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ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)



## Livestock prices remain stable



*Cambodia News | 07 December, 2020*

The number of livestock raised in the Kingdom increased significantly during the pandemic, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). MAFF's Minister Veng Sakhon said that as of Dec 2, livestock production increased from 42.02 million head to 49.42 million head, up 17.6 percent compared with the same period in 2019. Livestock production includes poultry (chicken and ducks), cattle (cows and buffalo) and pigs. He added that this year the nation's livestock production chain encompasses 1,232 farms. Of these, 681 are poultry producers (13.135 million birds), 547 produce live pigs (1.33 million pigs) and 54 raise cattle (12,974 head of cattle). "During the pandemic, Cambodia has [put a great deal of] effort [towards boosting] local production in the horticulture, aquaculture and livestock production sectors in order to contribute to generating [income] for [the nation's agri-workers], which helps to create jobs and ensure the Kingdom's food security," according to Sakhon. Srun Pov, president of the Cambodia Livestock Raisers Association, agreed that the volume of livestock production increased during the pandemic and cited growth of close to 20 percent. He also said that the market price of live pigs, chicken, ducks and beef is at an acceptable level for producers, sellers and consumers. Pov added that with the fishing season underway; consumers will have more choice above and beyond purchasing

beef, chicken, duck or pork for their daily consumption. He also surmised that the price of live pigs could possibly decrease as demand has fallen off since the Nov 28 community transmission incident, with consumers reducing the frequency of their trips to the market. "[Despite a decrease in demand, driven by people changing their shopping habits over concerns about the outbreak], the number of pigs being raised has remained a constant, so supply is stable," Pov added. "We [see the possibility of a decrease in price for sellers and producers, which would affect their profitability], but we have yet to see any serious [price fluctuation] yet," he added. Tan Phannara, director-general of the General Directorate of Animal Health and Production at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, said that [despite] the volume of livestock production having increased, the pricing remains manageable. "There has been no issue [of unmanageable price spikes, up or down], the price of live pigs, for example, is good and poultry prices are also recovering now," Phannara added. The price of live cattle is 13,000 riel or \$3.25 per kilogramme, a price that has remained stable for many years. Phannara added that government mechanisms have reacted effectively to the situation. "During the pandemic, although consumer demand has fallen off, we have maintained price stability by reducing live pig imports, to ensure a balance between supply and demand. This is an [effective] measure that we have been implementing for two years," Phannara added. He also added that current

levels of live pig production can provide up to 82 percent of the national demand, with imports picking up the difference. The December 4 commodities price report from Phnom Penh Markets pegged price averages as follows: pork 26,400 riel (\$6.6) per kilo, duck 15,600 riel (\$3.9) per kilo, beef 39,800 riel (\$9.95) per kilo, and chicken 28,000 (\$7 per kilo).

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50790005/livestock-prices-remain-stable/>

## Battambang Airport officially begins its 're-birth' process



*Cambodia News | 07 December, 2020*

The process towards rebuilding the abandoned Battambang Airport has started with a national technical working group busy with preparing their plan and conducting studies on the social, economic and environmental impacts of the rejuvenation of the airport, according to an official from the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation (SSCA). SSCA's Undersecretary of State Sin Chansereyvutha, said that while the preliminary study indicates impact costs of around \$7 million, [there remains substantial work to be done]. "The impact is not easy to assess as we need to ascertain verification of [all pertaining] issues," Chansereyvutha added. He said that revitalising the abandoned Battambang Airport would be achieved with private sector investment, since the government wants to reduce state activity in the airport business, while continuing to act as a regulator overseeing the sector. The airport is three kilometres from the city centre of Battambang and

has a total land area of 128.68 hectares. The runway length is slightly more than 1,600 metres with a width of 34 metres. Battambang provincial governor Nguon Ratanak, said the project is now under study. He added that there are a number of long-term residents living in the areas adjacent to the airport, with that issue under review by the SSCA's national working group. Ratanak did not disclose when the studies will be completed, or how much the project would ultimately cost. However, he did note the potential of the re-opening of the airport in bringing more tourists to the province. The plan to rebuild the abandoned Battambang Airport came following a call made by Prime Minister Hun Sen during his speech at the 6th River Festival earlier this year. He wants the airport to undergo renovation because the province boasts great tourism potential. The airport was initially launched in 1968, but was limited to serving small-scale domestic flights. Battambang Airport took a downward turn in 1975 upon the onset of the Khmer Rouge regime. The small airfield was reopened following their defeat and was used for civilian aircraft until the end of the 1990s, but it never returned to full operational status. But now, with times having changed, the government has launched studies to respond to and capitalise on current and future market trends. The provincial and civil aviation administrations have jointly created a team to conduct an impact study on the surrounding area. This concern was raised by Premier Hun Sen, who asked that local authorities inform residents to refrain from constructing high-rise buildings near the

abandoned airport as that could affect future development plans for the hub. According to Chanserey- vutha, a feasibility study for another new airport, planned for the Mondulhiri Province in the east of the Kingdom, has neared completion. He said the finalized draft of that feasibility study will be complete by the end of January, 2021. "Once the draft is finished, the technical working group will submit their plan to the government, seeking its consultation, and a decision on who will be in charge of building it," said Chansereyvutha. Despite this tough period for the aviation sector, new investments in the sector are underway or under study and work on the expansion of the existing international airports is ongoing, according to the SSCA. The new Phnom Penh International Airport, located at Kandal and Takeo province had reached close to 30 percent completion as of June. The New Siem Reap International Airport project is moving forward but developing at a slower pace. The \$3.5 billion China-built Dara Sakor International Airport in Koh Kong province is scheduled to be operational in mid-2021. Other new airport projects include Koh Kong Airport, Poipet Airport, Battambang Airport, and the New Mondulhiri Airport, which remain in the study process while social, economic and environmental impacts are being reviewed. The State Secretariat of Civil Aviation reported that from 2015 to 2023, total investment for these new airports, infrastructure and airspace will be approximately \$3.5 billion.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50790004/battambang-airport-officially-begins-its-re-birth-process/>

## Laos, Vietnam agree to deepen cooperation



*Laos News | 08 December, 2020*

Laos and Vietnam have signed 17 cooperation agreements, intending to deepen the relations and special solidarity between the two countries. Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc witnessed the signing of 17 documents at the 43rd session of the Laos-Vietnam Inter-Governmental Committee held in Hanoi on Sunday. The two sides said they highly valued the accomplishments made in bilateral cooperation over the past year, particularly in the area of politics and foreign affairs, national defence, security, economics, trade and investment. The two neighbours are committed to continuing reciprocal visits by high-level delegations from their countries. Vietnam is the third largest foreign investor in Laos after China and Thailand. Vietnam's total investment in Laos has increased to US\$4.1 billion, according to Lao officials. Vietnam is also a key trading partner of Laos, with the value of bilateral trade recorded at US\$815 million in the past 10 months of this year. Although the value of two-way trade did not reach the target set by the two governments due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the two countries agreed to increase trade by 10-15 percent compared to the previous year. The two governments also agreed to expand cooperation in communications and transport, as well as in hydropower development, electricity transmission, and the purchase of energy.

The two sides highlighted the importance of security and social order along their shared border, aiming to build a border of friendship, cooperation and development. Cooperation in education between the two countries has strengthened and there are currently over 16,000 Lao students studying in Vietnam. Prime Minister Phuc was quoted in the Vietnam News as saying that the two sides agreed to implement joint declarations and agreements signed between the leaders of the two countries, including an agreement on the Vietnam-Laos Cooperation Plan for 2021. Mr Phuc said that despite complex and unpredictable developments in the region and the world, notably the Covid-19 pandemic, Laos and Vietnam had continued to hold high-level meetings and exchange visits as well as pursue important cooperation mechanisms and mutual support for pandemic prevention and control. The Lao premier thanked the government and people of Vietnam for their assistance and support for the development of Laos over the past decades. The two sides believe the successful meeting will build momentum for expanding cooperation between their countries, which will make important contributions to strengthening and enhancing the great friendship, special solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and Laos. Mr Thongloun also visited Vietnam's Party General Secretary and President Nguyen Phu Trong, and met with the Chairwoman of the Vietnamese National Assembly Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan to further discuss cooperation.

Source: [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent\\_Natural\\_238.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Natural_238.php)

## Over 30 more factories in Yangon file for close-down



*Myanmar News | 07 December, 2020*

Yangon Region has over 30 more factories that have filed for closures, said Moe Moe Su Kyi, Region Minister for Immigration and Human Resources. "Factories have filed to close down for various reasons. Over 30 or 40 factories have filed for closures at the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). I am saying about estimated lists as we have not received exact lists. There may be more," the minister said. From January 1 to July 31, there were 173 factories in Yangon Region that had shut down, closed temporarily or laid off workers. Consequently, 41,395 people were unemployed, she added. The General Labour Law Inspection Department has dealt with labour benefits such as wage and salary and earned leave in relation to those 173 factories. If complaints arise, township coordination and negotiation teams will handle such cases under the Settlement of Labour Dispute Law enacted in 2012, the minister said. On September 23 also, the minister said in the second wave of the Covid-19 outbreak, over 220 companies had filed shut down, close temporarily or lay off workers as of the end of that month. She said labour cards would be issued to the laid-off workers so they could be prioritized if other factories need new employees.

Source: <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/over-30-more-factories-in-yangon-file-for-close-down>

## Construction of highway connecting Dawei SEZ, Htikhee to commence next year



Myanmar News | 08 December, 2020

The construction of a 140-kilometer two-lane highway connecting the Dawei Special Economic Zone (SEZ), in Tanintharyi Region to the Htikhee at the Thai border will commence in mid-2021,

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to the Dawei SEZ Management Committee. The Ministry of Construction will oversee the project, which will be carried out with a loan from Thailand's Neighbouring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency (NEDA). An environmental impact assessment and social impact assessment were recently approved. The Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry is preparing to sign the loan agreement with NEDA and a tender is expected to take place next year. When complete, it will take travellers from the SEZ about 2.5 hours to reach Htikhee by car. It will take another two hours to reach Bangkok from Htikhee. This is expected to accelerate development of the Dawei SEZ as well as local social economic conditions while strengthening trade and diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Thailand. The development comes after Japan on November 5 offered to invest in the SEZ, which is expected to be Southeast Asia's largest industrial zone. The Japanese will be involved in developing the US\$8 billion, 20,000-hectare SEZ, which will be

implemented in phases and include a deep sea port and high-tech zones. Other developments at the SEZ include land acquisition for a 230 kilovolt amperes power station and discussions with the Japanese to roll out studies to construct a deepsea port. - Translated

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/construction-highway-connecting-dawei-sez-htikhee-commence-next-year.html>

## Industrial production continues to rise in November



Vietnam News | 07 December, 2020

In the context of the well-controlled COVID-19 pandemic in Vietnam, the effect of the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement created the driving force for industries to recover and operate in new normal states, according to a socio-economic situation report of the General Statistics Office. Accordingly, industrial production this continued to flourish, especially the processing and manufacturing industry with a sharp increase of 11.9% from the same period last year. Specifically, the mining industry witnessed a decline of 6.2%, while power generation and distribution saw a rise of 4%. In addition, the water supply, wastewater management, and treatment sectors soared by 5.3%. Over the past 11 months, the IPP is estimated to rise 3.1% year on year. Of the figure, the manufacturing and processing industries posted an increase of 4.7%, thereby contributing 3.8% to general growth, while the power generation and

distribution sector also enjoyed a boost of 3.2%, therefore contributing 0.3 percentage points./.

Source:<https://vietreader.com/business/finance/25931-industrial-production-continues-to-rise-in-november.html>

## Trade surplus surges to record high despite COVID-19



*Vietnam News | 07 December, 2020*

HÀ NỘI — Việt Nam posted a trade surplus of US\$20.1 billion in the first 11 months of this year, the highest on record, despite the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global economy, according to the General Statistics Office (GSO). The GSO said the country's total trade value in the first 11 months was estimated at \$489.1 billion, a year-on-year rise of 3.5 per cent. Export value reached \$254.6 billion, up 5.3 per cent and import value stood at \$234.5 billion, up 1.5 per cent. In November alone, export turnover was \$24.8 billion, down 9 per cent from the previous month, but up 8.8 per cent compared with the same month last year. Between January and November, the domestic economic sector generated about \$73 billion in export value, up 1.6 per cent, making up 28.7 per cent of the total. Meanwhile, the foreign-invested sector, including crude oil, recorded \$181.6 billion, up 6.9 per cent, accounting for 71.3 per cent of the total. Thirty-one groups of commodities joined the billion-dollar export product club, including 10 groups posting more than \$10 billion. The heavy and mining industry raked in \$138 billion, up 9.2 per cent year-on-year.

The light and handicrafts industry had an export value of \$90.2 billion, up 1.5 per cent. Meanwhile, the agro-forestry export value reduced slightly by 0.1 per cent year-on-year to \$18.7 billion and seafood export value plunged by 0.9 per cent to \$7.7 billion. The US remained the largest export market of Vietnamese goods in the 11 months, with a turnover of \$69.9 billion, up 25.7 per cent year-on-year. It was followed by China, with \$43.1 billion, up 16 per cent; the EU, \$32.2 billion, down 2.4 per cent; ASEAN, \$20.9 billion, down 10.6 per cent; the Republic of Korea (RoK), \$17.7 billion, down 2.7 per cent; and Japan, \$17.3 billion, down 6.5 per cent. To meet export targets of this year, the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) has asked its departments and agencies to support enterprises in their efforts to promote production and business. The key solution is export promotion activities in markets that have recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the MoIT will also focus on monitoring export markets to review and identify goods that countries need to import while exploiting free trade agreements to diversify export markets. The GSO also reported that total imports in November were estimated at \$24.2 billion, down 0.5 per cent month-on-month but up 13.4 per cent year-on-year. As many as 34 kinds of goods saw import turnover exceeding \$1 billion, 89.4 per cent of the total. China remained Việt Nam's largest import source, with a revenue of \$73.9 billion, up 7.9 per cent against the same period last year. It was followed by the RoK, with \$42 billion, down 2.9 per cent; ASEAN, \$27.3 billion, down 6.9 per cent;

Japan, \$18.6 billion, up 4.8 per cent; the EU, \$13.2 billion, up 4.3 per cent; and the US, \$12.6 billion, down 3.6 per cent. — VNS

Source:<https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/822957/trade-surplus-surges-to-record-high-despite-covid-19.html>

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