

Highlight News / September 30/2021



- ADB approves \$82 million loan to government towards road improvement projects
- Droughts caused about \$100 million in rice-production losses
- Govt mulls compensation for unemployed workers
- As of August of the 2020-2021 fiscal year, foreign investment inflows into Myanmar's agricultural sector accounted for less than one percent of total foreign investment.
- GDP grows by only 1.42% during nine-month period
- GDP contracts by 6.17 pct in Q3



ADB approves \$82 million loan to government towards road improvement projects



Cambodia News | 29 September, 2021

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently approved of a loan of \$82 million to improve national and provincial roads in Prey Veng and Kandal. The improvement will also be towards the boosting of economic development along the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Southern Economic Corridor. According to a press release from ADB, the assistance is the second phase of the Road Network Improvement project. The endeavour aims to strengthen Cambodia's link with Vietnam and support the development of cross-border facilities between Prey Veng and Kandal. The improvement and construction of the new roads will be done using disaster and climate damage resistant designs. The upgrade will also seek to help the Ministry of Public Works and Transport increase effective management of the roads by reducing overloaded vehicles, which are the most common causes of road damage and premature need of repairs. "Road transport is the primary means of moving goods and people in Cambodia and between GMS countries," said ADB Transport Specialist Mohammad Nazrul Islam. "The project will expand access to education, health, and other public services among local communities, especially poor, rural residents. It will also better connect them to markets and economic opportunities through a more efficient, safe, and

climate-resilient road network connecting Cambodia with Vietnam along the GMS Southern Economic Corridor." The country's transport sector faces challenges, including insufficient infrastructure investment and sustainability. Most of Cambodia's rural roads and provincial roads are unpaved, and its national roads have limited capacity. To address these challenges, the government has developed a national plan to build high-quality, sustainable, and climate-resilient infrastructure that can accommodate the country's population and employment growth by 2030. AKP

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50944155/adb-approves-82-million-loan-to-government-towards-road-improvement-projects/>

Droughts caused about \$100 million in rice-production losses



Cambodia News | 29 September, 2021

Rice production losses caused by droughts came to an estimated \$100 million in the Kingdom, a Ministry of Environment report said. The Fourth State of Environment Report and Cambodia Forest Cover 2018, released on September 23, said droughts from 2015 to 2019 in Cambodia had affected more than 1 million hectares of rainy season rice fields, of which 201,490 hectares were completely damaged. Rainy season rice fields damaged by the drought over these five years had affected a total of 624,262 tonnes of rice production, valued at an estimated \$100 million, read the report. The report said that drought in Cambodia in 2015 damaged 41,469

hectares of rice fields, leading to a loss of \$21 million. In 2016, it damaged 6,751 hectares of rice fields, resulting in an economic loss of \$8.5 million. In 2017, drought damaged 13,306 hectares of rice fields, resulting in an economic loss of \$6.7 million, while 58,490 hectares were damaged in 2018, leading to an economic loss of \$30 million. In 2019, the drought in Cambodia damaged 71,474 hectares of rice fields, leading to an economic loss of \$37 million. Drought is considered the most serious climate-related disaster, affecting up to 83% of total agricultural damage and losses, according to a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report in 2018. Ngin Chhay, director-general of Agriculture at the Ministry of Agriculture, declined to comment on the issue when reached yesterday. Minister of Agriculture Veng Sakhon recently outlined a study on water and soil management using climate-wise farming techniques that can help farmers adapt to climate change and increase their rice yields at the same time. The ministry pays attention to providing knowledge, skills, sharing experiences and increasing the dissemination of new techniques that are weather-smart to farmers and farming communities in the provinces, Sakhon had said on September 18. The General Department of Agriculture was conducting a study on climate-friendly water and land management methods, he said. "The General Department of Agriculture has consistently carried out its core roles and responsibilities, paying close attention to

strengthening the capacity of stakeholders and farmers on water and land management in response to the context of climate change in Cambodia and the world," Sakhon said. The department launched the study on smart and climate-friendly farming techniques on water and land management, by applying the Alternate Wetting and Drying AWD technique on rice in vulnerable areas.

Source : khmertimeskh.com/50943617/droughts-caused-about-100-million-in-rice-production-losses/

Govt mulls compensation for unemployed workers



Laos News | 29 September, 2021

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare will ask the government to give specific instructions concerning the response to the unusual circumstances resulting from the Covid outbreak. The request, following recommendations by businesses, will be tabled at the cabinet's next monthly meeting. The measures taken by the ministry so far concerning the Covid outbreak relate to the Law on Labour, Law on Social Insurance, and Prime Minister's Order No. 6 on Enhancing Measures on Prevention, Control, and Comprehensive Preparedness in the Response to Covid-19. Deputy Director General of the ministry's Department of Labour Management, Mr Oudone Maniboune, said on Tuesday that the ministry has instructed some businesses that suspended operations in April, under the PM's Order, to pay their employees their normal wage if they have not

already done so. Businesses that are in serious financial difficulties should pay their workers at least 50 percent of their normal wage, he added. Workers whose wages are determined by output or are paid on a daily basis and earn less than the minimum wage should also be paid at least 50 percent of the amount they typically earn, or about 550,000 kip per month. The special instructions issued in relation to the payment of wages during the Covid outbreak expired in July. But restrictions are still in force and businesses remain affected by closures under the current lockdown. Workers who are members of the Social Insurance Fund and were laid off by their employers under the PM's Order are to be paid unemployment benefit. Vice President of the Lao Federation of Trade Unions, Mr Phonesane Vilaymeng, said the labour ministry had ordered businesses to continue to pay workers during the virus outbreak. Payments should be made to assist people who are unemployed after factories were ordered to temporarily shut down their operations because of the threat of the virus. The Lao Federation of Trade Unions and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare have instructed businesses in the production and service sectors to respect the Law on Labour and related regulations on the payment of workers affected by the Covid outbreak. The thousands of people now unemployed are in need of prompt financial assistance to cover

their daily living costs. The private sector has called on the government to intervene, asking for banks to extend the repayment period for loans and interest, and for microfinance institutions to provide emergency soft loans for businesses. Businesses have also asked the government to ease the situation with regard to the payment of taxes, tariffs and land leases for a six-month period to ease the financial burden on the commercial sector.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_Govt191.php

As of August of the 2020-2021 fiscal year, foreign investment inflows into Myanmar's agricultural sector accounted for less than one percent of total foreign investment.



Myanmar News | 29 September, 2021

As of August of the 2020-2021 fiscal year, foreign investment in Myanmar's agricultural sector accounted for less than one percent of total foreign investment, according to figures released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. "According to our department's statistics, foreign investment in agriculture and fisheries is less than 2% of the total annual investment," he said. Therefore, we will find ways to improve the agricultural sector, which is an important part of the country, for sustainable development,

"said Director-General Thant Sin Lwin. In the six months from April to September 2018, only \$ 10.650 million in foreign investment in Myanmar's agricultural sector. In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, \$ 134.485 million was invested in the agricultural sector, but no investment was made in the agricultural sector in the 2016-2011 fiscal year. Over \$ 7.1 million in the 2015-2016 fiscal year; over \$ 39.66 million in the 2014-15 fiscal year; In the 2013-2014 financial year, more than \$ 20.2 million; More than \$ 9.6 million came in in the 2012-13 fiscal year, but no investment in the 2011-12 fiscal year. From the fiscal year 1988-1989 to the end of September 2018, a total of over \$ 77.7 billion in foreign investment flowed into Myanmar, with over US \$ 395 million in foreign investment in agriculture, accounting for only 0.51% of the total foreign investment. "It is well known that Myanmar urgently needs to improve its agricultural productivity and quality in order to achieve an agrarian-based economy," said Director-General Thant Sin Lwin. To date, only \$ 441.838 million has been invested in Myanmar's agricultural sector. \$ 926.218 million in livestock and fisheries; So far, a total of \$ 87.969 billion in foreign investment has flowed into Myanmar, according to figures released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Source : <https://news-eleven.com/article/216778>

GDP grows by only 1.42% during nine-month period



Vietnam News | 29 September, 2021

VOV.VN - Vietnam's gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate during nine-month period increased by just 1.42% due to the COVID-19 pandemic impacting all economic sectors, with several localities imposing prolonged social distancing measures, according to the General Statistics Office. Most notably, GDP growth rate during the third quarter of the year was estimated to have declined by 6.17% compared to the same period from last year, thereby marking the deepest decrease since the nation started to unveil its quarterly GDP. The agro-forestry-fisheries, along with industry and construction sectors, enjoyed respective rises of 2.74% and 3.57%, while the service sector endured a slight drop of 0.69%. The industrial, processing and manufacturing sectors remained the driving force behind the national economy with a growth rate of 6.05%, while the electricity generation and distribution sector registered a rise of 5.24%. In addition, the mining and construction industries witnessed a fall of 7.17% and 0.58%, respectively. Due to the complicated nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, the wholesale and retail sectors during the reviewed period experienced an annual decrease of 3.1%, while the transportation and warehousing sectors endured a fall of 7.79%. In line

with this, the accommodation and food service industry also saw a sharp decline of 23.18%. The health sector and social support activities achieved the highest growth rate with a rise of 21.15%, followed by the financial, banking and insurance sector which saw an increase of 8.37%. Elsewhere, the information and communication sector went up by 5.24%. With regard to economic structure, the agro-forestry and fishery sector accounted for 12.79%, while the industrial and construction and service industries made up 38.03% and 40.19%, respectively. Throughout the reviewed period, exports and imports of goods and services rose by 14.21% and 18.46%, respectively.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/gdp-grows-by-only-142-during-nine-month-period-894286.vov>

GDP contracts by 6.17 pct in Q3



Vietnam News | 29 September, 2021

Vietnam's GDP shrank by 6.17 percent in the third quarter, as social distancing and other Covid-19-related restrictions hurt the economy. In the first nine months, the GDP grew by 1.42 percent as against 2.12 percent in the same period last year. The GSO labeled the nine-month performance a "big success" considering the current circumstances. Between January and September, the services sector contracted by 0.69 percent year-on-year, according to a report released by the General Statistics Office Wednesday. Industry-construction grew by 3.57 percent, and agriculture-forestry-fisheries by 2.74

percent. The number of new businesses started in the period fell by 13.6 percent year-on-year to 85,500. The number that suspended operations rose by 16.7 percent to 45,100. Its survey of companies in the processing and manufacturing sector found 43.4 percent of respondents expecting the situation to improve in the last quarter. For foreign companies the rate was 79.4 percent. The World Bank on Tuesday pegged Vietnam's growth at 4.8 percent this year, expecting the economy to rebound in the last quarter.

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1049629/hcm-city-wants-tax-reduction-for-covid-affected-businesses.html>