

*Highlight News / August 18, 2021*



- \$5.5 Mn of investments in new apparel projects 'will create 1,200 jobs'
- Cambodia-Japan trade surges in first half of 2021 to \$1.1 billion
- Laos govt asks Thailand to help Lao workers overcome their Covid-19 crisis
- Mae Sot, Thailand: Burmese migrant workers vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccine
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ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)

## \$5.5 Mn of investments in new apparel projects 'will create 1,200 jobs'



*Cambodia News | 17 August, 2021*

Two new investment projects worth a combined \$5.5 million have been approved by the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC). Collaboration Packaging Material Products Co Ltd is building a factory in the Ang Snoul district of Kandal province to make parts for bags and footwear. Chasefire Outdoors (Cambodia) Co Ltd will set up a plant in the Samrong district of Takeo province to make safety apparel, bags and camping equipment. The two projects are expected to create more than 1,200 jobs for locals. The CDC recently approved 10 projects mainly making clothing, travel bags and shoes. They are worth nearly \$80 million combined and are expected to create around 11,500 jobs. The new factories will do little to make up for the jobs lost and businesses that have gone bankrupt from the devastating effects of Coronavirus. The pandemic has forced factories with infections to close and cut global consumer spending. Last year 101 factories closed in Cambodia, according to the Industry Ministry. Most of them were in the garment sector.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50917469/5-5-mn-of-investments-in-new-apparel-projects-will-create-1200-jobs/>

## Cambodia-Japan trade surges in first half of 2021 to \$1.1 billion



*Cambodia News | 17 August, 2021*

Bilateral trade between Cambodia and Japan increased in the first half of this year, recovering from last year, which was hit hard by the pandemic. Data from the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) showed that from January to June Cambodia exported \$814 million of products to Japan, a year-on-year increase of 2.7 percent. Meanwhile, Cambodia spent some \$295 million importing goods from Japan, a 35 percent increase. The two-way trade was valued at \$1.109 billion, a year-on-year increase of 9.5 percent. The main exports to Japan included garments, bags, footwear, furniture, cosmetics, paper and office supplies and leather goods. Cambodia imported machinery, automobiles, electronics, furniture, fabrics and plastics from Japan. The growth in bilateral trade showed a positive trend after the two countries expressed the possibility of establishing an official bilateral trade agreement. Nguon Meng Tech, director-general of the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce (CCC), said in June that the bilateral trade pact will boost more investment from Japan to Cambodia. "The positive growth of exports to Japan is a good sign for Cambodia's trade and it is suited to the situation that Cambodia is having in bilateral free trade with countries such as China and South Korea," he said. The CCC has announced it is planning to open its first representative office in

Japan with the main aim of attracting Japanese investment into the Kingdom. The Ministry of Commerce has stated that it is targeting Japan among priority trade countries that Cambodia plans to work with on the establishment of bilateral trade agreements. Cambodia exported \$8.201 billion in the first six months of 2021, a 17 percent increase compared with the same period last year, according to a report from the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Japan is one of the Kingdom's primary export markets, which include the US, the EU, Canada, China, South Korea and ASEAN members. In 2020, two-way trade between the two countries was valued at \$2.099 billion, an 8 percent drop compared with 2019.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50917490/cambodia-japan-trade-surges-in-first-half-of-2021-to-1-1-billion/>

## Laos govt asks Thailand to help Lao workers overcome their Covid-19 crisis



*Laos News | 17 August, 2021*

VIENTIANE, Aug 17 (Vientiane Times/ANN): The Lao National Assembly (NA) President has asked Thailand to help Lao nationals working in the neighbouring country to overcome the Covid-19 crisis. The NA President, Dr Xaysomphone Phomvihane, made the proposal while holding talks with the Speaker of the lower house of Thailand's Parliament, Chuan Leekpai, via videoconference on

Tuesday (Aug 17). The NA President also requested Chuan to push concerned sectors in Thailand to assist Lao workers, especially in facilitating their return to Laos. The latest statistics show that more than 246,000 Lao workers have returned from Thailand since the pandemic began last year, with around 150,000 coming back in 2020. A recent major outbreak of Covid-19 in Thailand over the past few months resulted in the cutting of many jobs and forcing hundreds of Lao workers to return home. At least 30 per cent of those who returned brought the Coronavirus with them, ramping up pressure on Laos' efforts to contain the spread of infections. During the talks, Dr Xaysomphone thanked Thailand for helping Lao workers in the past and for providing medical equipment to support Laos' battle against the Coronavirus. The two leaders said they highly valued the development of bilateral ties and cooperation between the two countries, especially in economic relations, trade, investment, tourism, education and health. The two sides agreed to push for the implementation of agreements signed by the two countries in past years for mutual benefits. In addition, Dr Xaysomphone asked Chuan to push for concerned sectors in Laos and Thailand to resolve issues related to land and river border demarcation between the two countries to ensure the success of the project agreed on by both sides. Laos and Thailand have close links through their shared roots

in traditions, customs, culture and language, and share an extensive border on land and water. Thailand is a major investor in Laos, and the two countries have strong economic and trade cooperation. Since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1950, their relationship and cooperation have steadily broadened and seen an increasing number of fruitful results. - Vientiane Times/ANN

Source: <https://www.thestar.com.my/aseanplus/aseanplus-news/2021/08/17/laos-govt-asks-thailand-to-help-lao-workers-overcome-their-covid-19-crisis>

## Mae Sot, Thailand: Burmese migrant workers vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccine



*Myanmar News | 17 August, 2021*

The Thai Health Department vaccinated Burmese migrant workers in Mae Sot, Thailand, for the first time on the morning of August 17 at the Robinson Department Store in Mae Sot, Thailand. The Thai government and the private sector are working together to develop the COVID-19 vaccine program for people living and working in Mae Sot. Currently, there is a workshop in Mae Sot. The Thai Ministry of Health will provide 5,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Burmese migrant workers in factories and shops. A Burmese worker who received the COVID-19 vaccine said, "Thank you for getting the Kovid vaccine. This is a good vaccine. Not all Thais have been vaccinated yet. The Kovid vaccine should be

given to everyone in Mae Sot, not just Thailand or Myanmar. Because only Thailand will cross into Burma. Only Myanmar will cross to Thailand. If possible, all of them should be stabbed," he said. A Thai businessman also said that the Kovid vaccination of Burmese workers had alleviated their concerns. "I thank the people of Burma for vaccinating Kovid. I am happy. Because we are afraid of getting the virus from the workers. With this injection, I am no longer afraid. However, all Thai and Burmese workers in Mae Sot need to be vaccinated." Shops in Mae Sot on the Burma-Thailand border; Beauty salons; Restaurants and shops were closed due to the Kovid infection. People in Mae Sot are worried about the closure of restaurants and drugstores.

Source: <https://news-eleven.com/article/213881>

## COVID-19 forces nearly 95 percent of Can Tho firms to halt operations



*Vietnam News | 17 August, 2021*

Can Tho (VNA) - As many as 1,032 out of the total of 1,090 firms, or 94.68 percent, in the Mekong Delta city of Can Tho, had temporarily suspended their operations as of August 16, according to the municipal Department of Industry and Trade. The halt is primarily triggered by complicated developments of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which deal a blow to the production and supply chains, along with the consumption market. So far, only 20 businesses in Can Tho's industrial parks have maintained operations, accounting for 11.76 percent of the total

in IPs. At the same time, 41 firms operating outside industrial parks remain active. The Department is to work with the managing board of processing and industrial zones and the People's Committees of districts to further inspect COVID-19 prevention and control work of local businesses and manufacturing plants. More firms in Can Tho are forecast to halt operations if the COVID-19 still sees complicated developments. The city documented 2,663 COVID-19 cases between April 27 and August 15./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/covid19-forces-nearly-95-percent-of-can-tho-firms-to-halt-operations/206456.vnp>

## VN to keep CPI growth low by end of 2021



*Vietnam News | 17 August, 2021*

VOV.VN - Despite the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, many Vietnamese firms have demonstrated their great resilience amid economic fallout, maintaining production and import-export activities during the past seven months of the year. According to the Ministry of Planning and Investment, although the national economy has faced numerous difficulties due to the resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic throughout localities, especially Ho Chi Minh City, total seven-month import and export turnover of commodities remained high, reaching US\$373.36 billion, or a rise 30.2% year on year. Of the total value, exports raked in over US\$185 billion, an increase of 25.5%, while imports hit more than US\$188 billion, up 35.3%. Most notably,

there has not been any shortages of goods or price hikes during the social distancing period. Vietnam has so far received approximately 18 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines in order to inoculate the population free of charge. At present, 12.1 million employees and roughly 376,000 employers have received over VND5.7 trillion as part of a bailout package, while residents and local firms have also received a reduction of over VND10 trillion in their price of electricity, water, and telecommunications services. In fact, many businesses have stood firm and maintained production by adopting an appropriate business strategy and ramping up anti-pandemic measures. However, different COVID-19 measures adopted by localities have caused difficulties for businesses, from production to circulation of goods. Experts say Vietnamese businesses are set to face numerous hurdles ahead in the remaining months of the year, largely due to the complicated nature of the pandemic. These challenges look set to lead to the suspension of production activities, the shortage of food and consumer goods, along with price hikes of input materials for production. Due to an increasing demand for food and production, companies are poised to enjoy a wealth of opportunities in order to fully tap into foreign markets, especially demanding markets such as the EU, the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. Moreover, the Government's strong determination to contain the spread of the pandemic across the country in a swift manner will thereby contribute to accelerating

economic development ahead in the remaining months of the year. Developed countries have considered the option of co-living with the pandemic, because it is impossible for an economy to slip into recession for a long time and, the stamina of the national finance is limited. Vietnam is no exception, and it will gradually have to adapt to the new context to develop its economy and ensure social security.

Source:<https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1013386/vn-to-keep-cpi-growth-low-by-end-of-2021.html>

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