

Highlight News / May 20/2021



- Tourism capacity statistics by region for 2020 are released
- Bourse-listed ports release quarterly financial reports
- Three provinces ease lockdown restrictions
- Myanmar witness rising inflation in basic goods
- Aeon Mall postpones Yangon shopping mall construction after military takeover
- Vietnam emerges as popular investment destination for 140 countries
- Seafood exports to go up by 10% in Q2

Tourism Supply 2020

Tourism Supply by Location

Location	Hotel		Guest House		Residence	
	Total	Room	Total	Room	Total	Room
Yangon	426	8,763	13,560	813	13,000	3,000
Chiang Mai	10	443	166	83	532	254
Phuket	9	279	87	42	347	126
Chiang Rai	9	294	82	39	264	145
Chiang Udon	208	14,083	12,192	348	4,263	1,791
Other cities	22	2,222	3,282	91	1,524	285
Total	675	20,188	27,569	1,094	23,430	5,631



Tourism capacity statistics by region for 2020 are released



Cambodia News | 19 May, 2021

The office of Prime-Minister Hun Sen has tweeted a report from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation detailing tourism capacity levels by region for 2020. The areas with the highest level of infrastructure for tourism were in order: Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Sihanoukville, Kampot and Battambang. Nationally there were 1,028 hotels catering to tourists in 2020. The hotels provide 44,428 rooms and employed 35,561 people. Phnom Penh accounted for just over a third of the hotel jobs in the country. The report cited that there were more guesthouses in the country than hotels, although they offered fewer rooms. A total of 2,755 guesthouses with 35,791 rooms employed 10,927 staff in 2020. Phnom Penh had the largest number of guesthouses at 812. Kampot, which is popular with backpackers, was next with 308 guesthouses. Restaurants offering rooms totalled 3,359 establishments. They accounted for 185,258 rooms and employ 33,661 people. The nation had a 2020 total of 15,738 hotels, guesthouses and restaurants that provide accommodation. The facilities offer 265,477 rooms and directly employed 80,139 people last year. Tourism is considered one of the four pillars of the Cambodian economy. The country attracted 6.6 million international visitors during 2019, earning a gross revenue of \$4.9 billion, which accounted for almost 13 percent of the country's

gross domestic product. During 2020, Cambodia received only 1.31 million foreign visitors, a fall of around 80 percent compared with 2019. This drop exceeded the global decline in international arrivals in all countries, which stood at 74 percent. Prior to the pandemic the Ministry of Tourism had predicted tourism numbers in the Kingdom to increase to 28 million by 2028. This would necessitate adding at least 100,000 extra hotel rooms throughout the country, specifically in major tourist hotspots such as Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Sihanoukville, as well as an overall improvement in tourism infrastructure. This includes the Siem Reap New International Airport, which is slated to open in 2023. By 2030 it is planned that the new airport will have a capacity to receive 10 million arrivals per year, up from 5 million at the current site.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50858908/tourism-capacity-statistics-by-region-for-2020-are-released/>

Bourse-listed ports release quarterly financial reports



Cambodia News | 19 May, 2021

The Kingdom's two bourse-listed ports latest financial disclosures indicate international trade is beginning to bounce back in earnest. While still not reaching pre-pandemic levels, both Preah Sihanoukville Autonomous Port (PSAP) and Phnom Penh Autonomous Port (PPAP) continued an upward trajectory. PSAP – the Kingdom's only deep-sea port – registered a pre-tax profit of some \$9.875 million –

a substantial increase from approximately \$1.105 million during the same period last year, according to its interim statement. PSAP's total revenue increased from some \$17.618 million to approximately \$19.973 million. About \$4.933 million was generated from three key customers during the period, the company noted. The port derived most of its revenue from stevedoring charges amounting to approximately \$9.362 million, an increase of about \$7.706 million year-on-year. Total assets for the company were valued at \$94.001 million, with inventories accounting for under one-third at \$36.586 million. PPAP reported a 23.76 percent increase in pre-tax profit to \$3.913 million, according to its disclosure. Total revenue increased by 2.51 percent to \$7.165 million. It ended the first quarter with some \$210.583 million in assets. A total of 44 percent of the firm's revenue was sourced from stevedoring services. This revenue amounted to \$3.157 million, while 36 percent was derived from lift-on-lift -off services, which amounted to a total of \$2.594 million. The firm saw a 6 percent increase in revenue from port operations, raising \$7.753 million. However, it saw revenue from its role as a port authority dip 18 percent year-on-year to \$1.116 million. Earlier this month, the PPAP reached an all-time high during trading on the Cambodia securities exchange after shareholders voted overwhelmingly to maintain its 6.5 percent dividend payout ratio. PSAP shares, which trade under the symbol PAS, closed down 60 riels yesterday at 14,540 riels per

share. PPAP was up 40 riels yesterday to settle at 15,720 riels a share.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50858799/bourse-listed-ports-release-quarterly-financial-reports/>

Three provinces ease lockdown restrictions



Laos News | 20 May, 2021

Some provinces where only a few cases of Covid-19 have been recorded remain under lockdown but are easing restrictions to enable people to engage in business and earn a living. In Xayaboury province, authorities will allow travel between districts and are removing checkpoints on roads. Starting on May 17, government officials are allowed to return to their offices and to hold meetings but participants must observe social distancing and be limited in number, according to the Lao Phatthana newspaper. Restaurants can open for the sale of food but not alcohol, and sports activities can resume so long as there are few spectators. Meanwhile, roads leading to other provinces will remain closed, as well as border crossings. Schools and colleges will also remain closed and gatherings of more than 20 people, including for festivals, are banned. Khammuan province has also eased restrictions and is allowing the residents of each village to travel to other villages for the purposes of work or business. Otherwise, the lockdown measures remain in place. Roads leading in and out of the province will stay closed, as will schools and colleges. Public

gatherings are forbidden except for essential reasons such as funerals. However, all those attending a funeral must have their temperature checked, clean their hands with sanitiser, maintain a safe distance from others, and wear a face mask. In Borikhamxay, travel between the province and other provinces is allowed until May 20. Anyone wishing to travel to another province, including government officials, must submit a request signed by their office, while company employees must submit a request signed by the company management. People from other areas who are still living in Borikhamxay and wish to return to their home province must present an ID card and address certificate from their village office or district Covid-19 taskforce. Those who wish to bring family members from another province to Borikhamxay must submit a document from the district taskforce. Elsewhere, authorities in Bokeo province have asked the National Taskforce for Covid-19 Prevention and Control to suspend the movement of foreigners and not to issue immigration permits for foreign nationals. The province contains a special economic zone where foreign businesses employ a large number of foreign workers. Bokeo has recorded many new cases of Covid-19 in recent days, making it the area second hardest hit by the pandemic after Vientiane. On Tuesday, Bokeo recorded 26 new cases, the highest number out of all the provinces and Vientiane on that day, bringing the total number of cases in Bokeo to 454. Provincial authorities are patrolling the borders with Thailand and Myanmar, but some

people are smuggling goods along banned routes, while others are bringing foreign nationals into the province illegally.

Source : http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/asiapacific/2021-05/17/c_139950983.htm

Myanmar witness rising inflation in basic goods



Myanmar News | 19 May, 2021

YANGON - Myanmar is experiencing 10-15 per cent inflation rates in basic foodstuff as political instability prevails, according to fish and meat wholesalers and basic food retailers. Basic food items such as rice, cooking oil, meat, vegetables as well as medicines have witnessed price increases, hurting the low income people in particular. Price increased began since Feb 1 following a military takeover. "When I went to the market to buy cooking oil, I found that a 1.8-liter bottle of vegetable oil has increased from Ks3,500 to Ks4,500," said a resident in South Dagon Township, Yangon Region. Rice prices largely remain stable but better quality Pawhsan Taungpyan rice rose from over Ks40,000 to around Ks50,000 per bag. Prices of better quality rice have increased by 10 percent to 15 percent. "Prices of all quality rice are increasing," said Cho Cho Thin, a rice trader in Thingangyun Township. The price of a 1.8-litre bottle of Mazin brand vegetable oil has increased from Ks3,500 to Ks4,500-4,600. The price of one container of groundnut oil (10 viss) has increased

from Ks60,000 to Ks65,000-70,000, according to traders. The price of farm chicken has increased from Ks5,000 to around Ks6,000 per viss and that of traditional Bamar chicken from Ks7,000 to Ks10,000. Pork price rose to Ks12,000 per viss up from Ks8,500. Vegetable prices are seen to have doubled; while some basic consumer goods and medicines have seen price increases as well.

Source : <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/myanmar-witness-rising-inflation-in-basic-goods>

Aeon Mall postpones Yangon shopping mall construction after military takeover



Myanmar News | 19 May, 2021

Aeon Mall, a developer of shopping malls under major Japanese retailer Aeon, has postponed construction of a mall being planned in Myanmar's largest city Yangon, according to a source familiar with the project. The shopping mall developer had eyed this summer to start construction, but uncertainty has arisen over the project following a February coup in the Southeast Asian country. No new target has been given. Aeon Mall has set up a joint venture with a local conglomerate with plans to open a shopping mall with the largest retail floor space in Myanmar in 2023. The source said that while the Japanese company is not considering withdrawing from the project, it would be "required to

make partial revisions to its plans to adapt to consumer trends and economic conditions in the country." The Myanmar government had approved a \$180 million project-related investment last year.

Source : <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/aeon-mall-postpones-yangon-shopping-mall-construction-after-military-takeover>

Vietnam emerges as popular investment destination for 140 countries



Vietnam News | 19 May, 2021

Vietnam has emerged as an investment destination for 140 countries and territories globally, attracting 33,000 foreign direct investment (FDI) projects with total registered capital of US\$394 billion, according to the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI). Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Vietnam has successfully fulfilled its dual goal of epidemic prevention and economic recovery. It was one of the few countries in the world last year recording positive GDP growth, at 2.91%, while many others suffered from contraction, said MPI Deputy Minister Nguyen Thi Bich Ngoc on May 17. The country's macroeconomic situation last year and during the opening four months of this year remains stable, said Ngoc, noting its GDP growth is likely to reach approximately 6.7% this year. Although global FDI has yet to show signs of recovery, the country's FDI attraction can be viewed as relatively positive,

with the total newly and additionally registered capital, capital contribution, and share purchases reaching US\$12.25 billion in four months. Notably, the newly registered capital presented an increase of 24.7% compared to the same period from last year. The latest report by the General Statistics Office (GSO) shows Vietnam is currently considered a “safe land” for high-quality FDI inflows. A number of large international corporations and businesses are keen to seek investment opportunities locally as they strive to diversify the supply chain and limit their reliance on the Chinese market. Vietnam has become one of the safest destinations in which to welcome capital flow thanks to its COVID-19 containment efforts and continued macro-economic stability, says the GSO in its analysis, VOV cited. According to Hanoitimes, Foxconn’s manufacturing plant is currently under construction in the northern province of Bac Giang and on track for operation in the first half of 2021. Vietnam’s Ministry of Planning and Investment in September 2020 revealed Taiwan-based Pegatron, a manufacturing partner of the world’s major tech firms such as Microsoft, Apple, or Sony, has also planned to invest US\$1 billion to build a manufacturing complex at Nam Dinh Vu industrial park in the northern city of Hai Phong. Such movements from multinationals are part of a global investment trend in Vietnam throughout the year. Most notably, foreign investors are highly

appreciative of the nation’s socio-political stability, a point which is widely considered to be one of the key factors in implementing economic development policies and strengthening investors’ confidence in the local investment climate. In addition, Vietnam has established a working group aimed at promoting foreign investment whilst supporting multinational corporations and foreign enterprises to seize upon some of the investment opportunities which exist within the nation. A report by The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) published in early 2021 has indicated that Vietnam has emerged as an attractive foreign direct investment (FDI) destination in Asia, by beating China and India. The report suggests that factors that make Vietnam better than its peers are the incentives for international firms for setting up units to manufacture hi-tech products, the pool of low-cost workers, and the proliferation of free trade agreements. At present, Vietnam has joined a number of new-generation FTAs, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), and the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA). These trade deals have brought about plenty of advantages in terms of gaining entry to a free market of 55 countries, including 15 countries who are part of the G20, thereby opening up huge opportunities

for Vietnam to attract additional FDI in the coming years.

Source : <https://vietnamtimes.org.vn/vietnam-emerges-as-popular-investment-destination-for-140-countries-31827.html>

Seafood exports to go up by 10% in Q2



Vietnam News | 19 May, 2021

HCM CITY — Seafood exports are expected to fetch US\$2.1 billion in the second quarter, a year-on-year increase of 10 per cent, according to the Việt Nam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP). With their agility in exploring and diversifying markets, enterprises would continue to expand exports, it said. It forecast shrimp export to top \$980 million in Q2, a year-on-year increase of 10 per cent, and pangasius and marine product exports to increase by 7 per cent and 9.6 per cent to \$712 million and \$816 million. Seafood exports fell significantly in the first two months of the year due to a disruption in the supply chain, especially logistics, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. But they recovered in March to rise to \$2.39 billion in the first four months, an increase of 6 per cent from a year ago, as enterprises made efforts to adapt to the changes caused by the pandemic and capitalised on free trade agreements to push exports, the association said. Trương Đình Hoàng, VASEP's general secretary, said the EU-Việt Nam FTA had greatly boosted exports of seafood products to the EU. The UK-Việt Nam FTA, which would take over

when the EU-Việt Nam Free Trade Agreement expires for the UK, opened up opportunities for Vietnamese seafood firms to promote exports to a market that used to account for a third of its total shipments to the erstwhile bloc of 28 countries, he added. Nguyễn Hoài Nam, VASEP deputy general secretary, said demand from major import markets such as the US, Japan and China would continue to increase. The US market would continue to be a bright spot for many Vietnamese seafood products such as shrimp, pangasius and others, he said. Vietnamese exporters would have more opportunities to export to the US since India, the largest shrimp supplier to the market, was facing production difficulties due to the pandemic, he added. Hồ Quốc Lực, chairman of Sao Ta Food JSC, said global demand for shrimp usually increased by 5 per cent a year whereas output in major producing countries would not increase this year. "Shrimp prices might increase slightly this year. Việt Nam's shrimp exports might go up by 5-7 per cent." Hoàng said: "Covid-19 has changed consumption habits globally, with people eating at home more frequently and tending to eat more seafood products, especially shrimp. The trend is expected to continue for the next few years." To further increase exports, the seafood sector must find ways to reduce costs to become competitive, he added. Though there are good signs in the market, exports will still be affected by high transport and input costs, according to the association. Besides,

businesses must realise that the fight against Covid will continue to be an important task in 2021, and have plans to store raw materials. In the context of high input costs in aquaculture, Trần Đình Luân, director of the General Department of Fisheries, said the seafood sector would continue to promote linkages in production to enable firms to get good quality of inputs at reasonable prices and enhance the use of technology to increase productivity, reduce costs and protect the environment. — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/951729/seafood-exports-to-go-up-by-10-in-q2.html>
