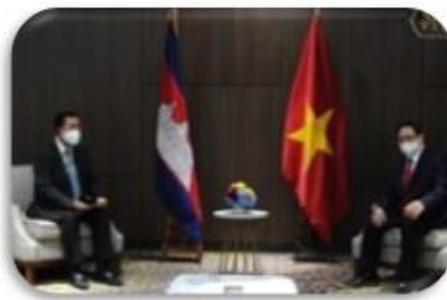


Highlight News / April 18, 2022



- Cambodia exports to Japan nets \$291 million in January-February
- Cambodia, Vietnam bilateral trade remained steady at \$9 billion in 2021
- Railway passenger numbers hit record high over Lao New Year
- Kawthoung-Ranong border post sees highest fishery exports in Taninthayi Region
- Vietnam to benefit most from RCEP: WB
- Vietnam posts trade surplus of US\$1.46 billion in Q1



ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)

Cambodia exports to Japan nets \$291 million in January-February



Cambodia News | 15 April , 2022

Cambodia exported \$291 million worth of goods to Japan in the first two months of this year, inching down 1.9 percent compared to the same period last year. The Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) figures showed that the Kingdom's imports from Japan was valued of \$87.3 million from January to February, a 13.4 percent year-on-year increase. The bilateral trade touched \$378.4 million in January. JETRO listed garments and electrical and electronic components as key Cambodian exports to Japan; and machinery, electronics and high-tech products as the main imports. Last year, the two-way trade volume reached \$2,332 million, according to JETRO. Cambodia exported \$1,752 million worth of goods to Japan last year, a year-on-year increase of 8.4 percent.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501058463/cambodia-exports-to-japan-nets-291-million-in-january-february/>

Cambodia, Vietnam bilateral trade remained steady at \$9 billion in 2021



Cambodia News | 14 April , 2022

Cambodian and Vietnamese leaders have expressed their delight with the progress in the relations and cooperation between the two countries, especially with the surge of bilateral trade volume in 2021 despite the COVID-19 crisis. The two-way trade reached over \$9 billion last year, a sharp increase by

80 percent compared to 2020, and continue to maintain a positive growth in the first quarter of this year, said a press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, adding that the Socialist Republic of Vietnam continues to rank first among the ASEAN countries for foreign direct investment in Cambodia. According to the press release, Pham Minh Chinh, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, made a phone call to Prime Minister Hun Sen. He conveyed greetings and best wishes from the Vietnamese leaders to Their Majesties the King and Queen-Mother of Cambodia and other Cambodian top leaders on the occasion of the Khmer Traditional New Year which will fall from April 14 to 16. The Vietnamese Premier wished Cambodia more success in the country's development as well as in organising major international events and holding the Commune/Sangkat Council Election in 2022. Hun Sen thanked his Vietnamese counterpart for the New Year best wishes and congratulated Vietnam on positive achievements in controlling the COVID-19 spread, the country's socio-economic recovery and comprehensive reopening. The two Prime Ministers laid stress on the strategic importance of maintaining and constantly strengthening the good-neighbourly relations and the comprehensive cooperation between Cambodia and Vietnam for the security and development of each country in the current situation, especially on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between both nations, as well as the 45th anniversary of the

quest for national salvation of Samdech Techo Hun Sen until the establishment of the United Front for National Salvation of Cambodia on Dec. 2, 1978 to overthrow the Khmer Rouge regime on Jan. 7, 1979. Hun Sen and Pham Minh Chinh agreed on the need to continue strengthening political trust, increasing cooperation to prevent the COVID-19 pandemic in the New Normal to promote socio-economic recovery, and to continue to cooperate in building a common border of peace and friendship.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501057807/cambodia-vietnam-bilateral-trade-remained-steady-at-9-billion-in-2021/>

Railway passenger numbers hit record high over Lao New Year



Laos News | 18 April, 2022

Passenger numbers on the Laos-China Railway hit a record high over Lao New Year, with stations in Kasy and Nga opening for the first time since the railway became operational in December. The Laos-China Railway Company said a standard train with a top speed of 120 km/hour was put into service on April 13, while two EMU trains carried passengers between Vientiane and Luang Prabang and two more travelled between Vientiane and Xay district in Oudomxay province. This meant that EMU trains made four round trips and the standard train did one round trip each day. The provision of both EMU and standard trains is a milestone for the railway and significantly increases passenger capacity. Since

the launch of the Laos-China Railway, the “Lane Xang” EMU train has been running regularly and the volume and type of cross-border transport has been steadily increasing, reflecting both the growth in passenger traffic and freight transport. As of April 10, 468 EMU trains had made journeys, carrying 244,400 passengers, with the maximum number of passengers on one day being 3,160 people. In addition, freight trains have made 589 cross-border journeys, carrying 365,400 tonnes of goods. Since the inauguration of the railway, more than 100 types of goods have been transported, including rubber, bio-fertiliser, basic consumer goods, electronics, electrical components, communications equipment, automobiles, textiles, vegetables and flowers. To meet people’s diverse travel needs and enhance passenger capacity, the Laos-China Railway Company has decided to run a standard train with a top speed of 120 km/hour. This train can carry 732 passengers and has seven carriages, of which six contain ordinary seats and one has superior seating. The train has drinking water, electrical sockets, toilets and other facilities and each carriage has signs written in Lao, Chinese and English. The K12/K11 regular train makes one round trip each day between Vientiane and Boten, stopping at Phonhong, Vangvieng, Kasy, Luang Prabang, Nga, Xay and Nateuy. The K12 train leaves Vientiane at 9am and arrives at Boten at 14:20pm, while on the

return journey the K11 service leaves Boten at 16:40pm and arrives at Vientiane at 21:55pm. To ensure safety, the Laos-China Railway Company conducts regular checks of equipment and facilities. The rail operator also trains staff in correct driving techniques, equipment maintenance and systems operation, which are in line with set standards to ensure safe and smooth running of the railway and the efficiency of train crews.

Source: https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent72_Railway.php

Kawthoung-Ranong border post sees highest fishery exports in Taninthayi Region



Myanmar News | 18 April, 2022

Of the cross-border checkpoints in Taninthayi Region and Kawthoung-Ranong border post performed the highest fishery export, according to the Kawthoung District Department of Fisheries. Myanmar shipped over US\$160 million worth of fishery products in the past six months via Kawthoung to Ranong in Thailand. The sea trade is the main option of the cross-border trade between Kawthoung and Ranong. The vessels daily convey the seafood to Thailand. Between 1 October 2021 and 31 March 2022 in the mini-budget period, fishery exports valued over \$160 million were delivered from Kawthoung of Myanmar under the FOB system to Thailand. "The volume of fishery products in the past

six months was estimated at 161,283 tonnes. Besides, Taninthayi suppliers, fishery products from Rakhine State, Mon State and Ayeyawady Region were also exported via Kawthoung," U Tin Htut, head of Kawthoung District Fisheries Department elaborated. Despite the large supply in Kawthoung border, the export volume dropped compared to the same corresponding period last year. The exports of fishery products in the past six months plunged by over 18,000 tonnes as against the year-ago period. The export value fell by \$1.245 million, he continued. The fish export is likely to drop in the spawning season (April, May and June). Inshore fishing businesses are the backbone of the Kawthoung's economy. There are about 2,000 registered inshore trawlers in Kawthoung District.—Myint Oo (Myeik)/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnlnm.com.mm/kawthoung-ranong-border-post-sees-highest-fishery-exports-in-taninthayi-region/#article-title>

Vietnam to benefit most from RCEP: WB



Vietnam News | 16 April, 2022

Vietnam is anticipated to enjoy the highest trade and income gains among members of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), according to a latest World Bank report. The average trade weighted tariff imposed by Vietnam declines from 0.8% to 0.2% while the tariffs faced by the country are reduced from 0.6% to 0.1% between 2000 and 2035, it said. In the most optimistic

scenario, where all benefits are applied, Vietnam has the highest gains of all RCEP member countries, newswire Vietnam Briefing cited the report as saying. Vietnam's income levels increase by 4.9% relative to the baseline, higher than other countries, where the income level increases by 2.5%. Trade also increases the most in this scenario, with exports expanding by 11.4% and imports by 9.2%, relative to the baseline. "All RCEP member countries will see an increase in exports and imports. Vietnam's exports expand by 11.4% and imports by 9.2%. Sectors that recorded the highest growth were motorised vehicles manufacturing with 18.6%, followed by textiles and garments 16.2% and apparel 14.9%, mainly due to the reduction of non-tariff measures. In the scenario where only the tariff reduction is implemented, the impact on Vietnam's economy is negligible, with real income close to zero. Trade also sees a small reduction relative to the baseline, with both exports and imports declining by 0.3%. It is attributed to the fact that Vietnam enjoys relatively low tax rates thanks to other free trade agreements. According to the WB's report, RCEP also provides an opportunity to promote growth and support recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic. Vietnam and Malaysia are the countries that are expected to benefit the most from this agreement. RCEP will help Vietnam access consumer markets which is twice the size of the markets in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), as RCEP includes China, the Republic of Korea and

Japan. However, it required Vietnam to raise standards to meet higher demand and stiffer competition. Another advantage that RCEP brings to the country is that it is creating more equality in the job market because sectors that employ women are expanded, such as textiles, apparel, electronics and some service sectors. The wage of female workers will increase faster than that of male ones, especially in Vietnam. About 50% of the population in RCEP, or 1.1 billion people, contribute US\$10 or more per day based on purchasing power. The agreement can help boost the middle class by 27 million people for all member countries by 2035, of which Vietnam is expected to benefit the most when it has an additional 1.7 million people enter this class, according to the World Bank. The WB report said that the simplification of procedures such as customs and rules of origin will help reduce bureaucracy, allowing more small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to participate. These enterprises account for 98% of the total number of enterprises in Vietnam, contributing 40% of GDP. Thus, RCEP offers a chance for Vietnamese SMEs to increase the value chain. Vietnam's economic growth will come from a deeper and more inclusive commitment through RCEP intra-regional trade, common rules of origin and greater openness to goods and services in accessing markets, especially the Chinese market, it said.

Source: <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/vietnam-to-benefit-most-from-rcep-wb-post937468.vov>

Vietnam posts trade surplus of US\$1.46 billion in Q1



Vietnam News | 16 April, 2022

Vietnam continued to show positive trade performance during the first three months of 2022 with a trade surplus of US\$1.46 billion, according to data from the General Department of Vietnam Customs (GDVC). The latest figures showed Vietnam's trade turnover during the second half of March rose by 20% against the previous 15 days to \$36.66 billion. This resulted in a total trade turnover in the three months of \$176.75 billion, up 14.3% or \$22.1 billion year-on-year. Upon breaking down, the foreign-invested sector contributed \$123.05 billion, representing an increase of 12.8% year-on-year, while the domestic sector made up \$53.7 billion, up 18%. Several Vietnam's export staples have recorded a sharp increase in turnover during the last half of March, including phones and parts which rose by \$972 million, up 34.8%; computers and electronics by \$787 million, up 34.8%; machinery and equipment by \$397 million, up 24.6%; textile and garment by \$259 million, up 18.5%. For the January-March period, Vietnam's exports rose by 13.4%, equivalent to \$10.55 billion, to \$89.1 billion. Foreign-invested companies continue to be the main driving force for Vietnam's exports by making up 73.4% of the total revenue, or \$65.36 billion. In return, Vietnam imported goods and products worth \$87.64 billion, up 15.2% year on year. The US remained Vietnam's largest export market in the first quarter with a

turnover of \$25.96 billion, up 16.6%, followed by China (\$13.44 billion), EU (\$11.42 billion), and ASEAN (\$8 billion). Meanwhile, China stood firm as the largest import market with \$27.43 billion. South Korea and ASEAN claimed the second and third places with a respective \$16.77 billion and \$11.83 billion.

Source: <http://hanoitimes.vn/vietnam-posts-trade-surplus-of-us146-billion-in-q1-320536.html>