

Highlight News / September 14, 2021



- Eight month exports valued at 11.08 bn
- Thai retailers pursuing the Kingdom's keen shoppers
- Ministry, company partner in ICT development
- Imports plummet to \$13.4 bln this FY: MoC reports
- Vietnam's automobile sales slip to record low due to COVID-19
- Vietnam production slump disrupting global supply chain: HSBC



ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)

## Eight month exports valued at 11.08 bn



*Cambodia News | 10 September, 2021*

Cambodia's exports in the first eight months this year saw a decrease, official figures showed. Its exports were worth \$11.086 billion, inching down 5.3 percent compared with the same period last year, according to a study by the Ministry of Commerce. The report did not specify the main markets that Cambodia's products exported to during the period nor what sorts of products. But the ministry mentioned in July that the Kingdom's primary export markets are the US, the EU, Canada, Japan, China, South Korea and ASEAN members. During the pandemic period, the export of garment products has decreased while non-garment product exports have increased significantly, read the report. Lim Heng, vice-president of Cambodia Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday that trade with partners is still on a good trend. "Exports of agricultural products and non-garment products including bicycles are showing an increasing trend although garment product export saw negative growth in export," Heng said. "With trade pacts bilaterally and multilaterally, Cambodia is expected to receive more investment, which will boost both exports of finished products and imports of raw materials to feed the production chains. "These will be a benefit to tax income." Cambodia will soon be able to fully reopen socio-economic activities, said Aun Pornminiroth, deputy prime minister and minister of economy and finance at the

5th International Conference on Nation-Building under the theme "Innovative Strategies for Crisis Recovery and Nation-Building", held on Sept 8. The infections, severe illnesses and deaths have been declining steadily over the past month, he said. "On this basis, Cambodia is expected to achieve herd immunity throughout the country and to gradually reopen full socio-economic activities in the near future. In order to achieve the aforementioned goals, launching an appropriate public finance policy that ensures allocative and operational efficiencies, is key."

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50934036/eight-month-exports-valued-at-11-08-bn/>

## Thai retailers pursuing the Kingdom's keen shoppers



*Cambodia News | 13 September, 2021*

Two giant Thai conglomerates, CP Group and Berli Jucker Plc (BJC), look set to continue their expansion into Cambodia's retail sector. CP Group is interested in opening its first Tesco Lotus supermarket in the Kingdom according to media reports, citing the Cambodian Business Council in Thailand. Tesco Lotus is "looking for at least three hectares of land in Phnom Penh", according to the Construction & Property website, backed by the Cambodia Constructors Association. This would not be CP Group's first foray into the Cambodian retail sector. At the end of last month its local division, CP ALL (Cambodia), opened its first 7-Eleven convenience store in Phnom Penh's Chroy Changvar

area. Eager shoppers queued through the evening in the rain to buy the store's range of Thai-sourced products. The opening had been delayed as the spread of the Delta strain of the Coronavirus depressed consumer spending. CP ALL originally planned to open its first 7-Eleven at the PTT petrol station, on National Road Number 5 in the Prek Pnov district of northern Phnom Penh. The empty PTT store is still listed on Google Maps, as is a third location, now just a sign at a petrol station south of the Chroy Changvar outlet. CP Group faces competition from another of Thailand's giant conglomerates, BJC. It opened its first Big C in the Cambodian capital earlier this month, the Mini Big C Depo Branch. More Big Cs could be on the way. The company plans to increase investment to expand its retail business in Cambodia over the next five years, according to the Bangkok Post. "With our five-year plan, we aim to become the No.1 retailer in Cambodia in terms of value, size and perception among Cambodian customers," Chief Operating Officer Gary Hardy told the Post, adding that the company will open hundreds of Big C stores in Phnom Penh and other big cities such as Siem Reap and Battambang. The stores would include hypermarkets, supermarkets and Mini Big Cs. BJC opened its first Big C hypermarket in the border town of Poipet a few years ago. "There are 15 million [sic] people in Cambodia and Phnom Penh is a commercial centre with 2 million people," Hardy said. "Given the similarities in tastes of Cambodians and Thais, there are opportunities to grow Big C

products and brands such as Happy Price and Besico."

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50934037/thai-retailers-pursuing-the-kingdoms-keen-shoppers/>

## Ministry, company partner in ICT development



*Laos News | 14 September, 2021*

The state and private sectors are partnering in a feasibility study on the development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) solutions to support the digital economy. The Ministry of Technology and Communications and Lao Gateway Company Limited have agreed to study the LaoKYC application system to provide services in the primary health assessment network and to develop a cross-border interface that would create new revenue for the government. They will develop a cloud accounting system that will enable businesses to maintain correct accounts. They will also develop cyber security to ensure the security of computer networks, with a focus on broadening the strategy of the government's digital economy. A Memorandum of Understanding on the feasibility study of the development of ICT solutions was signed in Vientiane on September 9. The agreement was signed by Director General of the ministry's Planning and Cooperation Department, Mr Phoukhong Chithoublok, and Director of Lao Gateway Company Limited, Mr Koumphaxay Sirivong. Minister of

Technology and Communications, Prof. Dr Boviengkham Vongdara, and the President of Lao Gateway Company Limited, Mr Sounthone Phommachack, were also present. In addition, on the road to developing the government's digital system, the Ministry of Technology and Communications and development partners also launched the Digital Government Transformation project this year, to help build digital capacities and strengthen digital infrastructure towards better, more inclusive and unified public service delivery. The project will contribute to the development of the Digital Government Master Plan and Standards Framework of Digital Government, as well as pilot initiatives on digital government services.

Source: [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent\\_Ministry\\_179.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Ministry_179.php)

## Imports plummet to \$13.4 bln this

### FY: MoC reports

 Myanmar News | 14 September, 2021

THE value of Myanmar's imports nearly the past eleven months of the current financial year 2020-2021 sank to US\$13.4 billion from \$17.55 billion recorded in the same corresponding period of last FY, the Ministry of Commerce's data indicated. All the import groups including the consumer, capital, intermediate goods, and CMP businesses plunged in the current FY. The drop in foreign direct investment this year negatively affected the trade. Between 1 October and 27 August this FY, capital

goods, such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel, and aeroplane parts were brought into the country. Their import value was estimated at \$4.33 billion. The figure was over \$2.3 billion lower than those values registered in the same period of the previous FY. Meanwhile, Myanmar imported consumer products worth over \$3 billion, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and palm oil. The imports of consumer products showed a slight decrease of \$82.7 million compared with the same period in the previous FY. Intermediate goods make up the second-largest share of Myanmar's imports, with petroleum products and plastic raw materials being the main import items. This year, imports of raw materials plunged to \$4.65 billion from \$5.79 billion registered during the year-ago period. During the same period, raw materials worth over \$1.4 billion were also imported for the Cut-Make-Pack (CMP) garment sector, showing a decrease of \$584 million compared with the last budget year. At present, the CMP garment sector which contributes to 30 per cent of Myanmar's export sector is struggling because of the cancellation of orders from the European countries and suspension of trading by western countries amid the COVID-19. Therefore, import values of raw materials by CMP businesses have been dropping. At present, the traders have transaction problems triggered by the restriction of the private banks. Furthermore, the pandemic triggered the cargo shipping crisis, a market observer shared his opinion. The top 10 import countries to Myanmar are China, Singapore,

Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Viet Nam, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the US, as per data of the Ministry of Commerce. — KK/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/14-september-2021/#article-title>

## Vietnam's automobile sales slip to record low due to COVID-19



*Vietnam News | 13 September, 2021*

Hanoi (VNA) – Vietnam's automobile sales have borne the brunt of COVID-19 and saw a record low in August since 2015. In the month, the figure slipped 45 percent compared to that in July as 8,884 vehicles were sold, according to the Vietnam Automobile Manufacturers' Association (VAMA). It was the fifth consecutive month seeing the downward trend of the country's automobile sales. In the first eight months of 2021, VAMA members sold a total 175,400 vehicles, representing a decline of 13 percent against the figure recorded in the same period of 2019, when COVID-19 had yet to break out. The vehicles included 121,549 passenger and 50,034 commercial cars, down 18 percent and 2 percent, respectively. Meanwhile, 3,817 special-purpose vehicles were sold, inching up 1 percent. The number does not reflect the sales of non-VAMA members such as Audi, Jaguar Land Rover, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Subaru, Volkswagen and Volvo. In the eight months, TC Motor of Hyundai Thanh Cong sold 40,248 vehicles, while VinFast of conglomerate Vingroup sold 22,030 units. A total of 2,310 vehicles of VinFast were

handed over to customers across the country in August. The domestic carmaker is planning to release the first model of its VF e34 electric compact vehicle by the end of this year. Since the beginning of the fourth wave of COVID-19 outbreaks in Vietnam in late April, various plants, car dealers and repair centres of VAMA members have to halt operations due to social distancing measures in an attempt to curb the spread of the pandemic./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnams-automobile-sales-slip-to-record-low-due-to-covid19/207891.vnp>

## Vietnam continues to be attractive investment destination: HSBC



*Vietnam News | 13 September, 2021*

The decline in production in Vietnam's textile, leather and footwear industries due to Covid-19 has affected the global supply chain, HSBC said. Nearly 35 percent of textile and garment factories in the country are shut down, according to the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association. Vietnam is the world's third largest textile and garment producing country behind only China and Bangladesh. The market share of its leather and footwear industry is 15 percent after doubling in the last decade. Consumers in the US and Europe will suffer from the disruption, especially as the festive season approaches. The international sportswear company Nike is a prime example of the importance of Vietnam in the global supply chain. Of its 112 factories, 88 are in Vietnam and produce half of all its footwear

products. Adidas is also facing difficulties since Vietnam accounts for nearly 30 percent of its global supply. Its Taiwanese supplier Pouyuen, which has factories in Vietnam, is among the companies to suspend production. The Delta variant of Covid that has hit the country has raised questions about the viability of the Vietnamese supply chain so much so that Apple and Google have delayed their shift to Vietnam. HSBC said the plan to live with Covid-19 that the Vietnamese government is aiming for depends largely on the ability to achieve a broad vaccine coverage rate. Despite some progress, Vietnam still lags behind other countries in the region in ordering and using vaccines. Vietnam earned \$21.2 billion from garment and textile export, and \$12.6 billion from footwear export in the first eight months of this year, year-on-year rises of 9.7 percent and 16.2 percent, respectively, according to the General Statistics Office.

Source: <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/business/industries/vietnam-production-slump-disrupting-global-supply-chain-hsbc-4355645.html>

---