

Highlight News / April 20/2022



- Cambodia's rubber export slightly up in Q1 hut value drops
- Customs collected nearly \$600 million in revenue in the first quarter of this year
- Impoverished Laos has lost more than \$760 million to corruption since 2016: report
- 2021-2022 (Mini Budget) Over \$ 170 Million Trade from Kawthaung Border Trade Center in Six Months
- US remains Vietnam's largest export market in Q1
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## Cambodia's rubber export slightly up in Q1 hut value drops



*Cambodia News | 19 April, 2022*

Cambodia exported 61,839 tons of dry rubber in the first quarter (Q1) of 2022, a slight increase of 1 percent compared to the same period last year, said a General Directorate of Rubber report on Monday. The country made \$98.5 million in revenue from exports of the commodity during the January-March period this year, down 1.3 percent from \$99.8 million over the same period last year, the report said. "A ton of dry rubber averagely cost \$1,594 in the first quarter of 2022, about \$42 lower than that of the same period last year," Him Oun, director general of the General Directorate of Rubber, said in the report. The southeast Asian nation exports the commodity mainly to Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore and China. According to the report, so far, Cambodia has planted rubber trees on a total area of 404,044 hectares, of which the trees on 310,193 hectares, or 77 percent, are old enough to be tapped. Xinhua

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501059622/cambodias-rubber-export-slightly-up-in-q1-hut-value-drops/>

## Customs collected nearly \$600 million in revenue in the first quarter of this year



*Cambodia News | 19 April, 2022*

The General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia (ACC) collected 2,428.6 billion Riels, equivalent to \$597.6 million or approximately

23.2percent of the plan set by the Financial Law for 2022 management. When compared to the same period in 2021, this revenue decreased by 61.2 billion riels or 2.5 percent. This report was said in the meeting to review the results of Customs and Excise in the first quarter of 2022 chaired by Dr Kun Nhim, Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister, Director General of the General Department of Customs and Excise. According to the revenue and tax revenue report, the value added tax was 943.8 billion riels (equivalent to 38.9percent of total revenue), and special tax was 894.9 billion riels (equivalent to 36.8 percent of total revenue), customs duties amounted to 436.3 billion Riels (equivalent to 18 percent of total revenue), VAT on petroleum products amounted to 100.9 billion Riels (equivalent to 4.2 percent of revenue). Export tax and other fees amounted to 52.8 billion Riels (equivalent to 2.2 percent of total revenue. In terms of revenue by group of goods, vehicles and machinery amounted to 1,023.8 billion Riels (equivalent to 42.2 percent of total revenue), mixed goods accounted for 708.7 billion Riels (equivalent to 29.2 percent). Other products amounted to 553.6 billion Riels (equivalent to 22.8 percent of total revenue), and construction materials and other fees amounted to 142.5 billion Riels (equivalent to 5.9 percent of total revenue. Swift News

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501059681/customs-collected-nearly-600-million-in-revenue-in-the-first-quarter-of-this-year/>

## Impoverished Laos has lost more than \$760 million to corruption since 2016: report



*Laos News | 19 April, 2022*

The Lao government has lost U.S. \$767 million to corruption since 2016, with government development and investment projects such as road and bridge construction the leading source of the widespread graft, according to the country's State Inspection Authority. The SIA reported on April 11 that nearly 3,700 members of the communist Lao People's Revolutionary Party had been disciplined, with 2,019 expelled and 154 people charged. According to the inspection authority, 1,119 people, including 127 government employees, were involved in illegal logging and wood trade. In a country where illegal natural resource trade drives much of the graft, authorities seized 300,000 cubic meters of wood worth U.S. \$127 million since 2016, according to the report. The government has vowed to address corrupt practices that are pervasive in politics and every sector of the economy society, and put off potential foreign investors from pumping money into much-needed infrastructure and development in the landlocked nation of 7.5 million people. However, despite the enactment of an anticorruption law that criminalizes the abuse of power, public sector fraud, embezzlement and bribery, Laos' judiciary is weak and inefficient, and officials are rarely prosecuted. A Lao environmentalist, who like other sources in the report requested anonymity for safety reasons, told

RFA that Lao authorities recently said they exported 1 million cubic meters of wood to Vietnam. Vietnamese authorities reported, however, that they imported 3 million cubic meters of wood from Laos during the same time period. "The difference, which is 2 million cubic meters, means that the Lao authorities are not transparent and are corrupt, and that there must be some kind of complicity between wood traders and Lao officials," he said. A small business owner in capital Vientiane said the inspection authority should name officials involved in abusing their power for private gain. "Every year, they report the corruption and the losses in general," he told RFA. "We don't know who they are, names, position, where they work, on in which ministry, department or province they are." A corruption inspector told RFA that officials can name officials caught engaging the most egregious cases of graft. "It depends on the case," he said. "In serious cases of corruption, the agency can reveal names and positions, but because most of the cases are concealed, this will remain a state secret. It can't be revealed." "We can't say anything" State Inspection Authority President Khamphanh Phommatham has pledged to tackle the problem, saying that inspections are one of the most important tasks of the government and the Party. Laos' vice president, Bounthong Chitmany, has called on the inspection authority and officials in other sectors to expose corruption and punish those responsible. "Our party considers corruption to be a major threat to the existence and development of our new regime," he

was quoted as saying by the Vientiane Times on April 11. "Not only that, it creates social injustice and affects the trust of people in the government and party." But a resident of Champassak province in southern Laos said he was not surprised about the country's massive financial losses due to corruption. "All nice and luxury cars on the road in this country belong the officials," he said. "That's not right, because their salary is only 3 million kip (U.S. \$250) a month. How can they have that much money to buy those expensive cars for personal use? They still have a lot of money to spend on other things, too. "We, the people, just watch and can't say anything," he added. A volunteer teacher in Savannakhet province said that graft is so widespread in Laos that she and her colleagues have had to bribe officials to be hired for jobs with the government. "My friend paid \$1,500 last year to pass an exam and to be hired as permanent teacher," said the woman who declined to be named so she could speak freely. "He could do that because he knew and paid somebody up there." A young resident of Savannakhet province said Laotians have no way to report corruption without endangering their safety in the one-party country. "In Thailand, there is a multiparty system, so the Thais can expose wrongdoings," he said. "But here in Laos, we can't say anything, even though we know there is a lot of corruption. In Thailand, there is corruption too, but much less so than there is in Laos." Lao inspectors acknowledged the problem of pervasive corruption and said they, too, are at a loss as to how to address it. One official who said he

worked as an inspector in Vientiane for a decade said that he and his colleagues review the finances of government offices and departments but not those of individual officials who are powerful members of the party and the government. "Nobody would dare inspect them," he said.

Source : <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/laos/corruption-losses-04182022171408.html>

## 2021-2022 (Mini Budget) Over \$ 170 Million Trade from Kawthaung Border Trade Center in Six Months



*Myanmar News | 19 April, 2022*

In the six months to 2021-2022 (Mini Budget), the Kawthaung border trade point received more than \$ 170 million in trade, down more than \$ 21 million from the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce. 2021-2022 (Mini Budget) Exports from Kawthaung border in the first six months were \$ 161.695 million; Imports were \$ 8.589 million and trade was \$ 170.284 million. Exports were \$ 163.564 million in the same period last year. Imports were \$ 27.969 million and trade was \$ 191.533 million. Compared to the same period last year, in the six months 2021-2022 (Mini Budget), it was \$ 21.249 million less than the same period last year. Due to COVID-19, trade between Myanmar and Thailand in the 2019-2020 fiscal year was just over US \$ 5,100 million, a decrease of over US \$ 350 million from the previous year. From October 1 to the end of September of the 2019-2020 fiscal year, Myanmar's exports were worth \$ 3,095.988 million. Thailand

imported \$ 2,021.925 million worth of goods and earned \$ 5117.913 million in trade. From October 1 to the end of September of the 2018-2019 fiscal year, Myanmar-Thailand trade amounted to US \$ 5,465.173 million, with Myanmar exporting US \$ 3,277.575 million and Thailand importing US \$ 2,187.598 million.

Source : <https://news-eleven.com/article/229173>

## US remains Vietnam's largest export market in Q1



*Vietnam News | 19 April, 2021*

VOV.VN - The US continued to be Vietnam's largest export market during the first quarter of the year, accounting for 29.1% of the country's total turnover. According to the latest statistics detailed by the General Department of Customs, Vietnamese exports to the US reached US\$9.76 billion in March alone, thereby bringing the total export turnover in the first quarter of the year to US\$25.96 billion, an increase of 16.6% on-year. By the end of the first quarter, there were 6 groups of goods exported to the US with a turnover of US\$1 billion or more, including machinery and equipment, garments and textiles, computers, electronic products and components, phones and components, footwear and timber and wood products. Notably, apparel exports to the US hit US\$4.36 billion, up 24.2% over the same period last year and making up 50.3% of the country's total export turnover of this commodity group. Although it is not as dominant as garments and textiles, the US is also the largest market for key

export groups such as machinery and equipment, computers, electronic products and components, footwear, and wood and wood products. On the other hand, the first quarter saw Vietnam spend US\$3.44 billion importing goods from the US, down 8.2% on-year, and accounting for 3.9% of the overall import turnover of the nation.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/us-remains-vietnams-largest-export-market-in-q1-post938047.vov>

## Vietnam's public debt totals

### VND3,500 trillion as of June 2021



*Vietnam News | 19 April, 2022*

Vietnam's public debt, including the central Government's debt, Government-guaranteed loans and loans of provinces, stood at over VND3,500 trillion as of June last year, according to the Ministry of Finance. The Department of Debt Management and External Finance under the Ministry of Finance has publicized the country's public debt as of June 2021. The Government's debt was over VND3,100 trillion, including VND1,100 trillion borrowed from foreign sources. Compared with 2017, the Government's debt rose by more than VND533 trillion. Vietnam's largest bilateral lender from early 2019 to June 2021 was Japan with over VND333 trillion, followed by South Korea with some VND33 trillion, France with VND32 trillion and Germany with VND14 trillion. Meanwhile, the country's largest multilateral lender in the period was the World Bank, with loans worth around VND382 trillion. The Asian



Development Bank came in second with loans valued at over VND193 trillion. Vietnam also borrowed VND26 trillion from private lenders in the period. In addition, loans with guarantees from the Government were more than VND338 trillion, VND117 trillion lower than in 2017, as the Government has limited its guarantees over the past few years. Loans taken by provincial-level authorities totaled VND46 trillion, down by some VND11 trillion over 2017. Earlier, the Ministry of Finance sent the Government a statement with a maximum State budget overspending of VND140 trillion in 2022 and 2023 and a maximum of over VND2,000 trillion in the Government's loans in the 2020-2024 period. The ministry estimated the public debt to be equal to 46%-47% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), the Government's debt, 44%-45%, and the Government's direct debt payments, 24%-25%, by 2024. As the Government's direct debt payments may exceed 25% of GDP as required by the National Assembly, the Ministry of Finance pledged to keep the average under 25% in the 2021-2025 period.

Source : <https://vietnamnet.vn/en/vietnam-s-public-debt-totals-vnd3-500-trillion-as-of-june-2021-2010781.html>

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