

*Highlight News / November 05/2021*



- Cambodian diplomats tasked with promoting new investment law to attract FDIs
- U.S. companies confirm business expansion in Cambodia
- Govt urged to boost GDP, lower inflation
- Sugar price hike rally continues; sugarcane price surges to over K60,000 per tonne
- Public investment capital disbursement reaches 55.8 percent in 10 months
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## Cambodian diplomats tasked with promoting new investment law to attract FDIs



*Cambodia News | 04 November, 2021*

Cambodian ambassadors, counsel-generals and the diplomatic corp have been tasked to promote the newly-endorsed investment law to businessmen abroad in a bid to attract them to select the Kingdom as their investment destination. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in collaboration with the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) on Wednesday organised a virtual workshop to disseminate the new investment law to the Cambodian diplomats based overseas. The aim of the workshop was to incorporate the new investment law into diplomatic strategies, called Economic Diplomacy, to help boost foreign direct investment (FDI), increase productivity of the domestic industry and link domestic production chains with regional and global ones. In the workshop, Prak Sakhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, highlighted the negative aspects – the US-China trade war and Covid-19 – which contributed significantly towards decreasing global economic growth and FDI. “Using the investment law will become an important tool for an efficient and timely socio-economic recovery in the post Covid-19 and to make Cambodia a potential attractive destination for foreign investors at the same time the government reopens economic activities and the country to welcome foreign

investors and tourists, particularly vaccinated tourists,” Sokhonn said. CDC Secretary-General Sok Chenda Sophea said that the dissemination of the investment law by the diplomats abroad is an important strategy to show opportunities in Cambodia aimed at attracting more quality investment. “All representatives of Cambodia abroad will help promote the benefits mentioned in the investment law for investors to understand more clearly and make decisions to inject investment into Cambodia which is a potential investment destination,” Chenda Sophea said. The new investment law consists of 12 Chapters and 42 Articles. It provides incentives to prioritised sectors to foster development in science and technology, job creation, skills training, research, innovation and small and medium enterprises. It sets the strengthening procedures on monitoring and checking from relevant ministries and institutions through joint one-time inspection as well as sets incentives to qualified investment projects, both tax and non-tax preference, to attract flow-in investment to sectors that Cambodia needs specifically in the context of economic diversification and increasing competitiveness. In the first nine months of 2021, the CDC approved a total of 134 investment projects with a total investment of \$3.3 billion. Most of the projects focus on agriculture and agro-industry, tourism and infrastructure.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50964747/cambodian-diplomats-tasked-with-promoting-new-investment-law-to-attract-fdis/>

## U.S. companies confirm business expansion in Cambodia



*Cambodia News | 04 November, 2021*

U.S. companies will expand their businesses and inject more investment in Cambodia contributing to the economic recovery of the Kingdom. The remarks were made by Amb. Michael Michalak, Senior Vice President and Regional Managing Director of U.S.-ASEAN Business Council in Southeast Asia in a virtual meeting with. Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce. Also joining the meeting was representatives of U.S. Embassy to Cambodia and U.S. companies –ConocoPhillips, FordMotor, Amazon, Walmart, Pernod Ricard, Visa, and Jhpiego. “American companies have expressed their optimism about continuing to invest and expand their businesses in Cambodia, especially in supporting the recovery of the Cambodian economy in the post COVID-19,” the ministry said. The bilateral trade between Cambodia and the U.S. was valued at \$5.5 billion in the first eight months of this year, a 28.4 percent increase compared to the same period a year earlier.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50964563/u-s-companies-confirm-business-expansion-in-cambodia/>

## Govt urged to boost GDP, lower inflation



*Laos News | 04 November, 2021*

Economists and lawmakers have called for the government to capitalise on the benefits offered by the Laos-China railway to boost economic growth, while doing more to lower the inflation rate. With the railway attracting the attention of foreign visitors and investors, the government needs to expedite the vaccination programme and reopen the country as a means to minimise the damaging impacts of the pandemic on the economy. In 2022, the government has set a target for GDP growth of 4 percent and an inflation rate of 5-7 percent. However, the Chairman of the National Assembly’s Planning, Finance and Audit Committee and senior economist Dr Leeber Leebouapao told the ongoing National Assembly session that the government needed to review these figures. “In principle, GDP growth must be higher than the inflation rate to reflect a positive trend in national development. If inflation is higher than GDP, it could mean no growth,” he said. “Over the past two years, the amount of M2 rose by almost 20 percent but the nation has seen low GDP growth. This means the increasing amount of money in circulation has yet to stimulate GDP growth as anticipated.” Dr Leeber said the government needs to ensure that the increase in M2 boosts the economy, particularly SMEs and the production of goods for export. NA

member and Vice President of the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ms Valy Vetsapong, said GDP could increase by 4.5 percent but the government needed to do more to develop the service sector. “The service sector is not only about tourism - it also includes SMEs, which can generate more jobs and income for the government through taxes,” she said. “Many people in Asia and around the world are talking about the Laos-China railway, which will convert Laos from being geographically disadvantaged by taking advantage of its location and becoming a regional land-linked hub.” Ms Valy said Lao entrepreneurs have suffered from high transport costs for years but these challenges will be resolved when the Laos-China railway becomes operational in December. “One of the most important things for the government at present is to speed up vaccination, immunise 80-90 percent of the population, and reopen the country. However, the reopening of borders need to be well regulated to attract investors and visitors while also complying with Covid-19 guidelines,” she said. NA member and Deputy Secretary General of the Lao Youth Union, Mr Bounta Thephavong, said the Laos-China railway has attracted considerable attention from visitors and investors in the region. “Clear plans and policies are needed for investors regarding economic development zones on both sides of the US\$5.9 billion railway. With this information available,

Lao and foreign investors can partner or make concession deals with the government to develop facilities and produce more goods for export,” he said.

Source : [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten\\_Govt217.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_Govt217.php)

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## Sugar price hike rally continues; sugarcane price surges to over K60,000 per tonne



*Myanmar News | 04 November, 2021*

Only 400,000 tonnes of sugarcane were produced across the country during the last sugarcane season, which is a drop of 100,000 tonne as against the last year's rate. Following the sugar price rally, the price of sugarcane jumped to over K60,000 per tonne, said the sugarcane growers from Htigyaing Township. “This year, sugarcane fetches up to K60,000 per tonne. It was priced at only K43,000 per tonne last year. The sugarcane price has risen tracking the hike in sugar price. We delivered the sugarcane to the sugar mills in Htigyaing Township only,” said Daw Htway Yee, a sugarcane grower from Htigyaing Township. Only 400,000 tonnes of sugarcane were produced across the country during the last sugarcane season, which is a drop of 100,000 tonnes as against the last year's rate. Winter sugarcane growing season started in October and will finish in May. The cultivation cost per acre is

about K600,000-700,000 and an acre produces about 30 tonnes of sugarcane. There are about 65,850 sowing acres of sugarcane in Htigyaing Township. It is cultivated in Shwebo, Kanbalu and Katha districts. Myanmar produced about 450,000 tonnes of sugar from 440,000 acres of sugarcane plantations in the 2014-2015 financial year, over 390,000 tonnes from 390,000 acres in the 2015-2016FY, over 370,000 tonnes from 400,000 acres in the 2016-2017FY, over 500,000 tonnes from 400,000 acres in the 2017-2018FY, and 500,000 tonnes from 500,000 acres in the 2018-2019FY. Sugarcane prices were pegged at over K50,000 per tonne in the 2015-2016FY, K45,000 in the 2016-2017FY, K41,500 in the 2017-2018FY, K38,000-40,000 in the 2018-2019FY and K40,000 in the last FY2019-2020 according to the news released online by the Ministry of Commerce. — Lu Lay, KK/GNLM

Source : <https://myawady.net.mm/node/17950>

## Public investment capital disbursement reaches 55.8 percent in 10 months



*Vietnam News | 04 November, 2021*

Hanoi (VNA) - Over 257.3 trillion VND (11.1 billion USD) in public investment capital were disbursed as of late October, or 55.8 percent of the target assigned by the Prime Minister, reported the Finance Ministry. The figure was lower than that recorded in the same period last year (67.25 percent). Of which,

52.41 percent were domestic capital and 15.29 percent were foreign one. Statistics from the ministry showed that seven ministries and 20 localities recorded high disbursement with over 65 percent. Up to 32 out of 50 ministries and 21 out of 63 localities disbursed below 50 percent while 20 ministries and four localities reported under 30 percent. The ministry attributed that to difficulties in material supply caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially imported ones, the shortage of construction workers, and social distancing that hindered the assessment of projects via information technology system. Other causes included obstacles in site clearance, bidding and construction as well as rising prices of construction materials. In order to hasten disbursement, the ministry asked ministries, agencies and localities to follow the Government's Resolution No.63/NQ-CP dated June 29, 2021; the Prime Minister's Dispatch No.7036/CD-VPCP dated September 30, 2021 on effective pandemic prevention and control measures, and acceleration of public investment capital disbursement for socio-economic development. They were also urged to complete the allocation of detailed capital for new construction projects in accordance with the PM's Decision No.1535/QD-TTg dated September 15, 2021./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/public-investment-capital-disbursement-reaches-558-percent-in-10-months/211896.vnp>

## Singapore Leads Foreign Investment in Vietnam in 10 Months



*Vietnam News | 04 November, 2021*

Singaporean investors poured US\$6.77 billion into Vietnam in the first 10 months of this year, taking the lead among 97 countries and territories investing in the Southeast Asian nation. According to the Ministry of Planning and Investment, during the reviewed period, the Republic of Korea ranked second with a total registered investment capital of US\$4.15 billion, followed by Japan with about US\$3.4 billion. Foreign financiers injected US\$23.74 billion in Vietnam between January and October, a rise of 1.1% against the same period from last year. Up to 1,375 new projects valued at US\$13 billion were licensed during the period, while 776 existing projects were also allowed to increase their capital by US\$7.09 billion. Capital contribution and share purchases by foreign investors stood at \$3.63 billion. Foreign investors disbursed US\$15.15 billion during the reviewed period, a drop of 4.1% compared year-on-year. Among 18 industries luring foreign investors, the processing and manufacturing sector took the lead with US\$12.74 billion, making up 53.7% of the total registered investment capital. The processing and manufacturing sector attracted the majority of projects, accounting for 33.1% of the accumulated number of FDI projects in the nation. Projects to be granted new investment certificates or allowed to increase capital include the \$3.1 billion Long An LNG Power Plant, the US\$2.15 billion LD Display Hai

Phong project, and the US\$1.31 billion O Mon II Thermal Power Plant. Long An province attracted the most FDI with more than \$3.6 billion, mostly thanks to the LNG projects, followed by the northern port city of Hai Phong with US\$2.7 billion, most of which came from adjusted capital that electronics giant LG added to its LG Display project. Overall, in terms of the number of projects, foreign investors were still focused on investing in big cities like HCM City and Hanoi. The Foreign Investment Agency said as the Covid-19 pandemic has been gradually put under control, the Government has adopted a range of policies to remove hurdles for businesses, helping them restore production and business activities in the remaining months of this year.

Source : <https://vietnamtimes.org.vn/singapore-leads-foreign-investment-in-vietnam-in-10-months-37296.html>