

Highlight News / March 01, 2022



- Cambodia's vaccination status finally crosses 91 percent of total population with 14,563,512 people vaccinated
- Bangkok-Siem Reap flights will resume from March 3, 2022
- Garment industry requires over 5,000 workers
- Myanmar foreign trade tops \$11.95 bln as of 18 February 2022
- CPI up 1.68 percent in first two months of 2022
- Vietnam's logistics sector attracts more foreign investment inflows



ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)

Cambodia's vaccination status finally crosses 91 percent of total population with 14,563,512 people vaccinated



Cambodia News | 28 February, 2022

Cambodia has crossed its objective of vaccination at least 91 percent of its total population against COVID-19 after stagnating at 99 percent for several weeks. As of Sunday February 27, the total number vaccinated stands at 14,563,512 or 91 percent of the estimated 16 million people having received their first dose of the vaccine. This brought the total percentage to 91.02 percent of the total population based on 2019 census. The number of people who have been fully vaccinated with both doses rose to 12,846,457 while those who have received their third dose rose closer to seven million with 6,981,435 people and while the fourth dose recipients rose to close to one million since the campaign started on January 14 with 939,007 people. The latest age group to receive the vaccine, children aged three and four has risen to 125,606 out of the targeted 610,730 or 20.57 percent. Prime Minister Hun Sen in a special message on the night of February 17, sanctioned the vaccination of 3 to 5 year old children after revealing that up to 25 percent of those infected with Omicron were children under the age of five. Vaccination for the 3 and four year old started six days after the prime ministers call and since February 23, the 125,606 have been vaccinated with the first dose.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501032898/cambodias-vaccination-status-finally-crosses-91-percent-of-total-population-with-14563512-people-vaccinated/>

Bangkok-Siem Reap flights will resume from March 3, 2022



Cambodia News | 28 February, 2022

The Ministry of Tourism has announced that a Thai airline will resume flights from Bangkok to Siem Reap and from Siem Reap to Bangkok from March 3, 2022 onwards. According to the Ministry of Tourism, Thai Smile Airlines will operate two direct flights a week. The Ministry of Tourism called on tourism associations, tour operators and the public to continue to promote international tourism to Siem Reap, one of Cambodia's most important cultural and historical destinations. The Ministry of Health said that with the rate of vaccination against COVID-19 throughout Cambodia reached more than 90% of the total population of 16 million as of February 25, 2022 and the implementation of safety measures, Cambodia is a safe tourist destination and is open to international tourists without the need for a quarantine in the case of passengers with negative COVID-19 tests upon arrival in Cambodia.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501032546/bangkok-siem-reap-flights-will-resume-from-march-3-2022/>

Garment industry requires over 5,000 workers



Laos News | 28 February , 2022

The garment industry requires at least 5,000 factory workers this year, with both skilled and inexperienced people needed, according to the Lao Garment Association. As many as 5,000 people are needed to fill jobs in the garment industry, with many opportunities for unskilled workers, Lao National Radio reported. President of the Lao Garment Association (ALGI), Mr Xaybandith Rasphone, told Vientiane Times that the greatest need is in Special Economic Zones, while factories in Vientiane have also reported a shortage of workers. People interested in working in the garment industry are advised to contact labour and social welfare offices or the Lao Garment Association in Vientiane. Factory owners are providing accommodation for people who have come to Vientiane from the provinces to work, to protect them against Covid-19, and managers will interview those shortlisted for employment, Mr Xaybandith said. Thousands of Lao workers who were employed in Thailand returned home over the past two years because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The government urged all those returning to Laos to enter the country at official border crossings so they could be screened. Some returning migrants have found work on their family rice farms, while others have struggled to find

employment since as early as May 2020. There are currently an estimated 63,000 unemployed people in Laos, including those who were already out of work and the thousands of migrant workers who streamed back to the country due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A large number of employees, particularly women, have lost essential income even as living costs spiral, increasing the burdens they carry and making it harder for them to survive. Due to the pandemic, many garment workers had their working hours reduced or were laid off. A key lesson from Covid-19 is that it is essential to immediately support businesses in their efforts to survive as well as workers who lose their jobs and income. Such immediate humanitarian support must be part of the longer-term plan to build back better. All garment factories in Laos took a hit from shrinking demand and the drop in orders placed by their main buyers in the European Union, Japan, the United States and Canada. According to a report from the International Labour Organisation, a multi-donor programme has been designed to assist both workers and private sector businesses to rebuild their economic activities, mitigate further interruptions in the supply chain, and provide direct support to garment sector workers, especially women.

Source: https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Garment_41.php

Myanmar foreign trade tops \$11.95 bln as of 18 February 2022



Myanmar News | 28 February, 2022

MYANMAR's external trade as of 18 February in the current six-month mini-budget 2021-2022 (Oct-March) financial year period slid to US\$11.95 billion, which shows a drastic drop of \$765.9 million as against the year-ago period, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed. The international trade stood at over \$12.72 billion in the corresponding period of last FY 2020-2021, according to the data released by the ministry. Between 1 October 2021 and 18 February 2022, Myanmar's export was worth over \$6.1 billion whereas, the country's import was relatively low at \$5.85 billion. The border trade drastically fell by \$1.9 billion as against the year-ago period owing to the closure of some border posts by the main trade partner China. However, the maritime trade was registered a significant increase of US\$1.15 billion. Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods while it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer goods. The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on reducing trade deficit, export promotion, import substitution and market diversification. The external trade stood at \$29.58 billion in the 2020-2021 FY, as per the Commerce Ministry's statistics.—KK/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myanmar-foreign-trade-tops-11-95-bln-as-of-18-february-2022/#article-title>

CPI up 1.68 percent in first two months of 2022



Vietnam News | 28 February, 2022

Hanoi (VNA) - Increases in petrol prices, and those of food, food stuff, restaurant food and public transport services during the Lunar New Year led to a rise of 1 percent in the consumer price index (CPI) in February compared to that of the previous month, the General Statistics Office (GSO) announced on February 28. The February index was also up 1.42 percent year-on-year, and 1.2 percent against December 2021. In the first two months of 2022, CPI climbed by 1.68 percent over the same period last year, and core inflation by 0.67 percent. In February, among the 11 commodity and service baskets, 10 reported increases, with the highest seen in transport. Meanwhile, prices of post and telecommunications declined by 0.04 percent. Also in the month, the price of gold went up by 1.85 percent, while that of US dollar reduced by 0.28 percent. The GSO pointed out that core inflation in February rose by 0.49 percent over the previous month, and by 0.68 percent over the same period last year. In the first two months, core inflation increased by 0.67 percent year-on-year, lower than the general average CPI, which reflects the fluctuation of consumer prices mainly due to rising prices of food and fuel./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/cpi-up-168-percent-in-first-two-months-of-2022/222733.vnp>

Vietnam's logistics sector attracts more foreign investment inflows



Vietnam News | 28 February, 2022

Foreign investors will continue to pour money into Vietnam's logistics sector to seize post-pandemic development opportunities, Lao Dong newspaper quoted Piyush Rathorenoi, General Director of the Transworld QBV ICD as saying. Piyush said he expects the logistics industry of Vietnam will thrive in the future, turning Vietnam into a logistics centre of the world. CapitaLand Development (CLD) of CapitaLand Group on February 26 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on investment cooperation worth US\$1 billion with the People's Committee of the northern province of Bac Giang to build its first logistics and industrial urban project in Vietnam. Ronald Tay, General Director of CLD Vietnam said the project will be a synergistic factor in forming a flexible supply chain network for the northern key economic region, which is expected to generate jobs for over 20,000 local labourers. Delvin Fan, operation director of Best Express Vietnam recently revealed that his firm has invested 20 million USD in developing commodity sorting centres in Bac Ninh and Ho Chi Minh City. This enterprise also plans to spend an additional US\$3 million on buffing up its means of transport in 2022, towards increasing its offices to 1,500 across Vietnam, he added. Meanwhile, SEA Logistic

Partners has kicked off construction of the SLP Park Xuyen A project which aims to supply warehouses in the Mekong Delta province of Long An. This project is scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 2023, covering an area of 84,000 sq.m. Experts said the pouring of capital by foreign investors into Vietnam will help turn Vietnam into a logistics centre of the world. According to Tran Thanh Hai, deputy head of the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT)'s Export and Import Department, Vietnam has advantages in geo-economics to promote development of production, export and logistics service because it is located in a dynamic area of the world. Sharing Hai's opinion, Supaporn Sukmak, director of the Office of Overseas Trade Promotion of Thailand in HCM City said free trade agreements (FTAs) between Vietnam and partners have helped the Southeast Asian nation attract more foreign investors, especially those operating in logistics. The demand of warehouse for import and export goods in Vietnam is on the rise, she added. According to a report on logistics market by the MoIT, Vietnam is home to 30,000 providers of logistics service, and the warehouse service is one of the key segments of Vietnamese logistics firms. Over the last two years, despite the complicated developments of COVID-19, nearly US\$3 billion was poured into Vietnam's logistics industry, a sign that the country could become a logistics centre in the region and the world, Supaporn said.

Source:<https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/vietnam-s-logistics-sector-attracts-more-foreign-investment-inflows-post927212.vov>
