**Which Central American countries import more cellphones?**

In the year 2014, the total population of Central America was of 44.4 million inhabitants; those people were using a total of 53.7 million cell phones in the region, according to data from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The use of smartphones in Central America is growing at an estimated rate of 39 per cent a year, revealed a report by the consulting firm Deloitte.

Guatemala is the country of the region that imports more cell phones, since it allocated 419 million dollars in 2015, according to a study by Central America Data business intelligence. This figure is expected to be increased in 20% for the end of 2016.

The second biggest importer is Costa Rica with a total expend of 364 million dollars, Honduras imported cell phones by 141 million dollars, in accordance with Central America Data and El Salvador with 181 million dollars.

Panama and Nicaragua went 81 million dollars and 63 million dollars, respectively, to the purchase of mobile phones.

United States was ranked as the leading provider of mobile phones in Central America, followed by China, Hong Kong and South Korea. Other providers are Viet Nam and Mexico.

Advise for Thai exporters:

According to ECLAC, the demand of mobile phones and their electronic components will be increased in 40% from 2016 to 2020, Thailand is one of the biggest suppliers of electronic components worldwide and could have an opportunity to grow the exports to Central America by opening new markets.

The trend for the electronic and communication market is to keep on growing during at least five years more, and Central America is a net importer of such items for not being able to produce that kind of technology, especially in countries such as Guatemala and El Salvador.

Sources:

1. Forbes.
2. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
3. Central America Data.