

*Highlight News / July 22/2022*



- Cambodia's unemployment rate lowest in Asean
- May records decade's highest inflation in Cambodia
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- Myanmar-produced coffee beans fetch US\$5,000 per tonne
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## Cambodia's unemployment rate lowest in Asean



*Cambodia News | 21 July, 2022*

The unemployment rate for Cambodia is expected to be at 0.31 percent this year, which is the lowest among all member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), according to the Asean Information Center. Laos is at the second place with a projected unemployment rate of one percent. The unemployment rate of Myanmar is expected to be at 1.79 percent, Singapore (2.2 percent), Vietnam (2.46 percent), Malaysia (3.9 percent), Philippines (5.8 percent), Indonesia (5.83 percent) and Brunei (8.4 percent), the report said. Hong Vannak, an economic analyst at Royal Academy of Cambodia, told Khmer Times that the figure is reliable. Vannak added that Cambodia is one of developing countries that have created jobs for its people in production, domestic trade and export along with the government's efforts in building international, bilateral and multilateral relations with different partners both regionally and globally. "The relations are consistent with regional and global economic integration policy of our country and so we are not lonely. That's why we have been opening door widely to do trade with the rest of the world, resulting in revenue generated from export and trade," said Vannak. Cambodia generated more than \$2.2 billion of revenue from its international trade within the first five months of this year, a year-on-year increase of 20 percent. It indicates that domestic

production has improved, driven by rising labour. "This means that our people have a lot of jobs in production and commodities for export," Vannak said, adding that as a developing country, Cambodia has been attractive for both local and foreign investors who have injected their money into many sectors including agriculture, industry, construction and tourism. "Rising investment means creating jobs for people," he said, adding that Cambodia has good geography and potential sectors especially agriculture and household businesses that can help generate extra income. The free trade agreements are also contributing to job creation. "This enables people's jobs sustainable. For example, workers at garment factories still have continuous jobs. I believe the employment rate is really low for country," Vannak added.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501116561/cambodias-unemployment-rate-lowest-in-asean/>

## May records decade's highest inflation in Cambodia



*Cambodia News | 21 July, 2022*

Inflation rose to 7.2 percent in May this year in the country, the highest in the last decade, the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) said yesterday, adding that it has unleashed a set of measures to control the inflationary pressures and protect the purchasing power of the local currency. Increasing prices of oil and food mainly contributed to the sharp rise in inflation, said NBC Governor Chea Chanto at its biannual meeting yesterday. The prolonging Russia-

Ukraine war and sanctions on Russia have pushed up world oil and food prices, along with the prices of fertilizers and agricultural products, he said. China's 'Zero Covid Policy' also led to a spike in the prices of construction materials in Cambodia as the country depends on Chinese imports. The NBC through its monetary policies is trying to control the inflationary pressures and support the economic recovery of the country, he added. "As an immediate step, the exchange rate of riel against the US dollar has been stabilised," he said. Due to the high dollarisation of the economy, exchange rate fluctuations can have a direct and rapid impact on inflation in Cambodia. NBC ensures macroeconomic stability in the country mainly through its financial policies and a stable USD/KHR exchange rate. According to its Financial Stability Review 2021, released in June, NBC sold nearly \$600 million during the year to banks and other financial institutions through auctions to stabilize the exchange rate. The central bank's monetary policy framework also includes liquidity-providing collateralised operations (LPCO) – financial tools that allow the NBC to lend to financial institutions in the local currency – and marginal lending facility (MLF), besides riel-denominated overnight loans to address the short-term liquidity needs of the banks and other financial institutions in the country. The exchange rate guidance, a tool to set the official interest rate by the NBC, has also been implemented, the governor said. Chanto added that despite the inflationary pressures, the Kingdom is expected to see growth in all major sectors such

as garment exports, tourism, construction, real estate and agriculture in 2022 thanks to the country's success in managing the Covid-19 crisis.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501116556/may-records-decades-highest-inflation-in-cambodia/>

## Laos, Vietnam strive for trade/investment breakthrough



*Laos News | 21 July, 2022*

Laos and Vietnam are pushing for a breakthrough in joint trade and investment as the two neighbours celebrate their six-decade long special relations this week. The two nations held grand ceremonies in their capitals on July 18 to mark the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations and the 45th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation between Laos and Vietnam. At the ceremonies, the countries' top leaders delivered speeches hailing the longstanding friendly relations, special solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between the two nations, whose citizens fought shoulder to shoulder to achieve full independence and liberation of their homelands. Politburo member and permanent member of the Communist Party of the Vietnam Central Committee's Secretariat, Vo Van Thuong, is in Vientiane, while Politburo member, permanent member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee's Secretariat and Vice President Bounthong Chitmany is in Hanoi for the celebrations. Receiving Dr Bounthong in Hanoi on Sunday, Vietnam's President Nguyen Xuan Phuc affirmed that the Vietnamese Party, state and people

treasure and are determined to preserve and constantly foster their great friendship, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation, according to the Voice of Vietnam. "Mr Phuc underscored the need for both sides to promote their potential and internal resources to create new breakthroughs in trade and investment cooperation and become a solid pillar for the two countries' relations," the news agency reported. He suggested that the two countries constantly strengthen their economic links, and jointly seek international capital to fulfil projects relating to linkages between the infrastructure of landlocked Laos and Vietnam's coastline, in order to enhance international integration and trade, self-reliance, and sustainable and prosperous development. President Phuc's suggestion came as Laos and Vietnam are cooperating in a number of mega infrastructure projects that would enable Laos to access a deep seaport in Vietnam. The government of Vietnam has agreed to increase Laos' shareholding in Vung Ang port in central Ha Tinh province from the current 20 percent to 60 percent, according to an official report. The two sides are currently assessing the value of the shares, to reach an agreement before the share transfer takes place. The stakeholders plan to spend several hundred million dollars to upgrade the port to meet the growing need for sea freight, according to the Petroleum Trading Lao Public Company (PetroTrade) – the Lao company that has entered into a joint venture with the Lao and Vietnamese governments on the seaport

development project. The two countries also plan to build a railway linking the Lao capital Vientiane to the seaport, and an expressway to link their two capitals. Vietnam is currently Laos' key trading partner. The value of trade between Laos and Vietnam in the first five months of this year reached US\$690 million, a year-on-year rise of 20 percent over the same period in 2021. So far, 214 Vietnamese-funded projects have been approved, with total investment of about US\$5.38 billion, making Vietnam the third largest foreign investor in Laos after China and Thailand.

Source : [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent2022\\_Laos139.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent2022_Laos139.php)

## Myanmar-produced coffee beans fetch US\$5,000 per tonne



*Myanmar News | 22 July, 2022*

As the local and foreign demand is high, the coffee bean fetches about \$5,000 per tonne, according to Myanmar Coffee Association. Myanmar-produced coffee boasts of better quality than others and fetch good prices in the international market. They are exported to Switzerland, China Taipei, China, Thailand, America, UAE, UK, Iceland, South Korea, Japan and Germany. There are over 200,000 acres of coffee plantations in the country and only over 50,000 acres make profits. The country produces over 9,000 tonnes of coffee per year and the price is between \$4,500 and \$5,000 per tonne, according to the association. The country grows 80 per cent of Arabica and 20 per cent of Robusta. Although the

coffee export volume declined in the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2021, it returns to normal this year with nearly 500 tonnes of coffee. The coffee is export mainly grown in Pysin of Mandalay Region , Ywangan, Mogok and Thandaunggyi and Nawngkhio, Hopong and Pinlaung of Shan State. — TWA/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnml.com.mm/myanmar-produced-coffee-beans-fetch-us5000-per-tonne/>

## ADB maintains growth forecast for Vietnam



*Vietnam News | 21 July, 2022*

Hanoi (VNA) – The Asian Development Bank (ADB) keeps this year’s growth forecast for Vietnam at 6.5% in 2022 and 6.7% in 2023 as released in the April 2022 Asian Development Outlook (ADO). Growth will be driven by continued trade expansion, the faster-than-expected recovery of manufacturing, domestic travel and the disbursement of public investment, according to the ADB’s ADO Supplement July 2022 released on July 21. Surging global commodity prices, especially global oil prices, would increase inflationary pressure. However, the abundance of domestic food supply in Vietnam would help ease inflation in 2022. The inflation forecast is therefore unchanged at 3.8% for 2022 and 4.0% for 2023 compared with ADB’s projection in April. The report said developing Asia and the Pacific is continuing its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Many countries are easing mobility restrictions, which is strengthening economic activity. However, growth

has slowed in China, the region’s largest economy, due to disruption from new COVID-19 lockdowns, as well as weaker global demand. So the ADB lowered its economic growth forecast for the region to 4.6% this year due to slower expansion in China, more aggressive monetary tightening in advanced economies, and fallout from the continued Russia-Ukraine tension. The outlook compares with a projection of 5.2% issued by ADB in April. The bank also raised its forecast for inflation in the region, amid higher prices for food and fuel. “The economic impact of the pandemic has declined across most of Asia, but we’re far from a full and sustainable recovery,” said ADB Chief Economist Albert Park. “On top of the slowdown in China, fallout from the war in Ukraine has added to inflationary pressure that’s causing central banks around the world to raise interest rates, acting as a brake on growth. “It’s crucial to address all these global uncertainties, which continue to pose risks to the region’s Recovery,” he said./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/adb-maintains-growth-forecast-for-vietnam/234137.vnp>

## Viet Nam FinTech market expected to reach \$18 billion by 2024



*Vietnam News | 21 July, 2022*

HÀ NỘI — The FinTech market in Việt Nam is expected to grow to US\$18 billion by 2024, according to analysts at financial holding Robocash Group. Việt Nam is one of the leaders among ASEAN in terms of the volume of financing for FinTech,

second only to Singapore. Ninety-three per cent of all venture investments in the country is directed at e-wallets and the e-money segment. The total number of FinTech companies has grown to 97 since 2016, an 84.5 per cent increase. However, the number of newly launched start-ups each year decreased from 11 to 2. The market features high competitiveness and a high entry bar. Transaction volume has seen a 152.8 per cent growth since 2016, with 29.5 million new FinTech users. As a result, every second Vietnamese uses at least one FinTech service. The Vietnamese population's demand for digital services (transactions, payments and wallets) is remarkable. According to company analysts, Việt Nam FinTech is young and promising. The market valuation has increased from \$0.7 billion to \$4.5 billion since 2016. In the near future, the government will become more involved in FinTech, evidenced by the growing favourable legislation for financial technologies. The FinTech regulatory sandbox and the legal framework for digital assets and cryptocurrencies will also further develop in the industry. — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1270404/viet-nam-fintech-market-expected-to-reach-18-billion-by-2024.html>

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