

*Highlight News / August 25, 2021*



- Thai private sector encouraged to attend ATF 2022 in Cambodia
- Vietnam biggest buyer of Cambodia's mangoes
- Inflation jumps to highest level in 11 months
- Potato price jumps in retail market
- Vietnamese unicorn seeks ways to attract capital from US stock market



ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)

## Thai private sector encouraged to attend ATF 2022 in Cambodia



*Cambodia News | 24 August, 2021*

Cambodia has urged the Thai private sector to attend the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2022 to be hosted by Cambodia. Sok Sokrethya, Personal Advisor of Cambodian Premier Hun Sen and Secretary of State at the Ministry of Tourism did so when meeting with Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, Minister of Tourism and Sports of Thailand in Bangkok recently. The meeting was intended to strengthen tourism cooperation between the two countries during and after the COVID-19. Sokrethya informed Ratchakitprakarn of Cambodia's effort to curb the spread of COVID-19, as well as to restore infrastructures to boost natural, eco and coastal area tourism to welcome foreign tourists, including Thai tourists when the COVID-19 eases. The two sides were optimistic of enhanced bilateral tourism cooperation particularly through the promotion of join tour package for foreign tourists, and self-driving tour movements. Ratchakitprakarn hoped to increase the provision of scholarship to Cambodian tourism officials. He will also bring other cooperation request from Cambodia for further review and consideration with concerned stakeholders. Lim Nary – AKP

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50921510/thai-private-sector-encouraged-to-attend-atf-2022-in-cambodia/>

## Vietnam biggest buyer of Cambodia's mangoes



*Cambodia News | 24 August, 2021*

Cambodia exported 140,000 tons of fresh mangos, or 86.8 percent of its total exports of the fruit, to Vietnam in the first seven months of this year. Citing data from the Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Vietnam Trade Office said the nation exported 161,228 tons of mangos between January and July, a year-on-year surge of 248 percent. Besides fresh mangos, Cambodia exported nearly 13,525 tons of mango jam, including 77 tons to Vietnam, 1,000 tons to Thailand and 11,000 tons to China in the seven-month period. Cambodia, which cultivates mangoes on 126,668 hectares at present, exported 845,274 tons of mangos worth over \$473.2 million last year, mostly to Vietnam, Thailand, China, South Korea, Singapore, Russia and France.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50921620/vietnam-biggest-buyer-of-cambodias-mangoes/>

## Inflation jumps to highest level in 11 months



*Laos News | 25 August, 2021*

The year-on-year inflation rate rose to 4.7 percent in July, which is the highest rate recorded in Laos since August last year. According to the Lao Statistics Bureau, the consumer price index (CPI) stood at 118.51 points in July, indicating an inflation rate of 4.7 percent, up from 3.96 percent year-on-year

reported in June. Fluctuating currency exchange rates are considered to be one of the main drivers of inflation in Laos. Strong demand for foreign currencies, notably the Thai baht and US dollar, means that businesses often rely on the parallel market to buy the foreign currencies they need to import goods. However, the gap between the official and parallel markets is widening, with the kip continuing to depreciate in June and July despite the government's measures to deal with the issue. Governor for the Bank of the Lao PDR, Mr Sonexay Sitphaxay, told the National Assembly recently that the gap in the kip/US dollar exchange rate between commercial banks and the parallel market had widened by as much as 22.1 percent in July. Over the past seven months, the difference in the kip/US dollar exchange rate between the official and parallel markets widened on average by 9.98 percent, while the difference in the kip/Thai baht exchange rate grew by 0.52 percent. Mr Sonexay said the increasing difference in these exchange rates was linked to the rising demand for foreign currencies to meet the trade deficit and repay debts owed to foreign countries amid the Covid-19 pandemic. In July, Laos registered a record trade deficit of US\$99 million, up from US\$62 million recorded in June, according to the Lao Trade Portal website administered by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. The depreciation of the kip has

impacted on imported products and resulted in rising production costs as well as driving up the cost of living in Laos. For instance, the price of eggs has risen from 28,000 kip per box of 30 in recent months to 37,000 kip per box, according to Vientiane's egg dealers. In July, the cost of food and non-alcoholic beverages surged by 4.44 percent year-on-year, and 1.10 percent month-on-month. For instance, the price of beef rose by 11.18 percent year-on-year, while the prices of cooking oil and seasoning surged by 14.78 percent and 14.68 percent year-on-year respectively. Costs in the communication and transport category rose by 0.92 percent month-on-month and 6.78 percent year-on-year. The increase in this category is linked to the rising price of cars, motorcycles and fuel. The price of fuel rose by 25.44 percent year-on-year. Meanwhile prices in the restaurant and hotel category went up by 2.19 percent month-on-month and 4.42 percent year-on-year due to the rising cost of cooked food. The price of medical care items climbed by 0.6 percent month-on-month and 2.24 percent year-on-year due to the rising cost of medicines and hospital services. Rates in the clothing and footwear category rose by 1.15 percent month-on-month and 3.94 percent year-on-year. The cost of household goods went up by 0.44 percent month-on-month, and 3.71 percent year-on-year.

Source: [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent\\_Inflation\\_165.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Inflation_165.php)

## Potato price jumps in retail market



Myanmar News | 24 August, 2021

The price of the potato remains in the bull market, as per the price data of the retail market. Normally, the price of potatoes rises in the monsoon season. This year, potato prices keep rising as well. On 1 July, the potato was priced at K820 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg) in the wholesale market, whereas it dramatically rose to K1,270 per viss at the end of July. On 23 August, the price of potato stood at K950 per viss in the wholesale market and touched a high of K1,600 per viss in the retail market. Additionally, tracking the strict restriction measures to contain the COVID-19, the prices of commodity price fluctuates in the domestic market. The prices of kitchen crops such as onion and garlic stay on the upward trend. The prices of garlic move in the range of K2,600-4,800 per viss depending on varieties. Lately, the garlic (Kyukok variety) imported by China was a lack of supply owing to the closure of border posts between Myanmar and China. Therefore, the exorbitant price occurred in the retail market, a trader stated. Next, onions from the Myingyan area fetch K480-520 depending on size. – NN/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnml.com.mm/potato-price-jumps-in-retail-market/#article-title>

## Vietnamese unicorn seeks ways to attract capital from US stock market



Vietnam News | 24 August, 2021

Hanoi (VNA) - VNG Corporation, a technology "unicorn" of Vietnam, is considering listing shares in the United States through a merger with a special purpose acquisition company (SPAC) at a valuation of about 2-3 billion USD. In April this year, another big corporation also revealed that it would get an initial public offering (IPO) at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) for a member company with the expectation of raising about 3 billion USD. The estimated valuation of the member company is more than 50 billion USD. VNG and some Vietnamese businesses taking part in the "hot" market of SPACs in the US is a way to raise capital for promoting growth. Neither VNG nor the above-mentioned group has confirmed this, but for VNG, the move is clearly within its strategic roadmap. In 2017, Le Hong Minh, Chairman and CEO of VNG and Vice Chairman of Nasdaq Group Bob McCooey signed an agreement to accelerate the IPO process between VNG and Nasdaq. At that time, McCooey affirmed that one of the main reasons for reaching the agreement was that VNG was the first technology start-up in Vietnam to experience outstanding growth and it could be the focus and symbol for the Vietnamese economy. Minh said that making the IPO in the US was a challenge, but it would create motivation for the corporation to move faster into the global market. Raising capital on the US stock market can be a good opportunity for

Vietnamese businesses. However, according to Vietnamese stock market managers, the target of SPACs is enterprises with a high growth rate of 20 – 30 percent per year, operating in key economic fields, and obtaining an annual profit of about 8 million USD. Therefore, to convince international investors, it is necessary for Vietnamese businesses to show off their attractive figures and stories./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnamese-unicorn-seeks-ways-to-attract-capital-from-us-stock-market/206849.vnp>

months of 2020. It can be seen that Japanese consumers tend to gradually switch from consuming Indian cashew nuts to the similar product of Vietnam. In 2020, Vietnam shipped over 6,500 tonnes of cashew nuts worth 42.5 million USD to Japan, up 83 percent in volume and 64.55 percent in value year-on-year./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/more-japanese-consumers-prefer-vietnamese-cashew-nuts/206853.vnp>

## More Japanese consumers prefer

### Vietnamese cashew nuts



*Vietnam News | 24 August, 2021*

Tokyo (VNA) – More Japanese consumers prefer Vietnamese cashew nuts, reflected through an expansion of the market share of the product in the country's total import value. According to the International Trade Centre (ITC), in the first five months of 2021, Japan's cashew nut imports reached 33.17 million USD, down 11.2 percent year-on-year. Specifically, Japan sharply reduced the import of cashew nuts from India – its biggest exporter of the product, which resulted in a decrease of 22.8 percent, reaching 19.14 million USD. On the other hand, Japan increased its imports from Vietnam with an increase of 4.5 percent and a total value of 12.92 million USD. Vietnam's cashew nut market share in the total import value of Japan accounted for 38.97 percent during the January-May period, higher than the 33.09 percent of the first five