

Highlight News / January 05/2022



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- China-Laos Railway delivers economic benefits in first month
- Land sales in the Thilawa SEZ are expected to be minimal in the coming years, as land sales in the industrial zone depend on foreign direct investment
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PM optimises 3 percent GDP growth for 2021



Cambodia News | 4 January, 2022

Cambodia's economic growth in 2021 is projected to reach around 3 percent thanks to strong export of agriculture, industrial products, especially the reopening of the country after the Covid pandemic. The projection was made by Prime Minister Hun Sen while delivering a public speech at the ground breaking ceremony of the upgrade of National Road 48 yesterday. The government's income has shown a positive signal, particularly since the government announced the reopening of the country, he said. "The country's economic growth will reach 3 percent for 2021. The final projection of the economic growth will be made in the next three months, but at least it will reach around 3 percent," Mr Hun Sen said. The Premier's GDP projection is higher than the growth rate mentioned by the Ministry of Economy and Finance in the budget bill 2022, which has been endorsed recently. The ministry projected 2.4 percent of GDP growth in 2021 and 4 percent in 2022. Phan Phalla, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Economy and Finance, said in December that the activities in the economy sector in Cambodia have started to recover since the government reopened the country. "This has led to the reopening of economic and social activities and the projection of GDP growth of 2.4 percent may be not right," he said, adding the adjusting of GDP growth will be made at the end this year according to the better

improved situation of the economy. According to Mr Hun Sen, the tax income for the whole year 2021 amounted to \$2,294 million, 24.2 percent exceeding the target and the customs income was \$2,243 million, accounting for 97.3 percent of target. "Although decreasing, incomes from tax and customs were cumulatively at \$4,500 million. The decrease is not making the government collapse," he said. He also urged compatriots to join in combatting the Covid-19 epidemic infection in aiming to boost economic growth. The National Bank of Cambodia has forecast that the Cambodian economy will continue to grow at a rate of 5 percent in 2022. The National Bank of Cambodia's report on 'Macroeconomic and Banking Progress in 2021 and Outlook 2022' states that Cambodia's economic recovery is supported by the export of garments and non-garment products, electronic components and bicycles that will enhance Cambodia's export diversification. As of nine months 2021, Cambodia's total export (excluding gold) achieved a total amount of \$12,688 million, a 23 percent increase compared to the same period last year, driven by the increase of garments, bicycles, and other export goods including furniture, rubber, solar, electronics and electronic parts, bananas, wires and cables, sugar, other agricultural products, cassava and mangoes.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50999921/pm-optimises-3-percent-gdp-growth-for-2021/>

Cambodia's tourism sees fast recovery despite Omicron

/cambodias-tourism-sees-fast-recovery-despite-omicron/



Cambodia News | 4 January, 2022

Although more Omicron variant infections are reported, Cambodia's tourism sector recovery shows no sign of slowing down, with a sharp rise in the number of tourists during the New Year 2022 celebrations. It remained unfazed by the virus and each weekend brought tens of thousands of domestic tourists to various sites, especially coastal and mountainous sites for eco tourism. Cambodian national news agency AKP cited statistics from the Ministry of Tourism which showed that the tourism industry served over 1.14 million tourists during the holidays from December 31, 2021 to January 1, 2022, including 5,754 foreigners, up 63.65 percent year on year, with Phnom Penh and Siem Reap being the most visited locations in the country. After the announcement of the end of the "February 20 Community Event", the capital and various provincial administrations have organized public celebrations, including concerts and gatherings, to celebrate the New Year and attract tourists. In Phnom Penh, according to the preliminary assessment of the authorities, more than 360,000 people visited main destinations, such as Koh Pich, the riverside in front of the Royal Palace, Chroy Changvar, Victory Monument and the Techo Heritage National Stadium. VNA

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501000287>

China-Laos Railway delivers economic benefits in first month



Laos News | 5 January, 2022

BEIJING, Jan. 4 (Xinhua) -- The China-Laos Railway has yielded fruitful outcomes in passenger and cargo transportation since it launched operations a month ago, marking a major step forward for regional connectivity and economic cooperation between the two countries and across Southeast Asia. The latest data shows that the 1,035-km railway, connecting Kunming in southwest China's Yunnan Province with the Lao capital Vientiane, handled about 670,000 passengers and 170,000 tonnes of cargo within its first month. The section in China handled up to 31.5 pairs of trains each day, and the number of daily passengers has climbed from approximately 19,000 to about 33,000, with a total of 620,000 passengers traveling on the Chinese section in one month, according to the China State Railway Group Co., Ltd., the Chinese railway operator. The section in Laos also saw robust travel demand, especially during the weekends and holidays, with a total of 50,000 passenger trips made since its launch. Open to traffic on Dec. 3, 2021, the China-Laos Railway, a landmark project for high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, is the first overseas railway jointly constructed and operated by the two countries. The railway signals a new journey for China-Laos cooperation as it puts the landlocked Southeast

Asian country on track to becoming a land-linked hub, promotes local tourism and will ultimately benefit the people of the two countries. A World Bank report shows that the railway could potentially increase aggregate income in Laos by up to 21 percent over the long term. The section connecting Vientiane and Boten (at the northern border with China) could provide Laos with a land link to global and regional supply chains, which could make the country more attractive to investors, create new jobs, and accelerate economic growth, says the report. Thanks to the newly launched railway, travel orders in Pu'er and Xishuangbanna in Yunnan Province surged by 92.4 percent and 59.9 percent, respectively, from a month ago. The China-Laos Railway helps to build a new logistics passage between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, cutting the travel time for freight trains linking Kunming and Vientiane to only 30 hours when running at the fastest speed. To date, the China-Laos Railway has operated 380 cargo trains, including 70 international cargo trains, which have transported about 50,000 tonnes of freight. The goods shipped via the railway include rubber, fertilizers and daily necessities as well as electronics, photovoltaic products, communication products, automobiles, textiles, vegetables and flowers. In the future, the China-Laos Railway is likely to be a key channel for the trade in goods between Southeast Asia and Europe. According to Qi Dan, general manager of Yuxinou (Chongqing) Logistics Co., Ltd., one of the operators on the route, goods from Southeast Asia

can be transported to Europe via the China-Europe freight-train routes and the China-Laos Railway, and vice versa, which will add new impetus to the economic and trade exchanges between Central Europe and Southeast Asia. Looking forward, the freight volume of the China-Laos Railway is expected to continue increasing steadily, particularly after the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) took effect on Jan. 1, according to the Chinese railway operator. "RCEP would open a new chapter for regional economic and trade ties. It will also put Laos under the global spotlight," said Bounleuth Luangpaseuth, vice president of the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, noting that the newly-completed China-Laos Railway will play an active role in the RCEP framework.

Source : <http://en.people.cn/n3/2022/0105/c90000-9940963.html>

Land sales in the Thilawa SEZ are expected to be minimal in the coming years, as land sales in the industrial zone depend on foreign direct investment



Myanmar News | 4 January, 2021

Land sales in the industrial zone depend on foreign direct investment, and sales in the Thilawa SEZ are expected to be minimal in the coming years, according to a study by MTSI executives. The management's analysis and analysis is based on the Company's financial statements for the fiscal year 2020-2021, which expires on September 30, 2021,

of the Myanmar Thilawa S. Isaac Holdings Public Company. Political and economic unrest has continued in Myanmar since February 1, and Myanmar Thilawa AS Isaac Holdings Public Company Limited and its subsidiaries are doing their best to overcome all obstacles. Land sales within our industrial zone are expected to be minimal in the coming years as they rely on foreign direct investment. However, the MJTD will remain viable due to revenue from the use of water and electricity to support existing plants in the Thilawa SEZ. Thilawa Property Development Limited is expected to be the most challenging period of the year, and the success of the residential and commercial real estate sector could be largely dependent on domestic investment. Restaurants; Previous plans to expand shops and shopping areas have been postponed, but have now been postponed due to inconveniences due to the Kovid epidemic and economic constraints. Myanmar Thilawa AS Isaac Holdings Public Company Limited won the tender for the Gyogone housing redevelopment project on March 5, 2020 and held a swearing-in ceremony on December 26, 2020. The project will be approved by the Myanmar Investment Commission, which will develop the project in the short to medium term, with a return period of three to seven years.

Source : <https://news-eleven.com/article/223258>

Rice output up 1.1 million tonnes in 2021



Vietnam News | 4 January, 2021

Vietnam's rice output topped 43.86 million tonnes in 2021, up 1.1 million tonnes year-on-year, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Although the rice cultivation area decreased by about 39,700 ha, the productivity increased by nearly 1.9 quintals/ha compared to 2020. The use of high-quality rice varieties in farming surged by 77%, contributing to raising the proportion of high-quality rice in export to over 89%, helping lift the average export price of rice to US\$503 per tonne in 2021 from US\$496 per tonne in 2020. Vietnam's rice export turnover was estimated to reach US\$3.27 billion in 2021. The agriculture sector aims to produce 48.3 million tonnes of food grains in 2022, including 43 - 43.9 million tonnes of rice. In the winter-spring crop 2021-2022, the south and the north - the two largest rice growing regions - planned to grow rice on 1.6 million ha and nearly 1.1 million ha, respectively. Meanwhile, the south central coastal and Central Highlands regions will cultivate rice on a total area of over 321,000 ha.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/rice-output-up-11-million-tonnes-in-2021-post915983.vov>

Nealy 120,000 firms leave market in 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic



Vietnam News | 4 January, 2022

HÀ NỘI — As many as 119,800 firms left the market in 2021, up 17.8 per cent year-on-year due to the negative impact of COVID-19, with strict blockades

and prolonged social distancing especially in the third quarter, according to the General Statistics Office (GSO). Among those leaving the market, nearly 55,000 firms temporarily suspended operations for a definite period, a year-on-year increase of 18 per cent, while 48,100 enterprises stopped operation pending dissolution procedures, up 27.8 per cent. Another 16,700 completed dissolution procedures, down 4.1 per cent, including 14,800 with capital scale of less than VNĐ10 billion (US\$430,000), down 4 per cent and 211 with capital scale of over VNĐ100 billion (\$4.3 million), down 20.7 per cent. On average, nearly 10,000 businesses withdrew from the market a month as they failed to survive the COVID-19 storm. In 2021, the country also saw a yearly decline of 13.4 per cent in the number of newly-established businesses at 116,800 and their total registered capital also dropped 28 per cent year-on-year to over VNĐ1.61 quadrillion. The average registered capital of a newly established enterprise was estimated at VNĐ13.8 billion, down 16.8 per cent compared to the previous year. On a brighter note, the timely implementation of Resolution No 128/ NQ- CP which promoted provisional regulations on safe, flexible adaptation to and effective control of COVID-19, made a great contribution to resuming domestic production, gradually creating confidence for manufacturers. Thus, 31,400 new firms were formed

in Q4 with total registered capital of VNĐ415.3 trillion, marking respective increases of 70.4 per cent in the number of businesses and 64.1 per cent in levels of capital compared to Q3. Meanwhile, 43,100 firms resumed their operation this year, down 2.2 per cent from the previous year. The GSO's survey on business trends of the manufacturing and processing industry in Q4 showed that 44 per cent of businesses said that the business situation would be better than Q3, while 34.1 per cent said the business situation would be stable. About 24.9 per cent of enterprises forecast more difficulties in doing business than the previous quarter. About 45.6 per cent of enterprises were optimistic about the business situation in first quarter of 2022, forecasting better business performance than Q4/2021 while 36.1 per cent of them foresaw a stable business situation. About 18.3 per cent of businesses forecast more difficulties in doing business than in Q4 of 2021. Việt Nam has set a target of about 710,000 newly-established enterprises in the 2021-25 period, following a draft resolution on supporting and developing businesses jointly built by the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), relevant ministries, sectors, agencies and localities. Under the document, various support policies will be designed to assist businesses in recovering, expanding and improving their competitiveness. In 2025, Việt Nam expects to have over 2.1 million companies. In the

period, about 10 start-ups are hoped to reach a value of over UD\$1 billion, while about 35-40 per cent of total firms are expected to launch science-technology application and innovation activities, and 100 per cent of companies are hoping to access digital transformation, with 100,000 firms getting support in the field. To this end, the MPI will give eight groups of solutions, focusing on improving the investment and business environment, expanding domestic and foreign markets, strengthening the credit access for businesses, especially those hit by COVID-19. The ministry also proposed support in human resources development and the fostering of connectivity among enterprises so that they can join domestic and international value chains and gradually lead the chains in the next five years. —

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Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1111515/nealy-120000-firms-leave-market-in-2021-due-to-covid-19-pandemic.html>
