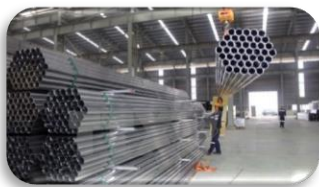


Highlight News / June 18/2021



- World Bank Says Cambodia's economy recovering but uncertainties remain
- Cambodia received only 82,839 foreign visitors in first four months
- VP calls for compliance with Covid rules in garment factories
- Lucrative ladies' fingers attract farmers to grow all year round
- Vietnam-Laos trade posts growth in first five months
- Industrial, trade growth trend sustained despite COVID-19: official



World Bank Says Cambodia's economy recovering but uncertainties remain



Cambodia News | 17 June, 2021

Cambodia's economy is gradually recovering and is projected to grow 4 percent in 2021 after contracting 3.1 percent in 2020. However, this recovery remains uneven and volatile, due in part to the reintroduction of a domestic lockdowns to control the spread of COVID-19. According to the World Bank's latest Economic Update for Cambodia, while some sectors have seen economic gains, others continue to be stifled by the ongoing pandemic. Agriculture has been relatively resilient, due to strong demand that has been boosted in part by the newly signed Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement. The manufacturing sector has gradually recovered by adapting to changing external conditions and wholesale and retail businesses have also experienced a slow recovery, supported by a gradual revival in domestic economic activity. On the other hand, parts of the services sector – such as accommodation, restaurants, and transport – continue to be hit hard by the slowdown in domestic and international tourism. Foreign Direct Investment inflows remain resilient and are helping sustain the external sector. Cambodia's growth outlook remains highly uncertain, with the shape and pace of recovery largely dependent on the course of the virus and the speed at which vaccines can be rolled out. The report also offers a downside scenario,

under which the risk of a slow vaccination programme is accompanied by frequent, prolonged, and nationwide lockdowns. Under this scenario, the economy is projected to grow by just 1 percent in 2021. The report recommends that Cambodia take immediate steps to shore up market confidence by urgently accelerating its vaccination programme, while simultaneously continuing to take measures to contain infections. Given the country's relatively wide fiscal space, the government can support relief, recovery, and growth by improving the business and investment climate, providing social assistance programmes, and boosting public investment and pro-poor growth. To maintain financial sector stability, it also important for the authorities to closely monitor vulnerabilities that can arise from a prolonged property boom and increased credit provided to the construction sector. "Like many countries in the region, Cambodia has been hit hard by the global demand shock brought on by COVID-19. But the good news is that Cambodia has now vaccinated more than 3 million people, one of the highest rates in the region," said Ms. Inguna Dobraja, World Bank Country Manager for Cambodia. "The World Bank is working with Cambodia to provide further support to combat the pandemic and help the country's resilient economic and social recovery." The report includes a special issue looking at lessons learned from Cambodia's relatively swift introduction, expansion, and deepening of social assistance programs – in particular its cash transfer program. The cash

transfer scheme was introduced in June 2020 and by February 2021, more than 688,000 poor families had received a cash transfer from the government – representing 19.5 percent of all households. AKP
Source: [https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50876332/world-bank-says-cambodias-economy-recovering-but-uncertainties-remain//](https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50876332/world-bank-says-cambodias-economy-recovering-but-uncertainties-remain/)

Cambodia received only 82,839 foreign visitors in first four months



Cambodia News | 17 June, 2021

Foreign arrivals to Cambodia dropped by 92.9 percent in the four months this year to only 82,839, according to a report from the Ministry of Tourism. From January to April, Thai tourists, 41,794 to be exact, topped Cambodia's tourism market list, accounting 50 percent of the total foreign tourists during the period, pointed out the report issued on Tuesday. Chinese and Vietnamese tourists were ranked second and third with 25,986 and 4,814, respectively, it underlined. Phnom Penh International Airport handled 38,346 passengers as tourists, a 94.3 percent drop, the report stated. COVID-19 pandemic is the main factor drying off tourists in Cambodia. However, the Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Health have been working on a scheme to allow vaccinated tourists to visit Cambodia in the fourth quarter of this year. Meanwhile, Cambodian outbound tourists were registered at 6,969, a year-on-year decrease of 97.9 percent. Last year, Cambodia received only 1.31 million foreign tourists,

showing a fall of 80 percent compared to 2019. Chea Vannak – AKP

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50875825/cambodia-received-only-82839-foreign-visitors-in-first-four-months/>

VP calls for compliance with Covid rules in garment factories



Laos News | 18 June, 2021

Vice President of the Lao PDR Mrs Pany Yathotou has stressed the need for garment factories to comply with measures introduced to prevent the spread of Covid-19, to ensure that workers and staff are protected. Mrs Pany Yathotou discussed the issue when visiting two large garment factories owned by Trio (Laos) Export Limited and Trimax Co., Ltd. in Vientiane on Wednesday, to show her support as the clothing industry struggles to overcome the difficulties caused by the pandemic. The foreign-owned Trio Garment Factory is located in Sikeuth village, Naxaithong district. It was established in 1995 and has about 2,800 workers, of whom 16 are foreign nationals. The factory produces a variety of clothing, has the capacity to produce more than 200,000 garments, and generates at least 27.5 billion kip a month. In his report presented to the vice president and her delegation, factory Manager Mr Somphou Oudomphone said that under instructions from the National Taskforce for Covid-19 Prevention and Control, the factory had set up a taskforce comprising 11 members to monitor everyone

entering and leaving the factory, check people's temperature, provide soap or hand sanitiser, and ensure the wearing of face masks and social distancing. About 600 workers have had two doses of Covid-19 vaccine and 133 have had one dose, he said. The Trimax Garment Factory was established in 1994 with full foreign investment and is located in Nahae village, Sikhottabong district. It has 705 workers, of whom 596 are female, and 27 foreign employees. All of the items produced are exported. The garment industry is one of the main generators of foreign currency for Laos. Mrs Pany praised the work and achievements of the two factories and emphasised the need for management to continue to carry out the measures laid down by authorities to ensure the safety of all employees during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_VP117.php

Lucrative ladies' fingers attract farmers to grow all year round



Myanmar News | 17 June, 2021

The farmers from Wuntho and Kawlin townships, Sagaing Region grow the profitable ladies' fingers (Okra) throughout the entire year as it allows them to have daily healthy income. "The okra is spaced six feet apart in cultivation. The plants grown from the seeds give more benefits — the input costs over K300,000, including fertilizer, seeds, pesticide and ploughing. "The plants steadily produce in tropical

weather. The yield of the okra is lower in the winter," said a grower Ko Maung Tun from Oatpho village. "The ladies' fingers can be plucked in three months of cultivation during winter. In summer, it is marketable two months after cultivation. "They can be harvested every two days. An acre daily produces about 15,000 ladies' fingers. We hire two workers at K2,000 a day. It can be harvested for up to four months. "At present, the farmers receive daily income of over K50,000. "As it is profitable, the farmers grow them all year round," said a grower Daw Ni from Thabyay village. The neighbouring villages of Thabyay village-Magyeegon, Zeephyupin, Gwaygyi, Latpangyitaw, Oakpho, Thayataik, Shansu, Seinle, Thabyaythar, Aunggon and Kyaingkhwin are relying on Daungmyoo and from irrigation. During winter and summer, farmers commonly grow chilli, cucumber, onion, corn, Chrysanthemum, Gladiolus, cauliflower, cabbage and tomato, whereas the majority of the farmers choose ladies' fingers for monsoon season as they can be successfully grown even in the heavy rainfall areas. — Myint Tun /Ko Aungthu Ya (Kawlin)/GNLM Source: <https://www.gnln.com.mm/lucrative-ladies-fingers-attract-farmers-to-grow-all-year-round/>

Vietnam-Laos trade posts growth in first five months



Vietnam News | 17 June, 2021

Vientiane (VNA) - Vietnam-Laos trade expanded in the first five months of 2021 after a decline triggered

by COVID-19, according to the Vietnamese Trade Office in Laos. The figure surpassed 570 million USD in the period, a year-on-year rise of 25 percent. Exports hit over 280 million USD, up 23.6 percent. In May alone, two-way trade hit 113 million USD, surging 56.7 percent against the same period last year. Import turnover reported growth of 83.8 percent. Vietnam's major exports included machinery, equipment, tools and spare parts in excess of 13.4 million USD; ceramics worth over 1 million USD; and garment-textile about 900,000 USD. The country also shipped iron and steel products nearing 6.8 million USD and petrol and oil worth 1.9 million USD to its neighbour. Meanwhile, Vietnam imported close to 10.3 million USD worth of timber and wooden products from Laos, along with ores and minerals, and rubber. Trade Counsellor at the Embassy of Vietnam in Laos Le Thi Phuong Hoa said that the bilateral trade is projected to marginally rise next month as the countries are striving to curb the spread of COVID-19. To support businesses, the trade office has devised a list of firms wishing to promote their products in Laos, helped them seek distributors and address bottlenecks in freight transportation, she added./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnamlaos-trade-posts-growth-in-first-five-months/203236.vnp>

Industrial, trade growth trend

sustained despite COVID-19: official



Vietnam News | 17 June, 2021

Hanoi (VNA) – Industrial and trading activities of Vietnam have sustained their growth trend although the COVID-19 resurgence has hit some provinces and cities with large industrial parks, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Do Thang Hai said on June 17. Speaking at the ministry's regular press meeting for the second quarter, he added exports have maintained high year-on-year growth, which is relatively sustainable thanks to the even growth in shipments of all the important commodities such as electronics, textile-garment, footwear, machinery, and farm produce, and to major markets like the US, China, the EU, the Republic of Korea, Japan, and ASEAN. Regarding problems in industrial and trading activities, Hai said COVID-19 outbreaks in large industrial parks have had certain impacts on industrial production growth as well as supply chains. Besides, the import of production materials accounts for a "very big" proportion, about 90 percent, thus pushing up the import value and affecting the trade balance. Lockdowns or social distancing measures driven by coronavirus outbreaks in some localities have also eroded consumption demand, especially for non-essential goods, which has influenced retail sales, according to the official. So far, he said, industries and trade

have basically developed as planned, with total retail sales achieving about 38 percent of this year's target and exports over 44 percent. The increase in index of industrial production is currently higher than expected, rising by 9.9 percent in the first five months compared to the targeted 8 percent. The figure is forecast to maintain at some 9 percent in the first half of 2021, compared to the 8-percent target for the whole year. Exports are set to increase by about 21.7 percent while total retail sales and service revenue 7.1 percent during January - June, compared to the year's respective targets of 4 - 5 percent and 8 percent. The industry and trade sector will keep making efforts to achieve its growth targets as well as those of the country, the Deputy Minister said. Particularly, the ministry will continue working to promote overseas shipments, diversify both export and import markets, optimise opportunities generated by free trade agreements, and remove barriers to enter new markets./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/industrial-trade-growth-trend-sustained-despite-covid19-official/203243.vnp>