



- Cambodia has vaccinated 84.10 percent of its entire population against COVID-19
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## Cambodia has vaccinated 84.10 percent of its entire population against COVID-19



*Cambodia News | 06 October, 2021*

Despite the holidays for Pchum Ben, vaccination campaigns against COVID-19 continued unabated with Cambodia's vaccination total for the entire population reaching 84.10 percent, a marginal increase compared to the 84.09 percent recorded on Monday. The adult population, aged 18 and above vaccinated with at least one dose of the vaccine stands at 9,913,548 with 72,130 declared ineligible to be inoculated. This accounts for 99.14 percent and Cambodia needs to give one final push to cross the fully vaccinated category for this age group. Of this, 9,501,811 have been fully vaccinated with both doses of the vaccine, of which 4,776,917 were females. A further 333,931 out of 907,671 adults who have received their third or booster dose of the vaccine were also females, comprising front line medical and health personnel at the seven provinces which borders Thailand. It was also learned that two thirds of the 2,418 who had died from COVID-19 were reportedly unvaccinated. This was first revealed by the Deputy Governor of Siem Reap who said that many of those who had died from COVID-19 in the province were the unvaccinated. The same was echoed by provincial authorities in Oddar Meanchey Thbong Khmum, Banteay Meanchey, Phnom Penh and Battambang and is

believed to be applicable throughout the entire nation. The Center for Diseases Control (CDC), based out of Atlanta, U.S has said that the unvaccinated in the country were 11 times more likely to succumb to the virus, giving credence to the efficacy of the vaccines and the need to be fully vaccinated as soon as possible. A World Health Organization official said Tuesday that unvaccinated people are "dying unnecessarily" from Covid-19, citing global vaccine inequities as one of the main obstacles to immunizing more people against the virus. Vaccination is a critical tool for containing the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective and greatly reduce the risk of severe illness, hospitalisation, and death from COVID-19. Khmer Times/WHO

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50947512/cambodia-has-vaccinated-84-10-percent-of-its-entire-population-against-covid-19/>

## Pepper exports up nearly 563 percent



*Cambodia News | 06 October, 2021*

In the first nine months of the year, Cambodia exported more than 27,316 tonnes of pepper, up nearly 563% from the same period last year, according to the Agriculture Ministry. This amount of pepper has been exported to more than 20 destinations around the world, including Vietnam, Germany, Thailand, India, France, Belgium, Taiwan, Poland, the Czech Republic, Japan, South Korea,

Russia, Singapore, the USA, Switzerland, Sweden, the UK, Australia, Canada, Kazakhstan, and the United Arab Emirates. According to statistics, Vietnam is the prominent buyer of Cambodian pepper with total of 26,686 tonnes, followed by Germany with 314 tonnes, Thailand with 180 tonnes, France with 31 tonnes, and Belgium with nearly 16 tonnes. Pepper is grown in many areas in Cambodia, including Kampong Cham, Tboung Khmum, Kampot and Kep provinces. Kampot pepper is the most well-known and fetches a high price. It was granted a geographical indication (GI) from the EU in 2016 and from the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2010.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50947511/pepper-exports-up-nearly-563-percent/>

## Private sector asks govt to lift restrictions on factories



*Laos News | 07 October, 2021*

The Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI) has asked the Covid-19 taskforce to consider reopening factories in the capital to minimise the impacts on business operations and the economy. In a three-page proposal signed by LNCCI President Mr Oudet Souvannavong, the Chamber congratulated the government on its efforts to contain the spread of the deadly virus. However, when the Mayor of Vientiane ordered a lockdown on September 19, many factories in the capital were forced to close. “Until now, none of these factories have been given permission to reopen,” the LNCCI

said. The Chamber described the challenges faced by garment factories and other production plants due to the closure, pointing out that some investors may consider relocating production bases to Cambodia or Bangladesh if the virus outbreak continues for much longer. “Therefore, easing policy on factories is essential. Shutting down factories might be good to contain the spread of Covid-19 but it causes considerable damage to the business sector and the nation’s economy,” the LNCCI said. The LNCCI called for authorities to speed up the vaccination programme by arranging for mobile units to vaccinate all factory workers by the end of this year, so that all factories are permitted to reopen. The Chamber agreed with the notice issued by the Prime Minister’s Office on September 30, which allowed factories in areas with no community outbreaks to reopen. However, workers must be fully inoculated and live outside of red zones. According to the Covid-19 taskforce, factories may reopen but must have their own dormitories to house employees. The LNCCI responded that most factories cannot fulfil this requirement because only 10 percent of factories in Laos have their own dormitories. Since most factories and workshops in Laos are operated by SMEs, they are unable to provide dormitories for their employees and must hire workers from different areas. In addition, the taskforce has been urged to speed up the

assessment process for factories that have their own dormitories because, at present, none have been given permission to reopen. The Chamber proposed that factory employees who test negative for Covid should be allowed to return to work without being required to quarantine for 14 days. The LNCCI said factory owners were happy to pay for rapid tests for their employees and to help the taskforce trace those who test positive. To reduce the cost burden on the government, the Chamber asked the government to set up field quarantine centres with participation from factory owners. This would reduce overcrowding at existing quarantine centres. The Chamber is concerned that if a Covid case is reported at an existing quarantine centre, the reopening of factories will be delayed. The closure of factories triggered by the Covid outbreak has caused businesses to lose market opportunities and the money needed to sustain their operations. With the vaccination programme making good progress, the lifting of restrictions is essential to help the economy recover, according to the LNCCI.

Source : [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent\\_Private196.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Private196.php)

## Domestic onion price rises due to demand from Bangladesh



*Myanmar News | 06 October, 2021*

Due to the higher demand for Myanmar onion from Bangladesh, the domestic onion price has risen in

the market, according to Mandalay onion traders. In the early harvested time in March, the onion price was ranging from K250-K300 per viss. So, the growers had faced the loss. Then, the domestic onion price had hit a lowest of K200 per viss because the onion couldn't be export to China market due to the pandemic. Bangladesh usually imports onions from India. Now, India has suspended exports of onions to Bangladesh. So, Bangladesh is importing onions from Myanmar. Now, the onion price has increased to K500 per viss due to demand from Bangladesh. Currently, there is less stock of onion in the Mandala market. So, the merchants are now selling them at K700 per viss as the retail price. The onions are primarily grown in Mandalay, Magway and Yangon regions, Nay Pyi Taw and Shan State.

— ACM/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/domestic-onion-price-rises-due-to-demand-from-bangladesh/#article-title>

## Vietnam's GDP growth may reach 8 percent in 2022: DBS



*Vietnam News | 06 October, 2021*

Hanoi (VNA) – Singapore-based financial service supplier DBS has predicted that Vietnam's economic growth may reach 8 percent in 2022 thanks to rising flows of FDI and exports and digitalisation impetus. In a report released on October 4, DBS economist Chua Han Teng held that for Vietnam, the worst is

over and the country's economy will recover again when it reopens the door thanks to higher vaccination rate and lower number of new infections. According to the report, foreign direct investments (FDI) will remain a key engine of Vietnam's growth over the coming years. Newly registered FDI remained resilient in the first three quarters of 2021, despite the challenges and difficulties faced by international companies during the virus outbreak since April 2021. It noted that Vietnam has suffered heavily from the pandemic in 2021. Having done well with virus management in 2020, the economy shrank significantly in the third quarter of 2021 by 6.17 percent year on year. It held that the multi-decade decline in the third quarter makes it difficult for growth to recapture last year's 2.9 percent expansion, much less the government's official GDP target range of 6-6.5 percent. Therefore, the DBS lowered its 2021 growth forecast to 1.8 percent from 5 percent previously. With demand-pull pressures also muted through 2021, CPI inflation is likely to average lower at 2.1 percent from 3.3 percent previously. "Looking into the fourth quarter of 2021 and 2022, we expect a better outlook, as the economy enters a 'new normal', helped by the vaccination roll out. Favourable base effects and structural growth drivers such as FDI and exports, coupled with digitalisation impetus, are likely to propel growth to 8 percent in 2022 (vs 6.8 percent

previously)", it said. "We expect retail and recreation mobility to improve further amid looser curbs and greater adaptation towards 'living with the virus'. Retail sales and 'accommodation and food services', which saw significant double-digit contractions in the third quarter, are therefore likely to concomitantly rebound and recover into 2022," stated Chua. The report also highlighted Vietnam's increasing digitalisation in the 'new normal' situation. The pandemic has notably accelerated digitalisation and increased technological adoption, which is a constructive trend, it said. The report quoted the Google, Temasek and Bain, e-Conomy SEA 2020 report as saying that increased usage of digital solutions is also reflected in a high share of new digital service consumers in Vietnam, arising from COVID-19 restrictions that prevented visits to physical stores. Chua held that greater attainment of technical and digital skills, and a higher-skilled workforce over the coming years should not only help to increase productivity but also provide a positive feed-back loop to enable Vietnam to move up the manufacturing value chain and further attracting FDI. Last year, the value of the cloud computing market of Vietnam was estimated at over 130 million USD. The figure is forecast to hit 500 million USD in 2025./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnams-gdp-growth-may-reach-8-percent-in-2022-dbs/209232.vnp>

## More firms upbeat about business performance in Q4



*Vietnam News | 06 October, 2021*

Hanoi (VNA) – The number of surveyed firms in Ho Chi Minh City expressing optimism about business performance in the fourth quarter of this year has surged to 49.4 percent, the General Statistics Office (GSO) has reported. In a survey conducted by the GSO, 50.6 percent of the enterprises in the city said they anticipated more difficulties in the last quarter of the year. Meanwhile, 73.7 percent of respondents nationwide were optimistic about their business performance in the fourth quarter. Those predicting more difficulties ahead dropped to 26.3 percent. Due to complicated developments of the COVID-19 pandemic across the country, especially in 19 southern cities and provinces, only 38.6 percent of the surveyed enterprises said they performed better in the third quarter than the previous three months. The remainders said they still met difficulties in production and business. In Ho Chi Minh City alone, only 9.7 percent said their operations in the third quarter were more stable compared to the second quarter. Meanwhile, up to 90.3 percent said they had to struggle with a range of difficulties./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/more-firms-upbeat-about-business-performance-in-q4/209225.vnp>

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