

*Highlight News / December 03/2021*



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ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT by TCC (AiTi)

## Ministry of Tourism expects more visitors in Preah Sihanouk



*Cambodia News | 02 December, 2021*

Officials from the Ministry of Tourism stated that they are expecting more tourists to visit Preah Sihanouk as the country opens up for vaccination tourism. The ministry officials stated that the increased influx is caused by new developments to the province's infrastructure and the successful Covid-19 preventive measures. The expected influx comes on the heels of reports of increased number of national tourists in the province, especially after the Prime Minister reopened the country. While inspecting businesses along the coast beach of Preah Sihanouk on the evening of December 1, the Minister of Tourism, Thong Khon, said that they are many factors that contribute to the attraction of the province to tourists. Minister Khon stated that the achievement of mass vaccination and the development of new infrastructure and the city attract visitors to the province. The Minister stated that after the achievement of the high vaccination rate and development, Cambodia began to see more tourist travel to the country. After the Prime Minister reopened the country, Cambodia recorded more than 700 daily. Nationwide, there has been an increase of up 28 flights per day, including at Kang Keng Airport in Preah Sihanouk, where nine flight per day were recorded. More people are expected to visit the province, on December 12 to December 17,

when Cambodia will host the Southeast Asian Sailing Championship.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/981144/ministry-of-tourism-expects-more-visitors-in-preah-sihanouk/>

## Cambodia nets \$4.4 billion from agricultural exports



*Cambodia News | 02 December, 2021*

Cambodia exported \$4.4 billion worth of agricultural products to foreign markets in the first eleven months this year. This ensured that agricultural sector remained one of the main movers of the Cambodian economy during the pandemic. Figures from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries stated that from January to November, some 7.1 million tonnes worth of agricultural products were shipped to 68 foreign markets in the world. This is an 87.5 percent increase when compared to the same period last year. Of these, 532,179 tons of milled rice were exported during the period, a year-on-year decrease of 11.46 percent. It earned \$454 million as of November this year. Paddy rice totaling 3.1 tons were exported, an increase of 75 percent compared to the same period last year. Paddy rice exports netted \$546 million. The non-agricultural products exported were valued at \$2.990 billion from 4.6 million tons, a year-on-year increase of 49.47 percent. The ministry stated that rubber export as of October this year, earned \$443 million. Veng Sakhon lauded the positive progress of agricultural development in the light of Covid-19 pandemic. In a

meeting with newly-appointed Vietnamese ambassador Nguyen Huy Tang on Tuesday, Sokhon asked Vietnam to increase imports of agricultural products from Cambodia. "I would like to thank the Vietnamese government and private companies for their investment in Cambodia's agricultural sector and for them being able to export large quantities of agricultural products to Vietnam, especially rice, cassava, cashew and rubber," he said. The ministry is boosting the process of sanitary and phyto-sanitary on other agricultural products eligible for exports to Vietnam and other countries. China remained the top buyer of Cambodia's milled rice, accounting for almost 50 percent of the kingdom's total rice export, Sakhon said. Besides rice, the minister said, Cambodia shipped other agricultural produce to China including bananas, mangoes, cassava and cashew nuts. Agriculture is a mainstay of the Cambodian economy, constituting about 22 percent of the country's GDP. Prime Minister Hun Sen had said during the inauguration of the Cambodia-China Friendship Bridge last week that the agricultural sector in Cambodia is on an upward trajectory growing despite the Covid-19 pandemic. Other sectors like the service sector, have been hit hard by the pandemic, while exports of agricultural products are on the increase and cultivation also exceeded the targeted plan, he said.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50980853/cambodia-nets-4-4-billion-from-agricultural-exports/>

## Lao, Chinese presidents to hold talks, attend railway inauguration



*Laos News | 03 December, 2021*

President Thongloun Sisoulith and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping will hold official talks and attend the inauguration of the Laos-China railway via video link on Friday. President Thongloun, who is also Secretary General of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party's Central Committee, and President Xi, who is also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC)'s Central Committee, will first meet for official talks. Following their meeting, the leaders will attend the inauguration of the historic railway linking Vientiane to the Chinese border, the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated in a press release. On December 2, which is National Day, the Lao government held a religious ceremony at the railway station in Vientiane ahead of the inauguration of the US\$5.986 billion (37.4 billion yuan) project. The inauguration of the railway on Friday, which the government will hold at the National Convention Centre, will be broadcast live from 2-4pm and members of the public are invited to witness the historic event. Authorities will ensure that Covid-19 control measures are closely followed during the event. Shortly after the inauguration, Prime Minister Phankham Viphavanh will lead a delegation on an inaugural ride on the Lane Xang train northwards from the Vientiane station located in

Xay village, Xaythany district. Freight transport will begin shortly after the inaugural trip, while passenger services are scheduled to start on December 4. Lao and Chinese leaders have placed great importance on bringing the railway to fruition, as part of China's Belt and Road Initiative. The Laos-China railway is one section of a planned regional rail link that will connect China with Singapore via Laos, Thailand and Malaysia. The Lao government hopes the railway will bolster its efforts to build on the country's landlocked location by becoming a land link within the region. Business executives are optimistic that the railway will turn Laos into a major transport hub including on the route between Southeast Asia and Europe given that the time taken to transport freight by rail will be reduced threefold to just more than 10 days. The government has praised and awarded all stakeholders that played a part in realising the project. On December 1, Lao authorities held a ceremony to present awards to sectors and individuals in recognition of their contribution to the construction of the railway.

Source : [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContenten\\_Lao\\_237\\_21.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContenten_Lao_237_21.php)

## Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade hits \$3.88 mln as of 19 Nov



*Myanmar News | 02 December, 2021*

The bilateral border trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh stood at over US\$3.88 million as of 19 November in the mini-budget year of 2021-2022, according to the Ministry of Commerce. According to statistics, the bilateral trade during this period has seen a drop, decreasing by \$1.95 million, compared with that of the same period when the last year border trade was \$5.84 million. As of 19 November, Myanmar-Bangladesh total border trade included Myanmar export of \$3.86 million its imports of \$0.02 million. Myanmar exports goods to Bangladesh through both maritime and land routes. Bilateral border trade is mainly conducted through the Sittway and Maungtaw points of entry. In the early period of bilateral border trade, trade through the Sittway gate totalled \$2.75 million, with \$2.7 million in exports and \$0.008 million in imports, while trade at the Maungtaw border exceeded \$1.14 million, including \$1.12 million in exports and \$0.02 million in imports.

The products traded between the two countries include bamboo, ginger, peanuts, saltwater prawns and fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jams, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastic, wood, knitwear and beverages, according to the ministry. — ACM/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnln.com.mm/myanmar-bangladesh-border-trade-hits-3-88-mln-as-of-19-nov/>

## Black gram price up by K40,000 per tonne within one week



*Myanmar News | 02 December, 2021*

The price of black gram (urad called in India) significantly rose by K40,000 per tonne within one week, according to the Yangon Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre). The black gram fetched only K1,382,000 per tonne in the domestic market on 24 November, whereas it touched a high of K1,425,000 per tonne (FAQ/RC) on 1 December. The price is attributed to the strong demand by India, the bean traders said. India's Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare approved not only black gram but also other pulses being imported from Myanmar, with relaxations of conditions regarding clearance consignment up to 30 December 2021. The pulses price is directly related to the international market so the price will fluctuate following the exchange rate. The prices of

beans are unlikely to fall this month. Last September, the prices hit an all-time high of K2 million per tonne tracking Kyat weakening against the US dollar in the local forex market when the black gram was highly demanded by the foreign trade partners. Myanmar conveyed US\$1.57 billion worth of over 2 million tonnes of various pulses to foreign trade partners last financial year 2020-2021. The country shipped \$966.4 million valued at 1.24 million tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through the sea route, and \$604.3 million valued 786,920 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders. — NN/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnln.com.mm/black-gram-price-up-by-k40000-per-tonne-within-one-week/>

## Vietnam leaps up in Global Connectedness Index



*Vietnam News | 02 December, 2021*

VOV.VN - Vietnam ranked 38th out of 169 countries in DHL's Global Connectedness Index 2020, a single place higher than in 2017. The latest index shows that the country is a fast-rising star in terms of global manufacturing, particularly as China is experiencing a fallout from its trade war with the United States, thereby allowing the Vietnamese market to welcome manufacturers keen to shift production away from the northern neighbour. It scored its largest annual flow of foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2019 and gained greater attention as an alternative hub when COVID-19 served to disrupt several Chinese

manufacturing systems and hit supply chains. Vietnamese resilience to the negative impacts of the pandemic last year meant it was able to bounce back quickly. Indeed, the local economy expanded 2.9% last year and export value rose by 28.4% in the first half of this year in comparison to the same period from 2020, thereby making it a rare economic success story during the pandemic. Even amid suffering its worst COVID-19 outbreak yet, the country is continuing to show signs of regaining its economic and manufacturing momentum. IHS Markit's Vietnam Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for October rebounded to 52.1 in October after falling to 40.2 the previous month. Even as factories temporarily close due to lockdowns during the middle part of the year, total merchandise exports went up 21.8% for the first eight months of the year compared to 2020. "Despite near-term risks, over the medium-term economic outlook, a large number of positive growth drivers are creating favorable tailwinds and will continue to underpin the rapid growth of Vietnam's economy," says Rajiv Biswas, executive director and chief economist for the Asia-Pacific region of IHS Markit's, "This is expected to drive strong growth in Vietnam's total GDP as well as per capita GDP." Cyn-Young Park, director for Regional Cooperation and Integration at the Asian Development Bank, pointed out that, "Even as investors may delay their decisions due to the current COVID-19 situation, Vietnam will continue to be a strong regional destination for investment, given the likely changes in the region's

value chain structures and the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). "Most notably, changes in Asia's value chain include China's shift away from low-cost production to products of higher value, such as robots and advanced semiconductors. This transition has contributed to drive up manufacturing wages, thereby making production hubs with lower labour costs and young workforces like Vietnam more attractive. Moreover, the country's close proximity to China and location along regional shipping routes also play to its advantage, meaning it is strongly connected internationally. The nation has also shown a marked improvement, similar to that of neighbouring countries such as Cambodia, Malaysia, and Singapore. With reforms being made to open up the economy over the past few decades pushing up Vietnamese GDP per capita from roughly US\$500 in 1985 to its current status as a middle-income country with a GDP per capita of US\$2,715. These policies have served to boost international trade flows, meaning the nation has earned a high place on the Trade pillar of the Global Connectedness Index. By 2019, the country had entered into numerous trade agreements with countries that account for 67% of the global economy. "A country must have large international trade flows relative to the size of its domestic economy, and international flows must be distributed across the world for it to be considered globally connected," said Bernardo Bautista, managing

director and country manager of DHL Express Vietnam.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/vietnam-leaps-up-in-global-connectedness-index-908948.vov>

## Vietnam among markets driving future trade growth



*Vietnam News | 02 December, 2021*

Hanoi (VNA) - A recent research by Standard Chartered has listed Vietnam among the 13 markets driving future trade growth, and with its enhanced integration into the global economy, the country is holding numerous advantages for bolstering export, the Cong Thuong (Industry & Trade) newspaper said. In its research, titled "Future of Trade 2030: Trend and markets to watch", the bank forecast Vietnam will record an average annual exports growth rate of 7 percent to earn 535 billion USD in revenue in 2030. Notably, up to 41 percent of the global firms surveyed by Standard Chartered are operating in Vietnam or planning to invest in the country in the next five to 10 years. The US and China will remain the largest export markets of Vietnam, respectively accounting for 26 percent and 19 percent of the Southeast Asian country's total exports by 2030. Meanwhile, shipments to India are also projected to grow fast, by 11 percent annually between 2020 and 2030. With growing international trade, Vietnam is emerging as an important production base. The sectors with great contributions to exports from now to 2030 include machinery - electrical equipment, textile - garment,

and agriculture - food, respectively making up 40 percent, 21 percent, and 15 percent of total exports. Cong Thuong cited experts as saying that with an abundant workforce, the proximity with large supply chains, and open policies for foreign direct investment, Vietnam is establishing itself as a production hub of the world and attracting foreign enterprises. The enhanced integration into the global economy via free trade agreements (FTA) like the EU - Vietnam FTA, the UK - Vietnam FTA, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is giving the country numerous advantages for boosting overseas shipments. In the first 11 months of 2021, Vietnam recorded 299.67 billion USD in exports and 299.45 billion USD in imports, respectively rising 17.5 percent and 27.5 percent year on year, according to the General Statistics Office. Given this, total trade turnover this year will surpass 600 billion USD, a demonstration of tireless efforts by the Government, ministries, sectors, localities, and businesses to weather COVID-19 impacts, according to the newspaper./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-among-markets-driving-future-trade-growth/216466.vnp>