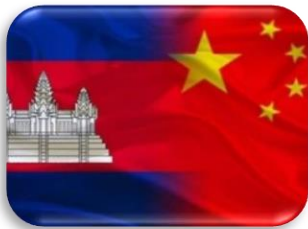




- China, Cambodia to promote free trade deal with zero tariff on more than 90 percent of imports from Cambodia
- Soaring demand from Cambodia, other countries leads to Thai textile industry exports surging
- Govt inks deal on electronic civil management system
- Total border trade value decreases by US\$966 mln this mini-budget period
- Vietnam-EU trade increases 14.8 percent in 2021
- Inflation forecast to be under control in 2022



China, Cambodia to promote free trade deal with zero tariff on more than 90 percent of imports from Cambodia



Cambodia News | 06 January, 2022

China and Cambodia will promote implementation of their free trade agreement which took effect on Jan 1 to benefit the enterprises and people of the two nations, China's Ministry of Commerce said on Wednesday. According to the free trade agreement, both nations will grant zero-tariff treatment to more than 90 percent of imports from the other side eventually. The two nations will also strengthen cooperation in areas such as trade in services, investment, the Belt and Road Initiative, and e-commerce, the ministry said in an online statement. Bilateral trade volume between China and Cambodia rose 45.9 percent to \$10.98 billion in the first 10 months of this year, hitting the target of \$10 billion, China's Ministry of Commerce said. The two countries had previously committed to reaching the \$10 billion threshold by 2023. According to Lim Heng, vice president of the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce, bilateral trade will rise further and the variety of products Cambodia exports to China will increase. The main products Cambodia exports to China's market are milled rice, cassava, fresh mango and banana, while it imports raw materials for garment production, building materials and vehicles. Last year, Cambodian imports from China dropped by nearly 7 per cent as lockdowns forced the closure

of the country's garment factories. China is willing to work with Cambodia to implement the China-Cambodia Free Trade Agreement and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, and promote cooperation in infrastructure, production capacity, digital economy, and green and low-carbon fields, said the ministry. China will also expand imports from Cambodia, encourage Chinese companies to invest in Cambodia and promote e-commerce cooperation. China Daily/Khmer Times

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501001767>

[/china-cambodia-to-promote-free-trade-deal-with-zero-tariff-on-more-than-90-percent-of-imports-from-cambodia/](https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501001767/china-cambodia-to-promote-free-trade-deal-with-zero-tariff-on-more-than-90-percent-of-imports-from-cambodia/)

Soaring demand from Cambodia, other countries leads to Thai textile industry exports surging



Cambodia News | 06 January, 2022

Cambodia's lack of a textile industry to support to its burgeoning garment industry has seen neighbouring Thailand's exports of textiles soaring and are expected to grow by 15 per cent. Thai media has reported that textile exports were boosted by demand from apparel-producing territories such as Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, India, Europe and the US garment factories. Thailand's garment and textile factories have returned to 100 per cent capacity, but this has triggered a labour shortage after foreign workers returned to their home countries during the Covid-19 crisis. The factories are currently

short of 30,000 to 50,000 workers and are dependent on overtime work. This shortage could lead to a reverse surge of Cambodian migrant workers back to Thailand in search of employment now that the economy and industry is beginning to open up and resume operations to cater to worldwide demand. Thai Garment Manufacturers Association president Yuttana Silpsarnvitch said demand for Thai garments and textiles was being driven by the trend for environmentally friendly products. Major brands are ordering products made from recycled fibres, organic cotton and other eco-friendly materials to satisfy customer demand. These items cost about 20 per cent more than regular clothes, he said.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501001754/soaring-demand-from-cambodia-other-countries-leads-to-thai-textile-industry-exports-surging/>

Govt inks deal on electronic civil management system



Laos News | 07 January, 2022

The government is developing an electronic civil registration and vital statistics system to increase capacity to collect demographic statistics and produce and disseminate reliable and timely socio-economic and poverty information. The system will also enable more efficient monitoring and evaluation of the progress made towards fulfilment of the government's socio-economic development plans. The Ministry of Home Affairs has inked an agreement with the WCC Group B.V. of the Netherlands to

develop the system. The WCC Group B.V. is a leading product company, providing advanced software solutions for public and private employment services. A contract for the project was signed at an online event on Thursday by the Director General of the Citizen Management Department, Ministry of Home Affairs, Mrs Kommaly Vilaphanh, and the CEO of WCC Group B.V., Mr Jan Jensen. Deputy Minister of Home Affairs Dr Thongchanh Manixay also attended the event. Mrs Kommaly said the ministry had conducted an international tender for the purchase of electronic civil management software in accordance with World Bank procurement rules and regulations. The WCC Group B.V. won the tender because of its experience in software development (HERA) for electronic civil registration and vital statistics (eCRVS), which was in line with the criteria set out in the bidding documents. The contract is worth more than US\$3.2 million. Development of the electronic civil registration and vital statistics system will be carried out over a period of 38 months. Implementation of eCRVS database software system development will be divided into four phases, with the first phase to be conducted in the capital and Luang Prabang and Champassak provinces this year. The second phase will take place in the provinces of Oudomxay, Xieng Khuang, Huaphan and Phongsaly later in 2022. The third phase will be carried out in the provinces of Bokeo, Borikhamxay,

Khammuan and Savannakhet in 2023. The fourth phase will be rolled out in the provinces of Attapeu, Luang Namtha, Saravan, Xekong, Vientiane, Xayaboury and Xaysomboun later in 2023. "By 2030, all Lao citizens will be able to use the registration system and so that population statistics are compiled in a comprehensive and efficient manner," Mrs Kommaly said. By 2024, 70 percent of all Lao citizens, including newborns, will be registered. An electronic civil registration and vital statistics system is viewed as necessary for the achievement of targets and the provision of services, as well as the provision of legal status to individuals and the preparation of relevant documents. The system will enable the verification, collection and analysis of statistics systematically in relation to important events in the life of each citizen, such as their birth and death.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_Govt04.php

Total border trade value decreases by US\$966 mln this mini-budget period



Myanmar News | 06 January, 2022

The total border trade value at 18 border trade camps exceeded US\$1.4 billion this mini-budget period, according to the Ministry of Commerce. During the mini-budget period, the total border trade

amounted to 1.44 billion, down \$966 million compared with the last year's figure of \$2.409 billion. From 1 October to 24 December of the 2021-22FY, the country's export via land borders amounted to \$1.02 billion, while its import shared \$427.7 million. Myawady topped the list of border checkpoints with the most trade value of \$581.36 million, followed by Hteekhee with US\$402.06 million. The country conducts border trade with neighbouring China through Muse, Lweje, Kampaiti, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung, with Thailand via Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Meisei checkpoints, with Bangladesh via Sittway and Maungtaw and with India through Tamu and Reed border crossings, respectively. Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products, animal products, marine products, minerals, forest products, manufacturing goods and others while capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods are imported to the country. — ACM/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/total-border-trade-value-decreases-by-us966-mln-this-mini-budget-period/#article-title>

Vietnam-EU trade increases 14.8 percent in 2021



Vietnam News | 06 January, 2022

Hanoi (VNA) – Trade between Vietnam and the EU rose 14.8 percent in 2021 to 63.6 billion USD despite impacts of COVID-19. According to the Ministry of

Industry and Trade, in the year, Vietnam exported 45.8 billion USD worth of goods to the EU, up 14.2 percent year on year, while importing 17.9 billion USD worth of products from the market, a rise of 16.5 percent. The ministry attributed the results to the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA), which took effect more than one year ago. Notably, the export revenue of products using the EUR.1 certificate of origin (C/O) reached about 7.8 billion USD, which showed Vietnamese firms' greater attention to optimising of incentives from the deal. The EVFTA is a bilateral commitment with incentives and long-lasting value. At present, 20 percent of local enterprises have taken export tax incentives from the EVFTA with the EUR.1 certificate of origin (C/O). For shipments to the EU worth less than 6,000 EUR, local enterprises are allowed to self-certify origin. This helps ensure smaller businesses do not have to spend time applying C/O, while still being able to enjoy tax incentives./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnameu-trade-increases-148-percent-in-2021/220286.vnp>

Inflation forecast to be under control in 2022



Vietnam News | 06 January, 2022

HÀ NỘI — Though there will be pressure on inflation in 2022, experts forecast it will remain under control and the National Assembly's target of 4 per cent target is still feasible. At a seminar on market and pricing held in Hà Nội on Tuesday, the director of the Institute of Economics and Finance Nguyễn Bá Minh

forecast the average consumer price index (CPI) in 2022 will increase roughly 2-3 per cent compared to 2021. According to Minh, inflation in 2022 will be well controlled as it will be difficult for global raw material prices to increase significantly due to the complicated spread of new variant Omicron, trade wars and political conflicts in the world. Purchasing power in the domestic market will be still weak because the income of workers has been reduced, as production stagnated during the pandemic. Minh forecast gasoline prices to be stable at US\$65-80 per barrel. He explained if the oil price increases sharply, the US will increase the supply of shale oil. At that time, the US will gain the oil market share of OPEC and OPEC + countries, meaning the latter will then have to increase the supply to cause oil prices to fall again. Discussing pork prices in 2022, Minh said the domestic supply of pork is quite abundant. The product's price has decreased sharply compared to December 2020 and will also be stable at VNĐ45,000-60,000 per kg until the end of 2022. Expert Nguyễn Đức Độ also agreed that CPI in 2022 will remain at a low level. Though the economy is recovering, the output of 2022 will still be below potential. If Việt Nam's GDP in 2022 grows by 6.5 per cent, the Government's target, or even 8-9 per cent as some forecast, the average GDP growth rate in the 2020-22 period is only at 4-5 per cent, much lower than 6 per cent in the 2011-20 period, he explained. However, experts said controlling inflation in 2022 will not be easy as the index can increase

quite high from the beginning of this year, in the wake of the global economic recovery and commodity prices on an upward trend. The economic recovery in 2022, under the impacts of economic development support packages, will cause consumption and investment demands to increase, putting pressure on prices. Experts suggested pandemic prevention will provide the prerequisite for production and market stability to keep CPI under 4 per cent this year, as set by the National Assembly. According to economist Ngô Trí Long, the authorities should closely monitor supply and demand sources in the domestic market, especially before Lunar New Year, to take appropriate measures to control prices. At the event, representatives from the Ministry of Finance's Price Management Department said the department will closely monitor the world's economic developments and inflation, promptly taking effective action in managing domestic production and balancing local supply and demand in a move to successfully control inflation right from the first months of 2022. —

VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1112395/inflation-forecast-to-be-under-control-in-2022.html>