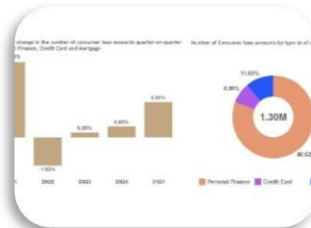


Highlight News / May 13/2021



- Domestic tourism kicks off with almost 20,000 tourists last weekend
- Outstanding loans not at worrisome level: ABC
- Central, southern provinces step up border controls
- Rice prices spike up on local demand
- US, EU buyers to choose Vietnam as sourcing destination in 2021
- VAMA members see slight fall in April car sales



## Domestic tourism kicks off with almost 20,000 tourists last weekend



*Cambodia News | 12 May, 2021*

Last weekend, from May 7 to 9, some 19,709 domestic visitors toured the country, according to Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism. Of them, he pointed out, 19,492 were national tourists, and 217 were foreign visitors. Even though the number of internal tourists is still low compared to that before the Feb. 20 Community Event, it saw an increase of about 10,749 tourists or 120 percent compared to the week before the lockdown of Phnom Penh capital and Takhmao town of Kandal province, added the Minister. He noted that while large tourist destinations like Angkor Archeological Park, coastal areas, tourism-based and ecotourism communities have reopened, some private and local tourist resorts have not yet resumed their activities by waiting to see the evolution of COVID-19 situation. The Ministry of Tourism have so far advised the provincial and municipal tourism departments and tourism-related businesses as well as other relevant parties to strengthen the health preventive measures to ensure safety of the tourists and community. Phal Sophanith – AKP

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50855139/domestic-tourism-kicks-off-with-almost-20000-tourists-last-weekend/>

## Outstanding loans not at worrisome level: ABC



*Cambodia News | 12 May, 2021*

The Credit Bureau of Cambodia (CBC) released its Credit Consumer Index for the first quarter among economic uncertainty stemming from lockdowns, loan restructuring and disruption in the manufacturing sector. The report showed that “debt past due” (DPD) over 30 days increased by 2.24 percent across the board while total loan balances grew by 6.44 percent quarter-over-quarter. According to the Association of Banks in Cambodia (ABC), banks and microfinance institutions receive between 400,000 and 500,000 loan applications each month. Of these, about 50 percent are approved with financial houses opening approximately 200,000 new loan accounts a month. “The ratio of approvals and applications has been very stable over the last year,” Heng Koy, general manager for the ABC, told Khmer Times. “While the DPD has definitely increased, a 25 percent increase is not near a worrisome level. Total DPD is still less than 2 percent for the whole sector.” A total of 1.4 percent of all DPDs were in the mortgage sector, the least among all loans. It was followed by personal finance (3.14 percent) and credit cards (4.36 percent). Koy said that several construction projects had been “paused” and the number of real estate units entering the market was “significantly down” as people temporarily left urban areas during the pandemic’s second wave. “Nonetheless, we believe

that this is only a temporary dip in homebuilding and the market will return to pre-COVID levels once the economy picks up again and borders fully re-open,” argued Koy. “Given the current efforts by the government to ensure vaccination for all Cambodians, which has resulted in Cambodia being the second-most vaccinated country just after Singapore in ASEAN, we are very optimistic that, in 2022, the economy will be fully running again and people will flow to urban areas once more. It will result in a drastic jump in housing demand as well as supply.” The coastal region, encompassing Kampot Koh Kong, Kep and Preah Sihanoukville provinces saw a 46 percent increase in loan applications, making it the fastest-growing area for DPD. The plateau provinces of Preah Vihear, Steung Treng, Monduliri and Ratanakiri saw a 30 percent increase, making that region the second-most popular for mortgage applications. “DPD in mortgages has seen similar increases to other loan segments. The current pandemic and the resulting economic crisis has impacted all sectors to a similar extent and the housing market has not been hit worse than other sectors,” said Koy. Cambodian coastal provinces saw the second-largest increase in loan balances, with an 8.4 percent rise over the same period last year. The plateau areas witnessed the highest loan balances with a 9.9 percent increase. Personal finance remains by far and away the most popular loan product, accounting for 80.92 percent of borrowing products. Mortgages came in second at 11 percent. However, 51.72 percent of loan

balances were carried by mortgages. The overall value of mortgages is valued at some \$5.373 billion, with the holder owing on average \$37,578. Approximately 1.051 million people hold personal finance loans with individuals owing on average \$4,709. Credit card debt, which saw the highest DPD at 4.36 percent and a 30 percent reduction in applications, was the smallest loan portfolio, with approximately 115,700 people owing about \$539 on average. More than 61 percent of all account holders held in excess of one loan account, according to the CBC. The total number of consumer credit applications increased by 11 percent quarter-over-quarter this year.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50855062/outstanding-loans-not-at-worrisome-level-abc/>

## Central, southern provinces step up border controls



Laos News | 13 May, 2021

Authorities in central and southern provinces that share borders with Thailand are taking action to prevent the spread of Covid-19 by setting up more checkpoints and patrolling border areas to prevent more imported cases of the virus. In Savannakhet, officials are carrying out checks on everyone entering the province and are stepping up border patrols. The Governor of Savannakhet province, Mr Santiphab Phomvihane, last week visited checkpoints in Champhon district to monitor compliance with government guidelines to curb the spread of the virus. Champhon authorities reported

that from April 28-May 5 there were 13 checkpoints in the district and almost 1,000 people passed through them. Twenty-four Lao workers returning from Thailand were sent to a quarantine centre in Kaysone Phomvihane city. Mr Santiphab praised officials for ensuring that virus prevention measures were being complied with. Authorities and soldiers are patrolling the Lao-Thai border along the Mekong River to prevent people entering Laos illegally and avoiding screening for Covid-19. According to the National Taskforce for Covid-19 Prevention and Control, as of May 11, a total of 50 people in Savannakhet province had tested positive for the virus. In Champassak province, authorities are instructing people to comply with enhanced measures to prevent the spread of the virus until at least May 21. The province's Health Department reported that as of May 11, a total of 188 people had contracted the virus, of which 71 were Lao workers returning from Thailand. On May 12, 21 returning workers tested positive for Covid-19. Authorities are patrolling the Lao-Thai border to prevent people entering Champassak illegally. Meanwhile, authorities in Xekong are monitoring the spread of the virus and have medical staff and equipment on standby, although only person in the province has tested positive for Covid-19. Director of the province's Health Department, Dr Khamlai Santiphoum, said only one case of the virus had been recorded and that person was now in hospital in Champassak. A total of 251 people were tested for the virus and all returned negative results. However,

Xekong is at risk for the spread of the virus because it shares borders with provinces where infections have been recorded. In a bid to protect the province from a virus outbreak, Dr Khamlai called on everyone to continue to comply with the measures laid down by the National Taskforce for Covid-19 Prevent and Control.

Source : [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten\\_Central91.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_Central91.php)

## Output and new orders in April fall fivefold: IHS Markit



*Myanmar News | 12 May, 2021*

The output and new orders in April showed five times the decline in the manufacturing sector in Myanmar due to current situations, according to PMI indexes released by IHS Markit on May 3. The data revealed another substantial decline in the manufacturing conditions across Myanmar, with large parts of the economy remaining closed due to the current situation. Five components of the PMI indexes are output, new orders, employment, suppliers' delivery times and stocks of purchases and the indexes are based on the calculation of the five components. The survey said all five of the PMI components had positive directional influences on the headline figure in April, but four (except for the suppliers' delivery times) remained well inside negative territory. The output and new orders both fell at the fifth-fastest rates in the survey history, while stocks of purchases and employment contracted at the third- and fourth-

quickest rates on record, respectively. The headline IHS Markit Myanmar Manufacturing PMI™ – a composite single-figure indicator of manufacturing performance – rose from 27.5 in March to 33.0 in April, indicating an eighth consecutive monthly deterioration in operating conditions at Myanmar's manufacturing sector. The purchasing activity declined markedly again in April. Looking ahead, although firms expect output to rise by April 2022 on balance, overall expectations were the weakest in over two years. Around 60% of firms recorded lower production in April than in March. A combination of material shortages, unfavourable exchange rate movements and higher transportation costs led to the strongest rate of input price inflation since November 2018. The weak demand environment made it difficult for firms to pass on cost burdens, with selling prices increasing only modestly in April. The survey is carried out by IHS Markit based on the data received from the manufacturing sector and supported by Nikkei Inc from Japan.

Source : <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/output-and-new-orders-in-april-fall-fivefold-ihs-markit>

## Export-import growth hits

### 10-year high



*Vietnam News | 12 May, 2021*

HÀ NỘI — Việt Nam witnessed the growth of exports and imports in the first four months of 2021 hitting a 10-year record high, data of the General

Statistics Office (GSO) shows. From January-April, exports totalled US\$103.9 billion, an increase of 28.3 per cent against the same period last year. The domestic sector exported \$25.76 billion worth of goods and services, up 12.8 per cent year-on-year and accounting for 24.8 per cent of the total overseas shipments, while the foreign-invested sector contributed \$78.14 billion, up 34.4 per cent and representing 75.2 per cent of the total. Highest growth was seen in the heavy industry and mining sector, which generated \$57.58 billion in export revenue, a year-on-year rise of 33 per cent. It was followed by the light and craft industries, 27.5 per cent; and agriculture and forestry, 8.8 per cent. The US was Việt Nam's largest buyer during the period, with a value of \$30.3 billion, up 50.1 per cent year-on-year. China came second, purchasing \$16.8 billion worth of goods and services from Việt Nam, up 32.4 per cent; followed by the EU, \$12.6 billion and 18.1 per cent. Four-month imports rose by 30.8 per cent from a year earlier to \$102.6 billion. Some 93.9 per cent of the imports were capital goods, worth a total of \$96.31 billion, up 31.4 per cent. The remainder was consumer goods, valued at \$6.3 billion, up 22.5 per cent. China remained as Việt Nam's biggest seller with \$33.1 billion worth of goods and services shipped to Việt Nam, up 47.8 per cent year-on-year, followed by the Republic of Korea (\$16.9 billion), ASEAN (\$14.1 billion), and

Japan (\$7.2 billion). The GSO also reported trade surplus of \$1.29 billion and total retail sales of goods and services of close to VNĐ1.7 quadrillion (\$73.5 billion) in the first four months of the year, up 10 per cent year-on-year. — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/939944/export-import-growth-hits-10-year-high.html>

## Vietnam's production rises at fastest pace since Nov 2018



*Vietnam News | 12 May, 2021*

HCMC – Vietnam's production in April 2021 rose at the fastest pace since November 2018 amid sharp new order growth, according to a report released by IHS Markit on May 4. New orders rose at a sharper rate, with firms responding by upping their rate of job creation and ramping up purchasing. Input costs continued to rise sharply, leading to the fastest increase in selling prices in nearly a decade. Meanwhile, there were some signs that supply-chain disruption had started to ease during the month. The Vietnam Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) increased for the third straight month, posting 54.7 in April following a reading of 53.6 in March. The manufacturing sector was boosted in April by signs that customers were willing to commit to larger orders than they previously did, given the general improvement in demand and control of the Covid-19 pandemic. The total new orders increased for the eighth straight month running and at the fastest pace in close to two and a half years. New export orders

also continued to rise amid an improving international demand climate. Higher new orders led to a similarly-sized expansion of manufacturing output, with production also up at the fastest pace since November 2018. Companies boosted production by increasing workforce numbers. Staffing levels were expanded for the third month running and to the greatest extent since December 2018. This increased capacity, however, was not sufficient to prevent a first rise in backlogs of work in 15 months due to the strength of new order growth. Besides raising staffing levels, firms also posted a sharp and accelerated expansion of purchasing activity. Respondents indicated that the increase in input buying was both in response to higher new orders and as part of efforts to build reserves to support production growth in the months ahead. Efforts to expand inventory holdings were generally successful in April, with both stocks of purchases and finished goods increasing. In both cases, the rate of accumulation was solid and faster than at the end of the first quarter. There were some signs that recent severe disruption to supply chains eased in April. While suppliers' delivery times continued to lengthen, the latest deterioration in vendor performance was modest and the softest since last September. Supply shortages and rising shipping costs continued to feed through to higher input prices. The rate of cost inflation remained substantial and was only slightly slower than that seen in March. In turn, firms raised their selling prices sharply, with the rate of inflation quickening to the fastest for close

to a decade. Expectations that the pandemic will remain under control led to higher demand, and the introduction of new product lines, supported ongoing confidence among firms regarding the 12-month outlook for production. "The Vietnamese manufacturing sector hit the ground running at the start of the second quarter. Output and new orders each rose to the greatest extent since late 2018, and there were encouraging reports that customers were often happy to place larger orders amid greater confidence in the sustainability of the current expansion," said Andrew Harker, economics director at IHS Markit. "Inflationary pressures remained elevated, with output prices increasing at the fastest pace for almost a decade. There were some signs, however, that the severity of the difficulties in supply chains may be easing, which will hopefully reduce some of the upward pressure on prices," Harker added.

Source : <https://english.thesaigontimes.vn/81734/vietnam%e2%80%99s-production-rises-at-fastest-pace-since-nov-2018-.html>

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