

Highlight News / June 15/2022



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## Cambodia's international trade up almost 20 pct in 5 month



*Cambodia News | 14 June, 2022*

Cambodia's total trade volume was valued at \$22.4 billion in the first five months of 2022, up 19.7 percent from 18.7 billion dollars over the same period last year, an official report showed on Monday. The kingdom's total exports were worth \$9.41 billion during the January-May period this year, up 34.5 percent year-on-year, and total imports reached \$13 billion, up 11 percent, according to the General Department of Customs and Excise's report. China is the largest trading partner of Cambodia, followed by the United States, Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore, the report said, adding that the Sino-Cambodian trade volume hit \$4.99 billion, up 26 percent. Cambodian Ministry of Commerce's undersecretary of state and spokesman Penn Sovicheat attributed the remarkable growth to Cambodia's high vaccination rates, free trade agreements (FTAs) as well as market diversification. "The effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade pact and the Cambodia-China FTA (CCFTA) are the key factors for boosting our trade growth," he told Xinhua. "We expect that the upward trend will continue throughout this year and in coming years." Sovicheat said China is a huge market for the southeast Asian nation and that trade cooperation between the two countries will continue to soar in the future. "Under the RCEP trade deal and

the CCFTA, we're confident that Cambodia's export to the Chinese market will be bigger, especially the exports of potential agricultural produce such as rice, bananas and mangoes, industrial products, and processing goods," he said. Cambodia has fully resumed its socio-economic activities and reopened its borders to vaccinated travelers without quarantine since last November after most of its population have been vaccinated against COVID-19. The kingdom has administered one dose of COVID-19 vaccines to over 15 million people, or 93.7 percent of its 16 million population, the health ministry said, adding that of them, 14.34 million, or 89.6 percent, have been fully vaccinated with two required shots. According to the health ministry, Cambodia has become a COVID-Zero state since June 7.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501093744/cambodias-international-trade-up-almost-20-pct-in-5-months/>

## Projects worth nearly \$24 million approved by CDC



*Cambodia News | 14 June, 2022*

The Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) has just approved four new investment projects with a total investment of nearly \$24 million that will create more jobs in the country. According to the CDC's official Facebook page, an investment project approval for garment factory project of Golden Sun Fashion Accessory Co, Ltd., has gone through. The project is worth \$5 million and can

create 926 jobs. The other projects approved are: AMTO CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY CO., LTD., with an investment of \$1.7 million and could create about 150 jobs. Kai Feng Wood Products (Cambodia) Co., Ltd., with an investment of \$6.6 million and would create 300 jobs. MEI AN LEATHERWARE (CAMBODIA) CO., LTD, with an investment of \$10.5 million and create 1,000 jobs.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501093977/projects-worth-nearly-24-million-approved-by-cdc/>

## Govt asks NA to approve key economic figures



*Laos News | 15 June, 2022*

The government has asked the National Assembly to consider and approve some of the key macro-economic targets that were revised for 2022 amid fears of an economic shock. The Governor of the Bank of the Lao PDR, Mr Sonexay Sitphaxay, presented a report at the ongoing National Assembly session, detailing the revised targets to be accomplished by the government by the end of this year. Under the proposal, the flexibility of the kip/US dollar exchange rate, which is currently allowed to fluctuate within a band of plus or minus 5 percent per year, will be amended to a level that does not create inflation pressures for the government. Secondly, the average inflation rate is currently set at a maximum of 5 percent, but will be raised to 12 percent this year. The government has also asked for the M2 amount to be raised from 22 percent to 28 percent in light of the continuing depreciation of the kip. The

changes come as the economy is being hit hard by global economic woes, triggered by the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the Covid-19 pandemic. Global uncertainty is hindering the government's plans to achieve key targets as outlined in the socio-economic development plan for this year. Assembly Vice President Mr Sommad Pholsena, on behalf of the NA Standing Committee, said members of parliament would debate the proposal by the government to revise development targets to reflect changing circumstances. One of the main challenges for Laos is the fact that the inflation rate is higher than the rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth. The government is aiming to achieve a projected GDP growth rate of 4.5 percent this year despite the uncertainties of domestic and external factors. However, the year-on-year inflation rate in May climbed to its highest level in 18 years, with prices rising by 12.8 percent from a year ago, according to the latest report from the Lao Statistics Bureau. The fuel crisis and fluctuating exchange rates are among the main factors driving inflation. Over the past five months of this year, the inflation rate averaged 9 percent, which was well above the figure of 5 percent endorsed by the National Assembly. High fuel prices on the global market, rising food prices, elevated inflation in Laos' key trading partners and depreciation of the kip are all taking a toll on the Lao economy. The fuel shortage remains a great concern, with many vehicles queuing up to fill their tanks, causing traffic congestion around the capital. Mr Sommad also

asked the government to examine State-funded investment projects to identify which projects should continue and which should be postponed. This is aimed at reducing the amount of debt created.

Source : [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent113\\_Govtasks.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent113_Govtasks.php)

## By the end of May of the 2022-2023 fiscal year, just over \$ 15 million in foreign investment had flowed into

### Myanmar



*Myanmar News / 14 June, 2022*

As of the end of May of the 2022-2023 fiscal year, just over \$ 15 million in foreign investment had flowed into Myanmar, according to figures released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. In May 2022-2023, China received \$ 9.017 billion in foreign investment in Myanmar. Taiwan to raise \$ 2 million in foreign investment, including increased investment Hong Kong received \$ 1.215 billion in foreign investment; Japan received only \$ 3.1.3 million in total foreign investment of \$ 3.1 million. According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Singapore was the largest source of foreign investment in Myanmar in the first six months, with more than \$ 297 million. In the six months of the 2021-2022 fiscal year (Mini Budget), the national investment in Singapore was \$ 297.349 million, including increased investment. \$ 142.137 million from China, including increased investment; Taipei: \$ 8.641 million, including increased investment; France \$ 0.497 million; Hong

Kong provided \$ 109.140 million, including increased investment; India \$ 0.550 million; \$ 5.1 million from Indonesia; \$ 4.530 million, including increased investment from Japan; Malaysia raised \$ 0.3112 billion, including increased investment; ROK provided \$ 62.693 million, including increased investment; Samoa has pledged \$ 2 million, including increased investment. Seychelles: \$ 1.343 million; \$ 7 million, including increased investment from Thailand; \$ 4 million from the Netherlands, including increased investment; \$ 0.335 million from the UK, including increased investment; Nepal received \$ 1.5 million in revenue, according to the statement. Entrepreneurs are invited to submit proposals as the Myanmar Investment Commission will give priority to the following types of investment projects if it submits a proposal to meet the needs of the state development and nation building activities. These activities are: (a) Fertilizer production; (B) Cement production; (c) Steel production; (d) Agriculture and livestock; Related activities: (e) Value-added food production; (F) Manufacture of electric vehicles; (g) Manufacture of pharmaceutical and medical equipment; (H) Public transportation.

Source : <https://news-eleven.com/article/232391>

## Vietnam ranks 89th

### in cost of living index rankings



*Vietnam News / 14 June, 2022*

VOV.VN - Vietnam jumped six notches to 89th in the cost of living index rankings for 2022 with 37.48 points, as compiled by Numbeo. The list calculates

that the cost of living index in Ho Chi Minh City stands at 39.01 points, the highest nationwide. Indeed, a family of four typically spends VND40 million a month, excluding the fee for accommodation, while a single person usually spends more than VND11 million. Elsewhere, Hanoi's cost of living index is at 36.85 points, with the monthly cost of living for a four-member family in the capital standing at approximately VND36 million, while spending for an average person is roughly VND10 million a month. The top of Numbeo's rankings sees the island nation of Bermuda in the North Atlantic in first place with 146.04 points, followed by Switzerland with 123.35 points, Norway with 100.90 points, Iceland with 94.86 points, and Barbados with 92.37 points. Most notably, Singapore was the only Southeast Asian representative to be named among the top 10 for the highest cost of living index with 83.98 points.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/vietnam-ranks-89th-in-cost-of-living-index-rankings-post950321.vov>

## US Treasury Department recognises Viet Nam's progress in addressing currency-related concerns



*Vietnam News / 14 June, 2022*

HÀ NỘI — The US Department of the Treasury has recognised the progress made by Viet Nam in its recently released report on macro-economic and foreign exchange policies of major trading partners

of the US, the State Bank of Viet Nam (SBV) said on Monday. The SBV said it would continue working closely with relevant ministries and sectors to discuss the issues of the US side's concern in a cooperative and win-win spirit so as to develop harmonious and sustainable trade relations. The central bank of Viet Nam would continue a monetary policy that aims to control inflation, stabilise the macro-economy, and aid economic recovery and development. It would also keep flexible exchange rates appropriate to macro-economic balances, market developments, and the monetary policy's targets, it added. In the report unveiled on June 10, the US Department of the Treasury continued reviewing the large trading partners in terms of three criteria: bilateral trade surplus with the US, material current account surplus, and persistent, one-sided intervention in the foreign exchange market. It placed 12 economies on its "Monitoring List" of major trading partners that merit close attention to their currency practices and macro-economic policies, namely China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Germany, Italy, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan (China), Viet Nam, and Mexico. All except Taiwan and Viet Nam (which were subject to enhanced engagement) were on the Monitoring List in the December 2021 Report. As both Viet Nam and Taiwan exceeded the thresholds of fewer than three criteria under the Trade Facilitation and Trade

Enforcement Act of 2015 (2015 Act) over the four quarters through December 2021, the Treasury Department put the two economies on the list again. In the report, it also concluded that no major trading partners manipulated their exchange rates in 2021. In early 2021, the department commenced enhanced bilateral engagement with Viet Nam in accordance with the 2015 Act. They reached agreement in July 2021 to address the department's concerns about Viet Nam's currency practices. The Treasury Department said in the report that it continued to engage closely with the SBV to monitor Viet Nam's progress in addressing Treasury's concerns and is thus far satisfied with progress made by Viet Nam. — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1250395/us-treasury-department-recognises-viet-nams-progress-in-addressing-currency-related-concerns.html>

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