

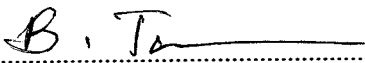
ABSTRACT

Title : The Impact of Exports on the Economic Growth of Thailand

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The purpose of this study was to evaluate the impact of exports on the economic growth of Thailand. A set of secondary data covering a period of 21 years, 1976-1996, and economic growth model were employed in the study. The technological progress in the production function was assumed as Hick-neutral where the progress was product augmenting. The growth rate of productivity 0.0795 was found.

Analysis of the role of exports on the economic growth of Thailand indicated that one percentage augment of agriculture commodities, manufacture product and the other products exports led to an increase in GDP of 0.2012, 0.1396, and 0.2894 percentage respectively. Exports in mineral and fuel did not have significant impact on the rate of economic growth.

Once subdivided by countries of destination, it was found that an increase in exports to Japan, European Economic Community countries, Asian and the other countries of one percentage raised the rate of economic growth by 0.3526, 0.1947, 0.1632, and 0.1127 respectively. But the exports to the U.S.A. did not raise the growth of gross domestic produces of Thailand.

The conclusion of the analysis was that exports had strong impact on the economic growth of Thailand. Therefore, the government should continue to support the exports.