

## Highlight News / July 11, 2022



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- Foreign tourist arrivals increase 394 percent in first half of 2022
- Australia Supports Laos in Improving Transport and Trade Connectivity
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- UK exports to Vietnam grow over 23% after UKVFTA



**Advisory Institute for Trade and Investment by TCC (AiTi)**

## Cambodia 2022 first half customs income at \$1.2 billion



*Cambodia News | 08 July, 2022*

The General Department of Customs and Excise earned \$1,293 million in customs income in the first half of this year, representing 50.1 percent of the financial plan for 2022. Its director-general Khun Nhim mentioned the figures at a press conference on the result of tax collection from illegal imported and right-hand drive vehicles on Thursday. “The collected income represented about half of the financial plan for 2022, reflecting good performance in collecting taxes,” Nhim said. Nhim said automobiles and machinery topped the list of sources of customs and excise revenue at 43 percent. The Kingdom has two institutions responsible for collecting taxes. One is the General Department of Taxation, which focuses on interior taxes such as income tax, salary tax, value-added tax, and property tax. The other is the General Department of Customs and Excise, which collects taxes on goods entering and leaving the country. Cambodia collected \$1,726 million in tax income in the January-May period this year, a 27.95 percent increase as compared to the same period last year. Prime Minister Hun Sen said late last month that the government earned nearly \$500 million from all sources of taxes in June alone, in line with the increase in domestic demand and imports. The Prime Minister said that the income was still low compared to the pre-Covid-19 period, which was between \$500 million and \$700 million monthly. But it was better than the \$400 income received from taxes during the Covid-19 period. The government reopened the borders to vaccinated tourists and resumed socio-economic activities last

November after Cambodia had a high rate of vaccinated population.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501108599/cambodia-2022-first-half-customs-income-at-1-2-billion/>

## Foreign tourist arrivals increase 394 percent in first half of 2022



*Cambodia News | 08 July, 2022*

The number of international tourists to Cambodia soared by 394 percent to 506,762 in the first six months of this year. The update was shown in the latest report by the Ministry of Tourism, highlighting a positive sign for Cambodia tourism recovery. Subsequently, the tourists coming to Cambodia during the period were from Vietnam, Thailand, China, the United States of America, Indonesia, France, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the United Kingdom and Australia. Cambodia’s high vaccination rate allowed the country to fully resume its socio-economic activities since November last year. Eventually, the country relaxed entry rules to facilitate travel and boost tourism, investment and trade since March 17 of this year. The requirement for PCR negative test for Covid-19 within 72 hours before arriving in Cambodia and for rapid test upon arrival at the airport have been removed. Fully vaccinated arrivals are not subject to any quarantine, but those who have not fully been inoculated must be in a seven-day quarantine at the location designated by the Ministry of Health or competent authorities. Cambodia has expected to receive some 700,000 foreign visitors in 2022. Meanwhile, the

Cambodian outbound tourists were recorded at 181,246, up over 1,600 percent compared to the same period in 2021. AKP-Phal Sophanith

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501109007/foreign-tourist-arrivals-increase-394-percent-in-first-half-of-2022/>

## Australia Supports Laos in Improving Transport and Trade Connectivity



*Laos News | 08 July, 2022*

The Australian Government is supporting the Government of Laos in improving transport connectivity, cross-border trade, and logistics along an east-west corridor in northern Laos. A new Subsidiary Arrangement, under a broader agreement between Australia and Laos on development cooperation, was signed by Australia's Ambassador to Laos, Paul Kelly, and Vice Minister of Public Works and Transport, Vilaykham Phosalath on 7 July in Vientiane Capital. The signing was witnessed by the Minister of Public Works and Transport, Viengsavath Siphandone. Australia is expected to provide more than AUD 10 million in support under the arrangement. Australia's assistance will be made through the Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I) initiative, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Ministry of Planning and Investment, and provincial stakeholders, and delivered as part of the Southeast

Asia Regional Economic Corridor and Connectivity (SEARECC) program. Speaking at the signing, Transport Minister Viengsavath Siphandone said, "the SEARECC project is a priority for the Ministry of Public Works and Transport and for the Government of Laos. It will support the national agenda on addressing economic and financial difficulties and the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025)". He said he hoped that the project would help attract foreign investment and generate sustainable incomes for Lao people. Ambassador Paul Kelly said, "improving transport connectivity, planning and cross-border trade will support Laos' transition from a land-locked to land-linked country, and increase investment and employment opportunities". P4I's assistance builds on Australia's long-standing engagement in Laos and the region as the two countries celebrate the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations. The SEARECC project was approved by the Government of Laos and the World Bank in May 2022 to improve regional and domestic trade, and climate-resilient transport connectivity. The focus is on five northern Lao provinces, including Oudomxay, Luang Namtha, Phongsaly, Luang Prabang, and Xayaboury. Australia's assistance through P4I will support the upgrade of cross-border facilities along Laos' National Road No. 2, a priority project under the Association of

Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 (MPAC 2025).

Source: <https://laotiantimes.com/2022/07/08/laos-to-bolster-sustainable-trade-diversify-value-chains-under-arise-plus-project/>

## Broken rice export to China fetches high price



*Myanmar News | 09 July, 2022*

Broken rice export to China is making a handsome profit and does a roaring trade, said U Min Thein, vice-chair of the Muse Rice Wholesale Centre. The current market price of broken rice in the Muse area is K36,000 per 50-kilogramme bag. "The broken rice export is thriving. The broken rice is offered at K36,000 per bag in Muse (120 Yuan)," he added. The foreign and domestic demand elevated broken rice prices. Meanwhile, the price of rice is estimated at K45,000 per 50-kilogramme bag. At present, approximately 10,000 bags of rice and broken rice are delivered to China through the Muse border. About 60,000 bags of rice and broken rice were earlier exported to China per day through the Muse border. Between 1 April and 30 June in the 2022-2023 Financial Year, Myanmar conveyed over 550,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice to external markets. Of them, over 510,000 tonnes of rice were shipped to foreign markets through the sea trade and over 33,000 tonnes of rice sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders. Myanmar generated an income of over US\$700

million from export of about two million tonnes of rice in the 2020-2021 Financial Year. — NN/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/broken-rice-export-to-china-fetches-high-price/#article-title>

## Growth target of 6.5 percent poses big challenge to Vietnam: GSO



*Vietnam News | 09 July, 2022*

Hanoi (VNA) – The growth target of 6.5 percent set for 2022 is likely to pose a big challenge to Vietnam given difficulties in production and business at home and global uncertainties, head of the General Statistics Office Nguyen Thi Huong has said. In an interview with the Vietnam News Agency, Huong suggested the entire political system need to roll out support packages, keep a close watch on the situation, and adopt solutions to handle emerging issues. Close coordination in the implementation of this work between agencies as well as the resolve, effort and flexibility of businesses and people will be vital to reaching the target. She also pointed out that surging fuel, material, transportation and service prices have caused production and business costs to increase, thus affecting both domestic and global production and supply chains. Moreover, small-and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that have been greatly affected by COVID-19 are struggling to combat the pandemic, maintain production and seek new markets at the same time. The GSO head proposed the Government quickly adopt measures

to stabilise gasoline prices, and policies to support businesses that rely on oil and gas. Ministries and agencies should work to expand export markets, and encourage labourers to return to work, contributing to the economic recovery, Huong said, adding that the Government should issue suitable policies to make it easier for SMEs to access credits and support packages. According to the official, Vietnam's consumer price index (CPI) in the first half of this year grew 2.44 percent year-on-year, and domestic prices are still under control thanks to the Government's drastic management. Vietnam's gross domestic product (GDP) in the first half of this year expanded 6.42 percent, and that in the second quarter was up 7.72 percent. With the stimulus packages, the national economy is expected to further grow in the remaining months of this year, Huong said, expressing her belief that Vietnam will be able to control inflation as targeted by the legislature./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/growth-target-of-65-percent-poses-big-challenge-to-vietnam-gso/233426.vnp>

## UK exports to Vietnam grow over 23% after UKVFTA



Vietnam News | 10 July, 2022

A year after the UK-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (UKVFTA) came into effect in early 2021, trade between the two countries has shown significant

growth despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, said an official of the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT). Accordingly, trade between Vietnam and the UK reached US\$6.6 billion in 2021, an increase of 17% on the year and equivalent to the pre-pandemic period. While Vietnamese export to the UK rose 16.4% year-on-year to US\$5.7 billion, UK's export to Vietnam also witnessed a gain of 23.6% to nearly US\$850 million. In 2021, products imported from the UK with the highest growth rate respectively were common metals (426%), phones and components (219%), textile, garment and footwear materials (24.7%), pharmaceuticals (35.4%), and cars (28%), according to data from the General Department of Vietnam Customs. Vietnamese products with a sharp growth in shipments to the UK market were fruits and vegetables (67%), coffee (17%), pepper (49%), iron and steel (1,269%), and toys and sports equipment (19%). "The results showed that the UKVFTA is like a two-way high-speed train, helping us to boost exports to the UK and vice versa, the UK also increases exports to Vietnam", Ngo Chung Khanh, deputy head of Multilateral Trade Policy Department, at a webinar on "Promoting the strengths of businesses - Utilising opportunities from the UKVFTA." This helped equalise the trade balance between the two countries, he added. Data from the General Department of Vietnam Customs showed that in the first half of 2022, the country exported US\$2.9 billion of commodities to the UK while importing more than US\$372.5 million. This shows the activeness and

initiative of enterprises in exploiting new opportunities from the agreement.

Source: <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/uk-exports-to-vietnam-grow-over-23-after-ukvfta-post955722.vov>

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