

Highlight News / August 13/2021



- Foreign traveler arrivals to Cambodia down 91.3 pct in H1 due to COVID-19, but tourism may reopen in December
- Exports to US jump more than 37 percent, imports also gain January to July
- Trains to arrive next month for trial run of Laos-China railway
- Bilateral border value between Myanmar-India hit \$ 193 mln
- Trade ministry wants storage, warehousing costs cut for struggling businesses
- Vietnam's exports of phones, components continue to surge



Foreign traveler arrivals to Cambodia down 91.3 pct in H1 due to COVID-19, but tourism may reopen in December



Cambodia News | 12 August, 2021

Cambodia received 102,560 international visitors during the first six months of 2021, a decrease of 91.3 percent from 1.18 million over the same period last year, said a tourism ministry's report released on Wednesday. Thailand, China and Vietnam were the largest sources of foreign travelers to the kingdom during the January-June period this year, the report said. It added that some 52,290 Thais, 29,751 Chinese and 6,956 Vietnamese came to Cambodia during the first half of this year, down 67.5 percent, 89 percent and 96 percent, respectively over the same period last year. Currently, there are 18 airlines flying in and out of Cambodia, the report said, adding that 1,089 flights to Cambodia were recorded during the first six months of this year, down 89.5 percent year-on-year. Tourism ministry's secretary of state and spokesman Top Sopheak said the significant decline in the number of foreign visitors was due to the COVID-19 pandemic that had forced the kingdom to suspend tourist visas to all foreign citizens since March last year. "We hope that Cambodia will be able to reopen its door to vaccinated tourists by the end of this year after the country has achieved herd immunity," he told Xinhua. The Southeast Asian nation is targeting to vaccinate 12 million people, or 75 percent, of its 16

million population by November. As of Aug. 10, the country has inoculated 8.39 million people, or 52.48 percent, of the total population, according to the health ministry.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50914293/foreign-traveler-arrivals-to-cambodia-down-91-3-pct-in-h1-due-to-covid-19-tourism-may-reopen-in-december>

Exports to US jump more than 37 percent, imports also gain

January to July



Cambodia News | 12 August, 2021

Cambodia's exports to the US rose 37.26 percent measured Jan-July. Shipments adding up to more than \$3.8 billion were made up mainly of clothing, footwear and travel products. Exports far outstripped imports by value. Cambodia bought just over \$209 million worth of goods from the US, mainly vehicles, animal feed, and machinery. Still, that was a 49.62 percent increase over the same period in 2020. Bilateral trade amounted to \$6.9 billion in 2020, up nearly 189 per cent from 2019. Commerce Ministry spokesperson Penn Sovicheat noted Cambodia was seeing increased orders as US manufacturers cut trade with Myanmar because of human rights concerns. He said, "We expect the export market to the US will continue to be good as consumer confidence is increasing as the US economy comes back to life. We welcome the opportunity to meet this increase in demand." He added that he hoped the

US would expand its Generalized System of Preferences by cutting duties on more Cambodian goods. The Kingdom is relying more heavily on international trade to keep the economy growing as Coronavirus restrictions weigh on domestic spending and keep foreign tourists from visiting the country. The Prime Minister said last month the economy will grow by 2.5 percent this year, a revision from the 4.0 percent previously forecast. He said agricultural exports remained strong but tourism would not recover until vaccination rates hit 80 percent, allowing the Kingdom to reopen its airports to visitors.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50914249/exports-to-us-jump-more-than-37-percent-imports-also-gain-january-to-july/>

Trains to arrive next month for trial run of Laos-China railway



Laos News | 13 August, 2021

The Laos-China railway project will bring in locomotives, electric multiple unit (EMU) trains and other equipment to conduct the first trial run of the railway in October. The plan was presented at the 10th Laos-China Railway Project Steering Committee Meeting held in Vientiane on Wednesday, attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and Investment Dr Sonexay Siphandone. Officials in charge of the project said the project management committee is drafting a memorandum relating to the opening of temporary railway checkpoints so that

locomotives, EMU trains and other equipment can be brought into Laos in September in preparation for the trial run. As of July 25, construction of the Laos-China railway from the Boten border crossing in northern Laos, bordering China, to Thanalaeng in Vientiane was 93.82 percent complete. It is expected that the railway will be finished according to plan and will open for public use on December 2. From July 26-30, a technical team from the Department of Railways, Project Management Committee, Border Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Laos-China Railway Company carried out an inspection and on August 16 will inspect the Chinese side of the railway to determine the connection points to be completed this month. The inspection committee will carry out further checks from October 21 to November 19, involving committee members, all technical staff under the steering committee, the Prime Minister's Office, and the Ministry of Public Works and Transport. The areas through which the railway runs will be inspected, while other groups will conduct readiness checks before the opening of the railway on December 2. A Railway Law was promulgated in 2019 and a decree on the authority of the railway signed on July 16, 2021. The decree is derived from the Railway Regulation Act, which covers railway police and railway inspectors. The Department of Railways and the Department of Railway Police have drawn up a draft agreement on the movements of authorities inspecting the railway and railway police, which is expected to be promulgated in September. The agreement will ensure security on trains and at

railway stations. The railway, which connects Vientiane to the Chinese border, traverses the provinces of Vientiane, Luang Prabang, Oudomxay and Luang Namtha and passes through 75 tunnels with a combined length of 197.83km. Construction of the US\$5.986 billion (37.4 billion yuan) railway began in December 2016. The Laos-China railway is a strategic part of China's Belt and Road Initiative and the Lao government's plan to transform Laos from a landlocked country into a land link within the region.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Trains157.php

Bilateral border value between Myanmar-India hit \$ 193 mln



Myanmar News | 12 August, 2021

The border trade between Myanmar and India hit US\$193 million as of 23 July in the current financial year 2020-21 ending September, said a statistical report of Myanmar' Commerce Ministry. The border trade during the period increased by \$109 million compared with the same period of the previous FY. The Myanmar-India total border trade during the period was shared by Myanmar's export of over \$192 million and its import of \$1.5 million. Much of Myanmar-India cross-border trade is conducted via Thantlang and Reed camps in Chin state, and Tamu in Sagaing region while a major part of bilateral trade are delivered through ship. Myanmar mainly exports to India fruits and vegetables, fishery and forestry products while importing from India the medicines,

electronic products, motorbikes, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel and other construction materials. India is one of Myanmar's top trade partners. The two countries signed a bilateral border trade agreement in 1994. Meanwhile, Myanmar's border trade with four neighboring countries, China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh totalled \$6.98 billion shared by \$4.55 million in export and \$2.43 million in import.—

ACM/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnln.com.mm/bilateral-border-value-between-myanmar-india-hit-193-mln/#article-title>

Trade ministry wants storage, warehousing costs cut for struggling businesses



Vietnam News | 12 August, 2021

HCM City (VNS/VNA) - The Ministry of Industry and Trade has called on marine transport and logistics businesses to cut fees for container storage and warehousing for companies that have reduced operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Tran Quoc Khanh on August 10 sent an official dispatch to a number of business groups like the Vietnam Logistics Business Association and Vietnam Seaports Association, port operators and shipping and logistics companies for the purpose. It pointed out that 19 southern provinces and cities have mandated social distancing under the Government's Directive 16, including Ho Chi Minh City, Binh Duong, Dong Nai, and Long An, all localities with large volumes of imports and

exports. The application of social distancing and other epidemic prevention and control measures means some businesses have temporarily reduced operations and face difficulties in picking up their cargo from ports, leading to an increase in the storage time at ports and costs, it said. This makes it imperative to cut charges for them, it said. It also instructed marine transport and logistics businesses and associations to improve goods clearance and reduce container backlogs at ports and facilitate import-export activities. Many trade groups have complained to the ministry about a shortage of containers and high logistics and international shipping costs (that have risen 5-10 times since before the pandemic) that have persisted since last year. The surging costs of fuel and imported raw materials in recent months have also caused enormous difficulties for companies producing goods for export./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/trade-ministry-wants-storage-warehousing-costs-cut-for-struggling-businesses/206261.vnp>

of Vietnam, accounting for 15.8 percent of the country's total export revenue in the January-July period, followed by electronic products, computers, and components with an export value of 27.4 billion USD. Leading export markets of Vietnam in the period included China, the US, members of the European Union and ASEAN, Japan and the Republic of Korea. In the coming time, Vietnam will seek new potential export markets for the products in Africa, Latin America, Middle East and India, among others./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnams-exports-of-phones-components-continue-to-surge/206250.vnp>

Vietnam's exports of phones, components continue to surge



Vietnam News | 12 August, 2021

Hanoi (VNA) - Vietnam's exports of phones and components brought in 29.35 billion USD in the first seven months of 2021, a year-on-year rise of 11.9 percent, according to the Ministry of Industry and Trade. They continued to be the top export products