

Highlight News / October 06/2021



- Total of 89.68 percent out of 1,966,931 vaccinated against COVID-19 in Cambodia
- Europe invests another \$17 million to modernise the Kingdom's agriculture
- Ministry prepares for surge in crop exports to China
- Over 600 acres of coffee cultivated in Sagaing region this year
- Retail sales of goods, services inch up in September
- Viet Nam's economy to slow as population ages: WB report



ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (Aiti)



Total of 89.68 percent out of 1,966,931 vaccinated against COVID-19 in Cambodia



Cambodia News | 5 October, 2021

Since the campaign to vaccinate adolescents aged 12 to 17 in Cambodia was launched on August 1, Cambodia has successfully vaccinated 1,763,850 out of the estimated 1,966,931 adolescents identified to receive the vaccine. This number is for those who have received the first dose of the vaccine, achieving 89.69 percent of the estimated total. Of this, 1,633,684, including 812,685 females have received their second dose, making them fully vaccinated against COVID-19. A meagre 717 were deemed ineligible to receive the vaccine. In May, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) approved the Pfizer vaccine for 12 to 15-year-olds. Since then, different EU countries have moved at different speeds. In May, US and Canadian regulators were the first to approve the Pfizer jab for use in children from 12 years and older. The rollout started immediately at sites across the US with two injections given three weeks apart. In June, China began to allow some children from three to 17 years old to be offered shots of a vaccine produced by drug-maker Sinovac, making it the first country to approve a jab for such a young age group. In August, India's drug regulator granted emergency use for a new vaccine developed by local drug firm Zydus Cadila in all those aged 12 years and over, the first approval to cover children. The jab currently needs to be given

in three separate doses using a needle-free applicator, rather than a traditional syringe. The firm has said it soon hopes to start trials in younger children aged two and over.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50943079/cambodia-thailand-eight-month-trade-inches-up/>

Europe invests another \$17 million to modernise the Kingdom's agriculture



Cambodia News | 5 October, 2021

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has secured \$17.4 million from the European Union to invest in sustainable agriculture projects in Cambodia. The EU bank will invest the money in the Sustainable Assets for Agriculture Markets, Business and Trade (SAAMBAT) project. A tenth of the money is earmarked for preparation to speed up the implementation of the project. SAAMBAT is designed to improve the living standards of 200,000 rural Cambodian families and help them do business by improving infrastructure and ensuring a reliable food supply. It aims to create 4,500 jobs with an emphasis on youth employment. The project is a partnership between the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), the EIB and the Cambodian government. "The EIB is very proud of our continued contribution to Cambodia's faster recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic but also to its long-term, sustainable and green development," said EIB Vice-President Kris Peeters, who is in charge of EIB operations in Cambodia, "This EU grant is another step towards an even closer

partnership between the European Union and Cambodia and, more importantly, will have a direct impact on the quality of life of hundreds of thousands of Cambodians." Almost \$60 million has already been invested in the project by the EIB, boosted by a \$16 million contribution from the EU under its Team Europe project to help countries recover from the economic effects of the Coronavirus pandemic. The money is being spent on building 650 kilometres (km) of paved road and 150 km of gravel road. It will also be used to improve 50 rural markets and 25 other facilities including ferry landings and farm produce pickup points.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50947058/europe-invests-another-17-million-to-modernise-the-kingdoms-agriculture/>

Ministry prepares for surge in crop exports to China



Laos News | 6 October, 2021

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is hoping to make use of the Laos-China Railway, set to open in December, to bolster the export of agricultural produce, and aims to improve crop production and quality and engage in market negotiations. Officials at the Agriculture Department said the ministry is advising agriculture authorities to improve the quality and yields of nine crops so they can be sold to China after the government signed a cooperation agreement with Chinese companies in May this year. The agreements involve 100,000 tonnes of peanuts, 100,000 tonnes of cassava, 100,000 tonnes

of frozen and dried beef, 200,000 tonnes of cashew nuts, 50,000 tonnes of durian, 100,000 tonnes of bananas, 100,000 tonnes of mangoes, 200,000 tonnes of soybeans and 500,000 tonnes of sugar. These crops will be sold to China over five years from 2021 to 2026 for a total sale price of US\$1.5 billion. China is the largest market for all Lao exports, including quotas for 50,000 tonnes of rice and 500,000 cattle annually. In a bid to increase exports, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will coordinate with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and entrepreneurs to actively work with China to draw up lists of agricultural products for sale to that country, as well as specify the necessary sanitary and phytosanitary procedures. The ministry will also work with China to conduct inspections at international and local border crossings to ensure the prompt movement of farm products, especially fresh produce. In addition, the ministry is recommending collaboration with provincial departments of agriculture and forestry to improve crop production and livestock farming methods so that beef and crops are suitable for sale to China. Pest risk assessments, preliminary information, and the registration of companies and places involved in crop production will be submitted to China's General Customs Administration before requests are made to export crops. The ministry has successfully negotiated market opportunities and hygiene conditions for export crops and related products, including rice, sweetcorn, cassava,

bananas, watermelons and sweet potatoes, to China. When the Laos-China Railway becomes operational in December, it will be the main link between the two countries, which is expected to improve trade links and support Laos' strategy to benefit from its landlocked status and become a land link. From 2015-19, the value of Lao exports to China increased by more than US\$100 million a year, according to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Ministry_195_21.php

Over 600 acres of coffee cultivated in Sagaing region this year



Myanmar News | 5 October, 2021

During the monsoon season, a total of 622 acres of coffee plants have been cultivated this year in the Sagaing region, said U Win Hlaing, the Director from Sagaing Region Agriculture Department. In the financial year 2021-2022, the Sagaing region started cultivating the coffee plants in June 2021. About 622 acres of coffee plants have been grown at the end of September, according to the Sagaing Region Agriculture Department. "Coffee plantation is grown mostly in Homalin, Hkhamti, Naga, Kalay, Tamu, Mawlaik, Katha and Kawlin districts. We are carrying out to boost the coffee cultivation in the Naga area. We are providing the coffee seed and nursery plants. "Initially, we are attempted to develop the acreage of coffee plants because we focus on the income from the coffee cultivation. At the same time, we are facing transport difficulties. But the coffee from the

Naga is of such a high-quality one. But they haven't yet received the income that they deserve because of high transportation charges. There are a few acres of a coffee plantation in the Naga area. "However, Kawlin township started their experimental coffee cultivation. Also, the transport will be improved. If India opened their border checkpoints, there will be increased the coffee cultivation acres and income," said U Win Hlaing Oo. This year, a total of 35 acres of coffee in Mawlaik district, 18 acres in Tamu district, 16 acres in Kalay district, 103 acres in Hkamti district, 132 acres in Naga area, 260 acres in Katha district and 44 acres in Kawlin district. There are ten thousand coffee plantations in the Sagaing region. To be able to increase coffee acreage, the Agriculture Department is raising awareness of land treatment, natural fertilizer, growing methods, and coffee production. Besides, it is also reported that farmers are being provided with coffee cultivation techniques and post-harvest technology. — Lulay/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/over-600-acres-of-coffee-cultivated-in-sagaing-region-this-year/#article-title>

Retail sales of goods, services

inch up in September



Vietnam News | 5 October, 2021

HCMC – The total retail sales of consumer goods and services in September inched up 6.5% compared with the previous month as manufacturing and trading activities resumed in some localities

after the Covid situation improved. However, retail sales of consumer goods and services last month still dropped 28.4% year-on-year, according to the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The country's total retail sales of consumer goods and services from January to September 2021 reached some VND3.37 quadrillion (US\$148 billion), falling 7.1% compared with the same period last year. The Ministry of Industry and Trade blamed the decrease on the fourth wave of Covid, which seriously affected production and trade. The pandemic devastated several southern localities and provinces which are also the country's industrial hubs, such as HCMC, Binh Duong, Dong Nai and Long An. The retail sales of goods in the period reached some VND2.78 quadrillion, accounting for 82.54% of the total retail sales of goods and services and falling 3.38% year-on-year. The Ministry of Industry and Trade forecast that if the Covid-19 pandemic could be brought under control in the third quarter of this year, consumer demand would rise significantly in the year-end peak season. In the coming months, the ministry will roll out a number of measures to facilitate the recovery of production and trade, including helping businesses ride out difficulties when they resume operations, taking advantage of free trade agreements to penetrate new markets and boosting e-commerce. The ministry expected that with these measures and the recovery of trade and production, the country's total retail sales of consumer goods and services in 2021 would rise 3-4% from 2020.

Source : <https://english.thesaigontimes.vn/retail-sales-of-goods-services-inch-up-in-september/>

Viet Nam's economy to slow as population ages: WB report



Vietnam News | 5 October, 2021

HA NOI — Population aging could slow down Viet Nam's long-term growth in the 2020–50 period by 0.9 percentage points compared with the last 15 years, a new World Bank (WB) report finds. According to the report titled "Vietnam: Adapting to an Aging Society", jointly produced by the WB and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Viet Nam is going through the demographic transition to an older society at an earlier stage of economic development and a lower level of per capita income than other countries who have experienced a similar shift. The prospect of "getting old before getting rich" means that Viet Nam faces a set of important challenges whose solutions require making hard policy choices. With falling birth rates and a rising life expectancy, Viet Nam's elderly are expected to account for between 10 per cent to just under 20 per cent of its population by 2035. Viet Nam's old age dependency ratio, the number of people over 65 divided by the number of those of working age, is estimated to double from 0.11 in 2019 to 0.22 in 2039. The report finds that long-term growth over the period 2020–50 will slow by 0.9 percentage points compared with the last 15 years

as its population ages. At the same time, addressing the needs of an aging society is forecast to cost between 1.4 per cent to 4.6 per cent of GDP in additional expenditure. Expanding coverage and improving service quality will drive growth in fiscal costs. The report offers recommendations on how Viet Nam can manage the aging of its population effectively, based on lessons learned in other countries that have experienced a similar demographic transition, particularly Japan. It suggests reforms to help improve labour force participation and productivity, increase the efficiency of public expenditures, and strengthen service delivery system. The report also recommends policy actions in four areas most affected by the aging trends: labour market, pension, health, and aging care. “As Viet Nam’s population ages, it will be important to build the skills of the workforce to boost innovation and productivity in the economy, while ensuring that pension reforms begin now to sustain livelihoods for the elderly in the decades to come,” said Carolyn Turk, World Bank Country Director for Viet Nam. — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy>

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