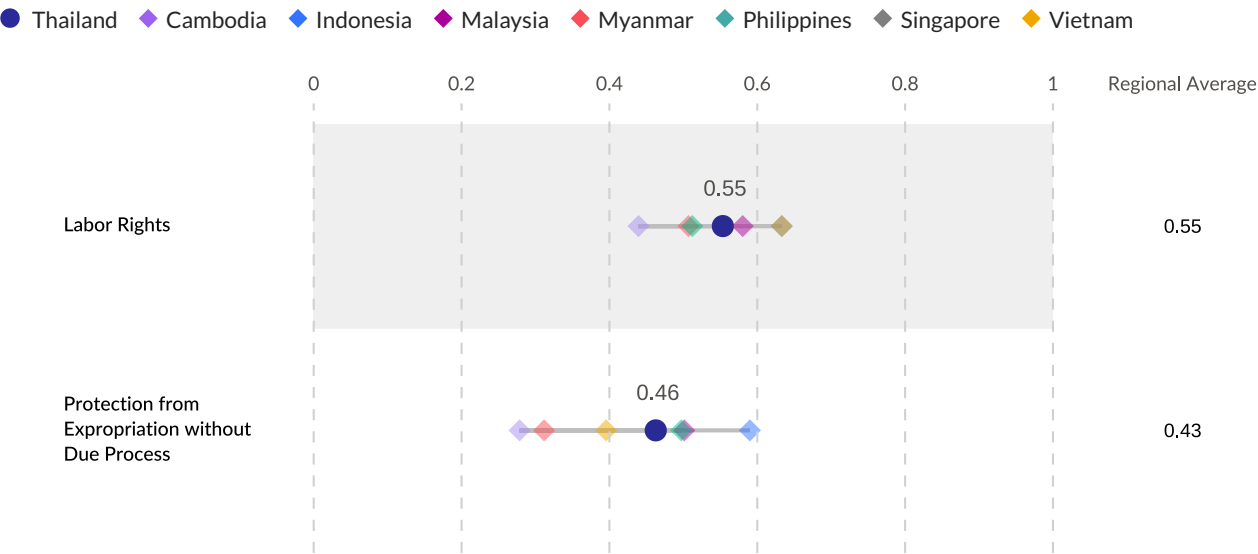


Both of Thailand's scores for indicators related to Labor and Property Rights declined from 2020 to 2024. For labor rights, the decrease was 6%, while protection from expropriation without due process dropped by over 5%. This follows a prior decrease from 2015 to 2020 for both indicators (-9% in labor rights and -3% in protection from expropriation).

Source: WJP Rule of Law Index 2015, 2020, and 2024

CHART 3.2.
Labor and Property Rights in the Southeast Asia

The chart ranges from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score and 0 signifies the lowest possible score.



Thailand's scores for indicators related to Labor and Property Rights are below the regional average. For both sub-factors, Thailand ranks fourth in regional performance.

Source: WJP Rule of Law Index 2024



SECTION IV

FAIR AND IMPARTIAL JUSTICE

Country Comparison
Time Comparison



FAIR AND IMPARTIAL JUSTICE

Fair and Impartial Justice refer to the principles that ensure all individuals, regardless of their background or status, have the right to seek and obtain legal redress through a fair, impartial, and transparent judicial process. This concept emphasizes the importance of legal equality, the absence of discrimination, and the independence of the judiciary in delivering justice.

To assess Fair and Impartial justice in Thailand, we include several key sub-factors that illustrate how this concept operates in practice:

Access to and affordability of civil justice

This aspect evaluates how easily individuals can access civil courts to resolve disputes, including considerations of legal costs and the availability of legal aid. It emphasizes the importance of ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent individuals from seeking justice, thereby promoting an inclusive justice system where all members of society can resolve civil matters effectively. This sub-factor is measured considering the following dimensions:

- People are aware of available remedies
- People can access and afford legal advice and representation
- Procedures
- Accessibility of courts
- Costs (courts, lawyers and procedures)

Improper government influence in criminal justice

This sub-factor assesses whether the criminal justice system operates independently from the influence of government authorities. It examines the extent to which the judiciary, prosecutors, and law enforcement can carry out their roles without interference, ensuring that criminal cases are resolved based on legal standards rather than political considerations

Discrimination in civil justice

This sub-factor assesses whether the civil justice system discriminates against certain groups based on factors like race, gender, socioeconomic status, or other characteristics. It evaluates whether all individuals have equal access to legal remedies and whether civil cases are adjudicated fairly without bias or preferential treatment.

Improper government influence in civil justice

This element measures the independence of the civil justice system, specifically examining whether government officials exert undue influence over civil court decisions. It considers whether judges and other judicial actors can make decisions based solely on the law and evidence, free from external pressures or political interests.

Administrative proceedings are conducted without unreasonable delay

This indicator measures the time judges take to reach a decision, from the moment a case is filed to the point when a verdict or settlement is achieved. It also assesses the time required by workers to enforce that decision. Additionally, it evaluates the frequency of delays in administrative proceedings at both national and local levels, particularly those without clear justification.

Due process of the Law and rights of the accused

This sub-factor evaluates the extent to which individuals are guaranteed a fair trial, legal representation, and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty. It also considers whether the judicial process respects the rights of those accused of crimes, ensuring transparency, timeliness, and access to evidence. This ensures that legal procedures protect the fundamental rights of individuals and maintain fairness throughout the legal process. This indicator is composed of the following concepts:

- Presumption of innocence
- Arrest and pre-trial detention
- Torture and abusive treatment to suspects
- Legal assistance
- Rights of prisoners

Impartiality in criminal justice

This sub-factor measures the extent to which the criminal justice system is free from bias or prejudice. It considers whether judges, juries, and prosecutors treat individuals equally, without favoritism or discrimination, ensuring that criminal proceedings are conducted fairly for all parties involved. This dimension is measured considering the following actors:

- Police is impartial and does not discriminate
- Judges are impartial and do not discriminate

Discrimination in civil justice

This sub-factor assesses whether the civil justice system discriminates against certain groups based on factors like race, gender, socioeconomic status, or other characteristics. It evaluates whether all individuals have equal access to legal remedies and whether civil cases are adjudicated fairly without bias or preferential treatment.

Due process is respected in administrative proceedings

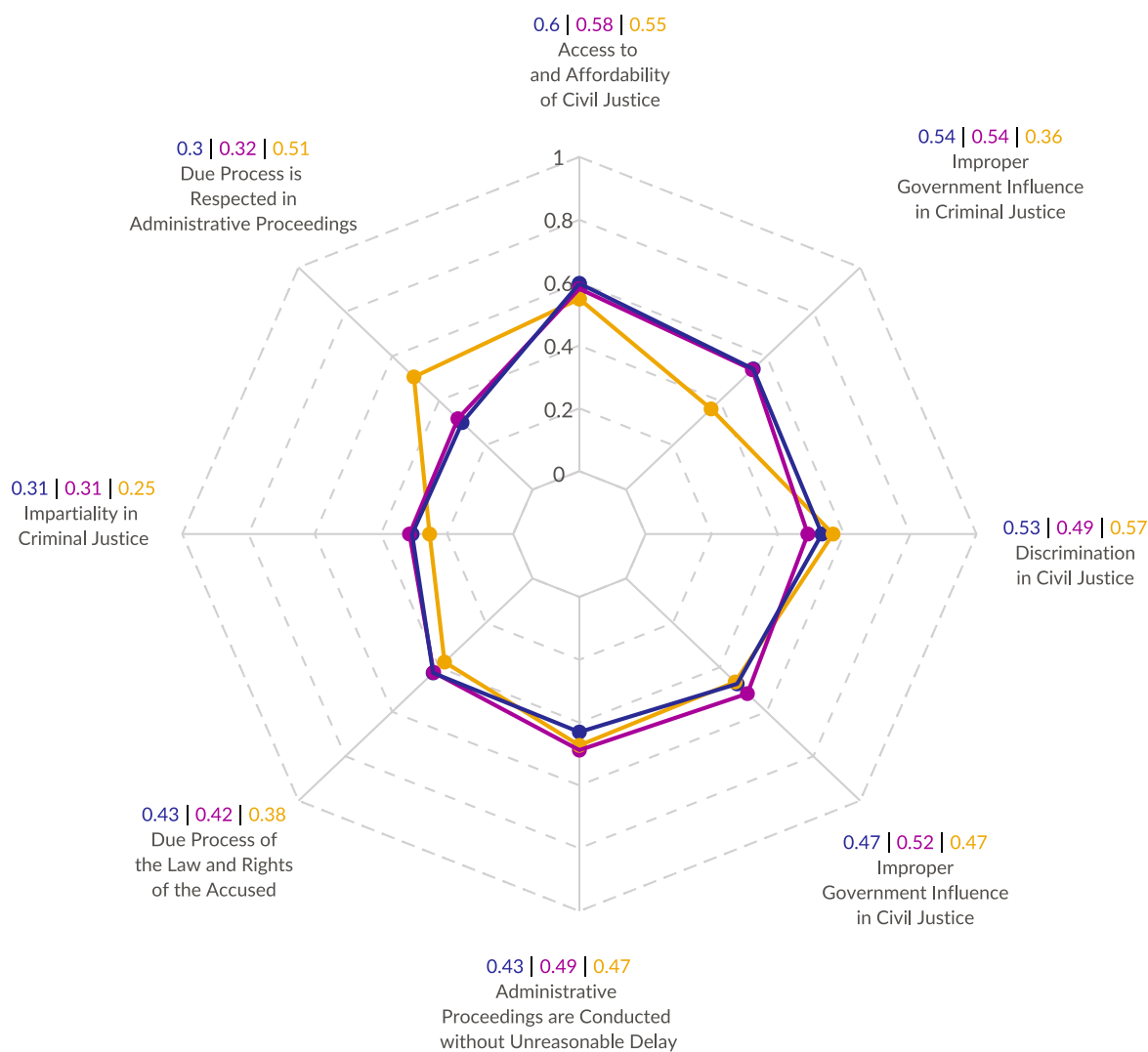
This element assesses the procedural fairness in administrative matters that affect labor rights, such as disputes over employment conditions or social security benefits. It considers whether individuals have the right to a fair hearing, access to evidence, and the ability to appeal decisions. This ensures that administrative processes protect the rights of workers and maintain transparency and justice in labor-related cases.

CHART 4.1.

Fair and Impartial Justice in Thailand Over the Last Decade

The chart ranges from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score and 0 signifies the lowest possible score.

● 2024 ● 2020 ● 2015

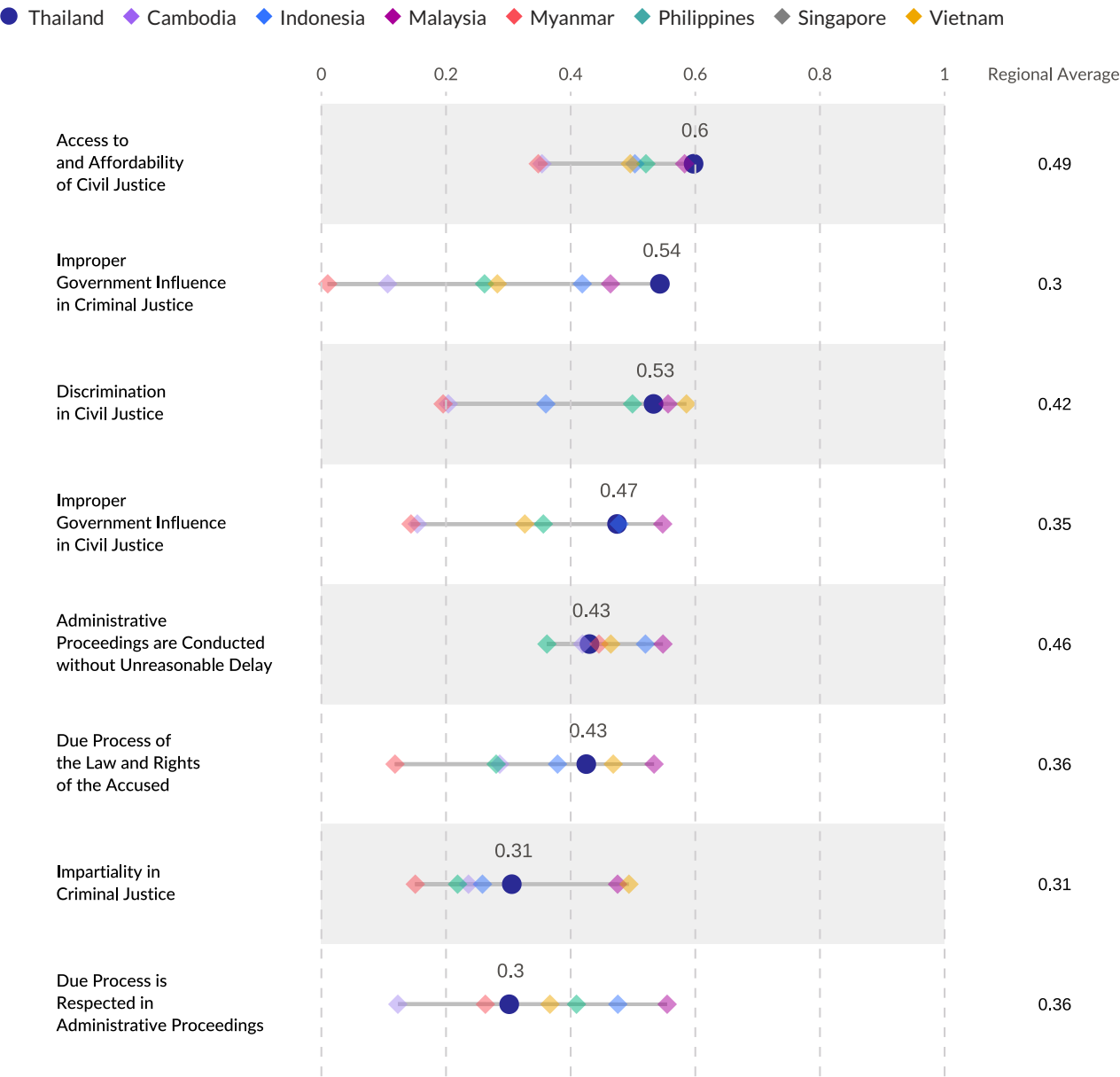


From 2020 to 2024, declines were observed in the sub-factors measuring administrative proceedings conducted without unreasonable delay (-12%), improper government influence in civil justice (-10%), and due process respected in administrative proceedings (-7%). Conversely, the scores for the remaining civil justice sub-factors increased, with the largest improvements seen in discrimination in civil justice (+8%) and access to and affordability of civil justice (+3%). This contrast underscores a dual trend: significant advancements in several civil justice sub-factors, alongside declines in aspects related to administrative proceedings in the country. This trend is also highlighted by the fact that Impartiality in Criminal Justice and Improper Government Influence in Criminal Justice, which saw no change between 2015 and 2020, increased by 19% and 50% respectively between 2015 and 2020.

Source: WJP Rule of Law Index 2015, 2020, and 2024

CHART 4.2.
Fair and Impartial Justice in the Southeast Asia

The chart ranges from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score and 0 signifies the lowest possible score.



Regionally, Thailand falls below the average in due process respected in administrative proceedings, administrative proceedings conducted without unreasonable delay, and impartiality in criminal justice, performing better only than Cambodia and Myanmar. However, Thailand ranks among the highest in the region for access to and affordability of civil justice, as well as improper government influence in criminal justice. For all other sub-factors, Thailand consistently trails behind Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam.

Source: WJP Rule of Law Index 2024



CHAPTER 5
THE HUMAN RIGHTS
SITUATION IN
THAILAND AND
SOUTHEAST ASIA



THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THAILAND AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Given Thailand’s complex history of political activism, military interventions, and legal reforms, this report examines the impact of the past decade’s changes on civil and political rights and the broader human rights landscape. The 2024 WJP Rule of Law Index highlights Thailand’s mixed performance in human rights within Southeast Asia, reflecting both significant challenges and opportunities for reform.

Firstly, declines in civil and political rights, including freedom of assembly, equality, and the right to life, underscore ongoing risks to individual liberties. Similarly, reductions in civic participation and access to information reveal growing barriers to civic engagement. Secondly, systemic issues in labor rights enforcement and administrative proceedings remain critical obstacles. Thirdly, despite these setbacks, Thailand has achieved incremental improvements in areas such as freedom of belief and religion and has made progress in civil justice, particularly in reducing discrimination and improving affordability.

The map and table below present the average scores of these 20 indicators across Southeast Asia, highlighting shifts over the last five years and in the most recent year. This period marked a pivotal moment for Thailand’s rule of law performance.



Performance in 20 Indicators of the Rule of Law and Human Rights

Regional Ranking	Country	Score in 2024	% Change* Last Year	Score in 2020	% Change* in 5 Years	Regional Ranking in 2020	Change in Ranking
1	Singapore	0.69	+1%	0.70	-2%	1	0
2	Malaysia	0.50	0%	0.51	-3%	2	0
3	Indonesia	0.49	-2%	0.50	-2%	3	0
4	Thailand	0.47	+2%	0.49	-3%	4	0
5	Vietnam	0.44	+3%	0.44	-1%	5	0
6	Philippines	0.41	+1%	0.43	-3%	6	0
7	Cambodia	0.28	-2%	0.30	-8%	8	+1
8	Myanmar	0.22	-7%	0.32	-30%	7	-1

The figure above illustrates regional trends in the rule of law and human rights performance over the past decade. As of 2024, Thailand scored 0.47, ranking fourth in the region. This represents a 4% decline over the past decade and a 3% decline over the last five years, which limits Thailand's prospects of becoming the top-ranked country in human rights indicators. However, Thailand's decade-long decline of -4% is less severe than that of the Philippines (-16%), Cambodia (-21%), and Myanmar (-30%). Over the last five years, Thailand's decline of -3% also compares favorably or equally to other regional counterparts, such as the Philippines (-3%), Cambodia (-8%), and Myanmar (-30%). These trends suggest that Thailand maintains a relatively stable, though mid-range, position in a region characterized by significant volatility in human rights and government performance.

Despite its transition from years of military influence to a more democratic structure, Thailand continues to face substantial challenges. Nevertheless, the recent improvement in its score (+2%) may signal the beginning of a positive trend, offering hope for further advancements in the human rights landscape. However, achieving substantial progress remains difficult due to the country's complex political dynamics, legal framework, and ongoing conflicts.

Regionally, Thailand ranks fourth among Southeast Asian countries for human rights indicators, outperforming Cambodia and Myanmar but trailing Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia. While the region faces significant declines in human rights protections, Thailand's relative stability and progress in specific sub-factors position it as a potential leader for reform. To build on its advancements and address persistent challenges, Thailand must strengthen democratic institutions, safeguard civil liberties, and foster regional cooperation to uphold and advance human rights standards.



APPENDIX

Appendix
About the WJP
Other Publications



APPENDIX

METHODOLOGICAL MATERIALS

WJP RULE OF LAW INDEX (ROLI)

The following documents include the *WJP Rule of Law Index 2024*[®], and the question-level variables from the General Population Poll and the Qualified Respondents' Questionnaires used to construct the scores and rankings of the *WJP Rule of Law Index*:

[World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2024](#)

[World Justice Project Rule of Law Index Variable Map](#)

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Sub-factors assessed	Thailand	Malaysia	Indonesia	Vietnam	Philippines	Cambodia	Myanmar	Southeast Asia average
4.7 Freedom of assembly and association is effectively guaranteed	0.46	0.46	0.61	0.40	0.52	0.35	0.11	0.42
4.4 Freedom of opinion and expression is effectively guaranteed	0.51	0.47	0.62	0.40	0.51	0.25	0.20	0.42
4.4.1 People are free to express political opinions alone or in peaceful association with others	0.51	0.47	0.58	0.37	0.54	0.33	0.11	0.42
4.4.2 Freedom of the media is respected	0.50	0.46	0.62	0.46	0.46	0.20	0.40	0.44
4.4.3 Freedom of civil and political organization is respected (NGOs and political parties)	0.51	0.48	0.65	0.38	0.52	0.21	0.10	0.41
4.5 Freedom of belief and religion is effectively guaranteed	0.60	0.45	0.42	0.34	0.59	0.44	0.08	0.42
4.6 Freedom from arbitrary interference with privacy is effectively guaranteed	0.37	0.41	0.33	0.40	0.21	0.16	0.02	0.27
4.1 Equal treatment and absence of discrimination	0.51	0.51	0.47	0.57	0.47	0.43	0.38	0.48
4.1.1 Socio-economic status	0.47	0.60	0.48	0.44	0.42	0.14	0.41	0.42
4.1.2 Gender	0.59	0.61	0.57	0.63	0.56	0.51	0.47	0.56
4.1.3 Ethnicity	0.45	0.55	0.52	0.57	0.45	0.41	0.36	0.47
4.1.4 Religion	0.51	0.49	0.43	0.53	0.43	0.41	0.24	0.43
4.1.5 Foreign nationality	0.39	0.34	0.38	0.59	0.44	0.54	0.40	0.44
4.1.6 Sexual orientation	0.63	0.44	0.44	0.67	0.52	0.55	0.42	0.52
4.2 The right to life and security of the person is effectively guaranteed	0.38	0.52	0.45	0.49	0.17	0.30	0.00	0.33

* The sequence of factors, sub-factors, and countries in the tables follows the order of appearance in the report.

FAIR AND IMPARTIAL JUSTICE

Sub-factors assessed	Thailand	Malaysia	Indonesia	Vietnam	Philippines	Cambodia	Myanmar	Southeast Asia average
8.7. Due process of law and rights of the accused	0.43	0.53	0.38	0.47	0.28	0.29	0.12	0.36
8.7.1. Presumption of innocence/Evidence	0.40	0.66	0.45	0.44	0.35	0.25	0.10	0.38
8.7.2. Arrest and pre-trial detention	0.54	0.53	0.52	0.55	0.35	0.27	0.10	0.41
8.7.3. Torture and abusive treatment to suspects	0.37	0.40	0.30	0.31	0.21	0.32	0.14	0.29
8.7.4. Legal assistance	0.44	0.54	0.42	0.55	0.34	0.38	0.12	0.40
8.7.5. Rights of prisoners	0.37	0.53	0.20	0.50	0.15	0.22	0.12	0.30
7.4 Civil justice is free of improper government influence	0.47	0.55	0.48	0.33	0.36	0.15	0.01	0.34
8.6 Criminal system is free of improper government influence	0.54	0.46	0.42	0.28	0.26	0.11	0.01	0.30
7.1 People have access to affordable civil justice	0.60	0.58	0.50	0.50	0.52	0.35	0.35	0.49
7.1.1 People are aware of available remedies	0.47	0.45	0.27	0.53	0.35	0.29	0.22	0.37
7.1.2 People can access and afford legal advice and representation	0.67	0.55	0.59	0.47	0.63	0.47	0.26	0.52
7.1.3. Procedures	0.58	0.61	0.49	0.41	0.55	0.36	0.32	0.47
7.1.4. Accessibility of courts	0.51	0.42	0.46	0.53	0.37	0.43	0.31	0.43
7.1.5. Costs (Courts, lawyers and procedures)	0.76	0.89	0.72	0.54	0.70	0.22	0.62	0.64
8.4 Criminal system is free of discrimination	0.31	0.48	0.26	0.49	0.22	0.24	0.15	0.31
8.4.1. Police is impartial and do not discriminate	0.23	0.31	0.34	0.52	0.25	0.46	0.30	0.34
8.4.2. Judges are impartial and do not discriminate	0.38	0.64	0.18	0.47	0.18	0.02	0.00	0.27
7.2 Civil justice is free of discrimination	0.53	0.56	0.36	0.59	0.50	0.20	0.20	0.42
6.3 Administrative proceedings are conducted without unreasonable delay	0.43	0.55	0.52	0.46	0.36	0.42	0.45	0.46

* The sequence of factors, sub-factors, and countries in the tables follows the order of appearance in the report.

FAIR AND IMPARTIAL JUSTICE

Sub-factors assessed	Thailand	Malaysia	Indonesia	Vietnam	Philippines	Cambodia	Myanmar	Southeast Asia average
8.7. Due process of law and rights of the accused	0.43	0.53	0.38	0.47	0.28	0.29	0.12	0.36
8.7.1. Presumption of innocence/Evidence	0.40	0.66	0.45	0.44	0.35	0.25	0.10	0.38
8.7.2. Arrest and pre-trial detention	0.54	0.53	0.52	0.55	0.35	0.27	0.10	0.41
8.7.3. Torture and abusive treatment to suspects	0.37	0.40	0.30	0.31	0.21	0.32	0.14	0.29
8.7.4. Legal assistance	0.44	0.54	0.42	0.55	0.34	0.38	0.12	0.40
8.7.5. Rights of prisoners	0.37	0.53	0.20	0.50	0.15	0.22	0.12	0.30
7.4 Civil justice is free of improper government influence	0.47	0.55	0.48	0.33	0.36	0.15	0.01	0.34
8.6 Criminal system is free of improper government influence	0.54	0.46	0.42	0.28	0.26	0.11	0.01	0.30
7.1 People have access to affordable civil justice	0.60	0.58	0.50	0.50	0.52	0.35	0.35	0.49
7.1.1 People are aware of available remedies	0.47	0.45	0.27	0.53	0.35	0.29	0.22	0.37
7.1.2 People can access and afford legal advice and representation	0.67	0.55	0.59	0.47	0.63	0.47	0.26	0.52
7.1.3. Procedures	0.58	0.61	0.49	0.41	0.55	0.36	0.32	0.47
7.1.4. Accessibility of courts	0.51	0.42	0.46	0.53	0.37	0.43	0.31	0.43
7.1.5. Costs (Courts, lawyers and procedures)	0.76	0.89	0.72	0.54	0.70	0.22	0.62	0.64
8.4 Criminal system is free of discrimination	0.31	0.48	0.26	0.49	0.22	0.24	0.15	0.31
8.4.1. Police is impartial and do not discriminate	0.23	0.31	0.34	0.52	0.25	0.46	0.30	0.34
8.4.2. Judges are impartial and do not discriminate	0.38	0.64	0.18	0.47	0.18	0.02	0.00	0.27
7.2 Civil justice is free of discrimination	0.53	0.56	0.36	0.59	0.50	0.20	0.20	0.42
6.3 Administrative proceedings are conducted without unreasonable delay	0.43	0.55	0.52	0.46	0.36	0.42	0.45	0.46

* The sequence of factors, sub-factors, and countries in the tables follows the order of appearance in the report.



World Justice
Project

ABOUT THE WORLD JUSTICE PROJECT

The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working to create knowledge, build awareness, and stimulate action to advance the rule of law worldwide. Effective rule of law is the foundation for communities of justice, opportunity, and peace—underpinning development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights.

The WJP builds and supports a global, multidisciplinary movement for the rule of law through three lines of work: collecting, organizing, and analyzing original, independent rule of law data, including the *World Justice Project Rule of Law Index*; supporting research, scholarship, and teaching about the importance of the rule of law, its relationship to development, and effective strategies to strengthen it; and connecting and building an engaged global network of policymakers and advocates to advance the rule of law through strategic partnerships, convenings, coordinated advocacy, and support for locally led initiatives.

Learn more at: worldjusticeproject.org.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

For more information click on the publication.



WJP Rule of Law Index 2024



WJP Justice Data Graphical Reports Part I* and Part II† 2023



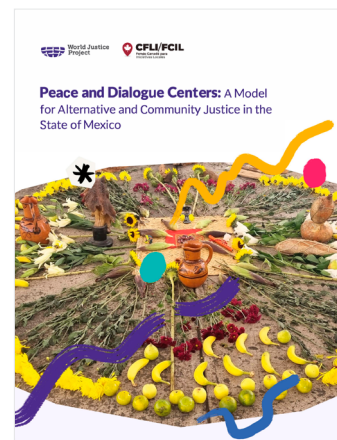
WJP Mexico States Rule of Law Index 2023-2024



U.S Rule of Law Trends & The 2024 Election 2024



World Justice Project
EUROVOICES Thematic Reports
Available November 2024



Peace and Dialogue Centers:
A Model for Alternative and
Community Justice in the State of
Mexico
2024

* Full report title is *Dissecting the Justice Gap in 104 Countries*.

† Full report title is *Disparities, Vulnerability, and Harnessing Data for People-Centered Justice*.

